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*Insert: Annual Meeting Registration*

*Insert: State Listing Results*

Front Cover: Tropical Kingbird, October 19, 2012. Photo by Don Munson (Brookings)

Back Cover: Sora, First Prize in the 2012 OB photo contest. Photo by Jack Booth (Bxxxx)

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**Oregon Birds**

*The journal of Oregon birding and field ornithology*

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**Editors of *Oregon Birds* and its predecessors**

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Deadline for submissions for *Oregon Birds* Volume 39(2): August 1, 2013

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This year we inaugurate the Oregon Birds "Top Ten" birds of the year for Oregon, chosen by, er, me. Criteria are rarity in the state, time since the last record, documentation and other aspects of the record that make it noteworthy.

1. Cassin's Sparrow. First Oregon record, found by Russ Namitz (his photo above) near Floras Lake. This was a bird that few expected in Oregon any time soon (Rich Hoyer did), was superbly photographed and was seen by a few lucky observers. See account on the following page.

2. Crested Anklet. Another first record, seen offshore by Jeff Gilligan, Judy Meredith and Sheran Wright on May 14. More were reported from a Boiler Bay seawatch. Even less expected than Cassin's Sparrow. Not yet accepted by OBRC.

3. Spotted Redshank. Oregon's second; the first since 1980, it was found July 4 at Fern Ridge Res. by Becky Uhler and photographed. Outranks Common Ground-Dove because it has been so long since the first record and there have been no other plausible sight records.

4. Common Ground-Dove, Oregon's second, found by Terry Wahl near Cape Blanco. There are a couple of additional records unreviewed by the OBRC.

5. Piping Plover, Oregon's second sight record, not yet accepted by OBRC, no Oregon specimen or photo. Found Aug. 20 at Florence by Doug Stotz and also seen by Bill and Zanah Stotz.

6. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Oregon's third, a male found June 1 at Hart Mtn. NWR headquarters, photos by John Shewey and Tim Blount.

7. Wood Thrush, Oregon's fourth, a sight record Sep 21 in e. Oregon, the first record since 1980.

8. Worm-eating Warbler. Oregon's fourth record, it was found by Don Munson at Pistol River. Munson also found the state's third record.

9. Brown Booby, Oregon's fifth, an immature spotted by Russ Namitz with a good photo by Noah Strycker, offshore Lincoln Co. on October 6. One seen off Boiler Bay on Oct 16 by Phil Pickering may have been the same bird.

10. Crested Caracara, Oregon's sixth and seventh, see South Central region and Lois Miller's photo in the South Coast report.

These Top Ten birds were found at ten different locations by almost entirely different observers. We think of rare birds as concentrating at "hotspots" but in fact they can occur anywhere.

In addition to the Truly Hot, Oregon's seventh Little Blue Heron was found by Paul Sullivan and Carol Karlen and remained at Darnell Pond north of Frenchglen for several days. The seventh Phainopepla was near Ashland in December.

Other noteworthy records include Oregon's eighth and ninth Lawrence's Goldfinch, photographed near Klamath Falls and Langlois, respectively, and eighth McCown's Longspur, photographed by Noah Strycker at Borax Lake. A Mottled Petrel seen on the Dec. 8. Newport pelagic trip was the first ever seen from one of The Bird Guide's 131 pelagic trips in Oregon. A midwinter Hooded Warbler at a suet feeder in Astoria was more than out of the ordinary.

Honorable Mention: Snowy Owl. Not a true rarity, but the bird that summered in Wallowa County after a major invasion year was so completely astounding that it merits special attention.

Our cover memorializes the well over 30 Tropical Kingbirds in the state in fall, 2012, certainly a record even if it includes a few duplicates, as singles and small flocks appeared at dozens of locations.

Other noteworthy happenings this year included the incursion of huge numbers of Sooty Shearwaters inside Yaquina Bay, a wintering Hammond's Flycatcher at Ashland and two more in Roseburg in mid-December, all with excellent photos. Black-throated Sparrow bred in se Jackson County. Coos County's first Magnolia Warbler was brought in alive by a cat on the day of the CBC! For an interesting look at range expansions, see the Upper Columbia report.

Special thanks to Matthew Schneider of Silverton for serving as an editor for the Northern Willamette Valley region, and welcome to his replacement, Brandon Wagner of Independence. Kyle Bratcher will write highlights for Wallowa County, while Union and Baker Cos. remain with Cathy Nowak. Tim Blount, whose Harney Birder web site has become a must-check, takes over SE Oregon from Lars Norgren. Many thanks to Lars.
First Oregon record of Cassin’s Sparrow (P. cassini)

Russ Namitz

It was a gorgeous October afternoon in coastal Curry County. I was still in a euphoric state after my recent morning success of chasing and refining the Worm-eating Warbler that Don Munson had found at Pistol River the day before. After my customary lunch at Subway, this time in Gold Beach, I headed north towards my hometown of Coos Bay. I felt an almost inexplicable pressure to stop and bird around Floras Lake, another vagrant trap on the southern Oregon coast. It is an area that is “underbirded,” as is the entire southern Oregon coast, compared to areas of the state that have higher birder population densities.

As I walked out the path from the parking lot to the foredune, I kept one hand on my binoculars and Nikon Coolpix camera bag slung around my neck to keep them from bouncing while my other hand controlled the Leica spotting scope and tripod balanced over my left shoulder. My mission was to try and fish up a Swamp Sparrow recently found by Tim Rodenkirk to add to my Curry County lifelist. As luck would have it, I found one fairly quickly and decided to head north along a less-beaten path to the confluence of Floras Creek and New River.

Walking along the path, I kicked up a pale sparrow that flew up from the grass and into some nearby bushes. It was almost 3:30 pm. Probably just a Savannah Sparrow, I thought. No, this bird has an unstreaked breast. Clay-colored Sparrow? There was one recently reported in Gold Beach. No, no bold facial markings. I’d better get a photo.

At this point, I focused on trying to obtain decent photos under the classic windy coastal conditions. I peeked a couple times through the scope to get more identification details and gleaned a yellowish wash over the lores and around the eye, and streaking on the back. Hmmm, a bit perplexing. Odd Brewer’s Sparrow? A “Timberline” version with that big bill? All this time, the bird was furtively hopping from branch to branch in the thickest part of the bush.

At long last, the bird teed up on the outside of the bush on an exposed branch. I concentrated on getting the best photos I could with this unobstructed view. Fortunately, I was very close to the bird as it had flushed from only a short distance. All I did was stand still and let the bird come to me. However, when the bird flew closer to me, it filled the photo frame so much that I was unable to fit the bird’s tail in the photo.

After getting unobstructed close photos, I continued on to the river, leaving the bird in relative peace. By 4:40 pm, I knew I had to hustle home as I was to give an Audubon presentation later that night and I still had an hour’s drive ahead of me. Back home, while eating dinner and checking email, I decided to pull up the sparrow photos from the afternoon. The tentative ID still nagged at me. I decided to check the book. I opened up to the first page of sparrows (past the towhees) and started to turn the page past all those eastern and southwestern species when I glanced at the Cassin’s Sparrow illustration.

No way. Check the photo again. Yellow wash around face, yes. Alternate rusty and gray lines down the back with dark edges to each rusty feather creating a scalloped, rusty line, yes. A yellow margin to the leading edge of the folded wing, yes! No freaking way!

Flick a glance at the Botteri’s Sparrow illustration, nah. Darker bill, different facial pattern, different pattern to rusty back feathers. CASSIN’S SPARROW!! Francisc emailing, calling, texting, Google map direction searching ensued promptly.

Had I not taken photos of this bird, this very well could have been “the one that got away.” I am embarrassed to say that I did not take good field notes or any notes at all for that matter, other than mental. However, I would argue for the importance of photo documentation and as I enjoy photo documenting rare species, I habitually have my digiscoping equipment with me specifically for that purpose.

This bird, found October 10, 2012, is the first for Oregon. It was seen by several observers the following day, then not found again after a storm system came through.
First Oregon Record of Little Bunting
(Emberiza pusilla)

Alan Contreras
Craig Turner

On January 28, 2013, the authors were birding in central Wallowa County in extreme northeastern Oregon. We entered the town of Joseph in order to check the town’s feeders a second time that day. There were three to four inches of snow on the ground and birds were concentrated. As we checked one feeder from the car, Contreras noticed a sparrowlike bird in the tree and was astonished to see a Little Bunting (Emberiza pusilla), a species he had seen once before, at Gambell, Alaska in late August 2003. Turner agreed with the identification and got out of the car to obtain photos. By the time Contreras parked the car, the bunting had flown. However, Turner obtained several diagnostic photos, the best of which appear here.

The following morning, three additional observers arrived and after over an hour of searching, Kyle Bratcher relocated the bunting in an area of dense, leafless shrubbery near an active feeder, but it quickly disappeared. Trent Bray later saw it perched up about a block away and obtained additional photos, and eventually Kendrick Moholt joined the four of us for reasonable views back in the dense shrubbery, where a few additional photos were obtained with some difficulty. It was apparently seen by one group of observers the 30th, and by P. William Smith and his wife Sue on Thursday, Jan 31, around 11 a.m. It could not be found despite efforts by many observers after that, possibly because of a thaw that allowed birds to scatter.

This is the first record of the species for Oregon and, to our knowledge, the first winter record and the first non-coastal record for the Western Hemisphere.

Little Bunting is rare but regular in the Bering Sea region of Alaska. It has occurred at Pt. Loma, San Diego County, California October 21-24, 1991 (Hamilton et al., 2007), Southeast Farallon Island, California, September 27-28, 2002 and at Rancho San Jose de Castro, Baja California Sur, Mexico, October 8, 2008 (Radamaker, 2010). In November 2012, another Little Bunting was reported at Southeast Farallon Island, California. That report has been submitted to the California Bird Records Committee for review (CBRC 2013).

Photos by Trent Bray
Photos by Craig Turner

Note: a longer discussion of this record will appear in Western Birds.
North Coast
Clatsop, Tillamook

Wink Gross

In a year when Buff-breasted Sandpiper was hard to find, this bird at Seaside remained long enough for Evan Cain to get this in-your-face photo on September 4.

MP found a surprising feral Bobwhite at Trestle Bay Beach (Clatsop) on Jul 2. Similarly odd, PP flushed a Sooty Grouse from the goldenrod meadow on top of Cascade Head on Sep 25.

A Yellow-billed Loon flying past Cape Meares on May 10 was reported to Harry Nehls.

Three Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen over the Astoria Canyon (mouth of Columbia River) on Sept 20 (KC). MP spotted a Short-tailed Shearwater ("close enough to ID") off the Peter Iredale wreck (Clatsop) on the latish date of Apr 24.

Bald Eagles continue to work their woe. Rob Surman reported heavy predation by 9 eagles on Brand's Cormorants at Cape Meares, flushing the birds and eating the eggs. American White Pelicans continue to increase on the lower Columbia. MP reported 80 at Miller Sands on Apr 15. Brown Pelicans continue to linger late in the Fall: six were seen flying perversely north off Bayocean on Dec 15 during the Tillamook CBC (JeH & BB).

A Cattle Egret at Brownsmead (Clatsop), Nov 12 to 16 (LC), evidently was a lingerer from a flock of six that had been there for "a couple of days at the end of [October]" (Albert Smith/ride MP).

Turkey Vultures arrived early, if they ever left. LC saw one over Astoria, Feb 7, and Carol Pwikinski had one at Fraser Road (Tillamook) on Mar 11. According to MP, White-tailed Kite numbers have crashed in Clatsop Co. in the last couple of years. CBC data shows that Tillamook experienced a similar collapse, but numbers are rebounding. Red-shouldered Hawks are all over the North Coast now, outside of the breeding season at least, with multiple reports from both counties. Harv Schuboth observed a Golden Eagle flying past Cape Meares on May 13. Gyrfalcons were reported from Brownsmead, Mar 17, (Jeff St. Clair), Nestucca NWR, Nov 12 (WG), and Wireless Road (Clatsop), Dec 15 (LC). A Prairie Falcon was on the prairie east of Tillamook on Jan 30 (Steve Parsons). Another (the same?) was at the Nestucca NWR on Feb 11 (Tom McNamara).

Sandhill Cranes are rare on the n. coast, but EC heard "many" flying over Seaside the night of Jul 27.

120 "plus" Black-bellied Plovers at Wireless Road, Apr 30, was a good showing. Only one Pacific Golden-Plover was reported: at SJCR on Aug 8 (Jeff Gilligan). After a banner year in 2011, Snowy Plover numbers regressed in 2012: only one at Clatsop Spit (Dane Osis) on Mar 31 and three at Bayocean, Dec 15 (JeH & BB).

A Solitary Sandpiper was at Wireless Road, May 10 (LC). Diana Byrne started off New Year's Day with a Wandering Tattler at Cannon Beach, one of the few winter records. The bird was still there, Feb 4 (Stefan Schlick). A HUDSONIAN GODWIT, found June 30 on Clatsop Spit (LC), removed to Trestle Bay on Jul 1 and 2 (MP & JB). MP noted 72 Marbled Godwits at Trestle Bay, "more than usual", on the early date of Jul 16. A "possible" WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was at Wireless Road on May 9 (LC). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at AAMB on Sept 20 (JC). A Stilt Sandpiper was at the "Astoria Airport puddle" on Jul 23 (MP). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Necanicum Estuary from Aug 27 to Sep 7 (m. obs.)
Ruff was at the AAMB from Sep 18 to 22 (LC). DM found a Red Phalarope at Bay City STP (Tillamook) on the unusual date of Mar 17.

Stan Senner found one **Elegant Tern** at SJCR on Jul 20. Casey Cunningham saw three at Seaside Cove on Sep 1 (fide Shawnee Finnegan). A South Polar Skua was found dead on the beach at Tierra del Mar, Dec 16 (WG). Another was brought in to the WCNC on Dec 19 (MP). MP noted that Common Murres appear to be usurping Tufted Puffin nest sites on Haystack Rock (Clatsop), perhaps as a strategy to avoid eagle predation. Could be trouble for the puffins. A **THICK-BILLED MURRE** was found dead on Clatsop Beach, Feb 1 (MP). A **LONG-BILLED MURRELET** was photographed with Marbled Murrelets from a boat close off Netarts Bay on Jul 31 (Kerry Ross and Rachel Smith). A single murrelet seen flying close-in at Tierra del Mar on Nov 1 (WG) could have been either a Long-billed or a Scripp's's. Ryan Merrill found 33 **Parakeet Auklets** off Tillamook County during his NOAA survey on Mar 6. Two **Horned Puffins** were rehabilitating at WCNC on Jan 22 (MP), and Tony DeFalco observed two flying north past Haystack Rock on May 12.

In 2011, Snowy Owls staged an invasion to the Willamette Valley, but only one was on the North Coast (at SJCR). This year, numbers gradually built starting in mid-November and reached 5 birds at SJCR by Dec 18 (EC). While looking for Snowy Owls on Bayocean, AH kicked up a **Burrowing Owl**, Nov 24. Nice consolation prize! Barred Owls continue to move into coastal regions with six (2 pairs plus 2 single birds) at Ecola SP on Jun 15 (Vee Blackstone) and one at Neskowin (Tillamook) on Nov 5 (JH). A **Long-eared Owl** was found on the Tillamook CBC in Oceanside by John Crowell, et al., on Dec 15.

A **Common Poorwill** was picked up in Pacific City and taken to WCNC on Nov 17 (MP). Black Phoebes continue to increase, with an apparent breeding pair at West Lake (Clatsop) on Mar 16 (MP). Tropical Kingbirds were at AAMB, Oct 6 (Buck Mills), Memaloose Point (Tillamook), Nov 10 (Diana Byrne) and Stanley Lake (Clatsop), Nov 12 (MP). Neal Maine found an **Eastern Kingbird** at Circle Creek (Clatsop) on Jul 20 (fide MP).

Single **Bank Swallows** were reported at TBW, May 28 (WG), and Fort Stevens, Aug 29 (MP). MP found a **Mountain Bluebird** on Jackson Road in Brownsmead, Mar 24, and PP saw a female on Cascade Head, Sep 26, for the third record for that site. A **Northern Mockingbird** wintered in Astoria 2011/12. It returned to the same neighborhood on Dec 14. A Mockingbird was also at the SJCR Jul 2, (MP & JB).

It was a good year for vagrant warblers: Andrew Mattingly was pleased to see an adult male **HOODED WARBLER** come to his feeder in Astoria on Dec 30. It stayed for several weeks. Anne Sammis and Eric Gropp had the almost unbelievable fortune to see an imm. **MAGNOLIA** and an imm. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, side by chestnut-side-to-be, at Bayocean on Sep 8. PP had a **Blackpoll Warbler** on Cascade Head Sep 11 and Alyssa De Rubeis, visiting from Minnesota, found an adult male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on Cape Lookout, Oct 16.

John Gatchet found a **Brewer's Sparrow** at Fenk Road (Tillamook) on Nov 14. A Vesper Sparrow was on Goodspeed Road (Tillamook) Jul 23 (Rhett Wilkins), and a **Black-throated Sparrow** was there May 28 (DM). Another **Black-throated Sparrow** was reported from Tenassaila Island (Clatsop) by Andrew Emlen, May 31. A **Harris's Sparrow** at TBW was Nov 24 (JB).

Something about Tillamook County appeals to Dickcissels. For the third year in a row, a **DICKCISSEL** visited the county, this time at Fenk Road Nov 12-17 (Susan Norris). Maybe it's the cheese. Two **Bobolinks** were found in the region: at Cascade Head on Sep 2 (PP) and SJCR on Sep 10 (MP). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was "singing and acting territorial" at Brownsmead, May 4 (MP). A **HOODED ORIOLE** visited Harold Peterson's feeder in Seaside most of the month of January (fide MP).

Initialed observers: Adrian Hinkle, Bob Burke, Christopher Hinkle, David Mandell, Evan Cain, Jack Hurt (JaH), Joe Blowers, Jeff Harding (JeH), John Gatchet, Ken Chamberlain, Lee Cain, Mike Patterson, Phil Pickering, Wink Gross.
Rare in recent years, Snow Geese first appeared at Yaquina Bay on Oct. 3 (A. Kocourek, T. Wainwright), and 1-4 continued at several locations through 11/12 (m. ob.). 2 Ross’s Geese at Siletz Bay on Dec. 19 were the 3rd record (M. Mefford).

Single Yellow-billed Loons were found offshore on May 5 (G. Gillson et al.), Yaquina Bay on May 12 (W. Hoffman), and Depoe Bay on Aug. 19 (L. Norgren).

A Murphy’s Petrel was spotted from an offshore cruise ship on April 17 (J. Withgott et al.), and 1-2 Mottled Petrels were seen from Boiler Bay on Nov. 21 (P. Pickering) and during a pelagic trip on Dec. 8 (G. Gillson et al.).

Sooty Shearwaters are common in summer, but between Lincoln City and Ona Beach during Sept. 13-19, unusually high numbers were reported (m. ob.). 200,000-250,000 were estimated on Sept. 19 off Boiler Bay (P. Pickering).

A probable BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER passed Lincoln City on Dec. 2 (P. Pickering).

Oregon’s 5th BROWN BOOBY was detected during an Oct. 6 pelagic trip (G. Gillson et al.), and a juvenile was off Boilier Bay on Oct. 16 (P. Pickering).

1 American White Pelican flying 7 miles up the Siletz River on Dec. 24 (fide M. Elliott) was the 8th record.

Like only in 2008 and 2010, Brown Pelicans were recorded every month of the year, with the fewest records during Feb.-March.

Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be more common and lingered until May 20 (J. Withgott et al.), and 1 arrived on July 19 (R. Lowe), which is the first-ever July report.

A Rough-legged Hawk near Newport on Feb. 16 (D. Faxon) was the 2nd since 2006, and, in fall, 1-2 were unusually common at the Salmon River and Beaver Creek during Oct. 26-Nov. 15 (D. Villaescusa, B. Fowler, m.ob.).

2 SCRIPPS’S MURRELETS were offshore on Sept. 15 (G. Gillson).

A Parakeet Auklet was beached north of Ona Beach in March (B. & S. Loeffel, L. & V. Osis), and live...
The birding experience: this swan, thought to be a Trumpeter, was southbound through a rainbow on Nov. 13 off Boiler Bay overlook. Photo by Phil Pickering.

One of Oregon’s record number of Tropical Kingbirds in fall, 2012, this one was at the Marine Science Center in Newport. Photo Nov. 9 by Stephanie Hazen.

The birding experience: this swan, thought to be a Trumpeter, was southbound through a rainbow on Nov. 13 off Boiler Bay overlook. Photo by Phil Pickering.

Oregon’s first CRESTED AUKLET was offshore on May 14 (see article in upcoming issue of Oregon Birds).

An extraordinary high number of 12 dead Horned Puffins were tallied during Feb.-March near Ona Beach, Lincoln City, and Newport (B. Loeffel et al., M. Elliott, fide C. Lippincott). For beached bird walks north of Ona Beach starting in 1978, the January-March total was second only to 2007 (B. Loeffel). A live one was 28 miles offshore on May 5 (G. Gillson).

A Snowy Owl lingered at Siletz Bay until Jan. 13 (S. Hatlevig), and another flew over the Hatfield Marine Science Center on March 1 (A. Walker).

A Burrowing Owl was at the Yaquina Bay South Jetty on Dec. 20 (J. Riverso) and lingered for the Dec. 29 Yaquina Bay Christmas Bird Count (fide D. Grafe).

A Short-eared Owl was 30 miles offshore on Oct. 6 (N. Strycker et al.), and 1 at Alsea Bay on Nov. 14 (A. Kocourek) was the 4th onshore report since 1995.

Starting in early fall, Black Phoebes suddenly became more common than in past years. On Aug. 13, a probable nest was found under a Beaver Creek bridge (T. & A. Mickel, B. & K. Wilson). A Black Phoebe was at the Hatfield Marine Science Center on Aug. 8 (R. Baltierra), and there were six reports of singletons at Ona Beach, Beaver Creek, Boiler Bay, Toledo, Lincoln City, and between Newport and Toledo from Oct. 18 through the Dec. 29 Yaquina Bay Christmas Bird Count (m.ob.).

A Say’s Phoebe was at Beaver Creek on March 24 (D. Holland). Prior to 1993, there were only 3 records, but they have become more regular in recent years with 1 sighting per year starting in 2009.

1 Ash-throated Flycatcher in Newport on Aug. 23 (R. Bayer) was the 4th since 2000.

A Tropical Kingbird during the Jan. 1 Yaquina Bay Christmas Bird Count was the first for Jan. and for the Count. Singletons were also first-time reports in Feb. and March in Newport or the Hatfield Marine Science Center (B. Olson, W. Hoffman). During Oct. 6-Dec. 7, 1-2 were also noted at multiple locations near the coastline (m. ob.).

A vociferous Yellow-breasted Chat visiting Toledo during June 17-27 (C. Philo et al.) was the 7th, and a probable Grasshopper Sparrow at the Hatfield Marine Science Center on April 27 (P. & J. List) was the 2nd record.

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited the Eddyville area during May 19-21 (fide C. Philo), Newport on June 10 (C. Philo), and Lincoln Co. during 3 days in mid-July (T. Thurman). A 1st year male appeared at a Newport feeder on Dec. 28 and the next day, which was a first for the Yaquina Bay Christmas Bird Count (D. Adamson).

An immature Yellow-headed Blackbird stopped near the LNG tank in Newport on Sept. 27 (C. Philo).

A 1st year male or female Pine Grosbeak at a feeder near Siletz on May 23 (S. Hurd) was the 5th report.

Red Crossbills were exceptionally common during summer at feeders near the coast, and many seemed tamer than crossbills usually here (m. ob.). I do not recall any reports of fledgling crossbills here before, but fledglings were noted in Lincoln City during July 4-10 (D. Villaescusa) and Yachats on Aug. 8-15 (fide B. Bahn; C. Tumer).
Overall winter was very mild except for heavy rain and flooding in March. Spring rains continued through June again this year. There was no rain recorded from mid-July until about mid-October in North Bend making it one of the driest summers on record. December ended the year wet with almost 11.5 inches of rain recorded in North Bend.

Observers: DL /KC= Dave Lauten, Kathy Castelein; DM= Don Munson; JW= Jay Withgott; KA= Knute Andersson; LM= Lois Miller, m.o.= multiple observers; RN= Russ Namitz; TR= Tim Rodenkirk; TW= Terry Wahl.

Coos’ 5th Ross’s Goose was with two Snow Geese in the Catching Slough pastures of Coos Bay on 15 April (TR) with Coos’ 6th in the same area from 10 Dec into Jan of 2013 (B. Fields et al.). About 100 Aleutian Cackling Geese overwintered in the New River bottoms area of Coos/Curry Counties (R. McKenzie). A few Aleutian Cackling Geese also likely oversummered on the south coast with multiple sightings in June and July.

A pair of Blue-winged Teal on the north spit of Coos Bay on 9 March was the earliest spring Coos record and one of the earliest arrivals ever for W. Oregon (TR). The male Cinnamon Teal seen on the north spit of Coos Bay on 2 Feb was the earliest ever spring arrival for Coos (TR). A whopping 52 Harlequin Ducks were at Cape Arago, Coos on 21 Jan (TR).

Several pelagic birds of interest were seen on the 17 April Holland America cruise ship *Oosterdam*: two Laysan Albatross off Curry, five Murphy Petrel's - two off Curry and three off Coos; and a COOK'S PETREL off Curry (JW et al.).

A juvenile SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS was observed off Curry on 2 Oct from the Holland American *Westerdam* Cruise Ship (N. Budnitz, D. Sonneborn). One to three COOK'S PETRELS were observed off Curry on 25 Sep from the *Starr Princess* cruise ship (JW et al.). A Manx Shearwater was seen off Cape Arago on 3 Sep (P. Low). A BROWN BOOBY was reported 30 miles off Port Orford on 8 Aug by a local fisherman (fide LM).

Three Brown Pelicans were still in Charleston, Coos on 7 Jan (TR). No other pelis were reported until 1 Feb when 12 were seen heading north in Brookings (DM) with three also headed north at Cape Arago, Coos on 5 Feb (L. Mountainspring). Turkey Vultures overwintered again in Coos--there were at least two or three in the Coquille Valley in late Nov and Dec and up to four in the Catching Slough pastures on the east side of Coos Bay throughout Dec (m.o.).

A White-faced Ibis was found at the mouth of Myers Creek, Curry on 10 Aug (C. & M. Miller). Northern Goshawks were reported in Gold Beach on 10 Aug (T. Bray) and from the Kalmiopsis Wilderness on 15 Sep (TR). Curry's 4th Broad-winged Hawk was at Floras Lake on 8 May (TR). Rough-legged Hawks were plentiful with six reported on the 23 Dec Port Orford CBC (fide J. Rogers).

Up to three Sandhill Cranes were seen during the spring: one west of Langlois, Curry 29 April (R. McKenzie), maybe the same bird from 13 May- 1 June near Cape Blanco (LM, KA), and one in the Catching Slough area of Coos Bay on 24 May (FJ Petock). A breeding-plumaged American Golden-plover on 16 June at New River, Coos was perhaps a very
Coos 4th **MOUNTAIN PLOVER** was found on the beach north of Bullard's Beach SP, Bandon on 5 Dec and lingered into at least late January of 2013 (DL /KC et al.). Curry’s 4th **Black-necked Stilt** was west of Langlois on 16 Sep (TW) and Coos 4th was on the north spit of Coos Bay 20-30 Sep (TR et al.). The only **American Avocet** reported was in the Empire area of Coos Bay on 3 Sep (P. Low). **Coos’ Upland Sandpiper** was found on the north spit of Coos Bay on 25 May (DL /KC). A Lesser Yellowlegs was found on the Coos Bay CBC on 16 Dec, single birds have overwintered in Coos Bay for the past five years (TR). The overwintering Long-billed Curlew, the first in several years, was last seen in Empire, Coos on 10 Feb; perhaps the same bird appeared to be overwintering during late fall/ winter of 2012. There were but three reports of Ruddy Turnstone, all singles, one in the spring and two in the fall. The largest flock of Red Knots was 19 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 9 May (K. Castelein); one to two overwintered in the Empire area of Coos Bay for the 5th Coos winter record (TR, J. Sullivan). There were only nine Semipalmated Sandpipers reported, all during the fall migration (m.o.). Baird’s Sandpiper migration peaked on 19 Aug when 25 were reported at three locations on the south coast (TR).

There were three juvie **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** reported; one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 3 Sep (RN, E. Clough), one from 6-8 Sep on the north spit of Coos Bay (R. Robb et al.), and a different bird at Bandon Marsh on 16 Sep (K. Castelein). Three Rock Sandpipers were north of Cape Arago on 19 Nov—the most reported in 10+ years in Coos (TR). An adult **Stilt Sandpiper** was at New River on 6 July- the 3rd Curry record (TR). The only **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** reported was at New River, Coos 31 Aug - 2 Sep (D. Beall, P. Low). The 1 April calling Short-billed Dowitcher was the earliest on record for Coos (TR).

A single Wilson’s Phalarope was at the north spit of Coos Bay on 14 May with two adults at the same location on 19 July and a single juvie on 11 Aug - there was no evidence of breeding at this site this year though (TR). Red Phalaropes are fairly rare after Dec so multiple reports in the late winter/early spring suggest this species probably at least occasionally winters off the southern Oregon coast. Observations included: 13 on the north spit of Coos Bay on 20 Jan plus several other reports from coastal locations between 13 March and 8 April with the peak number being 500 at the north spit of Coos Bay on 17 March (m.o.). A single adult Sabine's Gull was seen fishing with Caspian Terns in the harbor area in Bandon on 11 Sep (TR). A rare first-summer Glaucous Gull was around Bandon NWR from 5 Aug through at least late Sep (m.o.). It was a good year for Common Terns with multiple coastal reports.

A single adult Elegant Tern was seen on the beach near Tenmile Creek, Coos on 9 July, the earliest fall record for Coos (D. Farrar). The only other Coos report was 25-50 in Coos Bay on 6 Sep (R. Robb). Elegant Tern numbers were huge again in Curry and peaked in Gold Beach from 11-18 Sep when up to 1,200 birds were present (m.o.). A cruise ship on 17 April found 11 **PARAKEET AUKLETS**- seven off Curry and four off Coos OW et al.) and another cruise ship found a single off Curry on 25 Sep (JW et al.). A dead **Horned Puffin** was found on the north spit of Coos Bay on 23 March (RN) and two others were seen on a Charleston, Coos pelagic on 28 April (RN et al.). **Curry’s 2nd COMMON GROUND-DOVE** was near Cape Blanco from 17-27 Sep (TW et al). A **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** was photographed in Brookings on 21 Aug (S. Byland).

Two Burrowing Owls overwintered on private land at Floras Lake, Curry and were seen through 17 March (KA, J. Heaney et al.); another overwintered at the North Bend airport through early Feb (D. Lawson et al.), and a third was in Charleston 8-9 Oct (S. Love et al.). A rare spring Short-eared Owl was at Bandon Marsh NWR on 5 April (B. Bridgeland).

The peak number of **Black Swifts** was 36 at the north spit of Coos Bay on 18 May; the latest spring sighting was two on 27 June at Bandon Beach (DL /KC). **Black Swifts are rarely reported in the fall; there were two in the mountains SE of Pistol River, Curry on 11 Sep (TR).**

**Coo 2nd White-throated Swift** was at the Bethel Mtn. Quarry on 13 May (TR). Calliope Hummingbirds were seen on 12 April in Brookings (DM) and on 11 May near Eden Valley- Siskiyou NF, Coos (TR). Ash-
throated Flycatchers were seen near Cape Blanco, Curry on 31 May (TW), at Pistol River, Curry on 9 June (DM), and near Millicoma Marsh, Coos on 11 June (TR).

Coo's 1st Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found on the 31 Dec 2011 Coquille Valley CBC and was seen through 3 Jan 2012 (N. Strycker et al.) with Coos 2nd following shortly thereafter, an adult female at a Coos Bay feeder on 8 Oct (RN).

A Crested Caracara was in the New River bottoms area of Coos /Curry from 1-30 Dec for the 3rd record for both Coos and Curry (R. McKenzie et al.) This is apparently the same bird that has been present near Crescent City, CA for the past five years (A. Barron).

A gray phase Gyrfalcon was seen at Floras Lake, Curry and the adjoining ranchland in early Oct (R. McKenzie, TR). A Prairie Falcon was present in the Floras Lake pastures, Curry from 11 Feb-3 March (TR, KA, LM) and perhaps the same bird was found overwintering again on the Dec 23 Port Orford CBC (TW, TR et al.). Another overwintering Prairie was also located up Bethel Mtn. Road, Coos on Dec 30 2012 (TR).

Coo's latest ever Hammond's Flycatcher was heard calling in the Coast Range near Bridge on 25 Sep (TR). During early 2012 Curry had 1 or 2 overwintering Say's Phoebes in Brookings (DM), two near Cape Blanco (TW), and another at Floras Lake (KA et al). A Say's Phoebe at the Bethel Mtn. Quarry in far SW Coos on 1 Jan was likely a rare Coos overwinterer (TR).

Fall, 2012 was the best year on record for Tropical Kingbirds with at least 7 in Curry and 11 in Coos with dates ranging from 20 Sep through 7 Dec. Two rare spring Loggerhead Shrikes were found: one up the Winchuck River, Curry on 21 April (DM et al) and one at the mouth of New River, Coos on 22 April (DL /KC).

Coos 5th Red-eyed Vireo was found singing on the late date of 12 July near Millicoma Marsh, Coos (TR). A Gray Jay in Bandon on 19 Aug at Bradley Lake was a rare Coos lowland record (H. Schubothe). A Western Scrub-jay pair nested in Coos Bay and fledged young in June/July, the first documented record for that far NW in the county (J. Metzler).

A Horned Lark was a rare spring find at Floras Lake on 8 April (N. Strycker). Two to nine Tree Swallows were at Johnson Mill Pond, Coquille from 26 Dec 2011 through 17 Jan 2012- early arrivals or overwintering birds (TR, F. Mayer, et al.)? A Violet-green Swallow was in the same area from 26 Dec 2011 to 14 Jan 2012 for a very rare overwintering record (TR, F. Mayer) with another found on the 16 Dec Coos Bay CBC - a 1st for that count (J. Metzler, J. Heaney). Up to six Barn Swallows were seen 14-15 Jan at Johnson Mill Pond with two more at Myrtle Point, Coos on 22 Jan (TR). No more Barn Swallows were seen until late March, their historic arrival time.

Mountain Chickadees irrupted into the lowlands with several coastal records in Coos and Curry from 13 Oct through the end of the year (m.o.) A Rock Wren was seen through the top of Mt. Bolivar, Coos was likely a breeder, they have been found singing at this location several times during June/July the past few years (TR). A Mountain Bluebird first seen on 17 Dec 2011 overwintered on the Wahl ranch near Cape Blanco, a first for the south coast (TW). Mountain Bluebirds were also found in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, Siskiyou NF above 4,000' elevation on 15 July (W. Weber et al) and again on 22 July (TR). The latter record was of a pair that acted as though they were nesting nearby - a potential first nesting record for Curry.

A Townsend's Solitaire in the Eastside portion of Coos Bay on 10 Nov was a rare coastal record (TR). A Northern Mockingbird was found on the north spit of Coos Bay on 8 July, status uncertain - there is one previous breeding record from the county (DL /KC). Another Mockingbird overwintered again in Gold Beach during the fall/winter of 2011/2012 (TR et al.) and another was found up Floras Creek, Curry on 17 Dec where it appeared to be overwintering (TW et al.). A Sage Thrasher was near Floras Lake, Curry on 22 April (TR, P. Sullivan, et al.). A Brown Thrasher visited a feeder near Langlois, Curry from 24-26 May (KA et al). Another very elusive Brown Thrasher was nearby at Floras Lake, Curry from 12-16 July - perhaps the same bird (D. Beall, TR, RN)？ A Snow Bunting was at Floras Lake, Curry on 20 Oct (TR, KA, TW).

Curry's 2nd Worm-eating Warbler was seen at Pistol River 9-13 Oct (DM et al). A Nashville Warbler was seen in North Bend on 8 Dec (TR). Coos 5th Northern Waterthrush was at Millicoma Marsh on 12 Nov (TR, DL /KC). Two Common Yellowthroats overwintered on the east side of Coos Bay from 9 Dec 2011-24 Feb 2012 (J. Metzler) and at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille from 15 Jan- 17 Feb. (TR) and yet another was found on the 16 Dec Coos Bay CBC (TR).

Curry's 2nd Hooded Warbler was at Lone Ranch Wayside north of Brookings on 17 Sep (TR). A singing Northern Parula was at Floras Lake, Curry from 6-17 July (TR et al). Coos Pt verified Magnolia
Yellow-breasted Chat at its winter habitat in Coos Bay. Photo April 12 by Russ Namitz.

Coos County’s first Magnolia Warbler was caught by a cat on the Coos Bay CBC Dec. 16. Photo by Valerie Cooley.

Four birds there again in Sep (TW). Two 1” year YH Blackbirds were on the N. Spit of Coos Bay 17-26, Aug (TR). A Great-tailed Grackle was near Cape Blanco on 18 May (TW).

A Bullock’s Oriole was in Myrtle Point, Coos from 4 Jan-5 Feb (R. Foster) and another was in North Bend from 24 Dec-17 Jan 2013 (B. Griffin et al.). Curry’s 2nd BALTIMORE ORIOLE, a male, was in Brookings on 22 Aug with a female / immature Bullock’s Oriole (DM).

Cassian’s Finch was seen and heard singing in the Coast Range SE of Sitkum on 5 Sep (TR). Coos 6th Common Redpoll was observed a couple times coming to a feeder at Saunier’s Lake, Coos from 6-21 Jan (K. Johnson).

Coos 1” LAWRENCE’S GOLDFINCH was at a feeder in the Catching Slough pastures of Coos Bay on 24 May (FJ Petock) and Curry’s 4th was at a feeder near Langlois on 24-25 May (KA).

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Coos 1” LAWRENCE’S GOLDFINCH was at a feeder in the Catching Slough pastures of Coos Bay on 24 May (FJ Petock) and Curry’s 4th was at a feeder near Langlois on 24-25 May (KA).
The Emperor Goose at Tualatin River NWR stayed until 1/28. Single Brants were seen at Heron Lakes Golf Course on 1/1 (m. ob.), at Fernhill Wetlands on 10/3 (S. Nord), and at Whitaker Ponds in N. Portland from 12/1 to 12/3 (m. ob.). A Ross’s Goose at Fernhill Wetlands on 11/11 (S. Nord) was the only local report.

A small number of Surf Scoters and Red-breasted Mergansers were reported, mostly along the Columbia River or in parts of Washington County. A White-winged Scoter was at East Hayden Island on 1/30 (C. Tumer), two were at Hagg Lake 10/24 - 10/27 (G. Gillson et al), and one was at Hagg Lake 11/22 (J. Hayes).

Multnomah County’s second Black Scoter was amongst scap between the Sea Scout Base and I-205 Bridge from 12/10 - 12/21 (J. Sanford, m. ob). A male Long-tailed Duck appeared at Smith Lake 11/3 - 11/9 (B. Bradford & Lai). D. Coggswell found a male Tufted Duck at Port Westward, Columbia County, on 2/6, and many observers saw a male at Broughton Beach from 11/22 - 12/10. A male Tufted Duck x scap sighted at Broughton Beach during January and November was likely the same bird that has been seen in previous winters.

A male Tufted Duck was in a flooded field south of Fernhill Wetlands on 12/2, and presumably the same bird was found 12/31 at Jackson Bottom (S. Nord).

Single pairs of Harlequin Ducks were found at Eagle Creek, Multnomah County during May (m. ob.) and near Ramona Falls, Clackamas County on 5/5 (E. Neiwert). A Red-throated Loon at the mouth of the Clackamas River on 2/3 - 2/4 (G. Canterbury) was much more unusual than ones in Washington, Multnomah, and Columbia Counties.

At least ten Golden Eagles were reported from scattered locations during the spring, fall and winter. More unusual were an exceptional seven Swainson’s Hawks at Portland Airport on 5/29 (C. Hallet), and a Ferruginous Hawk northbound over the Troutdale Airport on 4/4 (J. Gilligan).

A Brown Pelican was seen flying south over SW Portland on 11/22 (J. Withgott) and one was at

Harris’s Sparrow at Sauvie Island, December 2. Photo by Jack Williamson.

This American Bittern found itself in unfamiliar habitat at a Portland office at dawn and did the best it could. Photo July 18 by Justine Stainaker.
Broughton Beach on 12/17 (A. Frank). An adult Black-legged Kittiwake found injured nine miles SE of Sandy, Clackamas County, was brought to a care center on 3/1 (D. Fleshman). Snowy Egret sightings came from Scappoose Bottoms on 4/ 7 (D. Coggswell, K. Moon, E. Carlson), and Smith and Bybee Lakes 11/2 — 11 /20 (T. Anderson, m. ob).

Spring shorebird highlights included single a Black-necked Stilt at Jackson Bottom on 4/24 (fide G. Gillson) and at Tualatin River NWR on 5/2 (D. Niwa), two Washington County first Whimbrels at athletic fields in Beaverton 5/19 — 5/23 (A. Frank et al), and up to eleven Whimbrels at the Crown Z Trail in Scappoose 5/21 — 5/23 (L. Pierce). The Whimbrel appearances coincided with numerous sightings in the Willamette Valley.

Fall shorebirding at Bybee Lake was productive before access was limited by a botulism outbreak. According to Metro regional government, 3000 to 4000 ducks died. At least one dead Semipalmated Plover was found. The area was closed to the public after mid-September.

Unusually low water levels at Fernhill Wetlands provided excellent shorebirding, with a Sanderling on 8/7 (S. Nord), a Ruff and flyover Whimbrel on 8/29 (G. Gillson), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper photographed 10/18 (J. Cook), and Pacific Golden-Plover 11/1 (S. Nord). Stilt Sandpipers were seen there 8/7 (S. Nord) and 10/6 — 10/14 (S. Nord, m. ob). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Bybee Lake on 8/25 (S. Nord, A. Frank). A Whimbrel was at Jackson Bottom on 7/30 (D. Manzer). Two Sanderlings were at Broughton Beach on 9/4 (R. Wilkins) and three were there on 9/16 (G. Haworth). Two distant golden-plovers were at Sturgeon Lake, Sauvie Island, on 9/28 (W. Gross). A Red Phalarope was at Broughton Beach on 12/5 (A. Frank). G. Haworth found a phalarope, presumably Red, near Canby, Clackamas County, that same day. Particularly rare in winter, a Sanderling was at Fernhill Wetlands on 12/29 (S. Nord). J. Gatchet heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Sandy River Delta on 7/12. At least one Franklin's Gull was at Smith and Bybee Lakes 8/19 — 9/29 and a Sabine's Gull was there on 9/29 (J. Withgott). A Franklin's Gull was on Sturgeon Lake, Columbia County, 9/18 — 9/28 (W. Gross). A juvenile Arctic Tern was photographed at Smith Lake on 8/19 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan, m. ob.). A roadkill Common Poorwill was found just NE of Oaks Bottom on 10/29 (fide D. Helzer).

A Snowy Owl was reported in Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, on 11/10 (H. McCoy), and at Tualatin NWR, Washington County, the next day (C. Crofton).

Single Lewis's Woodpeckers were seen in Hillsboro on 5/3 (M. Wilkinson) and at Powell Butte on 5/13 (C. and A. Hinkle, M. Scattaregia). A Prairie Falcon flew over Fernhill Wetlands on November 13th (S. Nord).

Two Gray Flycatchers were reported this spring: one at Mt. Tabor on 4/26 (T. McNamara, et al.) and one in a clear-cut on Larch Mountain 5/12 (C. and A. Hinkle). Black Phoebes were seen at nine locations. J. Lee reported an Ash-throated Flycatcher on Government Island, Multnomah County, on 8/25. Eastern Kingbirds arrived at Sandy River Delta by 5/19 (B. Archer) and nested there for the 15th consecutive year, successfully fledging three young. While the species nests at Ridgefield NWR, Sandy River Delta remains the only known breeding site in Western Oregon. An Eastern Kingbird was seen near the Troutdale Airport on 6/15 (C. and A. Hinkle, M. Scattaregia).

A Loggerhead Shrike was discovered along Swigert Road north of the Troutdale Airport on 4/1 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan) and remained until 4/6. See Oregon Birds vol. 38 no. 2 for an article on Swigert Road.

Another Loggerhead Shrike was seen at the same location on 5/1 and 5/4 (J. Fitchen) and one was photographed there on the late dates of 6/9 — 6/10 (C. and A. Hinkle, et. al.).

Andy Frank photographed a Blue Jay at Hagg Lake on 5/19. The pair of Wrentits found in 2010 continues on the west side of Sandy River Delta. While that species is slowly expanding in Yamhill County and elsewhere in Oregon, the birds at Sandy River Delta remain the only confirmed records from the Portland Metro Area. Four Clark's Nutcrackers were seen at Larch Mt. on 9/12 (J. Sanford), where they are rare but regular.

Two Violet-green Swallows, very rare after November, were seen at Bybee Lake on 12/9 (C. and A. Hinkle). One was there through the end of the month. It was a Mountain Chickadee invasion year throughout Western Oregon during the fall and winter. Two were seen at Bonneville Dam on 10/21, and one was at the mouth of Eagle Creek in late November. From late October through December there were reports of two at a feeder in Gresham, one in Troutdale, one in Wilsonville, one in Cedar Mill, one on Sauvie Island and at least seventeen at fifteen different locations in Portland; most were at feeders with the exception of one at Smith and Bybee Lakes in late October. Reports continued into 2013.
T. McNamara found a House Wren at Smith and Bybee Lakes on Nov. 5th. Two Mountain Bluebirds were at Powell Butte on 3/30 (C. and A. Hinkle, M. Scattaregia) and eight were seen there on 4/7 (K. Halliday).

T. Anderson and A. Clausing found a Northern Mockingbird at the north end of Sundial Road on 5/5. On 5/11 it was found singing along Graham Road north of the Troutdale Airport. B. Stites found a Sage Thrasher at Swigert Road on 4/3.

A Lapland Longspur was found with a flock of about 30 “Streaked” Horned Larks in the largest vacant sandy field near Kelley Point from 10/24 to at least 10/28 (T. McNamara, et.al.). The same area has hosted longspurs—including McCown’s, Smith’s, and several Lapland—in the past decade. The Snow Bunting found at the Portland Airport in 11/2011 continued until 1/20/12 (m.ob).

Homeowners in the Laurelhurst Neighborhood in NE Portland spotted an Ovenbird in their yard on 11/27. It remained into 2013, when it was first reported to the birding community. S. Carpenter and T. McNamara found a Palm Warbler in the industrial area near Kelley Point Park on 10/28. J. and W. Risser noted a late Black-throated Gray Warbler at Mt. Tabor 11/7, and E. Knight saw one at Oaks Bottom on 11/13. A Yellow Warbler and Wilson’s Warbler were with a flock of Bushtits in C. Cunningham’s N. Portland yard on 1/8. T. Love heard a singing Blackpoll Warbler in SW Portland, Washington County, on 5/13. C. Holmgren photographed an ad. male Black-throated Blue Warbler with a flock of songbirds in her N. Portland yard on 11/7.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at Rentenaar Road on Sauvie Island on 3/27 (D. Leal) and from 12/29 into the next year (B. Archer, m. ob.). A returning Harris’s Sparrow was at the same location from 2/5 — 3/25 and from 11/30 into the new year. The Harris’s Sparrow in Cornelius, Washington County, found on 12/17/11 (S. Finnegan, G. Gillson) remained until 4/14/12 (m. ob.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was found along Swigert Road near Troutdale from 4/4 – 5/11. Two Brewer’s Sparrows were noted at Swigert Road on 4/9 (J. Withgott) and were last seen on 4/14. One was with a flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows at Chinook Landing Marine Park in Fairview 4/12-4/13 (T. DeFalco, et. al.). T. DeFalco reported the only Lark Sparrow of the season, at Little Crater Lake Campground in the Cascades of Clackamas County on 5/29.

Black-throated Sparrows staged an unprecedented invasion year in Western Oregon. Two were found at the end of Sundial Road north of the Troutdale airport on 5/10 (T. Anderson) with one remaining there until 5/14. Another was in the same area on 5/28 (T. Anderson) and D. Niwa spotted one in Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, on 5/17.

A Western Tanager was seen in N. Portland on 1/29 (Fide H. Nehls). H. Horvath and M. Oppenheimer found a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Smith and Bybee Lakes 6/21.

On 7/15 E. Gropp and A. Sammis discovered a singing Pt year male Indigo Bunting near the parking area at Sandy River Delta. Last seen on 7/27, it was photographed by many. W. Gross found a female PAINTED BUNTING at Oak Island, Multnomah County on 7/20/12. If accepted it would be the 6th state record and a first for the county. C. and A. Hinkle found a calling female Cassin’s Finch at Powell Butte on 11/25.
The year 2012 was a good time for surprises in the three counties. Recent trends continued as swallows appeared in winter and American White Pelicans were present west of the Cascades. Even the February birding doldrums were broken by a Redhead at Stone Quarry Lk in Salem (Marion) seen by Jeff Harding on 1 Feb. Later, Brandon Wagner found 2 at Farmer Rd (Polk) on 17 Apr, and while birding with Bill Tice on 22 Nov at Monmouth STP (Polk).

In Marion Co, Surf Scoters showed up at two Salem ponds on 6 Nov, when Roy Gerig located 17 at the pond south of Hwy 22, viewed from Lowe's parking lot, and 12 nearby on the pond southeast of Hwy 22 and 1-5. Bill Tice found a Surf Scoter on a pond along Enterprise Rd (Polk), 15 Nov. That pond southeast of Hwy 22 and 1-5 (Marion) attracted a Pacific Loon, seen 6 Nov by Roy Gerig, who also found a Red-throated Loon at the Lowe's pond on 12 Nov. A Clark's Grebe was on the pond southeast of Hwy 22 and 1-5 when Roy Gerig saw it on 13 Nov. American White Pelicans stayed at BSNWR (Polk) from late April through May and again from August into September (m. obs.).

On 7 Oct, a Yamhill County first record Ferruginous Hawk was observed in a sheep pasture on DeLashmutt Ln. Carol Karlen and Paul Sullivan found the immature bird, which was enjoyed by m. ob. into February 2013. Of two large falcons Floyd Schrock saw along Briedwell Rd (Yamhill) on 23 Dec, one was a Prairie Falcon, while the other eluded identification. After nesting at Sheridan in recent years, White-tailed Kites were sparse in Yamhill Co, but Grant Hoyt saw one on Meadowlake Rd, 28 Nov.

Whimbrel appeared at the area refuges in May, at Baskett Slough NWR (Polk) for Bill Tice and Brandon Wagner on 11 May, and Ankeny NWR (Marion) for Hendrik Herlyn and Pam Otley on 1 May. Long-billed Curlew also appeared at ANWR, where Dave Irons saw one on 29 Apr as Michel Kleinbaum did on 2 May. While at ANWR on 9 Sept, Roy Gerig observed a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. In spring Mike Lippsmeyer found a Solitary Sandpiper at Talmadge Rd. and Brandon Wagner found 3 Solitary Sandpipers at the same location later that day. In fall migration Doug Robinson had one at BSNWR 26 Jul. Bill Tice located a Semipalmated Sandpiper at BSNWR on 20 Aug and 24 Sept. At ANWR (Marion), Roy Gerig saw a Stilt Sandpiper 24 Aug. On 26 May he found a Snowy Plover at Ankeny NWR, very uncommon for Marion.

On a 7 Nov visit to Polk Co sewage treatment ponds, Brandon Wagner saw 1 Heermann's Gull at Monmouth STP and 5 at Independence STP. Separately, Roy Gerig and Brandon Wagner both found 2 Red Phalaropes at Lowe's pond (Marion) on 18 Dec.
Calliope Hummingbirds made an unusual sweep in May, showing up at Dallas (Polk) for Woody Boston on 3 May, north of Silverton (Marion) for Pam Reed on 6 May, and at Fisherman’s Bend St Rec Area (Marion) for Jeff Harding on 12 May. Lewis’s Woodpecker is surprisingly hard to find in Polk Co, but Bill Tice saw a migrant on Zumwalt Rd, 22 Sept.

Dusky Flycatcher was a rare find for Doug Robinson at BSNWR (Polk) on 15 May. Bill Tice found the third record Polk Co Eastern Phoebe on 24 May at Airlie Rd. Bill also saw the first Polk Co record 20 years earlier. The 2012 bird persisted through 5 Jun. Say’s Phoebe turned up twice, at Simpson Rd where Bill Tice and Brandon Wagner saw one 6 Feb, and at BSNWR where Alan Contreras did likewise on 28 Dec. Red-eyed Vireo, though regular downriver in Yamhill and Marion at sites on the Willamette, has rarely been seen in Polk Co. Howard Bruner found one at the north side Luckiamute landing on 2 July.

At his home north of Willamina (Yamhill), Chris Adlam, who recently lived in eastern Canada, heard a Blue Jay on 20 and 21 Oct. There are two previous detections, most recently in 1994. On 25 Jan, Roy Gerig visited the pond by Lowe’s which has proved very productive and found a group of winter Swallows: 5 Tree Swallows, 4 Violet-green Swallows and 2 Barn Swallows.

Rock Wren isn't often reported in Marion Co; Jeremy Russell found one 28 Jun at Breitenbush Campground. Doug Robinson had the first Polk Co Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Old Fort Rd, 15 May. Bill Tice and Brandon Wagner started the year on 2 Jan with a Northern Mockingbird at Stapleton Rd (Polk).

Wrentits were observed at sites farther east in Yamhill Co than in previous years. At Yamhill Oaks Preserve on Gopher Valley Rd, Chris Adlam detected one 3 times in January. On 22 Jul, he found a pair on the opposite side of Gopher Valley. Carol Karlen and Paul Sullivan found another pair on 16 Sept along Eagle Point Rd. Three days later, Chris Adlam had one on Indian Creek Rd [19 Sept], and on 9 Oct he detected a pair on a ridge above Tindle Crk. Stefan Schlick located one along Dupee Valley Rd on 4 Nov, and on 2 Dec Chris Adlam finished out the year with a pair on Indian Crk Rd.

A Green-tailed Towhee that Jeremy Russell found on 28 Jun at Breitenbush Campground was a first Marion Co record. Polk Co saw the spring irruptive movement of Black-throated Sparrows into the Willamette Valley when Nate Richardson found one on Baskett Butte, BSNWR, on 15 May. Nearby on Co’tille Rd, a Grasshopper Sparrow showed up 15 May for Doug Robinson. Bill Tice was surrounded by 4 Lapland Longspurs at Morgan Lk (BSNWR, Polk) on 22 Sept. Three Swamp Sparrows were there for Alan Contreras on 28 Dec.

In a first record for Marion Co, a Brambling visited the Woodburn yard of Linda Long, who graciously allowed birders to view it during January. It was present till 23 Mar.

The first Yamhill Co record White-winged Crossbill came to Joan Sterling’s feeder on Willis Rd, 18 May. It was not seen again.

Common Redpoll, a species last reported in Yamhill Co in 2006 and 2007, turned up at a feeder in SW McMinnville on 2 Dec, where Adam Kotaich observed it. On 17 Dec, Bonnie Laux had one at her feeder in NW McMinnville.

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The Philomath sewage ponds (STP), Benton County’s pelagic hotspot, hosted all 3 scoter species this fall. Once a county rarity, Surf Scoters have become annual visitors to the site. This year’s showing was notable for it’s numbers and the length of their stay though. Pam Otley found 3 there on Oct. 14th and birds were sighted for the next 6 weeks with a peak of 8 reported on Oct. 28th. A White-winged Scoter was found there by members of the Bend Bird Club on Oct. 28th. It was the first county record in 25 years and stuck around 5 days to the delight of many local birders. A very rare inland Black Scoter was found there Nov. 10th by Doug Robinson. It was a first Benton Co. record.

Eurasian Green-winged Teal made a good showing in the area this year with 4 males reported. 2 were near WL Finley NWR April 30th and 1 was there Dec 12th (DR). Only the 2nd ever reported from Linn County was seen at the productive Diamond Hill wetlands during the Brownsville CBC on Dec. 26th.

A rare Tufted Duck was found at the Philomath STP on Nov. 21st (DR). A Red-throated Loon stopped there on Jan. 22nd (DR). There are only a handful of regional records. Pacific Loons also found there way to the ponds on Jan. 7th (DR) and then again on Oct. 31st (Suzanne Austin) while a 3rd graced Big Lake in the Cascades on Sept. 16th (Jeff Harding).

A Brown Pelican was a shocker for Pat Smythe as it flew over downtown Corvallis on Dec. 3rd and landed on the roof of an apartment building for a few minutes before it flew off.

A Northern Goshawk was vocalizing near Alsea Falls on June 8th (DR). Given time of year, it could have been nesting. There are fewer than five confirmed nestings of Goshawks in the Coast Range and none for Benton County.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWKS** are a rare but increasingly reported migrant in Oregon. Benton County’s first was seen Sept. 2nd (DR) over Corvallis’ Willamette Park. Swainson’s Hawks are not annual in the region so 2 late summer sightings in Linn County were a treat. One was photographed by Edmund Hertz east of Harrisburg on Aug. 18th and another found east of Peoria by Mark Nikas on Sept. 16th.

The long established Golden Eagle nest site in the Coburg Hills of southwestern Linn County was again active in 2012. It is one of only 2 active nests found west of the Cascades and north of Douglas County by the 2012 Golden Eagle Nest Survey.

The southern Willamette Valley hosts a Gyrfalcon most every winter nowadays. Will Wright found 1 in the WL Finley NWR area on March 11th and it was last
Go Ducks!

The birding experience: these mating Barrow’s Goldeneyes were found by Jeff Harding at Clear Lake, Linn Co. on May 13th, 2012. Willet, Philomath Sewage Ponds, July 29. Photo by Hendrik Herlyn.

Two summer reports of Sandhill Cranes were quite unusual. Randy Moore had 1 northbound over the Corvallis airport on June 10th and another was on the ground off Finley Rd. on July 20th (DR).

The MOUNTAIN PLOVER first found on Dec. 2, 2011 near the Corvallis airport and seen by many birders stayed into the new year with the last report coming on Jan. 4th. An American Avocet and 8 Black-necked Stilts were at the Diamond Hill Rd. wetlands in Linn County on May 12th (DR). 10 Stilts were seen by Holly Reinhard at WL Finley NWR on Apr. 9th.

An Upland Sandpiper found April 29th (DR) at a wetland south of Philomath was a remarkable occurrence. Doug reports the bird as flying around overhead and calling repeatedly. Formerly a rare breeder in eastern Oregon; there have been no recent summer reports there (but see this year’s South Central highlights for an intriguing report). Reports away from the known breeding areas were very rare and the handful of previous records from western Oregon were all from the coast.

A Willet found July 29th by Jim & Karan Fairchild at the Philomath STP was the first county record in over 20 years. Whimbrels made a good spring showing in the region with reports from 6 different sites in May. Usually they are found singly or in pairs so the 23 found May 22nd by a field crew doing Horned Lark studies near the Corvallis airport was impressive.

A Sabine’s Gull was at the Philomath STP on May 3rd (DR). Benton’s first record was found the previous spring at the same site. A rare inland Heerman’s Gull was at the Philomath STP on Nov. 7th (Brandon Wagner). A Common Tern was flying around the Philomath STP on May 22nd (DR). This species was first found in the county 4 years ago and now there are 5 records, 3 of which are from this site. All the other sightings have been from fall. 2 Arctic Terns were photographed June 7th at the Philomath STP (DR) for a county first.

Two Marbled Murrelets were vocalizing quite conspicuously as they flew right over Doug Robinson while he was conducting bird surveys south of Alsea early in the morning of July 7th. These birds were presumably nesting nearby.

Last winter’s Albany Snowy Owl was last seen on Jan. 21st. On that date John Naftzger observed it pick up a road-killed cat from the street and carry it to the roof of a nearby residence where it proceeded to dine on the feline. Summer sightings of Short-eared Owls in western Oregon are very rare in recent decades so 1 seen Aug. 29th on Glaser Rd. by Jeff Fleischer was special. There have been 2 or 3 previous breeding season reports from this site but no confirmed nesting.

A Black-chinned Hummingbird was found on Mary’s Peak Aug. 7th (DR). The 2 previous county records were in the spring. On Feb. 6th Joel Geier reported an adult Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from EE Wilson SWA. It was the bird’s 3rd consecutive winter there, having appeared its first year as a juvenile. It was last reported that winter on March 22nd. Joel found it yet again the following winter on Dec. 8th. Such winter site fidelity by a bird is certainly quite common but only apparent when done by an easily identified individual such as this one.

Eastern Kingbirds are occasional early summer wanderers to western Oregon. Benton’s 3rd was found at WL Finley NWR on July 2nd by Tim Johnson.

Singing Red-eyed Vireos were found by Joel Geier June 7th at Soap Creek Valley and Aug. 14th at the Luckiarnute State Natural Area. Last winter’s Blue Jay was seen sporadically at Corvallis’ Bald Hill Park through April 29th. A Bank Swallow was reported from the Philomath STP on Aug. 29th. There were just a handful of county records 5 years ago but they are now being reported annually in migration.
There were several Mountain Chickadee sightings in the region during fall and winter 2012 mirroring the influx throughout the lowlands of western Oregon but one seen June 14th (DR) in the Coast Range near Alsea Falls was a notable summer occurrence. Brown Thrasher is a statewide rarity and the one found on June 10th (DR) near Alsea was a county first.

A Nashville Warbler was a nice New Year’s day surprise for Randy Campbell at his home in Peoria. An American Redstart was photographed at E.E. Wilson SWA on June 9th (DR).

Don Boucher found a Clay-colored Sparrow in Albany on Nov. 29th that stayed around for several days. On June 2nd a Lark Sparrow showed up briefly for Evan Smouse on Finley Rd. A Western Tanager coming to John Lambrinos’ Corvallis suet feeder on Jan. 29th was far from the species’ typical tropic winter home. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak showed up at a private residence in western Linn County on April 5th (fide Lisa Millbank). This is a casual wanderer to western Oregon but there has been only one other reported for this region.

Very rare anywhere in western Oregon, a remarkable flock of 8 Bobolinks flew low over the observer’s head at WL Finley NWR on Sept. 10th (DR). For the first time in several years no Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found atop Mary’s Peak despite the efforts of multiple observers.

### Coming in Oregon Birds:

- The status of Parakeet Auklet in Oregon
- Anomalous hummingbird in SE Oregon
- Diet of a Snowy Owl in SE Oregon
- Expansion of W. Scrub-Jay in Oregon
- Malheur, 1943: summer in paradise Part 2
- Oregon’s first Crested Auklet
- Oregon’s first Common Eider
- A new shearwater species for Oregon
- The Status of Tropical Kingbird in Oregon
- Winter records of Empidonax in Oregon

After five years of service, Alan Contreras of Eugene will step down as editor of Oregon Birds in 2014. His successor will be announced by the OBA board in spring, 2013.

The birding experience: birding Fields, May 31, 2012. Left to right, Maitreya, David Smith, Mark Nebeker, Vjera Thompson, Bob Willison, John Gaichet, Eddie Thompson, Mary Anne Sollistrom. Photo by Alan Contreras.

The new observation blind at Malheur NWR headquarters was dedicated to the memory of Dave Marshall in September.
A pair of Blue-winged Teal was found at the Silcoos Estuary on June 26 (D. Farrar); they’re rare on the outer coast. An unusual inland spring migrant was a Surf Scoter found at Dexter Reservoir on March 14 (D. Heyerly). Black Scoters are normally only seen in small numbers along the northern Lane coast, so three birds found off the Siuslaw River north jetty on July 19 (J. Wilder) were quite unusual.

A Murphy’s Petrel and a Cook’s Petrel were seen from a repositioning cruise on April 17 (J. Withgott, et. al.). A Leach’s Storm-Petrel, rarely seen from land in Lane, was seen from Tokatee Klootichman State Wayside on November 21 (A. Contreras). An American White Pelican was found in the Oakridge area on May 20 (J. Withgott, et. al.) for a rare record away from Fern Ridge Reservoir (here after FRR).

The first summer record of Snowy Egret in the county was found on June 24 (T. Meinzen) at Delta Ponds. There were three reports of Black-crowned Night-Herons in June from the east Springfield/Mt Pisgah area – they aren’t known to breed in the county. The first two were of adults on June 15 (S. McDonald) and June 18 (M. Olson) and the third was of an immature calling and circling over the Middle Fork of the Willamette River on June 29 (A. Mickel).

White-faced Ibis are almost annual in the spring around FRR and this year was no exception with fifteen found on May 15 (R. Robb), but the bird found on September 22 (L. Gilbert) is one of only a handful of non-spring reports.

The first winter Osprey from the Oakridge area was seen on December 27 (ML Sayre, C. Ferland).

Twenty-six White-tailed Kites were found on their communal night roost on January 14 (J. Sullivan), one of the highest counts at this roost. The first Red-shouldered Hawk for the Oakridge CBC was found on January 4 (J. Carlson, T. Mickel). Two Golden Eagles were found in the valley this year – a rarity, but numbers seem to be increasing. The first was found in the FRR area on January 1 (C. Thomas) and the second was west of Junction City on April 8 (S. Kowall). The report of a pair of Peregrine Falcons seen on a ledge of a downtown Eugene building on March 9 (AJ Alberson) was most interesting – could there be nesting in downtown in the near future?

The first Lane record and second Oregon record, if accepted by the ORBC, of a Piping Plover was found near the fishing pier at the Siuslaw River south jetty on August 20 (B., D., & Z. Stotz). For the first year in about ten years Black-necked Stilts didn’t appear to be breeding at FRR. The first adults arrived on April 9
where they're almost annual.

A breeding plumage **SPOTTED REDSHANK** was found at FRR on the afternoon of July 4 (B. Uhler) for Oregon's second record. It was only seen sporadically for a few days afterward, frustrating many birders. An unusual June sighting of Willet was seen on the 9th (L. Cruz) near the Siuslaw River south jetty.

The first record of **Upland Sandpiper** for Lane was found at the south jetty of the Siuslaw River deflation plain on August 24 (A. & C. Hinkle). The first inland record of Ruddy Turnstone was from FRR on Aug 2 (N. Strycker) and was seen through most of the month.

A mostly breeding plumage **RED-NECKED STINT** was photographed near the fishing pier at the Siuslaw River south jetty on July 23 (A. Contreras, L. Bloch, T. Meinzen) — the fourth Lane record. Another possible **RED-NECKED STINT** was briefly seen at FRR on September 12 (L. McQueen, et. al).

Sixty-one Pectoral Sandpipers were counted at FRR on September 19 (J. Sullivan, E. Cantor). A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was found at FRR on September 9 (G. Fredricks); they're becoming almost annual at this location.

The 3rd /4th Lane record for **CURLEW SANDPIPER** was found at Heceta Beach on August 14 (A. & T. Mickel). **Stilt Sandpipers** were sporadically reported at FRR with the first report on August 12 (D. Schrouder, D. Arendt & N. Strycker) and the last on September 2 (R. Robb). A **Reeve** was found at FRR on July 10 (J. Sullivan), which is an unusually early record for this almost annual migrant.

A record high count of twenty-one Wilson's Phalaropes was found at FRR on July 7 (A. Hinkle). High winds blew large number of migrating Red Phalaropes onto the beaches and sheltered bodies of water near the coast in mid-March (m.ob.).

The only summer record of Sabine's Gull for Lane was found July 29 (R. Robb) at Heceta Beach and a rare summer record of Bonaparte's Gull was found at FRR on July 13 (B. McKenzie). Another rare summer record is of an Arctic Tern found at the mouth of the Siletcoos R. on June 26 (D. Farrar). W. Hoffman counted sixty-one Rhinoceros Auklets at the mouth of the Siuslaw on July 29, a very high number.

A Snowy Owl was found near the mouth of the Siletcoos River on March 15 (J. Burgess) — was it one that wintered locally or one migrating north after spending the winter further south?

For the second year in a row, a large flock of Common Nighthawks was observed in the Cheshire area at dusk — this year forty were seen on August 16 (M. Fix). The first documented Black Swift nest for Oregon was found at Salt Creek falls on July 20 (E. Horvath). Calliope Hummingbirds made another good showing this year to feeders in the Willamette Valley with eleven reports (m. ob.). A very late Rufous Hummingbird was at a feeder in the north River Road area of Eugene on November 16 (M. Rudolph). A rare spring Lewis's Woodpecker was found at Skinner Butte Park on April 22 (B. Green).

An Acorn Woodpecker was found in the Brays Point area in coastal Lane on June 20 (fide D. Pettey), were they’re quite rare. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found in Southeast Eugene on January 1 (T. Meinzen, et. al) and two were found on Skinner Butte Park on April 22 (S. & S. Gordon) for a rare spring record.

A **Gray Flycatcher** was found on Skinner Butte Park on May 1 (R. Robb, D. Arendt). A Say's Phoebe was found throughout January (m. ob.) in the area north of the Eugene Airport for a rare winter record. Another Say's Phoebe was found at FRR on November 3 (A. Prigge, B. Hunter) for a rare fall record.

The first of four reports of **Tropical Kingbird** was seen on October 20 (A. Contreras, D. Farrar, T. Meinzen) at the south jetty of the Siuslaw River deflation plain. The next two were found on November 1 (A. Prigge, B. Hunter) along the Baker Beach road and the last was found at Heceta Beach on November 20 (S. Moore).

A rare coastal **Western Kingbird** was found along the Siuslaw River on May 19 (D. Farrar). About the ninth Lane
record for Eastern Kingbird was found at the Siuslaw River south jetty on August 31 (D. Beall).

A Loggerhead Shrike was found at the Siuslaw River south jetty on May 7 (S. Maulding, S. Hill) — they're rarely found along the Lane coast. A Blue Jay was found in Marcola on April 25 (D. Stewart), the same house one had been frequenting in the fall of 2011.

There were reports of Horned Larks during the breeding season at two different locations in the county. The first location was at the East Coyote Unit of FRR on April 1 & 8 (R. Robb) and July 31 (L. Norgen), an area where they've been reported before during the breeding season. The second was Bohemia Mountain, SE of Cottage Grove, on July 21 (M. Persmark).

Five Barn Swallows were found at FRR on February 19 (E. & V. Thompson) for another late winter/early spring report in western Oregon. Mountain Chickadees showed up in small numbers throughout the "lowlands" of Lane all the way to the coast this fall through the end of the year (m. ob.).

The rare white form of the Varied Thrush was again seen in Lane, with this record being from the Heceta Beach area on December 21 (D. Pettey). The Northern Mockingbird that wintered in Alvadore was last seen on April 16 (D. Brown) and returned to the same yard on October 25 (A. Prigge, B. Hunter). There were two "summer" reports of Northern Mockingbirds from Lane — the first was from Creswell on July 1 (N. Strycker) and the second was at Skinner Butte Park on August 29 (L. McQueen).

Four Lapland Longspurs were reported from the Siuslaw River north jetty area on November 11 (D. Pettey) and a Snow Bunting was found on the Siuslaw River south jetty on May 20 (J. Carlson, et. al.) for a rare spring record.

Orange-crowned Warblers were found in higher than normal numbers during November & December (m. ob.). A Nashville Warbler was found in the Alton Baker Park area on December 31 (P. Sherrell), for a rare winter record.

A Cerulean Warbler was reported from SE Eugene on April 28 (F. Munz), it would be the first Oregon record if accepted by the OBRC. A possible Yellow Warbler was found at Bloomburg Park on December 26 (D. Brown) for a very rare winter record. Stonefield Beach seems like an unusual location for a Palm Warbler, but one was found there on November 11 (N. Strycker).

A rare wintering Black-throated Gray Warbler was found at Perkins Peninsula Park along FRR on December 28 (J. Siporin). A Townsend's Warbler was found near Creswell on July 1 (N. Strycker) for a rare summer Willamette Valley record. Two Hermit Warblers were mentioned at the monthly Lane County Audubon Society meeting in February, one from SW Eugene and the other from Springfield. Another Hermit Warbler was observed at a FRR area feeder on December 15 & 29 (M. Nikas), for three wintering reports. There were also three reports of Wilson's Warbler during December in Lane. The first on the 5th in the Hendricks Park area (J. Siporin), the second was during the Florence CBC on December 15 (D. Pettey, F. Chancey), and the last was in west Eugene on December 17 (D. Clark).

The first report of a Brewer's Sparrow for coastal Lane was found on May 12 (N. Strycker) at Heceta Head. An unusual feeder bird was the American Tree Sparrow found in the north River Road area of Eugene on February 18 (B. Leathers). On March 11, Rob Lewis reported having a Western Tanager winter at his Eugene feeder. Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported during the year. The first was in the FRR area on May 28 (T. Gallagher), a normal time for them to appear. The second was found on July 3 in Eugene (J. Siporin), a very rare time for one to be found. Two wintering Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported — the first was found in southeast Eugene on January 11 (J. Siporin) and the second on November 25 in west Eugene (D. Clark). A male Indigo Bunting was found in Alton Baker Park on June 2 (M. Persmark, R. Hammond, J. & R. Barnes) and was only seen that day. Also found in the same area on the same day was a singing hybrid male Indigo X Lazuli Bunting (M. Persmark, R. Hammond, J. & R. Barnes) and it stay around on territory for a while.

A Great-tailed Grackle was found at FRR on July 7 (A. & T. Mickel) for about the eighth Lane record. Red Crossbills were recorded in large numbers throughout western Lane during the summer and fall (m. ob.). A White-winged Crossbill was found in the River Road area of Eugene on December 22 (A. Montgomery) for a rare valley record. A rare find on the immediate coast was a Lesser Goldfinch at the Tenmile Creek area on November 2 (A. Contreras).
There were a few small groups of Greater White-fronted Geese wintering in the county. The largest
groups of non-flyovers were forty, April 30 Reedsport
(Keith Phifer); and twenty October 12 inland (Jan
Allen). Two Snow Geese, March 25, were seen near
Sutherlin (K. Phifer). One was also reported wintering
through March near Dean Creek (Russ Namitz). One
Brant was seen slumming with five hundred Cackling
Geese, December 19 near Wilbur (Bob & Jean Pollock).
That was the third inland county record.

Tundra Swans were viewed only a few times: Two
on January 5 at Cooper Creek (Jim Hein), two on
January 10 at Plat I (Ron Maertz), possibly the same
birds. One seen January 26 Elkton (Jim Scott) and one
on March 10 Oakland (Ken Phifer). Blue-winged Teal
were reported twice; one on June 4 at Stewart Park (K.
Phifer) and two September 7 at Diamond Lake (Laura
& Steve Paulson). Only one Redhead was reported
December 15 Oakland (Jim Arneson, Mikeal Jones). A
nice mixed flock of thirty five of both Goldeneyes,
January 11, was seen on a short stretch of the North
Umpqua River (R. Maertz).

Very few sightings of Ring-necked Pheasant; and it
is good to see one introduced species doing poorly. A
lonely non-breeding Common Loon, June 10 was
fishing at Plat I (R. Maertz).

Several nice finds were seen from the ocean ships.
Only the second county sighting for Laysan Albatross,
October 25 (Barb Carlson). Other ship sightings were
Short-tailed Albatross, May 17 (Todd Hass) and
Murphy's Petrel April 17, both the fourth county
record.

An American Bittern was reported March 17 at
Ford’s Pond (B. & J. Pollock). An amazing six White-
tailed Kites on February 24 near Drain (J. Dawning).
Count yourself lucky to see more than two in a day in
Douglas County.

Late Osprey were seen, two November 14 on North
Umpqua River (Mary Mizell), and December 16 at
Canyonville (Julie Edmonds). Ferruginous Hawk
appeared for the county sixth and seventh time;
September 15 Roseburg (Voyla Steves) and end of
November through the present in the Melrose area
(Matt Hunter). Is this the same bird? Only one Rough-
legged Hawk was seen February 24 near Yoncalla (Joni
Dawning). An unconfirmed report of a Gyr Falcon,
October 15, on the Umpqua River near Tyee; a weird
time and place, (Jim Heaney).

A nice inland sighting; Black-bellied Plover, April
22 Ford’s Pond (K. Phifer). A Pacific Golden-Plover was
the third county record on June 24 on north beach (D.
Farrar). Two seldom reported Solitary Sandpipers were
seen April 22, Ford’s Pond (K. Phifer) A surprise coastal
visitor, a Long-billed Curlew, on May 15 north beach
(Daniel Farrar).

The only Ruddy Turnstone reported was
September 15 on Triangle Jetty, Winchester Bay (R.
Maertz). Another good inland find was a
Semipalmated Sandpiper, September 23 at Plat I (David
Irons).

An amazing one hundred five Wilson’s Snipe on
January 5 were at Cooper Creek (J. Hein). Two Red-
necked Phalarope on August 27 were at Diamond Lake
(R. Maertz). Single inland Bonaparte’s Gull May 31 at
Toketee Lake (John Amorosa), and November 13 at Ford's Pond (B. & J. Pollock). One to two inland Herring and Thayer's Gull have appeared both winters, January-February, November-December, in Roseburg. A Glaucous Gull seen January 15 at Gardiner (K. Phifer).

A wayward Caspian Tern, June 27, was hanging at Diamond Lake (R. Maertz). Some great alcid finds include Parakeet Ankle January 16 Winchester Bay (K. Phifer) and April 17 by the cruise ship mob. These were the first and second county records. A Horned Puffin was seen that same day by the cruise ship group. An interesting surprise were the two Monk Parakeet on December 15 at a residence across from Ford's Pond (D. & E. Paulson). A neighbor said they were attempting to build a nest and had been around for a month. They are still being seen.

An unconfirmed report of a Snowy Owl around November 30 near Yoncalla was seen by several high school students. Tiller Ranger District reported finding as many Barred Owls as Spotted Owls on their surveys. The only Short-eared Owl reported was March 17 at Dixonville (K. Phifer).

A late Common Nighthawk was heard September 29 near Winston (Laura Mountainspring). A solo Common Poorwill on July 1 at Thorn Prairie (M. Hunter) morphed into a pair July 3 (R. Maertz). A Black-chinned Hummingbird was reported May 18 in Winston (L. Mountainspring). A Calliope Hummingbird May 8 in Winston (Carrie Ross), also May 11 (L. Mountainspring). Again on May 18 (Kerry Ross, Rachel Smith). A pair mating May 15 on the Apple Fire (North Umpqua Ranger District) under 2000 feet elevation (R. Maertz).

Two out-of-season Hammond's Flycatcher on December 15 at Cleveland Rapids Park (K. Phifer). Say's Phoebe appeared January 5 at Ford's Pond (Tom Becher), March 4 at Dean Creek (R. Maertz), another March 7 at Dixonville (K. Phifer), then again on August 31, north beach (D. Farrar).

The fifth county Blue Jay was seen at Riverforks Park in January, (via Voyla Steves). Two reports of out-of-season Barn Swallow: Two on January 12 Winchester Bay (R. Maertz) and one on January 13 at Stewart Park (K. Phifer). Like the rest of western Oregon, Mountain Chickadees had quite a showing in the valleys with at least a dozen reported. Oak Titmouse seen on May 18 in Winston (L. Mountainspring), and two on August 13 at Tiller (Julie Edmonds).

A Gray Catbird was found June 11 beyond Galesville Dam for the fourth county record (D. Irons, Shawnee Finnegan). Two sightings of Northern Mockingbird (the same bird?); one on April 18 on the north beach and on May 15 Winchester Bay (both D. Farrar).

A Magnolia Warbler, only the second county sighting, was seen August 27 at Diamond Lake (R. Maertz). A rare inland Palm Warbler (my county nemesis!) was found on October 7 at Metz Hill (J. Hein). A Hermit Warbler was an early winter surprise on December 17 on Oakhill Road (M. Hunter).

The only report of a California Towhee was August 17 at Myrtle Creek (Aim Chamberlain). Three Chipping Sparrows were counted on the CBC December 15 on Cleveland Rapids (K. Phifer). Brewer’s Sparrow was reported April 19 at Metz Hill (J. Hein). A late Vesper Sparrow was seen on November 25 in Winston (L. Mountainspring).

Several tiny populations of Grasshopper Sparrow were found scattered around the valleys in May and June. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared on May 19 at an Elkton feeder (Paula Swanson). This is the fourth county record. A male Black-headed Grosbeak was a late visitor on November 18 in Winston (L. Mountainspring).

There was only one report of Tricolored Blackbird, on March 31 Metz Hill (J. Hein). The peak of the short invasion of Pine Siskin, probably around three hundred birds, was on November 13 in Roseburg (D. & E. Paulson).
On March 1 Jill Wallace spotted a **Brant** on the Rogue River near White Horse Park near Grants Pass.

Two Long-tailed Ducks and a Pacific Loon were at Lost Creek Reservoir in the fall and winter. Pepper Trail found the loon on October 12 and Jim Hostick discovered the Long-tailed Ducks, November 3.

American White Pelicans were seen in December at both Agate Lake and Emigrant Lake. Ralph and Linda Browning watched a Swainson’s Hawk soaring in Medford on April 26.

On August 9 Ralph Browning had a **COMMON GALLINULE** at Agate Lake.

Gary Shaffer reported a **SNOWY PLOVER** at Kirtland Ponds on May 26. A Burrowing Owl was up on Lower Table Rock this fall and winter, seen by Tim Johnston on September 22 and on Christmas Day. Sighting of wintering Burrowing Owls has diminished over the last few years as the valley’s human population has expanded.

An **overwintering Hammond’s Flycatcher** was reported by Marcus Lorusso in January from along Bear Creek near North Mountain Park in Ashland. Great-tailed Grackle sightings are becoming more common in spring and fall throughout the valley. There were numerous reports from Avenue G pond in the spring, at least three were at Agate Lake in early June and Forrest English found five at Emigrant Lake on August 27.

Pygmy Nuthatches were also reported a number
of times in 2012. Multiple reports came from Mt. Ashland by Bob and Bettina Arrigoni and Vince Zauskey. Jeff Tufts found them on Roxy Ann. Twelve were found in the Colesin Valley in early December.

On December 4 Harry Fuller reported a PHAINOPEPLA at Emigrant Lake. It appeared to be a hatch year bird and was only seen for a few days. Another hatch year bird, a Wilson’s Warbler banded by KBO in November lingered into December at Willow Wind School.

At least two Black-throated Sparrows were found by Pepper Trail on May 28 southwest of Pilot Rock in the Cascade-Siskiyou N.M. The birds were seen and heard singing into June by many observers, possibly an indication of breeding.

A Harris’s Sparrow was seen east of Grants Pass on November 28 by Phil Hicks. Another Harris’s was found on the Medford CBC by Dick Ashford, Bob Hunter, Brian Barr and Dom DiPaolo.

Denise C. had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at her feeders outside of Phoenix during the third week of June. A male Indigo Bunting was heard and seen by John Alexander and a group of KBO banding interns along Pilot Rock Rd. on May 19.

Russ Namitz found a RUSTY BLACKBIRD near Ashland High School on December 25; it spent the winter in that area. A likely first winter Bullock’s Oriole visited Eric Setterberg’s feeders in Ashland on December 31.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (mostly “Hepburn’s” L. t. littoralis) were reported a number of times during 2012. A spectacular number of approximately 350 birds were on Mt. Ashland near the ski area in February. They were first noticed by Goly Ostvar who inquired of Pepper Trail about what they might be. Some photographs taken by Frank Lospalluto revealed one or two brown-cheeked birds, nominate tephrortis (see following page).
The vast swarm of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches that visited Mt. Ashland in early February is shown here. Inset of flying birds below right shows that two forms were present. In addition to "Hepburn’s" L.t. littoralis, at least two were from the tephrocotis group, a brown-cheeked cluster. They are probably nominate tephrocotis from the B.C. Rockies, since that form is highly migratory, but could be the Sierra form, generally nonmigratory. The only other brown faced form is the wallowa form, and this bird is not dark enough.

All photos Feb. 9
by Frank Lospalluto

Frank Lospalluto counted 348 and 353 birds in this flock. Alan Contreras counted 355. How many do you count?
Small numbers of Gr. White-fronted Geese were detected at sites along the Columbia River, including FOS 2 at Cascade Locks Park, Hood River Co. 3 Sep and 15 at 'The Hook' at the Hood River waterfront 3 Nov. Eight White-fronts were found on the Tygh Valley (Wasco Co.) CBC 26 Dec. Two Snow Geese were counted on the Tygh Valley CBC 26 Dec. A single Brant (nigricans) was foraging among Canada Geese at Deschutes River SP, Sherman Co. 13-14 Jan, seen again 23 Jan. Tundra Swan reports include one at Cascade Locks 2 Nov and another single on the Columbia R. near Arlington, Gilliam Co. 18 Nov.

A single Wood Duck on Tygh Creek was counted on the Tygh Valley (Wasco Co.) CBC 26 Dec. One Eurasian Wigeon was picked out from a flock of 380 Am. Wigeon at Blackberry Beach, Cascade Locks 06 Nov, seen again 19 Nov. Two Canvasback were at Rufus Landing Rec. Area, Sherman Co. 28 Oct. Two Redhead were seen among a variety of ducks at ponds near the junction of Hwy. 97 and Von Borstel Rd. (Sherman Co.) 24 Apr. One was located at a pond near the junction of Hwy. 97 and Rutledge Rd, (also in Sherman Co.) 9 Sep.

Two lingering Ring-necked Ducks were found at the wetlands along Price Rd in Wasco Co. 10 June. Peak numbers for Greater Scaup on the Columbia R. include 200 on Lake Celilo (Wasco Co.) and 178 at Cascade Locks (Hood River Co.) 6 Nov. A few Harlequin Ducks were reported from the Hood R. estuary and port in late Nov and early Dec. A female was at Tucker Co. Park just SW of Hood River 25 June.

A lingering first-year male Common Goldeneye was found on the lower Deschutes R. just upstream from the campground at Heritage Landing, Wasco Co. 27 May and seen again 3 June, observed from the Sherman Co. side. A few Barrow’s Goldeneye were reported during the colder months, but one at the mouth of the Deschutes R. on 23 June was noteworthy. A female Red-breasted Merganser put in an appearance at the Hood River mouth 8 Apr.

In addition to those reported from the Wasco Co. oak-pine belt (including two family groups), two Mountain Quail were seen north of Condon, Gilliam Co. 1 July. Gray Partridges were reported from Wasco (high count of 23 from the Kingsley Rd area 29 Dec) and Gilliam Counties. Only two sightings of Ruffed Grouse were reported: two birds at Camas Prairie in SW Wasco Co. 22 July, and one from the Mark Hatfield Trail cast of the town of Hood River 31 Dec. Four juv. Sooty Grouse were seen near Camas Prairie 16 Sep. A handful of other reports of this species came from Hood River Co. An estimated 30 Wild Turkeys (probably more) were occupying their roost in the pines across from the Wasco Co. Fairgrounds in Tygh Valley 1 Dec.

Common Loons away from the Columbia R. included three at Pine Hollow Res. near Wamic, Wasco Co. 1 Dec. One remained at that location 26 Dec. There were a few reports of Red-necked Grebes on the Columbia R from Cascade Locks to The Dalles in Nov and Dec with five birds at The Dalles Dam (on the Washington side) on 16 Dec. An Eared Grebe was seen at Cascade Locks 19 Mar, another at the sewage ponds in Condon, Gilliam Co. 11 Sep and one at the Hood R. mouth 30 Dec. There were few reports of Clark’s Grebe. One was off ‘The Hook’ (Hood River) 17 Nov. Another was at The Dalles Dam 16 Dec.

Am. White Pelicans were sighted from The Dalles eastward along the Columbia R. from April through early Oct, with most occurrences involving fewer than 20 birds. A lingering Great Egret was found along the Biggs-Rufus Hwy. (Sherman Co) 1 Dec. Up to nine Black-Cr. Night-Herons occupied the Hood R. estuary, with the peak number found on 13 Dec. Two juv. were at the wetlands along the Biggs-Rufus Hwy. 28 Aug.

A single BROAD-WINGED HAWK graced the hawkwatch effort at Bonney Butte, Hood- River Co. 22 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk reports include one at the mouth of Chonoveth Creek just NW of The Dalles 23 June and one at Bonney Butte 16 Sep. A Ferruginous Hawk was seen on nest near Cedar Springs Lane, Gilliam Co. 30 May. One was found along Tygh Ridge Rd, Wasco Co. 01 Dec. A Virginia Rail was reported from Deschutes River SP, Sherman Co. 28 Oct. A Sora was found at a pond near Springer Mill Rd SW of Dufur, Wasco Co. 25 May. Up to four Sandhill Cranes summered at Camas Prairie, Wasco Co., but no offspring were reported seen.

Black-necked Stilt and Am. Avocet were reported from Willow Creek WMA, Gilliam Co. 28 Apr (no numbers given). A Solitary Sandpiper was photographed at Moro sewage ponds, Sherman Co. 28 July. One was reported
from the same location 9 Sep. Two Long-billed Curlews were reported from upper Blalock Canyon, Gilliam Co 8 Apr. One Semipalmated Sandpiper and a Baird's Sandpiper were at the Condon Sewage ponds (Gilliam Co) 2 Sep. Fifteen Dunlin lingered on the Oregon side of the Columbia R. near The Dalles Dam (Wasco Co) 16 Dec. Two first-cycle Bonaparte's Gulls were a bit of a surprise on the late date of 27 May at Deschutes River SP.

A wandering Band-tailed Pigeon was spotted in Tygh Valley 26 Dec. A Long-eared Owl was found in far southern Gilliam Co 16 Feb. Two Short-eared Owls showed up on the Mikkalo (Gilliam Co) BBS 24 June. There were a few reports of White-throated Swifts from the Deschutes R. canyon May-June with 10 the maximum count.

An amazing total of 113 Lewis's Woodpeckers were counted on the Tygh Valley CBC 26 Dec. A male Acorn Woodpecker was photographed at Tom McCall Preserve near Rowena, Wasco Co 20 May. A hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen at Bonney Butte, Hood River Co 30 Sep. American-three-toed Woodpeckers were found nesting (cavity with begging young) along the 643A trail at Cloud Cap on the NE flank of Mt. Hood, Hood River Co 14 July.

A presumed family group of Peregrine Falcons (two adults and a juvenile) was encountered at the lower Deschutes R. canyon at Heritage Landing, Wasco Co 28 July. One bird was reported from the Mark Hatfield Trail east of Hood River 23 June. The above location also provided looks at an Ash-throated Flycatcher on 23 June, in what is probably the westernmost extent of typical habitat for this species on the Oregon side of the Columbia R. An Eastern Kingbird was photographed at the mouth of the Hood R. 5 July. A well-described Hutton's Vireo was reported from Wilson Rd near Mosier, Wasco Co 01 Jan.

Western Scrub-Jays continue to populate the eastern Columbia R. gorge and the Wasco Co ranching country, with 77 reported on the Tygh Valley CBC 26 Dec. Bank Swallows were found nesting along the Deschutes R. at Clarno; also along the lower Deschutes near the Columbia R. and at the well-known colony along Hwy 197 south of The Dalles. At least 60 adults were present at the latter location mid-May.

The Mountain Chickadee irruption of fall 2012 included several reports from Sherman Co. Two Pygmy Nuthatches were found along North-South Road NW of Tygh Valley, Wasco Co 13 May. One was counted on the Tygh Valley CBC 26 Dec. An apparently wintering Rock Wren was found near Maupin, Wasco Co 26 Dec. The westernmost report of Canyon Wren came from the Mark Hatfield Trail east of Hood River 31 Dec.

Thrushes were present in healthy numbers in the region through Dec 2012, with several late fall reports of Hermit Thrush from the Deschutes R. SP/Heritage Landing area. Six Hermits and 100 Varied Thrushes were counted on the Tygh Valley CBC in several inches of snow. A wandering Sage Thrasher appeared at the Hood River waterfront 29 Sep.

Two American Pipits were surprising finds on the Tygh Valley CBC on the morning of 26 Dec when two single birds were located within minutes at separate locations roughly seven miles apart, foraging in areas near water that were free from snow.

Two Lapland Longspurs were found feeding on the ground with a small flock of House Finches in the gravel pans near the entrance to the Fort Dalles Rodeo grounds, Wasco Co 17 Nov. An adult male Black-and-White Warbler was seen among a pulse of migrant passerines at Deschutes R. SP, Sherman Co 23 Sep. A lingering Yellow-breasted Chat was detected at the above location 9 Sep.

One Brewer's Sparrow was reported at the tip of 'The Hook' at the Hood River waterfront 29 Sep. A singing Black-throated Sparrow was at Government Cove in Cascade Locks, Hood River Co 10 May. For the second time in the past three years, Savannah Sparrow was found on the Tygh Valley CBC 26 Dec, one was photographed. Two May reports of Grasshopper Sparrow came from Fourmile Rd near Arlington, Gilliam Co. A Lincoln's Sparrow was found in Hood River 30 Dec. Three White-throated Sparrows were reported visiting a backyard feeder in The Dalles 2-7 Nov, and four were counted on the Tygh Valley CBC 26 Dec. A Harris's Sparrow was a surprise find among the feeder birds at a motel in Maupin, Wasco Co 26 Dec (photo). This is the second TVCBC record in the three-year history of the count.

Tricolored Blackbirds have been reported occupying a cattail marsh/ pond along Juniper Flat Rd NW of Maupin, Wasco Co, with up to 100 birds present by July (photos). One was reported among a flock of blackbirds and starlings on Oak Springs Rd north of Maupin 26 Dec. Tricoloreds were also reported from the Victor Rd area (about three miles west of Juniper Flat Rd) during spring and summer 2012. A probable female Great-tailed Grackle was seen as it flew across the highway in front of the observer near the I-84 / city center exit in The Dalles, Wasco Co 24 June. A flock of 22 Common Redpolls was found in Tygh Valley, Wasco Co 26 Dec. Six Gray-crowned Rosy-finches were seen hopping around the rocks along Hwy 197 near the head of the canyon just south of Tygh Ridge summit 26 Dec.

There was an intriguing report of a Barred Owl at Olex, Gilliam Co 21 Feb. This is an area with very few trees surrounded by rolling, open wheat fields and grazing land. It may be a county first.
Though our area is in the high desert, unusual water birds are well represented in any annual report. Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese appeared sporadically during the spring, fall and winter seasons. A regional record of 178 Cackling Geese was reported from Crook County in January. Trumpeter Swans were noted from Deschutes and Crook counties. As many as 10 different (presumably) Eurasian Wigeons were reported from the region in 2012. Greater Scaup reports continue a decade-long climb with over 10 sightings and a top number of 70 birds seen at Wickiup Reservoir in Deschutes County.

Surf Scoters were spotted at 5 different locations in late fall while White-winged Scoters were counted at 3 locations. Wickiup Reservoir produced a Black Scoter on Nov. 6 for a first Deschutes County record. Long-tailed Ducks were noted at the Prineville Sewer Ponds, Wickiup Reservoir and Suttle Lake. Reports of 5 different Red-breasted Mergansers were received with the lion’s share coming from Wickiup Reservoir. While not a rare species, a total of 30,000 American Coots found on Wickiup Reservoir in October is certainly worth noting. Pacific Loons were seen at Wickiup and Suttle Lake. Mirroring the Greater Scaup records, Horned Grebe numbers seem to be on a long-term incline with up to 25 individuals being seen at 7 locations. Red-necked Grebe reports came in from Wickiup and Ochoco Reservoirs. Pelican numbers have been way up the last few years but a lone American White Pelican staying through the end of the year in Crook County was completely unexpected. American Bittern continues to be a hard bird to find in our region with only a single 2012 record from the area.

Shorebirds and gulls can produce some interesting sightings in our region. Two spring and 1 fall sighting of Black-bellied Plover were of note while a single and very unusual Snowy Plover report came in from Hatfield Lake near Bend on June 7 (2nd County Record).

While common throughout most of the year, a January Spotted Sandpiper in Jefferson County was abnormal. Whimbrel is far from annual in our region so the lone bird at the Redmond Sewer Ponds in July created a mini rare bird alert. A few days earlier, the region’s only Marbled Godwit was located at the same site. A single Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported from Hatfield Lake. A Thayer’s Gull was spotted in Bend and 4 Franklin’s Gulls were found at Crook County’s Houston Lake.

A Heermann’s Gull was discovered on Wickiup Reservoir in October and 7 Herring Gulls were found locally during the year. A December Mew Gull turned up in Bend for a rare county record.

Red-shouldered Hawks now appear to be annual in our area with a total of 8 birds seen in all three counties and during every season. A very unusual spring sighting of Broad-winged Hawk occurred near Sisters on May 11 and two were seen on the East Cascades Audubon Society’s fall migration count north of Sisters. Peregrine Falcons continue their comeback.
run with birds being reported in every month except January and February.

Owl highlights include Great Gray Owls in all 3 counties and a Burrowing Owl in Crook County. Barred Owl was seen no fewer than 9 times (including 3 local CBCs).

A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was located in Bend on July 29 but no Costa’s Hummingbirds were reported in Bend this year (they have been almost annual for many years). Anna’s Hummingbirds continue to defy reason by being present during the winter season in Bend despite very cold temperatures. Black Swifts were seen over the Redmond Sewer Ponds and near Tumalo Falls west of Bend. A total of 5 American Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the region in 2012. A Blue Jay stayed most of the winter in the Tumalo Falls area west of Bend.

On the passerine front, some very interesting sightings occurred during the year. A Bewick’s Wren was found on the Prineville CBC for only the 3rd county record and another was found in the spring in northern Deschutes County. A Least Flycatcher was seen by many observers at Calliope Crossing near Sisters in May. A singing Cordilleran Flycatcher was heard west of Bend. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were tallied along the Crooked River east of Prineville Reservoir where they have been annual for quite some time in the fall. Veerys were found nesting near Sisters in the spring and the winter brought a single Bohemian Waxwing sighting in January.

Oregon’s 4th WOOD THRUSH was found by Don Sutherland at Green Ridge on Sep. 21. This is the first record since 1980 and is under consideration by the OBRC. A Tennessee Warbler was found in Bend’s Sawyer Park on May 20 while a Blackpoll Warbler spent a few days at Hatfield Lake east of Bend around the same time. The region’s first YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER appeared briefly at Calliope Crossing on September 1. A lone Black-and-White Warbler showed up north of Tumalo in Deschutes County on August 25. There was a very cooperative Chestnut-sided Warbler at Indian Ford Campground near Sisters from June 24 through July 22 and a much less cooperative Magnolia Warbler found east of Bend on June 6.

Two different Summer Tanagers were located east of Madras on separate dates in the spring. A Clay-colored Sparrow spent a week in a neighborhood west of Bend in June. A Black-throated Sparrow was seen at Smith Rock on June 4-14 for an unusual county record. A wintering Savannah Sparrow was located on the Redmond CBC. A fall Swamp Sparrow showed up along the Deschutes River and a Harris’s Sparrow was found nearby a few weeks later.

Over a dozen White-throated Sparrow reports came in during the spring and fall which is certainly above average. In late December, Lapland Longspurs were discovered NE of Bend near the community of Powell Butte. Two different Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were discovered in late May / early June. A Lazuli Bunting was seen at a feeder on April 22 for the earliest arrival record for this species. Bobolinks were recorded breeding in eastern Crook County at their historic site and Tricolored Blackbirds remained relatively easy to find in nearly all seasons in the Prineville area. Gray-crowned Rosy-finches appeared at their annual fall site atop Grizzly Mountain in Crook County as well as a new location near Powell Butte.

Pine Grosbeak is very rare in our area so the small flock of 4-6 that was seen by multiple observers in January and February was very gratifying. These sightings occurred along a spur road off of Skyliner’s Road, west of Bend. Even more impressive was the flock of nearly 100 White-winged Crossbills that was found in the same area and timeframe as the Pine Grosbeaks. Common Redpolls were seen around the Bend area in January and December of 2012.
Two Bewick’s Swans were well seen Feb. 17, north of Klamath Falls, at Cove Point (KTS). A fall season Surf Scoter, 28 Oct., was on Upper Klamath Lake (B. Scoles, ph).

Mountain Quail were encountered away from their normally reported locations with 1 calling, east of Willow Creek Campground, North Warner Mountains, 21 June, for a rare Lake Co. report (KTS), and some in Klamath Co. were further north than normal: 2, Lonesome Dove Resort, along Williamson R., near Chiloquin, (M. Moser, ph), and 1 heard calling, June 16, in the old Lone Pine Burn, north of Chiloquin, where there is considerable manzanita understory with pine (KTS).

Two Red-necked Grebes were seen 25 Nov. and one continued until Klamath Falls CBC, 15 Dec., at Putnam’s Point, Upper Klamath Lake, for very late dates (K. Watson, ph, KTS); 1. Summer Lake, Lake Co., 6 June, (MSL). White-tailed Kites usually have short stays in the Basin, however, one first reported 12 Oct., at Klamath Marsh, was seen to the end of the period and appears to be attempting to winter (J. Omer, M. Obs.). Oregon’s 6th CRESTED CARACARA was on Military Crossing Rd., Klamath Marsh, on Aug. 20 and reported to Dan Van den Broek, however the area was private land and a pursuit was discouraged. Likely the same bird was seen again Sept. 12, further north near Chemult along Hwy 97 (T. Seager, ph); while a written description supported that it was still present Sept. 13, again along Hwy 97 near Chemult (K.S. Roche).

An Upland Sandpiper May 30 west of Adel, just east of the Warner Mtns., was in a native grass area of BLM land, and appeared to be behaving as if there was a nearby nest (Neil Holcomb). This is away from the one area of historic breeding at Sycan Marsh, Lake Co. Recent breeding or presence there is not known.

Interesting shorebirds seen at Summer Lake WMA included: American Golden Plover, 1, Aug. 23, (L. Owing), one Semipalmated Sandpiper, Aug. 4, (P.
Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Hart Mtn. NWR headquarters on June 1. Photo by John Shevvy (www.birdingoregon.com).

Bonaparte's Gulls were counted, 30 Oct., while they returned from drying canals to a roost on Upper Klamath Lake. A large concentration of Franklin's Gull, 144, at a Fugate Rd. flooded field, 25 June, seemed late for migration and might be associated with a possible breeding colony to the south on the Lower Klamath NWR (KTS).

There have been several winter records of Thayer's Gull, but 1 imm. at Lake Ewauna, Feb. 18, by Russ Namitz (ph-G. Gillson) is especially notable with recent reduced local winter gull populations.

A late fall Burrowing Owl was seen Dec. 18 on the Summer Lake CBC, (MSL); they are rarely seen east of the Cascades at that late date. Barred Owl, 1, Dec. 18, Summer Lake CBC, (L. Pecenka, M. St. Louis), is just one of a few reported from Lake County. A Red-naped Sapsucker was seen on Aug. 6, Summer Lake Lodge (P. Sullivan, C. Karlen).

The southern limit of the Three-toed Woodpecker is thought to be near Mount McLoughlin and one was seen just to the east of there, near Cold Springs Trailhead to Sky Lake Wilderness, July 12, (KTS, D. Haupt). An Eastern Kingbird, 1, June 6, was near Summer Lake (B. Michalski).

Gray Catbird, 1, Shoalwater Bay, 22 June-12 July, (G. Hill-ph, KTS, D. Haupt), appeared to behave as if attempting to nest. Two were detected, 7 July, at Little Deschutes R., west of Gilchrist, where they are reported almost annually (R. Robb).

Northern Mockingbird, 1, July 1, was seen near Falcon Heights, south of Klamath Falls (F. Mayer); at least one of the two, a long term pair along Link R., continued, and, one not far from that location was coming to a yard, (D. Hewitt), while still another had numerous reports from the area of Shilo Inn/Klamath Falls north.

Bohemian Waxwings have not been seen in many years in the Klamath Basin, so 20-100 eating juniper berries at Running Y Resort were a real treat, from Dec. 20 to end of the period (B. Scopes, ph). While traversing the Klamath Marsh on the Silver Lake Hwy, Snow Buntings, 7, were seen 20 Feb., by Jim and Karan Fairchild.

A well described Black-throated Green Warbler, Sept. 18, was seen at Moore Park, (J. Van Moorhem). One female American Redstart was seen 27 May, in a stand of trees along the Lost River, north of the Stateline (KTS). An Ovenbird was seen and voice recorded on Stukel Mountain at an eastside aspen grove, 14 June (KTS, D. Hewitt, J. Van Moorhem). Northern Waterthrush continues to be present along the Little Deschutes R. where 3 were singing, west of Gilchrist, July 7 (R. Robb).

Not often seen away from Klamath River Canyon, a Yellow-breasted Chat, 6 May, was along the Link R., Klamath Falls (D. Hewitt). There were numerous reports of Black-throated Sparrow in unexpected locations: one was heard above Hagelstein Park, N of Klamath Falls, 12 May, (KTS, D. Haupt), another 2 seen May 13, on Hogback Mountain, just east of Klamath Falls (J. Clark), while 8 were seen at the north end of Abert Rim, Lake Co., and thought to be the most common sparrow along the ten miles of its base (C. Gates).

An imm. Harris's Sparrow was seen at Summer Lake WMA HQ, 17 Jan. – May 7, (MSL). One White-throated Sparrow was seen Apr. 24, Collier SP, while another showed up at Moore Park, Oct. 26, (KTS); in
Lake Co. and 1-2 were at Summer Lake WMA, 19 Oct. to end of period, (MSL, M.Ob.).

A bright male SUMMER TANAGER was seen eating apple slices at a Lakeview backyard, 17 May (D. Wenzel). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported in several locations including: a male, May 17th, seen at a Rocky Point feeder, (J. Van Hulzen) while a different male was seen at J. Van Hulzen's yard, Rocky Point on May 31, and later, during an OFO field trip on 24 June, a male was seen at a Fort Klamath feeder (A. Heyerly, ph). That bird had been present for some time.

A very blue INDIGO BUNTING was seen May 16th, Klamath Fish Hatchery, (K. Bratcher, ph) and was there just that one day. The breeding population of Bobolink along Lover's Lane, Paisley, seems to be still active with 2 male, 1 female, seen 20 June (KTS). Great-tailed Grackles are seen almost every year now, and reports included: one on April 25, at Hart Mountain NWR (K. Lopez), and another at Tingley Lake, S. of Klamath Falls, on June 6, (Craig Fulcher, with a visiting British group). HOODED ORIOLE was again reported this year, with one adult male, May 10th, in Poe Valley, east of Klamath Falls (C. Bienz, ph).

A flock of an estimated 400 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen along Seven-mile Road, 19 Feb., J & K Fairchild, and later a reduced group of 250, Feb. 25 (J. Van Moorhem).

A single LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH made a one day appearance, 12 April, to a feeder near Keno and is one of a few state records. (ph. by M. E. Sargent).

The eruption of COMMON REDPOLL in Klamath Basin continued where it left off last season where 4-5 were seen in a Klamath Falls neighborhood in birch trees, January 21, for about 10 days, and a single seen 5 March, in Merrill (F. Oliver, K. Zumwalt L. Pittman). Later in the year, with news that they were again being seen to the north, 18 were reported along Silver Lake Hwy, 7 Dec. (MSL). Other reports included: near Keno, 1, Dec. 23, (M.E. Sargent); in Klamath Falls feeder, where up to 8, Dec. 25 to end a of period (D. Hewitt, ph), and in Lake Co., 2, at Hart Mtn. NWR, 10 Dec. (K. Lopez); K. Boddie reported several seen in Christmas Valley, early Jan., 2013.

Fun with blackbirds: the male Red-winged and Tricolored are reasonably obvious at left; at right an excellent illustration of the dark-bellied, grayer, more pointy-winged female Tricolored at top left compared to the female Red-winged bottom right. Photos by Harry Fuller.
A male Cinnamon Teal, a very rare winter visitor, was reported at Hermiston on January 1 (N. Brown). Another male Cinnamon Teal was seen on a private pond a few miles east of Pendleton on February 6 (Jack Simons). Neal Hinds discovered a male Long-tailed Duck on January 7 on the Columbia River below McNary Dam. The duck was reported by several other observers for the next couple of weeks.

Two Mountain Quail were heard calling in the Tower Burn (~15 miles SE of Umatilla) on June 3 (Aaron Skirvin, Diana LaSarge, June Whitten, & Jack Simons). Khanh Tran reported seeing one Mountain Quail along East Birch Creek Road a few miles from Pilot Rock on June 15.

Umatilla County's third record of Red-throated Loon was photographed in the Columbia River near the Sand Station Recreation Area on January 15 (A. Skirvin & D. LaSarge). A Red-necked Grebe was at McKay Reservoir on April 19 (Aaron Skirvin & Diana LaSarge). A lone White-faced Ibis was photographed at Mann's Pond near Stanfield on June 3 (Aaron Skirvin, Diana LaSarge, June Whitten & Jack Simons).

On January 6, Tanya Harrison found a Ferruginous Hawk a few miles SE of Pendleton. Ferruginous Hawks breed in Umatilla County, but they are very rarely seen between August and late February. Khanh Tran reported finding a very late migrating Rough-legged Hawk along Alkali Canyon Road on June 16. A gray morph GyrFalcon was observed along Mud Springs Canyon Road about 15 miles SW of Pendleton on April 17 (Khanh Tran).

Karen & Jason Baxter photographed an alternate-plumaged Black-bellied Plover at Echo Meadows on April 15, for only the 2nd spring record of this species in Umatilla County. Most winters, a few (1-6) Greater Yellowlegs are reported along the Umatilla River and lower McKay Creek near Pendleton. On January 13, Jack Simons saw a Greater Yellowlegs along the Umatilla River just east of Pendleton. Four were at Mission Ponds on November 2 (Aaron Skirvin), and two were seen along McKay Creek in SW Pendleton on December 12 (Connie Betts). Neal Hinds found a Still Sandpiper at Cold Springs NWR on September 23.

Jay & Susan Wirthott observed a Western Gull near McNary Dam on January 15. A Band-tailed Pigeon lingered at a Pilot Rock feeder from May 26 until June 10 (Rich Scheele, Rob Erickson, & Pamela Erickson), only the 5th record for Umatilla County.

The first Snowy Owl of the year was reported just east of Boardman (Morrow) on January 26 (Marilyn Cripe). A Snowy Owl was observed by Erich Henze ~6 miles NE of Ione (Morrow) on February 2. Another Snowy Owl was reported along the Walla Walla River Road a few miles south of Milton-Freewater on February 21 (Michael & Merryl Lynn Denny and Rodger & Ginger Shoemaker). On February 12, two Snowy Owls were photographed at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Morrow County (Aaron Skirvin, Diana LaSarge, Jack Simons, & Sharon Simons). Rich Scheele found and captured a sick, immature Snowy Owl along a rural road about 5 miles SE of Pendleton on November 16. The owl, which was emaciated but apparently uninjured, was taken to Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation Center near Pendleton but died the following day.
On September 24, three late-migrating Common Nighthawks were foraging over Pendleton (Aaron Skirvin). Khanh Tran observed 3 Black Swifts flying above the Tower Burn —15 miles SE of Ukiah on June 18. This is only the 5th record for Umatilla County.

On December 30, Don and Carole Guenther watched a Red-breasted Sapsucker as it fed on a tree in their neighbor’s yard in Pendleton. This is only the second report of this species in Umatilla County. Khanh Tran found a Black-backed Woodpecker along Texas Bar Road (SE of Ukiah) on June 16. In mid-August, Bill Bradford and Lora Minty saw a White-headed Woodpecker and a Black-backed Woodpecker along Summit Road (Umatilla) several miles east of Meacham. A Blue Jay was seen at feeder in Pendleton on November 4 (Katherine Skirvin). Connie Betts found a Blue Jay in Pendleton on December 24. In mid-December, Jack Simons reported seeing 250 — 300 Black-billed Magpies at a communal, night roost located about 3 miles east of Pendleton.

Western Scrub-Jay is the most recent addition to the breeding avifauna in Umatilla County. Mark Rhodes, for the second consecutive year, discovered a scrub-jay nest near McNary Dam and found a juvenile Western Scrub-Jay there on June 25. Trent Bray spotted two Western Scrub-Jays at Boardman (Morrow) on February 6.

The female Anna's Hummingbird that arrived at Sherry & Robert Sallee's yard about 3 miles S of Milton-Freewater in mid-October 2011, remained until February 3, 2012. An adult male Anna’s visited the Sallee’s yard for one day on February 24. The number of fall reports of Anna’s Hummingbirds in Umatilla County increased significantly in 2012. Except for the Anna’s using the Sallee’s feeders near Milton-Freewater, the others were seen only once and were reported in Pendleton. The first Anna’s was observed by June and Duane Whitten on October 2, next by Katrina Dielman on October 11, June and Duane Whitten on October 28, Ann & Jill Wyatt on November 2, two at Sallee’s yard in early November, and one by Lorna Waltz on November 22. One of the female Anna’s was seen almost daily by the Sallees through December 31.

Skirvin, Diana LaSarge, & June Whitten). In early November, Tanya Harrison took video footage of Mountain, Chestnut-backed, and Black-capped Chickadees visiting her feeders in Pendleton.

A well-described Black-and-White Warbler was seen along the River Walkway in Pendleton on December 20 (Diana Diltenburg) for only the 3rd record in Umatilla County. A Sage Sparrow, a rare species in Umatilla County with 0 — 2 birds reported annually, was seen along Kinnear Road about 5 miles SE of Milton-Freewater on February 11 (Aaron Skirvin & Diana LaSarge). A White-throated Sparrow visited a feeder in Hermiston on November 27-28 (Nancy Brown). Karen Baxter photographed a mostly alternate-plumaged Harris’s Sparrow in her Hermiston yard on April 16. Another Harris’s Sparrow was seen at a feeder in Pendleton on November 22 (June Whitten). Connie Betts saw a pair of Purple Finches in her Pendleton yard on July 28.

Common Redpolls, mostly 1— 3 birds per sighting, were reported by several observers. The first one of the fall season showed up at a feeder in Pendleton on November 7 (Connie Betts), and they were reported off and on through December.

The frequency of sightings and the numbers of Lesser Goldfinches (formerly a very rare species in Umatilla County) have greatly increased over the past 7 or 8 years. Dave Herr reported up to 10 Lesser Goldfinches at his Pendleton feeders in late January. On June 23, a mated pair of Lesser Goldfinches was observed by members of the Pendleton Bird Club along the Umatilla River near Cayuse. From late July through December, they showed up at numerous feeders in Pendleton. On December 10, Mike Denny, MerryLynn Denny, Ginger Shoemake, & Rodger Shoemake found a flock of 40+ Lesser Goldfinches along Couse Creek Road southwest of Milton-Freewater.
A Cackling Goose and Ross's Goose, both increasingly common in UC, were in a mixed flock of geese near Ladd Marsh April 19 (T. Bray). On April 25 and continuing through the end of the month, 7 Ross's geese were in a flock of snow geese in the same area (T. Bray, C. Nowak, m.o.b.).

A Eurasian Wigeon was near Ladd Marsh March 5 (S. Findholt) and single birds were seen on Ladd Marsh through at least March 26. Stefan Schlick found a male Barrow's Goldeneye near Baker City (Baker County) March 25. A Surf Scoter, annual in NE OR, was on a pond in Island City Oct 20 (T. Bray). A single White-winged Scoter at the La Grande Treatment Ponds (LGWWT) Nov. 16 (T. Bray) became 2 birds on Nov. 19 (C. Nowak).

Red-breasted Mergansers were a November theme. Trent Bray found the first one of the series, the 3rd UC record, Nov. 20 in Island City in the company of an imm. male Hooded Merganser. That same day, C. Nowak found one at Ladd Marsh, the 4th UC record. A few days later, the Ladd Marsh bird was gone but there were 3 on the pond in Island City, all of them imm. males (T. Bray).

Trent Bray found a pair of Spruce Grouse on Mt. Fanny Oct. 15. ODFW grouse wing barrel samples indicate at least 10 Spruce Grouse were harvested in UC during the season with specific locations unknown. A single, likely juvenile, Pacific Loon, just the 2nd UC record was in Island City Oct. 23 and stayed at least a few days (T. Bray).

A Ferruginous Hawk, annual but still notable, was found Dec. 15 (T. Bray) and continued through the end of the year.

2 apparently overwintering Virginia Rails were on Ladd Marsh Jan 4 (C. Nowak). At least a few have been found in winter the past several years. A notably large flock of 700+ phalaropes (Wilson's and Red-necked) was at Ladd Marsh July 20 (T. Bray).

An early Caspian Tern was near Cove March 21 (T. Bray); 6 Bonaparte's Gulls were found at LGWWT Oct 21 (D. Felley). This species is annual but still only in small numbers. A late Franklin's Gull was at the LGWWT Nov. 6 (T. Bray).

Great Gray Owls were found at Spring Cr. March 9 (J. Gatchet & L. Colburn) and later in the month (J. Breese). A lone Burrowing Owl at Ladd Marsh April 10 (J. Harrison) gave hope of nesting but didn't stay. Stefan Schlick found a Flammulated Owl at Spring Cr. June 1.

Increasingly common, a single Anna's Hummingbird was still using a feeder in La Grande Oct. 23 (T. Bray). A Black-backed Woodpecker was at Spring Creek in late March (J. Breese). White-headed Woodpeckers were found on Mt. Emily Aug 11 (B. Bradford & L. Minty) and in Dec (K. Coe).

Trent Bray found a Say's Phoebe March 2 on Ladd Marsh. A single Varied Thrush was in Union Dec 16 through the end of the year and 2 were at Ladd Marsh Dec 24 (C. Nowak).

A Union County first Indigo Bunting was with Lazuli Buntings in La Grande May 17 (T. Bray); 6 Lapland Longspurs and one Snow Bunting, both annual in the area, were with horned larks near Cove Dec 9 (T. Bray).

A single Yellow-rumped continued on next page
American Tree Sparrows, Bohemian Waxwings, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings, which are all annual visitors and sought after by visiting birders, were sighted on a regular basis. Northern Shrikes were also reported a number of times by visiting birders.

Another annual visitor, a group of Lapland Longspurs, was reported on Golf Course Rd. by Jim Carlson on 2/26.

Snowy Owls were observed regularly on Zumwalt Prairie Rd. and stayed around well into the summer months. Susie and Rick Madigan confirmed at least 2 individuals. A sighting by Mike & MerryLynn Denny on 7/29 is most likely the latest Oregon sighting on record.

Common Redpolls were, well, common, throughout the winter months in Wallowa County and appeared again in numbers in late fall and early winter.

Thomas Meinzen and Paul Sullivan located a Northern Saw-whet Owl on 1/28 on Wilkinson lane. While they are known residents of Wallowa County, sightings are uncommon. David Smith and Don Cogswell also had replies from a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Great Gray in March on Highway 3 near the Flora turn off.

Gyrfalcons, while not common, are a regular visitor to Wallowa County during the winter.

Union/Baker Cos., continued

Warbler visited a feeder in Union Dec 30-31 and continued into Jan. (C. Nowak).

A Harris's Sparrow was on Ladd Marsh Jan 12 (J. Withgott) and continued through Feb. American Tree Sparrows were on Ladd Marsh March 2 (T. Bray).

Nine Brown-headed cowbirds, rare in winter, were near Cove Dec 24 (T. Bray).

Pine Grosbeaks were seen on Mt. Emily Nov 18 (T. Bray). John Catchet & Les. Colburn found 9 Red Crossbills March 9 at Spring Cr and a White-winged Crossbill March 10 at Rhinehart.

A few Common Redpolls were at the edge of Ladd Marsh Jan 16 (J. Withgott). Fall common redpolls began Nov 26 with 1 from the LGWWT (T. Bray) and continued through the end of the year with birds at feeders all over the valley including the bird photographed by Ted Schroeder (above) and a flock of about 30 at Thief Valley Res. Increasingly common in UC, Lesser Goldfinches were in La Grande in Nov. (S. Daughtery, L. Elegant).
months and were observed by a variety of birders throughout the winter and one as late as April by Khanh Tran.

Khanh also reported Sharp-tailed Grouse in April, a reintroduced species found north of Enterprise.

Tom McNamara reported a flock of 9 White-winged Crossbills up McCully Creek on 2/2, a species often found in Wallowa County that proved to be a difficult find throughout the rest of the year. Even Red Crossbills disappeared by fall.

Tom also reported an unseasonal Ferruginous Hawk on 2/3 near the Crow Creek Road/Hwy. 82 intersection.

Northern Pygmy-Owls were a normal sight in the fall and early winter around Wallowa Lake with one individual being seen fairly often on the power line just off the highway.

One of possibly three Snowy Owls on Zumwalt Prairie Rd. in 2012. Photo: Wallowa SWCD/NRCS.

Oregon Birding Association - 34th Annual Meeting
June 7-9, 2013
The Dalles

Believe it or not, this is the first time an OBA conference has ever been held in The Dalles or in Wasco Co. The east side of Mt. Hood is one of the best-kept birding secrets in northern Oregon with a great number of interesting breeding birds, especially for the west-sider. For its birding quality, Wasco Co is remarkably underbirded and therefore a goal for this conference is to show off the county and general area to the birding community. There are a variety of habitats reaching from sagebrush, grasslands, juniper woodlands, oak savanna, pine woodlands and high mountain coniferous forest in the upper elevations towards Mt. Hood. Some of the target birds to look forward to are Gray Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Williamson’s Sapsucker, Green-tailed Towhee and Grasshopper Sparrow.

The conference will be based at the The Dalles Inn in downtown The Dalles. Friday, June 8, Russ Namitz will present on his Big Year for Oregon. He reached a mind-boggling 381 species for Oregon in, 2011 shattering the old record by 18. Enough said ... Our keynote speakers for Saturday, June 9, Eric Horvat and Larry Schwitter, will take a close look at swifts focusing on the Pacific Northwest. Eric made the news when he documented the first Black Swift nest in OR. He will tell the story about this big discovery. Larry will report on the status of Black and Vaux’s Swift in the Pacific Northwest and describe the efforts underway in this big project.

There will be many field trips to the more unknown areas on the east side of Mt. Hood, but we will also feature 2 Washington trips to Klickitat Co. The trip leaders are not just good, they are the areas absolute finest.
Global warming is having a reverse effect on Grant County with average temperatures and precipitation below normal for the year. Precipitation was down by over 10% and June’s average temperature was the coldest on record. This could have had an effect on breeding success.

Greater White-fronted and Snow geese were seen in Mt Vernon in the first week of January (AS) and in Silvies Valley in early April (MB). Snow geese were also seen in Mt Vernon in early January (AS) and in the John Day area (MB, TH, O’L). Cackling geese were found in the John Day valley in August (MB). Trumpeter swans made a brief appearance on 7 March in Mt Vernon (MB, AF) while Tundra Swans were seen there on 9 March (CG), 9 on 3 April, some in May (TH), and 4 adults and 1 juvenile on 18 November (AF) and in December.

The only Gadwall report was on 18 November (O’L). A Eurasian Wigeon was observed in Mt Vernon on 7 March (MB, AF) while American wigeons were seen every month except late August/early September. Blue-winged teal were present in January and also during the Christmas Bird Count (CBC — 15 December). Cinnamon Teal numbers were down as the only reports were in May from Bear Valley (TW) and the John Day and Silvies valleys (MB). Northern Shovelers were also somewhat elusive with sightings at Mt Vernon on 5 February (MB) and in April. The only reported Northern Pintail were from Bear Valley on 12 May (TW).

Unusual Redhead and Greater Scaup were spotted in Mt Vernon on 9 March (CG). Lesser Scaup were reported from Silvies Valley on 8 April (O’L), John Day 12 November (O’L), and on the CBC. Bufflehead were seen in the John Day area in January (TH), Silvies Valley on 8 April (O’L), and John Day on 10 December (O’L). Common Goldeneye were in the John Day area January and February (TH, MB), and on 10 December (O’L). Hooded Merganser were reported from the Mt Vernon area in January (AS) and on 7 March (MB). They were also seen in Silvies Valley in May (MB), in John Day on 8 November (O’L) and elsewhere in the John Day valley that same month (MB).

There were several reports of Mountain Quail from Long Creek in June and August (TH), and Fields Creek and the Aldrich Mrs. in August and November (MB). Ruffed and Dusky grouse sightings started in May and extended through November. The only Pied-billed Grebe reported was from Dayville in December (TH). A Horned Grebe was in John Day on 11 November (O’L), and Eared and Western Grebes were seen on Magone Lake on 9 September (O’L).

Double-crested Cormorants were in John Day during January (O’L), Silvies Valley in June (TH), and in John Day on 17 July and 14 December (O’L), and the CBC. Great Egrets only visited briefly this year, seen near Mt Vernon (AF) and the John Day valley (MB), both on 5 September. A ‘Snowy Egret’ was seen in Silvies Valley in June (TH). White-faced Ibis sightings were scattered with reports from Silvies Valley in June (TH), 4 in Izee during the second week of July (PSC), at Picture Gorge on 15 July (JS), Mt Vernon on 24 July (AF), and John Day on 27 July (O’L).

The first Turkey Vulture arrived on 13 March (MB, O’L) and Osprey appeared in Mt Vernon on 26 March. What was very unusual was the sighting of an Osprey on the Christmas Bird Count on 15 December. Bald Eagles were seen every month except September, but actual nests are still hidden. The only Ferruginous Hawk report was from Fox Valley in December (MB). A lingering Rough-legged Hawk was in the John Day valley in May (TH) and reappeared on 5 November (MB). The only month without Golden Eagle sightings was February. There was a Merlin sighting in John Day in February (MB), another one on 24 October (O’L), and several in December.

Virginia Rail were found near Prairie City on 15 April (JS) and the CBC, and also in Mt Vernon in late May (TW). Sora were reported from Bear Valley in May and June (TW), John Day on 11 June (O’L), Bates State Park in June (AF), Mt Vernon 19 July (TW). American Coots were not seen in March only. The first
American Avocet were seen in Silvies Valley in June (TH). The first Spotted Sandpipers were seen in the John Day valley on 13 April (MB). A Greater Yellowlegs was found at John Day on 27 July (O’L). A Whimbrel was reported from Bear Valley on 5 May (MB, AF). The first Long-billed Curlews arrived in Bear Valley on 8 April (O’L, TW). Short-billed Dowitchers were found in Bear Valley on 12 May (TW).

Gulls visit infrequently, the most common being Ring-billed, which were seen 11 March in John Day (O’L), June in Silvies Valley (TH), August and September in Prairie City (TH), and December in the John Day valley (MB). California Gulls were reported from the John Day valley in August (MB). Band-tailed Pigeon showed up in Mt Vernon on 23 October and 1 November (AF).

An elusive Burrowing Owl was finally spotted in Bear Valley on 7 August (TH). Great Gray Owls were reported from Bear Valley during late spring through summer (TH), and one perched on my fence line in December (TW). A Short-eared Owl was at the John Day airport 4 March (MAB, LLD, TW). First arrival of Common Nighthawks was in Mt Vernon on 31 May (TW) and of Vaux’s Swifts on 11 May (AF). Black Swifts were reported from the Aldrich Mts on 23 July (MB). Nobody seemed to stop at Goose Rock in the national monument to verify the White-throated Swift colony, but some were seen at Strawberry Lake on 23 July (O’L).

All hummingbird first sightings were from John Day—with Black-chinned on 2 May (TH), and Calliope and Rufous on 24 April (O’L). In addition, Anna’s Hummingbirds appeared in John Day on 24 July and stayed until 18 October (O’L). The first Lewis’s Woodpecker was in Prairie City on 15 April (JS) and Williamson’s Sapsucker was in Logan Valley on 12 May (MB, AF). Three-toed Woodpecker sightings are rare but had three this year — Bear Valley in July (JLB), Strawberry Lake on 7 August (ASK), and Beech Creek on the CBC (JS, GW).

Nothing was unusual about flycatchers this year, although the only locations with consistent reports of Cordilleran are in the Mt Vernon area, including Holliday State Park. A Hutton’s Vireo was reported along Murderers Creek on 6 June (MB) but no Red-eyed vireos were reported this year. A Blue Jay was in John Day from 8-12 November (EM) and Prairie City 18 November (JS). Swallow arrivals were Tree 7 March near Mt Vernon (MB), Violet-green in Silvies Valley on 8 April (O’L), N. Rough-winged at Bates on 29 April (O’L), Bank in Bear Valley and at Bates State Park in early June (MB, AF), Cliff at Dayville on 9 May (TH), and Barn in Bear Valley on 12 May (TW).

The only Bush tits reported were from the Aldrich Mts in September (MB). A Marsh Wren was found near Prairie City on the CBC (AR, JR, TW). A late Mountain Bluebird was seen in Fox Valley in December (MB). The only Swainson’s Thrush report was from Murderers Creek on June (MB). Two different observers reported a Gray Catbird along Ingle Creek south of Mt Vernon in June (AF, TW) but could never relocate it. Sage Thrashers were found in Bear Valley 8 August (TW) and Silvies Valley during the same month (MB).

The big find for the year was a brief visit of an EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL along Dog Creek east of John Day on 11 December (CG). It remained just long enough for identification by one birder and then disappeared.

Warbler first reports were Orange-crowned at Mt Vernon on 1 May (AF), Nashville at John Day on 30 April, Yellow in Mt Vernon on 6 May (AF), Yellow-rumped in Bear Valley on 9 April (TW), MacGillivray’s near Dayville in early June (TH), Common Yellowthroat in Logan Valley on 12 May (AF, MB), Wilson’s in John Day on 16 April (EM), and Yellow-breasted Chat in Mt Vernon (AF) and Dayville (TH) in June. A Yellow-rumped was also reported at Holliday State Park on 25 January (MB).

Sparrows arrived in early to mid-May. The only Fox Sparrow reported was at Holliday State Park on 27 October (O’L). White-throated Sparrows were in Mt Vernon in December and remained present for the CBC and a Harris’s Sparrow was there during most of January and February (AF). Golden-crowned Sparrows arrived in John Day on 15 February and were last seen on 3 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported at Holliday State Park on 30 April (MB, O’L), in Canyon City in early June (EH), and Izee from 11-14 June (PSC). A late Black-headed Grosbeak was found on the CBC on 15 December. Bobolinks were elusive in the spring but were recorded near Prairie City in July and August (TH). A RUSTY BLACKBIRD was seen in John Day on 24 and 27 September (AS), as was a COMMON GRACKLE on 27 September, also in John Day.

Gray-crowned Rosy-finch rarely visit the John Day valley but were seen on the CBC (AR, JR, TW). White-winged Crossbills were reported from Four Corners in June (MB). Common Redpolls were seen at Dog Creek on 16 November and in John Day on 26 November (O’L).

Observers were Bob Authier, Jennifer & Lance Barker (JLB), Maryann Blem (MAB), Mike Bohannon (MB), Margaret Carey, Anne Frost (AF), Cecil Gagnon (CG), Buzz & Margaret Glass, Tom Hunt (TH), Cindy Kranich, Louise LeDue (LLD), Barbara Meyer, Elaine Mezzo (EM), Clarence & Marilyn O’Leary (OL’), Anahkholsoo Reeves (AR), Jill Reeves (OR), Phil & Krisy St Clair (PSC), Aacynthia Sanford (AS), Aaron Skirvin (Ask), Jim Soupir OS, Gerrish Willis (GW), and Tom Winters (TW).
Southeast Oregon experienced a relatively mild winter, with most moisture coming into the basin areas as rain, with decent snowfall at higher elevations. As a wet spring closed, it ushered in a very dry and warm summer. By late summer and into the fall, many normally wet areas had dried and as the season progressed, shorebird habitat shrank considerably near the roads. Bitter cold returned in November and December—often well below zero, with lots of snow and no substantial melt until late January, 2013. These extremely cold temperatures forced much of the waterfowl out of the area and other birds also left in search of more moderate temperatures and easier foraging.

A major story for 2012 in southeast Oregon was the lightning-caused fires that charred hundreds of thousands of acres. The 557,648-acre Long Draw Fire was the largest to hit Oregon in more than 100 years. The Holloway Fire on the Oregon/ Nevada border scorched more than 416,000 acres, of which some 245,000 burned on the Oregon side of the border. The Miller Homestead fire burned the Foster Flat Sage Grouse lek and had the town of Frenchglen in its sights, but a wind change and the efforts of the firefighting crews saved the town and other structures. These mountains are home to Oregon’s only pure-strain native Lahontan cutthroat trout, and according to ODFW the fire may have profoundly impacted the population because of loss of riparian vegetation along stream banks and the ensuing siltation of the water.

Large stands of mountain mahogany were lost and the fire burned hot enough that large sections of the mountains look like a moonscape. These mountains have always been at the top of the list for birders hoping to discover nesting Virginia’s Warblers, but that habitat has been greatly reduced. Though the size and intensity of these 2012 blazes was largely unparalleled, wildfires are generally annual events in southeast Oregon, and the while the devastation can be widespread, recovery begins almost immediately. When I traveled through the Trout Creek Mountains in September, greenery was already beginning to spring up through the ash, as was the case in burned areas near Frenchglen and Jordan Valley.

Winter (Jan — Feb)

A Eurasian Wigeon was seen along Lawen Road on Feb. 29 (S. Shunk). Snow Geese began to arrive on Feb 28 and a few White-fronted Geese were also seen on that date (T. Blount). Goshawks were in the residential areas of Burns and Hines and could
often be seen preying on the massive coves of California Quail found here. The **Snowy Owl** that had been seen from the last part of 2011 was seen through Jan 25 and observed by many. There were reports of up to six Snowys in SE Oregon over the winter but only two confirmed in 2012. A N. Saw-whet Owl was found at Leslie Gulch on the Owyhee Reservoir in Malheur County on Feb 4 (T. Rich).

Bohemian Waxwings made a few appearances throughout January and February and were usually found in the residential areas of Hines.

**Spring (March – May)**

Eur. Wigeon were seen throughout the spring with a bird on Potter Swamp Road on March 29 (T. Blount), Lawen Road on April 14 (K. Nitz), and Greenhouse Lane on April 18 (M. Greenway). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was found on Riley Pond March 18 (P. Otley). Common Loons were found several times during the spring with reports of three at Krumbo Reservoir on March 14 (S. Thorpe), one at March 16 at Chickahominy Reservoir (P. Otley), and one at Malheur NWR on May 26 (K. Moon).

A breeding-plumage Cattle Egret was photographed south of Burns at HWY 205 on April 23 (C. Christie). A **Glossy Ibis** was found at the Narrows on May 22 (T. Rodenkirk). This is the fifth Oregon record, with all records coming from the Malheur NWR area. 2 Black-bellied Plovers were found at Greenhouse Lane on April 13 (Noah Strycker). That same day a Solitary Sandpiper was found at Riley Pond (N. Strycker). Another Solitary was seen a day later on April 14 at Lawen Road (K. Nitz).

A Herring Gull was seen near Jordan Valley on April 28 (T. Howerton). A **Glaucous Gull** was photographed at Ruž-Rod Rd. on March 18 (S. Dougall). The second **Snowy Owl** of 2012 was seen during the Scharff Migratory Bird Festival held in Burns on April 14 along HWY 205 near mile marker 14 and stayed for a week.

Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Malheur NWR HQ by several observers in May (E. Carlson, T. Blount, and C. Burmeister). Another was found at P Ranch near First-year **Glaucous Gull**, May 18 on Ruž-Rod Rd. near Malheur NWR. Ph. by Susan Norris.

Anna’s Hummingbird at Malheur HQ Sep 27. Photo by Tim Blount.

Imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Malheur HQ, Oct. 8. Photo by Alan Contreras.

Frenchglen on May 30. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen in several locales in Harney County with up to four reported from Benson Pond in the month of May. A **Gray Catbird** was seen May 26 at Malheur HQ and from Fields on May 30.

An **Ovenbird** was observed at Malheur HQ on May 22 (R. Rudolph). A N. Waterthrush stayed at the Fields Oasis for several days after first being spotted on May 25 (B. Archer, A. Contreras). **Black-and-White Warblers** were reported from several locations in Harney County including one at HQ on May 22 (T. Blount), one at Cottonwood Creek on May 25 (B. Archer), and possibly the same bird at Fields on May 26 (M. LaFaye).

There was a single report of a **Tennessee Warbler** on May 28 at Malheur HQ (A. Woodrow). An **American Redstart** was seen at Malheur HQ on May 26 (D. Irons et al.) and another was found at Fields Oasis on May 28 (A. Contreras). A **CAPE MAY WARBLER** was in Frenchglen on May 12 (Rick Vetter et al.) and another at **N. Parula** first reported on May 26 (A. Contreras) might summer, but sightings lasted for only a couple of weeks. A **Chesnut-sided Warbler** was seen in Fields on May 28 (T. Shermerdine). A rare spring **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen at oft-overlooked Cottonwood Creek south of Fields on May 25 (B. Archer).

A singing **Black-throated Green Warbler** was seen at Fields Oasis on May 29 (R. Robb). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed both at Malheur NWR HQ and in Burns during the month of May (May 26 at HQ by A. Contreras, and May 27 in Burns by Finnegan and Irons).
COMMON GRACKLES were seen on May 16 near the Nevada Border on Hwy. 95 in Malheur County (D. Hughes), and May 31 at Fields Oasis (Maitreyas). A Great-tailed Grackle was seen in Burns on May 9 (T. Blount) and on May 30 in Jordan Valley (C. Huizinga). A BALTIMORE ORIOLE was seen 15 miles south of Burns on May 14 (D. Musser) and on May 29 at Malheur NWR HQ (A. Contreras).

Summer (June – August)

A Common Loon was observed on Antelope Reservoir near Rome on August 19 (C. Huizinga). Red-necked Grebe was observed at Chikahominy Reservoir on August 28 (T. Shelmerdine).

Red-shouldered Hawks were easily found this year, with the first summer sighting on July 18 (N. Strycker). Semipalomed Sandpipers were seen from Ruh-Red Road on July 13 (B. Lockett) and Knox Pond July 18 (N. Strycker). Short-billed Dowitchers were seen twice from Ruh-Red Road in July, once on the 17th (N. Strycker) and again on the 25th (T. Blount). A Baird’s Sandpiper was also seen on Ruh-Red Road on July 24 (T. Blount).

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds continued to be seen in SE Oregon with a possible nester at Fish Lake on Steens Mountain (J. Blowers). No nest has ever been found in Oregon.

The only report of an Am Three-toed Woodpecker in SE Oregon came from Idlewild Campground north of Burns on June 30 (D. Hughes). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at the Fields Oasis on June 3 (A. Contreras). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers represented what could have been nesting activity in the Pueblo Mountains in far southern Harney County on June 14 (A. Hinkle, C. Hinkle, E. Scattaregia).

A metropolitan Gray Catbird was seen in the yard of Larry Hammond in Hines for a number of days in June and another was seen at Malheur HQ Aug. 29 (T. Blount). A pair of N. Mockingbirds was on Whitehorse Ranch Rd. in s. Malheur Co. June 5 (J. Carlson).

An Am. Redstart was observed at the Fields Oasis on June 8 (A. Contreras). A Hermit Warbler was observed in Ponderosa Pine at Idlewild Campground north of Burns July 29 (T. Blount). A second BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER was seen at the Fields Oasis on June 8 (J. Schwalck). It is believed that this is a different bird than the one observed on May 29 based on a comparison of pictures taken of both birds.

A probable nesting pair of “Gray-headed” Juncos was found in the Pueblo Mountains on June 14 (A. Hinkle, C. Hinkle, and E. Scattaregia). Previous records were further east in the Trout Creek-Oregon Canyon ranges. A bright male Summer Tanager was observed by many at Malheur HQ on June 10 (A. Contreras). An ORCHARD ORIOLE was observed at Malheur HQ on June 17 (A. Hinkle, C. Hinkle, E. Scattaregia).

Fall (September – December)

A Eur. Wigeon was seen at the Narrows with a large group of Am. Wigeon on Oct. 26 (T. Blount). Surf Scoters were observed at two different locales in October, a Krumbo Reservoir bird on Oct. 17 (N. Strycker) and Oct. 22 at Mann Lake (T. Blount). Common Loons were observed on Oct. 9 at Malheur NWR (C. Crutchfield) and Oct. 29 at Mann Lake (T. Blount).

An immature LITTLE BLUE HERON, Oregon’s eighth, was spotted on a small pond near Frenchglen on Sept. 21 (Paul Sullivan et al.). It was observed for five days by many birders. Red-shouldered Hawks were found throughout the Malheur NWR system during the months of Sept. and Oct. A BROAD-WINGED HAWK was seen from the East Rim Overlook of Steens Mountain on Sept. 22 (A. Contreras, T. Blount). A very early Rough-legged Hawk was observed near Jordan Valley on Sept. 15 (T. Blount).

A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Malheur NWR on Sept. 8 (C. Gordon). An Upland Sandpiper was observed on Hwy 78 several miles e. of Burns on Sept. 8 (W. Hoffman). A Short-billed Dowitcher was at Antelope Res. on Sept. 13 (O. Burton). A Stilt Sandpiper was at the Narrows on Sept. 1 (S. Dougill). Up to three Herring Gulls were observed at the Narrows on Sept. 6, which seems early (A. Contreras).

An Anna’s Hummingbird was photographed on the feeders at Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 27 (T. Blount). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen on Steens Mountain Sept. 2 (S. Dougill) and another at Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 6, a new late date for Oregon (A. Contreras).
An immature YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was found at Malheur NWR HQ on Oct. 9 (A. Contreras). This bird remained at HQ for a week, giving many a great opportunity to view it. Red-Breasted Sapsuckers made several appearances, with one seen Sept. 21 at Malheur NWR HQ (J. Harding), another on Oct. 6 in Frenchglen (A. Contreras, T. Blount), and another at HQ on Oct. 17 (N. Strycker).

Individual Black Phoebes were seen at Benson Pond on Sept. 13 (R. Rudolph), Roaring Springs Ranch on Sept. 15 (S. Dougill), and again at Roaring Springs Ranch on Sept. 26 (R. Robb). A Red-eyed Vireo was discovered at Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 4 (A. Contreras). A Blue Jay was reported at Dick Musser’ Ranch near Burns on Oct. 21.

A Pygmy Nuthatch made a brief stop at Malheur HQ, an unusual location, on Sept. 4 (A. Contreras). An irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches was noted from many SE Oregon locales, with birds being seen from the valley floors to the top of Steens Mountain. Hundreds invaded Malheur HQ, their numbers peaking in mid-September. Two White-breasted Nuthatches, rarely seen in the area, spent most of September at HQ.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was located at Chukar Park Campground near Juniper on Sept 28 (T. Blount). Bohemian Waxwings were seen sporadically throughout the month of December in Burns and Hines. (T. Blount). A single Lapland Longspur was seen from Hwy 20 in Vale on Dec. 30 (T. Blount), Oregon’s seventh MCCOWN’S LONGSPUR was found at Borax Lake on October 19 (N. Strycker). A Snow Bunting was observed near the junction of HWY 20 and Stinking Water Road on Stinking Water Pass Dec. 29 (T. Blount).

An Ovenbird was reported from Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 9 (R. Rudolph). A N. Waterthrush was seen at the Fields Oasis on Sept. 10 (T. Bray) and another was at Roaring Springs Ranch, where it was seen by many and photographed (C. Gates). A Black-and-White Warbler was seen Sept. 25 at Malheur HQ (C. Matthews).

Tennessee Warblers were reported from Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 6 (D. Evered), Sept. 18 from Roaring Springs Ranch (C. Gates), and Sept. 27 from the Sod House (R. Robb, D. Arendt). An Am. Redstart was seen at Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 1 (A. Contreras) and two were observed in Rome on Sept. 15 (T. Blount). A N. Parula was spotted at the Fields Oasis on Sept. 2 (S. Dougill). A Magnolia Warbler was seen in Rome with a large flock of warblers in the trees surrounding the store on Sept. 15 (T. Blount). Another Magnolia was observed at Benson Pond on Oct. 8 (A. Contreras).

A Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen at Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 1 (A. Contreras). On Sept. 27, another Chestnut-sided was well documented at HQ (D. Arendt, R. Robb, and J. Regali). Blackpoll Warblers almost seemed commonplace, with the first report on Sept. 1 (A. Contreras) and further reports continuing on for most of the month (singles and pairs were seen at HQ and a single bird appeared at Roaring Springs Ranch). A Palm Warbler was seen at Malheur NWR HQ on Sept. 9 (A. Contreras) and on Sept. 28 (K. Anderson). A single Harris’s Sparrow was seen with a group of junco’s at Malheur NWR HQ on Nov. 18 (T. Blount). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Fields on Sept. 30 (S. Wright).
I live in Summerville, located at the north end of the Grande Ronde Valley in Union County. I have particularly enjoyed daily birding opportunities in our yard during the ten years we have lived here. This summer, I observed the development of a flicker family which resided in a nest cavity excavated in one of our old growth poplar trees. I listened to the nestling cries as the babies anticipated each meal, and I watched as the adults took turns feeding the babies. My photo essay begins with my diary entry on the date the babies fledged.

June 26, 2012: Today, the flicker babies fledged from their nest cavity in the poplar near the sidewalk. Last week, I had seen three babies in the nest, but I only saw two fledglings today. I hope that the third baby fledged safely.

During the past couple of weeks, I have had the privilege of witnessing the growth of these little flickers. First, I saw only heads within the cavity, with mouths opened waiting to be fed. Then, I saw faces peering out from the cavity, as the little birds grew curious about the world outside of their nest.

Just a few days ago, I saw not only heads, but also little chests, each adorned with a black necklace.

I noticed that one of the little birds even had pink cheeks.

Sometimes I saw a claw resting on the edge of the cavity as if the little bird was ready to leap out into the world.

Finally, this morning I saw a bird with ruffled feathers standing on the ground not far from the poplar with the nest cavity, peering up at me and watching as I walked nearby. Although I didn't recognize the bird at first, I thought to myself how gentle the face appeared and how familiar the eyes looked. As I glanced at the nest cavity in the poplar, I saw that it was empty even though the little birds were safely inside it last night. It wasn't until minutes later that I realized that the bird on the ground was one of the baby flickers, newly fledged!

A few hours after this encounter, I saw one of the young flickers perched on the side of another poplar. While the young bird was resting there, it called to its parent nearby; the parent then flew over and fed it briefly. At one point, while the young bird was still perched on the side of the poplar, I watched it extend its tongue far out from the end of its beak as it explored the contents of the tree.

On the ground at the base of the tree containing the nest cavity, I had noticed a collection of red-shafted feathers. I had also seen that the little bird standing on the ground had a number of red-shafted feathers on the hind end, near the tail feathers. I wondered if this was a usual occurrence, that young flickers shed some of their red-shafted feathers upon fledging. As I looked up at the young flicker perched on the side of the tree, I saw the familiar red-shafted feathers that I had noticed earlier.

I must admit that the events of the past couple of weeks have been fascinating and emotionally moving. I am especially grateful to have been given the opportunity to not only hear the baby flickers vocalize inside their nest, but to watch their development and to see their lives begin outside of their nest.

Several weeks have passed since the babies fledged from their nest cavity, but they are not forgotten. I often hear flickers calling in our forest, and I occasionally see a flicker perched in one of our poplars. I remain hopeful that perhaps another flicker family will nest in our yard next year.
2012 Oregon Listing Results

Paul T. Sullivan, McMinnville

"Thank You" to the 132 people who sent in their listing results this year, and "Welcome" to the 24 new people who have joined us for the first time. I have carried forward numbers previously submitted by another 113 people, including 14 departed friends. The combined 2012 Listing Results represent the efforts of 245 birders.

This year we added the category of "Birds Photographed in Oregon" and got submissions from 20 people, 8 of them new participants. These numbers are added to the life and year lists for the state of Oregon, for each Oregon County, for count circles closer to people’s homes, and for motorless birding. We welcome all these efforts to enjoy birding in new ways.

I would like to encourage those who have stopped reporting to join us once again. I have carried forward numbers reported previously to give context to the tallies reported today. If your old numbers are out of date, send in new ones next year. I hope that by publishing these results, we can provide a timely picture of how many birds can be found around our wonderful state of Oregon, and who has seen them.

Good birding, everyone!

Notable milestones for 2012

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<th>Statewide listing</th>
<th>County listing</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New state life list record:</strong></td>
<td><strong>New county life list records:</strong></td>
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<td>Jeff Gilligan bumped up his state life list to 491.</td>
<td>Benton Hendrik Herlyn 264 (tie)</td>
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<td><strong>State life list of 400 species:</strong></td>
<td>Benton Jamie Simmons 264 (tie)</td>
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<td>Howard Horvath and Carol Karlen passed the threshold of seeing 400 species in Oregon.</td>
<td>Clatsop Mike Patterson 339</td>
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<td>100 species in all 36 counties:</td>
<td>Columbia John F. Gatchet 222</td>
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<td>Stefan Schlick joins the club of birders who have reached this milestone.</td>
<td>Coos Tim Rodenkirk 341</td>
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<td><strong>Birds Photographed in Oregon:</strong></td>
<td>Curry Jim Rogers 336</td>
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<td>John Gatchet tops the new category with 377 species photographed in Oregon.</td>
<td>Deschutes Tom Crabtree 321</td>
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<td><strong>Honorable Mention:</strong></td>
<td>Douglas Ron Maertz 316</td>
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<td>Daniel Little of Silverton, age 14, tallied 211 species in Oregon in 2012.</td>
<td>Jackson Marjorie Moore 307</td>
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<td>Jefferson Lewis Rems 251</td>
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<td>Josephine Dennis Vroman 235</td>
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<td>Klamath Kevin Spencer 305</td>
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<td>Lane Paul Sherrell 355</td>
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<td>Multnomah John Fitchen 287</td>
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<td>Polk Bill Tice 284</td>
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<td>Washington Greg Gillson 251</td>
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<td>Yamhill Carol Karlen 237</td>
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While it regularly happens that the leading birder in a county adds a couple species to his /her life list, special mention should be given to those who make a concerted effort and achieve a "quantum leap" in their county listing.

This year Lew Rems bumped up his Deschutes county year list by 16. Tim Blount eclipsed the previous Harney County year list by 16. Carol Karlen surpassed her previous Yamhill County year list by 6 species.

New county year list records:

| Deschutes Lew Rems 260 |
| Harney Tim Blount 253 |
| Washington Greg Gillson 199 (tie) |
| Yamhill Carol Karlen 191 |

Complete Oregon listing results can now be found on the OBA web site at: [http://www.orbirds.org/2012listing.pdf](http://www.orbirds.org/2012listing.pdf).

1st Prize: Sora (back cover)
Jack Booth (Tillamook Bay wetlands, April 13, 2012)

2nd Prize: Osprey
Lois Miller (June 27, 2012, on Rogue River)

3rd Prize: Western Tanager
Dave Irons (Malheur HQ on May 27, 2012)

Hon. Mentions:
Sandhill Cranes by Douglas Beall (March 23, 2011, Paisley area)
Rufous Hummingbird (Nan Moore)

Judge for the 2012 contest was Tristan Weinbrenner of Kansas, winner of the photo category in his age group for ABA's Young Birder of the Year in 2012.
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Female Evening Grosbeak, Malheur NWR
Headquarters. Photo by Alan Contreras.