



# The Mountain Quail

Newsletter of Plumas Audubon Society  
Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 3877, Quincy, CA 95971  
Vol. 19, No. 4 - November, 2008  
Newsletter Editor - Harry Reeves - hreeves@att.net

## Calendar

- Wednesday, December 10 - *Bird Identification with Bill Peters* (See article below).
- Wednesday, December 17 - *Christmas Bird Count, Sierra Valley*. Contact Colin Dillingham.
- Tuesday, December 16 - *Honey Lake CBC*.
- Thursday, December 18 - *Eagle Lake CBC*.
- **Saturday, December 20 - NEW!!! - AMERICAN VALLEY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.**
- *Almanor CBC* (date to be determined) contact Ryan Burnett.

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**American Valley CBC**, "Because the idea emerged after Audubon's deadline for submitting a new count application, this year will be a warm-up..." We will apply to make this CBC circle official next year. Those wishing to help initiate this new CBC should meet at the Quincy Post Office parking lot at 8:00 AM. Afterward we can meet at the Alley Cat/Wine Bar for a cup of hot tea or a cold beer. *Darla DeRuiter* 283-2939 - [dderuiter@frc.edu](mailto:dderuiter@frc.edu).

## Spring 2009 Plumas Audubon programs:

February 11 - *Bird Migration and Wind Power* - David Arsenault

March - *to be determined*.

April 22 - Earth Week program - *Plumas Arts presents Lee Stetson as John Muir*

May 13 - *Birds of the Southwest* - Colin and Henry Dillingham.

**PLUMAS AUDUBON SOCIETY** will host wildlife artist **Bill Peters** for a talk and slideshow about **Plumas County Birds at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** in room 107 in the Science Building on the Feather River College campus. Everyone is welcome!

Bill Peters is one of Plumas County's most beloved artists. His work has focused on wildlife and birds, a logical continuation of his 32-year career with California's Department of Fish and Game. Bill has also taught art, wildlife, and animal behavior classes at Feather River College since 1981. His passion for birding and wildlife observation makes him a favorite among students!

In winter our resident bird species are visible and our attention is not distracted by migrant visitors. This is a perfect time to bone up, with the Christmas Bird Counts right around the corner. By testing

our identification knowledge through Bill's slideshow we may get better acquainted with these neighborhood birds. To further hone our skills some of the hundreds of mounted bird specimens in FRC's collection will be put on display.

The event is free and open to the public. The Science / Math Building is located up the hill from the main lower parking lot on FRC's campus. Please call 283-2939 for more information or e-mail Darla at [dderuiter@frc.edu](mailto:dderuiter@frc.edu).

### **SIERRA VALLEY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

More than a century has passed since a group of New England bird watchers decided to go out at Christmas time to observe and count, rather than shoot and eat birds wintering near their homes. The local party rapidly turned into a yearly event that was taken up by groups all over North America and beyond. Results of Christmas Bird Counts have turned out to provide remarkably valuable information about bird migration and population trends. As climate change affects life on earth the serious knowledge gained from annual CBC reports is increasingly important to science. Still to us the count continues to be largely social and just plain fun.

Plumas Audubon's Sierra Valley count will be coordinated by Colin Dillingham. Wednesday, December 17 is the date. The more eyes and ears and people we have to drive, keep notes and so on, the better. We need the best observers we can get, but please be assured you do not need to be an advanced birder to participate. Call Colin at 283-1133 to find out when and where to be. He needs to know who will be coming in order to set up teams for each quadrant of our count circle.

Be sure to dress for the weather - predictably cold and possibly wet. Bring a lunch, water, binoculars and field guide. Spotting scopes and digital cameras are wonderful extra tools for making some tough identifications.

If you happen to be a CBC junkie who can't get enough or our date doesn't work for you Colin should be able to help with information regarding other CBCs at Honey Lake, Eagle Lake or Lake Almanor.

### **PLUMAS AUDUBON BOARD REPORT**

Our board of directors had a long overdue meeting, hosted by Isabelle Stone, on October 28. If you will remember, last spring Darrel Jury resigned the presidency and Darla DeRuiter resigned the vice-presidency of our chapter after four years of service in those positions. They are of course continuing to be very active in Audubon activities and continue to serve as board members. The main objective of this board meeting was to decide how to proceed and to plan the coming year's activities. No one has stepped forward to take on the mantle of the presidency, but the feeling is that our members are sufficiently devoted to Plumas Audubon and its particular projects that we can function by consensus, at least until someone steps up to be president. This could be you - give it some thought.

**Treasurer:** Jon Eisler decided that he had been treasurer long enough too. We all want to thank Jon for his many years of work for the chapter.

Darrel Jury has assumed the treasurer's duties for the time being. He reported that currently we have \$6,732.41 in the bank. Most of this is left from an Audubon California grant of \$2,500 and a National Audubon grant of \$7,500 (half of \$15,000) for wetlands recreation. These funds have been used on the Feather River Land Trust's Maddalena Ranch at Worm Corner in Sierra Valley. The nature trail is built and Plumas Audubon will next provide interpretive signs and build a viewing platform. The land trust plans to improve the old corral and make signs using a grant from Sierra Business Council.

Darrel told us that other community projects include a trail of about two miles from Oakland Camp along Spanish Creek to Feather River College. Audubon members are being asked to observe birds along Spanish Creek and to report

sightings. Plumas Audubon will develop a letter of support for this trail based on your observations and comments you may send to [mtquail@gmail.com](mailto:mtquail@gmail.com).

David Arsenault asks that for our growing exchange of **sightings** you make use of his new e-mail address [david.arsenault1@gmail.com](mailto:david.arsenault1@gmail.com).

**Membership:** Plumas Audubon has a total membership of around 140. The board decided that it would be easier if all Plumas Audubon membership/newsletter subscriptions became due annually each March. The Plumas Audubon membership/newsletter subscription is \$15 per year. Membership in National Audubon automatically makes you a Plumas Audubon chapter member and you should be on our mailing list (we note though that some National memberships seem not to get assigned properly). National Audubon membership is \$20 annually and includes our newsletter, *The Mountain Quail*. Isabelle Stone has around 26 e-mail addresses. It was decided that this issue of the newsletter will be mailed in the usual manner and that we will also send it as an e-mail letter. If you wish to help us save paper and postage and would like to

receive the electronic newsletter let us know at [mtnquail@gmail.com](mailto:mtnquail@gmail.com).

**Education:** Michelle Petroelje has been unable to pursue the **Audubon Adventures** education program due to injuries from an auto accident. We are hoping someone will offer to pick up the important task of contacting the elementary school science teachers around the county and provide the yearly Audubon Adventures educational kit to participating teachers. Anyone interested in this task should let us know.

We know we have many talented Audubon members who might find time to contribute some time and employ their skills to any of a number of tasks that need attention. **Michelle Fulton** has designed the form letter on the back of this newsletter for you to return indicating any way you are able to help Plumas Audubon. Please take a minute or two to fill it out and provide any comments you care to offer regarding things you may be able to do. Let us know your suggestions for programs or activities, or ideas about this newsletter.

***Now: A special note to e-mail subscribers to the Mountain Quail.***

Thank you for giving Plumas Audubon the opportunity to save the costs of paper, copying and mailing the newsletter. The electronic form is not only more economical than sending the hard copy, but the wee bit of electricity required is probably much better for the environment. There is less of a space requirement too so some articles may from time to time be expanded and you are able to offer your ideas or criticism as they may come to mind.

An obvious advantage to the on line edition of our newsletter is that we are able to post new information as it arrises, i.e. the announcement of the American Valley Christmas Bird Count (*see page one*), this was a December 1 decision.

**Another hot new item!** David Arsenault has decided to nominate himself for the sorely needed leadership role of **President of Plumas Audubon**. We are not aware of any opposition to his generous offer and your newsletter editor is taking the liberty to announce that we will hold an election at the December 10 Plumas Audubon meeting in order to take advantage of David's willingness to serve as president. It is safe to say that all of our board members will do what the can to make the job an easy one.

***AND A HOLIDAY BONUS for all you e-mail recipients***

(We received this letter from Jim Battagin the same day the November issue of *the Mountain Quail* went into the mail.)

One cold morning near Thanksgiving, I arrived at my house in Butterfly Valley and as I pulled up I noticed a small bird huddled by the front door. I exited my car and knelt down by the little critter and realized I was looking at a Hermit Thrush that had probably hit a window and was in shock. He was shivering, his eyes were closed and I could see he was breathing rapidly. A nearby thermometer registered 38 degrees and the fog was thick, very chilly. I had no place warm to put him so I grabbed a soft towel from the house and gently wrapped it around him, About five minutes later he quit shivering. Every half hour or so I checked to see if there was any change and if he was still there...no change. Then about three hours later, when I checked, he responded to my inquiry, "How you doin' little fella?" by opening his eyes, looking at me and shivering for about two seconds. Then he closed his eyes again and went back to sleep. Another couple of hours went by and when I checked on him, he was gone! I hoped he was okay and went about my day.

About an hour later I was standing in front of the house and a Hermit Thrush landed near me and just stood there looking at me for about thirty seconds before flying off. I can only assume it was my little guy and he came by to give thanks for the kind treatment. Needless to say, it made my day.

#### PLUMAS AUDUBON OFFICEERS

President	vacant	
Vice President	vacant	
Secretary	Michelle Fulton	283-1632
Treasurer (acting)	Darrel Jury	283-2939
Newsletter	Harry Reeves	283-1230
Membership	Isabelle Stone	283-2745
Outings	David Arsenault	258-9137
Board member	Bob Beckwith	283-0967
Board member	Darla DeRuiter	283-2939
Board member	Anthony Hall	283-3052
Board member	Sally Yost	284-6649

#### Plumas Audubon Society

**Please sign me up for:** **Plumas Audubon Society C59**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **New member - National Audubon Society and Plumas Audubon** (member gets Audubon magazine and also gets the local newsletter *the Mountain Quail*). Include check for **\$20.00** payable to **National Audubon Society**. (do not use this form for renewal of National Audubon membership)

- OR -

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter member and newsletter** (6 issues per year). Include check for **\$15.00** payable to **Plumas Audubon Society**. (Note: Chapter member annual renewal is \$15.00 due in March)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your completed form with check to:**

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

DEAR BIRD ENTHUSIAST,

YOUR LOCAL PLUMAS AUDUBON BOARD NEEDS TWO THINGS FROM YOU:

1. YOUR IDEAS FOR UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND/OR ACTIVITIES FOR PLUMAS AUDUBON
2. YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS (I.E. NEWSLETTERS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS) TO REDUCE PAPER USE AND POSTAGE FEES.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO :

*mtnquail@gmail.com*

PLUMAS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 3877  
QUINCY, CA 95971-3877

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in any of the following? Please check.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Serving as a board member.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Administration  
\_\_\_\_\_ Outings  
\_\_\_\_\_ Programs  
\_\_\_\_\_ Education

Any comments or suggestions?

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