

YUBA PASS, SIERRA & PLUMAS COUNTIES SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 19 & 20, 2010

With Phil & Pat Gordon

Our leaders Phil and Pat are naturalists and conservationists and Phil is the compiler of the current Plumas-Eureka State Park Birdlist.

Come join them for a great weekend trip where the bird count for the two days is **always** over 100 species!

On **Saturday, 19 June 2010**, we will begin our exploration of the birds and their associations in the forests and meadows and lakes of the almost 7,000 ft elevation of these Sierras. We will meet at **7:30 AM** at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park Parking Lot (also the entrance to the Yuba Pass Campground) along Hwy 49. If serendipity is on our side we should find many of the species, hopefully many nesting, rarely found at lower elevations including Williamson's Sapsucker and Black-backed Woodpecker (one of the seven species of woodpeckers known to be found here), Calliope Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, Cassin's Finch and Evening Grosbeak.

We will also be on the ear and sight watch for the occasional Northern Goshawk, Mountain Quail, Sooty Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, and Townsend's Solitaire during this nesting season. Other locales the leaders will consider visiting include S.F.State's Field Station (Dipper nest?), Bassett's Store (esp. their hummingbird feeders), Gold Lakes Road, and points between.

On **Sunday, 20 June 2010**, we will meet at **6:30 AM** at the 7,000 ft. elevation at the same Yuba Pass Sno-Park Parking Lot (also the entrance to the Yuba Pass Campground) along Hwy 49. From here we will travel down to the graveled Mountain Quail Road at an elevation of 5,000+ ft. This is off Hwy 89 about 2 miles north of its intersection with Hwy 49. Look for the Mountain Quail Road sign, in from Hwy 89 about 150 ft, where shortly there is a large pull-off and parking area on the left side.

Here we will enter the Great Basin Sage and Jeffrey Pine mix where our quarry becomes the Common Night Hawk, Gray Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, and Spotted and Green-tailed Towhees to mention a few. Hopefully both Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows will be found when next we stop at the intersection of Calpine Road and County Road A23 (SIE Co.). From here, traveling northeast on A23 (paved), we turn at the mini-power station onto Marble Hot Springs Road (AKA Dyson Lane, gravel). This open sage and pasture passes through the "channels" and marshes (and beginning of the Middle Fork of the Feather River) to the famous Steel Bridge. Noteworthy of marsh-associated birds, we may find Sandhill Crane (nesting nearby), American Bittern (a Least Bittern was recently found here!), Rails, Willet, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, White-faced Ibis, Swallows, and Yellow-headed Blackbird (a Great-tailed Grackle was found at the bridge a few years ago), and several species of Ducks (possible: Redhead; Blue-winged Teal).

We plan to have lunch in the Loyalton Area (also to locate one or both of the Swainson's Hawk nests). We plan on visiting the Rotary Park riparian & creek, northeast of Loyalton and search the old forest burn area for nesting Lewis' Woodpecker and Mountain Bluebird. The group will be dismissed from the trip in a timely manner to return home or linger to explore other areas suggested by your leaders.

Lodging can be secured in Portola (Sleepy Pines - 530/832-4291); Blairsden (River Pines – 530/836-2552) and in Sierra City (e.g. Harrington's Lodge – 916/862-1151). Also, new owners will continue providing lodging at Bassett's Station, Hwy 49 X Gold Lake Rd. (530/862-1297 / www.bassetts-station.com). Campgrounds are available at Yuba Pass and along Hwy 49 to the West, and at Plumas-Eureka State Park, and along Hwy 89 between Truckee and Sierraville. Driving time from the Bay Area to Yuba Pass is just under 5 hours. Access is both by Hwy 80 and Hwy 70 (up to one hour longer). The AAA Feather River Region map is recommended; or use any map covering Butte, Nevada, Sierra, and Plumas Counties, and/or local Cities (new AAA map policy).

Note: Prior or on-the-spot modifications of the Itinerary may be made by the Leaders in light of improvements/enhancements/conveniences that may develop before or during the trip.

Note: At this time the Leaders plan to make pre-trip visits to the Yuba Pass Campground each day to provide information to anyone with trip questions or trip comments deemed useful. They will be staying in the area and likely available by Cell phone. (Pat – 510-364-6472)

Call Leaders Phil and Pat Gordon for additional info: HmTel = 1(510) 538-3550, Hayward, ALA Co. or e-mail = PAGPEG@aol.com

To get an estimate of the number of possible participants, please notify Helen by June 14 if you are planning on going. Thank you.