

## Birding the CR Ponds

A grassroots group at College of the Redwoods comprised of students, staff, and faculty have embarked on a multi-year, multi-discipline initiative called the [Outdoor Campus Collaborative](#) (OCC). The OCC aims to restore and manage campus forests, ponds, and trails through project-based/place-based learning, while increasing student and community connection with campus lands and with each other. This year the OCC is focusing on gathering baseline environmental and biological data regarding the campus ponds in order to develop a pond habitat restoration plan.

Here is where you come in. The ponds are good birding – over 95 species have been recorded through the years. The OCC is looking for experienced birders to conduct regular eBird surveys around the ponds, beginning immediately, at least monthly, and continuing indefinitely. Attached is a map of the pond trail system, an approximately 1-mile figure-8 beginning at the northern Creative Arts parking lot (closest to the Humboldt Botanical Gardens). The goal of these surveys is to generate accurate data that will inform restoration plans as well as allow continued assessment of bird diversity during and after restoration.

They are particularly interested in birders who wouldn't mind having a few folks tag along, particularly students who want to learn what birding is and how these types of surveys are conducted. One of the OCC's goals is to increase student exposure to real people in the community who are experts at something and want to share their perspectives and passions.

**If this sounds fun to you, proceed as follows:**

- **Download the map.**
- **Email [occ@redwoods.edu](mailto:occ@redwoods.edu) to let them know when you are planning to come, whether you want a gratis parking permit to print out, and whether you are ok with human tag-alongs.**
- **Use the campus' north entrance to park at the northern parking lot. You can obtain a \$2 parking permit at the entry to the parking lot if needed.**
- **Enter the trail at its northern tip (or any other place you desire) and follow the route. Feel free to explore the newly-cut side trails working their way toward the ponds' edges.**
- **Conduct your search over the course of an hour's time.**
- **Upload your observations to eBird using standard eBird protocols.**

**That's it!**

If you have any questions just email [occ@redwoods.edu](mailto:occ@redwoods.edu), or [karen-reiss@redwoods.edu](mailto:karen-reiss@redwoods.edu) (the main organizer of the birding survey efforts).