

**Plumas Birds archive  
January - April 2009**

**January 5, 2009**

Hi Birders,

Here's a posting regarding an albino red-tail near Sloat. It has apparently been around for the last few years. Sounds like a beautiful bird!

Date: Thu, 1 Jan 2009 23:07:59 -0800

From: Harrison <h.karr...>

Subject: [SierraNevadaBirds] Albinistic buteo near Quincy

This afternoon, driving near the town of Sloat, south of Quincy, I saw an all-white raptor that I think was an albinistic red-tail. I am a new subscriber to this list and am wondering if this bird is known to area birders. I stopped at the corner of Sloat Rd and April Lane and looked south across the fields. The bird was pretty obvious atop conifers, but distant. The only visible color other than a yellow cere was a small amount of black at the base of the primaries. Any info on this bird?

Harrison Karr  
San Rafael, CA

**January 9, 2009**

Hi Birders,

The Plumas Birds postings for August through December 2008 have now been archived at:

[http://www.aviancenter.com/Plumas\\_Audubon.htm](http://www.aviancenter.com/Plumas_Audubon.htm)

All of the Plumas Birds postings for the last two years are now archived there. Thanks to everyone for all of your great observations!

Here's some other news:

If you've been to the Plumas Audubon web page before, you'll notice some new additions. For one, we now have the *Mountain Quail*, Plumas Audubon's newsletter, available electronically on the web page. Thanks to the newsletter editor Harry Reeves for making that happen!

The web page lists all of Plumas Audubon's board members and chair people include our new education chair people Jerry and Terry Williams of Portola. We look forward to

working with them on our education program, which includes bringing Audubon Adventure kits into elementary school classrooms. Donations to buy more kits are always graciously accepted.

Finally, we are trying to fill the position of web master, which I am currently serving as in my limited technological capacity. If anyone with the time and skills to do this is interested, please let me know. We would like to create an independent website for Plumas Audubon at [www.plumasaudubon.org](http://www.plumasaudubon.org) (the web page currently resides at [www.aviancenter.com](http://www.aviancenter.com) out of convenience). I have intended to create this website myself, but with my limited time and basic skills, this has not yet happened. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

I hope the New Year is treating everyone well!

David Arsenault

**January 20, 2009**

Thought some of you would like to see or hear about the Henslow's Sparrow (if you have not already) recently found in Oregon. Wow, this is not a bird of the West, especially this far west.

Visit the web page below for photos. The "Ground" photos are more diagnostic of the species, but the first set is the same bird (even though some photos appear to be a Lincoln's Sparrow).

I've added a second page, with 11 photos of the bird on the ground in shadow:  
<http://web.me.com/olschmidt/HESP/Index.html>

olschmidt@att.net

Monday, January 19, 2009

Dennis Vroman  
Grants Pass, OR  
(who has not seen the actual bird)

I should mention that a debate is underway on this bird; Lincoln's or Henslow's. The final verdict is not in yet.

Should have mentioned, to me, the bird photographed appears to be a Lincoln's and many others OR birders feel this way as well. After reviewing photos of Henslow's taken in their native range, the bird in the OR photos just don't seem to fit this species.  
Comments?

**January 21, 2009**

Hi Birders,

I went for a stroll around the sewage ponds this afternoon and saw some ducks (imagine that!) including:

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 male and 1 female

Common Goldeneye: 19

Lesser Scaup: 2

Ruddy Duck: 4

Bufflehead: 21

Ring-necked Duck: 121

There were also a few red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, ruby-crowned kinglet, black phoebe, golden-crowned sparrow, and other typicals.

The air quality in American Valley was about a 2 (out of 10)!

I hope your year lists are adding up for 2009.

David Arsenault

**January 21, 2009**

Hi Birders,

I see David Arsenault and I both spent some time at the QCSD sewer ponds today. Here is my report, which, as is to be expected, is mostly the same and slightly different than David's: I found eight duck species including 3 Barrow's Goldeneyes, 1 Lesser Scaup, 1 Greater Scaup, and 2 Wood Ducks. I was hoping to find more Wood Ducks since this is one of their favorite spots in American Valley. As David mentioned, there was no dearth of Ring-necked Ducks - my count was 140. Other passerines besides the ones David reported were three woodpecker species: Hairy, Downy, and Northern Flicker.

Also of note were 21 Hooded Mergansers on the stock pond in Thompson Valley. If you want to see a Hooded Merganser, that pond has always been the place to find them.

Good birding  
Bob Battagin

## **January 22, 2009**

Waterfowl are one of the benefits of winter, aren't they? That was a lot of smoke for January, and I imagine the sewage ponds, in a low point of the valley, were particularly socked in.

I inquired about the smoke and here's what I learned: The air quality board gave our local area a permissible burn day based on the predicted weather forecast. Many people burned their piles, but an unforeseen inversion developed and the smoke just sat in the valley bottom instead of blowing away. The Forest Service burned piles of brush on about 15 acres of the Corridor fuel break project (bordering Hwy 70 on the hill above Grey's Nursery). Those piles had been covered, so they were fairly dry and burned thoroughly - it'll be good to have that dead fuel gone come next summer's wildfire season! Many private landowners burned their piles too, especially along Chandler Road. There may have been more burning, but that's what I'm aware of. Last we'd heard, no one had reported problems or filed complaints with the air quality board.

ANGELA L. DILLINGHAM

## **January 23, 2009**

Hi Birders,

David Arsenault and I did some more birding together in American Valley yesterday afternoon. Despite a light drizzle, there were a few birds out. The most exciting was a Merlin high on a treetop on the Shea Ranch, visible from the Chandler Road/Quincy Junction intersection. Also sighted were several Red-tailed Hawks and a Rough-legged Hawk. Earlier in the day, my brother, Jim, and I also had a Red-shouldered Hawk and Bald Eagle while birding around Quincy. Jim was asking me if more Red-shouldered Hawks are around these days. Looking at my records for American Valley back to 1998, I only had two sightings prior to 2006 and since then they have been observed regularly. I've heard others mention that they've noticed that Red-shoulders seem to adapt fairly well to human impacts in rural areas.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

## **January 23, 2009**

That is interesting to hear about the Red-shouldered Hawks. They only occur around Chester from August – March and both young and adults. So I assume they disperse up here from lower elevation (oak woodland) breeding areas. Are they around Quincy year round? Is anyone aware of nesting records around here?

Ryan Burnett

**January 26, 2009**

Hi Birders,

Not everyone received the last few messages from Ryan and Bob so they are included below.

Regarding red-shouldered hawks- last summer there was at least one around all summer in Quincy and it may have bred in American Valley. I never saw them here in the summer before last year. The species is increasing in abundance and expanding it's range throughout its western distribution and now regularly winters as far north as Washington and east into the Great Basin. One likely reason for their success is their adaptability to urban environments. In Chico, they breed right in town foraging next to busy roads, even in construction areas where they prey on fleeing lizards. One of the red-shoulders on the FRC campus in Quincy likes foraging around a parking lot and often perches on construction equipment parked there.

On another note, you may have noticed that evening grosbeaks are nearly absent from American Valley this winter, but in most winters they are quite abundant here. This winter, I have been seeing large flocks at Bucks Summit, along with pine siskins, and I presume that a good cone crop has allowed them to stay up high in the forests this winter.

Good birding,

David Arsenault

**January 26, 2009**

Red-shouldered Hawks are undoubtedly more common in the past 2-4 years than they were the first 4 years I lived in Plumas County. They do overwinter in American Valley and Sierraville Area. I've never found them breeding, but I have heard them making territorial calls throughout the spring in American Valley, so they do likely breed, but we've just never found a nest.

My son Henry and I found a eurasian wigeon at Lake Almanor on Saturday, Jan 24. It was along Hwy 89 on the west shore of Almanor, about 1 mile North of "Almanor West" turnoff. We parked along the side of Hwy 89 and hiked through the snow to the shoreline and saw it with 6 american wigeon as well as a few other ducks (mallards, canvasback, common goldeneye, common merganser, bufflehead) and tundra swans.

Colin Dillingham

**March 8, 2009**

There is a small island on the Shea Farm pond next to the Galeppi Ranch. This island has many Canada Geese, it is a favored breeding area. As I was walking by this afternoon there was considerable commotion by the geese. I looked across and saw an eagle landing on a pine tree on the island. I couldn't see it well because it was on the far side of the tree. It stayed there while I moved closer and saw that it is a juvenile Bald Eagle. The geese didn't seem to care other than scolding it and there was a male Ring-necked Duck and a female Goldeneye that continued to feed in the pond. Eventually the eagle flew off and circled a Buteo that had come "too close"!

I also saw a pair of Mountain Quail on the edge of the marsh. I have never seen them in this area as a covey, they frequent the more open, higher and drier areas of the hills among the sparse bushes and trees. When they begin breeding they appear to seek out the more secluded, lower and wetter, dense brushy areas.

Best Regards

Tony Hall

**March 13, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

Wednesday I spent a good part of the day birding Indian Valley. There are still plenty of winter raptors there including Ferruginous, Rough-legged, and Red-tailed Hawks, as well as a Bald Eagle. I counted 20 Sandhill Cranes as I drove around the valley. Also, 973 Canada Geese, 210 Greater White-fronted Geese, and a single Ross's Goose, not to mention hundreds of ducks of 12 different species. Duck species included 2 Wood Ducks, 3 Hooded Mergansers, and a single Eurasian Wigeon. In a flock of Western Bluebirds along N. Valley Road where it divides Indian Valley from North Arm there were 6 Mountain Bluebirds. It was a great day with 67 bird species observed.

Yesterday (Thursday) I serviced the Wood Duck nest box route at the QCSD sewer ponds in American Valley. While there I found 6 Barrow's Goldeneyes in the main pond and 14 Wood Ducks in the overflow wetland pond. There were 3 Mountain Bluebirds at the northeast corner of the overflow pond. Later in the day I visited the Thompson Valley stock pond and found 2 Cackling Geese on the pond's perimeter mixed in with the many Canada Geese. As usual, there were many Hooded Mergansers in that pond - I counted 15 yesterday.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

### **March 13, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

Sounds like Bob had some great birding in American and Indian Valleys the last few days. Sierra Valley was also spectacular yesterday and I had the chance to take a walk down the west end of Marble Hot Springs Rd. The highlight was a flock of over 500 Sandhill Cranes! Several of the cranes were doing courtship displays (a hopping, wing-flapping dance). There were also good numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese and Snow Geese. I saw one Say's Phoebe, my first for the season in Plumas County, as well as singing Western Meadowlarks and Horned Larks. There were good numbers of Mountain Bluebird and some Western Bluebirds as well.

I was also able to take advantage of the nice weather on Wednesday and do some birding around American Valley. Of note were some late Golden-crowned Sparrows and a flock of Bushtits on the hill at the end of Quincy Junction Road. As Bob mentioned, there was great duck diversity at the Thompson Valley ponds. Other signs that it's March included large flocks of American Robins on the northwest side of the valley and singing Spotted Towhees all over.

Good birding,

David Arsenault

### **March 18, 2009**

I forgot to mention that I saw a Say's Phoebe in Sierra Valley on Sunday, March 15. Ryan Burnett mentioned to me that he also saw one on the Lake Almanor meadow adjacent to Chester. Must be some kind of Say's Phoebe movement lately.

Colin Dillingham

### **March 19, 2009**

Hi Birders,

We had an impromptu bird trip around American Valley this morning for the California Audubon conservation coordinator who visited Quincy for Jane's talk last night. There were some more returning migrants including a good number of Tree Swallows, two Turkey Vultures, and one Western Meadowlark at the sewage ponds, a Hermit Thrush along Spanish Creek, and a Say's Phoebe along Quincy Junction Road. The Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes were displaying, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were singing, and a Black Phoebe was on a nest under the Hwy 70 bridge. We saw several pairs of Sandhill Cranes along Quincy Junction Road. There were also a good number of Evening Grosbeaks around town.

Good birding,

David Arsenault

**April 13, 2009**

Hi Birders:

The sage brush community was active in Sierra Valley on Saturday morning including many singing Vesper Sparrows and Sage Thrashers. The wetlands around Marble Hot Springs bridge was loaded with water birds including nine duck species, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Marsh Wren, and four swallow species. Raptors were sparse, but we were lucky to see a Golden Eagle and three falcons: American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, and Peregrine Falcons. The falcons were definitely a highlight.

Good birding!

David Arsenault

**April 14, 2009**

Darrel and I had great views of a Northern Shrike in Spanish Ranch on our bird walk last week. It's the second time in several years that we've seen a shrike there. Overall, it was a very good day – we had 32 species, the most we've seen this year. An American Kestrel hovered, Western Bluebirds blushed, and a Townsend's Solitaire posed.

Greetings Earthlings!

Next Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. Please come celebrate your inhabitation of the planet.

1 – 5pm: Earth Day Bazaar, PCOE Lawn (across from Quincy Natural Foods)

7:30pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Sustainability Awards AND Lee Stetson as John Muir, Town Hall Theatre (FREE!)

Please see attached flier.

The students of ORL 120 Recreation Program Planning are putting on these events.

For the Earth,

Darla S. DeRuiter

**April 14, 2009**

Some spring arrivals in Chester the past week:

Western Scrub Jay – seem to pass through this time every year  
Common Yellowthroat  
Audubon's Warbler  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Cliff Swallow

Yellow-headed Blackbirds have been here for about 2 weeks and I have been waking each morning to a quartet of blackbird species outside my window (YHBL, BRBL, RWBL, and BHCO).

I saw a robin carrying nesting material this weekend and Tree Swallows are building in my nest boxes though they may think twice about it with the current weather (35 F in Chester right now with a wind chill in the teens).

Ryan Burnett

**April 16, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

My brother, Jim, and I headed up to Sierra Valley this morning with canoe on board for a float down the Feather River from the iron bridge on Dyson Lane (Dyson Lane = Marble Hot Springs Road). Upon arrival we determined that the water level was too low and switched to "let's bird Marble Hot Springs Road" mode. As David Arsenault noted there were some migrants around - we found Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. While standing on the iron bridge a sub-adult Bald Eagle flew over keeping an eye on the placid waters of the Feather River. A single White-fronted Goose, with injured wing, was at Lost Marbles Ranch. There were two Swainson's Hawks in the vicinity of Heriot Lane and Dyson Lane. We found a total of eight duck species hanging out at various wet spots.

Good birding,

Bob Battagin

**April 17, 2009**

Hi Birders:

I heard my first Nashville Warbler of the season this morning at my place in East Quincy, right on time compared to previous years: 4/26 (2006), 4/16 (2007), 4/25 (2008), 4/17 (2009, +/- 5 days since I'm only there 1-2x/wk). I expect the Black-headed Grosbeak, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Hermit Warbler to arrive in the next week or so. The Fox Sparrow started singing over a week ago and the Spotted Towhee a few weeks before that.

Tony Hall reports from the other side of American Valley:

"The first Black-headed Grosbeak came by my place today and the Yellow-Rumped Warblers have invaded. Three pairs of Wood Ducks have claimed the Clear Creek marsh and nearby nesting boxes. Mountain Chickadees have been checking out two of the bird boxes around my house."

Good birding,

David Arsenault

**April 17, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

Brother Jim and I birded American Valley and environs today. Just as with David Arsenault, we heard and saw our first Nashville Warbler of the new year, in our case on Main Ranch Road.

We started the day at Feather River College where we witnessed the repeated daring aerial copulation displays of two Tree Swallows. There was a Common Yellowthroat on Golden Eagle Ave. heading into the college. Four Wilson's Snipe popped in and out of various wet spots.

The American Dippers again have their nest under the Highway 70 bridge that crosses Spanish Creek next to Gansner Park.

At the QCSD sewer ponds two Barrow's Goldeneye remain on the main pond. As we drove out of the facility a Mountain Quail ran off the side of the road in front of us.

At the Thompson Valley stock pond, the two Cackling Geese that have been hanging out there for some time were still there. An adult Bald Eagle soared over heading in the direction of Chandler Road.

The chaparral at the end of Main Ranch Road was stocked with some nice brush/tree species including Bushtits, Spotted Towhees, Western Scrub Jay, the aforementioned Nashville Warbler, Wrentits, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bewick's Wren and Pygmy Nuthatch - it was pretty busy.

Along Quincy Junction Road between Lee Road and Bell Lane in the grassy fields east towards the mill there was a large blackbird flock that yielded a single Tricolored Blackbird and a single Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Our 77 species for the day included 11 species of duck. I was happy to find 24 Wood Ducks during the day, they are a favorite of mine.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

**April 18, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

This morning David Arsenault and I birded Spanish Ranch and Buck's Lake Road through Meadow Valley. We started early to try for owls - with no luck. Nice moon and several shooting stars though. As daylight arrived the meadow at Spanish Ranch came alive with the songs and calls of many birds. Our favorite sighting was of several calling and displaying Wilson's Snipes. They were in and out of a couple wet spots in the meadow, flying in impressive circling and swooping displays or standing on the ground issuing long calls to each other. No sighting of Darla's Loggerhead Shrike but we were treated to a few other nice birds that included American Dipper, American Pippit and a couple Sandhill Cranes. Later on, as we drove through Meadow Valley we stopped when David spotted a Vaux's Swift overhead. In nearby trees we found a Downy Woodpecker and Red-breasted Sapsucker. At the junction of Silver Creek Road and Buck's Lake Road the abandoned building there attracted three species of swallow as well as Mountain Bluebirds and Chipping Sparrows. We had 43 species for the morning and a beautiful start to the day.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

**April 20, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

David Arsenault informs me that my recent emails to you haven't reached everybody. I hope my "To:" list is complete this time.

I spent the last two days at Greenhorn Creek Guest Ranch attending some meetings. In between I managed to take a short walk and found a nice assortment of expected birds.

Unusual species included a Vesper Sparrow foraging with three Savannah Sparrows in a patch of low grasses among the horse paddocks and a Western Kingbird high in the trees along Greenhorn Creek. I certainly didn't expect the Vesper Sparrow - its probably just moving through to more suitable habitat. I suppose there might be enough open space for the Western Kingbird to stick around - I've never birded this area before so I don't know if it's expected here.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

**April 21, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

I didn't expect to be in Quincy today, but my Jeep radiator sprung a leak and I'm on foot for a few days.

This morning I birded Spanish Creek from the Highway 70 bridge to a half mile below the downstream border with the QSCD sewer ponds.

Across from Gansner Park I heard my first-of-spring Black-headed Grosbeak singing (earlier in the morning I spoke with Denny Churchill and he mentioned he had seen two at his yard feeder in the last couple of days). At the QSCD main pond I found a male and female Blue-winged Teal. A little farther downstream at the overflow pond there is quite a bit of exposed mud and I found 14 Least Sandpipers and 3 Greater Yellowlegs. The last week in April is the time during which we'll see the bulk of the spring migration of shorebirds flow through American Valley.

Also of interest at the sewer ponds was probably the largest garter snake I've ever seen plying its way through the overflow pond with its last meal evident as a large lump visible about 1/3 of the way "downstream" from its head. Farther down Spanish Creek, while checking out swallow species, I noticed movement out of the corner of my eye which turned out to be five baby coyotes taking their first foray to the entrance of their den while Mom and Dad were out hunting for their next meal. They were oblivious to my presence, chewing on each other's ears (and other body parts), tumbling about, tripping each other, and falling back into the den's entrance hole. Quite cute.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

PS Among the Blackbirds along Quincy Junction Road between Lee Road and Bell Lane my brother, Jim, and I later this afternoon re-found both a Tri-colored and a female Yellow-headed Blackbird.

**April 22, 2009**

Hi Plumas Birders,

This morning four of us headed out to Snake Lake to see what birds were around. The youngest in the group, David Arsenault's 18 month old son, River, ID'ed the first bird as a "dat". In fact, every bird he saw was a "dat", as were all the frogs, plants, and other objects he observed. The rest of us saw (or heard) 21 bird species including an Eared Grebe, Pileated Woodpecker, a few Wood Ducks, and two American White Pelicans.

This evening I took a walk along Quincy Junction Road looking for the Tricolored and Yellow-headed Blackbirds that have been around the last week or so. No luck today. However, there was a Lark Sparrow in the trees at 1412 Quincy Junction Road.

The auto shop says my Jeep will be back on the road tomorrow afternoon so I may be signing off for awhile. Its been great birding the county for the last week.

Good birding,  
Bob Battagin

**April 24, 2009**

Fellow birders,

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> Plumas Audubon Society is having a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I've attached a flier for the event. Please forward it to anyone who you think may be interested in attending. We plan on having a bird walk led by Mellouise Curry at 8:00 and a botany walk led by Nancy Harnach at 10:00. At noon we'll celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by honoring long standing board members with prints donated by Bill Peters and Lou Bosche. Oh, and it is International Migratory Bird Day too!

Hope to see some of you there and hear stories about your latest birding adventures!

Darrel Jury

**April 27, 2009**

Hi Birders:

In Sierra Valley, Mellouise Curry saw Black-bellied Plovers at the steel bridge, Hot Springs Road, on Saturday afternoon. She says "I was looking for Black-necked Stilts but found Black-bellied Plovers instead! I also saw two Swainson's Hawks on a power pole near Dyson and Heriot Lane, maybe the same two Bob saw. A lot more Willets and Yellow-headed Blackbirds this week, plus all the "usual suspects" for this time of year, it just gets better everyday!"

In Quincy, Isabelle Stone had a male Lazuli Bunting return to her backyard on Friday. She has had a pair in her yard for several years now.

The Black-headed Grosbeaks have shown up en force as have the Hermit Warblers and Cassin's Vireos.

Let us know when you see your first flycatcher, other migrants, or any other birds that interest you.

We love to hear about them!

Good birding!

David Arsenault

**April 27, 2009**

Hi Birders,

Last Sunday I was along a path at the edge of the marsh at the end of Clear Creek Road in the Galeppi Ranch area when I got a very good look at a Red-breasted Sapsucker gently pecking at the bark of an oak tree next to the marsh.

Today when walking along Clear Creek Road near to Quincy Junction Road I saw a bird sitting on a fence post at the edge of the marshy area. It was light brown and about the size of a robin but with a slimmer profile. As I raised my binocs it flew away fast and it appeared to be a falcon, probably a Merlin.

Tony Hall

**April 27, 2009**

At a Gansner Park birthday party in Quincy today, heard singing Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped warblers. The Yellow and Black-throated Gray's were the first of the year for me.

Happy Spring,

Paul Hardy

**April 29, 2009**

After seeing hundreds of Vaux's swifts in Mexico, I saw my first Plumas County flock of 12 birds along Quincy Junction Road yesterday evening. This morning, I saw 2 chipping sparrows along Bell Lane - first for me this year.

I have Mtn chickadees, a house wren and tree swallows entering my nest boxes. If you haven't put up your nest boxes yet, get them up soon!

Colin Dillingham

**April 30, 2009**

Hi Birders,

I found a favored perching site for the small falcon in the Galeppi Ranch area (in dead branches on the top north side of a large tree next to Greenhorn Creek about 100 yards east of the bridge on Quincy Junction Road) and was able to scope it. It has distinct black mustaches which indicates to me it is a female American Kestrel not a Merlin. But I have never seen it hover and it is light brown not ruffous. Sibley may be wrong on the color, I have seen female Kestrels before that were light brown.

Tony Hall

**April 30, 2009**

Up on the hillsides near Beckwourth, we have finally seen some new visitors of late couple of days ago a male black headed grosbeak came in to our feeder but have heard none of them calling; a green towhee came in about the same time to check our our deck area, massive numbers of band tailed pigeons have been in for about 2 weeks now, mt. chickadees are all over the place, quail are pairing up and nest building or laying as they come to feeder only in pairs now, and an osprey has taken a likeing to browsing around our 3 koi ponds in the area, but he has not taken anyone's fish yet as we supply a lot of cover. So far we are not seeing the nuthatches around, but have had several scrub jays show up lately along with golden crowned, white crowned sparrows, and one unknown female in very ragged condition that I could not be sure of. The blue birds are here, but are in the field below us as they tend not to come up this far on hill along with the robins all over and even two in yard yesterday which is not real common at our place. The rest that have been mentioned for Sierra Valley already have been around but mostly below us.

We live up the hill above where A23 and 70 meet a ways and are at 5164 ft elevation but we are always behind Quincy by a lot it seems. Good birding to all and love the reports to know what is going on.

Raymond Gipson