

Photos of Shirk Lake Hike
Lakeview BLM District

June 13, 2012



The old Shirk Ranch, bordering a series of sink lakes and wet grasslands, was abandoned in the 1940s.



The hike begins at the ranch gate, just off the main Guano Valley road.



Exploring the old buildings gives a rich sense of ranch life in the early 1900s. Watch for rattlesnakes here!



North of the ranch buildings are extensive grasslands where Guano Creek meets the Guano Valley floor.



For the best birding, though, walk south on the high levee behind the ranch buildings to Shirk Lake.



Look for interesting shorebirds here, such as american avocet and white-faced ibis...



...and abundant waterfowl, such as western grebe, coots, ducks and Canada geese.



Depending on the water levels, one can explore along the grass banks of Shirk Lake for more than a mile.