

Date: June 11, 2007

Hi all, I was out at one of my favorite sites in the Lassen National Forest this morning point counting and doing a Willow Flycatcher survey. The area is a large meadow/bog/aspen stand up near Humboldt Summit near Ruffa Ranch in the Almanor at about 5800 feet. As usual the place was hopping with birds. Two duet-ing Pileated Woodpeckers greeted me by banging on snags 150 meters either side of my first point. Something I have never experienced – pileated's in stereo – quite fantastic! Lots of meadow and aspen birds as well as plenty of forest birds coming in from the edges to forage in the aspen here is the full list in no particular order with some notes:

Warblers:

MacGillivray's

Wilson's

Nashville – lots of these up at higher elevations than normal this year (maybe due to the dryness?)

Hermit – yes they are in aspen too.

Yellow-rumped – before they fade to fall get out and take a good long look at the amazing color of an after-second year male Audubon's Warbler – what a bird!

Yellow

Calliope Hummingbird – many here in the meadow displaying – “psssheew”

Mountain Quail

Warbling Vireo – loves aspen and there were more than you could shake a stick at today.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Wood-Pewee

Lincoln's Sparrow

Willow Flycatcher – there are 5 here now – there was 1 six years ago.

Swainson's Thrush – this is the rarest breeding passerine in the Sierra Nevada – they love aspen or cottonwood and other riparian habitat – not meadows they want the trees.

Red-breasted Sapsucker – a declining species that really favors aspen.

White-headed Woodpecker – found a nest in a leaning aspen snag – they like the leaners and usually have the opening on the bottom facing the ground and almost always within 10 feet of the ground.

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker – woodpeckers love aspen too – has lots of natural cavities supports lots of bugs and dies easily so lots of snags around aspen stands.

Lazuli Bunting – usually more of these here than this year but 2 or 3 around, maybe they are late in arriving.

Evening Grosbeak

Chipping Sparrow

Song Sparrow

Junco

Cassin's Finch – it is a big year for finches – crossbills are all over the place as are Cassin's, Purple, and Pine Siskin – we had a record high for Cassin's Finch on the Chester CBC this year. Good cone crop last fall.

Tanager  
Brown Creeper  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Hammond's Flycatcher  
Red-breasted Nuthatch  
Stellar's Jay

American Robin – whenever you hear a robin going crazy usually there is a Stellar's Jay near by trying to find its nests and eat the young.

Fox Sparrow – any day you see a large-billed Fox Sparrow is a good day!

! cinnamon phase second year Black Bear (not full size yet but definitely not a cub of the year).

Tons of butterflies including my favorite Clodius Parnassian – looking for those bleeding hearts!

Ryan Burnett

Date: June 9, 2007

Hi Birders,

Some friends visited Quincy and I took them on some walks. In the morning on the Cascade trail from the Old Highway upstream along Spanish Creek notable birds included a Cassin's Vireo, a Lazuli Bunting and an American Dipper. They also saw a Hermit Warbler, unfortunately I missed it. In the afternoon we walked from Lakes Basin campground to Halsey Falls and saw a Wilson's Warbler and a male Mountain Quail who serenaded the campground for a long time from the top of a rock. The following morning we took the Mill Creek trail from Bucks Lake (about 1/2 mile west of the Whitehorse Campground) and saw a MacGillivray's Warbler and some Yellow Warblers and White-headed Woodpeckers. The Cascade and Mill Creek trails provide pleasant walks with many birds at this time.

Best Regards

Tony Hall

Date: June 8, 2007

Yesterday I saw a beautiful Short-eared owl in full sunlight right at sunrise. The bird was perched on a fencepost on the side of A-24 between Marble Hot Springs Rd and Harriet Lane, right next to the old broken down windmill.

Also saw 7 American bittern between marble hot springs road and Maddalena Ranch - that is a bunch!

1 Swainson's hawk perched on A-24 north of Loyalton about 1 mile.

I found lots of nests yesterday -

barn owl - in Roberti Ranch large hay barn on A-24/Dyson Lane, nesting in barn owl box (assumed by season and perching location). Two owls perched outside box.

mourning dove - nest with 2 eggs on ground in grasses in burned area up Antelope Valley rd out of Loyalton

northern flicker - excavating nesting cavity in recently killed tree in burn area.

western meadowlark - nest with 4 eggs on ground in forbs in sagebrush area up Antelope Valley rd.

gadwall - nest with 7 eggs - Maddalena Ranch, she was nesting in dense rushes and sedges with good overhead cover. Found the nest with 5th grade class from Quincy Elementary school (class was with me for the next 5 species as well).

Marsh wren - nest woven in hard stem bulrush plants with vocal parents off of Marble Hot Springs rd

red-winged blackbird - two nests woven into sedges about 8 inches off of the ground at Maddalena Ranch

cliff swallow - about 15 nests on Steel Bridge directly overhead with adults looking out. Kids loved seeing these birds through spotting scope - full frame view!

yellow-headed blackbird - nesting in cattail marsh off Marble Hot Springs rd.

brewer's blackbird - adults carrying food into sagebrush on Maddalena Ranch - I didn't disturb them to actually see nest - but apparently they were feeding young.

mountain chickadee - adults feeding young in nestbox in my backyard.

Red Junglefowl - two eggs in the nestbox at home - yummy - breakfast!

Colin Dillingham

Date: June 8, 2007

Hi Birders,

Woody's Hot Springs was alive with bird activity as usual on Thursday morning. A Lazuli Bunting came to the tall grass right next to the springs. It's territory is across the river and I had previously confused its call with that of a House Wren. A Red-breasted Sapsucker is nesting in a broken top oak across the river and feeding very frequently so must have nestlings. There were also tree, violet-green, cliff, and northern rough-winged swallows.

Best,

David Arsenault

Date: May 24, 2007

Hi Birders,

Woody's hot springs was really enjoyable this morning. A red-breasted sapsucker came into the willows right next to the springs and yellow warbler, song sparrow, yellow-breasted chat, black-throated gray warbler, house wren, black-headed grosbeak, and western tanager were singing/calling along the river. It's a really beautiful spot, nice riparian vegetation and lots of birds, and in the morning on weekdays there is almost never anyone there.

Please note that a new e-mail address has been added to the list.

Best,

David Arsenault