

THE AUDUBON ENDEAVOR

Bird Friendly Tree and Shrub Trimming



Sooty Grouse at Lost Lake, OR by John McCoy

Last year's tragic wildfires have made all of us more aware of the need to make our homes and forests less vulnerable to catastrophic fires. As we do our defensible space/fuels reduction work it's important to consider the needs of nesting birds.

More than 300 species of birds—both resident and migratory species—can be found in the Mt. Shasta area. Their nesting sites are diverse—in trees, bushes, cavities, and on the ground.

Severely cutting, trimming, and topping trees and other greenery in the spring and summer can destroy nests and may eliminate valuable nest sites. In our area, the prime breeding season is April through July.

If at all possible, it is best to avoid the nesting season and to complete such projects in the fall and winter.

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"To support and advocate a healthy and stable environment for present and future generations"



To renew your membership, visit the 'How to Join' section of our website

<http://www.mtshastaaudubon.com>

President's Message

In the last newsletter I wrote about the summer's catastrophic wildfires in our area. That newsletter was sent out before the Camp Fire, which destroyed the town of Paradise and caused 85 deaths. In 2008 there was also a fire near Paradise called the BTU or Butte Lightning Complex Fire. It was a big fire, close to 60,000 acres, and burned structures. The Camp Fire moved through the very same area and was reported to be very fast moving. Some people think that once you have an area burned off that the risk of fire is much less. Most wildfire experts will tell you that this is not the case and that, if anything, it makes the next fire worse.

Nearly everyone agrees that the thing to do around homes and towns is to remove the fuels. Not everyone understands that this includes ground fuels, which are 50% of the fuel load. In other words, if you have cut down all the small trees and limbed the remaining ones up 15 feet or so and removed all the brush, you are now half done. Once you get all this taken care of, you then have a pile of trees, branches, brush, pine needles, and other small material (if you have done a thorough job). To dispose of this material your choices are chipping, burning, or the dump (land fill). If you have done all this and left bare open ground, you can be pretty sure you will have to do it all over again in 10-15 years.

Clearly, past policies that focused overwhelmingly on fire suppression have not been successful. Although daunting, our goal is to find the best methods to try to return our forests to a more natural fire-resistant state.

Kerry Mauro, President

Christmas Bird Count Summary

More than two dozen volunteers braved howling winds and rain during the annual Christmas Bird Counts in Mount Shasta and Yreka. Under the leadership of Joey Russell they observed 107 species in the Mt. Shasta area on Dec. 15, and 105 species, on Dec. 20 in the Yreka count. During the Yreka count participants spotted several species not often encountered in the CBC: 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Spotted Sandpiper, and a Cinnamon Teal. Final results are posted on [our website under the "Birding" tab](#).



*Spotted Sandpiper – Juvenile, at Jackson Bottom Wetlands, Hillsboro, OR
by John McCoy*

February Events

“For the Love of Birds” – February 14

On Thursday, February 14 Kendra Bainbridge will present a slideshow, “For the Love of Birds: Wild Birds of the Backyard and Beyond” at the Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum. A biologist and naturalist, Kendra will not only provide information on attracting and protecting our local birds, but will also share some of her experiences while birding in Costa Rica. Please plan to attend this lively presentation. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the slideshow will program will begin at 7:00. A donation of \$8 to \$10 per person is requested, with proceeds going to the Siskiyou Land Trust.

Become a Citizen Scientist: Join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 15-18

The 21st annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held Friday, February 15 to Monday, February 18. Anyone can take part—from beginning birders to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes (or longer if you like) on one or more days of the event. The information that is gathered during this real-time snapshot of bird populations is used by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society to learn how birds are doing. Learn how easy it is to participate by visiting the website:

<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Winter Wings-- February 14-17

An exciting array of workshops, speakers, field trips and other activities will be found at the 40th annual Winter Wings Festival. The event, produced by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society, will be held in Klamath Falls on February 14—17. Complete details can be found at: <http://winterwingsfest.org/>

Volunteer Opportunities



Greater White-fronted Geese in Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge by John McCoy

Step Right Up

For a number of years Ellie Mauro has enjoyed editing the quarterly Audubon Endeavor newsletter. Now she is ready to step down, and invites anyone who would like to take her place to call her at 530 926-2093.

Science Festival

Our chapter plans to participate in the Siskiyou Science Festival on Saturday, May 18, 2019, in downtown Mount Shasta. Volunteers had a great time last year interacting with kids and adults, and we are beginning to make plans for this year’s activities. If you would like to help please call Rebeca Franco at 530 926-1968.

Bird Friendly Tree and Shrub Trimming, *cont.*

The Madrone Audubon Society provides this advice:

- If you must trim a tree or prune a shrub during the breeding season, carefully inspect the area before you begin.
- To detect an active nest, quietly observe the proposed project area from a distance of about 50 feet.
- Watch for birds entering the tree or bush and listen for the begging call of young birds.
- Watch for adult birds in your yard actively collecting food and observe where they fly to deliver the food.

Should you discover an active nest, postpone your work until after breeding season. Do not attempt to move the nest to another location. All native birds, their chicks, eggs, and active nests are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California State Codes 3503 and 3503.5 and may include large fines and possible imprisonment if the laws are violated.



Acorn Woodpecker in Hillsboro, OR by John McCoy



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 that 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.