



TAHOE INSTITUTE
for Natural Science

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January 2023 Update

From all of us at TINS, we hope you have had a very happy Holiday holiday season. We also hope that time spent outside in nature this last year has brought you peace and contentment, at least occasional excitement and learning, and overall health and happiness. TINS is extremely grateful for all of the support we received in 2022, and we look forward to another of opportunity to help connect you with nature, beginning with the annual mid-winter Bald Eagle Count. Note that we are still working on a number of events for January and February that still have tentative dates (so be sure to check our calendar to see if the dates below have been confirmed!), but we wanted to make sure that we reminded everyone of the Bald Eagle Count with plenty of time for folks to register. Fingers crossed for decent counting weather that morning!

Upcoming Events

- January 12 - Bald Eagle Basics presentation, Online
- January 13 - Midwinter Bald Eagle Count, Various Locations around Lake Tahoe
- January 26 (tentative) - TINS Montane Rabbit Research presentation, Online
- February 2 - Tahoe Winter Exploration Series Wildlife Tour- Mt. Rose, Incline Village, NV
- February 10 (tentative) - Carson Valley wetlands and raptor tour

For more details, please view our [Calendar](#) of events. Also note that we will be adding more of winter events soon, including talks and snowshoe outings, so please check our calendar regularly!



A pair of Hooded Mergansers photographed by Kendall Madsen

Bird Banding Article: 13 Years of Gathering Data in the Basin

We recently wrote an article for the Tahoe Daily Tribune about our bird banding research in the

Tahoe Basin. If you would like to learn more about bird banding, the data collection process, birds we have banded over the years, interesting discoveries, and TINS banding goals, you can read the article by clicking [here](#).



Banding and collecting data on a MacGillivray's Warbler

2022 Christmas Bird Count Recap

Despite all the stormy weather, our wonderful volunteers braved the snow depths and tallied 69 bird species as part of the Christmas Bird Count in South Lake Tahoe a few weeks ago. Among the unusual finds were a flock of Pinyon Jays in Meyers, three Juniper Titmice in the Tahoe Keys (new species for the count), and a continuing Swamp Sparrow in the Taylor Creek Marsh. Will also counted a whopping 14 Bald Eagles at Taylor Creek, exciting us for a possible record-breaking Mid-Winter Bald Eagle count next week. Perhaps the best of all, after several years of conducting the count in isolation, this year we again concluded the day at Sue Stevenson's house for a tally while enjoying pizza. Thank you to all the participants, thank you Blue Dog Pizza for the pizza donation, and thank you Sue for opening your home and hosting the tally!



Pacific Wren, photographed by Will at Taylor Creek during the 2022 Christmas Bird Count

Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count

We are coordinating the 44th annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle count taking place on **Friday, January 13, 2023** from 9am to 12pm, and you are invited to participate! There are 26 observation stations around Lake Tahoe and we would like to have volunteers at each station.

Thank you to those who have already signed up to count eagles! For those who haven't signed up just yet but would like to help us count Bald Eagles, please [register](#) by January 6.

For more information or to register,[click here](#).

Bald Eagle Basics Slideshow

Thursday, January 13, 2022 6pm - 7pm

In order to prepare folks for the Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Count the following day, the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science (TINS) will host a talk the evening before the count to provide information on the following topics:

- History of the Bald Eagle Count
- How to Age Eagles
- How the Count Works

[Click here for more information.](#)



Sub-adult Bald Eagle (approx. 3 1/2 years old)
photographed by Kendall Madsen at Taylor Creek
Marsh

Have you been noticing all the visible planets in the night sky lately? During breaks in the stormy weather, Venus and Mercury have been visible to the southwest right at sunset, with Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars scanning eastward, all visible to the naked eye. Uranus and Neptune have also been visible with a telescope. It's a nice treat to see all of the planets visible at once, and with the early sunsets you can do so before dinner! Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus can be hard to miss, and there are a number of free stargazing apps like Star Chart and Stellarium available to help you find the others. On the evening of January 22, Saturn and Venus will be right next to each other low on the horizon - hope for a break in the clouds that night.

- TINS Staff

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