

June 13, 2007

Yesterday, while running the Paxton Breeding Bird Survey I was surprised to find a yellow-billed magpie in Indian Valley. There was one yellow-billed magpie with about 5 black-billed magpies along North Valley Rd, about 0.2 miles south of Fickardt Point (= 0.7 miles south of FS road 28N32, or 1.0 miles south of Stamfli Rd). The bird was around Indian Creek and in a recently mowed field. I initially saw it from a faded yellowish metal gate on the side of North Valley Rd. I tried later in the day to photograph it, but had no luck.

Also, yesterday at Lake Almanor I saw 2 forster's tern, 2 clark's grebe, 2 white-headed woodpecker.

In Carson City Nevada and in Minden, I saw 1 and 2 eurasian collared doves on Sunday and Saturday respectively. On sunday morning, I also saw one great-tailed grackle at Gull Lake (June Lake Loop) in Mono County.

Colin Dillingham

June 25, 2007

Hi Plumas Birders,

Sorry about the late posting, but I left for a nine day stay in the Sierra National Forest south of Yosemite NP the day after this sighting and couldn't get to a computer before today.

On Friday, June 15th, I was walking along Carol Lane East and found a male Lawrence's Goldfinch. It was about a hundred feet or so from the junction of Carol Lane East and Chandler Road, flying in and out of the aspen trees just behind little bus stop structure along Carol Lane East. About a half hour later, having continued my walk along Chandler Road headed towards Quincy Junction Road, I observed another Lawrence's Goldfinch, also a male, in a field of mustard plants near the junction of Chandler Road and Shea Ranch Road - quite likely the same bird as before since the locations are within a 1/3 mile of each other. In both cases the Lawrence's Goldfinch was in the company of a group of Lesser Goldfinches.

Also on the 15th the two Sandhill Cranes hanging out in the field behind the Chevron Station in Quincy were accompanied by their two youngsters and the family is quite easy to observe as they feed in various parts of the field.

Good birding,
Bob Battagin

July 2, 2007

A few good Plumas County birds past two days.

This morning (July 2) on Chandler Rd in American Valley I saw 1 Lawrence's goldfinch with 30 lesser goldfinch. The birds were about 150 yards east of the Quincy Junction rd, opposite the 25 MPH sign, in the field of star thistle and blue buttons. They were feeding on the star thistle and blue button seed heads. It was a female Lawrence's goldfinch.

Also this morning, I saw 3 bank swallow over the pond on Quincy Junction rd, very near the Chandler Rd junction and at Greenhorn Creek on Quincy Junction Rd.

Yesterday, at Beckwourth Pass I saw a few good birds over a 5 hour hike. I hiked south of the pass and crossed into both Plumas and Lassen Counties (although it is fairly difficult to tell when you are in one county versus the other, I did my best with a map and topography).

Here are the highlights on the Lassen County side -

10 black-throated sparrows

2 lark sparrows

3 long-eared owl

3 rock wren

On the Plumas County side

2 black-throated sparrow (my first in Plumas County - but I bet there is a breeding population here).

1 blue-gray gnatcatcher

1 chukar

2 rock wren

Anybody out there know anything about Cordilleran Flycatchers in Plumas County? (I saw one last week in Zion National Park, and it got me thinking about them in Plumas County). I've never heard or seen one in Plumas, but not sure if I would know how different the call is from a Pac-slope flycatcher.

Colin Dillingham

7/16/07

Hi Birders,

Plumas Audubon Society led a trip to the North Arm of Indian Valley, Moonlight Valley, and Light's Creek. Marty and John Shower are leading a movement to stop proposed mining in this area. In Moonlight Valley, we birded a large willow patch that had a lot of bird activity including Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Hermit, and Nashville Warblers, as well as Lazuli Bunting, Mountain Quail, Fox Sparrow, and Dusky Flycatcher. We saw juveniles of many of the species. In Light's Creek, Bank Swallows nest in the old mine

tailings that have formed large sand dunes and sand cliffs. At Marty and John's house, which is on Light's Creek, we saw Anna's, Rufous, and Caliope Hummingbirds at their feeders, as well as Purple Finch and Bullock's Oriole.

Contact Marty and John Shower, theshowers@frontiernet.net, if you're interested in helping stop the mine.

Best,

David

7/16/07

I've had an adult male black-chinned hummingbird coming to my feeder for the past 5 days. He seems to be seen regularly at my backyard feeder and I'd be willing to host you if you want to try to see him. Best time to see him is 5:45 to 6:45 am, when he is usually seen within 5 minutes. I've become bored and stopped watching the feeders without seeing him at other times of the day, and don't think I've seen him much after 7:00 am, although I'm sure he comes in, but it must be with less regularity. Any day of the week works for me for early am feeder watching. 283-1133 is my home phone number and I live at 400 First Street in East Quincy. He is the first male I've seen in living in Quincy for 7 years, although Harry Reeves told me he sees black-chinned hummingbirds regularly in his yard over the hill in "West" Quincy.

Colin Dillingham

7/28/07

Hi Birders,

Colin and I birded American Valley by bike this morning. We started downtown and went down Quincy Junction Road to Chandler and over to Oakland Camp and back. We saw 57 species in all. The highlight was a male Lawrence's Goldfinch feeding two fledglings so we confirmed breeding for this species in Plumas County. We saw them on Quincy Junction Road just past Clear Creek Road in the willows between the horse stall and the creek. Another new Plumas Co. bird for me was Wrentit that we saw in the buckbrush at the end of Quincy Junction Road. We also saw about 5 Red-Shouldered Hawks, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Western Kingbird, and fledgling Spotted Sandpiper and California Quail.

Best,

David

8/2/07

Hi Plumas County Birders, I just wanted to let you guys know that the Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee is holding a workshop next Tuesday the 7th from 7 to 9 pm at the Memorial Hall in Chester to discuss issues surrounding the meadow on the west shore of Lake Almanor. The site is one of the best birding sites in Plumas County, it is an Audubon Important Bird Area and supports breeding Sandhill Crane, Willow Flycatcher, the highest density of Yellow Warbler possibly in the state, as well as a host of other species. Unfortunately the area has been subject to intensifying OHV use that has resulted in tearing up some very sensitive hydrophilic soils and wetland plants. Not to mention the disturbance to all of the ground nesting birds such as 4 species of waterfowl, Virginia Rail, Savannah Sparrow, and Northern Harrier. There is also rampant poaching occurring out there as well (as many of us who bird the site know from all of the gun fire we have to deal with outside of hunting season). It would be great to have as many of you there that are concerned about our wetlands and meadows. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Thanks, Ryan.

P.S. We are hoping to host an Audubon field trip up to the site sometime this fall. The Western Grebe's decided to breed late this year and several hundred nests can now be seen from the Hwy. 36 causeway. We also saw a few Clark's this weekend as well. Long-billed Dowitcher and Yellowlegs were also seen around the shoreline with good numbers of Ibis as well.

Ryan Burnett

8/20/07

I birded American Valley on bike Sunday morning starting on the bike path in Quincy from Railroad Ave, down Quincy Junction Road, then west down Chandler Road to Spanish Creek and back. It was a beautiful, overcast, and cool morning and I saw 54 species from 7-10 am including Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds, Dusky Flycatcher, and lots of Western Tanagers along the bike path. There was a Northern Mockingbird and MacGillivray's and Yellow Warblers across from the High School fields and 2 Sandhill Cranes, 4 Red-Shouldered Hawks, 3 Red-Tailed Hawks, and 2 American Kestrels were out in the middle of the valley. Along Greenhorn Creek, I saw a lone Chipping Sparrow with the hundreds of Lesser Goldfinches and a Western Kingbird hawking insects over the creek with the Black Phoebes. Fox Sparrow, Wrentit, and Bewick's Wren were in the hillside brush at the end of Quincy Junction Road and just 500 feet west down Chandler Road in the field on the left, a Sora and Marsh Wren responded to hand squeaking. On my ride back, a Cooper's Hawk flushed out of the willows across from the High School football field.

Best,

David

9/11/07

Today Steve Glover & Luke Cole found 4 BURROWING OWLS in Plumas Co. They were found on Hwy 49 at mile 4.2 which is 4.2 miles south of Hwy 70 west of the road.

Good Birding!

Frances (for Steve Glover of Dublin)

9/16/07

Hi Birders,

The last three weekends, I've birded the bike path in Quincy from Railway Ave to Quincy Junction Road at the high school fields. On Sept 1, at the entrance to the water facility, there were two Green-tailed Towhees, a Yellow-breasted Chat, and Calliope Hummingbird. Last weekend, I saw 2 White-crowned Sparrows, the first I've seen in Quincy, a family of Marsh Wrens across from the fields, and lots of Common Yellowthroats. This weekend, I saw a Lincoln's Sparrow at the end of Railway Ave in the ditch, a MacGillivray's Warbler near the water facility, and White-crowned Sparrows everywhere. I didn't see any hummingbirds this morning, and very few Violet-green Swallows. There has also been a Sora calling at the end of Railway Ave, which I can actually hear sometimes from my apartment on Main St.

Best,

David

9/18/07

France, et. al.

Regarding the Burrowing Owls seen by Luke and Steve Sept 11. The site mentioned in the email has been a good place to find BUOW for the past 3 years. There used to be at least two colonies further out in the valley, but those sites were abandoned in the middle 90's. Dave Shuford found the colony that Luke and Steve observed in 7/1/04. Nice to know that they are hanging on!

Mac McCormick

10/7/07

Hi Birders,

What a beautiful fall week with continued signs of migration and the arrival of winter visitors. This weekend along the bike path in downtown Quincy, there were some Golden-crowned Sparrows and Purple Finches. On Thursday, I heard a Northern

Goshawk calling on the hill at the corner of Fairgrounds and Main Street in East Quincy and saw a Cooper's Hawk cruising over my yard in downtown Quincy on Monday. On Wednesday, a flock of Cedar Waxwings also visited my yard. Although there were no confirmed sightings, I'm sure there was a Wood Stork around on Tuesday night because a baby boy was delivered to my home. His name is River Kestrel Arsenault.

Best,

David

10-12-07

Hi Birders,

Thursday I made my first visit to the Quincy sewer treatment plant, which is located at the end of Spanish Creek Road past the airport and is open 8am to 5pm M-F. There were good numbers of Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, and Eared Grebe as well as two Pied-billed Grebes and one Northern Pintail in the ponds. There were also numerous sparrows including Dark-eyed Junco and Song, Golden and White-crowned, Lincoln's, and Fox Sparrows. There were also a lot of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The highlight was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at the far end of the large pond, which was chasing a Northern Flicker around for no apparent reason as if it was just playing with it. Perhaps it was a juvenile having some fun.

Best,

David