

*The Audubon Endeavor*  
*Newsletter of Mount Shasta Area Audubon*  
*Winter, 2016*



Christmas Bird Count

Thank you to the 45 volunteers who participated in the 2015 Christmas Bird Count. Many thanks, also to Joey Russell, who organized the count, compiled the results and provided this account:

“Another year is coming to an end and with it another complete Christmas Bird Count. Believe it or not the weather was great considering what it was the day before and the day after! I am so glad I didn't have to bird Lake Shastina in 50 mile an hour winds! The temperature was 38 degrees with some light morning snow and rain showers. Winds were mild and the day was partly cloudy. A lovely winter day to go birding. Our group totaled 110 species for the day which included 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch submitted after compilation by Jim and Debby Parker. This total, however, is low on average with some birds we normally encounter being absent from the count. These include Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Double-Crested Cormorant, Redhead, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch and Brown-headed Cowbird. While not all these birds can be counted every year, having them on our list can make for some pretty impressive totals! We were graced however with some lovely birds which we don't encounter every year. The bird of the day for me being Red-throated Loon which is unusual for the county! Other species include: A Western Screech Owl, Northern Shrike and 10 Anna's Hummingbirds which is a high count for sure! 2 Eurasian Wigeons, 2 Northern Mockingbirds and 8 Red-shouldered Hawks add to the list of unique birds, some of which are not so unique to the count any more!”

Note: The complete CBC checklist will be posted on our website. An article about the count was published in Siskiyou Daily News and is available at:  
<http://www.siskiyoudaily.com/article/20151228/NEWS/151229831>

## Sisson Meadow Project



We are happy to announce that the final phase of our Sisson Meadow project has been completed! This 7.5 acre parcel of restored wetland meadow is located in Mount Shasta and is accessible from either Castle Street or from Alma Street, adjacent to the library. Boardwalk trails traverse the wetlands. As reported in previous issues, in the spring of 2015 MSA member Kendra Bainbridge built and installed several nest boxes in the meadow. This led to a partnering of MSA with the Siskiyou Land Trust, which owns and protects the meadow. Kendra and Laura Bradley made a survey of the meadow's bird population and located photographs of each species. Next, MSA hired local artist Kim Solga to create a poster identifying the birds. Kerry Mauro compiled a bird checklist and built a cedar frame to surround the poster and two brochure boxes, one with copies of the checklist, and one containing handouts with tips for building nest boxes. These have now been installed in the welcome kiosk on Castle Street, and we hope they will enhance the experience of everyone who visits Sisson Meadow.

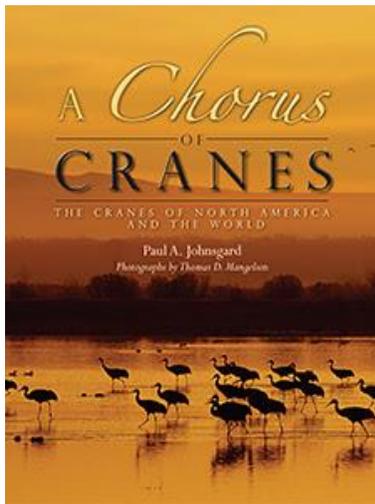
We look forward to collaborating with the Land Trust on additional projects in the future.



## Nest Box Website

For many species of birds there is a shortage of great places to nest. You can help them out by building or buying nest boxes. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology provides a wealth of information on its website, NestWatch. Here you can learn the features of a good birdhouse, download plans for nest boxes for specific birds, and find tips on when and where to attach the nest box, how to deal with predators or competitors, and even how to install a nest box camera. Go to <http://nestwatch.org> and click on the tab labeled "Learn."

## Book Review



Johnsgard, Paul A., and Thomas D. Mangelsen (photographer). A Chorus of Cranes: the Cranes of North America and the World, University Press of Colorado, 2015.

According to Jane Goodall, this book captures “the very essence of these ancient birds—their beauty, grace of movement and fascinating lives.” The author details the natural history, biology, and conservation issues surrounding cranes and contrasts the fates of the abundant Sandhill Crane and the endangered Whooping Crane. The text is accompanied by stunning photographs.

## Bird Festivals

Would you like a change of scene and an enjoyable opportunity to learn more about birds? Consider attending one of these festivals, all of which include wonderful field trips, tours, workshops, and presentations.

**Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival** January 15-18, 2016 in Morro Bay, California  
<http://morrobaybirdfestival.org>

**Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway** January 27-31, 2016 in Chico, California.  
<http://www.snowgoosefestival.org>

**Winter Wings Festival** February 11-14, 2016 in Klamath Falls, Oregon.  
<http://winterwingsfest.org>

## President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone. The board will be meeting soon to begin planning the year's activities. One thing we would like to try, building on Rebeca's great education program for school children, is to sponsor an invasive weed day in Mt. Shasta to make adults in the community aware of the problems of invasive weeds. If you have followed what the chapter is up to, e.g. the Sisson Meadow Bird Poster, you are probably thinking that most of what we do is in the South County. That is not intentional by any means. It just happens that currently most of the board members are from Dunsmuir, Weed, and Mt. Shasta and, when we meet, if someone comes up with an idea we usually pursue it. It would be great to do more in the rest of the county but that will probably not happen until we have more board members from other areas of the county.

You may have read that we did a 'non-birding' field trip last fall. It was well attended and it was a great trip out in the McCloud area east of Mt. Shasta looking at the geological features of the Medicine Lake Highland. It would be nice continue to expand our field trip offerings in other areas as well as continue the birding ones. If you have any ideas about great areas or topics let us know.

Last December I again participated in the Shasta Valley Christmas Bird Count. Full disclosure: I am not an experienced birder and try not to pretend to be one, so mostly I just go along for the ride and provide comic relief. Nonetheless, it is a great way to spend a day and to pick up a few more birding tips. (Results of the can be found elsewhere in the newsletter). I did manage to spot a Pin Tail duck decoy...

I attended another meeting in Fort Jones with the group that wants to do something about the catastrophic wild fires that we are continuing to experience in the forests. The meeting was again about the West Side Recovery Plan and I asked again that, if there were no restrictions at all and there was plenty of money available, what would they do to this severely burned- over areas and how would they do it. The answer was pretty much what they are going to do in the current plans. So, at least I got an answer.

Mt. Shasta Area Audubon has been a certified chapter of National Audubon Society since 1976. National Audubon is a worldwide mainstream birding and conservation organization which promotes both birding activities and the conservation of natural systems which 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. Kerry Mauro

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