

The Mountain Quail

*Newsletter of Plumas Audubon Society
Chapter of the National Audubon Society
P. O. Box 3877, Quincy, California, 95971*

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Plumas Audubon home page <www.plumasaudubon.org>

MEETINGS & EVENTS

All programs are free - the public is welcome

- **Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. LAKE ALMANOR AND EAGLE LAKE GREBE CONSERVATION** Plumas County Library meeting room, 445 Jackson St., Quincy. Plumas Audubon President, **David Arsenault** will explain what we have been doing to develop local participation in collaboration with Audubon California to conserve Western and Clark's Grebes breeding on Lake Almanor and Eagle Lake. Grebes are migratory water birds that frequent coastal waters, but travel inland to breed in freshwater lakes. Grebes are popular among bird enthusiasts and integral to California's natural Legacy. These two lakes in our region are among five lakes in California that support a significant portion of Western and Clark's Grebes that breed in the western U.S.
- **Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. Plumas County Library meeting room, 445 Jackson St., Quincy. BURROWING OWLS AND ARTIFICIAL NEST BURROWS, Larry Jordan.** And Friday we meet Larry in Sierra Valley to actually construct some sample burrows.

PLUMAS BIODIVERSITY DAYS - EVENTS, BIRD AND BOTANY WALKS

- **Plumas Biodiversity Days Art Show** (May 1-31). Local artists will show their works depicting biodiversity in Plumas County and the Feather River Country at Morning Thunder Café in Quincy.
- Saturday, May 7 - **Spanish Creek Bird Watching.** Meet at Gansner Park at 7:30 a.m. to explore Spanish Creek from the park to the waste water ponds. Leaders, *Tony Hall and David Arsenault.*
- Sunday, May 8 - **Nest Box Building Workshop.** Starts at 10:00 a.m. nest to the old dairy barn at 574 Quincy Junction Road, just beyond the high school athletic fields. Tools, hardware, and untreated 1" thick wood are helpful, but not required. Contact David at <david@plumasaudubon.org> or 283-0455 for information.
- Saturday, May 14 - **Chester Meadows bird watching.** Carpool from Quincy Post Office at 6:45 a.m. In Chester meet at the high school parking lot at the end of First Street at 8 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Please RSVP leader, *Ryan Burnett* <rburnett@prbo.org> or 258-2869.
- Friday, May 20 - **Sierra Valley Burrowing Owl Nest Burrow Project.** Join Larry Jordan and Plumas Audubon to install some artificial nest burrows in Sierra Valley.
- Saturday, May 21- **Plumas Audubon - Feather River Land Trust Maddalena Ranch Barbeque.** Join us in Sierra Valley for a day of canoeing, bird and botany walks, and food. Meet wildlife artist, Harry Reeves, as we celebrate completion of the wildlife viewing platform interpretive bird display. The Ranch corral is 1-1/2 miles south of Hwy 70 on A24. Events start at 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 28 -**Sierra Valley Bird Watching.** To carpool meet in front of Work Connection, nest to SavMor at 7:30 a.m. In Sierra Valley meet at the parking area across from the A23/Hwy 70 junction at 8:15 a.m. Bring lunch and water. RSVP leader, *Colin Dillingham* 283-1133.

- Saturday, June 4 - **Meadow Valley (Spanish Ranch) bird watching.** Leaders, *Darla DeRuiter and Darrel Jury.* Meet at 6669 Buck's Lake Rd., Meadow Valley at 7:30 a.m. (Coming from Quincy the house is on the right two houses past Pine Leaf intersection.)
- Saturday, June 11 - **Butterfly Valley Botany Excursion.** Leader, *Jim Battagin* will share his wealth of knowledge of the plants of this unique valley. Meet at the U.S.F.S. Mt. Hough Ranger District office at 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, July 9 - **Bucks Lake (Mill Creek trail) bird and botany walk.** Leaders, *Scott and Amber Edwards.* Meet at the Mill Creek trail head at 8:00 a.m. From Quincy it is on the right side of Buck's Lake Road 0.3 mile past Whitehorse campground. Length of walk is optional. Bring water and a lunch if you care to continue past noon.

GREBE PROJECT UPDATE

In March David Arsenault attended a meeting at Clear Lake, Lake County for the Audubon Grebe Project. Most of the people involved, including the president and conservation chair from Altacal Audubon (Chico), the president and monitoring coordinator from Redbud Audubon (Clear Lake), the project director and communications coordinator from Audubon CA, and the funding council, were there. The meeting was to help with project coordination and direction. David gave presentations on Plumas Audubon monitoring and outreach. We now have a contract signed with Audubon CA and will be moving forward with planning for research, conservation and public participation this season.



Western grebes on Clear Lake. Photo by Floyd Hayes, Redbud Audubon

The Grebe project is the result of mitigation funds from three oil spills affecting many birds along the California coast. Audubon California staff determined that it would be wise to focus the project on the

western and Clark's grebes because their population has been in decline and they are highly susceptible to death from oil spills. Research and conservation projects on inland lakes, where they migrate to breed, are expected to be effective.

The 2012 Grebe Project annual meeting will be hosted by Plumas Audubon in Chester during the grebe breeding season in early August. The first day we will tour Lake Almanor, the second day will be an all-day meeting, and the third day will be a tour of Eagle Lake. Our grebe committee is now David, Darrel Jury, and Bob Beckwith.

PLUMAS COUNTY PLANNING

Weather was not conducive to a grand turnout, but the handful of Plumas Audubon members who braved the elements to come to our March program were treated to an intimate and informative view of the County General Plan revision process with Planning Director, Randy Wilson. He described several elements to the general plan which are of special interest to Audubon. Conservation, agriculture, timber, water, noise and economics were key topics for the night.

Randy explained that we have a lot of developable blocks on the books and have no need for more subdivision. By taking advantage of the poor market for real estate we are in a good position to provide for future infill, and create commercial opportunities that help to maintain the unique and attractive qualities of Plumas County. Data from the 2010 Census is indicating that, unlike the rest of California, we are losing population. Even 1% growth in the future would be a surprise. Randy's emphasis is on assuring economic viability in order to sustain existing agriculture and to create opportunity for jobs within existing communities. The General Plan is important in that it sets boundaries and a sense of purpose for community plans. Focusing development within core areas and within existing communities is particularly appropriate here because such a vast proportion of this county is National Forest.

Randy emphasized that our Planning Department offices are open to the public. The planning process and public meetings are noticed in local papers.

PAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gretchen Jehle has been elected to the Plumas Audubon Board of Directors; Sally Yost and Michelle Fulton have been named "Friends of Plumas Audubon." "Friends" are members who make significant contributions to Plumas Audubon activities, but who are not able to regularly participate in Board business. Friends receive all Plumas Audubon Board of Directors correspondence and are welcome to attend any Board meetings, but do not have a vote on Board business.

We have received \$15 membership renewals from most Plumas Audubon members. Payment is due in March. If you have overlooked paying please use the form on the back of this newsletter. National Audubon members are automatically members of their local chapter, but your additional support of chapter activities and this newsletter is appreciated. - <i>Thank you</i>
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PLUMAS AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President (and Website)	David Arsenault	530-283-0455 <davidarsenault1@gmail.com>
Vice President	(vacant)	
Secretary & Outings	Anthony Hall	530-283-3052
Treasurer	Bob Beckwith	530-283-0967
Newsletter	Harry Reeves	530-283-1230 <hgreeves@att.net>
Membership	Darla DeRuiter	530-283-2939 <dderueter@frc.edu>
Education	Terry & Jerry Williams	530-832-5992
Board member	Darrel Jury	530-283-2939
Board member	Julie Newman	530-283-5893
Board member	Gretchen Jehle	

PLUMAS AUDUBON SOCIETY

(C59)

Chapter membership renewal \$15.00 is due in March each year

Please sign me up: Name _____

Send my newsletter by e-mail to _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

_____ **New member NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - \$20.00 make check payable to National Audubon Society. You will receive AUDUBON MAGAZINE, be a member of Plumas Audubon chapter and receive the local newsletter, The Mountain Quail. (Do not use this form for renewal of National Audubon membership. You should receive notice directly from National)**

- OR -

_____ **Chapter membership - ___ new ___ renewal - \$15.00 payable to: PLUMAS AUDUBON SOCIETY (includes newsletter the Mountain Quail - 6 issues per year).**

Mail this completed form with check to:

Plumas Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3877, Quincy, CA 95971

Plumas Audubon does not sell or share the chapter e-mail or mailing lists with any other organization or business.

Please help us reduce expenses, conserve paper and energy. Receive your newsletter more promptly too by sending your e-mail address to Membership Chair, Darla DeRuiter <dderuiter@frc.edu>

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