

Bristlecone Audubon



Newsletter 011 22 April 2011

Bristlecone receives \$22,000 grant from Audubon California

We received word from Graham Chisholm, Executive Director & Vice President of Audubon California that our Whittell Fund grant application for monies to aid in removal of Nevada's last hollow mine claim markers has been approved. They will graciously provide \$22,000 in an effort to protect migratory and nesting birds (Figure 1) as well as reptiles, small mammals and pollinating insects from these ecological death traps. Efforts are also under way to expand this grant with matching monies from agencies and private interests to fund a four person crew for 2-3 years to get the job done. All work will be conducted within Nevada in Great Basin, Columbia Basin and Mojave Desert ecosystems.



Figure 1. Adult northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) in singleleaf piñon (Photo File, Bristlecone Audubon).

A study of bird fauna alone shows that over 43 species have fallen victim to abandoned claim posts and that a large percentage (over 87%) were cavity-roosting and cavity-nesting birds (Figures 2-3; Table 1). As the project expanded to include efforts in the south, it became obvious that reptiles were nearly as vulnerable as birds to being trapped in these posts (Figure 4).



Figure 2. Project that removed abandoned posts from mountain bluebird migration habitat in White Pine County, Nevada, April 2004 (Photo File, Bristlecone Audubon).



Figure 3. Bird mortalities collected from abandoned post project in Esmeralda County, Nevada, March 2008 (Photo File, Bristlecone Audubon).



Figure 4. Reptile mortalities collected from abandoned post project in Esmeralda County, Nevada, March 2008 (Photo File, Bristlecone Audubon).

Table 1. Partial list of bird mortalities found in Nevada's abandoned mine claim markers.

Common Name	Latin Name	Morts	Common Name	Latin Name	Morts
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	74	Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus griseus</i>	14
Western Screech-Owl	<i>Otus kennicottii</i>	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	1
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	5	Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	278
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	2	Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	1
Owl (Unid. Species)	<i>Otus sp</i>	6	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	2
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Redulus calendula</i>	1
Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	4	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	1
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	51	Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	1
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	2	Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	518
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	3	Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	3
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	598	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	44	Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	3
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	2	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	14
Western Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	3	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	1
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	5	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	1
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	4	Unidentified Bird Mortalities		694
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	1	Total Bird Mortalities From Inspected Posts		2,350
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	8			

Tentative Calendar for mid 2011

<i>April 30</i>	<i>Buzzard Saturday (Road Kill BBQ)</i>	<i>Lamoille Grove</i>	<i>4:00pm</i>
<i>May 28-30</i>	<i>Basin and Range Seminar</i>	<i>Ruby Lake</i>	
<i>June 25</i>	<i>Birding Overnighter</i>	<i>Owyhee Canyon</i>	
<i>July 13</i>	<i>Wildlife Diversity Lecture</i>	<i>Elko NDOW</i>	<i>6:30pm</i>
<i>August 13</i>	<i>American Pika Day Hike</i>	<i>Ruby Mountain</i>	

Please send submissions to: pbradley@ndow.org, P.V. Bradley, Newsletter Editor, Bristlecone Audubon

*Natural History: Red-breasted Merganser pair and Tree Swallows spotted: 5 April 2011-Elko (Larry Teske);
Say's Phoebe spotted: 22 April 2011- Elko (Bristlecone Staff); Yellow-rumped Warbler spotted:
16 April 2011- Right Fork Lamoille Canyon Wilderness (Bristlecone Staff).
Hummingbirds anyone?*

