

The Audubon Endeavor

Newsletter of Mt. Shasta Area Audubon—Fall, 2015

President's Message

Since our last newsletter the chapter has continued to expand its field trips and other activities. The field trips are a great way to learn from the chapter's experienced birders how to look for and identify birds. Everyone, regardless of skill level, is welcome, so look for these trips in the future. Many thanks to our trip leaders for all their efforts to make these trips as good and informative as they are.

Eleanor and I just returned from a couple of weeks visiting the Southwest. It is such a marvelous part of the country—from Zion National Park to Canyon de Chelly and many points in between. Such a trip makes you appreciate just how beautiful our planet is and realize that we should be striving and encouraging everyone to be good stewards of the earth for a change.

Closer to home... this summer's fires in Siskiyou County were similar to last year's. If this rate of burning in our local forests continues, then we could see a burning of all forest lands over the next forty years or so. I know that this seems like an extreme statement, until you consider that the total land area of the Shasta-Trinity and the Klamath forests, including both private and public land, is about 10,000,000 acres, and that in each of the past two years about 250,000 acres have burned. So maybe we should get out and visit here more while we still have forests to enjoy. Last spring I attended a meeting in Fort Jones with a group that wants to do something about these catastrophic wildfires. The subject of the meeting was the West Side Recovery Plan that the Klamath Forest was proposing for areas that burned last year in the Salmon and Happy Camp sections of the forest. One of the things I learned was that the Forest Service faced many limitations as to what they could do. As part of the comment process I asked, supposing they did not have these restrictions (and the tax fairy provided sufficient funds), how would they deal with this severely burned over area. So far I have not received an answer.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 24—Field Trip to Medicine Lake Highlands

Join leader Peter Van Susteren on this interesting trip to the Medicine Lake Highlands. The U.S. Geological Survey considers the Medicine Lake Volcano to be the largest in the Cascade chain. Because of its low profile, it is almost impossible to view. The field trip aims to explore the south side of the volcano and to see some of its stunning features and landscapes. The trip will depart the "Park and Ride" on Highway 89 at 9:00 and plans to return by about 4:30. While 2D vehicles are suitable, some of the roads

will be rough and dusty. Car pooling is encouraged. The itinerary includes one walk (easy to moderate), about ½ mile round trip. An alternative exists for those unable to manage the walk. Bring water, lunch, and sturdy shoes.

Wednesday, November 11—“Have Fun Learning About Birds”

Families and individuals of all ages are invited to attend a lively and informative presentation by Shannon Rio, an experienced birder and Board member of the Klamath Bird Observatory. The talk, “Have Fun Learning About Birds,” will be held on Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum. Beautiful photographs will supplement information on the birds that stay here all year long. Shannon will lead the group in fun games to help participants learn about the birds and their songs, and will also discuss great places to view the birds. Lastly, she will give us a look at birds at feeders. The focus is on learning through having fun. Invite a friend or family member and join us!

Updates and additional information on our fall and winter activities can be found on our website:

<http://mtshastaaudubon.com/>

Sisson Meadow Update



In June several of our members participated in a Siskiyou Land Trust work-day at Sisson Meadow, the 7.5 acre wetlands near the center of Mt. Shasta. In particular, they helped distribute a mountain of gravel along the access path and the area surrounding the welcome kiosk. Local artist Kim Solga is currently at work on our MSAA poster that will identify the birds that frequent Sisson Meadow. This fall the poster will be installed on the back side of the kiosk, along with brochure boxes containing a birding checklist for the meadow and information on building and maintaining nest boxes.

Raven Tree

Mt. Shasta Area Audubon is happy to welcome a new business in town—Raven Tree, northern California's first wild bird and nature store. Owner Kendra Bainbridge has stocked the store with "everything for wild bird and nature enthusiasts. Seed, bulk seed, bird houses, feeders, gifts, optics, birding gear books and even bat houses!" At the recent grand opening Mount Shasta Area Audubon provided information on our activities, and Kendra is generously donating 10% of her profits for the day to our chapter. Raven Tree is located at 138 Morgan Way in the Mt. Shasta shopping center.

Horse Camp Visitors



Thanks to Rebeca Franco for sharing these photos of a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a Mountain Chickadee who were visiting the spring at the Sierra Club Foundation's climbers' hut at Horse Camp on a lovely fall day.

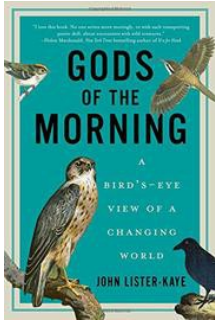
Northern California Audubon Council Conference

Board member Rebeca Franco attended this event hosted by Wintu Audubon on Saturday, October 10 at the McConnell Foundation headquarters in Redding. Included in the day's discussions were:

- ❑ A report from Len Lindstrand, who has been monitoring various Purple Martin populations, especially at Shasta Lake's Pit Arm
- ❑ Input from California Audubon representatives on marketing ideas and news about upcoming events such as a fundraising workshop to be held in November. They are "committed to working with California chapters, as the strength of Audubon is in our local chapters."
- ❑ Information from National Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report citing that, by 2080, 314 species, nearly half of all birds in the U.S., could be in danger of losing their current range if climate trends continue.
- ❑ Local Audubon chapters provided updates about their activities.
- ❑ Chad Roberts described the movement toward developing an Inner Coast Range Conservancy which would include a portion of Siskiyou County.

If you would like to read Rebeca's complete report, please send a request to mtshastaaudubon@gmail.com

Book Review



Gods of the Morning: A Bird's –Eye View of a Changing World by John Lister-Kaye. Pegasus, 2015

This extremely enjoyable book by a distinguished British naturalist chronicles the changing of the seasons at a nature center in the Scottish Highlands. A gifted writer, Lister-Kaye keenly observes the habits of birds ranging from rooks and ravens to whooper swans and warblers. He also lyrically depicts his encounters with pine martins, fox, deer and other mammals. Woven into the chapters are the author's reflections on the impact that global warming is having on the creatures of the Highlands.

Project FeederWatch

Sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Participants periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch. The data help scientists track broadscale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Anyone interested in birds can participate. Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days as often as every week (less often is fine.)

New participants are sent a Research Kit with complete instructions, as well as a bird identification poster and more, and each fall they receive the year-end report. There is a \$18 annual participation fee. More information can be found at <http://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

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