



The Mountain Quail

Newsletter of Plumas Audubon Society

Chapter of the National Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3877, Quincy, CA 95971

Vol. 20, No. 3 - April, 2009

Newsletter Editor - Harry Reeves - hgreeves@att.net

Plumas Audubon home page www.plumasaudubon.org

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, April 8, 2009: Kara Rockett, "Bird Watching in Restored Habitats in Plumas County" 6:30 pm, Plumas County Library meeting room, 445 Jackson Street, Quincy.

Kara Rockett is an Americorps member with the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group at Plumas Corporation. Her presentation will include a description of eight channel and meadow restoration project areas in Plumas County. These project areas have seen a significant increase in bird species diversity and numbers. Some of the project areas have been well studied, however, most have not. Kara, the Monitoring Coordinator for the FR-CRM, will present a monitoring scheme that can include everyone. Maps to project areas and bird observation data sheets will be available for anyone interested in restored habitats. For more information, contact Kara at 283-3739 or kara@plumascounty.org.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, April 10: Plumas-Lassen Administrative Study, 5th Annual Research Seminar. 10:00 am - 4:30 pm, Quincy Town Hall Theater. The Administrative Study is an integrated research project on the Quincy Library Group area. For more information contact Colin Dillingham at 283-7881 or cdillingham@fs.fed.us.

Wednesday, April 15, Plumas Audubon board meeting, at Isabelle Stone's, 7:00 pm

Earth Day: Lee Stetson: "John Muir". April 22, 2009 Town Hall Theatre. This Earth Day event is sponsored by Plumas Arts and features Lee Stetson portraying John Muir.

May 13: Henry and Colin Dillingham "Bird Watching in Southeast Arizona". 6:30 pm, Quincy Library, 445 Jackson Street. The Dillinghams spent a week birding around SE Arizona in 2008. They took many close-up photographs of SE Arizona birds that they will share with Plumas County birders.

May 1-31: Plumas Biodiversity Days: Plumas Audubon Society will host the second annual series of activities this year. See page 3 for schedule.

The 2009 California Audubon Assembly in Pacific Grove, March 15-17, 2009

Notes by David Arsenault, President, Plumas Audubon

Audubon California, based in Sacramento, is the state office of the National Audubon Society, serving more than 50 affiliated chapters in California, including the Plumas Audubon Society. Every 18 months, Audubon California hosts an Audubon Assembly, which brings chapter leaders together from across the state to share their knowledge in attaining Audubon's mission in California. Plumas Audubon Society president, David Arsenault, was able to attend this year's assembly. The assembly was held in Pacific Grove in Monterey Bay, a spectacular location for bird watching. The theme was "*The Future of Conservation*". The first day of the assembly involved several field trips including a pelagic seabird tour, a condor viewing trip with the Ventana Wildlife Society, and a trip to the Carmel River and Point Piños. That night's assembly banquet lauded the new partnership between Audubon California and California State

Parks. Over the next two days, assembly participants had the chance to participate in a variety of workshops. On Monday morning, the workshop speakers were youth from six Audubon education programs from centers and chapters throughout the state. Other workshops topics included *Wind and Wildlife*, *Declining and Endangered Species in California*, *Fire and Wildlife*, *Water and Wildlife*, *Energy and Wildlife*, *Seabird Conservation*, *IBA Conservation*, *Audubon at Home*, *Climate Change Science and Policy*, and *Working with Private Landowners*. The assembly concluded with a round table discussion involving an open dialogue on a number of topics including building chapter memberships, chapter strategic plans, fund raising, and education among others. The assembly was very informative and it was great to learn about projects other chapters are undertaking as well as projects that Audubon California staff members are working on.

WEBSITE

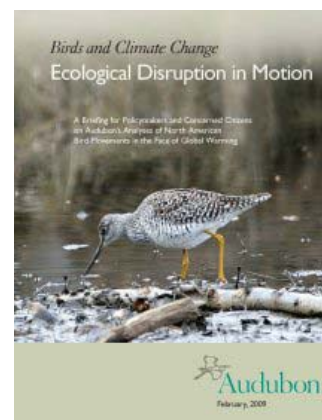
Plumas Audubon's new website is up and running thanks to David Arsenault's work. Visit the home page www.plumasaudubon.org. The site is new and developing. It will post schedules of meetings, field trips, other activities of interest, recent copies of the *Mountain Quail*, recent bird sightings, and will link to Audubon California and National Audubon. Check it out, bookmark it for regular viewing. Anyone with computer skills wishing to assist with creating and maintaining the site should contact David (530-283-0455, david.arsenault1@gmail.com).

Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion

Audubon recently released a new study using Christmas Bird Count Data. These analyses would not have been possible without the hard work of CBC participants and the many chapters that organize and lead counts. We thank all that have participated over the years for their effort. The study explored if birds had shown significant shifts in their winter distribution over the last 40 years. As we all know, birds are good indicators of the environment. We think birds provide important information to people on changes in the environment and human quality of life. Audubon has a goal of working bird indicators into regular reviews of how the environment in the U.S. is doing and hopefully helping drive policy and funding that benefits the environment and birds. These analyses of the CBC dataset on winter distribution are part of that effort.

The report, *Birds and Climate Change*, is available on Audubon's web site at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/bacc/cbcanalysis.html> and provides more details on the analyses and results. To download the report from this web site, click on the "Download Report" link on the left side of the page or on the image of the report cover.

We will continue to undertake scientific analyses of these data to learn more about the status of birds and conservation needs. Please consider donating through the web site to help us continue using the CBC data to move a conservation agenda.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Don't forget all Plumas Audubon membership, which includes your subscription to this newsletter, the *Mountain Quail*, are now payable each year in March (\$15 annually). Most of you are current, but a few have not paid yet. If you belong to National Audubon you are automatically a member of Plumas Audubon and receive this newsletter; however, if you wish to also contribute to our local newsletter and other Chapter activities we are always most appreciative. If you are not yet on our e-mail subscription list please let us know if you would prefer to receive the *Mountain Quail* electronically. It saves us a lot of expense for copying and postage, is better for the environment, and offers a few conveniences such as full color illustrations and easy links to sites mentioned in the text. Some of you still have reasons to want a paper copy mailed and we appreciate that as well.

Errata: The March, 2009 newsletter article on wind power said that David Arsenault had done studies of wind turbine impacts on the Black Mountain Wind Energy Project. This was incorrect. David didn't work on the project; he just mentioned that it was a proposed project in Plumas County.

Plumas Biodiversity Days 2009- Schedule of Events May 1-31

Schedule may change; contact David Arsenault (530-283-0455, david.arsenault1@gmail.com) for information

May 1-31: Plumas Biodiversity Days Art Show. Artistic diversity representing biodiversity is the theme. A number of local artists will display their artwork depicting biodiversity in Plumas County at Morning Thunder Café in Quincy. Artists with work in any medium are welcome to contribute. See Lori Davis at Plumas Arts.

May 9: Plumas Audubon 20th Anniversary Celebration: Join us on International Migratory Bird Day to celebrate our chapter's 20th anniversary with the inauguration of an interpretive trail at the Maddalena Ranch in Sierra Valley. Contact Darrel Jury (530-283-0202 x262, djury@frc.edu) for more information.

May 13: Henry and Colin Dillingham: Birding Southeast Arizona. The Dillinghams spent a week birding in SE Arizona in 2008 and will share their photos with Plumas County birders at the Quincy Library at 6:30 p.m.

May 16: Sierra Valley Bird Watching: Meet in the parking lot in front of Work Connection in East Quincy (next to SavMor) at 7:30 am. Trip will return to Quincy around 3 pm so bring a lunch. In Sierra Valley, meet in the parking area across from the A-23/Hwy 70 junction at 8:15 am. Please RSVP to Colin Dillingham at 530-283-1133.

May 17: Nest Box Building Workshop: Enjoy the abundance of birds using nest boxes at BB's place in Genesee Valley. Meet in Taylorsville in front of the store at 9 am to carpool. Build nest boxes for a variety of bird species, as well as bat boxes and bee blocks. Take some boxes and blocks home to enhance the biodiversity of your own yard. Suggested donation is \$15 to support the Plumas Audubon Society. Contact David Arsenault for info.

May 21 and 22: Owl Prowl and Workshop: Learn about the natural history and how to find and identify the 12 species of owls that occur in Plumas County. David Arsenault studied owls for over ten years and will share his expertise during a Thursday evening slide show from 7-9 pm at the Quincy library followed by a Friday night owl prowling from 6 pm to after midnight. Suggested donation is \$20 to support the Plumas Audubon Society.

May 27: Birding by Bike in American Valley: You need to bring your own bike for this morning trip, which starts on Quincy Junction Road and proceeds to Gansner Park and back. Meet in the parking lot at the Quincy High School baseball fields on Quincy Junction Road at 6:30 a.m. Contact David Arsenault for information.

May 30: Butterfly Valley Botany Excursion: Jim Battagin will share his wealth of knowledge about the plants of Butterfly Valley during this morning trip. Meet at the Mt Hough USFS parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

May 31: Humbug Valley and Lake Almanor Bird Watching: Ryan Burnett of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will lead this trip starting in Humbug Valley in the morning and proceeding to the west shore of Lake Almanor in the afternoon. Meet in Chester at 6 a.m. at the USFS Almanor Ranger District Office. Bring lunch. Contact Ryan Burnett (530-258-2869, rburnett@prbo.org) for information.

PLUMAS AUDUBON SOCIETY**C59*****Please sign me up:***

New member - NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - \$20.00 payable to **National Audubon Society**. You will get *Audubon magazine*, also become 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 get a renewal notice directly from National)

- OR -

Chapter membership new or renewal - \$15.00 payable to **Plumas Audubon Society** (Includes *the Mountain Quail* newsletter - 6 issues per year).

Name _____

E-mail _____

Mailing address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Chapter member renewal \$15.00 is due each year in March**Mail your completed form with check to:****Plumas Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3877, Quincy, CA 95971**

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

