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Oregon Birds regrets that the Grant County report was not available for this issue. Grant County field notes will return with 2015 highlights in next year’s spring issue. We are also currently lacking coverage for Baker and Malheur counties, and OB is looking for volunteers to take on the field notes sections for these highly interesting, remote and underbirded Oregon counties. If you are interested in becoming a Regional Field Notes Editor, please contact Hendrik Herlyn at hhactitis@gmail.com.

Front Cover: Oregon’s first Red-flanked Bluetail put in a brief appearance in a private yard on Wilsonville Rd. in Clackamas County on Dec 26, 2015. Photo by Owen Schmidt

Back Cover: This very obliging Common Ground-Dove showed up in Yachats on Oct 15, 2015 and stuck around for several days, to the delight of countless visiting birders. It was one of three records of this species in 2015. Photo by Jack Williamson

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Oregon Birds

The journal of Oregon birding and field ornithology

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Photo Editor: Diana Byrne

Maps: John Notis

Address Change Reminder: In order to ensure the timely delivery of your copy of OB magazine, please remember to notify us at www.orbirds.org if your mailing address has changed. Thank you!

Deadline for submissions for Oregon Birds Volume 42 (2): August 1, 2016
Please send submissions, ideas for articles and inquiries to Hendrik Herlyn at hhactitis@gmail.com

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2015 was another outstanding year for rare birds in our beautiful state. Just like last year, we were able to add two new species to the all-time Oregon State List.

The editors were faced with a difficult choice – an exotic-looking vagrant from Siberia versus a bird that is quite common in the eastern United States and happens to look a lot like our Ash-throated Flycatcher – but in the end, Oregon’s first ever GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, discovered at Thornton Creek in Lincoln Co. on Oct 26, took the coveted Bird-of-the-Year award, narrowly edging out the amazing RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL that visited a private residence in Clackamas Co. on Dec 26. We based this difficult decision on the fact that the flycatcher showed up in a publicly accessible place and hung out for several days to be enjoyed by the multitudes, while the tantalizing Bluetail decided to visit a private farmstead, whose owners did not feel comfortable about opening their property to the masses, and was thus only seen by a lucky few. As a consolation prize, the handsome Asian visitor was chosen to grace this issue’s front cover.

Besides these two outstanding finds, birders discovered a slew of other rarities in 2015. The following is a brief synopsis of some of the year’s most exciting sightings. Details for most of these records can be found in the respective Field Notes sections on the following pages.

Oregon’s second RED-billed Tropicbird came as a stunning surprise to three lucky observers who spotted this unexpected visitor from shore at Coquille Point in Bandon, Coos Co., on Oct 10, while scanning the ocean for BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS in the wake of an unprecedented influx of this small tubenose into Oregon waters. Beginning in early October and continuing throughout the end of the month, large numbers of this mainly Californian shearwater were detected close to shore along much of the Oregon coast, with more than 250 reported from Brookings, Curry Co., on Oct 8. A detailed summary of this incursion might be a worthwhile topic for a short note in a future issue of Oregon Birds. Prior to this invasion, there were only 5 accepted records of Black-vented Shearwater in Oregon, none of them substantiated by photos.

Rare seabirds continue to be found off the Oregon coast with increasing frequency as a result of pelagic trips, research cruises, and birders traveling on repositioning cruises that traverse Oregon waters farther from shore than most pelagic trips. These sightings keep adding to our growing understanding of the occurrence and frequency of offshore species. HAWAIIAN PETRELS appear to be somewhat regular in the late spring and summer, with 4 new records in 2015 between May 13 and Aug 9 (adding to the 3 previously accepted ones). Offshore trips also added Oregon’s 5th COOK’S PETREL on Jul 12 off Port Orford, Curry Co., and the state’s 14th SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS off Cape Arago, Coos Co., on Sep 21.

BROWN BOOBIES continued to make a good showing in 2015, with offshore sightings in Coos and Curry waters on Sep 21 and a bird in Newport, Lincoln Co., on Oct 23. A frigatebird, most likely a MAGNIFICENT, was observed at Seaside, Clatsop Co., on Feb 6. There are 7 prior records of confirmed Magnificent Frigatebirds in Oregon, plus two additional frigatebirds that could not positively be identified to species.

With only two previous accepted records (plus a third currently under review by the OBRC), the appearance of no fewer than three COMMON GROUND-DOVES came as quite a surprise. The first showed up at Cape Blanco, Curry Co., on Jun 7 (incidentally in the same location where the two previous records came from), another was found in Yachats, Lincoln Co., on Oct 15 and hung around for several days, and the third put in an appearance in Astoria, Clatsop Co., on Nov 7. Earlier in the year (on Jan 24), Astoria had already hosted one of 3 BLACK-HEADED GULLS found in 2015, which almost doubled Oregon’s count for this species (from 5 to 8). The others were detected at McNary Dam, Umatilla Co., on Jan 2 and at Suttle Lake, Jefferson Co., on Nov 14.

RED-THROATED PIPITS were found at Fern Ridge Reservoir near Eugene on Sep 11 and at Wickiup Reservoir, Deschutes Co., on Oct 19, for the state’s 4th and 5th record of this Asian visitor. Wickiup Reservoir also gave up one of two LITTLE STINTS detected in Oregon in 2015 (a bird initially reported as a Red-necked Stint on Aug 1).
The other was found in a perhaps more expected coastal location at the N. Spit in Coos Bay on May 18. These were only the 5th and 6th record of this Eurasian shorebird in our state.

A bright Blue-headed Vireo (Oregon’s 6th) showed up at Malheur NWR headquarters on May 11 and stuck around for a couple of days. A cooperative White Wagtail (Oregon’s 8th) of the subspecies ocularis visited Baskett Slough NWR on Apr 29. On the same day, a male Blue Grosbeak showed up in a business park in Beaverton, where it hung out for several days. This was the 12th record of this species in Oregon.

On Dec 4, Oregon’s 12th Mountain Plover was discovered in the wrack line at South Beach State Park south of Newport, Lincoln Co., in the company of a small flock of Snowy Plovers. The confiding bird stayed in the same area well into the following year and was enjoyed by many birders, easily becoming the most photographed Oregon shorebird of all times.

While walking that same beach on the particularly stormy day of Dec 13, Bob Archer stumbled upon a roosting flock of gulls that included an adult Red-legged Kittiwake. While this constituted the 11th record for Oregon, it was the first ever live bird found on shore – all previous records pertained to offshore sightings or to dead or moribund birds on the beach. The same is true for Thick-billed Murres – 8 previous accepted records were of dead birds on the beach, but a live one was seen over the ocean at Seal Rock State Park, Lincoln Co., on Jan 3 for the state’s 9th record.

Finally, a selection of rare songbirds concludes last year’s summary. Oregon’s 19th Eastern Phoebe visited the N. Spit in Coos Bay on Mar 21. Rare warblers included the state’s 17th Hooded Warbler in Moore Park, Klamath Falls on May 9; a wintering Cape May Warbler in Enterprise, Wallowa Co., on Jan 18 (Oregon’s 16th); a Blackburnian Warbler at Malheur NWR HQ on Sep 16 (Oregon’s 13th); a Yellow-throated Warbler at Sherwood, Washington Co., on 26 Nov (Oregon’s 9th); and the state’s 15th and 16th Prairie Warblers in Astoria on Jan 4 and at Summer Lake, Lake Co., on Sep 23. While not particularly rare in the state, especially along the coast, a bright Palm Warbler seen along Military Crossing Road on Aug 1 was a first for Klamath Co. and possible the first record of the eastern “Yellow” subspecies in Oregon.

A very cooperative male Dickcissel (Oregon’s 18th) put on a great show at Bayocean Spit in Tillamook on Nov 10 and stuck around for several days, and no fewer than 5 different Baltimore Orioles were found around the state for Oregon’s 19th to 23rd records, with single birds at Netarts, Tillamook Co., on Jan 4; Central Point, Jackson Co., on 17 May, Melrose, Douglas Co., on 27 May; the Pistol River in Curry Co. on 20 Aug and at Seaside, Clatsop Co., on Dec 23. And last but not least, breeding “Gray-headed” Juncos were once again reported from the Pueblo Mountains in southeastern Harney County in May and June, and a wintering bird was found in Enterprise, Wallowa Co., on Jan 18.
How do the field notes for *Oregon Birds* come together? For starters, we need YOU, the birders in the field, to report your sightings somewhere. This can be done by posting them online to OBOL or one of the many regional listservs across the state, by entering them into eBird, or by sending notable sightings directly to the Field Notes Editor for the respective region.

Most editors rely primarily on reports gleaned from the online lists, and increasingly from perusing eBird. So, if you post your sightings in one or several of these venues, it is usually not necessary to contact your local compiler. However, if you do not post your sightings and would still like to contribute to the field notes, please email a summary of your notable bird observations to one of the editors listed below. Thank you all for contributing and making the OB Field Notes section possible!

Below, you can see a map of the different reporting regions and a list of the current Field Notes Editors. Please note that several regions do not have an editor right now. If you are interested in taking on the task of compiling notes for any of these areas, please contact the OB editor at hhactitis@yahoo.com.

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**Oregon Birds Field Notes — Reporting Regions and Field Notes Editors**

North Coast
Clatsop & Tillamook counties
Wink Gross, winkg@hevanet.com
Jimmy Billstine, billstnji@gmail.com

Lincoln County
currently VACANT – new editor needed

South Coast
Coos & Curry counties
Tim Rodenkirk, timrodenkirk@gmail.com

Portland Metro Area
Columbia, Washington, Multnomah & Clackamas counties
Sarah Swanson, saraflowerbirds@gmail.com

North Willamette Valley
Yamhill, Polk & Marion counties
Pamela Johnston, pamela@spiritone.com
Caleb Centanni, caleb@centanni.com

Mid-Willamette Valley
Benton & Linn counties
Isaac Denzer, bartailedgodwit@peak.org

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Tom Mickel, tamiickel@riousa.com

Douglas County
Matt Hunter
matthewghunter@gmail.com

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Jackson & Josephine counties
Jeffrey Tufts, tallahto@aol.com

Mid-Columbia
Hood River, Wasco, Sherman & Gilliam counties
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Central Oregon
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Chuck Gates, cgates326@gmail.com

South Central
Klamath & Lake counties
Kevin Spencer, riparia@charter.net

Upper Columbia
Morrow & Umatilla counties
Aaron Skirvin, umatbird@gmail.com

Grant County
Tom Winters, tjwinters1951@gmail.com

Northeast
Union, Wallowa & Baker counties
currently VACANT – new editor(s) needed; this area can be split, if necessary

Southwest
Harney & Malheur counties
Tim Blount, harneybirder@gmail.com

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Carol Jean Shenk was born November 25, 1938, west of Sheridan, and spent her childhood in Polk and Tillamook counties. For a time, her family lived on a farm that is now part of the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge. After high school, Carol moved back to the Yamhill Valley and worked at Rock of Ages home, at the North West Woolen Mill, and finally for 30 years at Oregon Mutual Insurance, where she was an executive secretary. A brief marriage made her a single mom. Her son David passed away in 2010.

Carol became interested in birdwatching in the early 1990s. At first she was self-taught, spending her lunch hour at Sheldon’s Marsh on Briedwell Road outside Whiteson and at other favorite spots in Yamhill County. Judi Dippold became her first birding partner, exploring McMinnville and beyond.

Later Carol became a field trip leader for Salem Audubon Society and also led a weekly local ladies’ group. Eventually she joined Paul Sullivan in leading Birding Weekends for the Audubon Society of Portland and field trips at several birding festivals.

Carol was a kind mentor to many birders, sharing her enthusiasm for our feathered friends. She enjoyed helping others see new birds as much as she enjoyed finding them for herself. She shared her knowledge with those who weren’t at the front of the line on the trail. Her keen eyes spotted birds other people missed. Her organizational skills helped keep groups on track.

She avidly kept records of the birds she saw in her backyard for over 20 years. She participated enthusiastically in the winter Raptor Routes begun by Jeff Fleischer, doing two routes of her own and helping others run four other routes. She was anxious to start each season and sorry when it ended. She regularly brought riders along on her routes. She organized the Yamhill County NAMC for several years. She maintained the official list of birds seen in Yamhill County. Carol generously helped birders visiting the county. Her mind was a storehouse of local history and lore.

Carol also kept lists of birds she had seen in all the other counties of Oregon, and in 2008 she became the 13th person to see 100 species in all 36 Oregon counties. At the time of her death she was 2 birds short of seeing 125 in all 36 counties.

In March of 2015, Carol was diagnosed with lymphoma. She spent April in the Salem Hospital and May at LifeCare in McMinnville. Carol died peacefully, Sunday evening, May 31, 2015, at LifeCare.

— Paul T. Sullivan

Tributes from several Oregon birders:
“Two, you have shown me the way birding should be, with gentleness, awareness, persistence and generous sharing. Mostly when I think of being with you, I remember your smiles, the joy of birding, and the warmth you share. Thanks so much for being who you are!”
— Janet and Phil Lamberson

“You and Carol are such a big and important part of OBOL, and we thank you for all the time and sharing you have done and do. Carol will undoubtedly be sorely missed. May Carol fly as high as all the birds she loved to watch.”
— Dave Lauten/Kathy Castelein

“We have lost one of the bright lights in our birding world... Dorothy and I were just commenting this morning on how lucky we are to have been around so many terrific people in birding. You and Carol are at the top of that list.”
— Chuck Gates

“It is with great sorrow that the OBOL community has lost a simply gentle and wonderful soul. I think all of us who had the great fortune to have met, birded, and simply interacted with Carol, know what a loss this truly is. ... Her smiles and the twinkle in her eyes when she talked birds was priceless, heartwarming, and simply a joy to witness first hand!” — Jeff Fleischer

“She was loved by many and I wish that I could have birded with her more. I always appreciated her friendliness, especially the day this past January when you two helped me find my life rosy-finch in Wallowa County. As I whooped for joy seeing the birds, Carol gave me a big squeeze and seemed just as happy and excited as I was.” — Sarah Swanson

“The story that means the most to me and shows how generous and compassionate Carol was is about a Snowy Owl. Carol had seen the Snowy Owl on the coast three or maybe four times already, but right after [my husband] died, she called and said she wanted to take me to the coast to see a Snowy Owl because she knew just where it was. She had already seen it several times so it was just for my sake that she went again. That beautiful Snowy Owl was how I got hooked on birding.” — Marilyn van Dyk

“Birding with Carol was so much fun because she was like a kid in her boundless enthusiasm... The day in 2005 when a Say’s Phoebe showed up at our farm (the only time one has!), I called Carol and she drove right over to see it.” — Linda Fink
“She was generous with information about birds and where to find them, and with interesting things about Yamhill County, which she had travelled inside out and backwards. She knew the names of roads that the DeLorme Atlas shows as mere lines, and the sources of their names.” — Pamela Johnston

“Carol will be missed by so many of us both for her personal qualities of kindness, consideration, sense of humor, & general all-around niceness, & for her great birding skills as a leader on her own, & as your co-leader on so many trips.” — Leslie Meserve

“She was a wonderful human, great to spend time with both in the field and in the various before and after social times. I learned a lot from her and found her inspiring. She did a lot of impressive things while maintaining such a low-key manner; it made everything look easy.” — John Notis

“Carol was pure. She loved birds, and she loved Yamhill County, as well as other Oregon birds. There was never a hint of ego. I will miss her.” — Roy Gerig

“I’m in Mosier watching 8 hummingbirds (Anna’s and Rufous) arguing over the multiple feeders. Other birds are working through their early morning vocal exercises. The sun shines, the birds sing ... And there’s a hole in the world where Carol once stood.” — Diane Trainer

**New County Life List Records in 2015**

(16 counties)

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<td>Aaron Skirvin</td>
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<td>Trent Bray</td>
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**Various Other Listing Categories**

Birds Photographed in Oregon (39 participants): Tom Crabtree - 433
Motorless Life List: (18 participants): John Sullivan - 291
Motorless 2015 Year List (8 participants): Andy Frank - 216
Circle Count Life List (23 participants): Tom Crabtree - 293
Circle Count 2015 Year List (7 participants): Steve Warner - 193
Yard Life List (78 participants): Duncan Evered - 211
Favorite Refuge (26 participants): Tim Blount (Malheur) - 266

**2015 Oregon Listing Results - Summary**

Paul T. Sullivan, McMinnville, OR

Thank you to the 116 birders who submitted numbers this year, including 15 new participants. I carried forward records from 183 other participants, including 19 deceased birding friends. These Listing Results include the efforts of 299 birders over the years.

Looking at these records, we remember departed friends with whom we shared time afield. Sometimes their records are lost and their final numbers never recorded. We can thank Judy Meredith, Knute Andersson, and Paul Sullivan for gathering the records of departed friends Dean Hale, Lois Miller, and Carol Karlen, respectively.

**Editor’s note:** The listing results shown here represent selected highlights. The complete 2015 listing results can be found on the OBA website under www.orbirds.org (click on Listing in the menu bar).

**Oregon Statewide Listing:**

Seven more birders have reached the 400 species mark on their Oregon Life List. In alphabetical order they are: Dean Hale, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, John Fitchen, Marilyn Miller, Jamie Simmons, and Noah Strycker. (We also note that Noah set another record this year.)

Three birders set about doing a big year in Oregon in 2015 and reached the ranks of the top ten year lists of all time: Trent Bray at 363 species. Christopher Hinkle at 353 species, and Adrian Hinkle at 347 species.

This year we have added two new categories to showcase life lists in Eastern Oregon and Western Oregon, each category representing 18 counties on either side of the Cascade Crest.

**Oregon County Listing:**

Jeff Harding became the 18th birder to see 100 species in all 36 Oregon counties. Two birders reached the goal of seeing 125 species in all 36 Oregon counties: Tim Shelmerdine and Russ Namitz. Carol Karlen came close to this goal, falling only 2 species short in Douglas County.

This year each county in Oregon was represented by at least one birder submitting a year list for that county. This indicates the level of interest by birders who are working toward county listing goals.

Five birders set out to establish new county year list records. In Harney County Tim Blount at 261 species and Rick Vetter at 256 species beat the previous county year list record set in 2014 by Duncan Evered. In Klamath County Dave Hewitt at 259 species, Dave Haupt at 258 species, and Julie van Moorhem at 251 species beat the previous county year list set in 2014 by Kevin Spencer.

In the County Life List category it regularly happens that birders with the leading life list in their home county add a species or two and increase their total. This year, special mention goes to Tim Rodenkirk and Ron Maertz, who added five species in Coos and Douglas Counties, respectively.

Congratulations to all of you!
From May 2014 to May 2015, the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) completed the following records. The first group of records are those for which the written report and/or photographs or specimens supported the stated identification; these are accepted records. If photo/video(s) or specimen is indicated for a record, it was accepted as verified. Other records were accepted as sight records.

Of the 43 records reviewed by the Committee, 38 were accepted and 5 were not accepted. Three species were removed from the Review List: Lark Bunting, “Red” Fox Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Two species were added to the list: Tundra Bean Goose, and Stejneger’s Petrel. The Official Checklist now stands at 534 species.

Information presented below for each species includes location of sighting, number of birds, sex and age if known, special information (such as collection and museum number) and date(s), initial of the observer(s) submitting written or other evidence for accepted records, and the OBRC record file number. The OBRC record file number reads as follows: the first 3 digits are the AOU number for the species, the second 2 are the year in which the record was observed, and the last numbers are the consecutive numbers for the records as they are filed.

The members of the OBRC for 2014 are Tom Crabtree, Jeff Gilligan, David Irons, Tim Janzen, Shawnee Finnegan, Owen Schmidt, Hendrik Herlyn, Craig Tumer, and Jay Withgott. The alternates are Stefan Schlick, Wayne Hoffman, Tim Blount, and Craig Miller. The OBRC thanks the following organizations for having made financial contributions in the past year to help with expenses: Cape Arago Audubon Society, Central Oregon Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Grant County Bird Club, Grande Ronde Bird Club, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Lane County Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Portland, Salem Audubon Society, Umpqua Valley Audubon, and Yaquina Birders and Naturalists.

The OBRC solicits nominations for membership. Each year, the OBRC elects 3 of its 9 members for 3-year terms. Birders interested in serving on the OBRC should nominate themselves. All nominees must be members of OBA in good standing and the Secretary must receive all nominations before 15 November 2015. New terms begin at the new calendar year.

Accepted Records:

**Tundra Bean Goose**
171.1-14-01 ... Nestucca Bay NWR, Tillamook Co., 9 November 2014 (WH, DI, photos by DaV, HH, NeN, StC, AFr, OS, WH, CrB, DI; video by TJ, OS);

**Hawaiian Petrel**
098.5-14-03 ... 40mi. W. of Brookings, Curry Co., one bird on 30 April 2014 (photos by BrR);

**Stejneger’s Petrel**
098.4-14-01 ... 128nm W. of Rogue River mouth, Curry Co., one bird on 15 September 2014 (MiF);

**Streaked Shearwater**
088.1-13-02 ... 50mi. W. of Tillamook County, one bird on 24 September, 2013 (JMe, TJ);

**Wilson’s Storm-Petrel**
109-14-06 ... 39mi. WSW of Newport, Lincoln Co., one bird on 16 August 2014 (RRo, SF, JoR, RuN, photos by BA, SF, JoR, WG);

**Ashy Storm-Petrel**
108-14-05 ... 45mi. W. of Waldport, Lincoln Co., one bird on 18 May 2014 (GG, photos by BA);

**Black Storm-Petrel**
107-14-05 ... 33mi. W. of Newport, Lincoln Co., one bird on 16 August 2014 (RuN, RRo, JoR, SF, photos by BoL);

**Magnificent/Great Frigatebird**
128/128.1-15-02 ... Seaside, Clatsop Co., one bird on 6 February 2015 (MP, JAw, photos by JaW);

**Brown Booby**
115-14-06... Tierra Del Mar, Tillamook Co., one bird on 25 October 2014 (WG);

**Wilson’s Storm-Petrel**
109-14-06 ... 39mi. WSW of Newport, Lincoln Co., one bird on 16 August 2014 (RRo, SF, JoR, WG);

**White Ibis**
184-14-03... Page Springs CG, Harney Co., one bird on 17 May 2014 (JNe);

**Glossy Ibis**
186-14-08... Lower Klamath NWR, Klamath Co., one bird on 18 April 2014 (photos by NSt);

**Hudsonian Godwit**
251-14-24... Baskett Slough NWR, Polk Co., one bird on 18 May 2014 (photos by BrW);

**Guadalupe Murrelet**
025.1-14-04... 138nm W of Cape Blanco, Curry Co., 15 September 2014 (MiF, photo by SY);
**Black-headed Gull**
055.1-13-07... Seaside, Clatsop Co., one bird on 17 November 2013 (MP);
055.1-15-09... McNary Dam, Umatilla Co., one bird on 2 January 2015 (AaS, SF, photos by AaS, TBr, MLD, StC, MiC, ChL, Run, SF, DJ, video by TJ, SF);
055.1-15-10... Astoria, Clatsop Co., one bird on 24 January 2015 (MP, photos by P, TrH, DiB, RPH, DJ, JaS);

**Little Gull**
060.1-14-15... Upper Klamath Lake, Klamath Co., one bird on 19 September 2014 (RuN, photos by RuN, JSu, DiB, PeT);

**Ross’s Gull**
061-14-05... 50mi. W of Tillamook County, Tillamook Co., one bird on 22 September 2014 (photos by OS, TC);

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**
050-14-05... Rickets Road, Lane Co., one bird on 24 November 2014 (photos by NSt, BMc, SaH, JSu, BC, NeN, OS, MP);

**Chimney Swift**
423-14-02... Carver, Clackamas Co., one bird on 2 May 2014 (BoB);
423-14-03... Eugene, Lane Co., one bird on 12 May 2014 (OS, JG, photos by OS, video by OS, BC);

**Eastern Phoebe**
456-14-22... Langlois, Curry Co., one bird on 11 May 2014 (TR, photos by LoM);

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**
493-14-23... Cape Arago, Coos Co., one bird on 30 December 2014 (photos by JuT);

**California Thrasher**
710-14-04... Pilot Rock, Jackson Co., during summer 2014 (photo by FrC);

**Red-throated Pipit**
699-14-05... Lake Selmac, Josephine Co., one bird on 20 October 2014 (RuN, photos by RuN, JeS, OS, DiB, PeT, DJ, video by RuN, TJ);

**Phainopepla**
620-14-10... Klamath River Canyon, Klamath Co., one bird on 13 June 2014 (KS, photos and videos by KS);

**McCown’s Longspur**
539-14-09... Enterprise, Wallowa Co., one winter bird on 31 December 2014 (KHT, photos by KhT, TBr);

**Cape May Warbler**
650-15-17... Enterprise, Wallowa Co., one male on 18 January 2015 (AH, photos by AH, CHI, AC, TrH, HH); (photo page 9)

**Blackburnian Warbler**
662-14-13... Pueblo Mountains, Harney Co., one male on 14 June 2014 (CHI, photos by AH, CHI);
662-14-14... Bayocean, Tillamook Co., one male on 12 October 2014. (photos by MiK);

**Prairie Warbler**
673-15-15... Astoria, Clatsop Co., one bird on 4 January 2015 (AnM; photos by AnM, MP);

**Canada Warbler**
686-14-11... P Ranch, Harney Co., one bird on 28 September 2014 (photos by NST);

**Lark Bunting**
605-14-27... Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., one bird on 9 September 2014 (photos by SmA);

**“Red” Fox Sparrow**
585-14-12... Corvallis, Benton Co., one bird on 27 December 2014 (details by TiO, photos by TiO, CaB);
585-14-13... Salem, Marion Co., one bird on 17 December 2014 (photo by DBc);

**“Gray-headed” Dark-eyed Junco**
569-14-06... Ten Cent Meadows-Pueblo Mnts, Harney Co., one bird on 14 June 2014 (CHI);
569-15-07... Enterprise, Wallowa Co., one bird on 18 January 2015 (CHI, AH);

**Rustic Bunting**
535.1-14-03... Portland, Multnomah Co., one adult male on 25 April 2014 (NaO, photos by TMc, BA, video by TJ);

**Baltimore Oriole**
507-14-19... Coos Bay, Coos Co., adult male on 24 May 2014 (photo by LoM);
507-15-20... Netarts, Tillamook Co., one bird on 4 January 2015 (photos by DHm, OS, NeN); video by JuK); (photo page 9)

**Rusty Blackbird**
509-13-27... Portland, Multnomah Co., one female on 24 December 2013 (AH);
509-13-28... near Enterprise, Wallowa Co., one female on 22 December 2013 (photos by JaB);
509-14-29... Wickiup Reservoir, Deschutes Co., one female on 10 November 2014 (WHe, photo WHe);

**Lawrence’s Goldfinch**
531-13-13... Klamath Falls, Klamath Co., one male on 12 June 2013 (MES);
531-14-15... Ashland, Jackson, one male on 3 May 2014 (GoP);

**Not Accepted Records:**

**“Vega” Herring Gull**
052-14-02... South Jetty Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., one adult on 27 October 2014. Although the bird showed a reddish eye-ring, details and photos did not entirely rule out similar species.
Aleutian Tern
073-14-01 ... 112mi. W. of Coos County, Coos Co., one apparent subadult bird. Very detailed and extensive description did not entirely rule out similar species. Very poor photos were not convincing.

Plumbeous Vireo
629.11-14-11 ... McCully Creek, Wallowa Co., one bird on 25 May 2014. Details and photo did not rule out very similar faded Cassin’s Vireo.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail
696-14-05 ... near Halsey, Linn Co., one calling bird on 5 February 2014. Brief sighting of a flying calling bird. Very detailed and extensive description did not rule out similar species. Identification based primarily on calls.

Lawrence’s Goldfinch
531-13-14 ... Kirtland Road Sewage Ponds, Jackson Co., one bird on 17 May 2013. While possibly correct, the details were very brief and incomplete.

Observers:
Bob Archer (BA)  Michael Force (MiF)  Dave Irons (DI)  Nels Nelson (NeN)  Dave Slager (DSI)
Douglas Beall (DBe)  Andy Frank (AFr)  Tim Janzen (TJ)  Jim Nestler (JNe)  Kevin Spencer (KS)
Chris Bennett (CrB)  Greg Gillson (GG)  Michael Krall (MiK)  Nathan Osborne (NaO)  Noah Stryker (NST)
James Billstine (JaB)  Wink Gross (WG)  Judy Kristensen (JuK)  Tim Olson (TiO)  John Sullivan (JSu)
Trent Bray (TBr)  Dale Hamer (DHm)  Nick Lethaby (NL)  Mike Patterson (MP)  Peter Thiemann (PeT)
Carrie Burkholder (CaB)  R.P.Hancy (RPH)  Christopher Lindsey (ChL)  John Rakestraw (JoR)  Khanh Tran (KhT)
Diana Byrne (DiB)  Stephanie Hazen (SHz)  Bob Lockett (BoL)  Bruce Rideout (BrR)  Judt Travels (JuT)
Frank Callahan (FrC)  Will Hemstrom (WHe)  Andrew Mattingly (AnM)  Roger Robb (RRo)  Dawn Villaescusa (DaV)
Scott Carpenter (StC)  Hendrik Herlyn (HH)  Sylvia Maulding (SMa)  Tim Rodenkirk (TR)  Brandon Wagner (BrW)
Mike Clark (MiC)  Sally Hill (SaH)  Barry McKenzie (BMc)  Jan Sanford (JaS)  Jay Withgott (JaW)
Barbara Combs (BC)  Adrian Hinkle (AH)  Tom McNamara (TMc)  Mary Ellen Sargent (MES)  \nTom Crabtree (TC)  Christopher Hinkle (Chi)  Judy Meredith (JMe)  Owen Schmidt (OS)  \nMerryLynn Denny (MLD)  Wayne Hoffman (WH)  Lois Miller (LoM)  Floyd Schrock (FS)  \nBarbara Dolan (BaD)  Tristen Hynes (TrH)  Russ Namitz (RuN)  Jeff Schwick (JeS)  \n
OBRC members and alternates (from left to right): Jay Withgott, Tim Janzen, Hendrik Herlyn, Harry Nohls (front), Stefan Schlick (back), Tom Crabtree, Dave Irons, Shawneen Finnegan, Tim Blount, Jeff Gilligan, Craig Miller, Owen Schmidt, Craig Tumer, and Rozi the Wonder Dog (honorary member). May 5, 2015.
A Word from the Editors

After many years of faithful volunteer service, several of the current Field Notes compilers have expressed their intention to retire from this task.

As a result, *Oregon Birds* magazine will need new volunteers to step up and take over the compilation of field notes for the following regions:

- Lincoln County
- Union County
- the Northeast corner of the state (Wallowa and Baker counties)

If you want to continue to read about what has been seen in your area and across Oregon, we need YOU to step forward and tackle this task!

If you are interested in taking over one of the above regions, please contact the editor at the email address found on the inside cover of this issue.

At this point, the Editors would like to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of the Field Notes compilers, past and present, who have contributed their time and effort to this magazine! We couldn’t have done it without you!
Although the North Coast region did not host any confirmed first-state records this year, it was hopping with great birds in 2015. Our own 2014 record-maker, the TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE remained in its favorite pasture at NBNWR into April. “Pale-bel-lied” Brant, which normally winter in Puget Sound, were found at NBNWR, Oct 27 (SF) and in Warrenton (Clatsop), Dec 20 (fide MP). (Three Barnacle Geese at NBNWR on Sep 9 were subsequently determined to be escapees.) Seven Long-tailed Ducks were at SC on Oct 25 (MP).

A MOTTLED PETREL was recorded 70 miles off Tillamook on a repositioning cruise, Dec 2 (Ryan Merrill). BLACK-VENTED SHEAR-WATERS made it all the way up to SC and NBSP on Oct 11 (MP and BH). Foul weather in December brought Leach’s, Fork-tailed, and a possible BLACK STORM-PETREL close to shore in Clatsop County Dec 10-13 (MP, SR & DB).

Jay Withgott was stunned to see an immature FRIGATEBIRD soaring over SC on Feb 6. The consensus after viewing his video was that it was MAGNIFICENT, in both senses. Another was reported on May 27 near Warrenton (Suzanne Staples, Ocean Park, WA). Drake Shovelor was astonished to see a BROWN BOOBY land near him at Tillamook Bay, Dec 7. Out of season were the 7 or 8 American White Pelicans at Young’s Bay (Clatsop) on Jan 2 (LC).

A Snowy Egret was found at WI on Aug 31 (KC). It remained at least until Sep 16. BH found at Cattle Egret at NM on Sep 20. The next day, Jeff Harding found one near Fenk Road, Tillamook. It remained in the vicinity until at least Dec 5. BH also found a Black-crowned Night-Heron at the new Kilchis Point Reserve in Bay City (Tillamook), Sep 14.

A Turkey Vulture was a surprise on the Columbia Estuary CBC (Clatsop), Dec 20 (fide MP). Will Risser found a light phase, immature “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk just east of Tillamook on Nov 2. It remained for several weeks among the impressive concentration of raptors in the fields along Hwy 6. PP observed a pale adult Ferruginous Hawk over CH (Tillamook) on May 31. Brownsmead (Clatsop) was visited by at least one and maybe two Golden Eagles late March, early April (MP & fide HN). Gyrfalcons were reported from Cape Meares (Tillamook), Nov 13 (Brant Kilber) and Nov 20 (Bing Wong). A Prairie Falcon was at WR, Dec 3 (Dena Turner and Mary Ratcliff).

Most heartwarming were the widespread reports of Snowy Plovers all along the coast. High count was 9 at the river beach at SJCR on Sep 3 (MP). A Solitary Sandpiper was at Rockaway, Aug 20 (RM). SW found a HUDSONIAN GODWIT at WR on May 16. It hung around the general area for a week in the company of a Willet and a Long-billed Curlew. One Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at AAMW on Sep 22 (MP) was joined by another on Sep 24 (MP). They remained at least until Oct 1. RM found a Stilt Sandpiper at Rockaway, Aug 15. WG found another at the new Sitka Sedge Natural Area near WI, Sep 4. Max Smith and Sarah Swanson went to look for it the same day, and instead found a well-described CURLEW SANDPIPER, pushing the “Two-Bird Theory” to its limit, perhaps. A Ruff was at NBNWR, Oct 24 (WG). A miniature snipe at SJCR was in the right habitat at the right time for a possible JACK SNIPE, Oct 16 (Owen Schmidt, et. al.).

MP found a BLACK-HEADED GULL hanging out with Mew Gulls in Astoria, Jan 18. It was last seen Mar 17. A Franklin’s Gull was at Ft Stevens, May 30 (Jenna Curtis). The first Heerman’s Gull of the season arrived Jun 17 at NBSP. Nine days later, there were 300 at the HBB. Elegant Terns made another good showing this year, with 4 at Necanicum Estuary on Aug 3, building to 370 at East Sand Island (Clatsop) by Aug 17 (MP).

SW found a COMMON GROUND-DOVE at WR on Nov 8. Confounding the expected “CBC Curse,” it remained long enough to be recorded on the Columbia Estuary count, Dec 20 (fide MP).

A Snowy Owl along Wilson River Loop in Tillamook, Nov 19, was a one-day wonder (Joe Metzler). LC flushed a Burrowing Owl at SJCR on Dec 13. A Red-naped Sapsucker was exhibiting breeding behavior near University Falls (Tillamook) on May 21 (Christopher Adlam).
DR found a Dusky Flycatcher on top of Mt Hebo (Tillamook) on Aug 1. The Say’s Phoebe overwintering at the Tillamook airport stayed through the month of January. DR found another near Knappa (Clatsop) on June 18. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Little Beach, Gearhart (Clatsop) on Oct 27 (MP). Tropical Kingbirds were reported from NM, NBNWR, and WR from mid-October to early December. On Aug 11 Andrew Emlen found a Red-eyed Vireo in the extensive cottonwood stand on Tenassalahe Island (Clatsop). A bird that “looked and sounded like” a MEXICAN JAY was reported from downtown Tillamook by Justin Hersom. It could not be confirmed.

A Mountain Chickadee at CH on Oct 3 (PP) was the vanguard of numerous sightings, including up to 5 at SJCR on Oct 29 (MP). Single Rock Wrens were reported at several sites in Clatsop County from May 9 to Oct 17. Bob Archer found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher along the edge of the burned area at SJCR on Sep 17. Single birds of that species were also found at Gearhart, Oct 27 (JG), and at TBW, Nov 22 (SR & DB). The TBW gnatcatcher remained through December.

A Townsend’s Solitaire was at Del Rey Beach, Nov 29 (fide MP). Northern Mockingbirds were at Astoria, Apr 6 (MP); Bayocean (Tillamook), May 22 (WG) and Nov 10 (DV); and HBB, Nov 22 (Bill Bradford). MP found an EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL at SJCR on Sep 10. AM saw at least 4 Bohemian Waxwings at the Astoria Column on May 23. A Northern Waterthrush was at AAMW on May 14 (MP). MP also found an overwintering Nashville Warbler in Astoria on Jan 2. AM hosted a PRAIRIE WARBLER in his Astoria yard for a week in early January. Yellow-breasted Chats are moving into the region. The Clatsop County Bioblitz found a “couple” on May 30, (fide DR), and KC found a singing bird on Moon Creek Road (Tillamook), Jun 16.

American Tree Sparrows were at Winema View Point near Nesikowin (Tillamook) on Nov 5 (Sky Lloyd of Crescent City, CA) and WR on Nov 29 (MP). A Clay-colored Sparrow at WR, found by Bill Tweit Nov 23, remained until mid-December. DM found another at Gienger Road (Tillamook) on Nov 28. Most intriguing, sparrow-wise, was the singing Brewer’s Sparrow found by KC in a clearcut 7 miles SE of Nesikowin on Jul 1. A Vesper Sparrow was at WR on May 2 (MP). Three Swamp Sparrows were at TBW, Nov 20 (Russ Namitz). Sue Norris hosted a Harris’s Sparrow at her yard in Rockaway (Tillamook), Nov 4-6.

Lazuli Buntings appear to be expanding into the region. Territorial birds were seen at Saddle Mtn (Clatsop), Jun 10 (MP) and at Moon Creek Road (Tillamook), Jun 15 (WG). DICKCISSEL has visited Tillamook County four out of the last six years. Unlike previous birds, the one found by DV at Bayocean on Nov 10 stuck around for over 2 weeks, allowing many to add it to their lists.

Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at WR on Sep 19 (MP). Another was at NM, Oct 18 (DM). A HOODED ORIOLE was in Seaside, Dec 20 (fide MP). During the month of January, all three reasonable-to-hope-for ORIOLES were in Tillamook County: HOODED at John Allen’s yard in Tillamook, and both Bullock’s and BALTIMORE at Netarts.

Last phylogenetically and, as it happens, chronologically, Jules Evens found a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at Manzanita (Tillamook), Dec 29.

Initialed Observers

(LC) Lee Cain (RM) Randy Moore
(KC) Ken Chamberlain (HN) Harry Nehls
(SF) Shawneen Finnegan (MP) Mike Patterson
(JG) Jeff Gilligan (PP) Phil Pickering
(WG) Wink Gross (SR) Skip Russell
(BH) Beverly Hallberg (DB) Darlene Betat
(DM) David Mandell (DR) Doug Robinson
(AM) Andrew Mattingly (DV) Dawn Villaescusa

AAMW - Astoria Airport Mitigation Wetland (Clatsop)  CH - Cascade Head (Tillamook),
HBB - Hammond Boat Basin (Clatsop)
NBSB - Nehalem Bay State Park (Tillamook),
NM - Nehalem Meadows (Tillamook)
NBNWR- Nestucca Bay NWR (Tillamook)
SJCR - South Jetty Columbia River (Clatsop)
SC-Seaside Cove (Clatsop)
TBW- Tillamook Bay Wetlands (Tillamook)
I-Whalen Island (Tillamook)
WR - Wireless Road (Clatsop)
The Ross's Goose at Beaver Creek in Dec 2014 continued until Jan 29 (m.obs.); it was the first record of one on the ground in Lincoln Co.

A Murphy's Petrel was about 50 miles off Lincoln Co. on Mar 21 and May 21 (Paul Lehman fide Shawneen Finnegan and Tim Rodenkirk), and a HAWAIIAN PETREL was detected during a cruise on Sep 21 (fide Jeff Gilligan). 1-6 BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS were noted on Oct 11 at Depoe Bay (Phil Pickering), Boiler Bay (Will Hemstrom), and Yaquina Head (Wayne Hoffman, Chuck Philo). There were at least 11 additional reports through Nov 1 (m.obs.).

On pelagic trips from Newport, a WILSON'S STORM-PETREL was found on Oct 3 and an ASHY STORM-PETREL was viewed on Sep 19 and Oct 3 (Tim Shelmerdine et al.).

A booby captured in the Newport area, brought to Oregon Coast Aquarium for rehabilitation on Sep 11, and later flown to California for additional care and release is to be identified as either a MASKED or a NAZCA BOOBY by using DNA (Jay Withgott). On Oct 17, Aaron Skirvin watched an immature BROWN BOOBY at Cape Perpetua (fide Alan Contreras), and on Oct 23, John Allen discovered an adult Brown Booby at Yaquina Bay that was seen through Nov 1 (m.obs.). This is the second fall in a row that one showed up at Yaquina Bay.

An American White Pelican flew past Yachats on May 30 (Christopher Hinkle) and Yaquina Head on June 1 (Roy Lowe). There have only been eight previous records. Brown Pelicans have been recorded in Lincoln Co. each month of the year in the even-numbered years 2008, 2010, and 2012. 2015 became the first odd-numbered year with reports each month (m.obs.).

Winter sightings of Turkey Vultures included one at the Salmon River on Jan 26 (Dawn Villaescusa) and the Newport-Beaver Creek area during Nov 29-Dec 5 (Isaac Denzer; Rebecca Cheek; Wayne Hoffman).

2014 and 2015 have been good for Snowy Plovers, after the species was rare for many years. In 2015, they were more widespread and numerous, with sightings at five different beaches in Aug (Dan Elbert), and a peak count of 12 at South Beach State Park on Dec 20 (Gloria Beerman). On Dec 4, Peter Pearssall discovered a MOUNTAIN PLOVER at South Beach State Park (fide Dawn Harris) that lingered through the end of the year (m.obs.) and well into 2016.

Ancient Murrelets usually aren’t reported until fall and winter, but this summer three of unspecified age were at Boiler Bay on Jun 18 (Howie Nielsen), and two adults and a juvenile were at Fishing Rock less than a mile north of Boiler Bay on Jun 22 (Jennifer Rothe, Stephen Rossiter, Dawn Villaescusa) and at Boiler Bay on Jun 23 (Brian Maxfield) and Aug 13 (Ken Chamberlain). Two Parakeet Auklets were tallied during the Feb 21 pelagic trip (Tim Shelmerdine et al.). On Dec 13, Bob Archer photographed Oregon’s first live RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE seen onshore at South Beach State Park. Virginia Stanton discovered Elegant Terns on Aug 1 at the Yaquina Bay jetties (fide Joel Geier). They continued at Yaquina Bay, Alsea Bay, and Boiler Bay (m.obs.), with a high count of 45 at the Yaquina Bay jetties on Aug 13 (Joshua Little) and the latest on Oct 21 at Yachats (Bill Tice, Chuck Philo).

On Oct 17, Paula Lester reported a COMMON GROUND-DOVE that she had seen the previous two days around her Yachats home. It was confirmed on Oct 18 (Alan Contreras) and was widely observed through 11/2 (m.obs.). The White-winged Dove found...
by Deb Holland on Dec 26, 2014 in Newport continued through Jan 9 (m.obs.), but it was predated on Jan 10, with only a pile of feathers remaining. The Yaquina Head Burrowing Owl detected on Nov 30, 2014 remained until Mar 18 (m.obs.).

Two Peregrine Falcon eggs were in the Yaquina Head nest on Mar 22, and the original nesting male was last seen on Mar 31 (Wayne Hoffman). A new “adoptive” male (which had been present five days before the nesting male disappeared) brought the nesting female food on Apr 4 (Wayne Hoffman). Four chicks were in the nest on May 8 (Don Campbell), the original nesting female disappeared later in May, and the adoptive male alone fed the chicks (Laura Paulson). On Jun 5, a second-year female appeared, but she was never seen feeding young (Laura Paulson). All of the chicks left the nest during Jun 13-15 (Laura Paulson). Then the new female began attacking the flying fledglings and sometimes hitting them in flight (Laura Paulson). On Jun 22, one of the young was found dead, and another was weak enough that it was captured (fide Rick Mark; David Smith).

On Oct 26, Darrel Faxon discovered and Chuck Philo corroborated Oregon’s first GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER at Thornton Creek between Toledo and Eddyville, which was appreciated by many through Oct 29 (m.obs.). From Oct 2 through Nov 2, single Tropical Kingbirds were east of Newport, Yaquina Bay State Park, Newport, the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC), and along North Three Rocks Road in Otis (m.obs.).

On Aug 2, Doug Robinson studied a Bank Swallow at Eckman Lake east of Waldport; there have been only two previous records since 1970. The only winter swallows were two Barn Swallows at the Yaquina Bay South Jetty on Jan 10 (Mark Elliott).

Mountain Chickadees were at Yaquina Head on Oct 2 (Chuck Philo), and a few were noted thereafter at Yachats, South Beach, Newport, and Yaquina Head (m.obs.). The high count of 10-12 was at Yaquina Head on Oct 17 (Nagi Aboulenein and Taghrid Elmeguvi), and the latest were at Waldport on Nov 21 (Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Hendrik Herlyn, Oscar Harper). Since 1996, they had been only detected during Oct 2000-Apr 2001, Aug 2001, and Nov 2007. On Jun 9, Hendrik Herlyn saw a Rock Wren at Yaquina Head for the seventh record. Single Northern Mockingbirds were found just east of Newport on May 11 (John and Linda Mackown), at South Beach State Park on Jun 9 (Peter Pearsall), and in Lincoln City on Jul 17 (Jack Hurt).

On Oct 16, Alan Contreras and Tristen Hynes spotted a Chestnut-collared Longspur at Boiler Bay; this is the third Lincoln Co. record. On Sep 18, Phil Pickering reported a possible female CONNECTICUT WARBLER in Lincoln City; there are no accepted records in Oregon. Single Yellow-breasted Chats were in the Logsden area during May 10-Jul 3 (Bob Llewellyn) and in the Fall Creek area of southeast Lincoln Co. on May 26 and 28 (Doug Robinson; Deb Holland). Prior to this year, there were only eight records.

On May 31, Chuck Philo found and Wayne Hoffman photographed a breeding-plumaged Clay-colored Sparrow at Yaquina Head. On Oct 21, Paul Sullivan discovered one at Yachats that was watched through Oct 27 (m.obs.). A Lark Sparrow at Yachats on May 16 (Andy Frank) was the first since 2009. On Aug 30, Matthew Schneider spotted one between the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the HMSC (fide Alan Contreras) that lingered through Sep 8 (Chuck Philo). On Oct 5, Philo found perhaps a different one near the Yaquina Bay North Jetty. On Mar 26, Chuck Philo located a Sagebrush Sparrow near the Toledo Post Office that was appreciated the same day (Wayne Hoffman, Dawn Harris, Ram Papish). Rick Mark watched a Harris’s Sparrow at his feeder in Cutler City in Lincoln City on Dec 15; it was present through Dec 30 (Russ Namitz; Rick Mark; David Smith).

The only Lazuli Bunting was a male near Toledo on May 16 (Steve Kupillas). A first-year male Bullock’s Oriole came to Robin Karnes’s feeders in Newport during Dec 27, 2014-Jan 4, and another was at a Depoe Bay hummingbird feeder for several weeks as of Jan 21 (fide Jeff Gilligan). On Nov 12, two were along the HMSC Nature Trail (Dan Elbert), and on Dec 3, Eric Horvath identified a female Bullock’s coming to Melody Pfister’s feeder at the HMSC that had been coming for a few days previously. On Dec 4, Will Hemstrom photographed one along the HMSC Nature Trail, and one was often noted at HMSC through the end of the year (m.obs.).
The dry weather conditions continued in 2015 throughout the year until December, which had a record amount of precipitation—over 20 inches. The winter and spring weather was much warmer than normal; January had 12 days over 60 F in North Bend, with one of those days up to 70 F.

A rare oversummering Greater White-fronted Goose was present on NSCB and the adjacent bay from 11 Aug through at least early Sep (V. Buck, BF, et al.). During the entire night of 20 Sep into the morning of 21 Sep, many thousands of Greater White-fronted Geese were heard migrating overhead by multiple observers up and down the south coast and may have involved hundreds of thousands of geese. An Emperor Goose was in Brookings on 3 Oct (DM, DC). One probable oversummering Brant was reported in Port Orford on 5 Jul (KA), and two were at New River, Coos on 26 Jul (TR). A single Snow Goose overwintered on the Wahl ranch near Cape Blanco, Curry, in 2014/2015, with two overwintering in 2015/2016 (TW). A Late Snow Goose was seen flying overhead near Langlois, Curry on 30 May (KA). The high count of Snow Geese was 11 at Bandon on 4 Oct (J. Trent). 20+ broods of Gadwall were at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the NSCB on 31 Jul; this species has bred at the site every year now since 2006. Blue-winged Teal bred again on NSCB—the only location this species has bred in the county (TR). Three female Cinnamon Teal with broods were found at the same NSCB location on 1 Aug (TR). A female Cinnamon Teal graced the 20 Dec Coos Bay CBC for a second count record (TR). The high count for Canvasback in one location was 180 at the NSCB on 27 Nov (TR). 50 Harlequin Ducks were seen at Cape Arago on 14 Nov (TR et al.). 16,000 Surf Scoters were observed off Cape Blanco on 11-12 Nov (AC et al.). Long-tailed Ducks were absent from Coos Bay during both the winter of 2014/2015 and 2015/2016; however, one was observed at Brookings on 9 Mar (RN).

A Yellow-billed Loon was reported from Charleston on 26 Apr (R. Ketchum et al.) and perhaps the same bird was observed near Haynes Inlet in upper Coos Bay on 10 May (TR, BF). A breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe was present 20 June through 2 Aug at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on NSCB—making this the latest spring date or the earliest “fall” arrival (TR). A Red-necked Grebe lingered in Coos Bay until 28 Jun—latest spring record for Coos (TR). The breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe present at the old Weyerhaeuser pond site from 27 Jun through 11 Jul was either the latest “spring” date or the earliest “fall” arrival (TR).

Coos County’s first ever July Laysan Albatross was seen from a fishing boat off Bandon during the first week of the month (L. Standley, M. Graybill). A Black-footed Albatross was spotted from land off Bandon on February 8, 2015 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan), and an amazing 750 were observed from a cruise ship associated with seven trawlers off Curry on 21 May (PL et al.). Coos’s 4th SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS was reported from a cruise ship on 21 Sep (JG et al.). Murphy’s Petrel reports from cruise ships included: 29 from Coos to Tillamook counties on 29 Apr (PL et al.); 96 from Curry to Tillamook Counties on 13 May (PL et al.); and one off Curry and two off Coos on 15 May (T. Janzen et al.). HAWAIIAN PETREL records from cruise ships included: four off Curry on 29 Apr (PL et al.); two off Curry on 13 May (PL et al.); one off Coos on 15 May (S. Kornfeld, D. Kook); and four off Curry on 12 Jul, with two off Coos the same day (JG, OS). COOK’S PETRELS were also observed from a
cruise ship on 12 Jul, three from Curry and two from Coos (JG, OS). Three **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** were reported offshore Curry from a cruise ship on 10 Nov (PL et al.). A Buller’s Shearwater was observed from a cruise ship off Curry on the early date of 1 Aug (PL, B. Rideout). It was the best year on record for **BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS**, with a bunch of reports: 250+ from Brookings on 8 Oct, with 10 from Bandon on the same day (RN et al.); singles reported by two different observers off Gold Beach on 9 Oct (B. Rosie, D. Pettey); two off Bandon on 10 Oct (AC); there were two more there the next day also (AH, CH, T. Crabtree); three from Brookings on 10 Oct (T. Crabtree, T. Bray); one from Gold Beach on 10 Oct (B. Rosie); three from Cape Arago on 11 Oct, with one at Gold Beach the same day (DAH); four from Brookings on 11 Oct (D. Irons et al.); one from Bandon on 12 Oct (DL/KC); one from Cape Arago on 24 Oct (D. Sutherland); 225 from Floras Lake, Curry on 25 Oct (RN, T. Shelnutt); with 14 from Cape Arago the same day (TR); seven from Cape Arago on 26 Oct (C. Gates); 200 from Ophir on 31 Oct, with six there the next day (D. Robinson); 75 from Brookings on 7 Nov (DM); and two from Cape Arago on 12 Nov (S. Hill). Two **Manx Shearwaters** were found on the 20 Dec Coos Bay CBC for a first count record (J. Danzenbaker, DAH). 52 Leach’s Storm-petrels were observed from a cruise ship off Curry on 9 Aug (PL et al.). A single Leach’s Storm-petrel was seen in the harbor area at Brookings on 7 Oct (DC), and two late birds were off Cape Arago on 13 Dec (TR). A **BLACK STORM-PETREL** was reported off Curry on 1 Aug (PL, B. Rideout). A **RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD** was seen from shore in Bandon on 10 Oct (AH & CH); this would only be the 2nd record for OR if accepted by OBRC. Single **BROWN BOOBIES** were reported off both Coos and Curry from a cruise ship on 21 Sep (JG et al.).

An **American White Pelican** was in Coos Bay from 7-17 May (P. O’Neal et al.). A few Brown Pelicans overwintered in the Charleston area of Coos Bay in 2014/2015, and 47 were found on the 20 Dec Coos Bay CBC (m.obs.). The only **Snowy Egret** reported was one near the mouth of the Rogue on 12 Oct (C. Gates). A **Cattle Egret** was seen near the mouth of the Winchuck River, Curry on 21 Sep (DM, DC). Five **White-faced Ibis** were observed flying over Port Orford on 24 May (L. Miller).

A few Turkey Vultures may have overwintered in the Catching Slough pastures of Coos Bay during 2014/2015 (BF), but none were noted in 2015/2016. Turkey Vultures did overwinter both years in the Coquille Valley, where they have wintered consecutively since 2012 (m.obs.). Osprey regularly overwinter in Coos Bay; during the winter of 2014/2015 and 2015/2016, at least one overwintered in the Port Orford area as well (m.obs.). A **Sandhill Crane** was around for two days in mid-February at the Wahl ranch near Cape Blanco (TW).

Four spring Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported from Coos, with dates ranging from 30 Apr-24 May (m.obs.). There were no fall reports, which is very unusual. Four **Willet** overwintered along the Coos Bay waterfront, where a small flock has overwintered the past decade (m.obs.). The largest Red Knot flock was 33 birds at the mouth of Tenmile Creek, Coos on 8 May (D. Farrar). A single Red Knot was found on the 20 December Coos Bay CBC for only the 3rd record in 41 years (J. Sullivan). Coos’s second **LITTLE STINT** was present on the beach at the NSCB on 18-19 May (DL/KC et al.; photos RN). There were seven Semipalmated Sandpipers reported, with dates ranging from 26 Jul to 27 Sep, the latter being a very late date for this species (m.obs.). The high count for Baird’s Sandpipers was 13 at New River, Coos on 25 Aug (DL/KC). **Wilson’s Phalaropes** bred again at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the NSCB, with two males showing distraction displays on 5 Jul and a single adult male with three juveniles on 1 Aug. A Red-necked Phalarope at the NSCB on 18 Jun was either a very early southbound migrant or a very late northbound migrant (TR). Four Red Phalaropes were seen from a cruise ship off Curry on 12 Jul, with one off Coos – summer reports of this species are very rare (JG, OS).

Summer reports of **South Polar Skua** are also very rare – three were seen off both Coos and Curry from a cruise ship on 12 Jul (JG, OS). A Parasitic Jaeger was found on the 3 Jan 2015 Coquille Valley CBC for the latest ever Coos record (HH, OH), and two Jaeger sp. were on the 20 Dec Coos Bay CBC (J. Danzenbaker, DAH). Two **Scripps’s Murrelets** were reported from a cruise ship off Curry on 13 May, with two more off Coos on 21 May (both PL et al.). A dozen **Ancient Murrelets** were seen off Cape Arago, Coos, on 7 Feb for the only winter reports (RN, E. Clough). Three **Parakeet Auks** were observed off Curry from a cruise ship on 15 May (T. Jantzen et al.), and a single was seen just offshore Brookings from a fishing boat on the late date of 1 Jun (M. Stevens Sr.).

It was a banner year for **Franklin’s Gulls**, with the following reports: one on the NSCB on 8 Jun (JM); an adult at Bandon Marsh on 12 Jun (TR); a first-year bird at Bandon Marsh NWR on 17 Jun (LS); another first-year bird at New River, Coos on 19 July (DL/KC); yet another at Bandon on 26 Jul (D. Bilderback); and one in Gold Beach on 10 Oct (T. Bray, B. Rosie), with possibly the same bird at nearby Ophir on 1 Nov (D. Robinson). A first winter Heermann’s Gull was at the Empire boat ramp in Coos Bay from 28 Dec 2014 through 14 Mar 2015 for the first ever Coos overwintering record, and likely one of the few ever in Oregon (TR et al.). A record 15 Heermann’s Gulls were found on the 20 Dec Coos Bay CBC (m.obs.). Coos had its best **Elegant Tern** year ever, with the peak number of 440 in the Coos Bay area on 12 Aug (DL/KC), while the peak number reported in Curry was 1,200 near Brookings on 20 Oct (DM, DC). The first **Elegant Tern** reported was an adult in Charleston on 19 Jul (TR), and the last report was on 17 Nov in Brookings, which is a new late date for this species in Oregon (DM).

A **White-winged Dove** was reported coming to a feeder in Brookings on 6-7 Nov (G. Maschmeyer). Curry’s 3rd **COMMON GROUND-DOVE** was at the Wahl ranch from 7-9 June; all three records are from the same location (TW et al.).

Two **Burrowing Owls** were reported from a private ranch west of Langlois, Curry on 20 Oct (R. McKenzie). A **Long-eared Owl** was heard calling close to the Oak Flat Campground near Agness, Curry, on 16 May (B. & L. Bradford). The Short-eared Owl at Bandon Marsh NWR on 22 Apr was a very rare spring migrant in Coos (B. Bridgeland, LS). Another Short-eared Owl was seen flying around a fishing boat 30 miles off of Charleston on 10 Aug for the earliest ever “fall” record for Coos (L. Standley, M. Graybill). The 26 Sep Short-eared Owl at Millacoma Marsh, Coos, was the earliest fall land record for Coos (J. Meredith et al.). A **Common Poorwill** was heard on 18 Aug from near Babyfoot Lake in the Siskiyou Mtns. near the very east edge of Curry, and is one of the few records ever for the county (RN).

A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was seen up the Chetco River near the very east edge of Curry, and is one of the few records ever for the county (RN).
mingbird was seen coming to a feeder up the Elk River, Curry on 27 Jun (J. Rogers). Four Calliope Hummingbirds were seen along the Burnt Ridge Road east of Gold Beach on 9 May for only the 4th Curry record — most years, this area is snowed in until late May (TR). Calliope were seen at a Coos Bay feeders on 17 May (FJ Petock) and in Coquille on 30 May (K. Saxton). The first male Rufous Hummer was reported 30 Jan from Hauser, Coos (L. McCarthy). The only report of Black Swifts was of three at Bethel Mtn., Coos on 24 May (TR).

An Acorn Woodpecker was noted at Mt. Bolivar, Coos on 19 Apr; there have been six records since 2010 at the same location — all but one in the spring (TR). A first fall Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found in the Catching Slough pasture area of Coos Bay on 15 Dec (TR).

A very rare white-morph Gyrfalcon was observed from 17 Nov 2014 through 26 Jan 2015 and ranged from the Coquille Valley, Coos, to Floras Lake, Curry (J. Heaney, J & K Fairchild, et al.).

Coos’s 2nd EASTERN PHOEBE was a one-day wonder on the NSCB on 21 Mar (TR). A likely overwintering Say’s Phoebe was found on 25 January in Broadbent, Coos, and two other were found up the Coos River east of Coos Bay at the barns on the way into the Doris Place boat ramp from 5 Dec 2015 into January of 2016 – this species has only recently been found to overwinter in the county. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was photographed in Gold Beach on 29 Aug (M. Bressler). There were about nine Tropical Kingbirds reported in Curry and two or three in Coos (m.obs.). An Eastern Kingbird was at the Heads in Port Orford on 28 May (J. Dawning).

A Loggerhead Shrike was near Cape Blanco on 5 Apr (TW). Multiple singing Warbling Vireos in the Powers area, Coos, on 19 Apr were the earliest spring arrivals in Coos on record (TR). A Western Scrub-Jay was found at 2,200 feet elevation in Eden Valley in the Siskiyou National Forest, Coos, on 27 Sep – a very unusual location for this species (TR). A rare spring Horned Lark was at Cape Blanco on 18 Apr (CH). Bank Swallows nested once again in the cliffs above the beach near Nesika Beach, Curry (RN et al.). Two Barn Swallows were found at Johnson Mill Pond on the Coquille Valley CBC on 2 Jan (TR, J. Billstine, and one was in the Cape Blanco area on 15-16 Jan (TW). It was an irruption year for Mountain Chickadees, with the following records: up to three from 26 Oct through 22 Nov at the BLM office in North Bend, Coos; three in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 1 Nov (TR); one in Brookings on 11 Oct (S. Schlick); up to four at Floras Lake, Curry from 6-22 Nov (TR); and one to three coming to a feeder in Coos Bay from 29 Nov into January of 2016 (J. Fereday). A singing Rock Wren was at coastal Crook Point, Curry, from 3-18 Jun (LS, B. Bridgeland). A Northern Mockingbird overwintered in Langlois, Curry, in 2014/2015 and again during the winter of 2015/2016 (TW). During spring migration, two mockingbirds were reported in Curry and one in Coos (m.obs.). During fall migration, there were at least five mockingbirds reported in Curry and one in Coos (m.obs.). Curry’s third SPRAGUE’S PIPIT overwintered on the Wahle ranch near Cape Blanco from 29 Oct into Jan of 2016 (TW et al.); all three Curry records are from the same location.

Coos’s 4th Ovenbird was found singing in dense fog at the south end of the NSCB on 8 Jun (JM et al.). A female Black-and-white Warbler was at New River, Coos, on 31 Aug (TR). Coos’s first ever Tennessee Warbler frequented a backyard in North Bend from 25 Jan through 16 Feb (TR, BG, et al.). There was another possible Tennessee at a feeder in Brookings on 5 Jan (S. Chambers). Two Tennesseees were at Arizona Beach SP, Curry on 26 Sep (AH, CH, HH, OH). One to two Nashville Warblers were at the Wahl ranch near Cape Blanco from 13-21 Jan (TW), with a single near Floras Lake, Curry, on 8 Feb (D. Irons, S. Finnegan).

At least 10 MacGillivray’s Warblers were heard singing in Eden Valley on the Siskiyou NF on 19 Apr for the earliest ever arrival date for Coos (TR). The latest ever Coos MacGillivray’s was an adult male in the Eastside area of Coos Bay from 22 Nov through 14 Dec (TR). A Common Yellowthroat was in Bandon on the 2 Jan Coquille Valley CBC (D. & D. Bilderback), and two were found on the 20 Dec Coos Bay CBC (JM).

An American Redstart was seen at a residence up the Chetco River, Curry, on 15 Jun (DM). Another adult male redstart was on the NSCB from 28 Jun through 11 Jul, singing much of the time (TR et al.). Curry’s 3rd Black-throated Blue Warbler, a first year female, was at the Lone Ranch Wayside north of Brookings on 4 Oct (TR). It was one of the best years on record for Palm Warblers in Coos, with up to eight separate birds overwintering in 2014/2015 (m.obs.).

A Green-tailed Towhee was reported from Gold Beach on 31 Oct – a very rare coastal migrant (D. Robinson). Curry’s 4th California Towhee was in the harbor area of Brookings from 12 Feb-1 Mar but remained very elusive (K. Burton et al.). An American Tree Sparrow was a one-day wonder in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 13 Jan (TR). Four Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Curry during fall migration, with none from Coos (m.obs.). There were two Lark Sparrows reported from Curry: one from mid- to late Sep near Cape Blanco (TW) and another from southwest of Langlois on 5 Oct (KA). A Vesper Sparrow was heard singing up Floras Creek, Curry, on the very early date of 29 Mar (TR). A first winter Harris’s Sparrow was present in the Eastside area of Coos Bay from 31 Jan-8 Feb (TR et al.), and one was at the Wahl ranch from 26 Dec 2015 into February of 2016 (TW et al.).

A first winter male Summer Tanager was briefly seen coming to a suet feeder in Coos Bay on 31 Jan 2015-1 Jan 2016 (BF). A pair
of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were observed at a feeder in Port Orford on 23 Jun (J. Dawning). Coos earliest ever Black-headed Grosbeak was heard singing on 19 Apr in Coos Bay (JM). A hybrid male **Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak** was at Pistol River from 3-21 Jun (RN, TR et al.). Two **DICKCISSELS** were at the Wahl ranch on 1 Oct, with one still around on the 5th (TW). A flock of five **Bobolinks** flew over McVay State Wayside near Brookings on 27 Sep (AH, CH, HH, OH). Female Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Bandon Marsh NWR on 28 May (LS); at the mouth of Tenmile Creek, Coos, on 12 Jun (JM); and in Gold Beach on 14 Sep (fide KA). Coos’s first ever **RUSTY BLACKBIRD** was in Lakeside on 5-6 Feb (A. Brockway, TR). A **Hooded Oriole** visited a North Bend feeder from 21 Nov 2014 through 6 Mar 2015 (BG et al.). Single Bullock’s Orioles overwintered in Coos Bay, where they were observed coming to feeders on the following dates: a female from 21 Nov 2014-22 Jan 2015 (BF et al.); another female in North Bend from 26 Nov 2014-20 Apr 2015 (BG et al.); and a first year male in North Bend from 26 Dec 2015 through 9 Jan 2016 (R. Boise). A male **BALTIMORE ORIOLE** was photographed in Pistol River on 20 Aug (T. Hook). Coos’s 2nd **White-winged Crossbill** was reported at Cape Arago, Coos, on 9 Dec (K. Coury fide V. Thompson).

**Observers:** AH = Adrian Hinkle; BG = Barb Griffin; BF = Bob Fields; CH = Chris Hinkle; DL/KC = Dave Lauten, Kathy Castelein; DAH = Dan and Anne Heyerly; DC = Diane Cavaness; DM = Don Munson; HH = Hendrik Herlyn, JG = Jeff Gilligan; JM = Joe Metzler; KA = Knute Andersson; LS = Lorelle Sherman; m.obs. = multiple observers; OH = Oscar Harper, OS = Owen Schmidt; PL = Paul Lehman; RN = Russ Namitz; TR = Tim Rodenkirk; TW = Terry Wahl.

**Locations:** NSCB= North Spit of Coos Bay, NWR= National Wildlife Refuge
Pelagic Cormorant
Nov 14 (S. Schlick). A found on West Hayden White-winged Scoter
during the fall. The only Merganser reports, mostly from the Columbia River in N. Portland
Geese in Scappoose Bottoms Nov 14-29 (C. Smith, et al.).

At least nine Whimbrel showed up at Fernhill Wetlands May 26
(L. Young, S. Nord), and three lingered the next day. Water levels
for only the first time. A. Frank heard a
Swainson’s Hawk
Aug 26 (A. Frank). A was at Sturgeon Lake,
over Sturgeon Lake Aug 24 (S. Nord) and one was at Broughton
Broughton Beach Aug 26 (A. Frank). A
American Avocets were on Mud Lake on Sauvie Island, Colu, Aug 26 to Sep
25 (P. Kline, et al.). Several Sanderlings were reported in the fall,
including at Broughton Beach, Fernhill Wetlands, Sturgeon Lake,
and Force Lake.

A Heermann’s Gull was at Broughton Beach Nov 18-21 (J. San-
ford). On Dec 22 J. Withgott found two Black-legged Kittiwakes
off Broughton Beach – an adult along the far Washington shore and
an immature in Oregon waters. Four to five Sabine’s Gulls were
over Sturgeon Lake Aug 24 (S. Nord) and one was at Broughton
Beach Aug 26 (A. Frank). A Franklin’s Gull was at Sturgeon Lake,
Colu, Sep 9 & 13 (S. Nord). Common Terns were reported from
Fernhill Wetlands, Sturgeon Lake, and Broughton Beach in typical
small numbers from Aug through Sep. Four Forster’s Terns were
seen over Sturgeon Lake Jun 27 (T. McNamara) and one was on the
Colu side of the lake Jun 28 (G. Haworth).

A WHITE-WINGED DOVE in Scappoose Jun 10-13 (H. Horvat,
et al.) was a Colu first. A. Frank heard a YELLOW-BILLED CUCK-
OO on Jul 26 by the wastewater plant along the Columbia Slough
in N. Portland. It joins recent reports from Sandy River Delta that
suggest that a few may summer in the lower Columbia Basin.

A roosting Long-eared Owl was photographed at Tualatin River
NWR Mar 19 (D. Niwa). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker first de-
tected in Feb 2014 returned to Milne Rd., Wash, in the fall and con-
tinued into Feb 2015. Unfortunately, its favored grove of trees was
cleared in late Feb and the bird was not relocated. A Black-backed
Woodpecker in the crater of Larch Mountain on Jun 10 (E. Scattaregia) was only the county’s second. Two were seen Jun 29, and one was at the summit Jul 24.

Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported at Commonwealth Park May 13 (G. Sultany), Larch Mountain, Mult, May 30 (A. Addison), Tualatin River NWR Jun 9 (S. Runnels), and Oak Island, Mult, Jun 25 (G. Kafel). A Loggerhead Shrike showed up at Company Lake on the west side of the Sandy River mouth Mar 21-26 (A. Hinkle, C. Hinkle, E. Scattaregia). A silent Red-eyed Vireo photographed at Sandy River Delta on May 3 (J. Cook) furnished Oregon’s earliest record ever. Bank Swallows were reported back at their nesting colonies along the Clackamas River by late Apr and the Warrior Rock Lighthouse Trail colony on Sauvie Island by May 7.

A major Mountain Chickadee invasion occurred throughout the region, beginning in Oct. In the winter of 2012-2013, a similar but smaller invasion occurred, with the first Portland sighting on Oct 25 that year. This year, the first report came Oct 11, following reports throughout W. Oregon. During mid-October, several were seen in forested areas like Mt. Tabor, Pittock Mansion, and Gabrielpark, but those quickly moved on. A remarkable ten passed through J. Withgott’s SW Portland yard on Oct 13. On Oct 31 G. Lillie reported at least five visiting his yard near Mt. Tabor. Individuals and small groups continued to visit feeders into 2016, including many feeders that hosted them during the previous invasion. Perhaps related to the chickadee phenomenon, a Mult first record Pygmy Nuthatch was at Gabriel Park Oct 17 to Nov 5 (J. Withgott) and an “Interior” tenuissima White-breasted Nuthatch was at Mt. Tabor Sep 23 (A. Hinkle).

A young Rock Wren was present Aug 14-17 on a farm one mile south of Molalla (J. Blowers). Another Rock Wren was at the Oregon Episcopal School in Beaverton, Wash, on Sep 30 (D. Porter). Three Mountain Bluebirds were at Powell Butte Mar 20 (A. Frank) and one was at Sandy River Delta Mar 28 (R. Leinen). A singing Wrentit seen Aug 24 at Molalla River SP, Clack (J. Blowers) and one about two miles west of Clatskanie, Clu on May 30 (T. Hallman) may have both been county firsts. Joining recent winter records from Washington and S. British Columbia, a RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL photographed in Wilsonville Dec 26-28+ was a state first (S. Perez). Unfortunately, the location was a private yard inaccessible to the public.

A Lapland Longspur was at Broughton Beach Sep 26 (R. Leinen), two were present Oct 3-6, and one lingered to Oct 16. A Black-and-white Warbler found Jan 7 at the Milwaukee Water Treatment Plant, Clack, (D. Turner, C. Chaivoe, M. Abend) continued to be seen by many until at least Mar 2. A singing Ovenbird photographed at Mt. Tabor May 23 (J. Powell, et al.) was a third county record, while a singing male Magnolia Warbler on Jun 7 at Cooper Mountain Nature Park (S. Nord) was that county’s first. Oregon’s ninth YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER visited a feeder in Sherwood Nov 26-29 (S. Deckelman, m.obs.).

S. Schlick found a singing Grasshopper Sparrow in a grassy farm field north of Banks May 2-16 for a county first. Two Clay-colored Sparrows continued along Reiling Rd., Wash, until Feb 11 (m.obs.) and a migrant showed up atop Mt. Tabor May 14 (T. DeFalco). Brewer’s Sparrow reports came from Smith & Bybee Lakes Sep 12 (J. Hayes) and Tualatin River NWR Aug 8-31, with two on the 26th (S. Nord). Rare in summer, a White-throated Sparrow was at Pittock Mansion Jun 23-30 (W. Gross).

On Jan 11, T. Shelmerdine found a Western Tanager at the Milwaukee Water Treatment Plant. A male BLUE GROSBEAK was present Apr 29 - May 5 at Koll Center Wetlands in Beaverton (D. Porter, m.obs.), where it spent most of its time hopping around a parking lot but at times sang from the edge of the wetlands. A male Tricolored Blackbird was along Gillihan Loop, Mult, on Sauvie Island Feb 14 (S. Finnegan, D. Irons, J. Withgott). A Pine Grosbeak was photographed atop Mt. Tabor Mar 29 (J. Scott, T. McNamara) and one was photographed at Pittock Mansion Nov 20 (W. Gross).
The year 2015 was notably dry till fall, which may have concentrated waterfowl onto reliably wet sites. **Ross’s Goose** appeared singly, the first at Baskett Slough NWR (Polk) on Apr 12, by Roy Gerig. In fall there were additional lone **Ross’s** at Ankeny NWR (Marion) on Dec 9 by Pam Reid and John Thomas. The **bard of the Trumpeter Swan**, Joel Geier, found 10 at Luckiamute Landing (Polk) on Dec 11. **Brant** were scarce; the first was seen by Craig Tumer near Gervais (Marion) on Mar 25, and the second by Shayna England on Oct 13 at ANWR. The **Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal** showed Mark Miller its horizontal bar at BSNWR (Polk), Dec 28. A remarkable number of Wood Ducks would be the 70 Paul Sullivan counted at Carlton Sewage ponds (Yamhill) on Oct 15. A **Eurasian Wigeon drake** was at ANWR (Marion) on Oct 2 for Bill Tice. First seen by Linda Fink on Dec 2 at Huddleston Fishing Pond in Willamina (Yamhill) and again on Dec 3 by BT.

Canvasback were few. BT reported one from Sheridan Wetlands Pk (Yamhill) on Oct 16 and JH another at the Turner Rd pond (Marion) on Dec 3, Stefan Schlick located a **Redhead** at SWP (Yamhill) Oct 24. Some Greater Scaup came inland during migration, yielding BT 3 at Baskett Slough NWR (Polk) Apr 25. In fall, JH found one on Sep 25 at Big Lk (Marion), where he also had a **Surf Scoter**. A **Surf Scoter** appeared at Mission Lk in Salem, RG on Oct 22. He and JK saw one more at the Turner Rd pond on Nov 20. A cluster of Common Goldeneye sightings began at HFP (Yamhill) on Dec 1 when Johnny Fink, LF, and Dawn Villaescusa saw one. Next came 5 at SWP, seen by PS on Dec 2, then one at Wirth Lake in Cascades Gateway Park (Marion) by JH on Dec 9.

RG viewed a **Pacific Loon** and 2 **Common Loons** at Detroit Flats (Marion) on Sep 15. The next **Pacific Loon** was at CGP, seen on Nov 20 by JK and RG. John West got a two county deal when a **Common Loon** swam across the Willamette River at Salem (Polk and Marion) on Apr 10.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was at Stone Quarry Lk in Salem (Marion) where RG saw it on Dec 13. An all-time high number of 15 Eared Grebes at SWP (Yamhill) were counted by PS on Sep 24. Four Western Grebes were at States Lk in Salem (Marion) when RG saw them, Sep 29, and one was at SWP on Oct 24 for Stefan Schlick. A **Clark’s Grebe** was at Stone Quarry Lk (Marion) Dec 3, JH.

More often seen at BSNWR, an **American White Pelican** was at ANWR (Marion) for RG on Aug 29. The elusive **Black-crowned Night Heron** showed its face there on Aug 17, when RG found 4 juveniles; BT found an adult at BSNWR (Polk) on Aug 23. A Turkey Vulture was getting by on Jan 12 and 13 when Pamela Johnston saw it by a deer carcass along West Side Rd (Yamhill).

The **White-tailed Kite** Lowell Spring saw at ANWR (Marion) Jul 10 remained the next day, seen by RG. **Northern Goshawk** popped up twice in Polk, near Falls City for BT on Jun 2, and for John Mulligan at LL on Dec 24. In winter **Prairie Falcons** are more often seen farther south in the Willamette Valley, but Dec 26 Roger Freeman spotted a juvenile **Prairie Falcon** south of Silverton, and on Dec 30 PS reported an adult that stayed around Briedwell Rd (Yamhill) into the new year.

Berk Moss spotted a lone Sandhill Crane on Chehalem Glenn Golf Course in Newberg (Yamhill), on Oct 21. They are regularly seen or heard in the eastern Willamette Valley in migration, much less so in Yamhill Co.

An **American Avocet** at BSNWR (Polk) pleased BT on Apr 25 by being the tenth county record. On Jul 19, RG had one at ANWR (Marion). BT got the eleventh for Polk at BSNWR, Aug 24. It was seen again Aug 30, by Jim Danzenbaker, Shawneen Finnegan, Dave...
Barbara Dolan along Concombreed Owls were observed by Dec 31. Less elusive, 2 Short-eared Owls near Silverton (Marion) on Douglas Fir on private property, a thick grove of 20-25 year-old Long-eared Owl added a Whimbrel in the morning. JK found it, as RG reported a Patagonia effect occurred on Duckflat Rd (Marion) on May 29, when Long-billed Curlew He found a and RG saw a there on May 18. er (Marion) attracted interesting birds, such as the mon Terns there on Sep 16, and 9 on Sep 23. Duckflat Rd near Turn-er (Marion) attracted interesting birds, such as the Forster’s Tern JK and RG saw a there on May 18.

A Whimbrel visited BSNWR (Polk) on May 18, reported by JH. He found a Long-billed Curlew at ANWR (Marion) on Apr 20. The Patagonia effect occurred on Duckflat Rd (Marion) on May 29, when RG reported a Long-billed Curlew in the morning. JK found it, as well as a Hudsonian Godwit, which may be the 3rd county record. In the evening Christopher Hinkle and Tristen Hynes added a Whimbrel there.

Roger Freeman photographed a Long-eared Owl in a thick grove of 20-25 year-old Douglas Fir on private property near Silverton (Marion) on Dec 31. Less elusive, 2 Short-eared Owls were observed by Barbara Dolan along Concomly Rd on Mar 26, and 1 flew along Airport Rd (Yamhill) on Nov 23, PS. A Costa’s Hummingbird made a visit to the feeders in PR & JT’s yard on Jun 12, at Silverton (Marion). RG viewed a Black-chinned Hummingbird by at Detroit Flats (Marion) on May 28.

The Ash-throated Flycatcher spotted by JK and RG on May 15 at Detroit Flats (Marion) is another example of the East Side birds that can appear in spring on the west side of the Cascade Crest. Doug Robinson turned up a Dusky Flycatcher on Mt Hebo at the west edge of Yamhill Co on Aug 1. BT found one at LL (Polk), Sep 15. A Say’s Phoebe was hawking in a Christmas tree farm by Cemetery Rd in McMinnville (Yamhill), PJ on Feb 7. A Loggerhead Shrike, a 7th county record, first spotted by Meghan Seino Mar 22 at BSNWR (Polk) was re-found Mar 25 by BW. Red-eyed Vireo has become reliable at Grand Island (Yamhill), and 2015 brought more sightings at LL (Polk), by Will Wright on Jun 18, and BT on Jun 28.

A flock of 15 Purple Martins were at BSNWR (Polk) on Apr 26, BT & BW. On Aug 15 Chris Adlam counted 10 Purple Martins, many of which were juveniles, along Sawtell Rd. BT saw a Bank Swallow at BSNWR, Aug 17. Winter Barn Swallows continue to be seen: 2 at HFP (Yamhill) detected by CA on Jan 4, then 2 in Salem (Marion) on Dec 10 by JH. The autumn spectacle began on Sep 8, when Floyd Shrock saw “several tens of thousands” of Barn Swallows gathering to night-roost in a cornfield on Greenacre Rd (Yamhill). After their peak, FS estimated that 20,000 to 30,000 still roosted on Grand Island (Yamhill) on Sep 28. The westward irruption of Mountain Chickadees in this area began with 1 at the feeders at PR and JT’s Silverton (Marion) area home, Oct 4 through Dec 27. Next, 2 were seen near Monmouth (Polk) on Oct 24, by CC and EC. Finally, Yamhill Co had one at the Yamhill Sewage ponds trail on Nov 12, reported by Harry Fuller, and another sighted by Grant Hoyt at his feeder 5 mi. west of Carlton on Nov 14.

Monmouth (Polk) is an unexpected spot for the Townsend’s Solitaire BW saw there on Dec 31. A Northern Mockingbird was reported by MS from ANWR (Marion) on Feb 8. A Polk Co first, a White Wagtail was among American Pipits at BSNWR (Polk) on Apr 29 when Jeremy Depiero realized it was something new and consulted Nate Richardson, who identified it. Though present for only one day, its observers included Ariel Muldoon, BW, Daniel Battaglia, JG, and Tim Janzen, who took video.

The Lapland Longspur DR found along Robison Rd on Jan 19 was the tenth Polk record. Douglas Beall saw the eleventh record along Livermore Rd on May 1. A Black-and-White Warbler spent one day in the McMinnville (Yamhill) yard of Lynda Corbin on May 21, for a third county record. A late Palm Warbler was at Minto Brown Pk (Marion) on Nov 17 when Tim Johnson saw it.

The Brewer’s Sparrow CA first heard singing in a clearcut on East Creek Rd (Yamhill) on Jun 18 was re-found through Jun 21 by FS, PS, and DR. A Harris’s Sparrow returned to PR & JT’s Silverton (Marion) yard on Dec 13. While visiting less frequently than in winter 2014-2015, it remained into 2016. A wandering Swamp Sparrow was at LL (Polk) on Jan 13, reported by BT. A Tricolored Blackbird surprised Hendrik Herlyn and Pam Otley on Hunsacker Rd south of Turner (Marion) on May 30. One last note about 2015 – there was no irruption of Pine Grosbeaks. On Mar 28 Bob Archer saw one at the Olallie Meadows Campground (Marion). And that was all.

Locations: ANWR - Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge, Marion Co; BSNWR – Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Polk Co; CGP - Cascades Gateway Park, Marion Co; LL - Luckiamute Landing, Polk Co; HFP - Huddleston Fishing Pond, Willamina, Yamhill Co; SWP - Sheridan Wetlands Pk, Yamhill Co

Observers: BT - Bill Tice; BW - Brandon Wagner; CA - Chris Adlam; CC – Caleb Centanni; DR - Douglas Robinson; EC – Evan Centanni; FS - Floyd Schrock; HF - Harry Fuller; JG - Joel Geier; JH - Jeff Harding; JK - Jim Kopitzke; JT - John Thomas; LF - Linda Fink; MS - Meghan Seino; PJ - Pamela Johnston; PR - Pam Reid; PS - Paul Sullivan; RF - Roger Freeman; RG - Roy Gerig
A Bewick's form of Tundra Swan was present at FNWR from Jan 1 through Feb 23 (m.obs.). Shawneen Finnegan found a Brant among a large Cackling Goose flock near Halsey on Dec 26. There have been only 2 reports of them in the county since 1900. Benton County, just a few miles away across the river, has many records. A female Green-winged Teal with 4 very young ducklings was observed at PSP on Jun 28 (HH). This is the 2nd year in a row a rare west side breeding was confirmed for this species in the area. A rare Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup (hybrid) was seen Jan 15 (DR) at FNWR. For the 2nd year in a row, Long-tailed Duck made an appearance at PSP. Found Oct 27 (DR) it stuck around for a week to the delight of many. 3 Red-breasted Mergansers were on a private pond south of Corvallis on Jan 4 (DR). Another was found at Eicher Lake Dec 14 on the Tangent CBC. These are not annual in the region but being seen more often.

Pacific Loons are occasional fall migrants on the Cascade lakes of the region. The one found at an old gravel pit pond near Lebanon on Dec 14 was late and low. A Red-necked Grebe was on a private pond south of Corvallis on Jan 4 (DR). This is only the 3rd county record.

A Cattle Egret drifting north over Coffin Butte on Nov 29 was a good yard bird for Joel Geier. Black-crowned Night-Herons aren’t reported annually so the 4 reports this fall were notable. One called in flight at Trysting Tree golf course Aug 5 (Adrian & Christopher Hinkle), 2 juv. were at FNWR McFadden Marsh Aug 6-10 (m.obs.), 1 flew over the Coffin Butte landfill wetland Aug 10 (HH), and Kristin Downing saw 1 at Willamette Park on Oct 10.

Past summer sightings of Northern Goshawks in the Coast Range of Benton County have led to speculations of breeding but they have never been confirmed. On Jul 26, Jamie Simmons saw an adult Goshawk being followed by a begging juvenile in McDonald-Dunn Forest northwest of Corvallis. 2 immatures were seen about 3 miles north of this site on Aug 20 (BP). Several miles west of this area, an adult Goshawk was seen in Beazell Memorial Forest on 6/20 (JG). It was a good summer for Goshawks in the area. This year’s high count at the McLagan Dr. Bald Eagle roost was 90 in late December, down from previous winters. An immature Ferruginous Hawk was photographed in Peoria on Sep 28 (anon. eBirder).

A lone Sandhill Crane wandered around FNWR between Apr 18 and Jun 4 (m.obs.). Single Long-billed Curlews made spring and fall visits to Benton – Mar 15 (DR) near PSP and Aug 14 (WW) near FNWR. 2 juvenile Sanderlings were at PSP Sep 4 (WW). 5 of the 6 county records are from here. A Red Phalarope was at PSP on Dec 10 (DR).

2 Glacous Gulls were reported from Linn County. One from the Tangent area Dec 24 by Isaac Denzer and the other from near Peoria on Dec 29 (DR). Caspian Terns are rare but annual visitors, especially at PSP, but 51 seen there Sep 26 (DR) was unprecedented. The only Black Tern report was 1 seen at PSP Jun 7 (HB). A Common Tern was at PSP on Sep 8 (HH). 6 of the 7 Benton records have occurred since 2007. A Forster’s Tern was at PSP Jun 5 (HH). They are actually rarer than Common Terns in the county now.

3 or 4 Burrowing Owls were found in the region during both winter seasons, which is typical. Most were in Linn County, which is also typical. The first fall arrival dates were Oct 12 for Linn County and Oct 13 for Benton. Late date for 1 of the Linn birds was Mar 8. A Spotted x Barred Owl (hybrid) was photographed in Corvallis Nov 9 (HH).

22 Anna’s Hummingbirds seen on the Tangent CBC Dec 15 was an impressive tally for Linn County. A Williamson’s Sapsucker was seen May 7 atop Santiam Pass by Rasmus Elleby. Linn County’s 1st Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found Dec 14 by Tyler Hallman at Cheadle Lake near Lebanon and stayed almost a month.
An Ash-throated Flycatcher found Jun 15 on Santiam Pass by Steven Courtney was surprising for both its date and location. The 1 found at the PSP Sep 9 (DR) was quite late. 325 Horned Larks were seen off Country Rd near Tangent on Nov 26 by Randy Moore. Randy has spent years monitoring this species in the valley, so when he said it was “the largest flock I’ve ever seen in the valley” you see how significant the tally is.

The Tangent CBC had a lone Tree Swallow on Dec 14. Mountain Chickadees made a major incursion into western Oregon in the 2015-16 winter season. Numerous sightings in this region began Oct 17 and continued into the new year. Pygmy Nuthatches were reported from the Big Lake area of Santiam Pass on Feb 25 (4 by Cody Smith) and Sept 4 (4 by Gloria Beerman). There is only a handful of records for the county. All have come from the same general area.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at FNWR Aug 7 (WW). Benton’s 2nd Gray Catbird was seen briefly in Corvallis on May 25 (DR). Jim & Karan Fairchild had a rare Brown Thrasher briefly visit their home southwest of Philomath on May 18. A Northern Mockingbird was at FNWR on Oct 22 (BP). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was found Nov 26 (RM) in a dirt field off Country Rd west of Tangent. It was in the company of a large flock of Horned Larks, with a few Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings as well. It was re-sighted by a few lucky birders in the 2 days following.

A county first Ovenbird was found west of Corvallis on the Mulkey Ridge trail May 21 (BP). Mahogany Aulenbach had a close encounter May 18 with what was very likely a male Cerulean Warbler. He described it as being 4.5” long, having a thin bill, vibrant blue on its head and wings, a white throat and white markings on its wings and tail. The bird had flown into his Monroe home and he rushed to set it free. He was able to herd it through an open window. He knew it was unusual and after consulting guides made his identification. This sighting won’t pass muster as a first state record but is highly suggestive nonetheless.

A Clay-colored Sparrow stopped by the PSP on Sep 7 (DR). A very late Vesper Sparrow was at PSP Nov 15 (WW). Photographs point toward it being from the intermontane subspecies rather than the endemic nesting subspecies. It was a good year for Lark Sparrows in Benton County with 2 fall sightings. One was at PSP Aug 17 (HH) and another was seen in Corvallis Sep 2 by Lisa Millbank. A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Lost Lake in the Cascades was a surprising find by Eric Kershner on May 30. The new Tangent CBC reported 210 Brown-headed Cowbirds. Nearly all were at feedlots in one area. Many years of combined CBCs for the whole state don’t reach that many.

The last of the 6 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches on Mary’s Peak from the 2014-15 winter were seen on Feb 23. Most years the late date is in November but lack of snow allowed birders access all winter. No Rosy Finches were reported at all the following winter, which rarely happens. Pine Grosbeaks made a major showing in western Oregon during the 2014-15 winter, with the center of the influx at Santiam Pass. Jake Schas was the first to find some of these birds (12) on Feb 13. The almost complete absence of snow in the mountains encouraged many birders to search for them. Flocks of as many as 60 and day totals approaching 100 birds provided almost all who looked with sightings. The last report from this area was Apr 5. A few birds showed up earlier on Marys Peak in Nov 2014 and those continued into early January. 6 were spotted just west of Corvallis on Feb 21 (BP). A Common Redpoll among an American Goldfinch flock was a good find at FNWR on Jan 1 (DR).

Places: PSP – Philomath sewage ponds; FNWR – William L Finley NWR

Observers: BP - Bill Proebsting; DR - Doug Robinson; HB - Howard Bruner; HH - Hendrik Herlyn; JG - Joel Geier; RM - Randy Moore; WW - Will Wright
Fourteen Trumpeter Swans (rare in Lane) were found on Feb 13 (S Hill) in the grass seed fields near the Eugene airport - a common wintering location of swans. A “Common” Green-winged Teal was found at Swallow Pond in the west Eugene wetlands on Mar 8 (T Meinzen). A flock of almost 200 White-winged Scoters were seen on the ocean from the Lily Lake overlook, north of Florence, on Jul 23 (J Bolsinger), a very larger number for the breeding season. A Black Scoter was found near the mouth of the Siuslaw River on Jul 11 (A Contreras, et.al.), a rare summer sighting. A Long-tailed Duck was seen at Fern Ridge Reservoir (hereafter FRR) on Oct 22 (J Sullivan) for a rare sighting in the valley. An unusual summer sighting of a Red-necked Grebe comes from the Siuslaw River mouth on Jul 11 (A Contreras, et.al.).

A Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen from a cruise ship 45 miles off the coast of Lane on Aug 9 (P Lehman, B Rideout) for one of a few records for the county. BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS put on quite a show along the coast during October. The first sighting was on Oct 8 at the north jetty of the Siuslaw River (hereafter NJSR) (D Pettey) and the last was on Nov 8 at Tokatee-Klootchman State Way-side (A Contreras, J Sullivan). A Leach’s Storm-Petrel was found in the Florence Fred Meyer parking lot on Dec 11 (D Pettey) after a storm. A BROWN BOOBY was photographed off Heceta Head on Oct 27 (M&M Denny), for the first documented record for Lane. Brown Pelicans are becoming a wintering species in the county, with 50 found on Jan 6 (S Hill), at least one found in mid-February (m.obs.) and during the Florence CBC in December (m.obs.).

Eight Great Egrets were found at FRR - Royal Ave on Jun 2 (J Sullivan), increasing speculation that they may be breeding in the area. A rare spring sighting of a Snowy Egret was at Maxwell Pond on Apr 18 (L Ferrenburg, K O’Sullivan). A Plegadis Ibis was seen flying along Beltline Road on Jul 22 (A Contreras) for a rare summer record.
LONG-BILLED MURRELET was found from the NJSR on Aug 23 (N Bjorkland). It would be the first Lane record if accepted by the OBRC.

Band-tailed Pigeons returned to the southern valley on Feb 13 (E Cookson), about a month earlier than normal. A Snowy Owl that was found at FRR in early Dec 2014 remained there until Feb 22 (A&G Beerman). A Snowy Owl was seen for a few days before Christmas in the Deadwood area (B&K Burruss). A rare coastal Burrowing Owl was found on Nov 26 near the SJSR (J Sullivan). A Great Gray Owl was photographed near Creswell on Dec 20 (N Strycker) for an unusual record from near the valley floor. Two Chimney Swifts were reported from Craig Lake, in the high Cascades, on Jul 24 (S Hill) - it would be the third records for Lane if accepted by the OBRC. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at a north Eugene feeder on Apr 29 (D Schrouder) for about the 20th Lane record. There were two winter Rufous Hummingbird reports for Lane. The first was on Nov 2 in the Cottage Grove area (T Morgan) and the second on Dec 13 in the Valley River area of Eugene (S Hill). There have been a few reports over the last few years, but none of them have been documented.

A Red-naped Sapsucker was photographed in the River Road area of Eugene on Mar 8 (T Meinzen). A late report of a Merlin comes from FRR - Fisher Butte unit on May 1 (J Sullivan). A singing Least Flycatcher was found along Coyote Creek at the southeastern corner of FRR for the second year in a row on Jun 11 (L Ferren). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was photographed carrying nesting material in the Eugene area in mid-Jul (B Gleason). Two Tropical Kingbirds were found on the outer coast this fall - the first was at the mouth of the Siletz River on Oct 2 (J Sullivan) and the second was at the mouth of Big Creek on Oct 4 (A Contreras, D Parsons). Red-eyed Vireos returned for the breeding season this summer after not being found last year. The first report was on Jun 10 (D Schrouder) at Dorris Ranch. They were also found in the Wattleville area, a new location on Jun 22 (V Buck).

The first Tree Swallows for the year were found at FRR on Jan 9 (R Snowden), with additional birds found later in the month - this is about a month earlier than normal.

A Mountain Chickadee was found in SE Eugene on Feb 15 (S Campen) for an unusual report away from the high Cascades. In the fall, Mountain Chickadees staged a large invasion into the western portions of Lane, with the first report on Oct 2 in south Eugene (E Cookson). They continued in small numbers at feeders through the end of the year. A possible Pygmy Nuthatch was briefly seen on Sep 7 (A Contreras) at the deflation plain near the SJSR - a very rare species on Lane. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found on Skinner Butte on Apr 8 (S Hill, D Jones) for about the 25th Lane record. A second Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found on Nov 11 in the Island Park area of Springfield (L McQueen), for an unusual winter record. The female Northern Mockingbird that wintered for the last four years in Alvadore, didn’t return for a fifth year this fall. Another Northern Mockingbird was found in the SJSR area on Nov 21 (L Gilbert) and again on Dec 18 (J Sullivan). A breeding season sighting of a Northern Mockingbird was found at Alton Baker Park on May 4 (S Nance, A Caswell).

On Sep 11 a Red-throated Pipit was photographed at FRR - Royal Ave (J Little, J Sullivan) for a first documented record for Lane. Fifteen Lapland Longspurs were found at the SJSR deflation plain of Oct 2 (J Sullivan, R Namitz), an unusually large flock for Lane. A Snow Bunting was found at the NJSR dunes on Jan 18 (K Shapiro), an occasional species in the county. A rare wintering MacGillivray’s Warbler was found along the Willamette River near the Valley River Inn on Feb 3 (S Nance) and remained in the area for the next couple months (m.obs.). The third Chestnut-sided Warbler for Lane was found on Jun 23 at Clearwater Park (D Schrouder). A rare sighting of a Palm Warbler in the valley was at FRR - Royal Ave on Mar 7 (J Miller). As is more normal for this species, two Palm Warblers were found along the coast, the first at the SJSR deflation plain on Oct 4 (R Robb) and the second at Searose Village, north of Florence, on Oct 4 (A Contreras, D Parsons).

An American Tree Sparrow was found at FRR - Royal Ave on Nov 21 (A Schopieray) - within the narrow window they normally migrate through. A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was found near Mt. Pisgah on May 22 (T Mickel). It wasn’t found on later surveys in the area, so most likely it was a migrant. A winter record of a Lark Sparrow was found on Feb 8 (D Schrouder) in north Eugene and remained for a few weeks. Two Black-throated Sparrows were found this spring. The first was at FRR - Royal Ave on May 17 (A Hinkle) and the second was near Camas Swale on May 26 (H Lown). A migrant Harris’s Sparrow was found on Sep 10 in the Heceta Beach area (D Pettey).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed in the Florence area on May 16 (D Pettey). Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found on Jun 4 at Noah Strycker’s feeder in Creswell while he was home during his world big year. A very early sighting of a Black-headed Grosbeak comes from the Willow Creek area of the west Eugene wetlands on Mar 23 (B Broderick). The sixth record of a Bobolink for Lane was found at the SJSR deflation plain on Oct 4 (R Robb). A wintering Brown-headed Cowbird was found along Washburn Lane, west of Junction City on Jan 19 - rarely found wintering in the county. Late January through mid-March produced three reports of Pine Grosbeak in the high Cascades - a very high number considering there were less than a dozen records for Lane (Jan 27 - Foley Ridge Rd - L Gilbert; Mar 4 - Cloverpatch Butte - L Gilbert; Mar 7 - Gold Lake - A&T Mickel).
2015 was a fantastic year for birding in Douglas County. In addition to the OBA Conference being held in early June in Sutherlin, the County also hosted the 1st annual Reedsport CBC. For the sake of brevity, I use the initials MH for Matt Hunter and JB for Jimmy Billstine.

A Snow Goose was found near Ford’s Pond on Jan 5 (MH) and was seen through late January. Another Snow Goose was seen in October in a flyover flock of Cackling Geese in Reedsport, and 2 birds were also spotted at Plat I Reservoir in the same month (MH). Two more were seen outside of Glide near Little River Log Pond in November (Randy Moore). Snow Geese have historically been considered “casual” in the county. Two Brant were seen inland near Elkton (Harv Schubotthe) in late January. They were also seen in February, late May, and late December in Winchester Bay (JB, MH and Craig Miller, respectively). A single Trumpeter Swan was discovered on the Umpqua River outside of Scottsburg by David and Cheryl Hubbard in mid-April—and was consequently seen by others through early May. Four Tundra Swans were seen on Jan 19 at Ford’s Pond (JB). The only other sightings for the year were outside of Elkton in Mid-October by John Mello. One Eurasian Wigeon for the year was found in a flock of American Wigeons on Nov 24 by MH. Blue-winged Teal were seen throughout May at Ford’s Pond (1st report Russ Namitz Jun 6). They were also reported at this location sporadically through early September. One was seen at Stewart Park in Roseburg by MH on Jun 24. A single bird was reported at the Diamond Lake Sewage Ponds on Oct 8 (R. Maertz). A pair of Redhead were seen on Jun 12 at Ford’s Pond. (JB). 252 Greater Scaup, a significantly large number of late for the county, were seen at Butler Creek on the Reedsport CBC. A single female Harlequin Duck was found by Bob and Jeannie Pollock in early March. Rounding out the interesting waterfowl seen in the county in 2015 was a single Black Scoter seen in February by JB, and two seen by Russ Namitz and Eric Clough off the North Jetty during the Reedsport CBC. For an interesting inland sighting, 4 Surf Scoters and one White-Winged Scoter were seen at Diamond Lake on Dec 18 (MH et. al.). These, along with many other rocky shoreline species, like Harlequin Ducks and “rockpipers,” are difficult to find in the county.

Multiple attempts were made to put together a pelagic trip for Douglas County, but the weather never cooperated. However, offshore species were reported from cruise ships. A Murphy’s Petrel on Mar 21 and Apr 29 (Curtis Marantz and Linda Fritschel respectively), and a HAWAIIAN PETREL on Aug 9 by Bruce Riding-the-storm-out. A Short-Tailed Shearwater was reported on Oct 24 by Mike and Merrylynn Denny. The influx of coastal BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATERS was also observed in Douglas County. Alan Contreras and Russ Namitz both observed several on Oct 8, and 11 were seen by MH on Nov 11. Leach’s Storm Petrels were seen from a cruise ship on Aug 9 by Bruce Riding-the-storm-out.

An American Bittern was heard in late April at Plat I Reservoir (JB). They were detected from that date through November at Ford’s Pond, and a single bird was found during the Reedsport CBC on Scholfield Road (Amrit Sidhu and Phil White). A single Snowy Egret was found on Stables Road on Aug 8 and stayed at least through Aug 24 (JB). Two to four Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Ford’s Pond from mid-August through early September (JB et. al.). A single Rough-legged Hawk was reported on Feb 2 from Sutherlin (Jason Wolf). A flock of 41 Sandhill Cranes were reported from North Bank Habitat Management Area by Liz Gayner on Feb 28.

Three Black-necked Stilts were discovered at Ford’s Pond (MH et. al.) on Sep 12, and one or two hung around through Sep 20. A high number of 110 Black-bellied Plovers were seen on Triangle Island in the Umpqua River Estuary on Sep 19, and a single juvenile Pacific Golden-Plover was seen the same day (JB). A single Black-Bellied Plover hung out at Ford’s Pond for a couple of days from Sep 10-12. 43 Snowy Plovers were seen on the Oregon Dunes Loop Trail during the Reedsport CBC. A single Wandering Tattler was bobbing around on the North Jetty on Aug 4, accompanied by a Black Turnstone (JB). MH noted the largest number of Whimbrel detected in the county at one time (5) on May 4. A single Long-billed Curlew was found on a scorching 100+ degree day at Plat I on Jul 31 (JB), and hung around for at least one more day. Four Marbled Godwits were seen on Sep 4 on Triangle Island (JB). Two Red Knots were seen on Aug 30 at the same location, and another was seen on Sep 19 (JB). 4 Surfbirds were reported from the Winchester Bay area by Mike and Merrylynn Denny on Oct 24. A single Baird’s Sandpiper was seen for the only 2015 record at Plat I.
on Aug 20 (JB). 4 Wilson’s Phalaropes were at the Diamond Lake Sewage Ponds on May 3 (JB), and 2 more were found there on May 29 (MH).

A Franklin’s Gull was found on the Carter Lake Trail north of Reedsport on Jun 11 by Daniel Farrar. A Glaucous Gull was perched on the barrels in the Triangle Jetty on Jan 24 (JB). A surprising Black Tern was seen at Ford’s Pond on May 23 and 24, for the first time in 30 or so years (JB). A total of 6 Common Terns were seen at Plat 1 Reservoir on Sep 10 (Keith Phifer). Twenty-five were seen a few days later at Winchester Bay (MH). Eighty-one (!) Arctic Terns were seen on a cruise ship by a slew of birders on Sep 21. A high number of 6 Elegant Terns were seen on Aug 21 in Winchester Bay for the year (JB).

A single Burrowing Owl was seen on Jan 21 outside of Melrose (MH). A Boreal Owl was clearly heard by MH and JB on Apr 3 on Cinnamon Butte. Common Poorwill were discovered on Upper Quines Creek outside of Glendale on May 24 by MH and JB, and were seen or heard there through August. Three Black Swifts were seen by Jenna Curtis while hiking Mount Thielsen on Aug 22. A single White-throated Swift was reported from Reedsport by Jody Enck.

Lewis’s Woodpeckers were seen at North Bank Habitat Area through the early winter, with Sylvia Maulding reporting a high of 3 on Mar 3, and a single bird was seen at Diamond Lake Sewage Pond on May 9 (JB). A female Williamson’s Sapsucker was found on Feb 16 on Cinnamon Butte (JB). A Prairie Falcon was detected on Jan 13 near Glide Oregon, and was relocated Jan 18 (MH and Mark Hamm). Another was reported from Ford’s Pond on Sep 20 (JB).

A Gray Flycatcher was found at Thorn Prairie near Toketee Lake on May 8 (JB). A Say’s Phoebe was found on Fort McKay Road by MH on Nov 21, and hung around for the Roseburg-Sutherlin CBC on Dec 19. A Tropical Kingbird was found near the Coast Guard Tower on the South Jetty on Oct 5 (MH).

A Red-eyed Vireo was discovered on Jun 6 at Reustle Rock Vineyards during the OBA Annual Meeting, and others were detected on Jun 21 and Jun 23 outside of Melrose, Oregon (all by MH). A single Horned Lark was found on the beach near the South Jetty on Feb 6 (JB).

Six potentially breeding Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found on private land outside of Myrtle Creek Oregon on Apr 4 by MH, and one was found with a flock of Yellow-Rumped Warblers on the Reedsport North Spit during the Reedsport CBC by Bob Archer. Northern Mockingbirds were detected on both Douglas County CBCs: One found by Jim Hein on Hidden Valley Lane out Fisher Road on Dec 19, and another on Dec 29 in Reedsport by Jack Williamson, which stayed at least a week. A single Bohemian Waxwing in a flock of Cedar Waxwings was seen and photographed on Sep 19 by MH in Melrose.

A Palm Warbler was found on Feb 13 at the Umpqua River mouth on Feb 13 (R. Maertz), and another was found during the Reedsport CBC by Tristen Hynes at Champion Park on Dec 30. Jeff Dillon and JB saw a Black-throated Sparrow at North Bank Habitat Management Area on Jun 6 on an OBA Annual Meeting Field Trip. A Lark Sparrow was found on the Roseburg-Sutherlin CBC on Dec 19 at a private feeder in the Winchester area (JB).

Tricolored Blackbirds were reported from late February through June at Ford’s Pond. A single Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Ford’s Pond on May 23 (JB). A female Rusty Blackbird was discovered by Keith Phifer on Dec 1 at Stewart Park Wildlife Ponds, and a male was seen on Dec 24 by Russ Namitz near the Garden Valley Church. And for the Douglas County Bird of the Year, MH found a Baltimore Oriole in his front yard on May 27! Way to work for ‘Em, Matt!!!

Jenna Curtis found 23 Gray-Crowned Rosy Finches on Aug 22 while climbing Mount Thielsen, and others were seen in the following weeks.

Rounding out the taxonomically-ordered list, MH found 3 Pine Grosbeaks Feb 14 on Cinnamon Butte.
Lingering effects of drought conditions may have been responsible for lower than usual numbers of Snow Geese in the area. A single bird was at Howard Prairie Apr 17 (FL), and another single bird was spotted at the Kirtland ponds Nov 29 (JT). Notable among the smaller waterfowl were five Blue-winged Teal May 21 at Emigrant Lake (HF). Two of the same species were at the Kirtland ponds in Central Point and North Mountain Park in Ashland May 29 (m.obs.). A very late male Common Goldeneye was first seen at the Holy Waters May 16 (JK) and it remained at least until Jun 25. The same location had an American x Eurasian Wigeon hybrid Jan 18 (FL).

The Pacific Loon seen at Kime Reservoir Dec 12 (SJ, BW) was the second ever recorded on the Medford CBC. The only Red-necked Grebe reported during the year was a bird photographed at Agate Lake May 23 (NB). American White Pelicans are rarely seen in numbers in December, so twenty of that species at Emigrant Lake Dec 27 were unexpected (GZ).

One Snowy Egret was a reported flyover from the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma Jun 9 (JP). Three White-faced Ibis sightings were single birds north of Central Point Apr 17 (KH), over Hyatt Lake May 30 (m.obs.), and at Jackson County Sports Park Aug 3 (NB). The latter bird remained for several days.

Red-tailed Hawks are the most common raptors in Jackson County, but a nearly all-white bird in greater Eagle Point was a special sighting. It was first seen (and photographed) Jan 29 (NB).

At least one pair of Black-necked Stilts bred in Jackson County in 2013 and 2014, but there were no such reports in 2015. Single birds were seen at the Kirtland ponds Jun 17 (JT) and Agate Lake Jul 12 (JT). One Willet at Emigrant Lake May 15 (ES) and one Whimbrel at the Kirtland ponds Apr 18 (RN) were the only sightings of those species during 2015. Five Sanderlings at Agate Lake Sep 8 (NB) were unusual since more than one or two are rarely seen in the area.

Two Franklin’s Gulls showed up at Howard Prairie Sep 13 (FL). Only other notable gull during the year was a probable Glaucous-winged Gull at Holy Waters Oct 1 (NB, JL). It was an immature bird, and there were suggestions that it might have been one of those tricky Glaucous-winged x Western Gull hybrids. Each year a few Black Terns stray into Jackson County, and 2015 had one bird at Agate Lake Jun 4 (GS) and another at the same location Jul 22 (FL). Two Forster’s Terns were at Agate Lake May 8 (HS), and one was at Howard Prairie Aug 6 (FL).

Once regular breeders in Jackson County, Burrowing Owls are now rarely seen in the area. One of this species did show up on a farm north of Ashland late in the year. It was first reported Nov 7 (BM). There was also a single Long-eared Owl sighting. This bird was seen and photographed at the Ousterhout Farm in Eagle Point Jan 21 (BH, GH).

Common Nighthawks, which breed locally, are usually gone from the area by late September, so when one flushed from a location near Wasson Canyon Road Oct 28 (CB) it was a big surprise. Two Black Swifts were seen near Eagle Point Aug 28 (HS), and single White-throated Swifts were reported from the Yellow Rock area west of Lost Creek Lake May 7 (CB) and from Willow Lake Jun 24 (RA).

There were five reports of single Black-chinned Hummingbirds: from the hills south of Lost Creek Lake Apr 4 (FL), on the Upper Table Rock trail Jun 2 (SW), near the Graves Creek/Rogue River confluence May 15 (BWo), near the Bull Gap SnoPark Jul 15 (FL), and in Lithia Park Jul 17 (JW), Jackson County has never had a confirmed Allen’s Hummingbird, but a few occasionally show up in Josephine County. One male and one female were seen Apr 22 in Cave Junction (RC). One Red-naped Sapsucker was first seen at Emigrant Lake Oct 9 (FH), and it remained at least through Oct 19.

The only Gray Flycatcher reported during the year was a bird near Pilot Rock May 10 (FL). One Blue Jay showed up in north...
Jackson Co.—near Crowfoot Road east of Shady Cove—in late October (RS). Suspicions that Purple Martins breed in Jackson County were finally confirmed when adults with young were observed in the Jeffery Creek watershed north of Ashland Aug 1 (KS). Most Purple Martin sightings in Jackson Co. have been in the Kirtland ponds/Table Rocks area, and there may be breeding pairs there too. One Barn Swallow was seen at the Kirtland ponds on the very late date of Dec 5 (DI).

The Medford CBC had its first ever Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Dec 19 (DB) when one was spotted in the Sams Valley area. An American Pipit, seen and photographed near the summit of Mt. Ashland Jun 12 (LN, PN), was a rare summer sighting of a species normally seen only during migration and winter.

Confirmed breeding records for Townsend’s Warbler in Jackson County are hard to come by, but the sighting of an adult and three hatch-year birds Jul 12 on Mt. Ashland (FL) suggests that they do nest locally. The first-ever sighting of a Palm Warbler in Jackson County was a bird seen near downtown Ashland Oct 8 (PT). The observer is familiar with this species, and reported that it was of the nominate subspecies (palmarum). It joins three other warbler species on the Jackson Co. supplemental list since no photograph was possible and there was no confirmation by a second observer.

A Green-tailed Towhee at Ousterhout Farm in Eagle Point (1300 feet elevation) Aug 15 was a first for the location (BH). The only Black-throated Sparrow sighting was a bird seen near Highway 66 a few miles east of Emigrant Lake May 12 (TC, MC). A single Swamp Sparrow was at North Mountain Park in Ashland as late as Mar 9 (MPP), and perhaps the same bird returned to that location later in the year and was first seen Nov 2 (FL). It was still there at the end of the year. Josephine County had the area’s only Harris’s Sparrow when one joined other Zonotrichia species in a private backyard in Grants Pass Dec 24 (ZF).

Josephine Co. also was graced with only its second Rose-breasted Grosbeak when a male appeared at a private residence about five miles outside of Cave Junction. The sighting was confirmed Jul 29 (RC). Another male was seen at a private residence just south of Shady Cove Jul 18 (LK). A third male was the first September record for the Ousterhout Farm (BH, GH) when it visited from Sep 4 to Sep 8.

There was a single Yellow-headed Blackbird in Eagle Point Mar 16 (RN), another at Agate Lake Apr 17 (JT), and a third in Central Point from Apr 20 to mid-May (TCr). Jackson County’s second BALTIMORE ORIOLE (first since 2008) was a one-day visitor to the Expo Ponds in Central Point where it was photographed May 17 (TB).

A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was a surprise bird in Shady Cove Sep 10 (TSW). The fires in nearby mountains may have driven it to this unexpected location (elev. about 1300 ft.). Pine Grosbeaks were first reported on Mt. Ashland Jan 24 (NB, JL), and as many as a dozen of these big finches were seen there two days later (FL). The last report from that area was on Jan 30. Two Pine Grosbeaks were seen Feb 23 in the Cascades near Forest Service Road 37 (FL). A single male LAWRENCE’S GOLDFINCH made a one-day appearance at a private residence feeder on Dark Hollow Road in Medford Apr 16 (AN, MN).

A Greater White-fronted Goose was at Arlington, Gilliam 29 Jan (JS). A flock of 30 Snow Geese was reported at JDD, Sherman 16 May, which seems to be a very late date for such a sighting (O. Burton). A Ross’s Goose was in with a Snow Goose and four Cackling Geese and many Canada Geese at JDD 25 Nov (T. Little). There was the usual smattering of Cackling Geese reported from along the Columbia R. during the winter months, plus several Oct records. A flock of 150 at Tom McCall Preserve, Wasco 13 Oct was noteworthy, the observer’s description of “short-necked Cacklers” likely indicates B. h. minima (MC).

A flock of 80 Tundra Swans was on the Columbia R. just west of Hood River 16 Jan (D. Burton); five were at the same location 25 Jan (Michele Ray). An unspecified number of this species was seen 8 Dec on the Columbia R. in Wasco Co (B. Bernson). Two adult and three HY swan sp. were seen flying downriver at HRW 19 Nov (SJ). Observer suggests in notes that these may have been Trumpeters.

A female Eurasian Wigeon was at the ponds along the Biggs – Rufus frontage road 1 Nov (RN). A few Blue-winged Teal were reported from ponds in Gilliam and Sherman Cos late May – early Jun (T. Hallman, SS, W. Weber). Three were at the mouth of Hood R. 26 Jun (KC). A pair of Redheads was at Viento SP, Hood River 15 Feb (SJ). A pair was at Kah-Nee-Tah STP 19 May (M. Green). Up to 16 birds were at HRW 22 Nov – 19 Dec, with numbers peaking on 6 Dec (SJ, m.obs.). 19 were tallied on the Sherman Co portion of the KCHCBC 3 Jan (CM). Several singles and pairs occupied Gilliam and Sherman Co ponds Apr – Jun (WSR, SS, Oregon 2020). A male Tufted Duck with a short but discernable tuft was discovered among a large raft of Scaup off The Hook at HRW 19 Nov (SJ), seen again at same location 22 Nov (TB, P. Knight), and photographed at same location 14 Dec (SN). Seen by many observers. Away from their expected haunts along the Columbia R, two Greater Scaup were at Price Rd Wetlands, Wasco 16 Mar (WG, J. Hurt).

Harlequin Ducks were found at the following Hood River Co locations: one male at Cascade Locks 8 Mar (D. Betat, S. Russell), two males near Tollbridge Park 2 Apr (KC), one male at the Powderdale Corridor along the lower Hood R. 3 May (M. Ruhlen), hen with five young on upper Hood R. above Parkdale 6 Jun (BT). A female Surf Scoter was found off The Hook at HRW 31 Oct (J. Bishop, RN). Two females were on the Columbia R. in Gilliam Co 1 Nov (RN). A White-winged Scoter was spotted on the Columbia R. w. of The Dalles, Wasco 1 Nov (D. Leal, fide J. Dillon). A total of 32 Barrow’s Goldeneye was counted on the Sherman Co portion of the CKH CBC 3 Jan (CM). Most other obs. along the Columbia R. Oct through Mar involved 5 or fewer birds (m.obs.). Five were among a large raft of W. Grebes off The Hook at HRW 27 Oct (SJ). Two HY birds were at Boulder Lks, Wasco 30 Jul (C. Warren). Clear L, Wasco hosted up to 25 birds in Nov (m.obs.). A female plumaged Red-breasted Merganser appeared among other waterbirds at TDRP, Wasco 18 Nov (SJ). Another female plumaged bird was
off The Hook at HRW 19 Nov (SJ). Two were at Rufus Landing, Sherman 23 Nov (CJF, SJ, LS). On 29 Dec, one was present at the JDD spillway, Sherman and four were found above the dam (SJ).

174 Wild Turkeys were tallied on the TVCBC, Wasco 30 Dec. Eight Mountain Quail were reported from the Historic Columbia R. State Hwy Trail between Hood River and Mosier 24 Jan (NF). One was found near Pine Grove, Wasco 9 May (CC). Two were reported from an unspecified location on the n. side of Mt Hood 23 Jun (MC). The pinelands of far s. Gilliam Co also yielded a few late May sightings. (SF, DI, WDR). The TVCBC recorded two birds at the w. end of Tygh Valley, Wasco 30 Dec (N. Mrvelj, NN). Small numbers of Chukar continue to be reported from the canyon country e. of the Cascades, with sightings from throughout the year. Gray Partridge were found in numerous locations in Gilliam and Sherman Cos, (Oregon 2020, SS). A couple of reports also came from s. Wasco Co (BB, CC, MC, LM).

A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Blalock Canyon boat ramp, Gilliam 10 Mar (JS). Two separate birds were present along the HRW 6 Nov (S. Hansen, SJ). Two or possibly three birds were seen along The Dalles waterfront, Wasco 20 Dec (CC et al, Lyle CBC). There were several reports of single Eared Grebes during spring and fall along the Columbia R. Two were at Rufus Landing, Sherman 23 Nov (CJF, SJ, LS). Three were detected at Mayer SP, Wasco 29 Dec (TB); one was at Cascade Locks 25 Jan (D. Porter, M. Ray). Western Grebes congregated at the HRW in Oct – Nov, with up to over 100 birds seen off The Hook at the w. end of HRW during the third week of Nov (SJ, m.obs.). A single Clark’s Grebe was well described by observers at Government Cove, Hood River 14 Jan (CJF, SJ). One was present at TDRP, Wasco 12 Feb (SJ).

An Am. White Pelican was at DRSP, Sherman 02 Feb (M. Baldwin), lingering there through at least 18 Feb (K. Coe, G. Haworth). One was at Price Rd Wetlands, Wasco 9 May (CC). As usual, the species was numerous along the Columbia R. Apr – Aug. Two lingering Great Egrets were found at Taylor L. west of The Dalles, Wasco 25 Dec (SJ et al). One very early bird was at Celilo Park, Wasco 20 Feb (S. Rogers). Black-crowned Night-Herons were again seen roosting near the mouth of the Hood R. Jan – Mar and Oct – Dec, with scattered daytime obs. extending down the HRW and lowermost Hood R. Peak number of 11 birds seen 29 Dec at Nichols Basin (J. Hayes, NN). One to two HY birds were found at sites near Rufus, Sherman Sep – Oct (KC, SJ, RN). Singles were found 6 Jun at WCWA and Condor, Gilliam (SS).

A Red-shouldered Hawk was at Government Cove 28 Aug (R. Freeman). Another Hood River Co sighting occurred 19 Sep along Hwy 35 near Cooper Spur Rd (GB). A Broad-winged Hawk was recorded on the hawkwatch at BB, Hood River 18 Sep (MO et al). Two early Ferruginous Hawks were present in s. Wasco Co 6 Mar (M. Smith, S. Swanson). Two were seen near Kent, Sherman 02 May (Anon.).

Two Virginia Rails were found at the Windseeker wetland along TDRT, Wasco 12 Feb (SJ). Two birds were at China Hollow, Sherman 6 May (AS). One was found at Wehri Canyon, Gilliam 23 May (CC, CJF, B. Bresson). China Hollow, Sherman produced a Sora 6 May (AS); two were at WCWA, Gilliam 23 May (Oregon 2020). A pair of Sandhill Cranes was present at Camas Prairie, Wasco 21 Mar – 16 Jul (CC et al). Five were found in e. Gilliam Co 23 May (WDR).

Four American Avocets were at WCWA 6 Apr (JS). Two were there 30 May (NH). A lingering Spotted Sandpiper was observed at Heritage Landing, Wasco 8 Nov (CJF, SJ et al). Two Long-billed Curlews were present in n. Gilliam Co 23 Mar (AH, CH, ES). A pair was seen at Juniper Flat, Wasco 20 Apr (COHR) and seen again there 21 Jun (BT). There were several Gilliam Co reports late Mar – early Jun (m.obs.). Up to three Red-necked Phalaropes frequented the Condon SL 22-23 May (Oregon 2020); three were there 3 Aug (GB). One was seen at The Spit, HRW 19 Jul (SJ). Five were at the mouth of the Hood R. 6 Sep (SJ).

The Hood River Co saw a major push of Bonaparte’s Gulls along the Columbia R. late Oct through Nov, with peak numbers occurring at JDD, Sherman 1 Nov (80 birds – RN) and 3 Nov (120 birds – KC). A Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull was reported from the mouth of the Hood R. 24 Jan (NF). Three juv. Common Terns were at the mouth of the Deschutes R. 18 Sep (fide M. Monroe). Two Forster’s Terns were at Condon SL 22 May (CG). One occurred at WCWMA 30 May (NH).

One was found at ponds along Biggs – Rufus frontage road 18 Jul (TB). Two were at the mouth of the Hood R. 19 Sep (GB).

A Barn Owl was confirmed breeding along the John Day R., Gilliam 23 May (M. Baldwin, W. Proebsting). There were a few other reports Gilliam and Sherman Cos May – Jul (m.obs.). Not necessarily rare or out of range, a Northern Pygmy-Owl nonetheless made for a good county tick in the pines at Lost Valley, Gilliam 1 Apr (WDR). There were two reports of Spotted Owls from areas near Mt Hood, 14 Apr (BA) and 23 Jun (MC). A Short-eared Owl was seen above timberline at Cooper Spur, Hood River 23 Sep (PP); another was photographed at the BB hawkwatch 21 Oct (KC et al).

A Common Poorwill was heard along NF-17 in the hills e. of the Hood R. valley 28 Jun (M. Bogar). White-throated Swifts were found in three broadly defined areas: cliffs along the Columbia R. from Rowena, Wasco eastward, John Day R. at CCSP, and Deschutes R. s. of Maupin, Wasco (m.obs.). An apparently wintering Anna’s Hummingbird has been reported through Dec 2015 at a feeder in nw. Wasco Co (J. Omer). This and another nearby location reported 1-2 birds present late Jan – early Feb.

Lewis’s Woodpeckers once again appeared in June near Parkdale, Hood River, with a pair seen there 26 Jun (KC). 41 were counted on the TVCBC, Wasco 30 Dec. Two locations in nw. Wasco Co reported Acorn Woodpeckers from the beginning of the year through at least May. There is a resident population in similar habitat only a few miles away around Lyle, WA, which may be expanding (J. Omer, J. Strader). A lingering Williamson’s Sapsucker was photographed at WRGMA, Wasco 28 Nov (BA). There were at least four reports of Am. Three-toed Woodpeckers from the n. slopes of Mt Hood mid Jul – early Aug and at BB 9 Sep (m.obs.). Black-backed Woodpecker reports were more numerous and widespread, with
many sightings of one or two birds from higher elevations in Hood River and Wasco Cos mid Jun – Aug (m.obs.). One was found below the 3000’ level at WRGMA, Wasco 28 Nov (BA – photo).

At least three locations hosted Peregrine Falcons during May – Jun. A pair was seen near the Columbia R. e. of The Dalles, Wasco 30 May (SF, DI). A Prairie Falcon was seen along MHNF trail 600 near Cooper Spur 6 Aug (SN); another nearby sighting occurred 8 Aug at McNeil Point on Mt Hood (AH, CH, ES). The hawkwatch at BB recorded one 19 Sep (MO).

A singing Willow Flycatcher was found at WCWA, Gilliam 19 Jun (N. Holcomb). Three were at Lawrence Grassland Preserve, Wasco 11 Aug (MC). A possible summering Hammond’s Flycatcher was detected at Lost Valley, Gilliam pines 6 Jun (SS). A well-described Gray Flycatcher was found 8 Aug at McNeil Point on the n. side of Mt Hood (AH, CH, ES). Two westward-ranging Ash-throated Flycatchers were found at the Historic Columbia R. Hwy Trail e. of Hood River 26 May (KC). Another was seen and heard on the island in Waucoma Basin, HRW 24 Jul (SI). Eastern Kingbirds were reported in small numbers from the Columbia, Deschutes and John Day riparian areas May – Aug (m.obs.).

A HY Northern Shrike appeared at the mouth of the Hood R. 6 Oct (SI). A Hutton’s Vireo was found within a mixed flock of small birds at Mayer SP, Wasco 1 Oct (JS – photo). Two Clark’s Nutcrackers were found at DeMoss Park, Sherman on the unusual date of 10 Jul (T. Crabtree). Horned Larks (2 – 5 birds/sighting) were found in the Cooper Spur area of Mt Hood during Jul – Aug (m.obs.). One HY bird was spotted on a sandbar at the mouth of the Hood R. 10 Sep (SI).

Only a few Purple Martins were reported, all from Hood River Co. The only breeding season observation away from the Columbia R. was a single ad. male over timber land ~5 mi. sw. of Hood River 02 Jun (SI). A Mountain Chickadee appeared at DRSP, Sherman 10 Jan. Observer notes having found this species at this location “three of the past four winters” (SS, pers. comm.). By Oct – Nov, there were many reports of the species along the Columbia R. (m.obs.). Pygmy Nuthatches were sparingly reported from the s. Gilliam Co pinelands and the e. Cascade foothills, Wasco (m.obs.).

A westward ranging Rock Wren was found in the Herman Cr. watershed above Cascade Locks, Hood River 17 Aug (CC). Single Pacific Wrens were found near the Columbia R. at DRSP, Sherman 17 Mar (M&MLD) and 31 Oct (RN) and at WCWA, Gilliam 1 Nov (RN). Bewick’s Wrens continue to infiltrate the wheat counties, with reports spanning the year and spreading along riparian canyons into s. Sherman and Gilliam Cos (m.obs.).

A Gray Catbird appeared at DRSP, Sherman 24 May (Oregon 2020), later found across the river at Heritage Landing, Wasco 30 May (SF, DI). Another was found at the Powerdale Corridor along the lower Hood R. 6 Aug (J. Price). There were only a few Sage Thrasher reports – four from Gilliam Co, none from Sherman and one from s. Wasco Co (m.obs.). A single ad. male Lapland Longspur was found at the mouth of the Hood R. 6 May (SI). Two were seen and heard in flight around the 8000’ level at Cooper Spur on the n. side of Mt Hood 23 Sep (PP).

A singing male American Redstart was found near Olex, Gilliam 23 May (ME, WDR). A SY singing male appeared along Lone Rock Rd just s. of Moro, Sherman 24 May (WDR). A “Western” Palm Warbler was detected at 9 Apr at TDRT, Wasco (MC).

Up to three Grasshopper Sparrows summered at Tygh Ridge Rd, Wasco; several sites in Gilliam and Sherman Cos hosted this species late May – mid Jul (Oregon 2020, m.obs.). A single Sagebrush Sparrow was found singing at CCSP, Gilliam 1 Apr (WDR). A surprising twelve Savannah Sparrows appeared at WCWMA, Gilliam 6 Jan (A. Beerman, NN, SN). Green-tailed Towhees were sparingly reported. One was seen near Lonerock, Gilliam 23 May (CG). One was found along the Mazama Trail on the nw. side of Mt Hood 8 Aug (AH, CH, ES).

Two singing male Bobolinks were encountered in the ranch bottomland just n. of the pine stand on Lost Valley Rd, Gilliam 23 May (sighting credited to Oregon 2020), Tricolored Blackbirds were found in Wasco Co at Juniper Flat Rd and Smock Rd 20 Apr (BB, LM) and at Victor Rd 5 Jun (AF, WG). Gilliam Co sightings include 4 birds at Rattlesnake Rd 6 May (A. Skirvin), 25 birds at Eightmile Canyon Rd 25 May (SS) and two at WCWA 30 May (NH). Two wintering birds were found near Wamic, Wasco 30 Dec (M. Greenway et al, TVCBC).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch observations were confined to the higher elevations of Hood River Co: Four birds at Cooper Spur 23 Sep (PP), an apparently mixed-age/sex group of eight birds at Lookout Mtn 30 Sep (CC), and a single bird at BB 21 Oct (KC, F. Mayer, J. Powell). Four Common Redpolls were found in two separate locations near Wamic, Wasco 30 Dec (TVCBC).

Observers cited: Bob Archer (BA), Bill Bradford & Lora Minty (BB & LM), Gloria Beerman (GB), Trent Bray (TB), Char Corkran (CC), Ken Chamberlain (KC), Matt Cahill (MC), Mike & Merry-Lynn Denny (M&MLD) Cathy J. Flick (CFJ), Shawnie Finnegan (SF), Adrian Hinkle (AH), Christopher Hinkle (CH), Neil Holcomb (NH), David Irons (DI), Stuart Johnston (SJ), Klickitat – Columbia Hills CBC (KCHCBC), Craig Miller (CM), Nels Nelson (NN), Russ Namitz (RN), Steve Nord (SN), Phil Pickering (PP), W. Douglas Robinson (WDR), Em Scatteregia (ES), Jen Sanford (JS), Stefan Schlick (SS), Bill Tice (BT), Tygh Valley CBC (TVCBC)

This Central Oregon birding highlight article covers some of the interesting bird sightings in Deschutes, Jefferson, Crook and Wheeler counties. Being the heart of Oregon is a big responsibility and Central Oregon certainly delivers. Here’s what happened in 2015.

Even though our climate is mostly dry, unusual waterfowl grace us with their presence annually. Eight different Eurasian Wigeons were located in 3 different counties. Greater Scaup is most often seen in the Cascade lakes, so a smattering of reports from the Redmond/Bend/Prineville sewer ponds were of note. There were no White-winged Scoter reports from any Central Oregon location this year, which is certainly unusual. Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from Wickiup Reservoir and Suttle Lake. Pacific Loons and a much rarer Red-throated Loon were seen at Wickiup in the fall. Horned Grebes are becoming commonplace in winter here, but 5 separate reports of Red-necked Grebe were anything but common. Clark’s Grebes were relatively easy to find in Crook Co. and American Bittern nested at Houston Lake in that county. Great Egret is another bird that seems to be easier to find than in years past. Over 40 Great Egrets were seen in 2015.

It was a big year for Green Heron in Central Oregon. Most years there are no Green Heron reports. This year, the species was seen in Prineville, Bend, Redmond, and at two locations in Powell Butte.

That’s more than the number of reports in the previous 15 years combined!

On the diurnal raptor front, one of the only rarities were two Rough-legged Hawks found east of Bend on May 14 (Jim Moody). This species has been seen in May 4 times in the past. Small numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks continue to be present in all seasons. This year marked the first time in several years that no Broad-winged Hawks were tallied at the Green Ridge Hawk Watch location. Peregrine Falcons were noted at 4 different locations and proof of local nesting was obtained for the first time in nearly 50 years at Smith Rock State Park (Steve Lay).

Some very interesting shorebirds and waders passed through in 2015. Sandhill Cranes are annual, but birds seen flying over Sisters and Culver were away from the traditional sites. A Black-bellied Plover was at Houston Lake on Apr 11, and Wickiup Reservoir produced both Marbled Godwit and Whimbrel (all 3 by Peter Low). Single Sanderling reports came in from Bend (Judy Meredith, Lew Rems) and Prineville (Mark Gonzalez,) while at least 13 Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at scattered locations. A Red Knot was observed for only the 6th time in our area (Oct 14, m.obs.) and it was in the company of a Ruddy Turnstone, which comprised the 8th local record. Two different Short-billed Dowitchers made this report but they are likely under-reported due to the difficult ID. Certainly the star of the shorebird show this year was the LITTLE STINT that was seen by many at Wickiup Reservoir on Aug 1 (Peter Low, Lew Rems).

Gulls, terns and jaegers pique our interest in this area because of their scarcity and transient nature. Both Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers were found at Wickiup Reservoir in the fall. A Long-tailed Jaeger in Crook Co. was a Co. first (Sep 5, Jeff Nordstrom, Chuck Gates). Franklin’s Gulls were practically abundant this year, with up to 9 separate reports coming in from Deschutes and Crook counties. Central Oregon’s first BLACK-HEADED GULL was photographed at Suttle Lake on Nov 14 by Craig Miller. Only a smattering of Kerrig Gulls was found and all were at Wickiup Reservoir.

A single fall Sabine’s Gull was seen at Wickiup Reservoir (Aug 15, Peter Low). Common Terns were anything but common, as only 3
were seen throughout the year. Migrating Black Terns turned up in Prineville along with a few at Hatfield Lake in Bend.

Much like most of the west, Central Oregon’s pigeon profile is certainly in flux. Eurasian Collared-Doves outnumbered Mourning Doves on many local Christmas Bird Counts. Band-tailed Pigeon numbers were greater than average, with reports coming in from 6 locations, including a rare Crook Co. bird (Sep 15, Kay Hartmann, Joanne Bernt). A White-winged Dove was photographed on Jun 12 in Bend (Tim Lyden).

Owls are secretive, mysterious and sought after by most birders. Locally, at least 6 Great Gray Owls were located in Crook and Deschutes counties. Barred Owls cause less of a commotion now than a few years ago, but 5 different birds in Crook and Deschutes (this bird still proves elusive in Jefferson Co.) caused birders to mobilize. A Boreal Owl was heard calling near Little Lava Lake east of Bend on Jun 2 by Tyler Hallman.

We’ll clump swifts, hummingbirds and woodpeckers into one group so they don’t feel isolated. Black Swifts were noted in Bend (Tony Kutzen) and Redmond (Judy Meredith and others) but did not appear near Tumalo Falls as in years past. Two different Costa’s Hummingbirds were found at opposite ends of Bend in April (Diane and Bruce Page) and June (Dr. Jim Moodie), respectively. Black-chinned Hummingbirds, while common in Crook Co., are hard to find in Deschutes, so two different reports in May were of note. Wintering Williamson’s Sapsuckers were tallied at Prineville Reservoir, Bend and Smith Rock State Park. The annual tally for American Three-toed Woodpecker finalized at 15 (some of these may have been repeats). Pure Yellow-shafted Northern Flickers were photographed in Prineville, Redmond and Camp Sherman.

Passerines make up the bulk of rare bird lists in most reports, and this one is no different. An EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE turned up near Sisters on Jun 3 (Peter Low) and two separate LEAST FLYCATCHERS were found along migration routes on May 23 and Aug 1 (Steve Dougill for both). Eastern Kingbird occurs in our eastern regions, but a bird in the Cascade foothills SW of Bend was particularly out of place (May 27, Cindy Murray). Winter Loggerhead Shrikes are unusual, and one was reported from Hatfield Lake in Bend (Dec 26, Craig Miller). A single Purple Martin blew through along the Deschutes River in Bend on May 26 (Craig Turner). A Bewick’s Wren was located at Wickiup Reservoir for the first time at that location (Mar 13, Steve Dougill). Local Chestnut-backed Chickadees are sometimes found high in the Cascades, but birds were found much lower this year, with records coming from Bend and west of Sisters. Black-capped Chickadees are pretty rare in Deschutes Co., so two different birds stirred our local birders. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports continue to grow annually. There were 14 reports this year, including some during the nesting season. A Northern Mockingbird was spotted in Bend on May 11 (Mark Gonzalez). Gray Catbirds were located at Lower Bridge (near Terrebonne on Jul 25, Tony Kutzen) and Ryan’s Meadow (near Bend on Aug 6, Steve Dougill). A very exciting RED-THROATED PIPIT was observed at Wickiup Reservoir on Oct 19 for only the second local record (Craig Miller). A Black-and-white Warbler turned up west of Sisters on May 8 (Peter Low), and two different Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in the same area (Doug Robinson, Peter & Judy List). A KENTUCKY WARBLER seen in Bend in June marked only the second time this species has been found in our area (Jun 1, Tom Crabtree). After several years of absence, we finally got an American Redstart report near Sunriver this year (Jun 19, Rich Hoyer, John Reuland). A very rare Black-throated Blue Warbler flew into a mist net at a banding station south of Bend on Jul 29 for a 4th area record (Steve Dougill). The only Black-throated Sparrow report came in from a ridge east of Bend on May 24 (Skip Russell).

Two different Red Fox Sparrows were found in Deschutes Co. (Jeff Nordstrom, Peter Low). The annual White-throated Sparrow count came in at 9, but there were no Harris’s Sparrows seen in Central Oregon this year. Judy Meredith and Cathy Beck found Deschutes Co.’s 5th Indigo Bunting at Hatfield Lake (Bend Sewer Ponds) on Sep 1.

Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks turned up in Powell Butte (May 22, Bobbe Schafer) and Bend (Jul 14, Michael Thomas). Bobolinks nested in eastern Crook Co. (up to 80 birds), but a single bird in Sunriver on Aug 3 was rare for Deschutes Co. (Erik Jensen). Tricolored Blackbirds were found in Crook Co. in all four seasons and were also found in several different locations in the Madras area.

A Hooded Oriole was photographed at a hummingbird feeder in Bend on Apr 8 (mariea Swarens). Pine Grosbeaks were easy to find near the Pacific Crest Trail east of Sisters in early winter. Other Pine Grosbeaks turned up west of Bend in March and December. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch reports came in from 6 locations in Crook and Deschutes Co., but birds found on Round Butte SW of Madras provided a much more unusual Jefferson Co. record. White-winged Crossbills were found near Millican Crater and coming to a feeder in Sisters. Common Redpolls turned up in Bend, Powell Butte, and Prineville.
Trumpeter Swans were reported during north and south migrations through KLAMATH: 1, mid-Feb, along Lakeshore Dr., Klamath Falls, mixed with large concentration of Tundras, (DHe, JVM, Gerry Hill), and 1 heard in small flying group at LKNWR, Straits Drain, KLAM, Dec 18 (KTS, DHa).

A single Surf Scoter was seen at Ana Res., LAKE, Dec 12, (RN).

Mountain Quail reports for LAKE have increased, especially from the Warner Mountains. A Breeding Bird Survey had calls (Jun 19) heard along USFS Rd. 3615, north from Hwy 140, LAKE, towards Walker Trailhead (KTS); also from that area May 23 (Roy Morris), and Jun 10 (RG, JK), and one mile further east on Hwy 140, Sep 6 (CH), with another location further south, at the north end of Rogger Meadow, Jun 19 (KTS).

There were 2 Red-necked Grebes present at the Rocky Point area of Upper Klamath Lake during May and June, (KTS, DHa, DHa, JVM), and one at Putnam’s Pt., Klamath Falls, Nov 1, (DHa).

A Cattle Egret in breeding plumage was seen and photographed at SLWMA, LAKE, May 30, (Tom Lawler, ph). Yellow Rails were heard in an area south of SLWMA, and present during a drought year, May 30 (CM).

Shorebirds seemed concentrated at the southern end of Klamath County, along Stateline Rd., Hwy 161, in late summer, where ground water was used to irrigate permanent pasturelands. Pectoral Sandpiper had a high count of 15, Oct 12, (RN). In LAKE, a Solitary Sandpiper, seemingly less common in recent years, was seen at Lakeview Sewage settling ponds, Sep 12, Roy Morris, Seven Sanderling were counted at Summer Lake WMA, an amazing inland number, seen Sep. 6 by John Sullivan (ph). One Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Willow Ck. Res., Aug 2 (AH, CH, HHHe, OH), and another single was seen well at SLWMA, Sep 6 (CH, AH).

A Mew Gull was seen at Ana Res., LAKE, Jul 19 (Chuck Gates, ph). One first cycle Glaucous Gull was present for several days, at Lake Ewuana, KLAM, Jan 16 (DHa, photo). Three Common Terns were reported from SLWMA, in LAKE, Sep 20 (C&MM), while one was at Agency Lake, KLAM, on Sep 26 (DHe).

Five Band-tailed Pigeons, Sep 25 at Modoc Point, KLAM, appeared to be migrating through the area (DHe, Frank Lospalluto), and one was seen in early to mid-June at a Summer Lake feeder, LAKE (MStL).

Western Screech Owl is not often reported for LAKE, but 2 at Silver Lake Campground, Jun 8, (JK, RG) may indicate a breeding location. A group of 3-5 Long-eared Owls was found using an isolated dense willow patch of a TNC Fort Klamath area property, KLAM, Oct. 11-25 (KTS, DHe, DHa, photo).

A single male Costa’s Hummingbird was seen at Thomas Ck., LAKE, Jun 23 (M. Gonzalez), and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen giving a flight display near Bull Prairie, in the North Warners, LAKE, Jun 10 (JK, RG). Anna’s Hummingbird are being seen more often in LAKE, with at least one at a Summer Lake WMA feeder, June, (MStL).

A Least Flycatcher was heard singing near Rocky Point, along Upper Klamath Lake edge riparian, Jun 24-25 (Tom & Allison Mickel, DHa). Eastern Kingbirds were seen well at two locations in KLAMATH; one near Rocky Point, Jun 10, J. Van Hulzen, and near 2 near Willow Res., Aug 2 (CH, AH, HHHe, OH). Chestnut-sided Chickadee had an “eruptive” year and was seen in well above average numbers along its normal eastern edge of its range in late Sep, at the base of the eastside Cascades, KLAM,
but was seen in late fall and then winter, in small groups further east, especially in Klamath Falls (KTS). At Hager Mountain, one was photographed for a rare LAKE presence, Nov 7 (C&MM). A Gray Catbird made a brief appearance at a Rocky Point residence, Jun 11 (KTS). One Northern Mockingbird was at Christmas Valley, May 26, seen by Team Sidhu and White.

Rare warbler sightings for fall in LAKE included: a Chestnut-sided Warbler (photo) and a Magnolia Warbler, seen at SLWMA, and both on Sep 20 (C&MM), and a PRAIRIE WARBLER, seen at SLWMA, May 23 by Ed Schmidt (photo); all adding to Lake’s total species list. A singing Northern Waterthrush was at Silver Lake Campground, Jun 8 (JK, RG). A Yellow-breasted Chat was heard singing at Summer Lake WMA, Sep. 6, (CH). Rare warblers in KLAMATH included a singing HOODED WARBLER at Moore Park, present one day, May 15, (DHe, JVM, KTS photo, DHa). An “Eastern” Palm Warbler, a first for KLAMATH, was at the north end of Klamath Marsh, Jul 31 (AH, CH, HHe, OH, photo), and a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, a first for KLAMATH, was seen on the late and only date of Nov 22 at Wood River Wetlands (DHe, JVM, DHa).

White-throated Sparrow reports seem to be more common in recent years, with several this year: 2 at Wood River Wetlands, (KTS, DHa), and 2 at Malin Park, Nov 11 (KTS). One Harris Sparrow was photographed in breeding plumage on, May 23 at the Silver Lake USFS ranger station compound.

Pine Grosbeak made a rare appearance in KLAMATH during late winter, with 3-7 hanging out near the west end of Clover Ck. Rd., Feb 17-24 (JVM, m.obs, photos).

Observers: RG- Roy Gerig, OH- Oscar Harper, DHa- Dave Haupt, HHe- Hendrik Herlyn, DHe- Dave Hewitt, AH- Adrian Hinkle, CH- Chris Hinkle, JK- J Kopitzke, RN- Russ Namitz, MStL- Martin St. Louis, KTS-Kevin Spencer, JVM- Julie Van Moorhem;

Locations: SLWMA- Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area

Observers: RG- Roy Gerig, OH- Oscar Harper, DHa- Dave Haupt, HHe- Hendrik Herlyn, DHe- Dave Hewitt, AH- Adrian Hinkle, CH- Chris Hinkle, JK- J Kopitzke, RN- Russ Namitz, MStL- Martin St. Louis, KTS-Kevin Spencer, JVM- Julie Van Moorhem;

Locations: SLWMA- Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area

White-throated Sparrow reports seem to be more common in recent years, with several this year: 2 at Wood River Wetlands, (KTS, DHa), and 2 at Malin Park, Nov 11 (KTS). One Harris Sparrow was photographed in breeding plumage on, May 23 at the Silver Lake USFS ranger station compound.
A Ross’s Goose was with a flock of Cackling Geese along Stanfield Meadows Road (Umatilla) from Mar 16 – 21 (m.obs.). A large congregation of Wood Ducks, estimated at 400 birds, was on a pond in Boardman (Morrow) on Jan 5 (AS). Steve Nord, Nels Nelson and Aaron Beerman counted 303 Wood Ducks at the Irrigon Wildlife Viewing Area (Morrow) on Jan 6, and, independently, Trent Bray reported 310 Wood Ducks at the same spot 1.5 hrs later. A drake Eurasian Wigeon was photographed on the Columbia River at Quesna County Park 13 miles west of Boardman on Feb 11 (AS).

Mountain Quail is a rare, permanent resident in Umatilla County, mainly in the NF John Day River watershed in the extreme southern part of the county. Due to their low numbers and shy habits, they are difficult to find. But, two coveys, one with 5 birds and the other containing 8, were seen along the NF John Day River Road on Sep 30 (JW, CF, DD, MC).

CSNWR is the hotspot for Clark’s Grebes in Umatilla County. They were first observed breeding (adults feeding young) there in 2010. This year, Mike and MerryLynn Denny reported seeing 7 there on Aug 8, and 9 were found on Sep 16 (CL).

Bill Tice saw a Red-shouldered Hawk next to Rock Creek along Buttermilk Canyon Road in SW Morrow County on July 26. Ferruginous Hawk is rarely reported in Umatilla County during winter, but Tanya Harrison found one on Jan 13 and again on Jan 26 a few miles SE of Pendleton.

An American Bittern was at UNWR (Morrow) on Apr 10 (AS, DL), and another was seen there on Jun 7 (Jean Olson). On Apr 12, John Omer reported an American Bittern at the Irrigon Wildlife Viewing Area (Morrow), and Jenny Barnett found one at CSNWR on May 1. A flock of 16 Great Egrets was along the Umatilla River just east of Pendleton on Aug 9 (JS). On May 16, Neil Holcomb observed a flock of 11 White-faced Ibis at a small pond near Boardman. Gloria Beerman counted 10 White-faced Ibis at Mann’s Pond (Umatilla) on May 26.

Sandhill Crane is becoming a rare, annual winter visitor in Umatilla County. Two were photographed near Pilot Rock on Jan 1, and the pair was seen by several observers until Feb 22. A group of 6 cranes was seen in Echo Meadows on Jan 12, (George Ruby and Gene Cripe). And, on Dec 13, 1 Sandhill Crane was photographed at Echo Meadows (AS, DL).

A very late, fall-migrating Black-necked Stilt was photographed by Pete Szasz on Nov 26 a few miles SW of Boardman. This is the latest fall record by about a month for Morrow and Umatilla counties. Pete saw one stilt (apparently the same bird) the following day. On Sep 24, 15 Black-bellied Plovers were at CSNWR (NH). Rarely reported in Morrow County, a Semipalmated Plover was seen on Aug 11 at UNWR (NH). A late-migrating Lesser Yellowlegs was spotted by Daniel Froehlich on Oct 22 at CSNWR. Three Marbled Godwits were discovered on Apr 17 along the Columbia River at Warehouse Beach Recreation Area (Umatilla) (NH). On Sep 3, a juvenile Stilt Sandpiper was photographed at CSNWR (CL). Jenny Barnett recorded 5 Sanderlings at CSNWR on Sep 6.
An adult Sabine’s Gull was photographed at McKay Creek NWR on Sep 6 (DH). Umatilla County’s first record of a Black-headed Gull (5th record for Oregon) was photographed in the Columbia River downstream from McNary Dam on Jan 2 (AS, DL). This winter adult gull was seen each day by many observers until it was last reported on Jan 11. An adult Western Gull was seen at McNary Dam on Jan 17 (AS). The following day, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Oscar Harper, and Hendrik Herlyn also reported a Western Gull at McNary Dam. Mark Baldwin found 8 Common Terns along the Columbia River in Boardman on Sep 23. George Ruby saw a Black Tern below McNary Dam on May 9. Another Black Tern was reported at Ukiah sewer ponds on May 13 (JW, JR, DD, MC).

Jan 30, Jerry Baker found 2 Snowy Owls north of Weston (Umatilla); these owls were seen by many observers through at least Mar 1. Four recently fledged Burrowing Owls were observed by Matt Cahill on the Boardman Bombing Range (Morrow) on Jul 22. John Omer discovered a Barred Owl at the UNWR on Apr 10. On May 17, an adult Great Gray Owl was photographed along Deadman Hill Loop Road in extreme SW Morrow County (AS).

The first reports of spring hummingbirds were earlier than usual. Gloria Beerman reported seeing 2 Rufous Hummingbirds about 10 miles west of Boardman on Mar 26. This is about 2 to 3 weeks earlier than usual. The male Calliope Hummingbird that arrived in Sherry and Robert Sallee’s yard a few miles south of Milton-Freewater on Mar 27 was 12 days earlier than the prior year’s early arrival on April 8, 2014. More surprising was the Sallee’s first sighting of a female Black-chinned Hummingbird on Apr 9, which is 3 to 4 weeks earlier than female Black-chins typically arrive in Umatilla County. Since 2009, Anna’s Hummingbird has become established as a very rare, fall and winter resident in Umatilla County. Robert and Sherry Sallee hosted two female Anna’s Hummingbirds on Jan 1; one stayed until Jan 27 and the other left on March 7. Then in the fall, a female Anna’s arrived at the Sallee’s feeders on Sep 18, and another female arrived on Sep 27; one bird left on Oct 6 and the other on Nov 21. The Sallees saw another female at their feeders on Dec 31. Beginning around Thanksgiving, a female Anna’s took up residence in Kate and Robert Ehmann’s neighborhood in Pendleton and was still present at the end of the reporting period.

Graham Hutchison found a White-headed Woodpecker at Battle Mountain summit (Umatilla) on May 23. Shawnee Finnegan and David Irons reported seeing two Ash-throated Flycatchers along Buttermilk Canyon Road (Morrow) on May 30. The 4th record of an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Umatilla County was photographed at CSNWR on Jul 18 (DH).

Western Scrub-Jay is a recently established (2009) year-round resident and breeding species in Hermiston and near McNary Dam in Umatilla County. The first record of this species in Stanfield on Dec 4 may represent a continuing range expansion of this species in Umatilla County. On Jun 9, a flock of 16 Western Bluebirds was an unexpected sighting at the Boardman Marina on Dec 13 (AS, DL). The flock of bluebirds was seen again at the Boardman Marina on Dec 22 (NH).

Two Northern Mockingbirds were seen by Ian Boyden on Apr 2 along Mill Creek Road about 15 miles NE of Milton-Freewater. The birds could not be relocated after the initial report. Up to 6 Bohemian Waxwings were reported by several observers at MWNA between Jan 4 and 14.

Snow Buntings were reported three times in Umatilla County, each of a single bird: Aaron Skirvin, Diana LaSarge and Jean Reher saw one on Jan 1 along Alkali Canyon Road; Bill Bradford and Lora Minty discovered and photographed one a few miles north of Weston on Feb 15, and the same bird was seen by several observers through Feb 20; and on Nov 15, Robert Kopp found one a couple miles north of Battle Mountain State Park.

Common Yellowthroats are rare in Umatilla and Morrow counties, usually recorded as fall transients, such as Ken Chamberlain’s report of one on Sep 6 at UNWR. However, there were two summer sightings (breeders?): one along McKay Creek just downstream from McKay Dam (Umatilla) on Jul 15 (JW, JR, MC, CF) and one on Aug 4 at McKay Creek NWR (J. Roden). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was reported at CSNWR on Sep 3 (CL). This is only the 4th record for Umatilla County. Two Yellow-breasted Chats were seen along Rock Creek in SW Morrow County on May 30 (Shawnee Finnegan and David Irons).

(continued on page 41)
Gathering data this year has been more difficult as we have lost a couple of regular reporters. Out of 30 observers cited at the end of this report, only five (including myself) regularly submit monthly forms. Mike Bohannon and I spent most of our time in May and June finishing a three-year research project in Logan Valley trying to (unsuccessfully) relocate Upland Sandpipers. In addition, the Canyon Complex Fire disrupted life around central Grant County from the middle of August through October. I was under level II evacuation notice for a week and had to travel back roads through the woods to get to town. The winter months gave very little precipitation in any form, thus there was hardly any snowpack at the beginning of the year, and that disappeared early. The following is not a complete list of sightings during the year.

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported only once on Apr 1 (SV-MB). Trumpeter Swans were seen on Apr 3 (SV, MB), Apr 7 (SV-TW), Apr 24 - Middle Fork John Day River (MB), and west of Mt Vernon in December (AF), including the CBC on Dec 19 (O’L). Tundra Swans were generally found in the mountain valleys: Fox Feb 21 (MB), Silvies Feb 21 (MB), 66 in Fox Feb 24 (O’L), 115 in Silvies Feb 12 (MB), 301 in Silvies Feb 16 (MB), 180 in Bear Mar 15 (TW), and in Fox and Silvies in April. Tundras were also present near Mt Vernon in December (AF) and 11 were counted during the CBC on Dec 19.

First arrival Gadwall was in Silvies Valley Apr 1 (MB). In May, one Blue-winged Teal was reported (SV-MB). The first Cinnamon Teal was reported Apr 7 (SV-TW). Northern Shovelers were first reported Apr 7 (SV-TW). Only one report of Northern pintail Apr 3 (SV-MB). Green-winged Teal were in seen in John Day Jan 20 (O’L), and the first spring arrival was noted on Mar 21 (FV-MB). Canvasback were found on the Prairie City sewage ponds Apr 18 (O’L). Lesser Scaup were noted Apr 16 (SV-TW).

Barn Owls. Downtown Prairie City, Grant County. Photo by Roy Morris, June 18, 2015.

One report of Common Goldeneye on Mar 20 in the John Day valley (MB). One report of Barrow’s Goldeneye at Long Creek Nov 20 (LLD, TW). Ruddy Ducks were found Apr 16 (SV-TW).

Mountain Quail were seen twice this year: Fields Creek on Mar 2 (MB) and Dixie Creek on Dec 20 (JS). A covey of Gray Partridge was seen near Prairie City in Sep (O’L). Only two reports of Dusky Grouse: Canyon Creek in Jul/Aug (MB) and on the forest in Sep.

Pied-billed Grebes were found at Magone Lake on Apr 19 (HC), on Jun 2 (SV-TW), and at Monument Sep 6 and Oct 10 (O’L). Eared Grebes were seen May 5 (BV-MB), Jun (SV-MB), Aug 30 Monument (RN), and at Bates State Park on Sep 27 (O’L). Western Grebes were found on Aug 30 at Monument (RN) and Mt Vernon on Oct 10 (O’L). Double-crested Cormorants were seen Sep 6 (MV-AF, O’L), Oct 17 (LC-TW), and Nov 25 at Holliday State Park (MB). There was one sighting of a Great Egret on Oct 10 (LC-BM). Black-crowned Night-Herons visited John Day on Jun 21 (O’L), and were also noted west of John Day on Jul 28 (O’L) and at Holliday State Park on Aug 30 (RN). White-faced Ibis were seen on May 13 (BV-MB).

Turkey Vultures arrived Mar 8 in John Day, but may have visited briefly on Feb 6 (O’L). The first Osprey was seen at Dayville on Apr 6 (TW). The only summer Bald Eagle was seen along the Middle Fork John Day River in July (MB). Only two reports of Swainson’s Hawks: Apr 25 (FV-MB) and May 22 (BV-MB). Only two reports of Ferruginous Hawks: Aug 31 (SV-MB) and Oct 17 (FV-TW). Rough-legged Hawks stayed into April, and the first fall sighting was on Oct 25 (LC-MB).

There were three reports of Sora: May 24 (BV-O’L), Jun 2 (BV & SV-TW), and Aug 30 at Monument (RN). The first Sandhill Cranes arrived on Feb 16 (SV-MB and BV-TW). Black-necked Stilts were found on the Prairie City...
sewage ponds Apr 18 (O’L).

The first Killdeer were in John Day on Mar 6 (O’L) and (FV-MB). Spotted Sandpipers were first spotted near Mt Vernon on May 1 (TW). Willets were noted on May 24 (BV-O’L). Long-billed Curlews were first seen on Mar 30 (LV-MB). Long-billed Dowitchers were spotted near Prairie City on Sep 7 (O’L). Wilson’s Snipe were first seen on Mar 21 (FV-MB). Wilson’s Phalaropes were first seen on May 5 (FV-MB).

Black Terns were observed on May 12 (BV-MB) and Jun 2 (BV-TW). Forster’s Terns were also seen on May 24 (BV-O’L) and Jun 2 (BV-TW).

A Barn Owl nested in downtown Prairie City (RH). Northern Pygmy-Owls were only reported twice: Canyon City in January (MB) and on Nov 20 near Long Creek (LLD, TW). The Great Gray Owl sightings were primarily from Bear Valley, but Trent Bray had one perching on a sign at Austin Junction on Sep 27. A Long-eared Owl was heard southeast of Logan Valley in May (CB). There was only one Short-eared Owl reported: Austin Junction on Sep 27. A Long-eared Owl was heard southeast from Bear Valley, but Trent Bray had one perching on a sign at Austin Junction (LLD, TW).

Great Gray Owl. Austin Junction, Grant County. Photo by Trent Bray, September 15, 2015.

Black Terns were observed on May 12 (BV-MB) and Jun 2 (BV-TW). Forster’s Terns were also seen on May 24 (BV-O’L) and Jun 2 (BV-TW).

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Black Vaux’s Swifts first appeared on Apr 13 (MV-AF), and White-throated Swifts were first seen on May 22 (AF).

Common Nighthawks arrived in John Day on Jun 3 (TW). Vaux’s Swifts first appeared on Apr 13 (MV-AF), and White-throated Swifts were first seen in the John Day valley on Mar 20 (MB). Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived in John Day Apr 30 (O’L); Anna’s arrived in John Day on Jul 8 and stayed through November (O’L); a Costa’s Hummingbird visited John Day on Sep 14 (O’L); Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were seen at Dog Creek on Jul 15 (CG) and in Mt Vernon on Aug 5 and Aug 21 (AF); Rufous Hummingbird arrived in John Day on Apr 12 (O’L); and Calliope Hummingbird arrived in John Day on Mar 31 (O’L).

On Sep 7, over 40 Lewis’s Woodpeckers were seen from Prairie City to Logan Valley (O’L). A Williamson’s Sapsucker was found in John Day on Jan 26 (O’L). A Red-breasted Sapsucker visited John Day on Nov 11 (O’L). Merlins are often seen in the winter, but one was noted on May 23 at John Day (O’L). A Peregrine Falcon was also in John Day on Mar 20 (MB).

Flycatchers: one report of an Olive-sided from Canyon City in September (MB); Western Wood-Pewee arrived in John Day on May 2 (MB); Willow Flycatchers were found on Jun 11 (LV-TW); Hammond’s was seen May 14 (LV-TW); Dusky returned on May 12 (BV-TW); Cordilleran was found in Mt Vernon in September; Say’s Phoebe arrived in John Day on Feb 13 (O’L); Ash-throated Flycatchers returned to John Day May 18 (O’L); and the first report of Western Kingbird was from Canyon City on Apr 22 (MB).

Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in January, March, and May. Northern Shrikes were found in March, April, October, and November. Cassin’s Vireo was first noted on Jun 2 (LV-TW), and Warbling Vireo was first detected on May 8 in John Day (O’L).

A Blue Jay visited Mt Vernon on Oct 17 (AF). Western Scrub-
28 (O’L), Mt Vernon in October (AF), Holliday State Park Oct 20 (O’L), and John Day Dec 19 (SC,TW). Slate-colored Juncos were found January through March.

Western Tanagers showed up in John Day on Apr 29 (O’L). Black-headed Grosbeaks appeared May 7 in John Day and stayed through Sep 12 (O’L). Lazuli Bunting were first reported from Canyon City in May (MB). Bobolinks were sought out in Silvies Valley on Jun 2 (TW). Red-winged Blackbirds returned to Mt Vernon on Jan 28 (AF). The first returning Western Meadowlarks were found Feb 28 (FV-MB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to the Mt Vernon area on May 1 (TW). Brewer’s Blackbirds arrived in the John Day valley on Mar 20 (MB). Brown-headed Cowbirds were first seen in John Day on May 6 (TW). Bullock’s Orioles were first reported on Jun 16 along Ingle Creek (CB, TW). And finally, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were reported from Fox Valley in February (BM), and on Feb 23 and Feb 25 (MB).


Observers: Chris Bare (CB), Jennifer and Lance Barker, Mariah Blackhorse, Maryann Blem, Mike Bohannon (MB), Trent Bray, Susan Church, Hugo Cobos (HC), Anne Frost (AF), Cecil Gagnon (CG), Buzz and Margaret Glass, Eva Harris (EH), Randy Hennen (RH), Dustin Hollowell, Karen Jacobs, Louise LeDuc (LLD), Barbara and Peter Meyer (BPM), Elaine Mezzo, Bill Moloney (BM), Russ Namitz (RN), Clarence and Marilyn O’Leary (O’L), Anakhoreo and Jill Reeves (JR), Acynthia Sanford, Jim Soupir (JS), and Tom Winters (TW).

Mountain Quail. Strawberry Wilderness, Grant County. Photo by Roy Morris, June 12, 2015.

Upper Columbia (continued from page 38)

Carolyn Featherston and Jean Reiher reported the only sightings of Swamp Sparrow in Umatilla County when they saw 2 at CSNWR on March 25. Alan Contreras found a White-throated Sparrow at MWNA on Jan 16. Two White-throated Sparrows were reported along NF John Day River Road on Sep 30 (JW, CF, MC, DD). A Harris’s Sparrow was at a feeder in Ukiah (Umatilla) on Jan 7 (JW, MC, DD, JR). Neil Holcomb, Alexandra Munter and others saw a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at the Boardman Bombing Range in Morrow County on Mar 18. While driving on I-84 just west of Boardman on Jun 25, Trent Bray spotted an adult male Great-tailed Grackle. This is apparently the first record of this species in Morrow County.

Beginning in October, an influx of “mountain birds” appeared in the lowland areas of NW Umatilla County. More Steller’s Jays, Mountain Chickadees, and Red Crossbills than usual were noted in the Pendleton and Hermiston areas from October through December. Dan Baum was the first to report a Red Crossbill at his Pendleton feeders on Oct 29. Then in November, from 1 to 12 Red Crossbills were reported visiting several feeders throughout Pendleton. Everyone who saw Red Crossbills reported that this was the first time they had ever seen crossbills at their feeders. A Red Crossbill even showed up at a feeder in Boardman on Nov 26 and was photographed by Pete Szasz.

During the Umatilla County CBC on Jan 3, a flock of 14 Pine Grosbeaks was seen along Poverty Flat Road (several obs.). June and Duane Whitten saw a Common Redpoll at their Pendleton feeders on Jan 1.


Observers: MC – Marilyn Cripe; DD – Diana Dillenburg; CF – Carolyn Featherston; DH – Dave Herr; NH – Neal Hinds; CL – Christopher Lindsey; DL – Diana LaSarge; JR – Jean Reiher; JS – Jack Simons; AS – Aaron Skirvin; JW – June Whitten
Drought – it really was bought home during 2015 with area waterways and still waters reduced to incredibly thin water. Malheur Lake put the exclamation point on the drought with low levels that had not been seen in years. The lake is 80,000 acres at full pool, but during the fall of 2015 it fell below 2000 acres. As can be imagined, this affected the birding, as water was hard to find from observable locations – but the birds still came. Overall, it was not a bad year for bird sightings and with a wet winter under our belts, we have seen the lake regain nearly 20,000 acres, so 2016 is looking hopeful.

Two Cackling Geese, rare for Harney County and possibly the same bird, were seen in Burns and near Malheur NWR in December (Rick Vetter, T. Blount). Both Surf Scoter and White-winged Scoter were seen Nov 9 at the sewage ponds in Hines/Burns. A Common Loon was seen at Malheur County’s Owyhee Reservoir on Jun 15 (W. Douglas Robinson). Others were seen at the Hines/Burns sewage ponds, and three adults were seen on Malheur NWR’s Krumbo Reservoir on Jun 4 (Tim Johnson). A Cattle Egret was seen by many during the second week of May and later sightings were possibly of the same bird, with most sightings on Malheur NWR’s CPR Road near Benson Pond. A Green Heron was seen sporadically in early June.

As many as four Broad-winged Hawks were seen during the third week of September. It appears that poor weather conditions on top of Steens Mountain may have caused these migrating birds to retreat to the lowlands around Malheur NWR’s P-Ranch.

A Sabine’s Gull was seen at Malheur NWR’s Marshall Pond on Sep 20 (Trent Bray). A Common Tern was present for a week in late September, also at Marshall Pond.

A Band-tailed Pigeon was first seen on Jun 2 at P-Ranch, and later that day, another was seen at Malheur NWR HQ and is presumed to be the same bird.

The only report of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird came from the East Rim Overlook on Steens Mountain on Aug 24 (Craig Miller). An Anna’s Hummingbird was seen for a couple of weeks at Malheur NWR HQ in late September.

There were a couple of reports of Least Flycatcher in 2015, including one near Juntura on Jun 16 (W. Douglas Robinson) and the other at P-Ranch on May 17, which continued through June (Lucas Bobay). An Eastern Phoebe was reported from Fields on May 25 (Gloria Beerman) and a Black Phoebe was seen near Malheur NWR HQ on May 6 (Jared Karr). A Blue-headed Vireo was seen at Malheur NWR HQ on May 12 (Jen Sanford). A Red-eyed Vireo was found at Leslie Gulch near Owyhee Reservoir in Malheur County (Vern Tunnell) on Jun 10, and another was seen at Malheur NWR HQ (Merle Greenway) on Sep 3.

Benson Pond yielded a Brown Thrasher on Sep 30 (Rick Vetter, Sherman Wright). Three Bohemian Waxwings were in Burns on Feb 1 (T. Blount). A McCown’s Longspur was seen at Malheur Reservoir near Vale on Jun 14 (Jenna Curtis). A Lapland Longspur was seen on Double O Road at Malheur NWR on Oct 19 (T. Blount). A Snow Bunting was seen close to the same stretch of road on Dec 7 (T. Blount). An Ovenbird was reported in the mountains NE of Burns on Jun 22 (Roy Morris). Northern Waterthrushes were reported from several locations in Harney County. A bird was discovered on May 25 at Ben-
A Prothonotary Warbler was seen in the town of Frenchglen on Oct 8 (Sandy Mico). An early Black-and-white Warbler began the vagrant season, with one being found Apr 23 at Malheur NWR HQ (Mitch Ratzlaff). Individual birds were seen at HQ through mid-June. A Tennessee Warbler was seen at Benson Pond on May 27 (Rick Vetter), and the next day one was found at Malheur NWF HQ (Merle Greenway). Later that fall, a bird was found at Benson Pond on Sep 5 (Tom McNamara). A fall Hooded Warbler was seen at Malheur NWR HQ on Sep 9 (Trent Bray). American Redstarts were seen Jun 6 at Malheur NWR HQ (Paul Sullivan), two on Sep 15 at HQ and one at Fields on Sep 15 (Trent Bray). Reports of Magnolia Warbler came from Fields on May 21 (Kourtney Kuiper) and on May 27 from Benson Pond (Rick Vetter). A BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was seen Sep 16 at Malheur NWR HQ (Christopher Hinkle). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in the large Lilac row at Malheur NWR HQ on Jun 2 (Tristen Hynes). 

A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found at Benson Pond on Sep 27 (Tim Shelmerdine).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on Wright’s Point south of Burns on May 20 (Grace Oliver). Swamp Sparrows are rarely reported from SE Oregon, but one was found on Oct 1st near Benson Pond (Craig Miller). Gray-headed Juncos continue to nest in Ten Cent Meadows on the Pueblo Mountains, where seven were found on Jun 14 (A. & C. Hinkle, Em Scattaregia). Earlier on May 24, two birds were found on Arizona Creek in the Pueblos (John Sullivan). A Harris’s Sparrow began 2015 at Mike Green’s house near Burns and continued through May. Another was seen in Crane on Nov 26 (T. Blount).

Both male and female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Malheur NWR HQ, Benson Pond, Page Springs and Fields mid-May through early June. A Common Grackle was seen near Larry Hammond’s house in Hines the last week of August. A pair of Great-tailed Grackles were seen in Ontario on Jun 14 (Charles Gates), and a presumed nesting pair was at Fields during the months of May and June.

A flock of 50 Black Rosy-Finches were seen often from the top of Steens Mountain from various overlooks. A Common Redpoll was found near Page Springs on Nov 15 (Rick Vetter), and on Dec 1 one was observed at the feeders at Malheur NWR HQ (T. Blount).
Highlights from the 2015 OBA Monthly Photo Contest


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Hooded Oriole, Klamath Falls,
May 18, 2014. Photo by Barbara Scoles

Below: One of the Gray Catbirds that nested at HMSC in
Newport in the summer of 2014. Photo by Molly Sultany