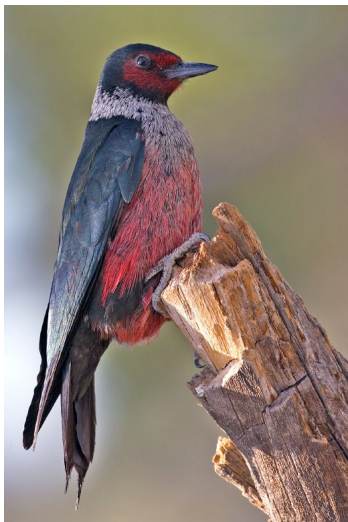


Bobcat Ranch

Audubon California acquired the 6,800-acre Bobcat Ranch in 2007, as part of its ongoing effort to support and encourage the conservation and restoration of blue oak woodlands and rangelands in California. The acquisition has helped us learn first-hand the challenges and opportunities for managing rangeland in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.

With the support of many partners in government agencies and the ranching community, the team at Bobcat is developing infrastructure to allow for better management of cattle, while continuing the restoration work begun in 2003. Our objective for Bobcat Ranch is for it to become a hub of research, conservation, education and outreach for



Lewis's Woodpecker.

conservation practitioners, ranchers, and the public. Our ultimate goal is to use Bobcat Ranch to promote sustainable ranching and restoration of habitat for birds and other wildlife on working ranches throughout California.

Bobcat Ranch hosts a rich blend of important habitats, including blue oak woodland, native perennial grassland, annual grassland, seasonal wetland and chaparral. The ranch is home to a variety of wildlife, including Lark Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Lewis's Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, Nuttall's Woodpecker and Yellow-billed Magpie, as well as bobcat, mountain lion, black-tailed deer and black bear.

Audubon Bobcat Ranch is an important conservation anchor within the Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area (BRBNA), a 750,000 acre matrix of private and public lands. Also nearby are the 27,000-acre Blue Ridge BLM lands, the Department of Fish and Game's Putah Creek Wildlife Area and University of California's Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve.

Restoration Accomplishments



Heifers grazing at Bobcat Ranch.

Over the past decade, Audubon California, with the support of its partners, has restored hundreds of acres of native grass on Bobcat Ranch. We have fenced out spring-fed wetlands to enhance wetland habitat and protect water quality, and have more wetland restoration projects planned. Along lower Dry Creek, which starts on Bobcat Ranch and flows down through other ranches to Putah Creek, we've established nine acres of creek side forest. Upstream, we have planted a mile and a half of Dry Creek with native forbs, shrubs and trees to restore the historically degraded riparian areas on the ranch. We are also working on projects to test and implement grazing management that improves habitat, including installing new cattle exclusion fences that either keep cattle out of sensitive areas or allow us to better manage grazing in those areas.

Research

We actively promote and seek partnerships to conduct research at Bobcat designed to inform sustainable rangeland management. In recent years we have worked with researchers from UC Davis and other academic institutions to better understand grassland restoration, blue oak recruitment, and the role of native perennial grasses in the development of soil communities. Staff have also tested the effectiveness of herbicide in the control of noxious weeds. We are actively seeking partners to carry out additional research focused on rangeland management to improve its value as wildlife habitat and its delivery of vital ecosystem

services, including water quality, carbon sequestration, and pollination.

Public Access and Outreach

Bobcat Ranch hosts more than 300 visitors annually. Visitors include university classes, youth, agencies, birders, ranchers, farmers and hunters. Guests participate in a myriad of activities and workshops held at the ranch. Access is by permission only.

What Can You Do?

If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to help our team with restoration activities, research, bird monitoring, or education, please contact Carissa Koopmann, at the number below.

Bobcat Ranch Contact Information

Carissa Koopmann
Ranch Manager
530.795.4116

www.ca.audubon.org/lsp/bobcat-ranch.php



Great Horned Owl. Photo by Steve DeMello.

What birds live on Bobcat?

Owls:

- Great Horned Owl
- Barn Owl
- Western Screech-Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Burrowing Owl

Woodpeckers:

- Acorn Woodpecker
- Nuttall's Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Lewis's Woodpecker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Red-breasted Sapsucker
- Northern Flicker