

# CREATE THE PERFECT BIRD WATCHING WEEKEND ITINERARY

## BUTTE COUNTY MAP AT A GLANCE



Use our itinerary of easy-to-find bird viewing spots to spot all 15 birds (and more) during the winter migration.

### DAY 1

- A** **Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area**  
3207 Rutherford Rd., Gridley  
Parking Fee \$4.58. Pay online at: [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lands-Pass](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lands-Pass)  
**Birds: 1,3,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,14**
- B** **Riverbend Park Feather River Trail**  
50 Montgomery St, Oroville  
**Birds: 6,7,8,10,12,14,15**
- C** **Thermalito Forebay**  
930 Garden Dr, Oroville  
**Birds: 1,6,7,8,9,10,11,14**

### DAY 2

- D** **Llano Seco Unit**  
The Llano Seco Unit may be seen from:  
Viewing Platforms/Walking Trail off of Seven Mile Ln.  
(County Road) **Birds: 3,4,6,8,10,11,12,13,14**
- E** **Bidwell Sacramento River State Park**  
12105 River Rd. Chico  
**Birds: 1,6,8,11,14**

### DAY 3

- F** **Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve**  
3521 14 Mile House Rd. Forest Ranch  
**Birds: 1,2,5,8,14,15**
- G** **Upper Bidwell Park**  
At the intersection of East Ave. and Manzanita take the roundabout exit for Wildwood Ave.  
Park in designated parking areas. Chico  
**Birds: 1,2,3,5,7,8,13,14,15**

### EXTEND YOUR TRIP

- H** **Paradise Lake**  
Located just north of Paradise near Magalia.  
Take Skyway North to Coutelenc Rd.  
Turn right (east) on Coutelenc Rd.  
Follow the road 2.7 miles to Lucretia Rd.  
Turn left on Lucretia. Follow to Parking Area  
**Birds: 1,2,5,8,14,15**
- I** **Jonesville Snowmobile Park**  
About 2 miles east of Cherry Hill Campground on the Humboldt Road (Butte County Road 91422), which is accessed via Highway 32. **Birds: 2,5,14,15**

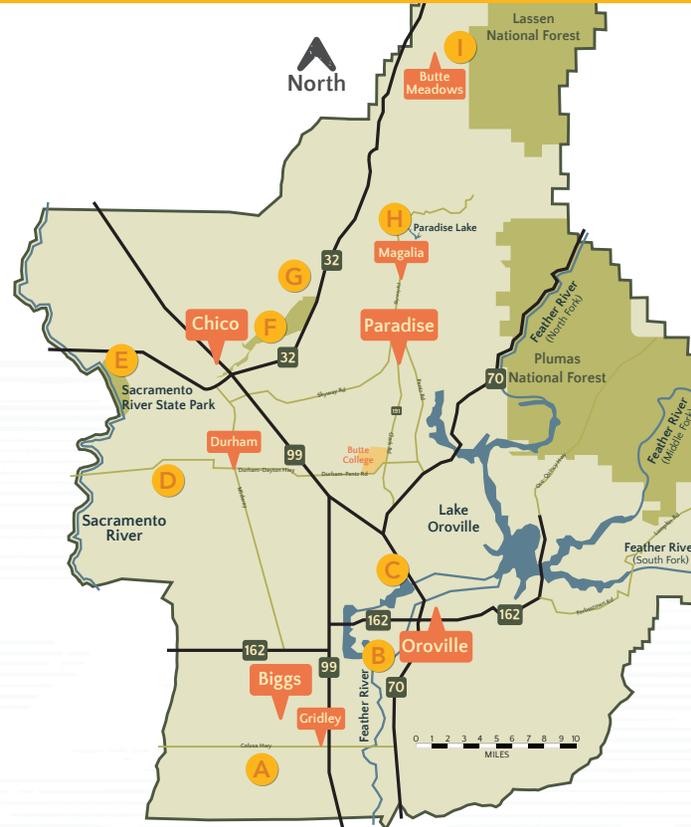


Photo Credit: Mike Peters

## LOOK TO THE SKY

#BirdButteCA

Plan your winter trip to Butte County for a bird-tastic time! Each year, millions of birds soar along the Pacific Flyway as they migrate from Alaska to as far south as South America! Being rich in rice farms and waterways, Butte County is a destination for millions of waterfowl, making it a perfect place to experience the grandeur of the bird variety show during the winter months.

We made birding easy for you with our local #BirdButteCA brochure—use our itinerary as your guide to some of the best bird watching spots in Butte County. Get out and explore the skies!

### SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL 2022



Do you want to get up close and personal with birds this year? The Snow Goose Festival, a 4-day bird-centric event, will have several outdoor field trips and art exhibits January 26-29, 2023. For more information, [SnowGooseFestival.org](http://SnowGooseFestival.org).

### EXPLORE BUTTE COUNTY

This brochure is created by Explore Butte County in partnership with Altacal Audubon Society. For more information about Butte County birds visit [altacal.org](http://altacal.org) or email [altacal.info@gmail.com](mailto:altacal.info@gmail.com). For information to plan your trip in Butte County, visit [ExploreButteCounty.com](http://ExploreButteCounty.com).



# 15 BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN BUTTE COUNTY IN FALL & WINTER

Share Your Photos Using #BirdButteCA for a Chance to Be Featured

1



## Acorn Woodpecker

This medium-sized bird boasts a red cap, with an ivory face, and a black patch around the bill. During flight you can see its white belly, and white patches on the wings. See if you can spot this woodpecker storing its acorns into a tree trunk.

2



## Northern Pygmy-Owl

This owl has a round head with a brown body with white dots and a long tail. It is small in size with large yellow piercing eyes, and a yellow bill. Interesting features include, lack of ear tufts, and dark patches on the back of the head resembling eyes! See if you can spot this unique owl that hunts during the day!

3



## Snow Goose

This goose can come in different colors! The dark morph, or "Blue goose", will have a dark grey body with a white face. The light morph will be all white with black flight feathers. This goose has pink legs, and a pink bill with a dark line.

4



## Sandhill Crane

A tall grey bird, with long black legs; notable for its wingspan which can reach over 6 feet! This slender silhouette is finished off with a short tail covered by droopy feathers. Perhaps the most distinctive feature is its beautiful red skin patch on its forehead and crown.

5



## Steller's Jay

This adventurous noisy bird is easily identifiable by the triangular crest that sticks prominently atop their head. The tops of their head are a charcoal color and the rest of their body a brilliant blue. They are large inquisitive song birds that like searching for food on the ground by hopping around on their long legs.

## Great Blue Heron

The great blue heron is a large wading bird that is common in wetlands, but can also be seen in grasslands looking for rodents to eat. They have a large orange bill, black and white stripes on the head, and a greyish blue body. They nest in large colonies called "rookeries", often with Great Egrets.

6



7



## Phainopepla

The shiny, sleek-black male, has a red eye and a cute crest, while the females are grey. They will usually be seen in the vicinity of mistletoe clumps in oak trees or other hardwoods. They are the only species of "silky flycatchers" in California!

8



## Red-shouldered Hawk

This hawk, with its orangish red chest and shoulders, thrives in the cities of Butte County. They are one of the noisiest hawks that we have, and are especially loud during the early breeding season. You might see them zooming past your backyard chasing birds, snakes or rodents to eat.

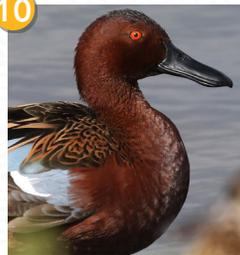
9



## Clark's Grebe

These birds have a striking black and white look, and red eyes to top it off! Other features include a long skinny neck, and a thin straight bill. These water birds are common on Thermalito Afterbay, and build floating nests. After hatching, the adults carry their young on their backs.

10



## Cinnamon Teal

A rich cinnamon color, black bill, and red eyes makes these breeding males quite stunning! Females, and non-breeding males, are pretty shades of brown with dark eyes. These ducks are small dabbling ducks, and can be found on freshwater ponds, flooded fields, and streams.

11



## American White Pelican

While the California coast has the Brown Pelican, the American White Pelican is an inland bird. These huge white birds have a large pouch built into their bills, and can be found in groups called a "squadron". Sometimes you can see them soaring above, rarely ever flapping their wings.

12



## Black-necked Stilt

It's difficult not to notice this elegant bird! This slender black and white shorebird has long reddish legs and is quite the show stopper. They can usually be seen walking along close to the shorelines in the shallower water. Spot them foraging for small aquatic invertebrates!

13



## Burrowing Owl

These little owls with lots of attitude can often be seen during the day in large open grasslands. They will perch on the ground or on fence posts and nest in burrows; they are mostly seen in the winter. Their under belly is a patchy white with a mottled brown body; sporting thick white eyebrows and golden eyes.

14



## Anna's Hummingbird

Anna's are the most common hummingbird you will find in Butte County. The males can flash the feathers on their heads and throats a brilliant pinkish-red color. The females have a small amount of pink on their throats. If their feathers are not reflected by any light, their heads can look blackish or dark green.

15



## Purple Finch

Male Purple Finches sport a soft rosy colored head and breast, with cinnamon notes on their belly. Females however have no pink notes at all and are striped on their breast with brown and white, that includes a dark line down the side of the throat.