

The Audubon Endeavor

Newsletter of Mt. Shasta Area Audubon-Spring, 2015

Message from the President

This spring the chapter has been busy with field trips, education, and the beginning of community conservation projects. The Sisson Meadows project, we hope, will be just one of many more in future years. The chapter is not only planning to initiate more projects like this, but also regularly receives requests for bird conservation and other conservation activities as described elsewhere in this newsletter. To accomplish this we need more active participation by chapter members and we need to encourage and develop a younger birding group. It is not that the active birders are not very accomplished and knowledgeable, but that quite a few of us are getting along in years which limits our abilities to do survey and monitoring due to hearing and eyesight impairment. If you are at all interested in becoming a birder or a better birder please let us know and we will see that you have an opportunity to team up with the chapter's birding group.

Since our last board meeting the chapter has written a letter of support for a grant application by the Scott Valley Watershed Council to create an avian monitoring program. The chapter also sent in comments on the Westside harvest plan proposed by the Klamath National Forest. Our comments generally supported the plan with some reservations. Mt. Shasta Area Audubon is a certified chapter of National Audubon Society. National Audubon is a world-wide main-stream birding and conservation organization which promotes both birding activities and the conservation of natural systems that are essential to the survival of robust bird populations. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join National Audubon or this chapter to promote and sustain these vital efforts.

As I stated in the previous newsletter, the chapter is striving to continue to build up its programs and activities. Email is the best way to reliably stay in contact with chapter members. If you know of chapter members who have not received it please tell them to email us (mtshastaaudubon@gmail.com), so we can add them to the list. The list will be used only to inform members of chapter events and issues and will not be released to anyone for any reason.

New Project: Birds of Sisson Meadow



Soon people walking the boardwalk trail through Sisson Meadow, the 7.5 acre restored wetland meadow in Mt. Shasta, will have enhanced opportunities to enjoy our local birds. MSAA member Kendra Bainbridge recently noticed that the nest boxes at the edge of the meadow were in disrepair, and her initiative led to a partnership between MSAA and the Siskiyou Land Trust, the organization that protects the meadow. As phase one of the project Kendra built and placed four new nest boxes (2 chickadee/nuthatch and 2 swallow/bluebird). In phase two we will compile a list of birds that frequent the meadow and then create an identification poster and install it in the kiosk at the entrance to the meadow. In phase 3 of the project we will install a lidded box to contain copies of the bird check list and instructions for building nest boxes. We appreciate Kendra's efforts on this project and look forward to our partnership with the Land Trust.

Saturday, May 9, 2015–International Migratory Bird Day Field Trip

International Migratory Bird Day will be celebrated at the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area. We will visit many places in the refuge that are normally closed to the public. Meet at the refuge headquarters, 1.5 miles east of Montague on Ball Mountain/Little Shasta Road at 7:30 a.m. This 3/4-day driving/walking tour will be led by local biologists and birding experts. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, and lunch. For more information call Sam Cuenca at 530-468-1207.

Weeds to Native Plants

MSSA education director Rebeca Franco reports that our program, “Weeds to Native Plants” has had a fantastic season. In schools throughout the county Rebeca has been busy educating students about plants and their identification and ecosystems. At locations from Dunsmuir to Yreka to Happy Camp the students have worked enthusiastically to remove invasive plants such as Dyer’s woad ,Scotch broom, and leafy spurge, and replace them with native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. Since the program’s inception several years ago, more than 1,300 students from 15 schools have participated in treating 35 acres, thus improving habitat for birds and other wildlife. Due to the success of the program we are planning a community weed- pulling event in the near future.



Injured Birds

From time to time we receive phone calls asking for information on caring for injured birds. We now have a page on our website outlining recommended practices. You will also find contact information there for local wildlife rehabilitators. <http://mtshastaaudubon.com/birding/injured-birds/>

Volunteers—Bird Walks

Do you have a favorite birding spot in Mount Shasta? Currently we offer monthly Saturday morning bird walks in Greenhorn Park. We would like to offer some in the south county. If you enjoy birding and would be willing to lead a group on a Saturday morning walk, please send us your contact information, site of the walk, and date you prefer. mtshastaaububon@gmail.com

Klamath River Field Trip Highlights

Joey Russell reported that the April field trip was a “wonderful success.” It was well attended by enthusiastic birders from beginner to experienced. They observed many species including: Rock Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Cassin’s Vireo, Black Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Red-Shouldered Hawk (2), Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, and Pileated Woodpecker.



Bird for Logo

Clark’s Nutcracker? Mountain Chickadee? Steller’s Jay? Gray Jay? Red-breasted Nuthatch? We are trying to select a bird to use in a MSAA logo. Please vote for one of these or let us know which other bird you would like to represent our chapter. Send your choice to: mtshastaaudubon@gmail.com

Volunteers—Monitoring

If you enjoy combining your love of birds with enjoyable outdoor activity, please let us know. The Shasta Valley Wildlife and Butte Valley Wildlife areas have requested our help in monitoring bird populations, maintaining nest boxes, etc. If you would like to be notified about such opportunities, please send us an email.

Board of Directors: Kerry Mauro (President) Mary Roehrich (Vice President) Rebeca Franco (Education) Chris Stromsness Chris Babcock Ada Babcock Susie Boyd