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Contents of *Oregon Birds* Volume 37(2)

Articles

Status and Distribution of Golden-plovers in Oregon	Adrian Hinkle	53
The Changing Status of American Redstart in Oregon	Alan Contreras	56
Murphy's Petrel Records in Oregon	Greg Gillson, Dave Irons and Michael Force	60

Birding Oregon

Oregon Birder: Thomas Meinzen	Interview by Vjera Thompson	64
Site Guide: Pistol River mouth, Curry Co.	Don Munson and Diane Cavaness	66
The Greater Peoria and Faraway Lakes Bicycle Birding Tour of 2011	Randy Campbell	67
A Walking Big Day Challenge	Noah Strycker	72

Reports and News

2011 Report of the Oregon Bird Records Committee	Harry B. Nehls	73
Predicting the Next Oregon Bird	Alan Contreras and OFO Members	78
Bird Resources in Oregon: Klamath Bird Observatory	Jaime Stephens and John Alexander	81
North American Migration Count	Chuck Gates	83

OFO Business

OFO Annual Meeting Report	Russ Namitz	86
OFO Treasurer's Report	Mary Anne Sohlstrom	87

In Memoriam

Byron Showalter, Dave Menke, Joanne Ralston Tipler	88
--	----

Christmas Bird Count Schedule, OFO Bookcase, List and map of Oregon bird chat groups	INSERT
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Front Cover: Green-tailed Towhee, 12 May 2010 near Sisters. Photo by Douglas Beall (Salem)
Back Cover: Long-eared Owls, Page Springs canyon, Harney Co. Photo by Thomas Meinzen (Eugene)

Oregon Birds

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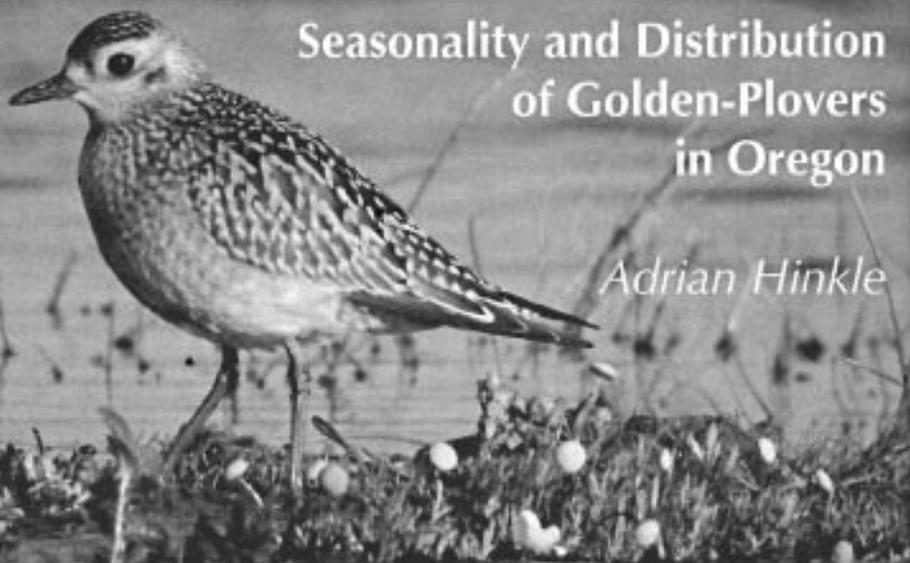
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Calliope Hummingbird at Dale, Umatilla Co, during the OFO Annual Meeting.
Photo 18 June 2011 by Kevin Smith.

American and Pacific Golden-Plovers pose a significant identification challenge for birders on the West Coast. They were considered conspecific until 1993. Now, 19 years later, it still isn't clear where and when to expect which species. Uncommon to rare migrants in Oregon, they are more frequent in fall than in spring. Both are regular west of the Cascades; only American is on the east side.



Seasonality and Distribution of Golden-Plovers in Oregon

Adrian Hinkle

Analyzing golden-plover movements in Oregon with more detail should help birders locate and identify them. For this article I gathered nearly 800 records of golden-plovers state-wide from 1990 through 2010, creating an assessment of their status in Oregon for that time frame. I discuss Eastern Oregon records, interior Western Oregon sightings, winter records, coastal status, and broader aspects of golden-plover occurrence.

Golden-plover occurrences can be split into three major geographical areas in Oregon: **coastal**, **interior Western**, and **east of the Cascades**. Most records can be defined as **spring migrant** (Apr. to mid-June), **fall migrant** (July to mid-Nov.) or **overwintering** (late-Nov. to Feb.). For graphing purposes, I split months into early- (1st to 10th), mid- (11th-20th) and late- (21st to end of the month). Since I gathered records from 1990 through 2010 only, I use terms such as "only one record" or "not annual" in reference solely to that time period.

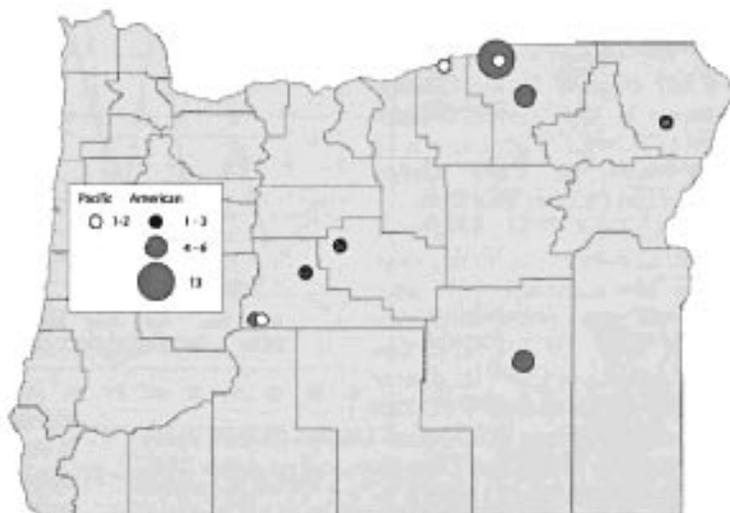
In Eastern OR (east of the Cascades) American is the expected species. There is a single spring record: May 19th-20th, 2007, in Crook County. Fall migrants have been found as early as September 4th, peak in the end of Sept., and have occurred as late as Oct. 11th. Most or all detections are of juveniles, found singly or in groups of two to four birds. They appear to be regular in small numbers in NE Oregon and at Malheur Lake, but quite rare in Central Oregon and absent from Klamath and Lake Counties. Umatilla County accounts for 19 records. Six have been reported from

American Golden-Plover. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Harney County, five from Deschutes County, two from Wallowa County, and one from Crook County.

Pacific Golden-Plovers rarely occur east of the Cascades. Though documentation is lacking, there are five reports of birds thought to be this species: 18 Sept. and 10 Oct. from Wickiup Reservoir (Deschutes), 21 Sept. and 11 Oct. from Cold Springs NWR (Umatilla), and 28 Sept. to 5 Oct. from Boardman (Morrow).

Golden-plovers rarely occur in interior Western Oregon, usually as single birds. Reports have come from Sauvie Island and the Willamette and Rogue



Golden-Plover Sightings In Eastern Oregon 1990-2010

Map by John Notis.

Valleys. There are 4 unidentified, 29 Pacific, and 15 American records. Of these, Fern Ridge Reservoir claims nine Pacific and 10 American. In the region, both species have occurred in July and peak mid-Aug. to mid-October. American has one spring (May 12th) record, while Pacific has occurred seven times between Apr. 17th and June 19th. Pacific has also occurred from late-Nov. through Feb. in the Central/Southern Willamette Valley.

Pacific Golden-Plovers rarely winter in Oregon, with about a dozen records. Single birds have been reported from late-Nov. through Feb. from the Willamette Valley: Fern Ridge Reservoir, Brownsville, Corvallis, and Tangent (where the same bird returned for 4-5 winters). During the same time period, reports have come from Tillamook Bay, Cape Blanco, and Bandon.

Both golden-plovers are easiest to find on the coast; the annual average is 28.8 in fall. Pacific outnumbers American 2:1. In fall, Pacific appears to have three peaks in occurrence. The first and largest is in the last ten days of August. This includes many adults and some juveniles. A secondary peak, primarily of juveniles, occurs in the middle of September. There is also a slight rise in numbers in early October. Sometimes stragglers occur into November, with 6 early-Nov. and 2 mid-Nov. sightings.

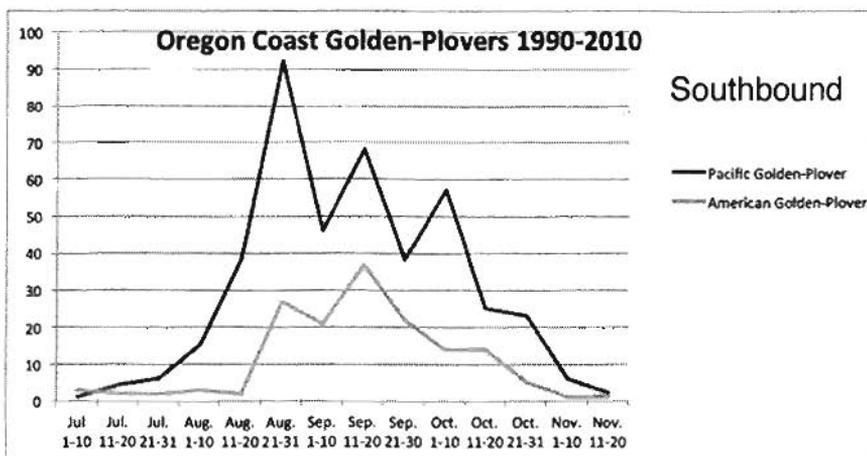
The average annual number of fall migrant Pacific Golden-Plovers is 17.9. Pacific Golden-Plover's Oregon high count is 18 individuals at Cape Blanco (Curry) on October 2nd, 2005.

American Golden-Plover peaks from late-Aug. to mid-Sep. They are extremely rare after October. There is one early-Nov. report and, exceptionally, one was photographed in Curry County on November 15th, 2009.

The coast averages 9 American Golden-Plovers every fall. Eight at North Spit Coos Bay on September 20th, 1999, is Oregon's high count.

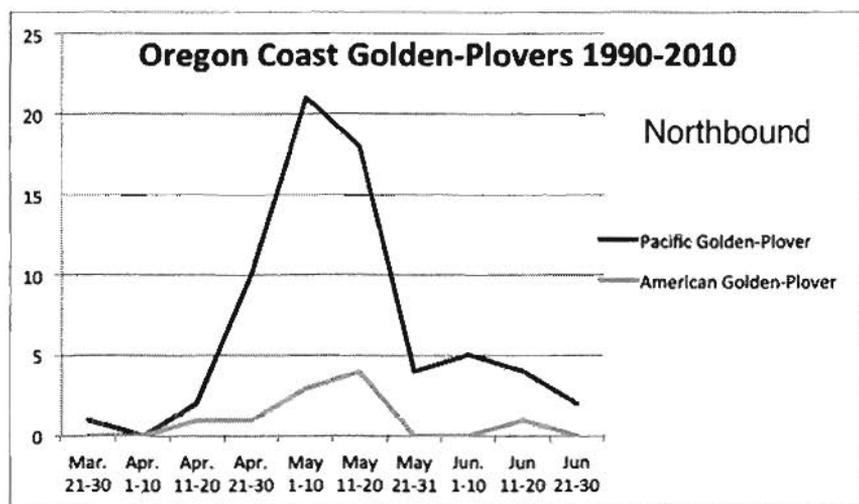
Spring golden-plovers are scarce, with an average of 3.8 every year. Pacific is the predominant species. A March 31st Pacific record from Coos Bay is two weeks

earlier than any other spring record. Both species are most likely to be encountered from the very end of April through the middle of May. They are occasionally encountered during June as either late or early migrants; one American and 11 Pacific records are



scattered throughout the month. A lot of June sightings probably pertain to late northbound birds. Records of molting adult Pacific Golden-Plovers during the last week of June presumably pertain to southbound birds.

Location and timing are not the only things that affect golden-plover observations in the state. Most obviously, birder coverage and awareness has

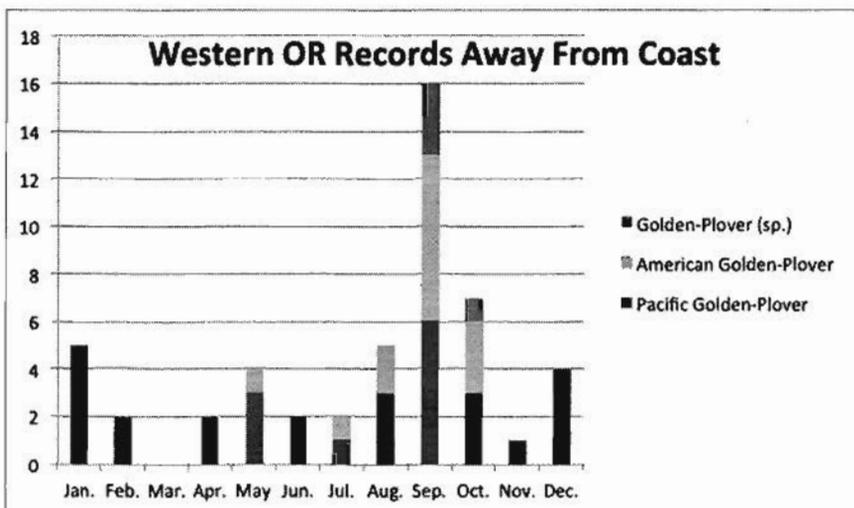


increased dramatically since 1990. Another major factor is suitable habitat. Locations such as N. Spit Coos Bay (Coos) and South Jetty Columbia River (Clatsop) have accounted for very large numbers when habitat has been appropriate, but fewer birds in recent years due to encroaching vegetation. Habitat at N. Spit Coos Bay was excellent in the early 2000's; in fall 2003 over 40

Pacific Golden-Plovers were found there.

There is also significant year-to-year variation in golden-plover movements. Compared to an average of 28.8, coastal fall detections annually have ranged from six to 73. Pacific ranges from five to 51 sightings in a single fall. No Americans were reported in 1995, while an unprecedented 42 appeared in 1999. In addition to varying amounts of birder coverage, fall sighting fluctuations are related to habitat availability, weather, and arctic nesting conditions. As visible in the graph, a good year for one species often indicates a good year for the other. The opposite is also true, but there is a lot of overlap and variation.

The most reliable site recently has been Bandon Marsh NWR (Coos). The average annual fall occurrence there the past five years has been 3.4 Pacific, 0.8 unidentified, and 2.0 American. Fort Stevens State Park (Clatsop), S. Jetty Siuslaw River (Lane), N. Spit Coos Bay (Coos), and New River (Coos) are still somewhat regular sites for fall golden-plovers as well. N. Spit

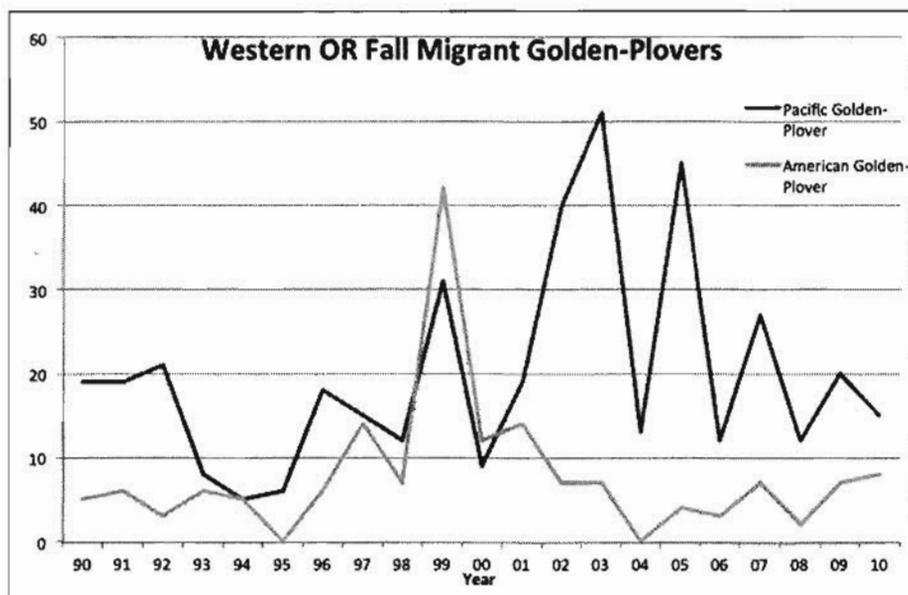


annually the past few years. East of the Cascades, the only reliable site is Cold Springs NWR (Umatilla).

Sources of Error

Undoubtedly some of these reported golden-plovers were mislabeled or misidentified by their observers. Dubious sightings without details, such as a mid-Nov. report from Eastern OR, were excluded. In general, there were very few unidentified golden-plovers reported. Apparently none were left unidentified in Eastern OR and four were left unidentified in interior Western Oregon. There were enough coastal records that the small number of unidentified birds was not statistically problematic.

Another problem with collecting records is that prior to 1993, these two species were lumped under "Lesser Golden-Plover." Observers were anticipating the split for several years beforehand, so by the early 1990s almost all records were specified as *dominica* (American) or *fulva* (Pacific). The only



Coos Bay accounts for the most records statewide for both species, and accounted for many records in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Fern Ridge Reservoir (Lane) is the best site for golden-plovers in interior Western Oregon, and has had sightings almost

instance in which a large number of unidentified birds were involved was September 11th, 1991, when a flock of 25 golden-plovers was reported from Bandon, Coos County. Apparently both "races" were present.

An issue with the general statistics/graphs is that occasionally large numbers of the birds occur during narrow time frames due to habitat availability. For example, unusual concentrations of birds at N. Spit Coos Bay in the late 1990's and early 2000's were mostly concentrated during late-Aug. because that is when habitat was best. Looking at the graph, one should note in particular that the spike in numbers during late Aug. is due to those sightings, and that mid-Sept. brings more birds than late-Aug. during the average migration.

The remaining, and largest, issue is that it was simply impossible to gather all records going back to 1990. The creation of OBOL and other forms of birder communication have made it easier to access bird records for this decade, and excluded a higher percentage of older records. Fortunately Harry Nehls lent me note cards on which he has been collecting hundreds of records since before 1990; they were very thorough, easy to glean information from, and mentioned which "subspecies" for pre-1993 records.

Since almost all of the golden-plover records came from those notes, the percentage of accessible records was fairly steady for the whole time period. I collected the remainder of my sightings from Tim Rodenkirk's notes, Birdnotes.com, Birds of Oregon: A General Reference, OBOL archives, and emails forwarded to me personally.

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Thanks to John Notis for the map, Harry Nehls, and Tim Rodenkirk.



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The Changing Status of American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) in Oregon

Alan Contreras

Oregon birders who began observing birds in Oregon in the 1970s and 1980s considered American Redstart to be a species that was uncommon and local as a breeder in northeastern Oregon, but which could be found in summer in proper habitat in certain areas. The slow fading of this species as an Oregon breeder has gone largely unremarked, even though by the time of the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas (1995-1999) the only confirmed breeding was a single pair near Sisters. The purpose of this article is to trace what is known of changes in the status of this species over time.

General and regional distribution

The American Redstart is a common breeder in most of forested eastern North America, and its breeding range extends west across the northern Rocky Mtn. system to northern Idaho, NE Washington, the

Canadian Rockies and northwest to the limit of tree line in Canada.

In Washington, the species is considered an uncommon breeder in the NE counties and a rare breeder in the n. Cascades and the Blue Mtn. region (Wahl et al. 2005). In Idaho, it is fairly common in the northern panhandle south roughly to the Moscow region in appropriate montane habitat (east of the grasslands), and occasional as a breeder south to the montane regions east of Wallowa Co., Oregon (Burleigh 1971, Svingen and Dumroese 2004, Charles Swift p.c.)

Although the species does not breed in the intermontane west, an isolated area along the n. California coast has had a number of successful breedings, most recently in 1995, and the species is considered a "casual to rare breeder" there (Harris 2006).

Early Oregon records

The first evidence that the American Redstart bred, or attempted to breed, in Oregon came on 30 June 1910 in the Willow Creek valley near Brogan, Malheur Co. when a pair was seen (Peck 1911). On 14 July of that year the female was observed to be feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), which suggests that a nest was built and breeding attempted. Anthony (1913) reported American Redstart with no further information near Ironside, further north in the Willow Creek valley in the summer of 1912.

These were the only records that implied breeding included in Gabrielson and Jewett (1940), for which the

"The species was first discovered in the Davis Lake area (and for that matter, in the Cascades), off West Davis Campground ... by Larry McQueen and Randy Floyd. Then a male was found at Odell Cr. By Dan Gleason, 8 July 1972. In 1973, Herb Wisner and his ornithology class located a nest at the West Davis site, which contained eggs, one of which was a cowbird's. On 29 June 1974, a nest with four young was found in the same area by Chip Jobanek, Aaron Skirvin and Larry McQueen."

Another Davis Lake nest, empty but with juveniles nearby, was found on 20 July 1974 (Crowell and Nehls 1974). There were two singing males at Odell Creek near Davis Lake on 18 June 1975; on 12-13 July three males and two females were found at the same place (Crowell and Nehls 1975). Redstarts were also found at nearby Crescent Creek (Rogers 1977). At that site, two pairs and a stray male summered (McQueen 1977).

No published reports from Davis Lake can be found for summer, 1978 or 1979, but in 1980 a redstart was found about ten miles east along the Little Deschutes River, of which Crescent Creek is a tributary (Watson 1980). Martha Sawyer found one in the same place in summer, 1981 (Watson 1981). This central Cascades "colony" of redstarts thus appears to have existed for about ten years. A "fresh immature" found there in early August, 2000 (Marshall et al. 2003) suggests that the area may still occasionally attract the species.

A pair found 6 July 1982 near Glide, Douglas Co. but not present thereafter cannot be categorized as a breeding attempt, but is worth noting (Harrington-Tweit et al. 1982).



Breeding records as shown on this map may represent multiple records in the same general area over time or in the same year. See text for details. Map by John Notis.

data cutoff was 1935.

Breeding records since 1935

Breeding data for American Redstart in Oregon is surprisingly slim for a species that was considered a "regular" local breeder for over twenty years. In fact, there was more published breeding evidence for western Oregon and the central Cascades than for northeastern Oregon through the 1970s.

The first nest found in Oregon was near Shady Cove, Jackson Co. on 2 July 1970 (Browning 1975). It contained four young. Two pairs and a stray male were found at s. Davis Lake, Klamath Co. in June 1972 (Crowell and Nehls 1972), described in useful detail by McQueen (1977):

Status in Northeastern Oregon

In the summer of 1980 "[T]here were several reports of Am. Redstarts, the first in 3 years, in Union County, Ore." (Rogers 1980). A nest containing four young along the Grande Ronde River west of LaGrande found by Joe Evanich in summer, 1981 was described as the first nest found in northeastern Oregon (Rogers 1981), although Faxon (1982) had found a pair along the Willowa R. in the town of Willowa on June 17, 1977. In summer, 1981, Watson (1981) relied on unnamed local observers who said it was a good year for them in NE Oregon, with eight singing birds known.

During the 1980s I found it with some consistency at Red Bridge State Park along the upper Grande Ronde. Evanich (1982) listed some specific sites with pairs: In

addition to two pairs in Union Co, a pair was in the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area in Baker Co. and another was found 1.1 miles east of the town of Wallowa, Wallowa Co. on 11 June. For details of the latter record of a pair using the same site in 1977 and 1982, see Faxon (1982).

Evanich (1983a) notes that five males and two females were seen along the Grande Ronde River near LaGrande in summer, 1983. On June 4 of that year, four males were found singing at an old rifle range 18 miles from LaGrande along the Grande Ronde River (Evanich 1983b).

Steve Summers (1985) wrote in his *Oregon Birds* field notes for that summer that one male sang along the Grande Ronde from May 18 through at least July 6. He also noted that Craig Corder had found redstarts "on territory in at least 8 locations along the Umatilla River in Umatilla Co. between Cayuse and Gibbon" that summer. Anderson (1987) reported that about five were noted along the Grande Ronde by Evanich, Donna Lusthoff and Ken Knittle. He also reported that "about 5" were found east of the town of Wallowa by Roy Gerig, also in summer, 1987.

In 1990, when Joe Evanich published *The Birder's Guide to Oregon*, he stated that American Redstart was one of the species considered "quite common" in the upper Grande Ronde River region west of Hilgard Junction (Evanich 1990, p. 188). Evanich later (1992) called it "most common along Grande Ronde River above LaGrande," undoubtedly referring to the same area.

However, by the time of the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas project (1995-1999), American Redstart was a very rare breeder and could not be found along the Grande Ronde. Indeed, the Atlas, which placed dozens of observers in corners of northeastern Oregon that were, then and now, essentially uncovered, found only two probable or confirmed breeders in the state, one along the upper Umatilla R. in 1997 (Mike Denny) and the isolated pair at Calliope Crossing (Pine Street) near Sisters.

During the Atlas project only four other redstarts were reported in five years, including one near Baker City (Vern Marr), one along Hwy. 244 in Union Co. (Wayne Weber) and one in montane Marion Co. by Barb Bellin. None of these showed breeding evidence. A pair along Beaver Cr. adjacent to Hwy. 26 in nw. Wasco Co. (a male by Greg Gillson and Matt Hunter on 28 June and a female by Harry Nehls on 13 July) might possibly have been breeders.

Records since the Atlas project

A pair bred along Indian Ford Cr. at Calliope Crossing (known then as Squaw Back Rd. and today as Pine Street) near Sisters, Deschutes Co. in summer, 2000,

with a female and one imm. remaining in the area all of July (Spencer 2000). This site may have been used by at least one breeding pair from 1999-2005; singles were seen there through 2006 (Gates 2011, East Cascades database. See also Spencer 2002).

In June, 2000, a pair attempted to breed at Cape Blanco, Curry Co. but the nest failed (T. Wahl, in Marshall et al. 2003).

A pair was found by Dennis Vroman et al. at Malone Spring campground along Upper Klamath Lake from 12-26 June, 2003 (Spencer 2003). There have been multiple records of single birds in riparian areas along the lower east slopes of the Cascades, including along Klamath Lake. Most of these records are from Jefferson Co. south, although this may reflect observer coverage.

Current status in Oregon

There have been only four reports of redstart (including a September migrant) in Umatilla Co. since 2001 (Skirvin 2009), and the species is considered very rare and a nonbreeder there now. There are no published records of pairs or presumed breeding of which I am aware for Union, Wallowa or Baker Co. since 1997. There are no recent Grant Co. records (Tom Winters p.c.). In 2011 there were only two migrants reported anywhere in Oregon, one at Cascade Head, Lincoln Co. (Phil Pickering, OBOL) and a singing male at Alder Springs, Jefferson Co. (Steve Dougill, OBOL).

Breeding and presumed breeding records in the east Cascades region are irregular and isolated, with no ongoing "colony" sites with multiple pairs since the 1970s and no pairs or breeding evidence found since 2005.

American Redstart should therefore be considered a **nonbreeding** bird in Oregon today except for occasional pairs that are outside the principal breeding range. It does not appear to breed annually in Oregon. Any evidence of breeding should be considered noteworthy and reported for inclusion in field notes.

One of the caveats that must be appended to this summary is that there are very few observers in northeastern Oregon. Most habitat that might contain redstarts in Wallowa and Baker Cos. gets exceptionally low coverage. That said, Union County gets some coverage and Umatilla quite a bit, so it seems likely that at least in the latter two counties, the apparent withdrawal of redstarts is a real phenomenon.

Also, Mike Denny (pc) indicates that redstart no longer occurs as an occasional breeder in SE Washington. Charles Swift of Moscow, ID (pc) notes that he finds them only in Idaho, north and east of Moscow, and not in SE Washington or NE Oregon. Dave Trochlell, who edits Idaho reports for *North American Birds*, writes (p.c. to author) that:

“In Idaho, I would judge the species to be locally rare and almost certainly declining. The farthest south breeding population inhabits small deciduous trees and tall shrubs mixed with conifers (in riparian areas) that surround the base of West Mountain and the west side of Cascade Reservoir in Valley County. I saw them there regularly in late May or early June in the 1990s, but clearing and development of this area since then has reportedly greatly reduced their numbers.”

The database of eBird shows no records in recent years for NE Oregon.

Habitat use by Oregon redstarts

If you are looking for redstarts in Oregon, what kind of habitat should you check? There is little published information about the habitat preferences of American Redstart in Oregon. Faxon (1982) noted that the Wallowa R. birds were using cottonwoods with a few intermixed fir trees, with a willow understory. Red Bridge State Park is surrounded by a rather open stand of evergreens edged by shrubs, with willows along the river. The Umatilla River sites are similar, with a combination of very tall trees and a short, dense understory. The Crescent Creek and Davis Lake sites are both a mix of somewhat open evergreen canopy and a willow understory. All known breeding sites in Oregon are along or very near streams or lake margins. Most sites have at least some openings.

Svingen and Dumroese (2004) note that in the Idaho panhandle, the preferred habitat is aspen stands within pine forests.

Anyone birding in Umatilla, Union, Baker or Wallowa Cos. in coming summers should be alert for the possibility of American Redstarts in appropriate habitat. With luck, these attractive birds will be a more regular breeder in Oregon again.

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The Status of Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) in Oregon

Greg Gillson
Michael Force
David S. Irons

Murphy's Petrel, 150 miles off Cape Foulweather, Lincoln Co., Oregon,
on October 31, 2005 by Rich Pagen, Southwest Fisheries Science Center.



In 1789 the mutineers of the HMS Bounty chose remote Pitcairn Island as their hideaway. They weren't the only ones hiding there, however. A local breeding bird of the Pitcairn Islands — Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) — was not described to science until 1949.

In 2011 the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) removed Murphy's Petrel from its Review List of the state's rare birds. The Committee decided that a sufficient number of records of this species had accumulated in Oregon confirming this species to be a rare but regular part of Oregon's avifauna. Most of the reports of this species have come from seabird researchers and recreational bird watchers on cruise ships far offshore. During multiple cruises, dozens of birds would be encountered in a day's time. Unfortunately, documentation for many of these sightings was not submitted to the OBRC.

Now that Murphy's Petrel is no longer a Review Species, this seems a good time to review its Oregon status, as currently understood. For this article, we've gleaned reports from scientific publications, published field notes in *Oregon Birds* and *North American Birds*, and trip reports by seagoing birders. These reports add to the accepted records of the OBRC and more accurately reflect the true status of Murphy's Petrel.

Not much is known about Murphy's Petrel because of its remote breeding location. Throughout most of its breeding range, which includes several isolated islands

and atolls in the South Pacific, eggs have been reported May-July (Onley and Scofield 2007). However, on Ducie Atoll, where about 250,000 birds breed (Brooke 1995), nests with chicks were still present in mid-November (Zimmer 1992), indicating a later breeding season at this locale. This species has been rarely encountered away from its breeding grounds, though there are a few scattered sightings in the central North Pacific. All that began to change significantly in 1981. In May of that year, seabird researcher R. L. Pitman reported four dark *Pterodroma* petrels off Oregon and 20 more off northern California (Bailey et al. 1989). The very next month (June

A Note on Behavior and Flight

Although Murphy's Petrels are not attracted to boats like some seabirds, they will occasionally change course to investigate, sometimes making a single close approach before proceeding on their previous course. They are solitary open-ocean aerialists, typically found over deep water beyond the edge of the continental shelf more than 50 miles offshore. They are similar in body size, shape, and coloration to small, dark gray fulmars, but with longer wings and a longer tail. Typically, the rigid wings are held forward at the wrist and bent back and bowed down as they swoop across the sea in rapid, high bounding arcs that alternate direction to the right and left.

15, 1981) North America's first verified Murphy's Petrel washed ashore five miles south of Newport, Lincoln Co., Oregon (specimen at Smithsonian Museum of Natural History as No. USNM 571368, Irons and Watson 1985).

For the remainder of that decade a few dark *Pterodroma* petrels—identified tentatively as either Murphy's or Solander's (*Pterodroma solanderi*)—were glimpsed by seabird researchers off the West Coast (See the sidebar, "Murphy's or Solander's?"). Four Murphy's seen off California on April 10, 1986 were accepted as that species by the California Bird Records Committee (Roberson 1993). In March 1987 and again in March 1988, single Murphy's Petrels washed ashore in Oregon. In late April 1989 a deep water expedition was mounted out of San Francisco. On this trip, which ventured up to 90 miles offshore, ninety-eight Murphy's Petrels were documented, with many photographs and a specimen secured (Erickson et al. 1989, Roberson 1993). A research cruise April 7-11, 1991 recorded one-hundred twenty-two individuals off Monterey County, California and nearby waters, where it was described as "the most common bird far offshore" (Yee et al. 1991).

Subsequent records from California confirmed the status first recognized by Bailey, et al. (1989). Murphy's Petrels primarily occur far offshore (usually >50 miles) from April-September, with a peak from April to June (Roberson 1993, California Bird Records Committee 2007). There have been some sightings from shore during high winds off California (Roberson et al. 1999), Washington (Mlodinow et al. 2006), and Oregon (Gross 2009, Bayer 2011; See accompanying list of sightings).

Until very recently, Murphy's Petrel sightings from Oregon were less frequent than sightings from California. In spring of 1994 and 1997, NOAA seabird researcher Michael Force reported this species on offshore marine mammal population assessment surveys conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Protected Resources Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California.

Murphy's Petrel Reports in Oregon

(OBRC = Oregon Bird Records Committee)

20 May 1981: 4 birds (Solander's/Murphy's) 55-70 miles off Columbia R mouth to Heceta Head by R.L. Pitman (Bailey 1989, Nehls 2003).

15 June 1981: 1 bird found dead on the beach five miles south of Newport, Lincoln Co. by Bob Loeffel. First verified Oregon record. Specimen at Smithsonian Museum of Natural History as No. USNM 571368 (OBRC 100.1-81-01, Irons and Watson 1985, Nehls 2003).

6 March 1987: 1 female live on beach, but later died, Horsfall Beach, Coos Co. Specimen at Los Angeles Natural History Museum as No. LACM 103774. (OBRC 100.1-87-02, Nehls 1999, Nehls 2003).

27 March 1988: 1 female found dead on beach, two miles south of Cape Blanco, Curry Co. Specimen at Los Angeles Natural History Museum as No. LACM 106131. (OBRC 100.1-88-03, Nehls 1999, Nehls 2003).

18 April 1994: 18 birds about 200 nmi west of Waldport (Michael Force % Dr. Lisa Ballance, NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC).

4 May 1997: 14 birds about 105 nmi west of Cape Blanco, off Curry and Coos Cos. (Michael Force % Dr. Lisa Ballance, NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC). [Not May 3, 1997 as Lillie 1997, Tweit and Lillie 1997, and Nehls 2003.]

5 May 1997: 3 birds about 50 nmi west of Cape Arago, (Michael Force % Dr. Lisa Ballance, NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC).

5 May 1997: 1 bird about 95 nmi west of the Umpqua River, (Michael Force % Dr. Lisa Ballance, NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC).

6 May 1997: 3 birds about 55 nmi west of Cascade Head off Lincoln Co. (Michael Force % Dr. Lisa Ballance, NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC).

12 May 1997: 7 birds about 105 nmi west of Yaquina Head, Lincoln Co. (Michael Force % Dr. Lisa Ballance, NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC). [Not 2 birds 140 nmi west of Lane Co. as Lillie 1997, Tweit and Lillie 1997, and Nehls 2003.]

19 September 1999: 1 bird (Solander's/Murphy's) off Clatsop Co. from cruise ship by Gilligan et al. (Johnson 1999, Gilligan 2000, Mlodinow and Tweit 2000, Nehls 2003).

31 October to 2 November 2005: 11 birds [plus 2 additional Solander's/Murphy's not submitted to OBRC] 44-173 nmi offshore, Lincoln-Curry Cos. by Rich Pagen (photos), Thomas Staudt, and Cornelia Oedekoven (OBRC 100.1-05-05, Nehls 2007, Pagen and Staudt 2005, Pyle 2006, Gross 2006, Mlodinow et al. 2006).

2-19 April 2008: 8 birds off Oregon, all 80+ km offshore. These include 3 birds 90-127 km (48-68 nmi) west of Cape Blanco, Curry Co. by Scott Mills, Terry Hunefeld (photo) on April 13. The OBRC reviewed and accepted 1 photographed bird on April 13, 90 km W. Cape Blanco (OBRC 100.1-08-07, Nehls 2009, Irons 2008, Irons et al. 2008).

11 May 2008: 5 birds offshore from Curry to Lane Cos. from cruise ship by Jeff Gilligan, Dave Irons, Owen Schmidt (photos). OBRC accepted 1 Murphy's photographed 40 miles west of Curry Co. (OBRC 100.1-08-06, Irons 2008, Irons et al. 2008, Nehls 2009).

8 May 2009: 35+ birds off Curry to Clatsop Cos. from cruise ship by Jay Withgott, Dave Irons, Ryan Shaw, et al., including 1 identified as Solander's 60 nmi off Lane Co. by David Irons, B. Hinrichs, Steve Mlodinow, et al. (Rodenkirk 2009, Gross 2009, Irons et al. 2009).

12 May 2009: 1 "probable" bird from shore at Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co. by Phil Pickering (Gross 2009).

1 May 2010: 44-49 birds off Curry to Clatsop Cos. from cruise ship by Ryan Merrill (8 photos), Todd Hass, Randy Bjorklund (OBRC 100.1-10-08, accepted fide Harry Nehls (pers. comm. June 8, 2011); Irons et al. 2010, Rodenkirk 2011).

12 May 2010: 5-6 birds off Curry to Lincoln Cos. from cruise ship by Jeff Gilligan and Owen Schmidt (Irons et al. 2010, Bayer 2011, Rodenkirk 2011).

6 November 2010: 1 "probable" bird from Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co. by Wayne Hoffman (Bayer 2011).

11 May 2011: 5 birds off Coos to Lincoln Cos. from cruise ship by Michael Harrison (pers. comm. with Gillson in June 2011; Irons et al. 2011).

20 May 2011: 6 birds off Curry to Tillamook Cos. from cruise ship by Namitz et al. (pers. obs. by Gillson; Irons et al. 2011).

Murphy's or Solander's?

Sight records—and even photos—of dark *Pterodroma* petrels off the West Coast of North America presented quite an identification challenge throughout the 1980's (California Bird Records Committee 2007). Until beach-cast specimens from Oregon of definitive Murphy's Petrels were accurately identified, many thought Solander's Petrel more likely to occur in the Northeast Pacific.

Even after Murphy's was proved to be the default dark petrel in the California Current, Solander's Petrel sightings continued to be reported by experts familiar with both species. An excellent series of photos of a bird off British Columbia, Canada, in October 2009, continues to divide experts as to its true identity (Pranty et al. 2010).

Observers on additional NOAA/NMFS/SWFSC marine mammal surveys, CSCAPE in the spring of 2005 and ORCAWALE in 2008, also found Murphy's Petrels (Nehls 2007, Nehls 2009).

In 1999 birders began taking annual spring and fall cruises on luxury cruise liners between Vancouver, British Columbia and San Francisco or Long Beach, California. These "repositioning cruises," which travel about 45-60 miles offshore, have proven to be one of the most reliable ways to find Murphy's Petrel off the West Coast, particularly during May. Interestingly, Gilligan et al. recorded their first probable Murphy's Petrel off northern Oregon on a September 1999 cruise (Gilligan 2000). More recent cruises in May 2009 recorded over 35 Murphy's Petrels and in May 2010 over 40 were seen. It should be noted that these repositioning cruises only run in April/May and September, thus "forcing" the records to these time windows. Murphy's Petrels continue to be quite rare in Oregon waters during fall, but have been recorded on nearly all May cruises 2008-2011.

In summary, Murphy's Petrel is typically found over deep water beyond the edge of the continental shelf more than 50 miles offshore. They are presumed to be rare far offshore at any season, but are now considered "expected" off Oregon from mid-April to early June.

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Salem photographer Doug Beall has produced a calendar of his photos as a fundraiser for Salem's Turtle Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation center. The cost is \$20. Contact Turtle Ridge at:

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Oregon Birders

Thomas Meinzen

Interviewed by
Vjera Thompson



I recently interviewed Thomas Meinzen, a 14-year-old birder from Eugene, to introduce him to Oregon Birds readers. He's one of a new generation of birders, and is the age I was when I started birding (16 years ago!). He's already a decent bird photographer; you can see photos he has taken on the following page and on the back cover of Oregon Birds. -- Vjera Thompson

How old were you when you started birding and how old are you now?

I started birding two summers ago when I was 12 years old, and I am 14 now. Before that, my interests included dragonflies, wildflowers, and fungi -- I have been fascinated with nature for a long time.

What got you started birding? Was there a particular bird, experience, or teacher/mentor?

I started birding exactly two years ago on a car camping trip to the Midwest (specifically, Illinois and Wisconsin) for a family reunion. On the trip, for whatever reason, I had only taken two books: The National Audubon Society Guide to Wildflowers of North America and Sibley's Guide to Birds of Western North America, which my dad had recently purchased.

Our trip was a month away from home with 6+ hours in the car most days, much of it on interstate highways. So, naturally, I read. I read both the wildflower book and Sibley's Guide cover-to-cover three times each. With this opportunity and my new knowledge, I discovered a thrilling world of color at each campsite we stopped at.

My most memorable "first bird" was a Red-headed Woodpecker at a campsite in Nebraska. I think that it was this experience and the "forced study" of Sibley's Guide that sparked my interest in birds. When we arrived home I wanted to put up a bird bath, and although it only has attracted Western Scrub-Jays, I've been hooked. I now operate 9-12 bird feeders year-round and have counted 68 bird species in our small suburban yard in Eugene.

What was your most recent lifer in Oregon?

My most recent lifer in Oregon was the Long-eared Owl. I saw five at Page Springs Campground near Frenchglen, just past the gate on the nature trail at the south end of the campground. What a thrill!

What has been your favorite birding experience so far?

Hmm, that's a hard one. I would say it's a tie between two. The first would be bird feeding in August, not because we get the most variety then or the most amazing colors, but just because everything is so



Stilt Sandpiper. Photo by Thomas Meinzen.

green and we feed many of my favorite birds - Red-breasted Nuthatches. I love the way nuthatches and our two types of chickadees fly back and forth from our

old oak to the sunflower feeder, caching seeds and giving their chipper calls.

The second experience happened just recently, at a campground in Great Basin National Park, Nevada, on our way back from a family reunion. I had stepped into some pinyon pine woods after seeing a dart of movement, and stopped, listening. Suddenly, a hummingbird was buzzing around my head, circling so close that I could feel its wingbeats move my hair. I froze, actually afraid that if I moved I might bump into it. I wondered if I had something red in my hair.

The hummingbird continued to hover millimeters from my head for several minutes, occasionally perching on a twig a foot from my nose. When I heard it stop hovering right above my head, I slowly looked up.... and there it was, sitting on a tiny nest, on a branch just inches above my head. It was a female Broad-tailed Hummingbird, a lifer. I stepped away and it relaxed and flew away. I peeked inside, using my camera, and found a single white egg, no larger than the tip of my pinky finger. Soon the hummingbird returned and settled down on the nest to incubate. Definitely one of my favorite birding experiences.

What kind of birding-related activities have you done? Do you draw? Take photographs? Volunteer?

I am an avid bird photographer. I use a 12x optical zoom Canon Powershot point-and-shoot that I received last Christmas, and I've found that with a lot of patience and a little luck, you can get great photos. I'm

not really interested in a higher-quality camera because I like the challenge of getting clear, close photos without expensive technology.

Apart from that, I draw a little and write a little about birds, I feed them year-round, and read a lot about them. I have not done any serious bird-related volunteer work yet, but in high school I hope to incorporate birds and their ecosystems in my community service hours and/or senior project, possibly volunteering for the Lane County Audubon Society in the future.

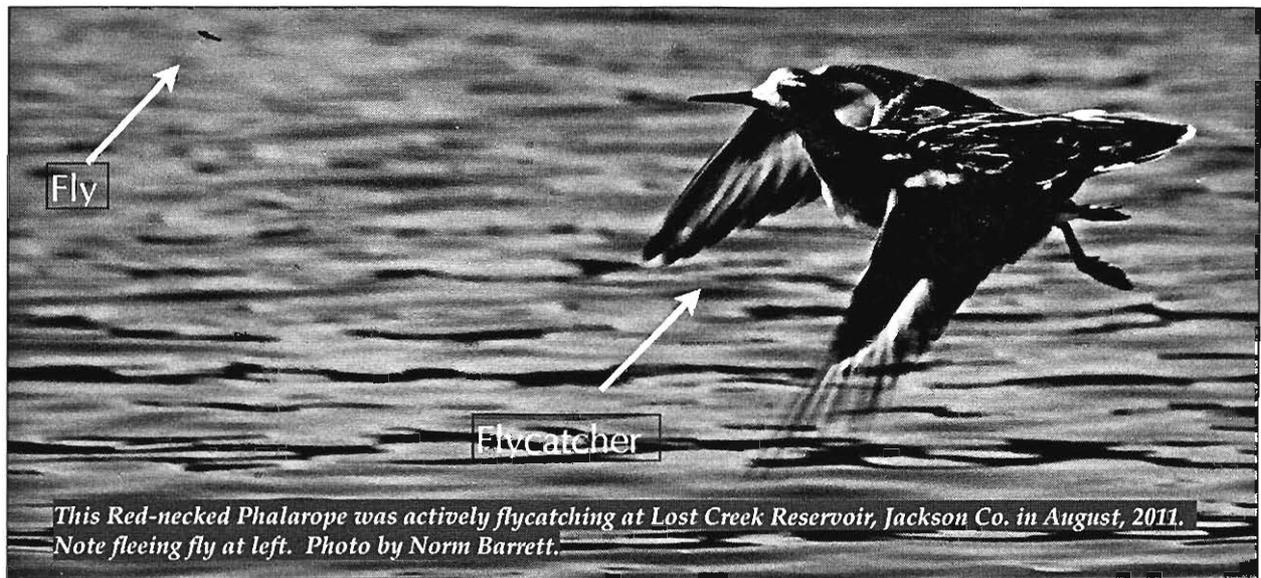
Name one other interesting thing about you that may or may not relate to birding.

Some of my other hobbies I enjoy doing in my free time are playing soccer, writing, reading, composing on the piano, playing clarinet in my school band, playing any game, and climbing trees.

Are you planning a career related to birds? Do you think you will go to college to study birds? Where?

Perhaps I should be planning a career, but being not-yet-a-Freshman in high school, I have not really considered it in depth. A career related to birds is certainly a possibility, but I cannot say at this point in time. The same goes for college, I'm afraid.

My older brother is going to Valparaiso University in Indiana, but I am more of a homebody and do not think that I will travel that far. Still, a lot can change in four years.

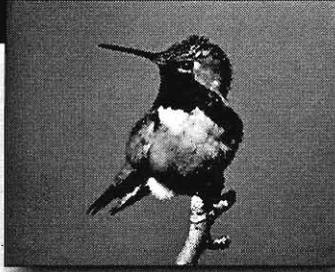


Site Guide:

Birding the Pistol River Area, Curry County

Don Munson

Diane Cavaress



The Pistol River area, located between Brookings and Gold Beach in Curry County sports many different habitats and therefore the opportunity to observe many species of birds. Area habitats include a natural river mouth, beach and estuary, coastal scrub, riparian, willow/alder/spruce, and extensive pasturelands with seasonal ponds and the river.

To bird the pasture lands and other habitats along the river, turn east on the frontage road to Pistol River, which is 17 miles north of Brookings or 9 miles south of Gold Beach on Highway 101. This frontage road leads, in two tenths of

a mile, to a T intersection. Turn left here and pull onto the shoulder. The hillside on the west side of the road is worth checking carefully in any season.(1)

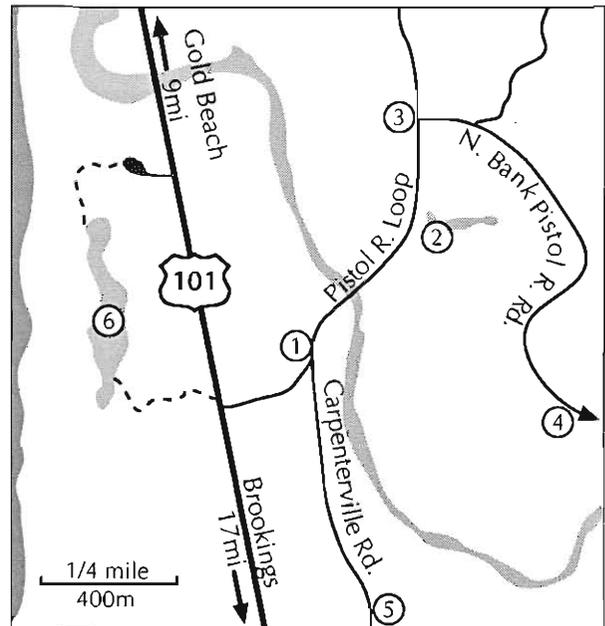
After crossing the bridge, pull off and check out the small seasonal pond/wetland and the fields on the right.(2) At the next intersection, pull off to the left at the old fire hall.(3) This area is good for sparrows, finches, raptors, and birds of open fields. Continue east up the North Bank Pistol River Road, looking for birds in the fields, woods, and wetlands. The first two miles are most productive.(4)

Good birding is also found along the half mile to the right as you come down from 101. Drive/walk south along Carpenterville Road to a community building known as the Friendship Hall.(5)

The Pistol River mouth and estuary is very dynamic - the point where it enters the ocean has moved in the last decade from a half mile south of the Highway 101 bridge to approximately 1 mile north of the bridge. This has left a lagoon along the beach south of the 101 bridge that attracts waterfowl and shorebirds depending on the season. Access to this area can be either from Pistol River State Park Viewpoint south of the 101 bridge or a horse trail from the intersection of Hwy 101 and the access road to Pistol River.(6)

Some of the approximately 200 species that have been observed in the general Pistol River area are: Emperor Goose, Trumpeter Swan, White-faced Ibis, Eurasian Wigeon, White-tailed Kite, Snowy Plover, Horned Lark, Solitary Sandpiper, Red Knot, Long-billed Curlew, Allen's Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Tropical Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Rock Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Northern & Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Wheatear, Prairie Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Bobolink, Blue Grosbeak, Clay-colored, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrow.

All lands, other than the beach and paved roads, are private. There are no "facilities" in the area. The nearest food and overnight accommodations are in the Brookings and Gold Beach areas.



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Diane Cavaress birder_1@charter.net

Allen's Hummingbird is present at Pistol River March to July. Photos by Don Munson. Map by John Notis.

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The Greater Peoria & Somewhat Distant Lakes Bicycle Birding Tour of June, 2011

With Scientific Notes on the Bullard Canyon Bloodbath, identification of Real Birders in the field and the true revealed identity of The Owl That Calls Twice

Randy Campbell

"... when the sun crested the ridge and filled the canyon, it also illuminated numbers of small, elusive flitting creatures about the size of Titmice. Unfortunately, the creatures were mosquitoes ..."

Fields along Klamath Lake

I quit birding by car several years ago. Some benefits are obvious: I get more exercise, I get a "field experience" that I couldn't have if I were riding in a box, and I pollute less and save money at the same time. But it's not some noble commitment to the environment that made me give up motorized birding—not according to my wife. Mary says that I have to do everything the hard way out of congenital contrariness. Afflicted as I am, I have to deny it. The truth is, I quit birding by car so I wouldn't feel compelled to chase every oddball bird that comes within 400 miles of our house. In other words, I gave up motorized birding because I am a lazy birder.

Sometimes, though, it's nice to see birds that don't often visit the Willamette Valley, so every now and then I'll take a trip. This last June I hung my small scope under the saddle of my bike, strapped a light tripod to the frame, packed on 60-odd pounds of other stuff, and headed across the Cascades to south central Oregon. That may sound like a lot of work to find a Willet, but it's a lot easier than finding a Willet in Peoria.

I spent the first day just getting out of the Valley. I have biked into the Cascades more than once, so this time I did my montane birding by ear while I spent the rest of my energy climbing up to Willamette Pass—and reconsidering the size of my load. In addition to optics, a field guide, and some tools for fixing tires and spokes and chain, I carry enough food and camping gear that I can stop wherever I want—where the birds are—without having to plan my trip around motels, towns, and a few inconveniently located campgrounds.

But there are other ways to travel, and it wasn't until the downhill run on the second day, the 16th, that birding took my mind off of every easier possibility. I was hoping to find a Northern Waterthrush

She looked at me somewhat perplexedly, I thought, and asked me ... why do I do my birding by bike? ... I picked a reason so obviously ridiculous that any compulsive birder would understand. I said "I have a list."

day, and I never saw that one. But, I've never heard a Northern Waterthrush in Peoria, either.

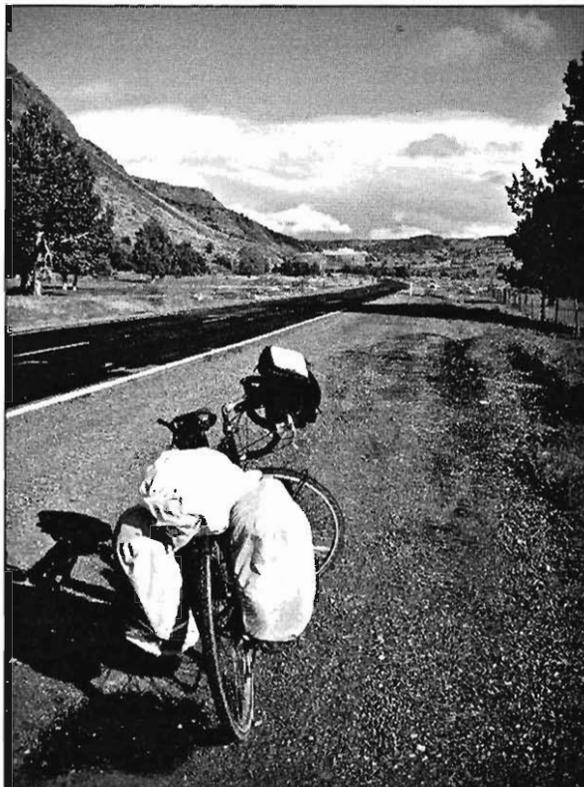
After a successful start to the trip, the next morning I headed out early for Silver Lake. I birded the pine forests along the way, but not always voluntarily, since it was hard to ride past fleeting tail-feathers and teasing tweets without chasing after the exotic possibilities, and I ended up stopping dozens of times to reacquaint myself with Pygmy Nuthatches, Gray Flycatchers, and Green-tailed Towhees. That set a pattern for my entire trip, as I repeatedly pursued chirps and glimpses, re-identified them as something that I should have recognized, and then reinforced the memory by kicking my own backside.

The plan was to spend most of that day birding Paulina Marsh, but after quickly finding a Long-billed Curlew, a Willet, several Tri-colored Blackbirds and a Ferruginous Hawk, and then chasing through the sage after several small birds that always turned out to be Sage Thrashers, I also noticed some impressive black clouds blowing in from the west. I took the hint, and I took advantage of the tail-wind, too, sailing eastward across Picture Rock Pass and then racing a hard squall down to Summer Lake.

By the next morning the weather was perfect for a day at the wildlife refuge. The only residents at Bullgate Dike Campground were two Great-Horned Owls, so I didn't get to test my birding skills on the aberrant Canada Warbler (or the Redstart, or the weird, hybrid warbler) that was reported there only a few days later—thank goodness. I was busy enough pursuing easier game, of which many were Brewer's Sparrows, one was the trip's only Lark Sparrow, and several turned out to be unmistakable Possible Sage-sparrows. Hours of searching the salt pans near Link Road failed to turn up any Snowy Plovers—either because they weren't active mid day, or because a coyote was patrolling the area, too. In compensation, several American Avocets stirred up their lunch obligingly close to my scope, and I got to watch the first of many Forster's Terns, which seemed to grace every significant wetland in south-central Oregon. I finished up the afternoon by not finding either the Common Grackle or the Eastern Kingbird that had been reported near the headquarters in the previous two days—but it sure is nice and sunny east of the mountains.

That evening I rode on to Paisley and then climbed several miles up Chewaucan Canyon to a very pretty site off the road and beside the river. My night out was rewarded by an owl hooting so clearly and persistently that identification couldn't elude any competent birder: It wasn't a Saw-whet, because the

somewhere along the tributaries of the Deschutes, so I stopped wherever I could along Crescent Creek and the Little Deschutes until I ended up where those streams met. It was at that point, at the point of giving up, where I heard an insistent loud *spink* from deep inside the willows. You don't see a Northern Waterthrush in Peoria every



Approaching Picture Rock Pass.

toots were doubled, and it wasn't a Flammulated Owl, because the pitch was too high. So, you tell me. Please.

It was all downhill to the Paisley sewage ponds. A Summer Tanager had been reported there several days earlier, so I wandered the area all morning, and though the bird didn't show up for me, the place was as pleasant as anyone ever put a sewage pond. I was even struck, as an improvisational camper, by what a promising campsite it might make—somewhere upwind. From the ponds I went to Lover's Lane, where I spent a couple hours searching the wet grasslands for a Bobolink. A walk up and down the length of the road turned up a few Sandhill Cranes, dozens of Long-billed Curlews, and, at last, a short-tailed, cream-colored, sparrow-sized bird which flew right past me before dropping out of sight.

I thought that bird was a pretty good find, but on my way back down the lane I also found two birders—two expert birders. I knew they were birders because they were looking through binoculars at a bird, and I knew they were experts because the bird was a beautiful male Bobolink. The birders were Marilyn and Craig Miller. Since they knew what they were doing, and since local knowledge trumps even the best guidebook information, I questioned and cross-questioned them about the east side, and I found out how much I had already missed. They were so pleasant and helpful that, eventually, I gave Marilyn a chance to ask a question of her own. She looked at me somewhat perplexedly, I thought, and she asked me Why? "Why do you do your birding by bike?" Since I didn't want to confuse her with the paradoxical truth, and since I didn't want to lie, I went for the ridiculous, preposterous joke. I said "I have a list."

I rode on to Lakeview that afternoon, stopping just long enough to find Black-necked Stilts and White-faced Ibises at the marshes west of Valley Falls and a Black-throated Sparrow in the sagebrush. They went right onto my list.

That night I rewarded myself with a motel room, and the next day was a rest day. It was the 21st, the longest day of the year, and it was set aside for nothing more than a (short) ride south to Kelly Creek Canyon where I would get far enough into the Warner Mountains to (easily) find a Juniper Titmouse. More biking and much hiking took me up a beautiful canyon, down again, and as far as California, but never discovered a Titmouse of any sort.

He then described some birds that looked like very small herons ... which were buff-colored. He had seen seven or eight of them on his trip, all perched just above the water on reeds... . Before I talked to that friendly, helpful stranger, I hadn't realized how badly my trip was going.

My virtual scouting before the trip had depended largely on the county-by-county birding guides provided by the East Cascades Bird Conservancy and web-based information about the local birding trails. Used correctly, these might make birding too easy. Fortunately, though, I had somehow neglected to note that Bullard Canyon is known Titmouse habitat. That canyon starts at the east edge of Lakeview—only a mile from my motel—and it is, in fact, stop #1 on the Basin and Range Birding Trail. There is even a sign there that says so. I saw it after Kevin Spencer pointed his virtual finger at it.

Following my rest day, I had planned to spend a full day riding to Klamath Falls, so I had to get out well before daybreak to get up Bullard Canyon. I hiked in more than a mile, then climbed the north side of the canyon, away from the noise of the creek and up to a point where I would have the light behind me all the way back down. It's a rare occurrence when a plan comes together, so when the sun crested the ridge and filled the canyon I was surprised to see that it also illuminated numbers of small, elusive, flitting creatures, all about the size of Titmice. Unfortunately, the creatures were mosquitoes—and the numbers were in the millions.

I had reduced those numbers by several thousand before I picked out a small gray bird among them, and I was in full retreat when the pulsing drone of the insects was joined by the "pulsing rattle" of a second Titmouse. These might have been triumphant moments for me, if I hadn't been swatting at giant

mosquitoes. But, though the bugs were running me back into town, rather than out of it, I managed to preserve a little dignity by remembering some excellent advice: I got out ahead of the mob and pretended that I was leading a parade.

The ride to Klamath Falls exhausted the remainder of the day. 3000 feet of climbing was less tiring



than 100 miles of gusty headwinds, but I'd rather blame my fatigue on that morning's dramatic and alliterative Bloodbath in Bullard Canyon. It's not hard to apply a little mosquito repellent, but it's even easier to forget.

Fortunately, the eighth day of my trip was another rest day, set aside for nothing more than a (short) ride to Lower Klamath Canyon where I would (easily) find a California Towhee. But upon reaching Topsy Reservoir, I found my directions too vague, my legs too tired, and my intentions too speculative to keep grinding up and down the long, dusty, and soft gravel roads. At least I re-learned some important lessons: Guidebook directions aren't usually written with bikes in mind, and any long chase should be its own reward—just in case that distant bird should turn out to be a bird too far. And it sure is nice and sunny in the Klamath Basin.

After all that rest, I thought I'd exercise the parts of me that weren't already worn out, so I spent the next day along the marshy edges of Upper Klamath Lake, listening. When I reached Crystal Springs—at the far end of both the lake and my patience—I finally heard a call that couldn't have been anything but a Least Bittern. Yes, I might have been exercising my imagination, too. But I did see, for real, a Red-naped Sapsucker, and a congenial White-headed Woodpecker gave me the best views I've ever had of the species. You certainly don't see them in Peoria.

That night I camped near Cherry Creek Road, and I trudged that road for a mile or two, hooting for whatever I'm worth, hoping to hear an owl—any owl. I have never used recorded calls while birding, for

The 112th Christmas Bird Count Schedule for Oregon

Dec. 14, 2011 – Jan. 5, 2012

Information compiled by:
Don Albright, (503) 538-8890,
donalbri@teleport.com.

Wednesday, December 14

Burns-Hines

Howard Richburg

(541) 573-4322
hrichburg@fs.fed.us

Rick Vetter

(541) 573-5601 (h) or 573-4369 (w)
rvetter@fs.fed.us

Meet 7:00 a.m., USFS office in Hines.
Contact the compiler in advance.

Free lodging avail. at Bowers residence.

Thursday, December 15

Upper Nestucca

Don Albright

(503) 538-8890
donalbri@teleport.com
Contact the compiler.

Friday, December 16

P Ranch - Malheur NWR

Wayne Bowers

(541) 573-5754
chukar_8@hotmail.com

Contact the compiler.

Free lodging avail. at Bowers residence.

Saturday, December 17

Baker County - Salisbury

Joanne Britton

(541) 523-5666
jobr@oregontrail.net

Meet 8:30 a.m. at weigh station on Hwy 7,
one mile south of Baker City. Please contact
the compiler beforehand as weather
conditions may close some roads in the count
circle.

Bend

Tom Crabtree

(541) 388-2462
tc@empnet.com
Contact the compiler.

Florence

Kit Larsen

(541) 344-9574
kit@uoregon.edu
Contact the compiler

Forest Grove

Mary Anne Sohlstrom

(503) 463-9540
masohlstrom@msn.com

Greg Gillson

greg@thebirdguide.com
Meet 7:00 a.m. (earlier if eating breakfast),
Elmer's Pancake House, 390 SW Adams,
Hillsboro.

Grants Pass

Dennis Vroman

(541) 479-4619
dpvroman@budget.net
Contact the compiler.

John Day

Tom Winters

(541) 542-2006
ducksouptom@centurytel.net
Meet no later than 7:00 a.m. (earlier if you
want breakfast), Outpost Restaurant, 201 W.
Main St.

Compilation dinner afterward at the
Gagnons' home. Contact the compiler for
directions.

Klamath Falls

Kevin Spencer

(541) 884-5739
rriparia@charter.net
Contact the compiler.

Medford

Bob Hunter

(541) 826-5569 (home); (541) 778-3310 (cell)
bobhunter@embarqmail.com
Contact the compiler.

Roseburg-Sutherlin

Ron Maertz

(541) 496-3847
hadada@centurytel.net
Contact the compiler.

Salem

Tim Johnson

(503) 363-8435
tim.the.fisherman@gmail.com
Contact the compiler; teams arranged in
advance.

Tillamook Bay

Owen Schmidt

(503) 282-9403
oschmidt@att.net
Meet at 6:30 am, Denny's Restaurant, 2230
Main Avenue N (Hwy 101), Tillamook.

Union County

(Cove and Union area)

Trent Bray

(541) 963-2888
avitours@aol.com
Contact the compiler.

Sunday, December 18

Columbia Estuary

Mike Patterson

(503) 325-1365
celata@pacifier.com
Meet 7:00 a.m. at Pig-n-Pancake Restaurant
in Astoria.

Coos Bay

Tim Rodenkirk

(541) 269-4696
garbledmodwit@yahoo.com
Contact the compiler.

Illinois Valley

Romain Cooper

(541) 592-2311
romain@frontiernet.net
Meet 7:00 a.m., Coffee Heaven, Hwys. 199 &
46 in Cave Junction. Please contact the
compiler in advance if possible.

Lyle, WA

(incl. The Dalles, Rowena, and Mosier, OR)

Bob Hansen

(509) 637-2736
bobhansen@gorge.net
Contact the compiler.

Sauvie Island

Oregon side contact:

Karen Bachman

(503) 289-3605 or (503) 802-2057
pppahooie@comcast.net or
karen.bachman@tonkon.com

Washington side contact:

Tammy Bjorkman

(360) 213-6489
bjorkmante@iinet.com
Contact the compilers.

Sisters

Steve Shunk

(541) 408-1753
steve@paradisebirding.com
Contact the compiler.

Wallowa County

Andie Lueders

(541) 426-5740
andielue@gmail.com

Mike Hansen

(541) 398-0532
mike.hansen@state.or.us
Meet at 7:00 a.m. (earlier if you want
breakfast) at Friends Rest. in Enterprise.

Tuesday, December 20

Corvallis

Marcia F. Cutler

(541) 752-4313
marciafcutler@comcast.net
Contact the compiler.

Summer Lake

Marty St. Louis

(541) 943-3152
martin.j.stlouis@state.or.us
Meet 7:30 a.m., Summer Lake WA
Headquarters.

Wednesday, December 21

Antone
David Schas
(541) 350-6251
stpilot_fly@yahoo.com
Contact the compiler.

Hart Mountain
Craig and Marilyn Miller
(541) 389-9115
goosemiller@msn.com
Pre-count meeting the evening before the count at Hart Mountain Refuge HQ. Free lodging for participants at HQ the night before after the count. Contact the compilers.

Madras
Kimdel Owen
(541) 771-6568
kimdelo@yahoo.com
Meet 7:00 a.m., Black Bear Diner.

Monday, December 26

Brownsville
Barbara Combs
(541) 689-6660
bcombs232@gmail.com
Meet 7:00 a.m. at Pioneer Villa Restaurant (Brownsville exit off Interstate 5).

Tuesday, December 27

Dallas
Bill Tice
(503) 951-4900
watice@msn.com
Meet 7:15 a.m. at Safeway in Dallas.
Contact the compiler in advance if possible.

Wednesday, December 28

Port Orford
Jim Rogers
(541) 332-2555
chlparl@wildblue.net
Meet 7:15 a.m., north side of Driftwood Elementary School on Hwy 101.

Tygh Valley
Jeff Hayes
(503) 933-6294
balgryph@gmail.com
Contact the compiler.

Thursday, December 29

Ashland
John Bullock
jas@opendoor.com
Harry Fuller
anzatowhee@yahoo.com
Contact the compilers.

Friday, December 30

Antelope
Pete Weigel
(206) 819-3821 or (541) 489-3280
peteweigel@clearwire.net
Meet at compiler's house, corner of Maupin & College Sts. in Antelope.
Contact the compiler in advance if possible.

Baker County - Baker Valley
Joanne Britton
(541) 523-5666
jobr@oregontrail.net
Meet 8:30 a.m. (7:30 if you want breakfast) at Sumpter Jct. Restaurant, Exit 304 off Interstate 84, in Baker City. Please contact the compiler in advance if possible.

Umatilla County
Aaron Skirvin
(541) 276-1948
umatbirder@yahoo.com
Contact the compiler.

Wahkiakum, WA
(includes Knappa and Brownsmead, OR)
Andrew Emlen
(360) 795-8009
aemlen@centurytel.net
Contact the compiler.

Saturday, December 31

Airlie-Albany
Paul Adamus
(541) 745-7092
adamus7@comcast.net
Contact the compiler.

Columbia Hills-Klickitat Valley, WA
(incl. Biggs, Rufus, and John Day Dam, OR)
Stuart Johnston
(509) 493-3363 (call between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.)
johnstonstuartf@hotmail.com
Contact the compiler.

Coquille Valley
Harv Schubothe
(541) 297-2342
ninerharv2@msn.com
Contact the compiler.

Portland
Wink Gross
(503) 226-3842
winkg@hevanet.com
Contact the compiler.

Prineville
Charles Gates
(541) 923-1320
cgates326@gmail.com
Meet 7:00 a.m. at McDonalds in Prineville.

Silverton
Roger Freeman
carrotguy55@gmail.com
Contact the compiler.

Utopia
(Culver, Lake Billy Chinook, Haystack Reservoir)
Pete Weigel
(206) 819-3821 or (541) 489-3280
peteweigel@clearwire.net
Contact the compiler.

Sunday, January 1

Cowlitz/Columbia
Bob Reistroffer
(360) 636-5125
breistrof@aol.com
Contact the compiler.

Eugene
Dick Lamster
(541) 343-8664
maeveanddick@q.com
Barbara Gleason (volunteer coordinator)
(541) 345-3974
bdgleason@comcast.net
Contact the compiler.
Post-count gathering at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St.

Hood River
Catherine Flick
(509) 493-1195
stewart@gorge.net
Meet 6:30 a.m. at the Best Western in Hood River (exit 64 off Interstate 84).

Santiam Pass
Steve Shunk
(541) 408-1753
steve@paradisebirding.com
Contact the compiler.

Yaquina Bay
Dawn Grafe
(541) 961-1307
oregoncoastbirding@gmail.com
Contact the compiler.
Post-count gathering at USFWS Office, 2127 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport.

Monday, January 2

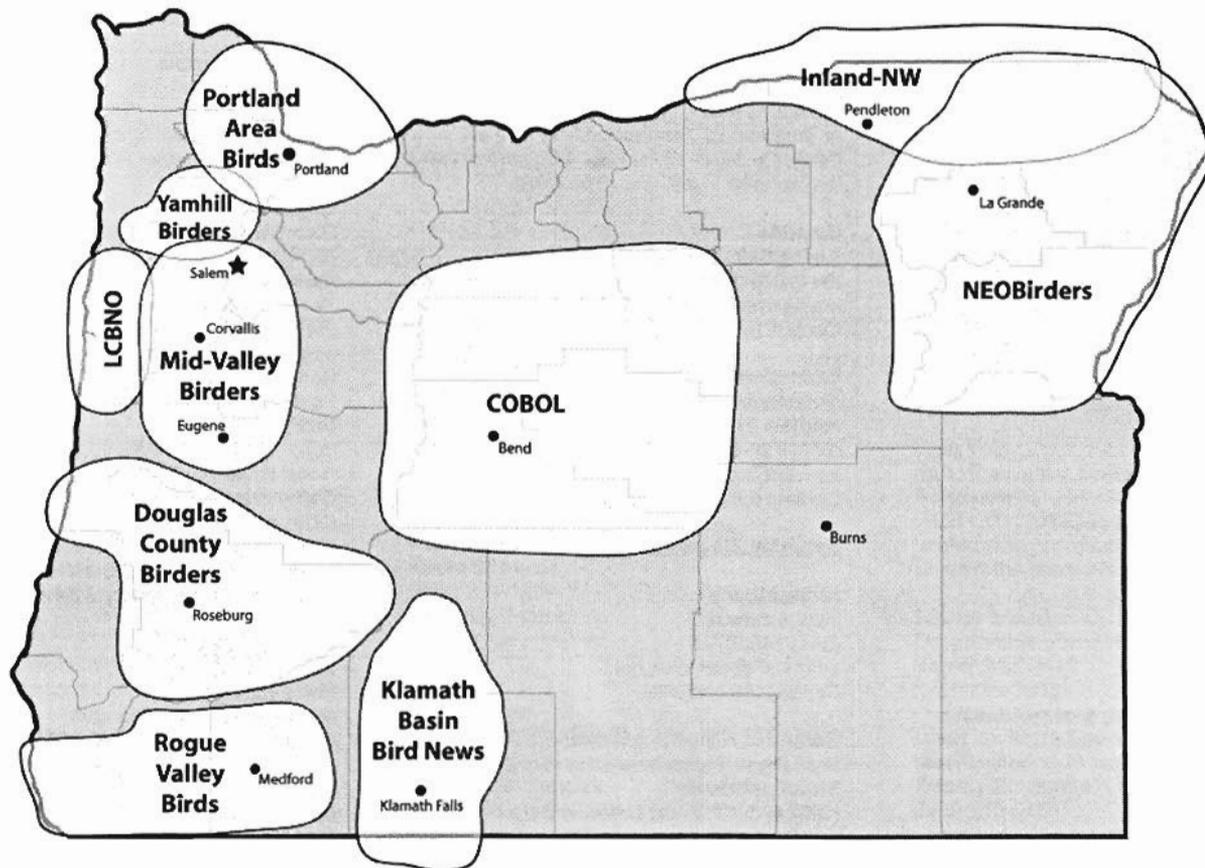
Redmond
Kimdel Owen
(541) 771-6568
kimdelo@yahoo.com
Meet 7:00 a.m. at Big O Country Nook on 5th Street.

Tule Lake, CA
(very near Oregon border)
Kevin Spencer
(541) 884-5739
rriparia@charter.net
Contact the compiler.

Wednesday, January 4

Oakridge
Joel Geier (Volunteer Coordinator)
(541) 745-5821
joel.geier@peak.org
Contact the coordinator.

Oregon's bird news e-mail lists



Oregon Birders On Line (OBOL)

Oregon Field Ornithologists

Statewide, includes border reports from adjacent states, mainly SW Washington and N. California.

http://oregonbirds.org/mailman/listinfo/obol_oregonbirds.org

1. Portland Area Birds

Privately maintained

Metro area including Columbia Co. and the near Gorge, includes adjacent SW Wash.

<http://groups.google.com/group/portland-area-birds>

2. Yamhill Birders

Privately maintained

Yamhill County and nearby areas.

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/YamhillBirders/>

3. Inland Northwest Birders

University of Idaho

Primarily eastern Washington and northern Idaho, but includes reports from NE Oregon and the Columbia Valley.

<https://www.lists.uidaho.edu/mailman/listinfo/inland-nw-birders>

4. Northeastern Oregon (NEOBirders)

Eastern Oregon University

Wallowa, Union and Baker Cos.

Contact Dr. Karen Antell, kantell@eou.edu

5. Central Oregon Birders On Line (COBOL)

East Cascades Audubon Society

Jefferson, Deschutes, Wheeler and Crook Cos. and adjacent areas.

<http://lists.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/cobol>

6. Lincoln Co. Birding & Nature Observing (LCBNO)

Privately maintained

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LCBNO/>

7. Mid-Valley Birders

Privately maintained

Primarily Linn, Polk and Benton Cos. with some coverage to Marion and Lane Cos.

<http://midvalleybirding.org/mailman/listinfo/birding>

8. Douglas County Birders

Privately maintained

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bird_sights_dc

9. Klamath Basin Bird News

Klamath Basin Audubon Society

Klamath County, Oregon and California portions of Klamath basin, some reports from adjacent areas.

<http://sites.google.com/site/klamathbasinbirdnews/>

10. Rogue Valley Birds

Privately maintained/Rogue Valley Audubon Society

Jackson and Josephine Cos and adjacent areas.

<http://groups.google.com/group/rv-birds/>

the obvious reason that tape recorders have motors in them. Of course, that excuse is a little harder to pull off now that the electronics don't require motors, but it's too much bother to figure out how the latest gadgets work, and, somehow, they seem like cheating. In any case, the ready-made excuse softened my failure to find an owl—any owl—about as well as it softened my mattress of pinecones and pebbles. Even then my fitful sleep was interrupted by ceaselessly irritating noises. The deep, repeated double-notes were loud enough to rouse me and persistent enough to drive it home that I was listening to a Flammulated Owl—probably, anyway. Sometimes we succeed despite our best efforts.

That happy thought fueled a crisp morning ride to Wood River Wetland at Agency Lake. Scoping the marsh for Least Bitterns turned up many wads of reeds hanging above the water and a few distant blobs of buff that were never quite clear enough to satisfy my sometimes elastic standards. I did get to watch Eared Grebes going through their courting rituals out on the lake. I was satisfied with that, until I stopped to talk to a fellow who had just finished a five mile paddle down Wood River. He had seen a lot of birds, he said, though he was just a beginning birder and didn't know what all of them were. He then described some birds that looked like very small Herons—smaller even than Green Herons—but which were buff-colored. He had seen seven or eight of them on his trip, all perched just above the water on reeds, and they had flown when he paddled past. Before I talked to that friendly, helpful stranger, I hadn't realized how badly my trip was going. I should have packed a kayak.

By late afternoon I was riding Silver Lake Road across Upper Klamath Marsh, where I saw the first Black-crowned Night Heron of the entire trip. It flew up out of the marsh in broad daylight. Later in the evening I heard the clicking of Yellow Rails. My plan was to camp beside the marsh, let the ticking of the rails count me off to sleep, wake only to the hoot of a Great Gray Owl, and watch the morning sun touch the Cascades high above my bowl of granola. Except that I had neglected to get extra water when it was last available—20 miles back. But that's exactly why I always carry a means to purify water—something that eliminates all pathogens from black, turbid marsh water after the muck and the bugs are strained out—something that eliminates everything but the smell. So, anyway, I started for home that night. I found clear water in an unmapped canal, made camp beside an unmarked road, and a day-and-a-half later I was back in Peoria.

Aside from some night-time rain and a few hours of gusty headwinds, the weather throughout the trip was almost perfect for both birding and bicycling. Hundreds of miles of peddling were justified by hundreds of miles of beautiful countryside. So the trip almost had to be a success—as long as birding trips aren't judged only by a list of birds found along the way, but also by the way in which we find them. And if that's how we evaluate our birding, then there are as many ways to go birding as our individual contrariness requires, and no fear of failure so long as the trip itself is pleasant.

No one need drink the swamp water. The prepared cyclist can travel almost anywhere in Oregon, and now that we are all linked electronically—whether we want to be or not—people are always at hand—whether we want them there or not. In fact, looking back, any changes I would make in the itinerary would make my route more remote, not less, and make the miles between birds a little more peaceful. Constant heavy traffic on a few of the highways was a roaring reminder to take the road less traveled.

A couple other changes could have improved the trip even more: if the cyclist hadn't already had so many miles on him, the cycling would have been easier; if the birder weren't so lazy, the birding would have been better. An upgrade in both would have eliminated a constant sore spot—right there, where I always kick myself. I should have put more effort into learning juvenile plumages and unfamiliar songs, and, as soon as I got home, I should have sat down and studied the call of the Least Bittern until I knew it by heart—until I knew deep within my heart that its call was what I heard that one beautiful summer evening, as I sat in the waning light, slapping at mosquitoes. But it's easier to plan another trip. And I'll make that trip by bike. And people will still ask me why I don't just take a car. But after many long days spent peddling under a hot sun, or through the rain, or bucking the wind, mile after mile, there's simply no question. Maybe I am lazy, but I can't imagine pushing a car over all those hills.

A Walking Big Day Challenge

Noah K. Strycker



I decided to try a Big Day on foot in spring, 2011. How many birds could I find in one day without using a car, bike, or other transport? A "real" walking Big Day would have to begin and end in the same place, I thought, to remain pure. But where might I get the most birds? After some consideration, I couldn't decide between Florence and Fern Ridge - so, naturally, I did both.

On Monday, May 9, 2011 I spent 13 hours hiking 24.6 miles around Florence, beginning and ending at the South Jetty parking lot. And on Tuesday May 10, I spent 14.5 hours walking 26.0 miles at Fern Ridge, beginning and ending at the Fisher Butte lot on Hwy 126. More than 50 miles on foot! For the sake of sanity I didn't go owling, and probably sacrificed two or three species without wandering around in the dark. I was also somewhat hampered by a 20-pound pack - in training to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, I carried full backpacking gear (to the amusement of several motorists who stopped to offer rides) - but managed to rack up a lot of birds anyway.

I found 105 species in Florence, and 123 the next day at Fern Ridge. Has anyone in Oregon seen that many birds on foot in one day, or even tried? Adding the two days together, I found 161 species of birds - interesting to see the amount of non-overlap, and since the one-day (by car) record for Lane County is only 154.

Anyway, I hereby announce, tentatively, that a new "walking Big Day" record has been set at 123 species. In fact, it might be an all-out "motorless" record; I know that John Sullivan found 121 birds by bicycling 76 miles around Eugene on May 15, 2010, and Tom Mickel got 119 on May 3, 2011, also by biking around Eugene. The gauntlet has been thrown...

Quite entertaining was a 2-hour seawatch from the very tip of the south jetty on Monday, where I watched thousands of Red-necked Phalaropes streaming by almost at my feet, easily the most numerous bird of the entire two days. Seventeen species of shorebirds wasn't bad, either (though I missed stilt and avocet at Fern Ridge).

I couldn't for the life of me find a Belted Kingfisher or House Wren on either day. And I walked an extra mile searching for nonexistent Brewer's Blackbirds in urban Florence. Next time...

Noah Strycker
noah.strycker@gmail.com
35995 E Wills Rd.
Creswell OR 97426

*Photo of Noah and friend
courtesy Ed Conrad.*

Highlights:

FL - Florence, 5/9/2011

FR - Fern Ridge, 5/10/2011

RED-NECKED GREBE (FL) - 1 by south jetty
CLARK'S GREBE (FL, FR) - 1 by south jetty, 2 from Perkins Peninsula
SOOTY SHEARWATER (FL) - 2 on south jetty seawatch
BRANT (FL) - 15 on south jetty seawatch
CACKLING GOOSE (FR) - 7 lingering in Fisher Unit
BLUE-WINGED TEAL (FR) - 1 in Fisher Unit
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (FR) - pair in East Coyote Unit
PEREGRINE FALCON (FL) - 2 over Siuslaw R. bridge
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (FL) - 10 on south jetty seawatch
SOLITARY SANDPIPER (FR) - 1 in East Coyote Unit
WANDERING TATTLER (FL) - 3 on jetties
BLACK TURNSTONE (FL) - 1 on north jetty
RED KNOT (FL) - 2 on south jetty seawatch
WILSON'S PHALAROPE (FR) - 5 in East Coyote Unit
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (FL) - 4,500 (!) on seawatch; streaming close by jetty
RED PHALAROPE (FL) - 1 on water by south jetty
BONAPARTE'S GULL (FL) - 21 between jetties pm, 3 on seawatch am
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (FR) - 2 at 'S' bend on Fir Butte Rd
BLACK PHOEBE (FR) - 1 in Fisher Unit, 1 at house on Cantrell Rd
WESTERN KINGBIRD (FL, FR) - 1 on deflation plain dike, 1 (!) at Fern Ridge
HORNED LARK (FR) - 2 in field on K.R. Nielsen Rd, 2 off Fir Butte Rd by Crossley Ln
AMERICAN PIPIT (FR) - 2 flew over Cantrell Rd
NASHVILLE WARBLER (FR) - 1 at Perkins Peninsula
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (FR) - Fisher Unit
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (FR) - three different spots
RED CROSSBILL (FL) - 2 flyovers near south jetty checkstation

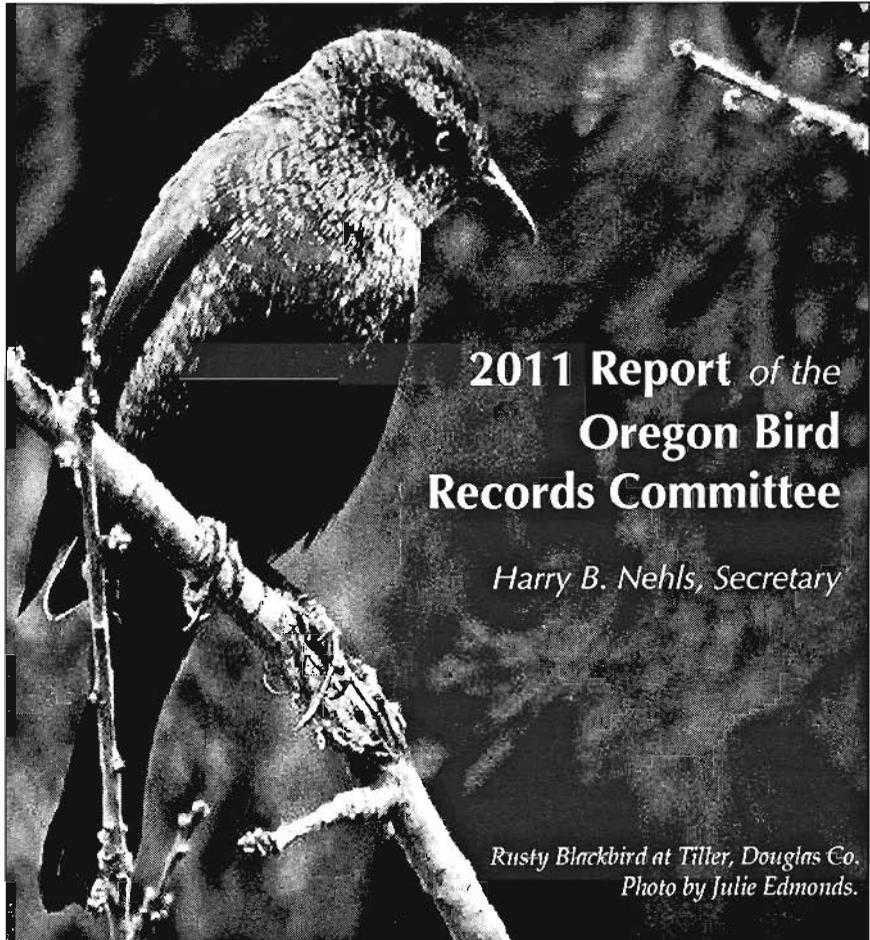
From May 2010 to May 2011 the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) completed the following records. The first group of records are those for which the written report and/or photographs or specimens supported the stated identification and are accepted records. If photo(s) or specimen is indicated for a record it was accepted as verified. Other records were accepted as sight records.

Of the 94 records reviewed by the Committee 64 were accepted and 30 were not accepted. During this period four new species were accepted for addition to the Official Checklist of Oregon Birds: Ashy Storm-Petrel, Hornby's Storm-Petrel, Black Skimmer, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Three species were removed from the Review list: Murphy's Petrel, Broad-winged Hawk and Parakeet Auklet. The Official Checklist now stands at 524 species.

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

The OBRC thanks the following organizations for having made financial contributions in the past year to help with expenses: Cape Arago Audubon Society, Central Oregon Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Grant County Bird Club, Grande Ronde Bird Club, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Lane County Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Portland, Salem Audubon Society, Umpqua Valley Audubon, and Yaquina Birders and Naturalists.

The OBRC solicits nominations for membership. Each year the OBRC elects 3 of its 9 members for 3-year terms. Birders themselves interested in serving on the OBRC should nominate themselves. All nominees must be members of OFO in good standing and the Secretary must receive all nominations before 15 November 2011. New terms begin at the new calendar year.



2011 Report of the Oregon Bird Records Committee

Harry B. Nehls, Secretary

*Rusty Blackbird at Tiller, Douglas Co.
Photo by Julie Edmonds.*

OBRC Members Term Ends

Tom Crabtree	Bend	2012
Jeff Gilligan	Portland	2013
Dave Irons	Portland	2012
Tim Janzen	Portland	2012
Gerard Lillie	Portland	2011
Owen Schmidt	Portland	2011
Tim Shelmerdine	West Linn	2013
Craig Turner	Portland	2013
Jay Withgott	Portland	2011

Alternates

Craig Miller	Bend
David Bailey	Seaside
Mike Patterson	Astoria
John Rakestraw	Portland
Dennis Vroman	Grants Pass

OBRC SECRETARY

Harry B. Nehls
2736 SE 20th. Ave.
Portland, OR 97202
(503) 233-3976
hnehls6@comcast.net

Accepted Records:

(Bewick's) Tundra Swan

180.1-11-04 Lower Klamath NWR, Klamath Co., 1 bird on 6 February 2011 (photo by RnL).

Steller's Eider

157-04-02 Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co., 1 alternate plumaged male on 18 November 2004 (PP).

Short-tailed Albatross

082-10-12 Heceta Bank, Douglas Co., 1 bird on 5 May 2010. (details and photo by MBa)

Murphy's Petrel

100.1-10-08 off Curry to Tillamook Cos., 43 on 1 May 2010 (photos RyM).

Cook's Petrel

098.3-05-03 40mi. W. Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird on 20 September 2005 (JG,OS).

Procellaria Petrel sp.

100.8/00-05-01 30 n m W. Tahkenitch Creek, Douglas Co., 1 bird on 22 October 2005 (PPy,RiP,JCa).

Manx Shearwater

090-09-15 S. Jetty Siuslaw River, Lane Co., 1 bird on 26 April 2009 (DI).

090-08-12 6mi. W. Newport, Lincoln Co., 1 on 1 March 2008 (GC)

Manx-type Shearwater

090/03-04-14 10mi. W. Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird on 15 August 2004 (TR).

090/03-08-15 Cape Arago, Coos Co., 1 bird on 19 April 2008. (RuN)

Wilson's-type Storm-Petrel

109/00-09-01 71-80mi. W Curry Co., 1 bird on 14 July 2009. (RiA,NaA)

ASHY STORM-PETREL

108-07-02 45mi. W Coos Bay, Coos Co., 6 birds on 3 May 2007. (OS,JG,RiA,NaA).

108-09-04 30-34mi. W Curry Co., 1 bird on 31 August 2009 (JG,OS).

Black-type Storm-Petrel

107/00-07-01 40mi. W. Curry Co., 1 bird on 3 May 2007 (OS,JG,NaA,RiA).

HORNBY'S STORM-PETREL

108.2-07-01 45mi. W. Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird on 3 May 2007 (JG, NaA).

Little Blue Heron

200-08-11 Neskown, Tillamook Co., 1 white plumaged immature bird on 11 November 2008 (JHu) and Siletz Bay, Lincoln Co., 11 December 2008 to 6 April 2009 (RLo, BMe).

Glossy Ibis

186-07-02 Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 2 birds on 30 May 2007 (OS,JG).

Broad-winged Hawk

343-04-14 Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 1 bird on 31 May 2004 (BC).

343-10-21 Fields, Harney Co., 1 bird on 16 September 2010 (TR photos by JG,TBr).

Lesser Sand-Plover

279-10-05 Bandon Coos Co., 1 19-20 Sep. 2010 (RuN, photo by DaF).

Hudsonian Godwit

251-04-19 Wickiup Reservoir, Deschutes Co., 1 bird on 18 September 2004. (JMe).

Curlew Sandpiper

244-08-23 Bandon Marsh, Coos Co., 1 bird on 24 October 2008 (TR).

Jack Snipe

230.2-09-03 Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., 1 on 4 January 2009 (LMc)

Little Gull

060.1-09-13 Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., 1 adult on 8 December 2009 (DI,SF).

Least Tern

074-05-09 Bandon State Natural Area, Coos Co., 1, 25 June 2005 (DLA).

074-07-10 N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird on 30 May 2007 (DLA).



Hooded Warbler at Fields. Photo by David Vander Pluym

Common Moorhen

219-10-12 N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 adult on 17 May 2010 (TR,DLA,KC).

BLACK SKIMMER

080-08-01 Pistol River, Curry Co., 1 bird on 26 January 2008 (BoH).

Parakeet Auklet

017-10-21 95km W. Oceanside,
Tillamook Co., 1 on 1 May 2010 (RyM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

402-07-22 Fern Ridge Reservoir,
Lane Co., 1 juvenile bird on 23
November 2007 (MP).

402-10-27 EE Wilson SWA, Benton
Co., 1, 13 November 2010 to 8 January
2011 JSu, JGe, DiN photos by DoR).

402-11-28 Portland, Multnomah
Co., 1 immature bird 4-6 February 2011
(Chi, RhW, photos by Chi, AdH).

Eastern Phoebe

456-10-15 Cape Blanco, Curry Co.,
1 bird on 25 May 2010 (video by TWa).

456-10-16 Lizard Creek Road,
Deschutes Co., 1 bird 29-30 May 2010
(photos by BW).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER

442-10-01 Nehalem Meadows,
Tillamook Co., 1 immature bird on 5
April 2010 (DaM EMM).

Yellow-throated Vireo

628-10-03 Goose Lake Recreation
Area, Lake Co., 1 bird on 5 September
2010 (photos by StR)

Plumbeous Vireo

629.1-08-09 Portland, Multnomah
Co., 1 on 28 April 2009 (TMc, CrW).

629.1-09-10 Fields, Harney Co., one,
9 June 2009 (AC).

Blue-headed Vireo

629-05-04 EE Wilson SWA, Benton
Co., 1 bird on 11 August 2005 (TSn).

Northern Wheatear

765-10-06 Bullards Beach State
Park, Coos Co., 1 bird 24-26 September
2010 (TR, photos by TGH, KnA).

Smith's Longspur

537-08-04 N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos
Co., 1 bird on 30 October 2008
(DLa, KC, RuN).



*Blue Grosbeak, Hatfield MSC,
Lincoln Co. Photo by Roy Lowe.*

Chestnut-collared Longspur

538-04-18 South Jetty Columbia
River, Clatsop Co., 1 bird on 18 October
2004 (MP).

538-07-24 N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos
Co., 1 bird on 22 October 2007 (TR).

Magnolia Warbler

687-10-34 Detroit, Marion Co., 1
male on 22 July 2010 (photos by JMa).

Blackburnian Warbler

662-08-09 Pueblo Mountains,
Harney Co., 1 adult female on 12 June
2008 (AdH, Chi, EmS).

662-10-10 Fields, Harney Co., 1 fall
bird on 15 September 2010 (TR).

662-10-11 Hq. Malheur NWR,
Harney Co., 1 bird on 16 September
2010 (photos by AC, TBr).

Hooded Warbler

684-10-16 Fields, Harney Co., 1
bird 4-6 June 2010 (photos by
OS, JG, DVP).

Lark Bunting

605-10-22 N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos
Co., 1 breeding plumaged male 22-23
May 2010 (TR, photos by HaS).

(Red) Fox Sparrow

585-06-05 Luckiamute State
Natural Area, Polk Co., 1 bird 31
December 2006 to 2 January 2007 (JGe).

Blue Grosbeak

597-10-10 Hatfield Marine Science
Center, Lincoln Co., 1 male 27-29 May
2010 (photos by RLo, DiB).

597-10-11 P Ranch, Harney Co., 1
on 14 October 2010 (photo by BoW)

Indigo Bunting

598-04-30 Sisters, Deschutes Co., 1
male on 9 September 2004 (StS).

Painted Bunting

601-10-05 Seaside, Clatsop Co., 1
bird 2-21 November 2010 (photos by
EC, MP, DiB, HaP, video by OS).

Rusty Blackbird

509-10-15 Eugene, Lane Co., 1 bird
25-26 October 2010 (photos by JSu).

509-10-16 Tiller, Douglas Co., 1 bird
on 5 November 2010 (photos by JuE).

509-11-17 LaGrande, Union Co., 1
bird on 8 January 2011 (photo by TBr).

509-11-18 Joseph, Wallowa Co., 1
bird on 22 January 2011 (photos by
JMe, DSu).

Common Grackle

511-10-38 Frenchglen, Harney Co.,
1 female 24 May 2010 (photos by KL).

Common/Great-tailed Grackle

511/512-09-01 Borax Lake, Harney Co.,
1 female on 30 May 2009 (TR).

Hooded Oriole

505-10-34 Fields, Harney Co., 1
bird 29-30 May 2010 (photos by
DVP, BW).



Hooded Oriole at the Alvord Inn, Fields.
Photo by David Vander Pluym

505-10-35 Bandon, Coos Co., 1 bird
14-15 October 2010 (photos by RuN).

Baltimore Oriole

507-06-13 Hq. Malheur NWR,
Harney Co., 1 male on 21 May 2006
(AdH,Chi,EmS, photos by NaH).

Lawrence's Goldfinch

531-10-11 Mt. Talbert, Clackamas
Co., 1 male on 16 May 2010 (MaA).

Observers

Matthew Alexander (MaA)
Knut Andersson (KnA)
Nanette Armstrong (NaA)
Rich Armstrong (RiA)
Morgan Bancroft (MBa)
Trent Bray (TBr)
Diana Byrne (DiB)
Jim Carretta (JCa)
Kathy Castelein (KC)
Barbara Combs (BC)
Julie Edmonds (JuE)
Daniel Farrar
Shawneen Finnegan (SF)
Joel Geier (JGe)
Tristen Gholson (TCh)
Jeff Gilligan (JG)
Greg Gillson (GG)

Jeff Harding (JeH)
Adrian Hinkle (AdH)
Christopher Hinkle (Chi)
Bob Hunter (BoH)
Jack Hurt (JHu)
Ron Larson (RnL)
David Lauten (DLA)
Roy Lowe (RLo)
John Matthews (JMa)
Larry McQueen (LMc)
Tom McNamara ((TMc)
Bill Medlen (BMe)
Judy Meredith (JMe)
Ryan Merrill (RyM)
Dieep Nageswaran (DiN)
Russ Namitz (RuN)
Rich Pagen (RiP)
Steve parsons (Spa)
Mike Patterson (MP)

Harold Peterson (HaP)
Phil Pickering (PP)
David Vander Pluym (DVP)
Peter Pyle (PPy)
Douglas Robinson (DoR)
Tim Rodenkirk (TR)
Steve Rottenborn (SIR)
Owen Schmidt (OS)
Harvey Schubothe (HaS)
Stephen Shunk (StS)
Em Scattaregia (EmS)
Tom Snetsinger (TSn)
Don Sutherland (DSu)
Chris Warren (CrW)
Bob Whitney (BoW)
Rhett Wilkins (RhW)
Bing Wong (BW)
Ben Young (BY)

Not Accepted records

Baikal Teal

139.1-06-02 Seaside, Clatsop Co., 1
bird on 11 November 2006. Details
indicated a duck in unusual plumage
that did not entirely fit this species or
other similar plumaged ducks.

Arctic Loon

009-11-11 Tillamook Bay, Tillamook
Co., 1 bird 22-25 January 2011. Photos
not diagnostic for Arctic Loon and
appeared to be a small billed Common
Loon.

Solander's Petrel

099.2-09-01 60mi. W. Lane Co. coast,
Lane Co., 1 bird on 8 May 2009. Not
accepted on reconsideration as the field
marks used to identify the species has

since been found to be seen on other
similar species of *Pterodroma* petrels and
is not diagnostic to Solander's.

Great-winged Petrel

098.4-07-01 13-15mi. W. Coos Bay,
Coos Co., one bird on 26 August 2007.
Although the descriptions given were
compelling they did not entirely rule
out similar species of this very difficult
to identify group of birds. The
observers admitted limited experience
with *Pterodroma* petrels.

Ashy Storm-Petrel

108-09-03 71-80mi. W. Curry Co., 3
birds on 14 July 2009. Descriptions were
brief but compelling for Ashy Storm-
Petrel. However, details did not
adequately eliminate similar Storm-
Petrel species.

Magnificent Frigatebird

128-08-09 50mi. W. Tillamook,
Tillamook Co., 1 bird on 8 August 2008.
This was a report of a sighting without
any details describing the bird or how
the bird was identified as a Magnificent
Frigatebird.

Eurasian Kestrel

359.1-08-01 Tualatin NWR,
Washington Co., 1 bird on 20 July 2008.
The sighting was rather brief and the
details of the sighting were not as
extensive as would be needed for such
a rare bird. Possible captive origin was
not covered.

Wilson's Plover

280-07-02 Warrenton, Clatsop Co., 1
bird on 19 August 2007. Details
suggested this species, but did not
entirely rule out similar plovers.

Piping Plover

277-09-02 Bandon Marsh, Coos Co., 1 bird 29 August 2009. An albinistic plover showing inconclusive plumage or other specific characteristics.

Hudsonian Godwit

251-05-20 Canby, Clackamas Co., 1 bird on 28 April 2005. The description was brief and poorly written suggesting Hudsonian Godwit but not giving enough information to eliminate other shorebird species.

Long-toed Stint

242.1-07-08 Tillamook Bay, Tillamook Co., 2 September 2007. Long-toed Stint is an exceedingly difficult species to separate from Least Sandpiper. Details given in this report did not adequately describe the differences between the two species.

Parakeet Auklet

017-05-14 Tillamook Bay, Tillamook Co., 1 bird on 21 February 2005. Although the description described an Alcid it was not complete enough to adequately eliminate Rhinoceros Auklet or other Alcid species.

017-09-18 10km. W. Rockaway, Tillamook Co., 1 bird on 27 March 2009. The observer is a highly experienced seabird observer, but this description of a flying bird was very sparse and incomplete.

Crested Auklet

018-10-02 Port Orford, Curry Co., 1 bird on 14 October 2010. Poor photos did not adequately identify the species. There were no written details.

Magnificent Hummingbird

426-04-03 Lincoln, Polk Co., 1 bird 1-3 May 2004. Rather poor photos were suggestive, but on examination the bird showed characteristics that best fit Anna's Hummingbird.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

461-09-04 Fields, Harney Co., 1 on 24 May 2009. Details and photos didn't adequately eliminate W. Wood-Pewee.

Alder Flycatcher

466.1-07-12 Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 1 bird on 25 May 2007. Identification of bird was determined by the song it gave, but no recording of

the song was made. Local Willow Flycatcher give a similar song. Species determination can only be made by sonogram analysis.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

443-04-18 Beaverton, Washington Co., 1 bird 18 July 2004. The rather brief description did not entirely rule out other long-tailed species.

Plumbeous Vireo

629.1-05-07 Portland, Multnomah Co., 21 April 2005. The description did fit a Plumbeous Vireo, but did not entirely rule out a very pale Cassin's Vireo. More detail was needed to accept this very early migrant bird.

Sedge Wren

724-08-03 E.E. Wilson State Wildlife Area, Benton Co., 1 bird on 4 November 2008. The observation was brief and the description incomplete and did not rule out other species.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

538-09-19 Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, Wallowa Co., 1 bird on 24 May 2004. Although the observer was experienced with the species the report was brief and lacked details. It did not eliminate similar species.

McCown's Longspur

539-05-06 Lower Klamath NWR, Klamath Co., 1 winter plumage female on 6 January 2005. The description was very brief and did not give enough detail to eliminate similar species. The distinctive tail pattern was not apparently observed.

Magnolia Warbler

657-04-29 North Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird on 28 September 2004. This sighting was very brief and the bird was only partially seen. The description did not rule out Townsend's or hybrid warbler.

Black-throated Green Warbler

667-07-14 Finley NWR, Benton Co., 1 bird on 25 April 2007. The bird was identified as a *Dendroica* warbler, that may have possibly been singing a Black-throated Green Warbler song. He did not see or describe the underparts of the bird that would have eliminated a hybrid Townsend's/Hermit Warbler.

Canada Warbler

686-04-06 Prineville, Crook Co., 1 bird on 3 September 2004. Description incomplete and did not rule out other warbler species.

Eastern Towhee

587-08-04 Portland, Multnomah Co., 1 bird on 10 September 2008. The description was very brief and incomplete. The bird apparently showed only one white spot on the back "at the bottom of the wing" indicating a possible Eastern Towhee. The Committee felt this description did not rule out Spotted Towhee.

"Red" Fox Sparrow

585-07-07 Bayocean Peninsula, Tillamook Co., 1 bird on 15 December 2007. Description did not entirely rule out *altivagnis* or one of the slate-colored group of Fox Sparrows.

Summer Tanager

610-04-15 Fields, Harney Co., 1 bird on 9 September 2004. It was briefly seen in flight at a distance. The identification was made primarily on the color of the underparts. There was little or no description of the rest of the bird.

Lawrence's Goldfinch

531-01-05 Dallas, Polk Co., 3-6 birds on 14 April 2001. Report from memory submitted seven years after the fact. Identification made from field guides.

531-08-09 Oregon City, Clackamas Co., 1 bird on 15 May 2008. Description did not entirely rule out other goldfinch species.



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Predicting the next Oregon bird

How will 2011 predictions stack up against 2007 and 1994 guesses?

Compiled by Alan Contreras

In 1994, Bill Tice conducted a "next Oregon bird" survey of *Oregon Birds* subscribers. The results were published in early 1996 in *OB* 22(2):55). A summary appears in this article. Votes were not weighted, but each person got five.

In 2007 I conducted a "next Oregon bird" survey via OBOL and put the results on my blog. Those results are shown in parallel to the current survey at right.

Given the pile of new birds found in the state in recent years, it seemed to me time to see how close our predictions were, and sucker some birders into making the next set of educated guesses. Only eight people voted in 1994, compared to 24 in 2007. The 24 voters in 2007 cast 5 ranked, weighted votes each for their top five birds most likely to be added to the Oregon list.

In June, 2011 I posted a request on OBOL for votes using the 2007 system. I received 28 responses, nominating 57 species to be among the most likely five to next occur in Oregon.

The clear leaders in 2011 are **Black Vulture** and **Black-tailed Gull**. An additional ten species were given top ranking by at least one voter: **Ivory Gull**, **Bean Goose**, **Reddish Egret**, **Great Black-backed Gull**, **Nelson's Sparrow**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Yellow-green Vireo**, **Yellow-billed Magpie**, **Verdin**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** and **Great-winged Petrel**.

The greatest reduction in rank for an estimate is **Siberian Accentor**, ranked third in 2007 and an also-ran in 2011. **Black-billed Cuckoo** ranked 17 in 2007 and did not do well in 2011. **Ivory Gull**, **Dusky Warbler** and

Yellow-billed Magpie had the greatest rise from 2007 to 2011. Ten species receiving votes in 2011 received none in 2007.

An astonishing 26 species received votes in 2011 that received none in 2007. Neotropic Cormorant ranked highest of these; of the others, **Magnificent Hummingbird**, **Winter Wren (a split)**, **Gull-billed Tern** **Redwing**, received votes from more than one voter.

2007 V	Tot	Species	39	1	4	Dusky Thrush
			27	1	4	Cerulean Warbler
				1	4	Sandwich Tern
			40	2	3	Xantus's Hummingbird
				1	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker
				1	3	Bluethroat
				1	3	Fieldfare
			17	1	3	BB Cuckoo
			30	1	3	Parkinson's Petrel
			25	1	2	Cassin's Sparrow
				1	2	Northern Cardinal
				1	2	Sooty Tern
				1	2	Groove-billed Ani
				1	2	Least Auklet
				1	2	Lucifer Hummingbird
				1	2	Terek Sandpiper
			3	1	2	Siberian Accentor
			18	1	1	Craveri's Murrelet
				1	1	Am Purple Gallinule
				1	1	Grace's Warbler
				1	1	Greater Pewee
				1	1	Gray Vireo
				1	1	Kittlitz's Murrelet
				1	1	White-chinned Petrel
				1	1	Greater Roadrunner
						Top 5 votes in 2007 (showing rank) but not receiving any such votes in 2011:
				29		Sulphur-b Flycatcher
				31		Far Eastern Curlew
				32		Sky Lark
				33		Northern Hobby
				35		Field Sparrow
				41		Lesser Frigatebird
				42		Least Storm-Petrel
				43		Red-faced Warbler
				44		Henslow's Sparrow
				46		Common Pochard

The Voters Share Their Thoughts

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER. Yes indeed, but beware the similar **Eurasian Oystercatcher**, which is highly migratory and breeds well north of the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia. That said, it has never occurred in Alaska and oystercatchers are considered weak fliers for shorebirds. And then there are the nasty hybrids. – *Alan Contreras*

BLACK VULTURE. This species has occurred within 100 miles of the Oregon border in Humboldt Co., CA. It is readily identifiable and would be immediately recognized by anyone who has seen one previously. – *Dave Irons*

There are a couple of unproven reports for this species and there is a pattern of vagrancy for northern California. – *Matthew Schneider*

BLACK-TAILED GULL. This species has already reached Washington twice, with several Oregon birders having traveled to see it. Having a search image (from first hand experience) often results in folks taking a second look at suspect birds. – *Dave Irons*

It has also reached California and such unlikely places as Virginia. – *Alan Contreras*

CHIMNEY SWIFT. Way overdue but may be hard to verify. – *Adrian Hinkle*

Rare but regular in California, not even on their review list since the 1970s. A long-distance migrant that breeds fairly far west and wanders widely, e.g., the Pribilof islands and Europe. – *Alan Contreras*

COMMON CRANE. This species has become increasingly regular in North America over the past decade. Obviously a slam-dunk ID. The fact that Sauvie Island is one of the largest staging areas for cranes in the Pacific Flyway and lies within a 30 minute drive of half the state's population would seem to favor the discovery of this species if it happened to be among the swarm of Sandhills that stop here each spring and fall. – *Dave Irons*

There has been at least one rumored occurrence of this species on Sauvie Island, and it is easy to identify. No skulking here! – *Alan Contreras*

DUSKY THRUSH. The fact that it may inhabit populated settings and is relatively easy to identify increases the chances of finding a vagrant. – *Ed McVicker*

DUSKY WARBLER. Yet another skulker, this species has been recorded more than 20 times in California. With increasing numbers of talented birders living on the outer coast, this species' absence from the Oregon List would appear to be on borrowed time. – *Dave Irons*

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER. This bird is now annual in the U.S. and has shown the capacity to show up

Continued on next page

How We Did in 2007 and 1994

Predicted in 2007 and have been found, showing 2007 rank and number of first-place votes:

2	White-eyed Vireo (3)
10	Black Skimmer (2)
11	Greater Shearwater (2)
12	Lesser Nighthawk (1)

These twelve species were not predicted by ANY of the 24 2007 respondents but had the audacity to occur anyway: *

Ashy Storm-petrel	Red-billed Tropicbird
Black-b. Whistling-Duck	Hornby's Petrel
Alder Flycatcher	Wandering Albatross
Painted Redstart	Pyrrhuloxia
Eastern Towhee	Wood Sandpiper
Jack Snipe	Solander's Petrel

* A 1988 photo of Black-bellied Whistling Duck was accepted. Red-billed Tropicbird had occurred previously outside the 200-mile OBRC coverage area. Painted Redstart was accepted on reconsideration of older reports.

1994 table (8 voters)

Of 23 species, 15 have been found (shown in bold), some more than once (asterisks). Of the eight voters, each of whom got five unweighted votes, Greg Gillson and Bill Tice picked all five right: they have all occurred.

Rank	Votes	
1	4	Red-throated Pipit *
1	4	Eurasian Dotterel
3	3	Cook's Petrel *
3	3	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
3	3	Connecticut Warbler
3	3	Yellow Wagtail *
7	2	Yellow-throated Vireo *
7	2	Red-billed Tropicbird
7	2	Fork-tailed Flycatcher
10	1	White-rumped Sandpiper *
10	1	Great-crested Flycatcher
10	1	Blue-footed Booby
10	1	Arctic Loon *
10	1	Red-headed Woodpecker
10	1	Gray-tailed Tattler
10	1	Nelson's Sparrow
10	1	Painted Redstart *
10	1	Black-billed Cuckoo
10	1	Mississippi Kite
10	1	Black-vented Shearwater *
10	1	Manx Shearwater *
10	1	Lesser Black-backed Gull *
10	1	Reddish Egret

almost anywhere, including in Washington. Oregon already has one report of this species, which though not sufficient to establish a first state record, was almost assuredly identified correctly. – *Dave Irons*

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER. It has occurred in Washington and California and has been reported before in Oregon. – *Christopher Hinkle*

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER. This species is large and easy to identify. My only reluctance in putting it on my list is the fact that most of California's records are from the southern one-third of the state. Northern California records remain quite rare. That said, this would seem to be a logical stray to the oases in se. Oregon. – *Dave Irons*

GREATER PEWEE. It has loud distinctive vocalizations, a uniquely tufted crown and propensity to perch out in the open, all of which add to the likelihood of this bird being noticed. Instances of birds far out of range seem to be on the increase, including one in nw. Washington. – *Dave Irons*

GULL-BILLED TERN. They have been increasing in recent years in southern California, may wander north. – *Grant Canterbury*

IVORY GULL. With the melting of sea ice, this bird seems suddenly to be more prone to wandering far out of range, as evidenced by birds in Southern California and the Mid-Atlantic coast in the past year. This is a slam dunk ID and this species seems to hang around for days once it finds a carcass to scavenge. One nice fat seal or sea lion dead on an Oregon beach could certainly sustain an Ivory Gull for some time. – *Dave Irons*

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD. Hummingbirds invariably help their cause by showing up at feeders. Given that this bird would dwarf any of Oregon's regular hummers, even a casual feeder watcher is likely to notice it and report it. This is another species that has show great capacity to wander and has reached Humboldt Co., CA. – *Dave Irons*

MISSISSIPPI KITE. Has been reported in NE Oregon; the next few months could be a good time for a wandering bird. Range may be expanding. – *Adrian Hinkle*

NELSON'S SPARROW. Though this species is a skulker, it is among Oregon's most overdue vagrants. It winters annually along the central CA coast, having presumably flown over or through part of Oregon to get there. Offhand, I can't think of any other north-

south migrant that breeds as far north and west in Canada as this species that remains unrecorded in Oregon. If seen, even briefly, this bird is rather straightforward to ID. – *Dave Irons*

Easy to identify and almost certainly occurs annually, at least passing over southeastern Oregon. The difficulty is that it uses a dense, sometimes inaccessible habitat (thick salt marsh vegetation). It will be a semi-accidental find: someone who intentionally wanders through dense wet vegetation on the south coast, or on some lake margin in the desert, will kick one up. – *Alan Contreras*

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT. Expanding northward in the west, with several in northern Utah and one reaching the Farallons. Most likely in e. Oregon, where it would really be obvious next to any Double-crested. – *Alan Contreras*

NORTHERN CARDINAL. They seem to be around and just waiting to be properly documented. – *Ed McVicker*

TEMMINCK'S STINT. There are past Northwest records and shorebirds are known for being vagrants. – *Matthew Schneider*

WINTER WREN (as in "Eastern" Winter Wren). Because it was recently split from Pacific Wren, people are keeping their eyes open for this species and there are record(s) from California. – *Matthew Schneider*

WOOD STORK. There are other Pacific Northwest records, it is easy to identify, and it has a tendency to wander. – *Matthew Schneider*

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. It has occurred in Washington and is casual in California. – *Christopher Hinkle*

Participants in the 2011 predictions were Alan Contreras, Dave Irons, Adrian Hinkle, Matthew Schneider, Owen Schmidt, Christopher Hinkle, Rich Hoyer, Sheran Wright, Ed McVicker, Anne Heyerly, Alan McGie, Mike Denny, Wink Gross, Roger Robb, Tom Love, Cindy Ashy, Bill Tice, Brandon Green, Russ Namitz, Grant Canterbury, Shawneen Finnegan, Harry Nehls, Gerard Lillie, Tom Crabtree, Greg Gillson, Daniel Farrar and Ray Korpi.



Oregon Field Ornithologists Annual Meeting - June 22-24, 2012 Running Y Resort • Klamath Falls

Presentation by Klamath Bird Observatory • Banding Demonstrations
Yellow Rail • Great Gray Owl • Least Bittern • Tricolored Blackbird • Oak and Juniper Titmouse

Klamath Bird Observatory: Highlights from 2011

Jaime Stephens
Research and Monitoring Director

At Klamath Bird Observatory we study birds and their habitats to ensure the sustainability of healthy populations and to reverse declines of species in trouble. Our premise is that managing ecosystems for stable bird populations will result in more sustainable management of the natural resources on which both birds and people depend. We share the information we collect with people that are implementing conservation on the ground, as well as with the next generation who will become the decision makers of tomorrow.

Each spring as the migrants arrive back in Oregon, and the resident birds set up their breeding territories, KBO ramps up our staff with seasonal field crews that complete surveys throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California, and beyond. Our field crews include independent contractors, field technicians, and student volunteer interns. During 2011, we continued many of our long-term monitoring and applied ecology projects and we started a few new studies. Our field work focused on the breeding and migration seasons and included the study of landbirds and aquatic birds.

Landbirds

Our landbird monitoring program includes multiple survey methodologies, primarily ecological monitoring stations and survey routes that have been established throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. At ecological monitoring stations we learn about population trends, breeding success, bird health, and longevity. At these sites we use mist nets to capture, band, and release birds while surveying the areas using area search and checklist methodologies.

In 2011, we ran eleven ecological monitoring stations during the breeding and fall migration seasons. Our landbird monitoring also includes spring breeding season point counts and fall area searches that are completed at select survey routes. In 2011, we visited 169 survey routes, completing surveys at a total of 1549 points. With these methodologies we learn about population trends, habitat relationships, and bird community response to natural and anthropogenic change.

In 2011, our long-term monitoring included our project within the National Park Service Klamath Network. Our applied ecology studies focused on assessing the effectiveness of restoration in meadows, riparian habitats, and oak woodlands. In addition, we completed a study to quantify bird density in oak habitats of varying type and condition. Our monitoring often extends beyond birds, as we gather auxiliary information that helps us interpret the results, such as vegetation monitoring and predator-prey surveys.



**Klamath Bird
Observatory**



KBO student volunteer intern Rachel Kilby extracts a Golden-crowned Sparrow from a mist net at the ecological monitoring station in the Ashland Watershed. Photo courtesy KBO.

Aquatic Birds

In 2011, we continued to build the groundwork for statewide partnerships through the Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring Program. This partnership, which contributes to west-wide efforts, involved creating

written site descriptions for 81 important Aquatic Bird Sites throughout Oregon and northwestern California. These products provide details about physical attributes as well as current and historic bird surveys at these sites, providing up-to-date information to land managers, scientists, and bird enthusiasts.

KBO continued aquatic bird monitoring efforts contributing to the Western Colonial Waterbird Survey. This survey is an effort of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and is being implemented from 2009-2011 on seventeen species in eleven western states. This year KBO implemented surveys at 292 sites for tree-nesting waterbird breeding colonies for select target species including Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, American White Pelican, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, and Caspian Tern.

Bridging the Gap: Science as Conservation

At the heart of KBO's research and monitoring work is the delivery of scientific results to the people who can implement bird conservation on the ground. We strive to relay information at multiple levels, locally and regionally, with land managers to aid in decision-making and land management planning, and nationally and internationally where we contribute to conservation efforts that span the entire ranges of the migratory birds that we study.

In 2011, we completed a number of products associated with fuel reduction and wildfire studies. We played a lead role in the latest US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Technical Publication. The publication, entitled *Informing Ecosystem Management: Science And Process For Landbird Conservation In The Western United States*, provides a series of papers compiled to demonstrate the science of bird monitoring and the process of integrating this science into land management decision making.

Through the release of reports and publications, the development of decision support tools, participation in scientific conferences, and our relationships with land managers, KBO seeks to share an improved understanding of birds and their habitats in support of sustainable resource management.

KBO headquarters: Willow Wind
Telephone: 541-201-0866
Fax: 541-201-1009

KBO Jefferson Nature Ctr. office
Telephone: 541-282-0866
Fax: 541-282-0867

KBO Mailing Address-
P.O. Box 758
Ashland, OR 97520

What is Klamath Bird Observatory?

John Alexander
Executive Director

Klamath Bird Observatory advances bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. Through a broad array of partnerships KBO uses an integrated approach to science and education to inform important decisions about how to protect the natural resources and ecosystems on which we all depend.

Science

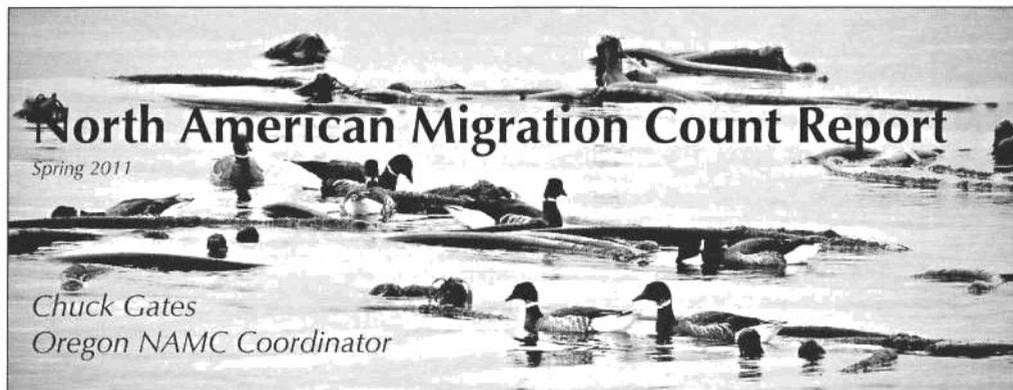
KBO conducts long-term monitoring and applied research projects that provide scientific results about bird population trends, demographics, life history, distribution and habitat relationships. Our scientific results inform conservation and land management decisions. Ongoing studies address decisions related to wildfire and fuel reduction, wetland habitat management, restoration effectiveness, and climate change.

KBO also has long-term monitoring programs that provide information about bird populations and how they are changing over time in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. Long-term monitoring allows us to determine population trends across the landscape and measure population vital signs (e.g., productivity and survival) to understand the cause of population change. Through long-term monitoring we examine bird populations in relation to natural and anthropogenic habitat changes.

Education

KBO's education program uses the best available science to help private, state, and federal land managers implement conservation objectives by using birds as indicators of resilient ecosystems. KBO reaches out to local communities and schools through classroom visits, field trips, camps, bird walks, presentations, workshops, visits to ecological monitoring stations, and outreach events.

KBO is on the web at: www.klamathbird.org



2011 marked the 18th straight year that state-wide surveying of birds has taken place. The spring North American Migration Count occurred on May 14 and 15 and, as always, was sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon Society. County coordinators chose one of those dates and gathered their forces to count every bird they could find within a 24-hour period.

This year, the count was very late and the weather was uncooperative in many counties. The spring count always occurs on the second weekend in May. Last year, the spring count was on May 7th and 8th. This year, the count was a week later. Couple that with an unusually wet and cool spring, and a recipe for an unusual migration count is formed. 2011 did not disappoint.

Volunteers counted in 29 of Oregon's 36 counties. No surveys were completed in Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Sherman, Tillamook, Washington, or Wheeler counties. Finding surveyors in these counties have proven consistently difficult (Malheur County is the exception. The County Coordinator was unable to participate this season but has produced terrific count results in the past.).

If one were to look at the weather on the weekend of the spring NAMC count, one would probably guess that fewer than normal numbers of people might brave such conditions to count birds. However, such an inference would be in error. Surveyor numbers were well above last year's and more in line with some of the best years in the past. The total participation numbers included 308 volunteers arranged in 159 teams (225 people volunteered last spring and 400 in 2009). They

Table 1 – Most Abundant Species

Common Murre	73245	Canada Goose	4075	Mallard	3067
Cliff Swallow	8965	Pacific Loon	3373	American Robin	2845
Red-winged Blackbird	7980	Western Gull	3336	White-faced Ibis	2728
Brewer's Blackbird	6427	Barn Swallow	3306	Franklin's Gull	2608
European Starling	5847	Ring-billed Gull	3251	American Goldfinch	2229
Vaux's Swift	4872	Tree Swallow	3085	Double-crested Cormorant	2059

traveled just over 7,000 miles and accumulated volunteer time of 949 hours. All of these numbers represent better than average efforts and results.

RESULTS

This spring migration count produced a total species count of 293 (273 species were reported in 2010 and 298 were tallied in 2009). The total number of individuals came to a respectable 214,054. This compares with ~175,000 last year and ~197,000 in 2009.

While the majority of sightings might be considered mundane, there was plenty of excitement as many unusual birds were sighted and some otherwise "typical" species were seen in unusual numbers or places.

Water birds in general are heavy migrators and many were seen moving through our state. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, SNOW GEESE, CACKLING GEESE, and BRANT were tallied in 5 counties each. Thirteen TRUMPETER SWANS were counted in Deschutes County and nowhere else (Weather and water levels prevented surveying the birds at Malheur NWR.). The only SNOWY EGRETS reported were the two located by Klamath County

volunteers. WHITE-FACED IBIS were only seen in Harney, Lake, and Klamath counties (They still managed to be the 15th most abundant species on the count).

As one might expect, Klamath County was the only location that produced YELLOW RAILS. Douglas County tallied 5 SNOWY PLOVERS and they were the

Table 2 – Species with only a single record

Gray Partridge	Ruddy Turnstone	Burrowing Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Northern Fulmar	Baird's Sandpiper	Great Gray Owl	Common Grackle
White-tailed Kite	Long-tailed Jaeger	Blue Jay	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Mew Gull	Gray Catbird	

only ones that made the state tally sheet. LESSER YELLOWLEGS is difficult to locate anywhere in Oregon in the spring and a single bird was tallied on the Benton County list. SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were not much more abundant as single birds were found in Jefferson and Deschutes counties. RUDDY and BLACK TURNSTONES were mostly gone from the state by the date of the count and Surfbirds were completely absent. A single BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was found in Clatsop County. RED KNOTS were found only in Polk County. The lone MEW GULL found in Coos County was the

Table 3 – Some Species With No Record This Season

Ross's Goose	Northern Waterthrush
Buller's Shearwater	Long-tailed Duck
Surfbird	Upland Sandpiper
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Black Swift
Tundra Swan	Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Flesh-footed Shearwater
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Marbled Godwit
Juniper Titmouse	American Three-toed
Eurasian Wigeon	Woodpecker
Either Golden-Plover	Black Rosy-Finch
Flammulated Owl	

only one to make the state totals. Two GLAUCOUS GULLS showed up in Lane County and another was located in Coos.

Ocean bird numbers were augmented by a group of birders who traveled the length of Oregon on a marine vessel and were able to get numbers of species that can't always be seen from shore. These numbers included 62 BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS, 1

NORTHERN FULMAR, 11 PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATERS, 3 FORK-TAILED STORM-PETRELS, 1 LONG-TAILED JAEGER, 20 SABINE'S GULLS, 4 COMMON TERNS, 22 MARBLED MURRELETS, 24 CASSIN'S AUKLETS, and 19 TUFTED PUFFINS among many others.

Spring game birds can be difficult to find so they don't always make a big splash in surveys. CHUKARS were located only in Morrow and Baker counties. Baker County produced the lone records for GRAY PARTRIDGE and DUSKY GROUSE while the 13 GREATER SAGE-GROUSE found in Deschutes County were the only ones reported for the count period. A single observer in Willowa County found the only 2 SPRUCE GROUSE for the count. MOUNTAIN QUAIL were tallied in 7 counties. The much-awaited EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE count came in at 704 birds and they were noted in 25 of 27 counties surveyed (Last year the total count was 268 state-wide).

Twenty-seven raptor species were located in the state. The only WHITE-TAILED KITE sighting came from Linn County. NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were located in Lane, Deschutes, and Crook counties. All of the RED-SHOULDERED HAWK reports came from western Oregon. Very late ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were seen in Crook County and Klamath County. An equally late MERLIN was found in Curry County (Another Merlin report was filed in Crook County but could not be confirmed as a proper ID.). One BURROWING OWL was located near The Narrows in Harney County while a single GREAT GRAY OWL was found in Klamath County. SPOTTED OWL reports came from Klamath and Douglas counties and BARRED OWLS were located in Coos and Douglas counties. The only LONG-EARED OWLS that were tallied came from Umatilla and Jefferson counties.

Some very interesting passerine reports occurred during the count period. All 7 ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRDS that made the count came from Curry County and a very unusual BLUE JAY report came in from Union County. OAK TITMOUSE was reported from Josephine, Klamath, Jackson, and Douglas counties while the closely related Juniper Titmouse did not make the list of birds found during the count.

The only BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS to make the list were found in Josephine County. Non-coastal WRENTIT reports were received from Benton, Josephine, Yamhill, and Linn counties. Single GRAY CATBIRD, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, and BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER were found in Union, Polk, and Lake counties respectively.

The only AMERICAN PIPITS seen during the count came from Hood River and Deschutes counties. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEES were difficult to find

showing up only in Lake, Deschutes, and Crook counties. Morrow and Umatilla counties produced the only GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS. Single WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS turned up in Jefferson and Klamath counties.

Most of the state's TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS (285) were in Crook County but 16 were seen in Klamath and a single bird was tallied in Lake County. A single COMMON GRACKLE was found in Lake County and 2 GREAT-TAILED GRACKLES were located in Klamath County.

CONCLUSION

Despite some unavoidable hurdles (less than perfect weather and the latest possible date), the 2011 Spring North American Migration Count can be considered a qualified success. No bird project involving over 300 people could be deemed a failure. However, there are still large tracks of Oregon countryside that go without being surveyed due to a lack of volunteers. Several other regions received only cursory coverage by a single observer over a short period of time (Jackson, Umatilla, and Wallowa counties for example.) Increasing volunteer involvement has always been, and will remain a major goal within the administration of this count.



Townsend's Warbler, one of the most widespread Oregon migrants. Photo by Thomas Meinzen.

You can join the hundreds of other citizen scientists who help with the North American Migration Count (see contact information below). Contact your local County Coordinator. Take it upon yourself to organize a count in a county without a County Coordinator. Offer to help with data collection and ease the burden on your local County Coordinator. Get out on one of the birdiest weekends of the year and contribute to our knowledge of bird distribution in

Oregon or simply count the birds in your yard and send in your data. Any and all contributions will help make the count more meaningful to Oregon birders.

The ECBC would like to thank all volunteers who contributed time, money, and sweat in order to gather migration data for this project. A special thank you goes to the county coordinators who collated all this data and, more than anyone, contributed to the overall success of this count.

If you would like to get involved with this count in the future, please go to the East Cascades Audubon Society's website (<http://www.ecaudubon.org> and click the "Projects" tab) and contact the state NAMC coordinator. You won't regret this amazing birding experience. The following tables show the results of the 2010 Spring NAMC.

Table 4 – Most Prolific Counties (by individuals counted)

Lincoln	59161	Clatsop	11233	Lake	8746
Curry	27016	Harney	10805	Klamath	7559
Crook	13097	Linn	9538	Douglas	5822
Deschutes	12447	Baker	9008	Yamhill	5527

Table 5 – Most Prolific Counties (by species counted)

Deschutes	179	Coos	157	Jefferson	136
Klamath	169	Lane	154	Lake	133
Douglas	168	Baker	145	Curry	132
Crook	160	Linn	137	Benton	129

Table 6 – Most Prolific Counties (by participants)

Deschutes	43	Benton	22	Josephine	11
Klamath	32	Lincoln	22	Linn	11
Lane	26	Yamhill	15	Crook, Curry, Douglas	9
Baker	23	Marion	13	Jefferson, Multnomah	9

Table 7 – Most Prolific Counties (by species /participant*)

Douglas	18.7	Multnomah	12.8	Marion	7.2
Crook	17.8	Linn	12.5	Baker	6.3
Jefferson	15.1	Josephine	10.1	Benton	5.9
Curry	14.7	Yamhill	7.5	Lane	5.9

* Only counties with at least 9 participants



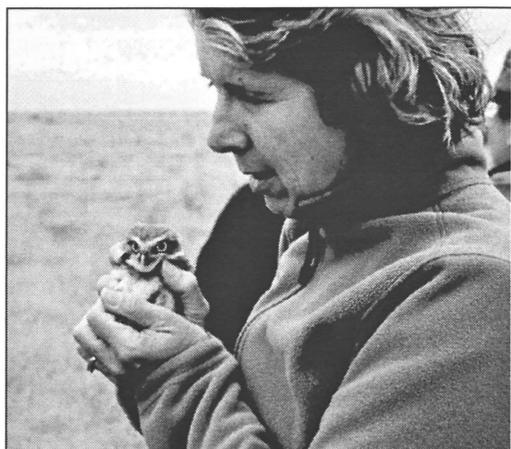
OFO Annual Meeting Report: Umatilla County, June 17-19 2011

Russ Namitz, OFO President



The 32nd annual membership meeting of Oregon Field Ornithologists was held in Pendleton over the weekend of June 17th - 19th. The weather was decent and the birding was good. All of the expected species were seen and many of the uncommon species were seen as well. Area specialties like **Gray Catbird**, **Veery** & **Red-eyed Vireo** put on good shows for most participants. Owls put on a splendid performance as numbers were up, especially Barn Owls, due to a high rodent year. Over 140 species were tallied by group leaders.

Excellent speakers were another highlight of the meeting. Friday night Mike Denny educated the audience about the importance of lithosol (rocky soil)



Anne Heyerly (right) with friend. Photo by Tom Winters.

openings in ecosystems like Oregon's Blue Mountains and how multiple organisms, including our beloved avian friends, use them. His infectious enthusiasm had the entire room talking about lithosol biology on the field trips over the weekend. At the very least, we can recognize a lithosol when we see one and remember its importance.

Saturday evening David Johnson provided a fascinating talk on owls, both cosmopolitan mythology and biology. He also reported on the Burrowing Owl project at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and the success with artificial burrows. His ongoing research can be seen at <http://www.globalowlproject.com/>. He lead trips to the Umatilla Chemical Depot where participants were able to not see Burrowing Owls upclose, but some got to personally hold birds while they were banded and all got to view aspects of the installation of artificial

*Birding Horseshoe Bend, Umatilla County.
Photo by John Notis. Below: Mike Denny.*



burrows. The site population was 4 pairs in 2007, but in 2011 it totalled 59 pairs plus chicks. America's Best Value Inn did a fine job of catering coffee and continental breakfast for the early rising birders. Savory dinners of lasagna & baked salmon with huckleberry pie were provided by Kinship Café. The dinner and presentations were held in the Pendleton Center for the Arts.

Thank you to the OFO members and other participants who came and helped make the event a memorable social event. I would like to thank the OFO board, especially David Smith, who put a lot of time into organizing the event and collaborating with local folks. And lastly, a huge **Thank You** goes out to the Pendleton Bird Club (<http://www.pendletonbirders.org/>), especially Aaron Skirvin, who provided tour leaders and was invaluable in providing local logistical information. See you in June, 2012 in Klamath Falls, everybody!

Russ Namitz

OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR: 1/1/2010 - 12/31/10
Presented June 18, 2011, OFO Annual Meeting, Pendleton, Oregon
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT 1/1/10 – 07/31/2011

2010 Report

At the end of Fiscal Year 2010, Oregon Field Ornithologists total bank balances were \$16,249.74 with an additional \$6055.03 inventory for a total of \$22,304.77. Total Income for 2010 was \$9,499.42, expense was \$13,774.12, resulting in a decrease of \$4,274.70. Much of this shortfall resulted from the increased costs to print *Oregon Birds* in color, and the costs associated with assuming responsibility for Oregon Birders On Line.

January – July 2011 (Supplemental Report):

As of July 31, 2011 (most recent period) total bank balances are \$17,564.89. In addition we show \$5,976.03 as inventory (Rogue Valley Guide) for a total of \$23,540.92. The current fiscal year to date reflects a modest increase of \$1,236.15. Dues payments for the current year are roughly \$2,100 above the most recent three-year average due almost entirely to the efforts of Anne Heyerly. Anne made a heroic push just prior to the most recent issue of *Oregon Birds* to encourage lapsed members to renew and also recruited several new members.

Overall, in recent years, Oregon Field Ornithologists has experienced a gradual increase in our expenses along with an associated decrease in our income. We did, however, have one of the most successful Annual Meetings in recent years, based on number of attendees (with an assist from the delightful Burrowing Owl experience!). Our membership is beginning to increase after several years of decline. Our challenge remains to continue to increase and retain our membership with the high quality of Oregon Birds and interesting and entertaining Annual Meetings and other programs.

Oregon Field Ornithologists Income & Expense January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010	Oregon Field Ornithologists Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2010																																																																
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Income</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3020 Dues</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,895.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3030 Donations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,649.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3060 Registration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,977.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3070 Interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3090 Merch</td> <td style="text-align: right;">977.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9,499.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expense</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3080 - Royalties</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-685.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6010 Postage</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,094.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6020 Box Rent</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6030 Printing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5,885.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6060 Fees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">160.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6070 Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,840.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6080 Supplies</td> <td style="text-align: right;">418.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expense</td> <td style="text-align: right;">13,774.12</td> </tr> </table>	Income		3020 Dues	4,895.00	3030 Donations	1,649.00	3060 Registration	1,977.00	3070 Interest	1.00	3090 Merch	977.42	Total Income	9,499.42	Expense		3080 - Royalties	-685.66	6010 Postage	1,094.99	6020 Box Rent	60.00	6030 Printing	5,885.00	6060 Fees	160.00	6070 Services	6,840.95	6080 Supplies	418.84	Total Expense	13,774.12	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">ASSETS</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Assets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Checking/Savings</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">CD-3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,601.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">OFO Checking</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9,648.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Total Checking/Savings</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16,249.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Current Assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16,249.74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Assets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Inventory</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,055.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Total Other Assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,055.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL ASSETS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">22,304.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equity</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Opening Bal Equity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10,626.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Retained Earnings</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15,952.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Net Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-4,274.70</td> </tr> </table>	ASSETS		Current Assets		Checking/Savings		CD-3	6,601.28	OFO Checking	9,648.46	Total Checking/Savings	16,249.74	Total Current Assets	16,249.74	Other Assets		Inventory	6,055.03	Total Other Assets	6,055.03	TOTAL ASSETS	22,304.77	LIABILITIES & EQUITY		Equity		Opening Bal Equity	10,626.77	Retained Earnings	15,952.70	Net Income	-4,274.70
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3090 Merch	977.42																																																																
Total Income	9,499.42																																																																
Expense																																																																	
3080 - Royalties	-685.66																																																																
6010 Postage	1,094.99																																																																
6020 Box Rent	60.00																																																																
6030 Printing	5,885.00																																																																
6060 Fees	160.00																																																																
6070 Services	6,840.95																																																																
6080 Supplies	418.84																																																																
Total Expense	13,774.12																																																																
ASSETS																																																																	
Current Assets																																																																	
Checking/Savings																																																																	
CD-3	6,601.28																																																																
OFO Checking	9,648.46																																																																
Total Checking/Savings	16,249.74																																																																
Total Current Assets	16,249.74																																																																
Other Assets																																																																	
Inventory	6,055.03																																																																
Total Other Assets	6,055.03																																																																
TOTAL ASSETS	22,304.77																																																																
LIABILITIES & EQUITY																																																																	
Equity																																																																	
Opening Bal Equity	10,626.77																																																																
Retained Earnings	15,952.70																																																																
Net Income	-4,274.70																																																																

Mary Anne Sohlstrom, Treasurer

Dave Menke 1946 - 2011



Dave Menke photo courtesy Lee Juillerat, Herald and News.

Tule Lake Bird Festival, International Migratory Bird Day, and Winter Wings Festival.

Dave was an accomplished photographer. He was honored and published in many national and international media for his stunning depiction of wildlife on National Wildlife Refuges. His photos have been used by the USF&WS in a variety of publications. One such photo of his, a puffin, adorns "The Guide to Birds of Alaska". He spent many days and hours in photo blinds in order to capture wildlife and birds in beautiful displays and backgrounds. In an essay he wrote that's included in "Wings That Fill the Sky" commemorating 100 years of the Lower Klamath Refuge, Dave captured his passion for birds and his zeal to share what he saw with others. This excerpt comes from "A Memorable Day in a Refuge Photo Blind":

"One of my most memorable days in a photo blind was September 1, 2007. I arrive at the blind at the first light, (about 5:15 am). With coffee thermos and seat cushion in hand, I repose in the blind waiting for daylight while listening to the sounds of the awakening marsh. The symphony of sound, which greets me as the light strengthens, consists of the eene calls of soras, Virginia rails, and American coots, punctuated by the nearly constant chattering of nearby marsh wrens. The highlight of my morning photo sessions is the opportunity to photograph both snowy and great egrets perched on a snag over the water only 30 feet from the blind. Taking pictures of these two wary birds at such close range requires a lot of care to minimize noise or any motion from within the blind. I take several dozen photos of the two egrets, which serve as the culmination of one of my most successful wildlife photo outings in over 15 years in the Klamath Basin. As I look back at my field notes, I realize that during the morning I have photographed 15 different bird species, all at extremely close range. Not bad, I think as I hurry to my car in order to get to work by 8:30 am."

Dave was enthusiastic about birds and eager to share his love and passion for them. He will be missed by his family, friends, and colleagues. *Kevin Spencer, Ron Cole, Doug Menke*

On April 28th, 2011, Dave Menke, a 33 year veteran of the US Fish and Wildlife Service passed away. He leaves behind his special family: wife Valeria, and children, Rebecca, Matthew, and Sarah. He also leaves behind his accomplishments and his special talent of bringing photographs and knowledge of nature to thousands of people. Born on Christmas day, he grew up in Webster Groves, Mo., graduated in biology from Drake University, studied forest recreation at Humboldt State University, and received a master's degree in recreation and park administration at the University of Missouri.

Dave worked at refuges in Missouri, Iowa, and Kodiak, Alaska, before settling in Klamath Falls and working at Tule Lake NWR as an outdoor recreation planner since 1991. There he directed activities on all six refuges. He made sure that people enjoyed a quality experience, with wildlife needs coming first.

He designed interpretive signs, hiking trails, and even photo blinds for physically handicapped. He especially promoted birding. He helped organize a network for birders to share their observations in the Klamath Basin. Dave helped develop the Klamath Basin Birding Trail, Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, Basin and Range Birding Trail, the

Joanne Ralston Tipler (1936-2011)



Joanne was a founder and long-time organizer of the Oakridge Audubon Society in the 1970s. At that time, this was the only Audubon chapter in Lane

County because the Eugene Natural History Society fulfilled the role in the Eugene-Springfield area.

Joanne was always known for her exceptional enthusiasm and cheerful way of getting things done. An Audubon chapter based in a small logging town like Oakridge should not have been possible, but largely because of her energy, it happened.

She was always helpful and supportive of young birders, taking them on trips and making sure they were invited to participate on the Oakridge Christmas Bird Count, where they might see Mountain Quail, the "totem" bird of the society. When the Oakridge Audubon Society became the Lane County Audubon Society, the newsletter, *Quail Quips and Quotes*, became simply *The Quail*, a name it still uses.

She remarried in 1981 and lived in Florence until her death. - AC

Byron Showalter 1961-2010

Oregon birder Byron Showalter, 49, died on October 21, 2010. He was raised in Salem and attended Western Merionite High School before graduating from South Salem High School. He attended Heston College in Heston, Kansas, and later obtained degrees from Chemeketa Community College and Western Oregon University. A longtime Hewlett Packard employee, he more recently worked for International Gaming Technology. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Young, his parents, Bernard and Miriam Showalter of Salem; sons Joseph Earl Jackson of Stayton, and Jason Richard Jackson of Scio; brothers Rick Showalter of Albany, and Roger Showalter of Salem; sister Jeanie Bosman of Bellingham, Washington; and six grandchildren. - from news accounts



Left: media photo. Right, summer 1976, birding at Melakwa Lake, Lane County.



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