



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS



### Your CBC Needs You!!!

Christmas Bird Counts need eyes - the more, the better to see the birds - and you don't need any knowledge of bird identification or even birds themselves because each small group includes a competent birder to lead it - just keen eyes! We always have a shortage of eager participants because Christmastime is so busy, so please consider joining one of these events.

#### Contacts to sign-up and participate:

- **Sonora CBC** on Dec. 17: Steven Umland at: [stevenum71@gmail.com](mailto:stevenum71@gmail.com) or (209)352-6985  
Note that Steven will hold an after-count compilation potluck at his home in Sonora. He'll send you details if you're going to participate in this CBC. Contact Steven for details.
- **Calaveras CBC** on Dec. 31: Keith & Sandra Maurer at: [kandsmaurer@goldrush.com](mailto:kandsmaurer@goldrush.com) or (209) 728-8979
- **Angels Camp CBC** on Jan 4, 2023: Bruce McClenahan at: [bgmcclenahan@gmail.com](mailto:bgmcclenahan@gmail.com) or (209)323-0739



## HOW DO BIRDS BEHAVE DURING A RAINSTORM???

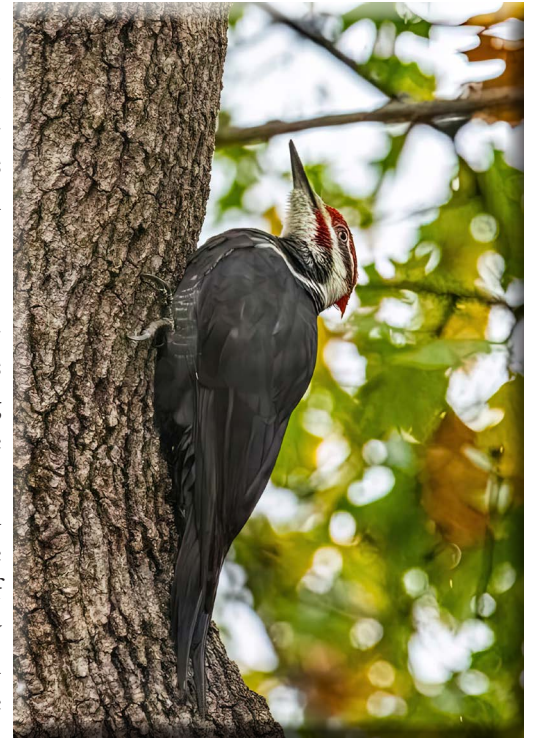
Story and photos by Dave Douglass at Pine Mountain Lake (2,795 ft.)

Nov. 3 & Nov. 8

I can't that I've ever much pondered what birds do during a rainstorm but I just happened to be out back photographing Woody, my Pileated Woodpecker buddy in our backyard oak, when it started raining. What he did was to just hunker down and take a 45 minute pause on the trunk of the oak and occasionally shake off the water.



I was compelled to photograph a male Nuttall's Woodpecker out back trying to keep out of the rain, the Nuttall's and a female Downy, and lastly, a White-breasted Nuthatch. All of these were taken within the same area of our backyard oak tree. They pretty much hang tight, and shake off every once in a while during the rain.





## CLARK'S NUTCRACKER & WHITEBARK PINE



If you've birded at high elevation in the Sierra or Rockies, say 7,000 ft. and above, you probably saw and heard the Clark's Nutcracker, a very active and raucous bird. And you also saw Whitebark Pines which are being considered for listing as threatened because very high proportions have been killed by blister rust, a non-native fungal disease. The USFS estimates that half of this pine species have been killed by the rust such that it could be extinct in a century, thus dramatically altering high elevation ecosystems with severe consequences for dependent wildlife.

While Whitebark pine cones are a prime food source for the Nutcracker, the Nutcracker is critical for survival of the Whitebark itself because this bird stores up to 30,000 seeds in the ground in many, many caches - typically each cache has only a few seeds so there are several thousand such storage sites for each bird! The bird's prodigious memory unbelievably allows it to uncover a high proportion of those seeds during the winter and early spring - but not all. Some of those that are forgotten or not needed will become new Whitebark pines; in fact, it is reckoned that almost every Whitebark pine in the US alpine West was planted by a Clark's Nutcracker.

Cornell's "All About Birds" website has a video about the survival prospects of the Whitebark pine and its relationship with the Clark's Nutcracker that you can view at: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/can-the-clarks-nutcracker-help-its-bff-the-whitebark-pine-recover-from-disaster/?utm\\_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm\\_campaign=612a9e57e2-Cornell-Lab-eNews-November-2022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_47588b5758-612a9e57e2-283538329](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/can-the-clarks-nutcracker-help-its-bff-the-whitebark-pine-recover-from-disaster/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=612a9e57e2-Cornell-Lab-eNews-November-2022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-612a9e57e2-283538329)

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## WOODPECKERS ON PBS

In case you didn't see it or know about it, PBS recently presented an hour's program on woodpeckers entitled "The Hole Story" which is well worth viewing at: <https://www.pbs.org/video/woodpeckers-the-hole-story-xjpqdf/>

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## MIGRATION

I think the mystery of migration fascinates us all, and new technologies are allowing researchers to track and understand the patterns of an increasing variety of bird species. Here are two very recent examples of such tracking projects.

### How Far Can Ducks Migrate in a Day? About 2,000 Miles

Two pintails that flew from Louisiana to Russia and back again give researchers a surprising glimpse into epic waterfowl migrations. View at: <https://www.outdoorlife.com/conservation/pintail-duck-migrate-russia-louisiana/>

### Young godwit makes longest known nonstop flight ever

A four-month-old Bar-tailed Godwit known as B6 set a new world record by completing a nonstop 11-day migration of 8,425 miles (13,558 km) from Alaska to Tasmania, Australia. This trip represents the longest documented nonstop flight by any animal!

View at: <https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/news/science/young-godwit-makes-longest-known-nonstop-flight-ever/>

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More on migration - the National Audubon website now offers a tool named the **Bird Migration Explorer** which allows you view the annual migratory patterns of 458 North American migratory species. It dynamically shows the migratory patterns across all of our flyways as you can see here. You simply select a species and the tool runs through the 12 months while showing that species' movements.



View it at: [https://explorer.audubon.org/home?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20221104\\_eng-email\\_bme-tips-tricks&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20221104\\_eng-email&utm\\_content=bme-tips-tricks&threatOverlay=expand&zoon=3&x=1306099.1620122588&y=2810864.562197212](https://explorer.audubon.org/home?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20221104_eng-email_bme-tips-tricks&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20221104_eng-email&utm_content=bme-tips-tricks&threatOverlay=expand&zoon=3&x=1306099.1620122588&y=2810864.562197212)

**As usual in December, we do not have any organized field trips. Instead, we invite you to join one of our Christmas Bird Counts.**

## Central Sierra Audubon Society - CSAS

(Chapter of the National Audubon Society)  
P.O. Box 3047, Sonora, CA 95370

**Public Presentations:** As of this month, April 2022, we will hold monthly in-person presentations in the Sonora Library as we did before covid, and simultaneously share them on Zoom so that you have flexibility in attendance. Monthly details shown in the Squawker and on our website at [www.centralsierraudubon.org](http://www.centralsierraudubon.org)

**Board Meetings:** Please call Barry Boulton (209)596-0612.

## Membership of National Audubon & CSAS

If you are not already a member, we would be honored to have you join us. You can join as a full member of National Audubon Society, which includes dues for CSAS membership, or you may join solely as a local member of CSAS in which case you will receive the monthly Squawker newsletter and be privy to all other CSAS activities.

An application form for local membership is available on the CSAS website at: [www.centralsierraudubon.org/join-us/](http://www.centralsierraudubon.org/join-us/)

## CSAS Officers

Barry Boulton, President	(209)596-0612
Tom Parrington, Conservation	(209)928-3835
Ralph Retherford, VP Programs	(209)770-6124
Jean Dakota, Secretary	(209)591-9952
Linda Millsbaugh, Treasurer	(209)586-9557
Kit DeGear, Field Trips	(925)822-5215
Gail Witzlsteiner, Director at Large	(209)586-4025
Jan Jorn-Baird, Publicity	(209)532-1106

## CSAS Committee Chairs

Bird Box Trail - Gail Witzlsteiner	(209)586-4025
Book/Bird Box Sales - Jean Dakota	(209)591-9952
Scholarship - Gail Witzlsteiner	(209)586-4025
Website - Barry Boulton	(209)596-0612
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