Distribution, Abundance, and Nest Site Characteristics of Purple Martins in Oregon .................................................. 115

Eric Horvath

June Sighting of Multiple Glaucous Gulls in Oregon, with Notes on Identification .................................................. 123

Phillip Pickering

Gray-headed Junco (Junco hyemalis caniceps) found nesting in Oregon Canyon, Malheur County, Oregon .................................................. 128

Mike Denny

Site guide: Wood River Wetlands, Klamath County .................................................. 130

Kevin T. Spencer

Lane County Big Day 1999: Did the late migration help or hurt in the chase for a record? .................................................. 132

Alan Contreras

Announcements:
1999 OFO Awards, Editorial Assistance Sought .................................................. 136

Mary Anne Sohlstrom, Matt Hunter

Field Notes: Eastern Oregon, Summer 1999 .................................................. 138

Kevin T. Spencer

Field Notes: Western Oregon, Summer 1999 .................................................. 144

Bill Tice

Purple Martin, female, nesting in snag, Curry County, July 1998. Photo/Eric Horvath
The mission of Oregon Field Ornithologists is to further the knowledge, education, enjoyment and science of birds and birding in Oregon.

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INTRODUCTION

The Purple Martin (Progne subis) is classified as Sensitive in the Critical category by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Marshall 1992). Purple Martin populations have declined in Oregon (Lund 1977, Sharp 1986, Marshall 1992), yet much basic biological information is lacking. In this study, I sought to locate and inventory all breeding sites in 1998 and gather information on the breeding biology of Purple Martins in Oregon. With this information birders, biologists, and martin fanatics have the opportunity to manage Purple Martin colonies to increase population levels.

METHODS

I compiled a list of all current and historical Purple Martin colony locations in Oregon from information provided by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dave Fouts (a private citizen who manages many martin colonies along the Columbia River), and the approximately 400 members of Oregon Birders On Line (i.e. the Oregon birding community).

During June through 10 August 1998 I visited 111 of the 134 reported colonies. Of the 23 reported colonies where I made no visit, 6 were sites where other observers recently reported inactivity, and 10 were colonies that I judged likely inactive since the last observation was before 1979. Also, I found 45 previously unknown colonies by surveying many areas of suitable habitat.

I defined a colony as 1 or more pair of Purple Martins nesting more than 1 km from other martins. In some areas martin nest sites were scattered along waterways for 2-3 km, with many pairs, and the nearest neighbor less than 1 km away. In these cases the whole collection of nest sites was considered one colony. The 1 km figure is arbitrary, but was selected because male martin dawnsong can often be heard from more than 1 km, martins readily traverse 1 km, nest sites separated by less than 1 km were often in view of each other, and martins frequently associated with their neighbors from more than 100 m away. Also, it was useful to have a uniform cutoff figure to document colony distribution.

Figure 1. Locations of active (dots) and inactive (stars) martin colonies in Oregon in 1998. Counties, major rivers, and lakes are shown. The single dot below the map represents a colony at Lava Beds National Monument, California.
At each colony I counted the number of pairs of Purple Martins by watching for birds entering nest cavities, especially with food or nesting material. Observations were made with 10X binoculars and a spotting scope. Most sites were surveyed by scanning from land, but a boat was used to access some areas. I observed colonies for several hours and on multiple days to ensure an accurate count, or relied on reports from other observers to augment the accuracy of my single visit. At some of the nestbox colonies, I opened each nestbox to determine the contents. In June and early July, I counted pairs only during the first 4 hours following sunrise, since during incubation many martins forage far from the nest, and large colonies can appear vacant at midday. After early July I censused throughout the day as most pairs were feeding young and were active at the nest even during midday.

Colony elevation was estimated from U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. Vegetation within 10 m of the nest site was briefly described. I recorded distances to the nearest building (or nearest moored boat at busy docks), to the nearest large canopy tree, and to the nearest open water accessible to a flying martin.

For each pair I recorded the nest cavity type, whether single nestbox, apartment (multi-compartment nestbox), gourd, under a cap on a piling, other artificial cavity, piling with an old woodpecker hole, piling with a natural rot pocket (a crevice remaining after decayed wood has fallen away), snag, or unknown nest site. I recorded clutch size at colonies where I opened nest boxes during the survey. For each snag I recorded diameter at breast height (dbh), height, cavity height, and height of the cavity above the brush and/or young trees. Heights were measured with a metric tape and clinometer. I also recorded snag tree species, estimated the amount of decay, and evaluated whether the cavity was an abandoned woodpecker hole or a natural rot pocket.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Abundance

I observed 784 pairs of Purple Martins at 112 colonies in Oregon in 1998. Prior to this study, no systematic inventory existed for martins in Oregon (Marshall 1992). Since virtually all known colonies were inventoried and many suitable areas were surveyed, this study represents the first minimum population estimate of nesting martins in Oregon. While I surveyed all managed colonies and searched most lowland rivers and estuaries where old pilings are common, there probably remain martins that escaped my detection. However, most of these were likely nesting in snags in remote uplands, either solitarily or in small colonies. Because my sampling of upland snag nesting martins found few pairs relative to the managed colonies, I estimate the 1998 statewide population was likely 784-1000 nesting pairs.

Distribution

Purple Martins were uncommon and local in most of western Oregon in 1998 (Figure 1). Some counties lacked Purple Martin colonies (Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas, Marion, Josephine, and Jackson Counties). Martins were locally common along the Columbia River, in some coastal estuaries, and at Fern Ridge Reservoir.

Martins once nested more widely in Oregon including colonies in the Upper Rogue River Basin (Browning 1975), and in the Klamath Basin (Lund 1978, Gabrielson and Jewett 1940). I found no martins at these former sites. While martins still nested in 1998 at Lava Beds National Monument, just south of the Oregon border (Brian Williams pers. comm.), their absence from Lake, Klamath, and Jackson counties represents a contraction in range since 1940.

Population Trends

Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) described the Purple Martin as a “rather uncommon summer resident and breeding species of western Oregon, most common in coastal counties; decidedly rare east of the Cascades.” Gullion (1951) reported Purple Martins as common in the southern
DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND NEST SITE CHARACTERISTICS OF PURPLE MARTINS IN OREGON

Willamette Valley in the 1940s. Anecdotal reports indicate a drastic population decline from the late 1940s to the late 1970s (Sharp 1986, Fouts 1988).

In 1977, Lund (1977) censused 168 pair of Purple Martins in Oregon. From 1976-1978 he found 31 active colonies (Lund 1978). This total was the result of field checks of historical nesting sites ("about a hundred"), and was a decline from 60 active sites ten years previously. Unfortunately, in neither paper did he detail his methods or list the areas surveyed. Nevertheless, Lund's data likely reflect a reasonably thorough attempt at documenting the known statewide population. The increase in Purple Martin pairs from 168 in 1977, to 784 in 1998, while not directly comparable, most likely represents a significant increase in the Purple Martin population. This population rebound is probably due to nestbox installation by Lund and others, notably Dave Fouts and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Colony Size**

In managed colonies (defined as colonies where 50% or more of the pairs nested in housing specifically made for martins, i.e. nestboxes, gourds, and apartments), mean colony size was 11.2 pairs (n=55, S.D.=12.0, range 1-55 pairs). In contrast, unmanaged colonies (where more than half of the pairs used snags, pilings, etc.) were much smaller on average, with mean colony size of 3.2 pairs (n=49, S.D.=3.2, range 1-16). Unmanaged colonies included martins nesting in holes in pilings, under caps on pilings, in snags, and in a miscellaneous collection of odd sites including a broken out streetlight, in pulleys at the top of a boom of a crane, in holes under a dock made of old railway cars, in holes under a concrete highway bridge, in crevices between beams on navigational markers, and in a horizontal metal pipe.

In Maryland, Morton et al. (1990) observed that new colonies began with at least two nesting pairs, and that martins only nested colonially. They (ibid.) hypothesized that martin females avoid non-colonial breeding and constrain male yearlings to join colonies. In Oregon, most martins also nested colonially, but 11% of the pairs at unmanaged sites nested solitarily (Table 1). These data support the hypothesis that martin colonies form in response to localized abundance of limited nest sites (Brown 1997).

**Nesting Habitat**

Habitat within 10 m of the nest site varied substantially among all 112 colonies, and included open water, grassy fields, and recent clearcuts and burns with brush and young trees. All colonies were in openings, with mean distance from the nest cavity to large canopy trees 145 m (n=75, S.D.=179, range 6-500+ m). It is significant that martins were not found nesting closer than 6 m from the edge of the canopy of large trees; they apparently require exposed locations away from trees.

Martins nested from 0 to 5,000 m from buildings, and there was no pattern of nesting close to, or away from, buildings (mean distance 424 m, S.D.=636, n=81 colonies). While martins in the eastern United States prefer locations 10-40 m from buildings (Hill and Chambers 1998), this is not the case in Oregon.

In general, a wide range of habitats were accepted. Features common to all sites included distance greater than 6 m to large live trees, presence of an

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony Size (Number of pairs)</th>
<th>Number of Colonies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.** Colony size at 49 unmanaged sites (snags, pilings, miscellaneous manmade structures). Since cavities were usually artificially clumped at managed sites, only data from unmanaged sites are included here.

**Table 2.** Distance to water of Purple Martin colonies in Oregon in 1998. Where colonies included both nests over water and over land, the colony was assigned to the "distance to water" category that had the majority of pairs. 9 colonies where the exact nest site was unknown were excluded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance to water (m)</th>
<th>Number of colonies</th>
<th>Number of pairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 (Surrounded by water)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-1,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000-5,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Nest cavity types used by Purple Martins in Oregon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cavity Type</th>
<th>Number of pairs</th>
<th>Percent of total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managed Sites:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Nestbox</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>57.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gourd</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmanaged Sites:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under cap on piling</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other artificial cavity</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snag</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piling: in old woodpecker hole</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piling: in natural rot pocket</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piling: cavity type unknown</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nest site unknown</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most martins nested over water, although a few nested >5,000 m from the nearest river, lake, or estuary (Table 2). This indicates that martins may prefer sites over water, but this is not an obligatory requirement. I hypothesize that nests over water may be safer from mammalian predators. At sites over water, height above water level appeared to be less important than nest height at sites over land, since many occupied nest cavities were within 2 m of water level.

Nest Cavity Types

Purple Martins nested in a variety of cavity types (Table 3, Figures 2-6). 74.5% of all martin pairs in Oregon nested in housing specifically put up for martins (e.g., nestboxes, gourds, and apartments). Other nest sites (e.g., snags, pilings, and crevices in manmade structures) accounted for 25.5% of the population. While Brown (1997) characterized western Purple Martins as nesting almost exclusively in woodpecker holes or natural cavities, martins in Oregon currently nest mostly in artificial cavities. However, martins are not totally dependent upon artificial nest boxes in Oregon today, as proposed by Marshall (1992). No martins were found using commercial aluminum martin apartments of the style commonly put up in the eastern United States, however only two of these were found, both close to trees. Martins did use homemade wooden apartments at 9 colonies in Oregon.

While old woodpecker cavities accounted for most of the nest sites in snags and pilings, martins also readily used natural rot pockets as nest sites.

Snags

Snags were the only natural substrate where I found martins nesting. Data were collected on 35 pairs nesting in snags. Thirty-two pairs used old woodpecker holes, and 3 used natural rot pockets in the snags. Most frequently only 1 pair nested per snag (n=14), but “natural apartments” of 2 pair (n=4), 3 pair (n=3), and 4 pair (n=1) in a single snag were also found. These cases of multiple pairs nesting in one snag (an example is shown in Figures 4 and 7) indicate that high density colonies can form in natural as well as artificial colonies.

Mean colony size where nesting was predominately in snags was 3.6 pairs (n=11, S.D.=2.5, range 1-8). Martin nest snag trees were Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), Cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa), Red Alder (Alnus rubra), Willow (Salix), and Oregon Birds 26(1): 118, Spring 2000
DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND NEST SITE CHARACTERISTICS OF PURPLE MARTINS IN OREGON

In 1998, 5% of the Oregon martin population nested under metal caps on pilings such as this at Tenmile Lake, Coos County.

Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*). Douglas-fir snags were most commonly used, and mean dbh of these snags was 1.2 m (n=17, S.D.=0.39, range 0.51-2.27 m).

Among all martin nest snags, mean height was 19 m (n=22, S.D.=9.9, range 6-44 m). Mean cavity height was 15 m (n=35, S.D.=8.4, range 5-44 m). Mean cavity height above the brush and young trees was 12.7 m (n=35, S.D.=7.4, range 5-38 m). This last measurement may be an important variable in nest site selection by martins. The effective height of cavities in snags surrounded by brush and young trees is not the distance to the ground, but instead the distance above the brush. Martins chase off small mammalian predators by diving at them (pers. obs.), and are only able to defend cavities that are well above the brush. Hence martins may be selecting higher cavities to avoid predation. Compass direction that the nest faced was recorded for 27 cavities in snags used by martins. Cavity entrances faced in many directions; no pattern was found.

Martins used snags in a wide range of decay, from relatively young (10 years since burned) snags with bark and fine twigs still present to old snags with no limbs or bark and red cuboidal rot invading the center of the tree. Martins most often occupied snags with substantial decay. These snags frequently had many old woodpecker holes (an example is shown in Figure 7).

Mean distance from the snags to tall, live canopy trees was 195 m (n=19, S.D.=140, range 10-500 m). Martins selected snags which were isolated and/or apart from live canopy trees. This is likely an important factor in nest site selection.

Table 4. Elevation of Purple Martin nest sites in Oregon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elevation (ft)</th>
<th>Elevation (m)</th>
<th>Number of pairs</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-200</td>
<td>0-61</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-400</td>
<td>61-122</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-600</td>
<td>122-183</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-800</td>
<td>183-244</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-1000</td>
<td>244-305</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-1200</td>
<td>305-366</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200-1400</td>
<td>366-427</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1600</td>
<td>427-488</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td>488-549</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-2000</td>
<td>549-610</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2200</td>
<td>610-671</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2200-2400</td>
<td>671-732</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400-2600</td>
<td>732-792</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2600-2800</td>
<td>792-853</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In one former (inactive) colony, martins had reportedly been nesting in a live green tree. This tree, however, had an emergent dead top which functionally resembled a snag.

The snags used by martins were often far from water, with mean distance 2,500 m to open water (n=13, S.D.=2,119, range 0-5,000 m). Also, the nesting colonies in snags tended to be at higher elevations than the general population, with mean elevation 364 m (n=13 colonies, S.D.=220, range 5-732 m). These locations were often remote areas in forested uplands that lacked European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Starlings appear to occupy most suitable cavities in lowland snags, competitively excluding martins from many potential and former areas. In colonies where European Starlings were not controlled in Texas, Brown (1981) found that Purple Martin populations were significantly reduced. Purple Martins would likely have a much wider use of snags in Oregon without European Starling competition.


Elevation

Most active colonies were at less than 60 m elevation (Table 4), and 88% of the statewide population nested below 125 m. Although the highest elevation at which I recorded nesting martins was 800 m, Lund (1978) reported martins nesting at 2,100 m in the Klamath Basin.

Clutch Size

I recorded clutch size at 9 colonies during colony counts in July 1998. The colonies were: Government Cove, Hood River County (n=13 clutches measured); Ruthton Point, Hood River County (n=41); Silbernagel Farm, house, Linn County (n=1); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Amazon Dike, Lane County (n=5); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Bang’s Cove, Lane County (n=4); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Coyote Creek, Lane County (n=36); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Long Tom Colony, Lane County (n=19); Fern Ridge Reservoir, Signal Island, Lane County (n=5); and Cottage Grove Reservoir, Lane County (n=2).

Mean clutch size was 4.6 eggs (n=126, S.D.=1.04, range 1-7). This value closely matches the clutch sizes described for the eastern subspecies of purple martin, P. s. subis (Brown 1997). Few other records of clutch size exist for the western race P. s. arboicola, although in British Columbia clutch size also averaged 4.6 eggs (n=7, Fraser et al. 1997).

Conservation

The Purple Martin population of Oregon is limited by lack of available nesting cavities (Lund 1978). Historically, snags were more abundant in the landscape and reports indicate martins formerly nested often in snags (Lund 1978, Gabrielson and Jewett 1940). Now snags are limited and only 5% of the statewide population nests in snags (Table 3). Nest site competition by the introduced European Starling has been a big factor in reducing nest site availability for martins in Oregon. For example, in Coos Bay where large areas of foraging habitat for starlings exists, starlings are now common, nesting in the many old pilings around the bay. However, in the 1960s and 1970s, starlings were scarcer than they are today, since they only began nesting in western Oregon during the 1960s (Jobanek 1993). During this time, records in the Oregon Natural Heritage Program database indicate that there were several martin colonies at Coos Bay. In 1998 only 1 martin colony of 2 pair, in starling resistant nestboxes, could be found on Coos Bay. In contrast, nearby Tenmile Lake...
- Floor 6" X 18"; top and sides 7.5" X 14"; roof of aluminum or galvanized sheet metal 14" X 18".

- The front is hinged on the two nails shown.

- Use 3/4" plywood to avoid nail splits. It holds together better when shot by vandals.

- Starling resistant opening (exactly 1 1/4" X 2 3/4") keeps out most starlings. 3/4" thickness adds to the difficulty for them also.

- Put on metal roof which protects top and upper half of sides.

- Paint exterior white to reflect summer heat and to protect wood.

- Roughen floor at entrance for traction.

- This design is for attaching a box to a piling. Drive 8" galvanized spikes or lag screws through the pre-drilled holes in the 2" X 4" hanger.

- Tilt box slightly to allow rain to run out of the entrance.

- Number boxes on front and align all openings in one direction so the colony can be easily censused from one location.

- Install more than 30 feet from live green trees, ideally at an existing active martin colony, on creosoted pilings over water.

- At locations subject to House Sparrow competition, installation of boxes far from shore is best. 50 yards or more of open water deters House Sparrows, and the martins readily accept boxes far out over water.
has very little starling foraging habitat because it is surrounded by forested uplands, and lacks mudflats. I detected few European Starlings there during my 1998 surveys. Purple Martins, however, remain common on Tenmile Lake, with 40 pairs in 12 colonies.

The best long term strategy to increase the Oregon martin population will be to manage for long-term maintenance of snags across the forested landscape. These should be large dbh (greater than 1 m), tall (greater than 20 m), and standing more than 10 m away from large live trees. In addition, old pilings which currently account for 5% of the nest sites in Oregon should be retained.

In the short term, martins can be managed by putting up nestboxes to increase abundance at existing colonies and expand distribution to new colonies. For example, in 1993 when I began putting up nestboxes at Yaquina Bay, there were <10 pairs nesting. In 1999 the population had grown to 50 pairs. There is, however, a concern that region-wide nestbox programs could result in complete conversion of the population to nestboxes. This has occurred in the eastern United States where martins now nest virtually exclusively in man made structures. Consequently, we should try to retain our natural snag nesting martins by installing nestboxes only in areas overrun with starlings (i.e. most lowland estuaries, rivers and reservoirs) and avoid putting nestboxes up in forested uplands where starlings are few. A nestbox construction diagram is shown in Figure 8.

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June Sighting of Multiple Glaucous Gulls in Oregon, with Notes on Identification

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From 28 May through 3 June 1999 I observed as many as three individual Glaucous Gulls (Larus hyperboreus) among the normal gathering of Western Gulls (L. occidentalis), Glaucous-winged Gulls (L. glaucescens), and California Gulls (L. californicus) at the mouth of the D River in Lincoln City, Oregon. On the morning of 3 June, all three individuals were present. Two were worn first-spring birds (i.e. about one year old) and one was an older, possibly fourth-spring individual that appeared to be in nearly full adult plumage. During my observation I was able to photograph the fourth-year (+) bird and one of the first-year birds. I was unable to relocate any of them during subsequent checks of the area. To my knowledge this is only the second documented late spring or summer record for Oregon, the other being of a single bird photographed at Tillamook 20 June 1982 (Gilligan et al. 1994). Late spring and summer records of Glaucous Gulls are quite rare in Oregon, and worn, pale, immature Glaucous-winged Gulls are sometimes mistaken for Glaucous, particularly during this season. This article provides details of my observations and discusses methods and pitfalls of identification of Glaucous Gulls during this season.

Observation

The immature birds stood out immediately in the gull flock, as both were strikingly white. Both birds appeared to be roughly similar in size to the largest nearby Glaucous-winged and Western Gulls. Both appeared relatively wide-bodied, barrel-chested, and thick-necked, giving them a heavy-set appearance. Both birds had medium pink legs and feet. Both also had relatively straight and noticeably pink bills, appearing only a shade or two lighter than the color of their legs. The bills of both birds showed cleanly demarcated black tips, which imparted a 'dipped in ink' appearance.

One of the two (Fig. 1 and 2) looked quite worn, and from a distance appeared completely white on the head, body, and wings, showing only a hint of gray marbling in a few wing and body feathers. On close approach I could see that the extreme tip of the bill was pink, creating a thin, pale edge around the black. The black appeared to be in the early stages of fading. The gonydeal angle of the bill was noticeable, but much less so than on nearby Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls. The iris was medium yellow-brown, not as dark as the iris of a typical Glaucous-winged. Though also appearing worn, the other immature showed faint gray-brown spots on the edges of a few wing and body feathers. As with the first immature, the overall appearance of its plumage was almost pure white.

I was also able to closely approach the third, older gull (Fig. 3 and 4). It was larger, appearing bulkier and taller than nearby Western Gulls. It also had a thick-necked, barrel-chested appearance. Its head, underparts, and wingtips, including the outer primaries, all looked unmarked white. Its mantle was mostly light gray, reminiscent of the mantle shade of an adult Ring-billed Gull (L. delawarensis). Many of the wing feathers appeared somewhat worn, and the coverts showed uneven white patches. However, the white on the wingtips did not appear to be caused by wear, showing no hint of gray, and extending from the tips far up onto the outer primaries. The iris was yellow, appearing paler than shown by

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JUNE SIGHTING OF MULTIPLE GLAUCOUS GULLS IN OREGON, WITH NOTES ON IDENTIFICATION

the lightest-eyed Western Gulls in the vicinity. The bill appeared relatively straight, with a less pronounced gonydeal angle than shown by nearby Westerns. The bill was yellow, with a normal, adult-sized mandible spot that was part red, part black.

Discussion

Glaucous Gulls generally occur in Oregon in small numbers during the winter months, with most birds typically arriving in late fall or early winter and departing by March, with occasional reports as late as May (Gilligan et al. 1994). However, the status of Glaucous Gull during late spring and summer remains somewhat unclear, due to the occurrence of worn, pale, immature Glaucous-winged Gulls. Some individual Glaucous-winged Gulls may appear confusingly similar to Glaucous, especially when viewed in flight (Fig. 5) or from a distance. Due to wear and fading some Glaucous-winged Gull may show all-white primary tips (Fig. 6), which has often been cited as a distinguishing mark for Glaucous. The occasional pale individual Glaucous-winged Gull may also show a bill pattern (Fig. 6) that approaches the typical pale-based, black-tipped bill of an immature Glaucous (Fig. 7 and 8). Regrettably, this potential problem is not dealt with in the most commonly used field guides, perpetuating confusion among birders unfamiliar with the complexities of gull plumages. Also, although a large male Glaucous Gull may be obvious for its size and bulk, females average smaller than males, and there exists some overlap in size with gulls of other species (Harrison 1983).

The little-known, small form of Glaucous Gull breeding in northern Alaska (L. h. barrovianus), can create even more confusion. This form is mentioned only in passing in the standard field guides or is not discussed at all. Although I have no prior experience with them, other observers have commented that the birds I photographed show traits that are consistent with this form. These are: average size closer to that of the North American subspecies of Herring Gull (L. argentatus smithsonianus); a more rounded head shape; smaller bill; and greater extension of primary tips beyond the tail than is generally apparent on the larger, nominate subspecies of Glaucous Gull (L. h. hyperboreus, Grant 1982). Although relatively large, the birds I observed lacked the flat-headed, large-billed, ‘fierce’ appearance that is often used to describe the nominate form of Glaucous.

If the gulls I observed were in fact the Alaskan nesting form, then their late occurrence could well be tied to other unusual occurrences of Alaskan nesting species on the west coast in 1999. During the spring and summer of 1999 many normal patterns of bird migration appeared to be disrupted, with numbers of mountain nesting species lingering in the lowlands, and unusually high numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels near shore. Alaskan nesting species unexpectedly reported from the state of Washington during the spring of 1999 included Whiskered Auklet, Red-faced Cormorant, and Red-legged Kittiwake. During the summer of 1999 there were multiple reports of rarely seen Horned Puffins, and several unseasonal reports of Ancient Murrelets, species which nest much farther north (all fide Oregon Birders On Line reports). Also during the spring of 1999, other Glaucous Gulls were noted later than expected elsewhere on the Oregon Coast. Individuals were seen on 1 May at Newport, Lincoln County, and as late as 5 May in Coos County (fide Oregon Birders On Line reports). In addition, a Glaucous Gull was reported on the northern California coast on 30 May

Figure 4. Worn 4th-summer or adult Glaucous Gull, 3 June 1999, D River Wayside, Lincoln City, OR. Photo/Phil Pickering

Figure 5. Worn and molting, approximately 2nd-year Glaucous-winged Gull or Glaucous-winged X Glaucous Gull hybrid, 20 July 1974, south jetty Columbia River, OR. Photo/Harry Nehls

Figure 6. Extremely worn 1st-summer Glaucous-winged Gull, early July 1999, D River Wayside, Lincoln City, OR. Photo/Phil Pickering
JUNE SIGHTING OF MULTIPLE GLAUCOUS GULLS IN OREGON, WITH NOTES ON IDENTIFICATION

Figure 7. 1st-winter Glaucous Gull, 7 January 1995, Ketchikan, AK. Photo/Steve Heinl

The spring and early summer of 1999 were characterized by unusually cold and winter-like weather conditions. The late occurrence of Glaucous Gulls in Oregon may be linked to unusual conditions such as these.

Separation of Immature Glaucous and Glaucous-winged Gulls

Although Glaucous-winged Gulls breed only sparingly in Oregon (Gilligan et al. 1994), immatures are commonly encountered throughout the year. First-year Glaucous-winged Gulls in unworn plumage should be easily distinguished from Glaucous by their much darker, overall grayer appearance and dark bill (Fig. 9). However, as the gray exposed feather surfaces age and wear they become much whiter. As feather wear and bleaching increase through time, a gull's overall appearance may become much paler and washed-out. Very worn and faded individual Glaucous-winged Gulls may appear mostly white throughout their plumage (Fig. 6). Whitish individual Glaucous-winged Gulls such as these are most frequently encountered during late spring and summer in Oregon.

On a large, pale, immature gull with white wingtips, a good view of the bill is usually diagnostic. The bill of an immature Glaucous Gull is comparatively straight and usually appears to be of nearly uniform thickness throughout, with only a slight curve. Normally the bill is quite heavy, appearing prominent when in flight, but there is substantial variation in bill size. Although there is also some variation in individual bill color, the bill of a Glaucous Gull in its first year is typically quite pink. The bill is usually bright and clean looking, and is always pale with a fairly square-cut black tip (Fig. 7 and 8) (Grant 1982). The black portion of the bill is quite restricted, extending inward no more than a slight distance beyond the gonydeal angle. At any distance the inner edge of the black should appear to be perpendicular to the long dimension of the bill. A close view may show the black to extend proximally a bit further along the lower mandible, and it may also extend slightly in along the cutting edge (Hampton 1999). The edge of the black should be sharp and well-defined, showing a marked contrast with the pale portion of the bill (Grant 1982).

An unworn first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull will have an all-dark or mostly dark bill (Fig. 9), which is never shown by an immature Glaucous (Grant 1982). As a Glaucous-winged Gull ages, the bill will gradually fade and become pale (Fig. 10), but this fading is very irregular and there is much individual variation. By its first summer a Glaucous-winged Gull may have a bill with a pale base and black tip, but the black usually appears smudgy and covers a greater portion of the bill than shown by Glaucous. The black extends well past the gonydeal angle and lacks the...
JUNE SIGHTING OF MULTIPLE GLAUCOUS GULLS IN OREGON, WITH NOTES ON IDENTIFICATION

sharp delineation between the dark and pale portions that is shown by Glaucous. On many individual Glaucous-wingeds the black on the top and bottom of the bill at the base will tend to fade first, leaving a long dark extension from the black tip in along the cutting edge. The pale portion of the bill can range from dull yellow to pink, but is typically faded and less colorful looking, showing less contrast between dark and pale portions than Glaucous. The bill of a Glaucous-winged is usually large and thick (Fig. 9 and 10), and with a pronounced gonydeal angle, which causes the tip to appear noticeably wider than the base, unlike the straighter bill of a typical Glaucous (Grant 1982). However, since bill size and shape can vary for both species, these characteristics should only be considered supportive of an identification, and not distinctive (e.g. see the rather small bill on the Glaucous-winged Gull in Fig. 6).

An unworn first-year Glaucous Gull will have white or cream-colored wing and body feathers with extensive brown tips or subterminal marks (Fig. 7 and 8), giving it a pale brownish or gray-brownish overall appearance. The coloration of the plumage is usually relatively uniform overall (Grant 1982). The brown feather markings may impart a finely barred or checkered look to a variable extent on the coverts, scapulars, and tertials (Fig. 7 and 8). On most individuals a white, broken eye-ring that contrasts with the darker color of the face is apparent (Hampton 1999). An unworn Glaucous Gull also may show small dark circular spots or 'shot marks' near the end of the primary tips (David Fix pers. comm.). The primarw may be all whitish or may have pale gray-brown interiors with white edges, and typically appear paler than the rest of the wing. The tail is usually quite pale and finely barred or marbled (Hampton 1999). These features become less obvious as the plumage wears, but can be distinguishing marks for a first-year Glaucous Gull in fall and winter. As the feathers age and wear and become paler, the brown on the tips becomes less extensive, and late spring and summer birds often fade to nearly pure white (Grant 1982). As a Glaucous Gull ages and wears it tends to maintain an evenly colored, clean look throughout its plumage, usually appearing only a bit darker on the belly.

In contrast, the feathers of an unworn first-year Glaucous-winged Gull are mostly gray-brown, especially on the underparts. The folded primaries typically appear similar in color to, or darker than the rest of the wing (Hampton 1999), although they may appear slightly paler on some individuals (Fig. 9 and 10). The coverts and scapulars have a variable amount of pale subterminal marks and pale fringing which may impart a marbled or checkered look, however the dark areas are usually more extensive than shown by Glaucous. On close inspection, the appearance of a first-winter Glaucous-winged in fresh plumage is of a gray-brown bird with pale markings, while a Glaucous in similar plumage appears as a pale bird with dark markings (David Fix pers. comm.). The tertials of a first-winter Glaucous-winged in fresh plumage are mostly solid gray-brown, with pale markings only near the tips (Hampton 1999), unlike the pale, finely marked tertials of an immature Glaucous. The uppertail coverts and undertail coverts of both species are solidly barred. However, the tail of a first-winter Glaucous-winged in fresh plumage is usually completely solid gray-brown, sometimes with a small amount of barring only on the outer webs of the outermost rectrices. This is quite unlike the much paler, finely marked tail of a Glaucous. As the plumage of an immature Glaucous-winged Gull wears and becomes paler, it will tend to have an uneven, mottled or blotchy look, lacking any clean barring or speckling (Grant 1982). Due to uneven wear or molt, a whitish individual Glaucous-winged Gull may show solid patches of gray in the wings or body. A very worn and faded first-year individual with completely white primaries and upperparts similar to Glaucous, will still
typically show a noticeably contrasting darker area on the underparts (Fig. 6), often looking much darker gray-brown or 'dirty' white on the belly than is typically shown by Glaucous.

Some second-year Glaucous-winged Gulls may have a bill pattern resembling that of a first-year Glaucous more closely, showing a clean, pale bill with a sharply-delineated black tip. However, the black is still more extensive than shown by Glaucous at any age (Grant 1982). While feather wear and bleaching continue to occur between molts, Glaucous-winged Gulls of this age are less likely than in their first summer to become completely whitish (Grant 1982), usually showing a blotchy, grayish overall look. During their second summer, some Glaucous-winged Gulls may show whitish worn and faded primaries, but often retain at least a small amount of dingy, grayish coloration to the primaries and tail. Glaucous Gulls of this age may show a variable amount of pale gray-brown marbling or irregular blotches on the body and wings, but usually appear quite whitish overall (Hampton 1999), with the black tip of the bill showing a variable amount of fading. In addition, gulls of this age begin to show a solid or blotchy area of the mantle shade they will wear as adults both on the back and scapulars, with the shade of Glaucous-winged typically being a shade or two darker than Glaucous (Grant 1982).

First-year Glaucous Gulls have a dark brown iris that gradually changes to light yellow as they age. By their first summer, Glaucous Gulls may show an iris that is somewhat paler brown than is typically shown by Glaucous-winged Gulls of any age, and by their second winter the iris will often appear quite pale yellow, as in adult plumage (Hampton 1999). Although a small minority of adult Glaucous-winged Gulls have rather pale eyes

(Dave Fix pers. comm.), most retain a dark iris throughout life. It should be noted that Western x Glaucous-winged hybrids frequently show light irises, so eye color is merely a supporting point, not distinctive in itself.

Generally speaking, a Glaucous Gull will appear heavy-set in body shape, with more of a 'barrel chest', a thicker neck, and a flatter head that is larger in proportion to the body than shown by a Glaucous-winged. However, these qualities are subjective, and can vary extensively with the sex and subspecies, as well as with the posture of an individual (Grant 1982).

Although not discussed in this article, hybrid Glaucous X Glaucous-winged Gulls have also been reported from the Oregon coast, and may show characteristics intermediate between both species. Similarly, extremely rare birds thought to be leucistic Herring Gulls have also been reported from the Oregon coast. These have displayed white plumage and a sharply demarcated bill strikingly similar to first-winter Glaucous Gull. These birds were thought to be Herring Gulls because of their smaller size and more slender body and bill. However, the true identity of these birds may never be known, as identification of suspected hybrids or leucistic individuals is often quite speculative. Efforts to photograph and publish such observations are encouraged.

Summary

Although a worn, immature Glaucous-winged Gull may approach the pale appearance of an immature Glaucous, they are usually easily distinguished when well seen. While there may be some variation in certain characteristics among individuals, a combination of features, with emphasis on the pattern of light and dark on the bill, is usually diagnostic. The combination of a pale pink-
The Gray-headed Junco is a very rare form of the Dark-eyed Junco complex in the state of Oregon. This bird was given full species status by the A.O.U. until 1982 when it was lumped with five other junco races that now form the Dark-eyed Junco complex (Ryser 1985). There are only three previously published records of the Gray-headed Junco in Oregon. The first record is of a single bird at Benson Boat Landing, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney Co., 22 May 1976 (Littlefield 1981). The second published record is from Cottonwood Creek, Pueblo Mountains, Harney Co. on 14 November 1987 (Gilligan et al. 1994). The third state record is from Sutherlin, Douglas Co., present from 15-26 November 1990 (Nehls 1997).

So it was that this form of the Dark-eyed Junco never entered our minds as we reached the west fork of Oregon Canyon Creek in the Oregon Canyon Mountains of southern Malheur Co. on the clear crisp morning of 22 June 1999 (Latitude 42.1, Longitude 117.7). MerryLynn and I had been awarded a “travel grant” by the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas Project to venture into seldom birded areas to look for rare breeding species in this last year of the project. We listened and watched as we slowly worked our way downstream from the head of the west fork of Oregon Canyon Creek. We were in this stunningly beautiful canyon to confirm as many breeding species as our ability would allow. Moving from one stand of aspen to another brought different species to light as we kept up our search. Oregon Canyon is carpeted with a patchwork of aspen forest and blanketed with mahogany groves that spread out over low flat benches and steep canyon walls. Just a little after noon, MerryLynn and I entered the upslope edge of a west-facing aspen grove. The aspen growing at the leading upslope edge of these stands are spindly and gnarled and the last trees in the grove to enter the growing season due to prolonged snow cover. These trees are seldom more than ten feet high and form a dense latticework of thin trunks and masses of foliage that forces you to push and pull your way through in order to get downslope and under the canopy of the larger trees. We had no sooner entered the main stand of aspen than a junco sprang up out of the low growing currant and snowberries. With loud chips and trills this bird circled our location — flashing its white outer rectrices. It then lit on a dead aspen branch and continued to alert the rest of creation of our arrival. What I saw of this junco set off alarm bells. This bird was larger than the “Oregon” forms of junco I was used to. It was a light sallow gray from throat to lower belly. The head had a slightly darker hood that sunk to just below the very dark eyes and black lores. There was a very light beak lightly washed with a flesh tone. Then there was the mantle of rust-red and the darker wings and tail with white outer rectrices. WOW! We had a territorial, adult Gray-headed Junco in Oregon! Quietly sitting down at the base of a cool-skinned aspen we watched this bird as it calmed down and slowly returned to more peaceful behavior. Soon there were two adults foraging on the ground around us, their rust-red backs catching the dappled sunlight. Now if only we could confirm the breeding of this “near species” in Oregon. Watching every move of this pair of juncos, we
finally determined that they must be feeding young nearby. After about thirty minutes of observation, we moved across the slope toward the northern periphery of the grove when out jumped a dark, heavily streaked, demanding juvenile junco. Sure enough—both of the Gray-headed adults began to pitch insect after insect into this bottomless pit known as their offspring. We had it! A confirmed, very recently fledged Gray-headed Junco chick. With additional searching we located a total of three pairs of adults and one chick in this west-facing grove of beautiful big aspen. Another two pair were detected in a similar west-facing grove of beautiful big aspen. 120 m to the north for a total of five pair and one chick.

Gray-headed Juncos were looked for in five other aspen stands with no luck. Two of these groves were in the bottom of the canyon, two on an east facing slope and one on a north facing slope. This junco was located in west-facing groves with a low currant-snowberry-chokecherry component. Both of these inhabited groves had about a ninety percent closed canopy.

Other records of interest concerning Gray-headed Juncos near the Oregon state line are from Sheldon NWR, Nevada, where this species form is found year round and thought to nest on the refuge (Alcorn 1988). In his paper on the region David Marshall notes that he only located a single “junco” of unknown race in the Oregon Canyon Mountains (Marshall 1987). This race of the Dark-eyed Junco should be looked for in drainages with west-facing aspen stands throughout the Trout Creek and Oregon Canyon Mountains.

**Literature Cited**


While Klamath County has an abundance of riparian habitat along lake shores, river and stream edges, and many springs, many of the better patches of riparian are inaccessible or have limited bird activity. However, Wood River Wetland, formerly under private ownership and inaccessible, is a unique riparian area now open for non-motorized entry, and has numerous other adjacent habitats that add to the area's bird diversity. I have found it an exciting and fun place to bird, and I make it a point to go there several times a year. I definitely include this stop on my itinerary any time I go to the Fort Klamath area or to northern Klamath County. Most of my visits have been in late spring and early summer when bird activity is at its peak, and I have found uncommon or even rare species for Klamath County on most visits. Winter visits have been few, so much remains to be discovered about the area. In this article I present a short history of the property, the riparian habitat, is found near its entrance. The road that enters the property (area 1) is lined for 1/3 of a mile with a cottonwood overstory and a willow understory. This riparian habitat seems irresistible to migrants as they travel north along the eastern shores of Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes. Willow Flycatcher, Common Nighthawk, and Bullock's Oriole are easily seen here in early June. Black-capped Chickadee and Green Heron, while uncommon in the county, are regular here with some effort. Yellow-breasted Chat, rare for Klamath County, occasionally has been seen here. North of the parking area is a bulrush/cattail/wocus marsh (area 2). Yellow-headed Blackbird, American Bittern, and Pied-billed Grebe are typically found here. South of the riparian (area 3) is open water but also has some wocus vegetation, generally closer to shore. Clark's and Western Grebes and diving ducks are common here. Both of these areas, 2 & 3, can be seen and heard well from the entrance road. Scopes are useful to scan the marsh and open water through occasional breaks in the riparian foliage.

At the end of the riparian area is a bridge that crosses Wood River where many times I have recorded most of the typical swallow species. Just past the bridge is a fork, where one road follows Wood River to the north and another road takes you west along the north shore of Agency Lake.

The road to the north overlooks various types of wetlands to the west (area 4), including sedge/grass and some deeper ponds. The deciduous riparian of Wood River at this stretch is just a strip of willow on both sides of the river where it is contained by dikes, and the area is quite marshy between the dikes.
SITE GUIDE: WOOD RIVER WETLANDS, KLAMATH COUNTY

Sora, Virginia Rail, and Common Snipe are frequently detected along this section. Farther north along the road are some areas of shallow water wetlands with taller grasses and sedges. This area often reminds me of other Oregon locations where I have seen Bobolink and Eastern Kingbird, and I wouldn’t be surprised if someday those species are found or even attempt nesting here. Water depths in this area, near the pump site, and in view of a nearby old house and equipment barn (the property’s only structures) have been suitable for Yellow Rail, which have been heard on several daytime visits. Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Bonaparte’s Gull, Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Wood Duck, and Wilson’s Phalarope have also been found here. At the confluence of the Wood River and Crooked Creek is a large stand of willow covering several acres. It was here that a large colony of Tri-colored Blackbirds nested for at least two seasons in the mid-1990s. Usually I see males traveling up and down the river on foraging trips, so there are probably other nesting colonies nearby.

Taking the southern road from the bridge will take you west and along the north end of Agency Lake with its open water. North of the road you can view the south end of the wetland property (area 5), that can at times be good for shorebirds; I’ve seen Peregrine Falcon preying upon shorebirds here numerous times. At the southwest corner, and before crossing another bridge, turn north along the east side of the Seven-mile Canal (area 6). The vegetation here is dominated by sedge/grass and bird species diversity is the lowest for the Wood River Wetlands, but still has proven to be a worthwhile area to visit. Common Loon in breeding plumage and Grasshopper Sparrow have been seen here in the past. It is also one of the better locations on the property to view nesting Sandhill Cranes, while Horned Lark and Savannah Sparrow are abundant. Willows planted along the Seven-mile Canal may someday reach a size that will add to the variety of birds on this side of the property.

Access onto this wetland area is limited to foot and bicycle traffic, except for BLM personnel. For those interested in a short stop in May, June, or early July, a walk along the 1/3 mile section of riparian area near the entrance would be well worth the time and would take about an hour. For a longer walk, turn north after crossing the bridge. One could also be adventurous enough to try a roughly six mile bike ride around the perimeter of the area. A trip around the perimeter, including all the stopping to watch birds, would probably take at least 2-3 hours. Taking drinking water is advised. Hunters use this area in the fall, but their access is limited to foot also, so hunter use has been relatively low so far. A canoe can be put in near the parking lot at the entrance to the property, or at nearby Petric County Park. From either location you can paddle along the shores of Agency Lake, around the Wood River marsh, or up Wood River, and be treated to extensive views of Pelican Butte and other portions of the Cascades to the west as they rise above Upper Klamath Lake. There is a put-in at Loosely Rd., further up Wood River. A canoe trip down Wood River to the wetland area’s parking lot would be about a 3 hour trip.

Getting There

To reach this area from Klamath Falls, take Hwy 97 north to Modoc Point Road. Stay on Modoc Point Road, until you reach the north end of Agency Lake. A canoe trip down Wood River to the wetland area’s parking lot would be about a 3 hour trip.

BIRD LIST

List of all bird species detected on the Wood River Wetlands property during the spring and summer of 1995.

- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Eared Grebe
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Cinnamon Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Common Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Osprey
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Red-tailed hawk
- Peregrine Falcon
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- American Coot
- Sandhill Crane Kildeer
- Black-necked Silt
- American Avocet
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Common Snipe
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Wilson’s Phalarope
- Bonaparte’s Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull
- Caspian Tern
- Forster’s Tern
- Black Tern
- Mourning Dove
- Great horned Owl
- Common Nighthawk
- Belted Kingfisher
- Northern Flicker
- Western Wood-Pewee
- Willow Flycatcher
- Western Kingbird
- Cassin’s Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Common Raven
- Black-billed Magpie
- Horned Lark
- Tree Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- House Wren
- Marsh Wren
- American Robin
- European Starling
- Cedar Waxwing
- Yellow Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- MacGillivray’s Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Wilson’s Warbler
- Savannah Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Tricolored Blackbird
- Western Meadowlark
- Brewer’s Blackbird
- Brown-headed Blackbird
- Bullock’s Oriole
- American Goldfinch
- Pine Siskin

Continues on page 135
Lane County Big Day 1999:
Did the late migration help or hurt in the chase for a record?

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3:00 a.m., Saturday, May 15, 1999.

This is a heck of a time to be awake on a perfectly good day for sleeping in. But this is when I get to Jeff’s driveway and find him standing in the dark in his birding gear like The Mummy of the South Hills, ready to engage in his first west coast Big Day. He’s done many in the northeastern U.S., so he can’t say he doesn’t know what he’s getting into. His fiancée may already be awake—but then, she’s still in New York.

We’re trying to break the Lane County Big Day Record (153, set in 1983) and we would not mind breaking the western Oregon record of 160, though it involved more than one county. And the meter is ticking: for each species we find, the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History will receive about $16.00 in pledges. And we get to spend an entire day avoiding our chores.

3:30 Dave is waiting at Shari’s Restaurant on River Road, pumping coffee into his arteries and wondering whether this is all a joke and we won’t pick him up at all. As a member of Oregon’s all-time record Big Day team that found 212 species on a coast-to-Malheur run in the early 1980s, we wouldn’t set him up, would we? Nah. If we don’t get to sleep in, neither does he. As we open the car door to let him in, he grins and points upward: Swainson’s Thrushes are migrating—our first bird of the day is checked off.

4:30 We try known and unknown sites for Barn Owl north of the Eugene airport and come up empty. After an abortive prowl around Alavador on our way west, we park at the summit of Cougar Pass between Noti and Walton in the middle of the Coast Range. Owling involves listening to various night noises (distant dogs, creeks babbling over rocks, Sasquatch belching) and convincing yourself that these muffled hooting or hissing noises are actually several species of owls for the day’s tally. We also imitate owls in order to lure them into responding; the conventional wisdom suggests that their responses consist of the avian equivalent of laughter at our efforts. Eventually we get one distant Northern Pygmy-Owl to respond, but by now robins are singing and we know dawn is not far off.

5:45 We are on the Clay Creek access road in the central Coast Range. The forest and the open area is starting to emit bird sounds as Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Spotted Towhees and MacGillivray’s Warblers come to life in the predawn dimness. This is our first shot at some woodland birds before we spend most of the morning on the outer coast. We hope to get some unpredictable species: grouse or Mountain Quail. We don’t. However, a pygmy-owl comes in and looks at us and then, with a squeal of discord, two pygmy-owls pounce on each other in the road right by us! Now that’s territorial....

6:30 We can see well enough now that as we arrive at the parking area by the confluence of the North Fork of the Siuslaw River, we see birds over the mudflats and estuary. Western Gulls cruise along and crows pour off the hillsides and onto the mudflats, where some early clammers have taken the space we hoped would be burdened with shorebirds. Some careful scoping yields a good bounty though, both species of yellowlegs, some Short-billed Dowitchers and a Spotted Sandpiper are lining the shores of a far island. A Band-tailed Pigeon tears along over the hillside. As we leave we remark on the absence of kingfishers along the river all the way from Mapleton.

7:00 As daylight gets serious we are the first people to waddle out the dike into the deflation plain of the Siuslaw, pursuing American Bittern and other waterbirds. At the end we’ll see waterfowl and shorebirds if we are lucky. The Bittern, Virginia Rail and Sora cooperate magnificently, and our only Bufflehead (rather late) are sailing along in the flooded basin. Savannah Sparrows zip away into the grass.

8:00 The south jetty of the Siuslaw is our first crack at seabirds and “rockpipers,” whose preferred habitat is coastal rocks and jetties. But it is a late migrant land bird that first gets our attention: As we walk toward the jetty, a dry call drifts to our ears. Dave stops: “isn’t that a longspur?” I hear it, too, and a quick search reveals at least two Lapland Longspurs in the grass. One hops up onto a log, showing partial breeding colors. This is a “bonus bird” that will help make up for the poor owl showing. We dash out the jetty and run up a serious list of seabirds, calling out to each other: “Marbled Murrelets ... Red-throated Loon ... Wandering Tattler,” and also find another semi-bonus: a Herring

Gull that might easily have been in Canada by now. However, we miss both Black Turnstone and Surfbird, which we can only get here or at other rocky spots. A few ought to still be here late in May. A memorable sight: Ten Ospreys kettling over the Siuslaw jetties, where one would have been noteworthy when I started birding in the late 1960s. What a comeback.

9:30 The north fork of the Siuslaw is a delightfully swampy place. Here we come to search for quackers—various freshwater dabbling ducks such as teal and wigeon that are mostly gone north by now. Mostly. It's the tag ends of "mostly" that we're after in these mucky pastures. We manage to extract some Northern Shovelers and, at the boat ramp, Golden-crowned Kinglets.

9:30 A quick stop to peer into Sutton Lake, where we find nothing at all. This is a good spot in winter, but on a nice morning in May there are boaters, not floaters.

9:45 We are running behind so skip the Baker Beach road swamp. A tactical decision that probably does no harm. We did not have time to walk out for Snowy Plovers anyway, and we already have rails.

10:00 We are at one of our crucial stops: Devil's Elbow State Park. Here are Tufted Puffins barely visible on the offshore rock, as well as hypothetical Dippers up Cape Creek. We find the puffins, not the Dippers. We also see a large brown bird burst from low foliage and crash into the shrubbery up Cape Creek—a grouse?! No, an extremely out-of-place Red-tailed Hawk. Granted, our first of the day, but what was it doing lurching through the bushes a foot off the ground like a demented Goshawk? Chasing aplopondia? Back to the rocks: can we find a Black Oystercatcher, or have we lost it for the day? None.

10:45 Sea Lion Caves is right next door as we peer down the cliff into the colonies of Brandt's Cormorants and hundreds of single pairs of Pigeon Guillemots. On the water below is the real prize of this unassuming overlook: Rhinos! Well, not the big ones. These are less than a foot long Rhinoceros Auklets, which breed inside the caves and very few other places in Oregon. We hope for Black Swift, a semi-predictable migrant that comes through in small numbers and often moves right along coastal cliffs. None, but Dave spots (at a distance of about eight miles) a circling Sharp-shinned Hawk over the coastal bluffs and we all peer through the scope at it. It will prove our only one of the day. Below—straight down, in fact—on the rocks are a few Black Oystercatchers.

11:30 At the North Jetty of the Siuslaw, the mudflats are mostly underwater now and we make one more pass for shorebirds missed in the morning. Where are those pesky turnstones? Elsewhere, today. We never find them, though a semi-bonanza appears in the form of a single Ruddy Turnstone that appears at the tip of the south jetty. We scope it in the hope that it brought cousins. None. A Ring-billed Gull is a good consolation prize, too: we will finish the day with six gull species, by no means assured in mid-May.

12:15 It's time to start inland, where an entirely different set of birds awaits. Our tally as we leave the coast is 110. We've missed some but picked up others, so we are confident of making the high 130s, but doubtful about the county record: 153.

1:15 After zooming through the coast range with a brief unsuccessful side jaunt (still no Dipper) and a change of drivers (I have been behind the wheel since 2:45 a.m.) we slide into the parking area on Hwy 126 by Fern Ridge Reservoir. Are the Yellow-headed Blackbirds willing to appear? Instantly. As are coots.

1:30 Perkins Peninsula Park, usually a gold mine in spring migration, does not disappoint. Here we find our first Chipping Sparrows and a Clark's Grebe, which breeds only here in all of western Oregon. The real bonus comes as we scope the far reedbeds northeast of Perkins: Black Terns, an uncommon local breeder, flap lazily by, two Bald Eagles soar overhead and finally Dave latches onto 15 Redhead, all pated up on the water as if to breed. Except that they don't breed in western Oregon. Until perhaps now. A great and unexpected find.

3:45 South of Fern Ridge the countryside is fairly open in spots, and we look along Nielson and Cantrell Rds. for Western Kingbird. We find one almost instantly, along with our first American Kestrel of the day. Close to the Coyote Creek area we hope for Red-shouldered Hawks but find none. However, a Vesper Sparrow sings just up the hill and a Bullock's Oriole goes "chack!" from the trees.

4:15 We make a quick check of the oak groves and nearby grassy areas at the western end of Royal Avenue, gathering up Acorn Woodpecker and Western Meadowlark.

4:30 Stewart Pond is a complex of gooey areas and actual open water in west Eugene. It could be our make-or-break stop, as far as getting to the record is concerned. It is a solid stop: our first Green Heron, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, House Wren and Ring-necked Pheasant.

5:00 Skinner's Butte: an unlikely piece of good habitat smack in the center of Eugene, but here we need
to find Anna’s Hummingbird and Lesser Goldfinch. Also, the butte is a migrant magnet sticking up from downtown, and anything could be there. We know that this hill has been sucking in migrants for days; we also know that to get close to 150 we need to find all of them—there is no room for error. Half an hour late we have had a remarkable run of luck generated in large part by the recent experience of Dave and Jeff birding the butte. We add to the list Hermit Thrush, Hutton’s Vireo, Cassin’s Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hammond’s Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Anna’s hummer, Lesser Goldfinch and the most remarkable find of all, a male Calliope Hummingbird, a rare west-side migrant that we did not expect at all. Jeff, who has never seen one in his life, being a recent transplant from New York, spots it hovering almost overhead and we identify it with amazement. It is the first Calliope Dave has ever seen in western Oregon. Nine new birds at one whack moves us into the 140s and we realize that there is just a chance that we can not only reach 150 but break the record, 153. We have been birding for 14 hours.

5:45 Ah, the Lane Community College sewage ponds, none so fair. There have been Ruddy Ducks here, and these ponds are well-known as drop-in sites for all manner of migrant waterbirds. We hope to pick up a stray or two. As we zip down the off-ramp, a hawk drifts over the nearby woods and flaps unenthusiastically to the west. "Another sharp-shin. NO! It’s a Cooper’s Hawk!” We all get good views. The Ruddy Ducks are there.

LCC was the end of the formal route that I had planned to take advantage of the county’s habitats. That schedule allowed some hunting time for missing birds. We were short on birds of brushy hillsides, but otherwise we’d had a great day. We were at 147 species, with better than two hours of light left. But our missing birds were separated all over the county (except for the ubiquitous yet absent—can such a phrase be used?—Belted Kingfisher). There was no one place to go for more than perhaps two of them. We settle on a huge circle that will allow us to be back at Royal Avenue at dusk in the hope of Great Horned Owl and even conceivably Barn or Short-eared Owl.

6:00 We dash down the freeway to Creswell, then dash back north to be able to pull over next to a lovely slime pit along the northbound lanes of the highway near Short Mountain Landfill. Dave had seen shorebirds there in previous days and we hoped to pick up Dunlin or perhaps Black-bellied Plover. As we drove up, at least two sizes of birds were present, including two we already had, Killdeer and Least Sandpiper, plus a few Green-winged Teal, which we also had. But the two Wilson’s Phalaropes were a real bonus—they are not common migrants in western Oregon. 148. I tried to convert a female teal to a Long-billed Dowitcher (it was already a long day) but it did not remain discreetly hidden in the grass and I did not succumb to the Dark Side of The Force.

6:30 The east side roads and lower trail at Mt. Pisgah could theoretically produce Western Bluebird, Nashville Warbler, Lazuli Bunting and a few other things we were missing. As we drive down the twisting road, Dave spots a small wire-sitter that proves to be a Western Wood-Pewee, which we had hoped for but which had been held up a little in migration. 149. A quick prowl along the roads revealed no bluebirds, but as we walked out the trail we started seeing lots of sparrows and hearing songs. I name a beautiful, sprightly, uplifting, distant song to be that of a glorious Lazuli Bunting (150), but as we drew closer it is clearly the insipid uncoordinated directionless babble of a scuzzy already-listed American Goldfinch. However, I redeem myself by detecting, as we walk out to the car, a clear whistled song from across the road. I pronounce the name slowly as the others perk up: Cal-li-for-nia Quail. A real 150.

7:15 We are now clearly within range of the record but it is very late in the day. We decide to continue with our circle and make a quick pass out Van Duyn Rd. and a side road in the hope of bunting, Western Bluebird and maybe Wild Turkey. We find more American Goldfinches, a perfectly gorgeous bird which I now find deeply unattractive, and some Lesser Goldfinches, but nothing new.

7:45 The desperate dash westward from Coburg to Fern Ridge Dam (a last chance for the absurdly wayward kingfisher) involves a lot of looking out windows for Cedar Waxwing (another missed bird) and a disconsolate glower at the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers where kingfishers could zoom by but do not. We are alert as we drive up to Kirk Pond at the dam. What is that on the wire? A fishing bobber. What is in the pond, a late migrant scaup? A nice grebe? An unexpected Canvasback? Nothing at all. As we drive toward the dam we know that we have to have at least one good break here in the warm evening to tie, let alone break, the record. I am driving and Dave and Jeff watching the pond with care when a bird suddenly zooms by near the car. “Black Swift!” Dave hollers and I swerve off the highway to the shoulder (mostly) and see the hefty dark swifts (there were at least two) swoosh by over the edge of the pond. An amazing break, a bird that we had
only a slight chance at. But there are no kingfishers over the Long Tom and no miraculous flocks of, say, flamingos coming off the lake.

8:30 Back to Royal Avenue for the dusk walk that might, conceivably, offer enough owl action to get us to the record. As we drive down Fir Butte Rd. we gaze at the wires in the gathering dimness, hoping for a waxwing. Dave suddenly points to a wire. Two birds. One is a Western Kingbird (already seen), one is... a Western Bluebird! We are suddenly at 152, which means that it only takes one (owl, or anything else) to tie and two to beat the record. Those are not bad odds in western Oregon in, say, late March or early April, when owls are still territorial and responsive to hooting. In mid-May? Much harder when we've already checked our hypothetical Barn Owl site and had no owls.

So at dusk we walk out Royal Avenue as rails call and ducks zoom overhead. Canada Geese are sailing in for the evening and all manner of mammals are slithering through the water. At the end of Royal an American Wigeon suddenly calls. If we'd missed that and had, say, Gadwall at Stewart Pond we'd be dancing now. As it is, the wigeon's two-note whine seems to say "next time, next time..." as darkness settles.

We walk back to the car having seen no owls over the marshes. We hope that the drier eastern fringe of the marsh will offer more chance of success. As we approach the car at 9:10 p.m., contemplating coming up with 152 when the record is 153, two dim forms sail over in close succession. The Night Masters: Great Horned Owls! We have tied the record at 153.

10:00 Tying a record is far different than coming up short by one. There is an imperative to get that one more species. We have been birding for 19 hours. We stagger to one possible site for Western Screech-Owl. Nothing. We agree to try one more spot that Dave thinks might be good. It is the boat landing at the bottom of River Loop 2 off north River Road. We get there at 10:10 p.m. We open the doors. Jeff says "we're done" almost before the sound registers. Without any imitations, fake mouse noises or other attempts to lure one in, a Western Screech-Owl is calmly hooting away right by the parking lot: Go ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho home. 154.

The late migration and cold weather this spring hurt us by keeping some species back from their usual migration times. Species that should have been fairly easy to find in an entire day in the field were not found: Nashville Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, and Olive-sided Flycatcher were all missed. Some others (Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak and Swainson's Thrush) were in numbers much lower than the date would suggest.

Some small birds were missed for no particular reason: we never found a Kingfisher, our worst miss. We tried several places for Dipper: zilch. Pilated Woodpecker was not found, nor were Gray Jay or Townsend's Warbler, all of which were expected.

Among water birds and other larger species missed, Hooded Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, both grouse, Mountain Quail, Black Turnstone and Surfbird, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, snipe, Red-necked Phalarope and Barn Owl are not rare (some breed) and we should do better on them in the future.

We did better on gulls than we might have, and coastal shorebirds were not bad for the mediocre Siuslaw estuary. The cool spring may have held back enough Golden-crowned Sparrows and Lincoln's Sparrows to keep us from missing them. Getting "just enough" of coastal birds such as alcids kept us alive. Likewise, one Downy Woodpecker, one Wrentit (a good 20 miles inland) and one Red-breasted Nuthatch suggest that we were pretty close to the edge.

Today as I write this account, I see that we mistakenly marked Cedar Waxwing on the list even though my blurry mind does not recall that we ever found one. So in fact we tied the record after all, and we'll have to break it next year. It's a good incentive.

Thank you for your support.

The 1999 Museum of Natural History Birdathon team: Alan Contreras, Dave Irons, Jeff Marx.

Continued from page 131

SITE GUIDE: WOOD RIVER WETLANDS, KLAMATH COUNTY

Lake. The entrance to the wetland is on the west side of the road and 1/4 mile before reaching Petric Park. Angle parking is available before reaching the gate. From Medford take Hwy 140 east to Rocky Point, take Westside Road north, which turns east onto Seven-mile Road, east onto Loosley Road, and then to Hwy 62 (Crater Lake Hwy). Go south on Hwy 62 to Modoc Point Road, then one quarter mile south of Petric Park. From Bend, take Hwy 97 south to the Chiloquin exit. Go west to Modoc Point Road, then south to 1/4 mile south of Petric Park.
Announcements

1999 OFO Awards

Mary Anne Sohlstrom, OFO Secretary, for the Board of Directors

Paul Sullivan Honored

OFO members honored Paul Sullivan with a standing ovation when he was presented with the OFO Outstanding Achievement award at our annual meeting in Lakeview in June. This award is presented each year to recognize special service to OFO and to our Oregon Birding community.

Paul's generous contributions to OFO include serving on the Board of Directors for four years, compiling the spring and fall Eastern Oregon Field Notes for Oregon Birds, and coordinating the information for the Oregon Christmas Bird Counts. But, most of all, Paul's greatest contribution to OFO is the OFO Birding Weekends. Paul conceived the idea of having weekend-long field trips to every corner of Oregon that would give birders an opportunity to visit new places and to meet new friends - both trip leaders and participants. Paul has been instrumental in organizing dozens of field trips, recruiting local talent to lead them and filling in to lead trips himself when all else fails. This program introduces new people to OFO and has resulted in adding many new members to our organization.

It is because of members like Paul that OFO continues to succeed. We are proud to recognize Paul's ongoing contribution to OFO.

Quail Run Golf Course

OFO created a second award this year to recognize businesses that encourage birding. Our first annual business award was presented to the Quail Run Golf Course in LaPine, Oregon, for their friendly cooperation and willingness to allow birders to view the Great Gray Owls that have nested near the course for the past several years. Course Superintendent Jim Peterson has taken special care to assure that the owls are not disturbed and has been very helpful to visiting birders in helping them locate the owls. Our thanks to Quail Run and Jim for their interest and help.

Editorial assistance sought for Oregon Birds

Matt Hunter, Editor

The Editor is looking for editing assistance with Oregon Birds. If you have experience editing, or working with authors to produce quality material, please contact the Editor for more information about participating on the Board of Editors. The Editor is also compiling a list of volunteer reviewers for articles submitted to Oregon Birds. If you would like to serve as a reviewer, please send your name, postal and e-mail addresses, phone number, and areas of expertise (e.g. birds in southwest Oregon, biology of woodpeckers, field identification of shorebirds, natural history writing) to the Editor. Thank you!
Oregon Field Ornithologists members bird all over the state, and often find birds that are of interest to local birders. OFO supports publication of local field notes and encourages OFO members to contact local newsletter publishers or field notes editors whenever birding in or near the Oregon locations listed below. If you would like to add a local newsletter or revise any of the information below, please contact the Editor, Oregon Birds, Box 10373, Eugene OR 97440.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Publication</th>
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<th>Address</th>
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*NOTE: The American Birding Association changed the name of Audubon Field Notes to North American Birds effective with Volume 53.
FIELD NOTES: Eastern Oregon Summer 1999

Kevin T. Spencer, PO Box 353, Tulelake, CA 96134

THE SEASON
Below average temperatures lasted into the final week of June. Light precipitation in the form of snow showers was widespread in the first two weeks of June. The above average snowpack in mountain areas was substantiated by reports of Mount Bachelor having 173 inches at mid-mountain in early June, “lots of snow” reported at Benson Snow Park during the second week of June, and significant snow present above 6500 ft on northerly slopes in mid-July at Sky Lakes Wilderness. Average temperatures were reported during July with one warm week. Peak numbers of migrants were described as delayed into early June with speculation that mountain snowpack and low temperatures caused a greater use of lower elevations on the east side.

REPORTERS AND REPORTS
Observations were received directly from 9 observers. Other reports were gleaned from Portland’s Rare Bird Alert (via Harry Nehls), Oregon Birders On Line (OBOL), and The Upland Sandpiper (Grant Co. Bird Club).

Notable nesting observations included Gray-headed form of Dark-eyed Junco (several pairs and a nest with a chick) detected in Malheur County; this is the first breeding record for Oregon. A brood of Greater Scaup in Lake County was highly unusual as the species rarely nests south of Canada.

Other notable sightings included a well documented record of Northern Mockingbird in Malheur County. A pair of Yellow-breasted Chat were present June and July in Klamath County where rare. Persistence in scrutinizing female tanagers at Malheur NWR HQ produced a Summer Tanager among numerous Western Tanagers; this, along with a Black-throated Green Warbler, made for an exciting June day. Attention to vireos saw no less than 4 reports of Plumbeous Vireo. Single Great-tailed Grackles made appearances in 3 different counties, while a single Virginia’s Warbler was the only one detected after last year’s reports of several pairs. A Northern Parula, Tricolored Heron, Pomarine Jaeger, 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Black and White Warbler, a Black-chinned Sparrow, several American Redstarts, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Pacific Loon, 2 Cattle Egret, a Sabine’s Gull, several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and an Ovenbird were also of interest. An Eurasian Collared Dove made a brief one day stop at Fields and is eastern Oregon’s first record of this rapidly expanding introduced species.

Field trips during the OFO annual meeting at Lakeview, 18-20 June, produced numerous reports of both Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers; both were arguably heard by several OFO members at Crane Creek, south of Lakeview. The trips also yielded 2 Bobolink and an Eastern Kingbird, both very rare for Lake County.


Abbreviations:
CG — campground
Ck. — Creek
GCBC — Grant County Bird Club
HQ — Headquarters
Lk. — Lake
MNWR — Malheur NWR, Harney Co.
Mtn. — Mountain
NWR — National Wildlife Refuge
OFO — Oregon Field Ornithologists
Res. — Reservoir
Riv. — River
WMA — Wildlife Management Area
Bird Names in Italics — Records of interest in region and/or county
Bird Names in ALL CAPS — OBRC Review species

Pacific Loon
1 basic-plumaged bird at Antelope Res., 24 June, was the second or third record for Malheur Co. (M&MLD).

Common Loon
1 & 2, Ochoco Res., Crook, 6 June & 10 July (JS, RR); 1, Antelope Res., Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD); 1, breeding plumage, Malheur Res., Malheur, 26 June (M&MLD); 1, Phillips Res., July (TH, fide GCBC).

Pied-billed Grebe
1 pair, Groundhog Res., Malheur, 21 June (FZ).

Red-necked Grebe
1 pair, Malheur Res., Harney, 6 June (RLR).

Eared Grebe
1, Wallowa Lk., Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); “a few pairs”, Bully Ck. Res., Malheur, 22-24 June (FZ); 50 pairs were unexpected at Difficulty Res., Malheur, 23 June (MH, LF).

Western Grebe
10+ pairs, Bully Ck. Res., Malheur, 22-24 June (FZ); 18+, Antelope Res.,
Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD); 20, Ochoco Res., Crook, 10 July (RR).

Clark’s Grebe
1, John Day Dam, Sherman, 9 June (RK); 1 pair, Bully Ck Res., Malheur, 22 June (FZ); 3 at a known breeding location, Antelope Res., Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD); 1, Columbia Riv., near Hood River, 8 June (David Roll); 1, Ochoco Res., Crook, 10-11 July (RR, ChG).

American Bittern
1, Scotty Ck. Rd., Grant, 17 June (M&MLD).

Snowy Egret
1 pair, north of Valley Falls, Lake, 20 June (FJ, OFO).

TRICOLORED HERON
A single bird was reported at Eagle Point, Upper Klamath Lk., Klamath, 2 June, but no details were submitted (Mary Teasdale).

Cattle Egret
2, near Adel, Lake, 18 June (CM, MM).

Green Heron
1, MNWR, 4 June (MAS); 1, Prineville Sew. Ponds, Crook, 12 June (LR); 2, Klamath Riv. Canyon, Klamath, 17 July (FM).

White-faced Ibis
4, Antelope Res., Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD); 200, Warner Wetlands, Lake, 4 July (DT).

Snow Goose
1, south of Burns, Harney, 17 June (M&MLD).

Trumpeter Swan
1, Gutierrez Ranch, Crook, 13 June (ChG).

Tundra Swan
1, Ochoco Res., Crook, 1 June (JS).

Wood Duck
3 males and 1 female, Zumwalt Prairie, Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); 1 female, Jct. Forest Service Rds. 54 & 5448, Morrow, 16 June (M&MLD); 1 pair, Owyhee Riv. Bridge near Adrian, Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD); 1, near Austin, Malheur, 26 June (PA).

Blue-winged Teal
1 male, Ladd Marsh, Union, 5 June (RK); 1, Zumwalt Prairie, Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); 1 pair, Bully Ck. Res., Malheur, 23 June (FZ); 1, Sumner Lk. WMA, Lake, 4 July (DT); 1, Warner Wetlands, Lake, 4 July (DT).

Northern Pintail

Green-winged Teal
1 pair, Schnable Ck. wetlands north of Upper Cow Lk, Malheur, 20 June (FZ); 1 hen and 7 ducklings, Fields, Harney, 18 June (M&MLD).

Ring-necked Duck
1 pair, Ukiah Sewage Ponds, Umatilla, 2 June (M&MLD); 1, Olive Lk., Grant, 17 June (M&MLD); 12, Hosmer Lk., Deschutes, 10 July (RR).

Greater Scaup
1 pair, Hines, Harney, 1 June (JG); a report of a female with a brood found at Dog Lk., Lake, 25 July, was accompanied by supporting details—this is a highly unusual record as the species breeds rarely south of Canada (CM, MM).

Lesser Scaup
1 pair, Bully Ck. Res., Malheur, 1 July (FZ).

Bufflehead
4, Malheur Res., Malheur, 26 June (M&MLD); female with chicks, Hatfield Lk., Deschutes, 4 July (JG).

Barrow’s Goldeneye
1 female with a brood of 12, Santiam Lk., Deschutes, 12 July (CR).

Hooded Merganser
2 females and 10 juveniles were found at a previously unknown breeding location, Unity Res., Baker, 13 July (M&MLD).

Northern Goshawk
1, Blue Sky, Hart Mtn. NWR, Lake, 20 June (PS, OFO); 1, near upper Malheur Riv., Malheur, 25 June (PA); 1, N. Fork, John Day Riv., Malheur, 27 June (PA); 2, Indian Ford Ck., Deschutes, 9 July (RR); nest, ne of Big Summit, Ochoco Mtns., Crook, 17 July (ChG).

Red-shouldered Hawk
1, Paulina, Deschutes, 10 July (DT, JW); 1, Fort Rock, Lake, 27 July (DT).

Golden Eagle
Nestling at nest, Willow Spring, Malheur, 10 June; a fledgling was using nest 22 June (FZ).

Gray Partridge
1 pair, Zumwalt Prairie, Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); 1 pair, Mahogany Mtn., Malheur, 22 June (FZ); pair with 8+ young, se of Little Valley, Malheur, 23 June (FZ); pair, Imnaha, Wallowa, 1 July (M&MLD).

Wild Turkey
5 adults, 21 pouls, s of Milton-Freewater, Umatilla, 24 July (M&MLD).

Mountain Quail
1, near Fossil, Wheeler, 4-5 June (PS); 3 family groups, near Ashwood, Jefferson, 25 July (ML).

Yellow Rail
9+, Klamath Marsh NWR, Klamath, 23 June (KS).

Sora
2, Hosmer Lk., Deschutes, 10 July (RR).

Sandhill Crane
1 pair, Antelope Res., Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD).

Snowy Plover
1, Alkali Lk., s of Riley, Harney, 25 June (JH).

Greater Yellowlegs
13, Miller Island WMA, Klamath, 6 & 18 July (FM).

Lesser Yellowlegs
1, Miller Island WMA, Klamath, 18 July (FM).

Solitary Sandpiper
1, Miller Island WMA, Klamath, 19 July (FM); 1, Hatfield Res., Deschutes, 30 July (JM).

Willet
25+, Scotty Ck. Rd., Grant, 17 June (M&MLD).

Wandering Tattler
1, Cow Lakes, Harney, 22 June (RM).

Upland Sandpiper
Several reports for Bear Valley and Logan areas, Grant.

Oregon Birds 26(1): 139, Spring 2000
Whimbrel
1 at the mouth of the Hood River, 5 June (DR, RK).

Long-billed Curlew
10+, Scotty Ck. Rd., 17 June Grant (M&MLD)-fledglings were at this location on 10 July (OFO); 2+ pairs, Lower McCain Springs, Malheur, 20-22 June (FZ); 15, over Willow Spring, Malheur, 22 June (FZ); 20, including fledglings, Sand Hollow Ck., se of Little Valley, Malheur, 23 June (FZ); 1 pair, Chevally Res., Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD).

Marbled Godwit
1 at the mouth of the Hood River, 5 June (PS); 1-3, Summer Lake WMA, Lake, 20 June (RK et al., CC); 2+, se of Paisley, Lake, 20 June (CC); 36, Downs, Lk., Harney, 11 July (SD).

Baird's Sandpiper
1, Downs Lk., Harney, 11 July (SD); 1, Prineville, Crook, 15 July (ChG).

Short-billed Dowitcher
15, Summer Lake WMA, Lake, 17 July (HN).

Long-billed Dowitcher
205, Miller Island WMA, Klamath, 18 July (FM).

Wilson's Phalarope
5, Zumwalt Prairie, Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); 10,000, Lake Abert, Lake, 4 July (DT); 2, Prineville Sew. Ponds, Crook, 9 July (RR).

Pomarine Jaeger
A sick bird was found near Halfway, Baker, 28 June, and later died (Mike Hammar).

Herring Gull
A very unusual summer observation was 1 at Ochoco Res., Crook, 12 June (LR).

Sabine's Gull

Black Tern
4, Camas and Bull Prairies, Lake, 18-20 June (FM, CM, MM, KS); 2, Hatfield Lk., Deschutes, 5 July (DH, JM).

Eurasian Collared Dove
1, Fields, Harney, 19 June (M)-start of more to come?

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
1, MNWR, 31 May to 4 June (PS, MAS); 1 photographed at Cow Ck. willow grove, Malheur, 26-27 June (M&MLD).}

The Cow Creek willow stand along Bonita R., Malheur Co., between Ironside and Brogan off Hwys. 26, where Mike and Merry Lynn Denny found an adult Yellow-billed Cuckoo on 26 and 27 June 1999. For scale, Merry Lynn is standing just right of center under the "browse line" of the lower canopy. Photo/Mike Denny.

Barn Owl
1, Dry Ck., Umatilla, 16 June (M&MLD); 1, Hoodoo Ck., Malheur, 23 June (FZ); 1 heard, Bully Ck. Res. CG, Malheur, 23 June (FZ); 1 immature, Pillars of Rome, Malheur, 25 June (M&MLD); 1, east of Heppner, Morrow, 11 July; 1 pair, east of Durkee, Baker, 15 July (M&MLD).

Flammulated Owl
1, FS Rds. 40 & 4240, Deschutes, 6 June (DH et al.); 1, Saddle CG, Wallowa, 30 June (M&MLD); 4, FS Rd. 46, Wallowa-Whitman NF, Wallowa, 7 July (M&MLD); 1, 10 miles south of Canyon City, Grant, 10 July (OFO).

Western Screech-Owl
3 adults, 1 juv., Cottonwood Ck., Pueblo Mtns., Harney, 20 June (M&MLD); 1, near Birch Ck. Historic Ranch, Malheur, 21 June (FZ); 2, N. Fork Owyhee Riv., Malheur, 23 June (MH, LF); 1 pair, Deer Ck., se of Imnaha, Wallowa, 2 July (M&MLD); 1, Summer Lk., Lake, 4 July (DT); 1, Pike Ck., Steens Mt., Harney, 18 July (TW).

Burrowing Owl
1 adult, 1 nestling, 7 mi. w of Vale, Malheur, 22 June (FZ).

Barred Owl
2, Upper Crazyman Ck., Wallowa, 29-30 June (M&MLD); 1, Hat Point Rd., se of Imnaha, Wallowa, 2 July (M&MLD); 2, Richland, Baker, 11 July (SL).

Long-eared Owl
1 adult, 6 juveniles, near Diamond, Harney, 2 June (MAS).

Short-eared Owl
1, Sodhouse, MNWR, 17 June (M&MLD).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
1, Oxbow Ranch, Grant, 14 June (M&MLD).

Common Poorwill
1, between Redmond & Powell Butte, Deschutes, 10 July (RR).

Black Swift
1, Crooked Riv. Canyon at Hwys. 97, Deschutes, 3 June (DF).

White-throated Swift
2 pair, Pillars of Rome, Malheur, 25 June (M&MLD); 3 pair, Burnt Riv. Canyon, Baker, 14 July (M&MLD).

Black-chinned Hummingbird
1 female, Fields Oasis, Harney, 6 June (AC); 1, Bend, Deschutes, 15 June (DH, LR); 1 female at nest, Clyde Holliday St. Pk., Grant, 17 June (M&MLD); 2, Lonerock, Gilliam, 17 June (CC); 1, near Austin, Malheur, 26 June (PA); 2, s of Ironside Mtn., Malheur, 23 July (GG).

Costa's Hummingbird
1 male, Bend, Deschutes, 18 July (DT).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird
1 male, 3 females, near Flora, Wallowa, 19 June (AC); 2, Ore. Canyon Mtns., Malheur, 1 July (LF); 1 female, Baker, Richland, 11 July (SL); 1 female, Bend, Deschutes, 18 July (DT); 1, Sisters, Deschutes, 25 July (LR).

Lewis's Woodpecker
1, Emigrant Hill, Umatilla, 5 June (RK).
Red-naped Sapsucker
1, Indian Ford Ck., Deschutes, 13 June (SSh); 2 pair & 3 males, Ore. Canyon, Malheur, 22 June (M&MLD).

Red-breasted Sapsucker
1, Indian Ford Ck., Deschutes, 12 June (SSh).

Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsucker pair
Nesting, Dent Ck., Lake, 20 June (PS).

Red-naped X Red-breasted Sapsucker
1 adult feeding young, Cabot Ck., about 15 mi. nw of Camp Sherman, Jefferson, 30 June (SSh).

White-headed Woodpecker
1 pair nested in a large wooden couch at Idlewild CG, Harney, early-mid June (MAS); 1, near Bull Prairie, Lake, 20 June (FM, KS); 1 pair, nesting, Indian Ford CG, Deschutes, 13-15 July (CR).

Three-toed Woodpecker
1 male, nest, Elk Lk., Deschutes, 27 June (HH); 1 adult, 2 juvenile, near Forest Service Rd. 6413, Wallowa, 5 July (M&MLD).

Willow Flycatcher
1, Cottonwood Ck., s of Fossil, Wheeler, 13 June (BL).

LEAST FLYCATCHER
1, Thorn hollow, e of Pendleton, Umatilla, summer '99 (HN, SR et al.); 1, Little Butter Ck., se of Boardman, Morrow, 3 July (PS).

Gray Flycatcher
Bird on nest, Scotty Ck. Rd., Bear Valley, Grant, 10 July (OFO).

Ash-throated Flycatcher
2, Six-mile Canyon, e of Condon, Gilliam, 3 June (DF); 1, w of McDermitt, Malheur, 21 June (M&MLD); 1, Pineville Res. St. Pk., Crook, 10 July (RR).

Eastern Kingbird
39, CPR, MNWR, 9 June (PP); 1, n of Valley Falls, Lake, 20 June (FI, OFO).

Loggerhead Shrike
5 pairs, Mahogany Mtn. area, Malheur, 20-22 June (FZ).

PLUMBEOUS VIREO
1, Fields, Harney, 6 June (SR, GL et al.); 1, Stuvel Mtn., Klamath, 19 June (SK, PM et al.); 1, Trout Ck. Mtns., Harney, 20 June (ED); 1, s of Ironside, Malheur, 5 July (JGa).

Warbling Vireo
15, MNWR HQ, 4 June, and 80 at Fields, Harney, 6 June, were late for such numbers (AC).

Red-eyed Vireo
2 adults with fledglings, Willow Spring, Malheur, 10 June (FM, KS); 1, Enterprise Fish Hatchery, Wallowa, 6 June (RK); 1, DeMoss Pk., near Moro, Sherman, 18 June (DB); 1, Cayuse Rd., e of Pendleton, Umatilla, 17 July (SL).

Western Scrub-Jay
7, Deep Ck. Canyon, Lake, 19 June (M&MLD).

Bank Swallow
1, Benson Pond, MNWR, 9 June (PP); 1, Fields, 9 June Harney (PP); 1, Battle Mtn., Malheur, 20 June (MH, LF); 6 pair, Mahogany Mtns., Malheur, 30 June (LF).

Townsend’s Solitaire
A nest with 4 chicks, Promise Rd., Wallowa, 17 July (M&MLD).

Veery
1, Benson Pond, MNWR, 9 June (PP); 1, Fields, 9 June Harney (PP); 1, Stuvel Mtn., Klamath, 19 June (SK, PM et al.); 1, Trout Ck. Mtns., Harney, 20 June (ED); 1, s of Ironside, Malheur, 5 July (JGa).

Warbling Vireo
15, MNWR HQ, 4 June, and 80 at Fields, Harney, 6 June, were late for such numbers (AC).

Red-eyed Vireo
4, mouth of Grouse Ck., Wallowa, 4 June (M&MLD); 1, MNWR HQ, 5 & 10 June (AC, PP); 1, Enterprise Fish Hatchery, Wallowa, 6 June (RK); 1, DeMoss Pk., near Moro, Sherman, 18 June (DB); 1, Cayuse Rd., e of Pendleton, Umatilla, 11 July (SL).

Swainson’s Thrush
2, Ore. Canyon, Malheur, 22 June (M&MLD); 4, Saddle CG, Wallowa, 1 July (M&MLD).

Hermit Thrush
1, Ore. Canyon, Malheur, 22 June (M&MLD); several, Juniper Mtn., Lake, 25 June (Jeff Harding).

Varied Thrush
2, upper Lightning Ck., Wallowa, 3 July (M&MLD); 1, Little Strawberry Lk., Grant, 18 July (KK).

Gray Catbird
2, Grande Ronde Riv., Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); several at Rhinehart Can-
EASTERN OREGON FIELD NOTES

yon, Union, 5 June (RK); 1, Benson Pond, MNWR HQ, 6 June (AC); 1, Fields, 11 June, Harney (M); 1 pair, Gov. Mtn. Rd., Umatilla, 6 July (M&MLD); 10+ pair, 1 nest, Philiburg Rd., Union, 15 July (M&MLD); 1, so. Morrow Co., 24 July, was possibly the first county record (PS).

**Northern Mockingbird**
1 adult at nest, Cottonwood Ck., upstream from Bully Ck. Res. CG, Malheur, 23 June; 4 eggs, adults were at this location on 1 July; and 1 half-grown nestling & eggs in nest, 21 July (FZ). Other sightings: 1, Lonerock, Gilliam, 17 June (CC, JS), and 1, Jackson Ck., se Malheur, 22 June (MH, LF).

**American Pipit**
1, n of Upper Cow Lk., Malheur, 21 June (FZ).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**
1, Van Horn Basin, Pueblo Mtns., Harney, 20 June (M&MLD).

**Nashville Warbler**
1 male located on territory in Ore. Canyon, Malheur, 22 June; possibly the first suggestion of potential nesting activity at this location (M&MLD).

**VIRGINIA'S WARBLER**
1 male was up Rose Ck. Rd., south of Ironside, Malheur, 5 July (JGa).

**NORTHERN PARULA**
1, Fields, Harney, 7 June (Ken Aldrich); 1 male, Arock, 25 June, was a first Malheur Co. record (M&MLD).

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER**
1, Benson Pond, MNWR, 5 June (David Herr); 1, Fields Oasis, Harney, 6 June (AC, SR et al.); 1, Indian Ford Ck., Deschutes, 2 July (SSh).

**Yellow-rumped “Myrtle” Warbler**
1 female was present with 3 pair of Audubon's, MNWR HQ, 17 June (M&MLD); 1 female, Oregon Canyon, Malheur, 22 June (M&MLD).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler**
2 males, Cottonwood Ck., Pueblo Mtns., Harney, 20 June (M&MLD); several, Owyhee Riv. area, Malheur, 22 June (MH, LF); 1, near Cabin Lk. Gd. Sta., Lake, 27 June, where found annually on a BBS route (KB).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER**
Photos were obtained of a female at MNWR HQ, 6 June (AC, HN, DH, P&GC).

**Black-and-white Warbler**
1, Benson Pond, MNWR, 9 June (PP).

**American Redstart**
1 male, Fields Oasis, Harney, 6 June (AC); 1 male, MNWR HQ, 7 & 10 June (AC & PP); 1, MNWR Field Sta., 17 June (RS); 1, near Madras, Jefferson, 12 June (PS); 1, Indian Ford Ck., Deschutes, 23 June & 9 July (SSH; CM, MM).

**Ovenbird**
1, Fields, Harney, 11 & 17 June (M, RS).

**Northern Waterthrush**
Several reports from Little Deschutes Riv./Hwy. 58 location, Klamath.

**Wilson's Warbler**
1 pair, Tiger Canyon, Umatilla, 8 July (M&MLD).

**Yellow-breasted Chat**
7 adults, Troy, Wallowa, 5 June (M&MLD); 1, Wood Riv. Wetland, Agency Lake, 5 June (FM, KS) and 1 pair, Klamath Riv. Canyon, June & early July were rare for Klamath (fide KS); 1, near Crowley, Malheur, 20 June (PA); 1, near Harper, Malheur, 22 June (PA); 1 pair, upstream from Bully Ck. Res., Malheur, 22 June (FZ).

**SUMMER TANAGER**
1 female, MNWR HQ, 6 June (AC, HN, PGC).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

**Chipping Sparrow**
3, Van Horn Basin, Pueblo Mtns., Harney, 20 June, where they are uncommon in junipers (M&MLD).

**BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW**
1 male, Blitzen Crossing, Steens Mtn., Harney, 28 June (SN).

**Black-throated Sparrow**
2 pair+1, Deep Ck. Canyon, Lake, 19 June (M&MLD); 1, Stukel Mtn., Klamath, 19 June (SK, Bend Bird Club); 2, Antelope Res., Malheur, 24 June (M&MLD).

**Sage Sparrow**
1, near Sisters, Deschutes, 5 June (SSh).
Fox Sparrow
3, Cottonwood Ck., Pueblo Mtns., Harney, 20 June (M&MLD); 8 pair, 2 nests with 3 and 4 eggs respectively, Ore. Canyon, Malheur, 22 June (M&MLD); several pairs and video of nest with young, Mid. Fork, Owyhee Riv., Malheur 23 June (MH, LF).

Lincoln's Sparrow
1, Promise Rd., 5 June Wallowa (M&MLD); 1 at Benson Pond, MNWR, 6 June may have been the latest date at MNWR (Sharan Wright, AC); 1, Deep Ck., w of Adel, Lake, 21 June (HN); 4 pair, Lightning Ck., Wallowa, 3 July (M&MLD); 1, Izee, Grant, 3 July (PSS, TW); 1 pair, n of Jubilee Lk., Wallowa, 6 July (M&MLD).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK
1 male, banded, Rocky Point, Up. Klamath Lk., Klamath, 7 June (DV); 2, Tent Ck., se Malheur, 20 June (MH, LF); 1, MNWR HQ, 21 June (BW, PP); 1 male that did a fast fly-by, Canyon Ck., s of John Day, Grant, 10 July, could not be re-located by OFO weekend group (RK); 1 male was photographed, Indian Ford CG, Deschutes, 13 July (CR).

Bobolink
1, Ladd Marsh, Union, 5 June (RK); 2, Paisley, 20 June, was the third Lake record in last 15 yrs. (CM, OFO); 1, Dinwitty Rd., 24 June Malheur (M&MLD); 12-15 pair, Grouse Ck. meadow, Malheur, 26 June (M&MLD); birds found at two different Grant County sites, Silvies and east of Prairie City, 10-11 July (OFO).

Tricolored Blackbird
1, Barnes Butte, Crook, 1 June (JS).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE
1, MNWR HQ, 4-6 June (AC); 1, south of Ontario, Malheur, 6 June (RLR); 1, Sycan Marsh, Lake, 16 June (Mark Stern, fide MH).

White-crowned Sparrow
9 pair, 1 nest, Ore. Canyon Mtns., Malheur, 22 June (M&MLD); 6 pair above 7000 feet along upper Lightning Ck., Wallowa, 3 July (M&MLD).

DARK-EYED “GRAY-HEADED” JUNCO
5 pairs and 1 chick, Ore. Canyon, Malheur, 22 June, represents the first known breeding in Oregon (M&MLD).

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
15 at the summit of McKenzie Pass, 17 July (RSJ).

Lesser Goldfinch
1+, Spray, Grant, 13 July (PS).

OBERVERS
The summer season was rather wet until the middle of July when the summer finally arrived and there were more than a few days of sunshine. There were a few nice surprises in rare birds as well as a pair of Black Terns that probably nested at Baskett Slough NWR.

**Abbreviations**

FRR - Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co.
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
SJCR - South Jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop Co.

Bird Names in Italics - Records of interest in region and/or county
Bird Names in ALL CAPS - OBRC Review species

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**Pacific Loon**
1 in breeding plumage was on Lemolo Lake, Douglas, 15 July (Ron Maertz).

**Common Loon**
1 was on Cougar Reservoir, Lane, 3 July (Dave Irons); 1 was on Marion Lake, Marion, in the Cascades 8 July (Frank Isaacs).

**Western Grebe**
1 summered at Baskett Slough NWR, Polk, where the recent habitat changes may be extensive enough to support breeding birds (Ron Day, Carol Karlin, Bill Tice, Roy Gerig).

**Pelagic Trips:**
On 17 July, the following were seen off of Depoe Bay, Lincoln:
- **Black-footed Albatross** 9
- **Northern Fulmar** 1
- **Pink-footed Shearwater** 1
- **Sooty Shearwater** 11

**Short-tailed Shearwater**
An ODFW survey found 1 dead on a beach near Newport, Lincoln, 11 June (fide Harry Nehls).

**Fork-tailed Storm Petrel**
1 was on Coos Bay, Coos, 6 June (Dave Lauten). 33 were at the SJCR on 5 June, and 1 was found dead on nearby Sunset Beach the next day (Jeff Gilligan; Mike Patterson). The 11 June ODFW survey turned up 8 dead birds near Newport, Lincoln (fide Harry Nehls).

**Leach's Storm Petrel**
An ODFW survey found 1 dead on a beach near Newport, Lincoln, 11 June (fide Harry Nehls).

**American White Pelican**
The bird that was reported at Baskett Slough NWR, Polk, in the spring was last seen 10 June (Roy Gerig). 1 was on the Columbia River near Portland, Multnomah, 18 June (John Cowan); it or another was on Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie Island 25 July and remained into August (fide Don Baccus, Ray Korpi).

**Great Egret**
The colonies around Coos Bay, Coos, continue. Oregon birders should be aware that a pair of Great Egrets nested at Ridgefield NWR, WA, across the Columbia River from Sauvie Island, in 1998; thus, birders need to be aware of possible breeding anywhere in the region north of Coos Bay.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**
1 was seen flying over Bandon Marsh, Coos, 6 June (Tim Rodenkirk); an immature bird was in Eugene, Lane, 9 July (Barb Combs); 1 was at Baskett Slough NWR, Polk, 16 July (Bill Tice, Roy Gerig).

**Ross's Goose**
An injured bird was found on Bandon Marsh, Coos, for a first county record on 28 June; it stayed through the period (Roy Lowe).

**American Wigeon**
3 were on Tillamook Bay, Tillamook, 26 June (Jeff Gilligan, Gerard Lillie); a pair were at the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, 28 June (Tim Rodenkirk).

**Redhead**
A pair on 5 July and 2 pairs on 18 July were seen at FRR (Dave Irons). Breeding has been suspected at FRR for the past few years.

**Ring-necked Duck**
For the second year a pair nested on the effluent pond near the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, as a female and one chick were seen on 20 and 25 July (Tim Rodenkirk).

**Red-breasted Merganser**
A late female was at New River, Coos, 11 June (Tim Rodenkirk).

**White-tailed Kite**
A pair nested for the second consecutive year at Nestucca Bay NWR, Tillamook (Floyd Schroock). One was seen much of the period at Millacoma Marsh, Coos, and breeding was suspected (Tim Rodenkirk). The first Curry County nesting pair, found 4 miles up the Rogue River, had young ready to fledge at the end of the period (Colin Dillingham).

**Northern Goshawk**
An immature bird seen near Alsea, Benton, 23 June was a rare Coast Range fledgling (Tom Snetsinger). Nesting has taken place as far north as Lane County in previous years.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**
An adult was a few miles south of Brownsville, Linn, 17 July (Roy Gerig, Bill Tice); 1 was in Philomath, Benton, 19 July (Tom Snetsinger).

**Merlin**
A late bird was seen at Minto Brown Park, Marion, 11 June (Roy Gerig, Laurie Ashworth).
Sandhill Crane
3 were at Elk River Bottoms, Curry, 3 June (Terry Wahl).

Snowy Plover
52 were counted on the annual survey. This number is down as compared to recent years. A banded bird was found on Sunset Beach, Clatsop, 30 July (Todd Thornton).

Solitary Sandpiper
1 was at Fernhill Wetlands, Washington, 25 July (Doug Robertson).

Willet
4 were at Bandon, Coos, 18 June (Dave Lauten).

Long-billed Curlew
5 were seen along Fenk Road near Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, 23 July (M. Tweelinckx).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT
1 in basic plumage was found at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, 26 June-9 July (Jeff Gilligan, Gerard Lillie, Steve Jaggers).

Sanderling
1 was at Baskett Slough NWR, Polk, 16 July (Roy Gerig, Bill Tice).

Semipalmated Sandpiper
2 at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, 3 July, were the first reported fall migrants (Jeff Gilligan, Gerard Lillie).

Western Sandpiper
1 was at Coos City, Coos, 21 June, for the first probable fall migrant (Dave Lauten).

RED-NECKED STINT
An adult beginning to molt was at the effluent pond of the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, 15 July (Tom Rodenkirk). This would be the seventh record if accepted by the OBRC.

Wilson's Phalarope
A juvenile bird was found on the rice ponds along Gap Road, Linn, 16-17 July, for a first probable breeding record for the county (Jeff Harding, Roy Gerig, Bill Tice). One was at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, 12 June, an unusual time and location (Roger Robb).

Red Phalarope
1 was seen at Boiler Bay, Lincoln, 17 July (Phil Pickering).

LAUGHING GULL
A sub-adult was well reported from the SJCR, Clatsop, 31 July (Mike Patterson). This would be the third state record if accepted by the OBRC.

Franklin's Gull
A first-summer bird was just south of Del Ray Beach, Clatsop, 8 July (Mike Patterson).

LITTLE GULL
A second-summer bird was at the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, 7 July (Dave Lauten).

Heermann's Gull
The first bird reported was at Coos Bay, Coos, 20 June (Dave Lauten).

Mew Gull
2 sub-adult birds were at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, 26 June (Jeff Gilligan, Gerard Lillie).

Ring-billed Gull
250 nested on Miller Island in the mouth of the Columbia River, Clatsop (fide Harry Nehls).

Glaucous Gull
A late adult bird was at the mouth of the D River, Lincoln, 1 June. This bird plus 2 first summer birds were there on 3 June (Phil Pickering).

Black-legged Kittiwake
40 were at the SJCR on 5 June for a rather unusual summer record (Jeff Gilligan).

Caspian Tern
At the mouth of the Columbia River, 8500 pairs nested on Rice Island and 1400 on East Sand Island (see OB 25:3 for additional information). Away from the Columbia River, 3 were at Baskett Slough NWR, Polk, 6 and 22 June, and 1 on 5 July (Carol Karlin); 6 were at FRR in July (Dave Irons).

Arctic Tern
3 were at the SJCR on 5 June (Jeff Gilligan).

Black Tern
Up to 5 birds were seen at Baskett Slough NWR, Polk, during the period. On 5 July, an adult was seen feeding an immature bird, so breeding seems highly probable (Carol Karlin, Bill Tice, Roy Gerig, Erik Knight).

Common Murre
Encouraging reports from breeding colonies were the first this decade (Roy Lowe et al.).

Black Swift
6 were at their suspected nesting location at Salt Creek Falls, Lane, 10 June (Roy Gerig). Other sightings included 1 in Beaverton, Washington, 5 July (David Heath).

Rufous Hummingbird
Most unusual was a male seen 7 miles offshore on a pelagic trip out of Depoe Oregon Birds 26(1): 145, Spring 2000.
Bay, Lincoln, on 17 July (Matt Hunter)

Lewis's Woodpecker
1 was in Gresham, Multnomah, 6 July (Dave Bailey, Dave Helzer).

Ash-throated Flycatcher
1 was at the Sandy River Delta, Multnomah, 26 June (Bob Altman).

Eastern Kingbird
1 was on Cape Blanco, Curry, 1 and 22 June (Terry Wahl). A pair returned to the Sandy River Delta, Multnomah, for the seventh consecutive year. Another was on Mt. Pisgah, Lane, 1, 3, and 22 June (Don DeWitt).

Red-eyed Vireo
1 was back at the Luckiamute Landing, Polk, where they were found last year (Karen Sparkman). No others were reported from new locations in the Willamette Valley. Birds were found at Virginia Lake, Sauvie Island; Smith and Bybee Lakes; and Government Island, all Multnomah, during the period (Ray Korpi; Dan van den Broek; Bob Altman).

Bank Swallow
The colony found last year at Nesika Beach, Curry, had at least 118 burrows and 80 birds (Nate Wander, Colin Dillingham). 1 was at New River, Coos, 21 July (Dave Lauten).

Rock Wren
Polk County's third record was found in a clear-cut 3 miles east of Markam, Clackamas, 12 June, was seen well and recorded (Skip Russell, Darlene Philpott, Tim Janzen).

Wrentit
1 was found on a BBS route east of Lebanon, Linn, 22 June (Kelly Bettleger). This was the second county record (fide Greg Gillson) and may be the farthest north on the west slope of the Cascades yet.

Northern Mockingbird
1 was along the road to the South Jetty of Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, 12 June (Roger Robb). 1 was at the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, 27 June (Dave Lauten). 2 were 3 miles north of Central Point, Jackson, 3 July (Dennis Vroman).

Northern Waterthrush
1 was in Lincoln City, Lincoln, 12 June (Phil Pickering). 1 was at Salt Creek Falls, Lane, 4 July, where they are regular (Roger Robb).

Black-chinned Sparrow
1 found singing in a clear-cut 3 miles east of Markam, Clackamas, 12 June, was seen well and recorded (Skip Russell, Darlene Philpott, Tim Janzen).

Clay-colored Sparrow
1 was singing at the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, 9-11 June (Dave Lauten).

Northern Waterthrush
1 was along the road to the South Jetty of Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, 12 June (Roger Robb). 1 was at the north spit of Coos Bay, Coos, 27 June (Dave Lauten). 2 were 3 miles north of Central Point, Jackson, 3 July (Dennis Vroman).

Brewer's Sparrow
A singing bird was near Astoria, 9 June, for a first Clatsop record (Mike Patterson). 2 were found at Trailbridge Reservoir, eastern Linn, 14 June (Roy Gerig); 2 were found 3 miles north of Central Point, Jackson, where they have been seen in past summers. 1 with a brood patch was captured and banded 18 miles west of Grants Pass and is one of a few records for Josephine County (Dennis Vroman).

Grasshopper Sparrow
1 was found at an unusual location, Trailbridge Reservoir, eastern Linn, 14 June, but could not be relocated (Roy Gerig).

Golden-crowned Sparrow
A breeding plumaged bird was seen and heard well in Gearhart, Clatsop, on 20 July for a very rare summer record (Todd Thornton).

Lapland Longspur
A breeding plumaged male was near 10 Miles Beach, Lincoln, 1 June (Range Bayer); another was at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, 3 June (Dave Copeland).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Photos were taken of a pair in southeast Portland, Multnomah, 7 July (Pat Blair).

Common Grackle
1 was in Port Orford, Curry, 16-19 June (Nate Wander).

Red Crossbill
Numerous flocks were reported from the Coast Range, less so from the Cascades.
OFO Birding Weekends for 2000 will be coordinated and principally guided by Paul Sullivan. They normally begin at dawn Saturday and end early Sunday afternoon, with Friday and Saturday nights based in the same city. Costs of lodging, transportation (car pooling), and food are up to the individual participants. Most of our travel is by private cars on public roads, with some walks on trails. We usually eat supper together on Saturday night and have a “countdown” of species seen.

Registration is $15 per person (membership in OFO not required) per weekend (K-12 Student price $10), and is required by the Tuesday before the weekend you plan to attend. Participants are sent a packet in advance of each weekend, suggesting lodging, meeting place, and other details.

Local trip leaders provide recommendations on lodging and guidance to the birding sites and bird species of the area. The $15 fee is split between OFO and the trip leaders: $5 for OFO, and $10 for the leader, who bears the costs of advance preparations, as well as his/her own expenses on the trip.

Events marked with asterisks (such as the spring and fall North American Migration Count, Christmas Bird Counts) are not OFO Birding Weekends and require separate registration. To participate, contact your local county coordinator.

25-26 March  Klamath Basin
Check out the northbound waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors in the Klamath Basin, a prime place to see large numbers of Snow Geese, Ross’ Geese, and the first American Avocets of the season. Base: Klamath Falls.

29-30 April  Curry County
Escape the cold of winter and look for the first spring migrants, as well as coastal species. Trip leader: Don Munson. Base: Gold Beach.

13 May  Spring North American Migration Count *  Malheur NWR
Look for spring migrants at this well-known hotspot in eastern Oregon. Base: Malheur Field Station.

Last week of June  Churchill, Manitoba
We are discussing a week-long trip to this well-known birding destination. Details will be announced on the OFO Web site.

22-23 July  Crook County
Visit Crook County reservoirs to look for migrant shorebirds, marsh birds, and waterfowl. Visit the forests for Veeries, Pygmy Nuthatches, woodpeckers, and warblers. Trip leader will be Chuck Gates. Base: Prineville.

26-27 August  Mouth of the Columbia River
The south jetty of the Columbia River, Astoria, and Seaside all offer interesting shorebirds, seabirds, and migrant passerines. Base: Astoria.

16 September  Fall N. American Migration Count *
23-24 September  Malheur NWR
Come enjoy the crisp air at Malheur NWR and look for fall migrants. This is a prime time of year for unusual vagrants. Leader for this trip will be Tim Janzen. Base: Malheur Field Station.

14-15 October  Central Cascades
We will search for the “most wanted” Boreal Owl, for Black-backed and Three-toed woodpeckers, as well as fall waterfowl at Crane Prairie, Wickiup Reservoir, and other lakes. Base: Bend

11-12 November  Columbia River
Check out the fall migrants on the Columbia River from above the John Day dam to Hood River. This is the time of year to hope for unusual loons, scoters, etc. Base: Arlington.

9-10 December  Wallowa County
We plan to search for winter species: Bohemian Waxwings, Snow Buntings, etc, and Gray Partridge, various raptors, and waterfowl, and enjoy the beauty of the Wallowas. Base: Enterprise.

December  Christmas Bird Counts *
Don’t miss out on this special annual birding event.

Send registrations to: Paul T. Sullivan, 4470 SW Murray Blvd. #26, Beaverton OR 97005
Questions? Call (503) 646-7889

Please make a separate copy of this form for each weekend you plan to attend.
One of many extraordinary views had by Mike and Merry Lynn Denny during summer of 1999, the last of 5 summers’ efforts on the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas. Looking southwest from Sugarloaf Mtn., Baker Co., 28 June 1999. This is the first forested mountain northwest of Idaho’s Treasure Valley and the Snake River flood plain. This mountain is covered with western larch, huge Douglas-fir, aspen, and juniper; no ponderosa pine; truly a unique and interesting place. Photo/Mike Denny.

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