



Oregon Birds

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THIS ISSUE'S COVER : Long-eared Owl by Steve Gordon.

Possible Allen's Hummingbird in Corvallis

M. S. Eltzroth

Elsie Eltzroth

At about 0730, March 28, 1979, Elsie saw a different hummingbird feeding nervously from one fountain to another at our Four Fountain feeder. It fed rather "jerkily" compared to our regulars, which seem less frantic in feeding and often pause to rest in the filbert bush. This bird did not sit, but disappeared to the north, through or into our neighbors' yard. It was not "attacked" or chased by our regular Rufous Hummingbirds. Elsie's first impressions were : lots of green on head and back, rufous on sides, belly, rump and tail, light breast. When this hummer flashed a full-width brilliant red throat color, she eliminated the Rufous female. On the second visit a few moments later, she had it focused in her binoculars, and eliminated the immature Rufous male, which has only a trace of green under the rufous back color. Besides, the older Rufous male made a habit of chasing the younger one away. This bird was distinctly green across the entire back. The head was green, there was no reddish coloring on top of the head or forehead. No extended gorget points were visible, though where the red of the throat ended, the color appeared black - or appeared black for want of the proper light or positioning of feathers.

Elsie eliminated both the Anna's male and female because of the rufous (not gray) sides and tail, and the lack of red forehead color. She discounted the Calliope due to lack of streaking in the gorget and the small size of that species. This bird was about the size of a Rufous.

About ten minutes later I came into the kitchen and Elsie told me that we'd had a different hummingbird at the feeder. From her description, I thought it might be an Allen's Hummingbird, (Selasphorus sasin), and before she had time to look it up in the book, it returned to the feeder.

I looked at it with the binoculars and confirmed the description she had given. It indeed appeared to be an Allen's Hummingbird, the first we'd ever had in the backyard. The light was adequate, but the sky was overcast, and it soon began to drizzle. I viewed the bird on that third and last drink for a few seconds from about eight meters through 10X binoculars, elbows resting on the dining table. There was no time to set up the camera. The gorget was red, not orange, copper or yellow. However, this may have been due to the overcast sky and early morning light.

We had seen the Allen's at close range and on only one previous occasion, at Pt. Reyes, Calif. in 1977.

Our bird never sat in the bush, did not appear to be chased away, but left the yard again flying north. We triggered the Rare Bird Alert immediately and watched all feeders closely most of the day, but, unfortunately, the bird was not seen again.

Gabrielson & Jewett (1940) place their only two specimens in Curry County in 1929. Bertrand & Scott (1979) list it as extremely rare, a Summer Resident along the southern coast, occurring occasionally in the Medford area. Until this time, it seems to have been reported rarely, if at all, far from the Rogue River. To my knowledge, this is the first report of its presence in the Willamette Valley. The short stay at our feeder suggests that it was a bird in migration, and watch should be kept for this species, which could be expanding its range.

The only problem I had after checking several other authors was with Greenewalt's (1960) beautiful photograph of a bird he identified as a Rufous which, from a front view, had a distinctly green cap! Since Greenewalt did not mention the Allen's in his book, this raises several questions: (1) Was his photo misidentified? (2) Had he and his authorities already "lumped" the Rufous and Allen's? Or (3) Do young Rufous males ever show a molt pattern or sequence which includes the green cap and back simultaneously?

Can anyone shed additional light on these or other possibilities?



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Announcement:

The next meeting of the Oregon Bird Records Committee will be held on Saturday night, May 26 at the Malheur Environmental Field Station. The Committee will discuss matters of procedure, the State List, past records and methods of electing new Committee members. The Committee will also discuss several records under consideration, and will probably view slides and photographs of difficult to identify species.

All Committee discussion and voting will be open to all interested parties, and the atmosphere of the meeting will be informal enough to permit anyone to offer appropriate comments to the Committee.

Exact location and time of the meeting will be posted at the Field Station office and cafeteria.

**Status of the Red-shouldered
Hawk in Oregon**

Dennis Rogers

Ten years ago, the only records of Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) in Oregon were the often-questioned records by Bendire in Harney County, and an equally old dubious record for the Willamette Valley. Gabrielson and Jewett (*Birds of Oregon*, 1940) placed this species on the Oregon Hypothetical List, as they doubted the validity of these early records.

A summary of all records known for the species from Oregon follows:

EASTERN OREGON

- 17 April 1878 Bendire collected two eggs from a nest along Archies Creek in Harney County. He also collected an adult female, according to his field catalog, but the present location of this specimen is unknown. (Bendire's records of Red-shouldered Hawk and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Oregon, M. Ralph Browning. Murrelet, 54:3, p. 34).
- 6 May 1878 Bendire found another nest about a mile up Archies Creek from the first and took a single egg. Browning compared the three eggs reported taken from these sites with eggs of several other species as well as with eggs of Red-shouldered Hawk, and agreed with Bendire's original identification of B. lineatus.
- 8 August 1976 A Red-shouldered Hawk was found by Steve Herman .3 mile east of P Ranch Headquarters, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney Co. It was also observed by C.D. Littlefield and Stuart Croghan. Further details are not presently available for this sighting.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

- 3 Jan. 1973 An immature was found by Jeff Gilligan and Harry Nehls on Sauvie Island, about 10 miles north of Portland (AB 27:653).
- 11 Jan. 1977 An adult was found by Alberto Palleroni at the southern end of Fern Ridge Res., about 10 miles west of Eugene. It was seen on several days after discovery and was observed by Alan Contreras, Sayre Greenfield and Dorris Swanson. Larry McQueen obtained suitable photographs to make this the first modern documented record for Oregon known at the time, though the Elk River Bridge specimen (see Curry County section) was found earlier. McQueen's slides are on file with the Oregon Bird Records Committee.
- 1 Jan. 1979 An adult bird was found near the Eugene Airport by Sayre Greenfield on the Eugene Christmas Bird Count. The site of the observation was about five miles from that of the 1977 bird. The bird spent some time in the area, as it was seen on Jan. 19 by Alan Contreras and Paul Young and on Jan. 22 by Clarice Watson, Helen Mancl, Joan Bray and Martha Schmitt (OB 4:6)

CURRY COUNTY

- All information from Curry County is from personal observation and correspondence.
- ? 1975 A Port Orford man picked up an adult Red-shouldered Hawk that had been killed by a car just north of the Elk River Bridge (3.5 miles north of Port Orford) on Highway 101. My photograph of this specimen is published with this paper, and has been filed with the Records Committee as the earliest modern record of the species in Oregon to be documented.

10 Apr. 1976 Steve and Priscilla Summers, and Goly and Vince Zauskey, sighted an immature along Wallom Road about 3.5 miles south of Harbor. This is about 2 miles north of the Oregon-California border.

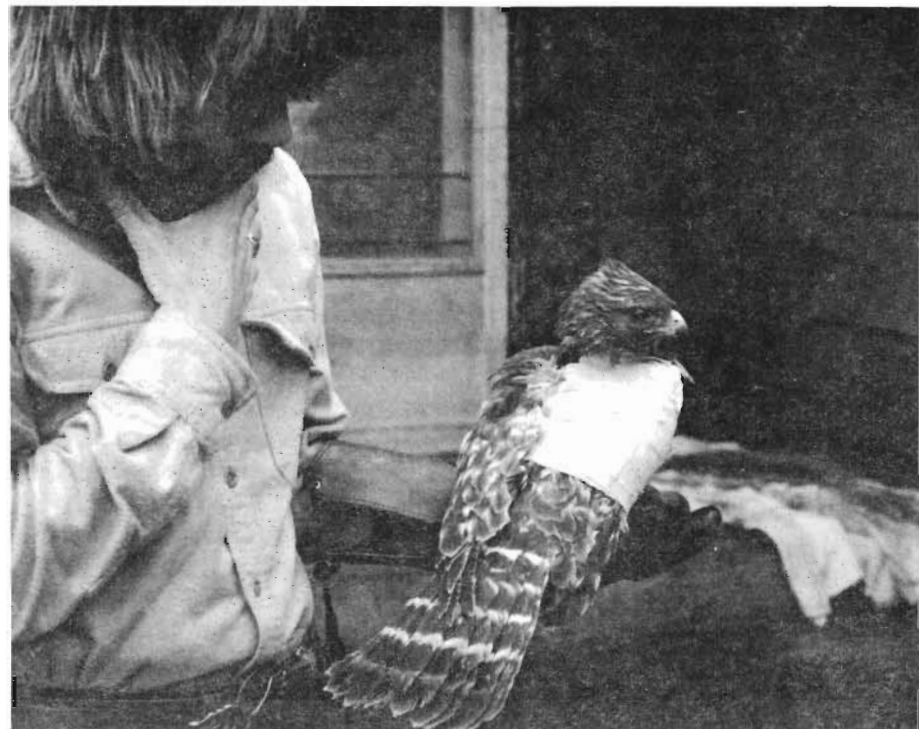
28 Jan. 1979 Larry Johnson, a Langlois teacher, found an immature along Highway 101 just north of Langlois. He caught the bird, which had been struck by a car, and gave it to Dan Deuel, who runs the Free Flight Bird Rehabilitation Center in Bandon. It is now recovering nicely from a broken wing and an infected foot, though it lost a toe to the infection. My photograph of this bird is on file with the Records Committee and is published here.

1971-1977 Fred Bowen, Gold Beach CBC compiler, has seen single Red-shouldered Hawks several times between Cape Sebastian (about 7 miles south of Gold Beach) and Thomas Creek (about 15 miles south of Gold Beach), but unfortunately has no written records of these sightings.

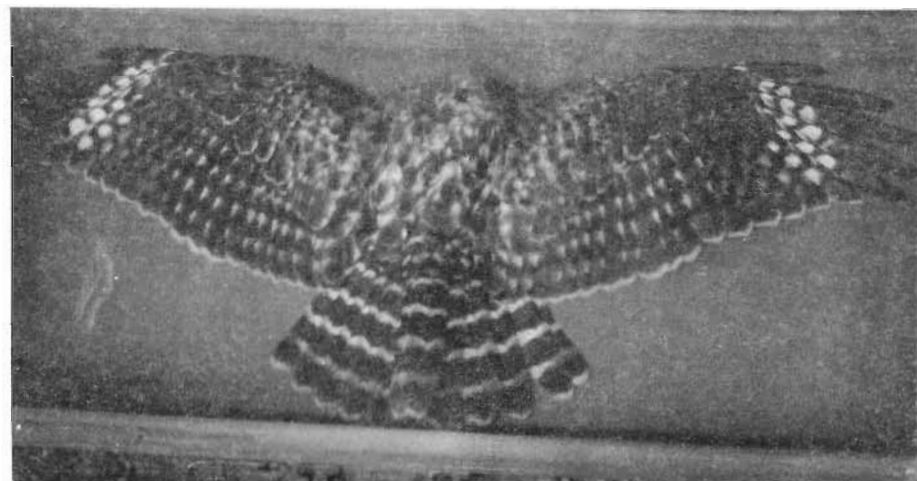
ROGUE VALLEY

All sightings and details are from Dave Sidden, who makes movies of raptors and also runs a raptor rehabilitation center in Grants Pass. I have no exact dates for these observations.

1976-1978 In the spring of 1976, '77 and '78, a male Red-shouldered Hawk appeared and set up a territory in the riparian-open field habitat along the Rogue River. Each year he has failed to attract a mate and has disappeared.



Red-shouldered Hawk, captured alive 28 Jan. 1979 by Larry Johnson at Langlois, Curry County. Shown here held by Dan Deuel, at Free Flight Bird Rehabilitation Center, Bandon, Coos Co.
photo by Dennis Rogers



Red-shouldered Hawk, found dead near Elk River Bridge, Hwy. 101, Curry County in 1975.
photo by Dennis Rogers

Summer 1978

Dave saw adult Red-shouldered Hawks several times on and near an island behind Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue River in western Jackson County. He believes that they may have nested there.

Fall 1978

Dave received an immature for his rehabilitation that had been through several hands before he got it. He believes that it came from somewhere near Central Point, Jackson County, and was injured soon after being fledged. At one time Dave had this bird and three other Red-shouldered Hawks which had come from California in his rehabilitation center. He released 3, including the Oregon bird, near Grants Pass, and will release the other shortly. He hopes that one of the two females released will meet the previously mentioned male and set up housekeeping. If this happens, the first modern breeding record could be only partly valid, as this is an artificial population.

OUTLOOK

Red-shouldered Hawks should continue showing up in Curry County and the Rogue Valley, as they are very regular just 18 miles south of the border, around Crescent City. According to Steve Summers, who has birded that area extensively, it is possible to see five in a day, while the 1977 Del Norte County CBC, which covers that area, had 17.

Eighteen miles isn't very far for a hawk to fly, so I expect there will be more Curry County records in the future. The spring and summer reports along the Rogue River need to be investigated. The Malheur and Willamette Valley records are most likely stragglers from the main body, but should keep occurring here and there.



Dennis Rogers
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Breeding Season 1978:

Southeastern Oregon

C. D. Littlefield

Water conditions were excellent in the Harney Basin during the summer season. Precipitation continued through 9 July, but daily amounts were small. The largest amount occurred on 18 June when 0.46 inches fell. The total amount from 1 June through 15 August was 1.65 inches. Precipitation through early July prevented early meadow mowing on private lands, north of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh bird fledging success appeared higher than in past years. Malheur Lake, and brood ponds on Malheur NWR were in excellent condition at the close of the period.

No Horned Grebes were known to have nested in the basin. Usually about five pairs can be located during the nesting season. Eared Grebes were prevalent on Malheur Lake, resulting from increased productivity of the lake, after the carp treatment program in September 1977. In addition, about 200 pairs were located on Boca Lake with nesting in progress by mid-July. Another 25 pairs nested on the Burns Sewage Ponds. One species of grebe that was detrimentally affected by the 1977 carp eradication program was the Western Grebe. Only about 350 (down from about 1200 in 1977) were on Malheur Lake during the summer and several dead were retrieved. Three of these were analyzed and causative agent was starvation. No nesting was known to occur on Malheur Lake until August, after small carp became evident. Pied-billed Grebes increased on Malheur Lake, as did their main food source — invertebrates.

White Pelicans arrived on the refuge at their normal time (mid-April), but most left shortly afterward. By mid-July only 90 could be located in the entire basin. As young carp became available in early August their numbers increased. At the close of the period over 500 were on the refuge. Another species that showed a reduction in numbers in 1978 was the Double-crested Cormorant. Only 20 pairs nested, down from 70 in 1977. Cormorants were widely scattered throughout the basin during the summer. Usually in the nesting

season they are confined to Malheur Lake and vicinity, but in 1978 they were seen up to 30 miles from the lake throughout the period. Lack of food in Malheur Lake was believed responsible for this wide dispersal.

Colonial nesting bird colonies were surveyed in June. Great Blue Herons were down from 200 pairs in 1977 to 30 pairs in 1978. Like cormorants, the species was widely dispersed throughout the basin. One dead heron that was analyzed had died from starvation and another had enteritis. Many were seen hunting for small rodents and insects in alfalfa fields, which is unusual behavior in this region. Other colonial nesters fared much better and their numbers were: Black-crowned Night Heron 526 pairs (1977 - 375); Snowy Egret 137 pairs (1977 - 50); Great Egret 400 pairs (1977 - 125); and White-faced Ibis 190 pairs (1977 - 200). A total of 336 ibis were seen feeding on Malheur Lake and north of the lake on 3 August.

Waterfowl habitat improved on Malheur Lake and 6150 duck pairs were present in late May and apparently nested. Of these, Redheads were the most abundant with 2660 and Ruddy Ducks second with 1885. In the basin a total of 22,700 duck pairs were present during the nesting season. Most important were Cinnamon Teal 4280 pairs, Redhead 3850 pairs, Mallard 2785 pairs, Pintail 2630 pairs and Gadwall 2480 pairs. Most noteworthy was the large number of Pintail pairs. Excellent water conditions in the basin at the peak of Pintail migration apparently "short-stopped" many pairs that would have normally migrated north. Red-head pairs were reduced on private land. This reduction can be attributed to the increased productivity of Malheur Lake and most Redheads probably moved to the lake to nest. Trumpeter Swans had a good year. At the close of the period 14 cygnets were on Malheur NWR.

Migrant waterfowl moved into the basin in late June. Most use was on Malheur Lake and by late July 78,200 ducks were present, with 59,500 of these on the lake. The most abundant species was the Pintail. Emergent vegetative growth on the lake was excellent and most waterfowl were using this food source.

Unfortunately, a botulism outbreak occurred on the lake in early August and continued through the close of the period. Through 17 August, 850 birds had been picked up. Thirty-seven percent of these were Pintails, 11 percent Ruddy Ducks, 11 percent American Coots and 13 percent Ring-billed Gulls. Other birds infected included Redheads, Mallards, Gadwalls, American Wigeon and other waterfowl. Also terns, grebes, shorebirds, herons and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were lost.

One pair of Swainson's Hawks nested on the refuge, the first since 1971 and migrants were detected in late July. A Ferruginous Hawk was seen near refuge headquarters on 26 and 27 July, earlier than normal. Ospreys were observed at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters on 10 June and near Frenchglen on 10 August. Golden Eagles had a successful year and most nests were active. One pair nested in a cottonwood tree north of Malheur Lake. They nested in a Great Blue Heron nest and the pair apparently caused the herons to abandon the colony. Marsh Hawks nested in normal numbers, but high predation rates resulted in low fledging success.

Greater Sandhill Cranes on Malheur Refuge had 34.6 percent nesting success. High predation rates and a late April flood resulted in this low success. American Coots had a good year, but production had not been determined at the close of the period. Malheur Lake and the Silvies River Floodplain received the most use. Several small ponds south of Burns had over 100 young per pond in July. One week old coots were still being seen in mid-August on Malheur Lake.

Shorebirds nested in good numbers. During June an estimated 1300 Long-billed Curlews, 2060 Willets, 2415 American Avocets and 5440 Wilson's Phalaropes were in the area and most apparently nested. Fall migration began on 23 June when Greater Yellowlegs arrived. By mid-July Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers had arrived. Most use was on the Silvies River Floodplain during the nesting season, but switched to the refuge during migration. The great buildup of shorebirds on Stinking Lake did not occur. High water levels reduced

the exposed mudflats. Most of these birds were believed to have moved on to Abert Lake near Lakeview. Black-necked Stilts were virtually absent in July. These birds moved into the basin from other regions as only about three pairs could be accounted for during the nesting season. On 15 August 30 were seen on Malheur Lake.

California and Ring-billed Gulls again occupied a colony 4 miles southeast of Burns. About 600 were present during the nesting season. Franklin's Gulls, upon arrival, moved directly to Malheur Lake. An estimated 520 pairs nested. In past years, when Malheur Lake was unproductive, the species scattered throughout the basin. This year most activity was confined in or adjacent to Malheur lake. Two Caspian Terns were on Stinking Lake 3 July and another was near Frenchglen on 2 August.

Mourning Doves began congregating on the refuge about 29 July. A pair of Barn Owls nested at refuge headquarters for the first time since 1971. One young was believed to have fledged (Steve Thompson and John Cornely). Rufous Hummingbirds were returning to the basin in mid-July. On 25 July an estimated 500 were feeding on columbines, near Fish Lake on Steens Mountain (Debbie Goldenberg).

Western Kingbirds were first observed migrating on 28 July and by the end of the period few could be located. A Western Flycatcher was at Malheur Refuge headquarters on 15 August (Mark Smith) and Western Wood Peewees were migrating through the area on 14 August. Approximately 6000 swallows were found on the north side of Malheur Lake on 20 July. Most were Cliff Swallows; however, about 300 Bank Swallows were among the group. Most Cliff Swallows had left the basin by 16 August. Clark's Nutcrackers were more evident than usual. Four reports came from the Steens Mountain and one from the Pueblo Mountains in July, indicating the species' food sources were depleted in the coniferous forest. A Mockingbird remained at Malheur Field Station from late May through early June for one of the few refuge records.

A cold front, which dropped 1.5 inches of snow on Steens Mountain on 12 August, brought several species of warblers. On 11 August Yellow Warblers were moving through the area and a Nashville Warbler was seen on the same day, 5 days earlier than their previous earliest arrival (16 August 1965). An immature Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler was captured and banded on 14 August. A Townsend's Warbler also arrived earlier than ever, when one was seen at headquarters on 12 August (Mark Smith). The earliest previous fall record was on 14 August 1976. Wilson's Warblers were observed on 15 August when several were seen at headquarters. An adult male American Redstart was found dead at headquarters on 11 August. The bird was well decomposed and had probably died in late June. Western Tanagers arrived on 14 August (Mark Smith). A flock of 10 Bobolinks were seen from 13 through 16 August about 3 miles southwest of Malheur headquarters in an area where the species often congregates in late summer.

An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on 6 July in Diamond (Steve Herman). The species has become a regular migrant since they were first recorded in 1973. Vesper Sparrows were first seen migrating on 11 August and Brewer's Sparrows were moving through on 20 July. An immature White-crowned Sparrow was seen near headquarters on 15 August, 19 days earlier than the previous earliest fall arrival (Mark Smith). A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at the same location by the same observer on the same day. This was 10 days earlier than all previous fall records.



- Carroll D. Littlefield
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service
Burns, Oregon 97720

This summary of northeastern Oregon raptor counts was prepared by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. It originally appeared in the February, 1979 issue of the Rav-on, newsletter of the Grande Ronde Bird Club, and is reprinted here with permission of Editor Ann Deering.

Winter Raptor Counts 1979

Northeast Region

County	Miles Traveled	Cooper's Hawk	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Goshawk	Swainson Hawk	Rough legged Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Golden Eagle	Bald Eagle	Marsh Hawk	Prairie Falcon	Merlin	American Kestrel	Great Horned Owl	Pygmy Owl	Northern Shrike	Raven	Unidentified	Total
Baker	83					7	3	7		11			2			2	13		50
Grant	130	1					11	10	6	4	1		3				10		46
Morrow	84	1				5	5	2		2			4			6	5		30
Gilliam	43					6		1		4			3			6	12		32
Umatilla*	149		1			74	10	1	8	5			11					2	112
Union	208		2	2		71	9	4	5		4		4			7	36	6	150
Wallowa	48	1				5	4	1			1						6	2	20
Wheeler	61	2	3					1	1	1		1	3			3	2		17
1979 Total	785	5	6	2		168	42	27	20	27	6	1	30			24	89	10	457
1978 Total	785				2	107	40	17	4	29	7	1	24	1	1	10	69	13	325
1977 Total	716	6			1	153	56	26	5	42	8		28	1		10	71	19	426
1976 Total	630	3				66	27	33	15	50	6		17	2		**	**	5	221

*One snowy owl was observed in Umatilla County in 1977.

**Records of Northern Shrikes and Ravens were not recorded in 1976.

1978 Coast Birding Weekend Summary

Alan Contreras

The 1978 Oregon Coast Birding Weekend only covered the northern coast, as far south as Winchester Bay. This led to lower counts of some species, especially shorebirds. The list of species published here reflects the future emphasis of the Weekend, as well as the inadequate reporting of passerines in the past three C.B.W.'s. The 1979 CBW will be essentially a shorebird-waterbird survey, and will not use any data on other species. This type of survey is a regular, though much larger-scaled event, covering some months. Ours will continue to be on the days it has always been on - the last Saturday & Sunday in August. This year that will be August 25 & 26. We hope to be a little better organized, and will use a standardized report sheet to eliminate delays in compilation.

Anyone wishing to participate in the 1979 CBW may contact the Editor of Oregon Birds for further information.

Participants in the 1978 CBW were :

Verda Teale, Benny, Eddie & Harvey Teale.
South Jetty of the Columbia, Cannon Beach,
Barview, Tillamook Bay area.

Steve Summers

Pelagic trip out of Coos Bay on August 20, but included with this summary.

Tad Finnell, Kathy Finnell

Newport area; Yaquina, Siletz & Netarts Bays.

Paul Reed, Robert Olson

Yaquina Bay, Yaquina Head.

Margaret Markley, Mary Forrester

Yachats, Heceta Head, Siuslaw estuary, Gardiner,
Winchester Bay and open coast.

Darrel Faxon, Glenn Faxon

Yaquina Head, Yaquina Bay.

David Fix, Joe Evanich, Harry Nehls, Craig Roberts.

South Jetty of the Columbia, Cannon Beach, Seaside,
Tillamook Bay area.

Arctic Loon	20	Whimbrel	10
Red-throated Loon	10	Spotted Sandpiper	2
Western Grebe	36	Wandering Tattler	5
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Willet	2
Sooty Shearwater	350	Greater Yellowlegs	20
Pink-footed Shearw.	100	Lesser Yellowlegs	9
Buller's (New Zeal.)		Red Knot	6
Shearwater	16	Sharp-tailed Sandp.	2 *
Northern Fulmar	1	Buff-breasted Sandp.	2 *
Fork-tailed St.-Petrel	3	Pectoral Sandpiper	2
Leach's Storm-Petrel	4	Baird's Sandpiper	6
Black-footed Albat.	35	Least Sandpiper	941
Brown Pelican	69	Short-billed Dow.	49
(at least 44 imm.)		Long-billed Dow.	3
D.C. Cormorant	175	Western Sandp.	13,868
Brandt's Cormorant	35	Marbled Godwit	41
Pelagic Cormorant	105	Sanderling	6
Great Blue Heron	62+	Red Phalarope	53
Green Heron	9	Northern Phalarope	115
Great Egret	75	phalarope, sp.	100
American Bittern	1	Parasitic Jaeger	4
Mallard	50	jaeger, sp.	5
Pintail	166	Glaucous-winged Gull	33
teal, sp.	2	Western Gull	470
American Wigeon	12	Herring Gull	1220 ?
Northern Shoveler	2	California Gull	2800
Greater Scaup	1	Ring-billed Gull	1351
White-winged Scoter	174	Mew Gull	5
Surf Scoter	869	Bonaparte's Gull	337
Black Scoter	2	Heermann's Gull	662
Ruddy Duck	9	Black-legged Kitti.	5
Red-breasted Merg.	70	Sabine's Gull	4
Cooper's Hawk	1	Common Tern	4
Bald Eagle	11	Arctic Tern	2
Northern Harrier	4	Caspian Tern	479
Osprey	3	Common Murre	40
Virginia Rail	1	Pigeon Guillemot	42
American Coot	3	Cassin's Auklet	20
Black Oystercatcher	11	Rhinoceros Auklet	2
Semipalmated Plover	268	<u>Tufted Puffin</u>	3
Killdeer	2		
Am. Golden Plover	1	* = photos on file with	
Black-bellied Plover	35	Records Committee	
Surfbird	56		
Ruddy Turnstone	15		
Black Turnstone	27		

Records Committee Report

Alan Contreras

The second meeting of the Oregon Bird Records Committee was held on February 18, 1979, at the home of Fred & Alice Parker in Roseburg.

In attendance were regular Members Eleanor Pugh, Larry McQueen, Bob Lucas, Harry Nehls, Jeff Gilligan, Otis Swisher and Alan McGie. Alternates David Fix & Steve Summers voted for absent Members Fred Ramsey & C.D. Littlefield. Also in attendance were several other birders, observing the Committee. Secretary Alan Contreras chaired the meeting.

The following organizations were credited, with thanks, for their financial support of the Committee, which is an essentially autonomous body.

Cape Arago Audubon Society
Grande Ronde Bird Club
Lane County Audubon Society
Portland Audubon Society
Salem Audubon Society
Southern Willamette Ornithological Club
Umpqua Valley Audubon Society

A total of \$80.00 was contributed to the Committee in 1978. Original minutes prepared from the meeting failed to properly credit the contribution from the Grande Ronde Bird Club, to which apologies are now given.

The Committee took the following action:

Approved the attendance at Committee deliberations of interested people not Members of the Committee or Alternates.

Voted to discuss in-state extralimital records (Gnatcatcher in Tillamook, for example) only when brought up for specific attention by a member of the Committee.

Voted to continue and modify the system of "Alternates". This system uses people not Members of the Committee to vote under specific circumstances, such as the absence of a Member from a meeting.

Voted, after considerable discussion, to use the following categories and definitions for records:

Not Accepted - The Committee feels that the record has not been adequately substantiated.

Hypothetical - A vote to accept a record of a species not proven by specimen, photograph or tape recording to have ever occurred in Oregon. This category may be used for any records of a particular species until documentation is accepted by the Committee.

Accepted - The Committee feels that the record has been adequately substantiated. This category applies to records of any species proven to have occurred in Oregon at least once.

Origin Questionable - A special category which is used for a record of any species assigned to one of the 3 primary categories. It indicates that a majority of Committee members feel that the bird may be an escape, artificially introduced or otherwise questionable.

The Committee accepted the following records:

*Blue Grosbeak	4 Jan 75	Corvallis	<u>Eltzroth</u>
Tennessee Warb.	29 Jul 76	Indian Ford Campground, Deschutes Co.	<u>Nehls, Love</u>
Red-sh. Hawk	Jan 77	Fern Ridge Res., Lane Co.	<u>McQueen</u>
Yellow-b. Loon	24 Sep 73	Charleston, Coos Co.	<u>Concannon, McGie</u>
Rose-br. Gros.	25 Dec 72	Lake Oswego	<u>Curran</u>
Bar-tailed God.	11 Sep 77	Bandon	<u>Summers</u>
*Mongol. Plover	11 Sep 77	Tillamook	<u>Gilligan</u>
*Wheatear	22 Jun 77	Malheur NWR	<u>Ringler</u>
?*North. Parula	30 May 76	Malheur NWR	<u>Summers</u>

Hooded Oriole	Jan 79	Eugene	<u>McQueen</u>
Red-sh. Hawk	28 Jan 79	Langlois,	Curry Co.
		<u>Rogers</u>	
Y-b. Cuckoo	7 Jun 77	Hart Mtn,	Lake Co.
		<u>Tubbs, Mewaldt</u>	
Mtn. Plover	19 Nov 77	Tillamook	<u>Gilligan</u>
Blackpoll Warb.	29 May 74	Malheur NWR	<u>Zeillemaker</u>
Black-thr. Blue Warb.	7 Oct 78	Malheur NWR	<u>Summers</u>
Rose-br. Gros	30 May 76	Malheur NWR	<u>Summers</u>
"Baltimore" Ori.	26 Oct 74	Tillamook	<u>Lucas</u>
*Sharp-tld. Sand.	23 Oct 77	Tillamook	<u>Gilligan</u>
Grassh. Sparr.	1 Jun 72	Eugene	<u>McQueen</u>
Buff-br. Sand.	26 Aug 78	Tillamook	<u>Fix, Gilligan</u>
Skua	30 Sep 78	off Newport	<u>Gilligan</u>
Costa's Humm.	2 Nov 77	Portland	<u>Gilligan</u>
Costa's Humm.	15 Nov 77	Roseburg	<u>Parker</u>
Least Tern	31 May 75	South Jetty of the Col- umbia (hereafter SJCR).	<u>Gilligan</u>
*Temminck's Stint	3 Sept 78	Tillamook	<u>Gilligan</u> (will be reconsidered)
Semip. Sandp.	19 Aug 77	Agate Res.,	Jackson Co. <u>Summers</u>
Sharp-tld. San.	Sep 78	SJCR	<u>Nehls</u>
Stilt Sandp.		Tillamook	<u>Lucas</u>
Stilt Sandp.	30 Aug 74	SJCR	<u>Nehls</u>
Buff-br. Sandp.	30 Sep 78	SJCR	<u>Nehls</u>
Least Tern	30 Sep 78	off Newport	<u>Rodgers, Nufer</u>
*Hooded Warb.	20 Jul 74	Washburne State Park, 5 mi. n. of Junction City, Lane Co.	<u>McQueen</u>
*Chest.-col. Lsp.	1 May 76	Fern Ridge Res.	<u>McQueen</u>

* = first state record known to the Secretary.

The Committee accepted the following records as hypothetical.

Spotted Dove The Committee viewed excellent slides of a Spotted Dove, taken in Portland by Christy Brindle in February, 1969. Due to considerable controversy over the origin of the bird, the record was assigned this status, and also deemed Origin Questionable.

Curlew Sandpiper

The Committee accepted written details of a sighting of this species on 21 July 1976 at Yaquina Bay by Darrel Faxon. No specimen or identifiable photograph of this species has been obtained in Oregon.

White-winged Dove

The Committee accepted written details of a bird seen 28 August 1976 at the South Jetty of the Columbia River. The bird was seen by Harry Nehls and Darrel Faxon; details on file are by Nehls.

The Committee voted not to accept the following records. The numbers following each account are accept-not accept vote totals. Under current Committee rules, any record must receive at least eight votes for acceptance from the nine Committee members in order to be accepted. It is the policy of the Records Committee and Oregon Birds that the names of observers whose records are not accepted shall not be published. This does not reflect poorly on those observers whose records were not accepted, for they include two Members of the Committee, and other competent observers. It is a courtesy, and is practiced by other state Records Committees, to their credit. The Committee exists to encourage better record-keeping and more accurate knowledge of Oregon's birds, not to discourage observers whose records are not accepted.

Painted Redstart

A bird reported from Gateway, Jefferson County, on 6 June 1977. The Committee cited several reasons for not accepting this record. They felt that the observer had the bird under observation for too brief a period under less than adequate conditions, that description of the bird's breast color was not right for the species, and that the size of the bird was not adequately indicated.

0-9

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Photos obtained at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane County, on 21 August 1972 were judged by the Committee to be most likely of a Western Sandpiper. The photos did not show the pale "collar" that is reputed to be one field characteristic of the species, and the bird appeared to be more scaly-backed in appearance, with a possible trace of reddish on the scapulars.

0-9

Blue-winged Warbler

The Committee cited two main reasons for not accepting this record, reported from Elk Lake, Marion County from 27 August 1970. It was thought uncertain whether the observer had seen the same bird twice, as reported, and since certain field marks were seen at one time, other key details at



Oregon's first Wheatear. South of Malheur Field Station, 22 June 1977.

photo by Bob Ringler

the other time, the Committee felt that an element of uncertainty was present. Also, details of the sighting were brief.

The record will be reconsidered if additional details become available.

5-4

Blackpoll Warbler

Reported from Walton Lake, Crook County, on 27 July 1977. Description of the bird's coloration seemed inconsistent with any one known plumage of the species. Details were brief.

1-8

Thick-billed Murre

Reported from Boardman State Park, north of Brookings, Curry County on 21 August 1976.

The Committee felt that the description did not rule out Common Murre, which can assume some peculiar plumages, especially in molt, which this bird was. The bird showed no white line by the upper mandible, and the bill description was considered ambiguous. Details were brief.

6-3

Little Gull

Reported from Yaquina Bay, 20 August 1978. The Committee cited wrong underwing color, too large a size and too long wings, and felt that the bird was not adequately distinguished from immature Bonaparte's Gull.

0-8 one abstention

Black-billed Cuckoo

Reported from Yaquina Bay, 3 September 1978. The sighting was made under very poor weather and visual conditions, and the bird was stated to be in poor plumage condition. Field marks mentioned were not conclusive or complete.

6-3

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Photos obtained at Tillamook Bay in the fall of 1977 were considered insufficient evidence without accompanying written details. The record will be reconsidered when written details become available.

6-3

California Thrasher

Written details of a bird seen 18 June 1977 at O'Brien, Josephine County, were considered too brief by the Members who voted not to accept the record. Lack of previous experience with the species by the observer and insufficient details to eliminate other thrasher species were cited.

The record is being reconsidered.

7-2

All comments included with these records are from those made by Committee Members who voted not to accept the records. Under present Committee rules, any record may be reconsidered if reintroduced by a Committee member, or if additional details are acquired by the Secretary.



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An Addition to Oregon's List

A new species may be added to the list of those having been confirmed for Oregon. An immature female Magnolia Warbler was collected near the mouth of Euchre Creek, Curry County, on September 18, 1971. The collector's name is not available, but the specimen is in the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

(from "Notes on the Hypothetical List of Oregon Birds," M. Ralph Browning, Northwest Science, Vol. 48, No. 3, page 168, 1974 and subsequent correspondence.)

Big Day in Klamath County

Steve Gordon

For the second consecutive year, a Big Day in Klamath County, Oregon (excluding refuges just over the border in California) resulted in a tally of more than 100 species. The May 1977 Big Day ended with 109 species and the May 13, 1978 Big Day with 140 species. Steve Summers reported briefly on the 1978 Big Day in the Spring Field Report from Klamath County in Oregon Birds Vol. 4, #3. This article will provide more detail on this event, which, to the best knowledge of the seven participants, resulted in a new record for a Big Day held within a single county in Oregon.

We are certain that 140 is a new record for a Saturday, May 13 Big Day with seven participants in a green-and-white 1972 Volkswagen bus.

The day began, as many Big Days do, at the earliest signs of daylight (and with bagels and bananas, which most Big Days do not). House Finches and American Robins greeted us with song. At Lake Ewauna, a good representation of ducks, swallows and gulls were quickly added to our list. Several other species were added on a walk upstream along the Link River. On a walk downstream on the northern end of the Link River, we were pleased to find two White-winged Scoters which the Summers' had seen above the dam during the previous week. In Moore Park, we found a beautiful Anna's Hummingbird, Great Horned Owl and Bald Eagle, and heard Mountain Quail.

After birding around Hagelstein Park, 12 miles north of Klamath Falls, we drove toward the top of Nalox Ridge above Algoma. On the way to the top, we found a good bunch of warblers and a Calliope Hummingbird. While the bird was perched on the same bush as it had been on a spring SWOC field trip to the Basin in 1977, we all agreed that the hummingbird had probably moved from the branch during the winter. On the ridgetop we enjoyed listening to Fox Sparrows and finding Green-tailed Towhees in the Manzanita. As we walked south along the ridge toward our car, we observed a White-headed Woodpecker. We then found a Gray Flycatcher in a

juniper which would have entranced us with the twitching of its tail if a Swainson's Hawk had not flown immediately overhead. We were still discussing the field marks seen close at hand when we observed an Acorn Woodpecker in a Ponderosa Pine. The nearest oak trees to Algoma are about 25 miles southwest (as the Common Crow flies) below John Boyle Reservoir in the Klamath River Canyon . . . and none of us had an acorn to offer.

From Algoma we traveled 45 miles north on Hwy. 97 to visit the Klamath Forest N.W.R. Along the way we found a Lewis' Woodpecker in willows along the Williamson River. At the refuge we saw Sandhill Crane, Burrowing Owl and a Goshawk.

We headed south again toward Chiloquin as we entered early afternoon.

There comes a time in every Big Day when birds are not being ticked off on the checklist as rapidly as they were during the morning. This point in the Big Day seems to correspond exactly at which body fatigue catches up with early risers who were so excited that they stayed up til midnight on the eve of the Big Day. This point, by sheer coincidence, corresponds with a general period of inactivity for many birds. This lull is probably inevitable in any Big Day attempt, and usually comes after the magic "100 species" plateau has been reached, or is imminent. At this point, there is reflection on the "easy ones" missed during the morning, and much wishing for rarities to pop up during the remaining hours:

"Maybe we'll turn up a Yellow Rail at Miller's Island".

This early afternoon lull may not be the critical point in a Big Day, but the human energy output in the remaining portion of the day's effort (plus a variable called luck) is roughly proportional to the ultimate success (i.e., size of the list) of the Big Day.

We stopped at Fort Klamath. A walk into the woods across Hwy. 62 from the cemetery yielded a Great Gray Owl, and good looks at Townsend's Warbler for everyone in the party. During the

middle of the afternoon, we worked our way south along the west side of Upper Klamath Lake. The weather began to turn for the worse.

Blue Grouse and Hairy Woodpecker were added at Crystal Springs, and by late afternoon we were hurrying toward Miller Island for shorebirds, geese and marsh birds.

By the time we reached Miller Island, the weather was nasty, with strong winds and dark clouds bringing an end to a long day. We did find Ross' Goose, but we were otherwise disappointed. We failed to add significantly to our shorebird total, missing Greater Yellowlegs and Black-necked Stilt, to mention only two. Our luck with American Bittern and rails was no better.

With between 134 and 140 species having been identified by the seven participants, and with the weather turning even worse, we opted for Italian food instead of an owl prowl. Warm surroundings brought friendly conversation from the 1978 participants, Jim & Judy Carlson, Steve Gordon, Kathy and Tad Finnell, Priscilla and Steve Summers. The warm food brought warm reflections on the birds that found their way onto our list, and brought visions of what might have been.

This year we plan to rearrange our itinerary somewhat in an attempt to reach the 150 mark . . . and 160 is not an impossible goal for a Big Day in Klamath County.



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Did you ever pause to ponder the fact that 5,026,560,000 Calliope Hummingbirds would stretch in a straight line from the Earth to the Moon? An observer on-the-scene would hear nothing, however since there is no air in outer space....

Editor's Note

This is our new look. This is also the last you will see of our new look, unless you have paid your 1979 subscription!

Oregon Birds is constantly changing, and, we like to believe, constantly improving. This issue inaugurates our use of photographs, and we hope to use at least one photo-illustrated article per issue this year, budget permitting.

The next issue of O.B. will contain a photo-illustrated article on the status and identification of Stilt Sandpipers in Oregon, by David Fix. It is one of our best yet.

We encourage all members to renew their subscriptions, and to encourage a friend to join. More members mean better articles, lower costs, more photos and better appearance of the journal.

I hope to see many of you at the Records Committee meeting at Malheur Refuge May 26.

Good Birding!

WANTED: Your reaction to an index to Oregon bird sightings in AUDUBON FIELD NOTES/ AMERICAN BIRDS.

An article in the Nov. 1978 AMERICAN BIRDS describes an index to the Florida bird sightings in AFN/AM since 1947. I was intrigued by this and have tried indexing several years (1971+) of Oregon sightings, giving the volume and page number for each mention of each species and listing eastern and western sightings separately. I have decided that I am willing to attempt such an index if it would be useful to Oregon birders doing research on particular species. If you feel such an index is worthwhile, please let me know. It would also be useful to have you suggest the years you think it should cover.

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IF YOU
HAVEN'T
PAID 1979
DUES, THIS
IS YOUR
LAST ISSUE

!

CAPE BLANCO: This spot is fast becoming known for its sightings of unusual birds during spring and fall migration, including Magnolia, Blackpoll and Black-and-white Warblers. I will be present on the cape during the first two weeks of June in hopes of observing outstanding ornithological oddities. Anyone interested in being present is invited but I must be contacted in advance to make arrangements with the Coast Guard. Tom Lund, P.O. Box 3105, Eugene 97403



Oregon Birds

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