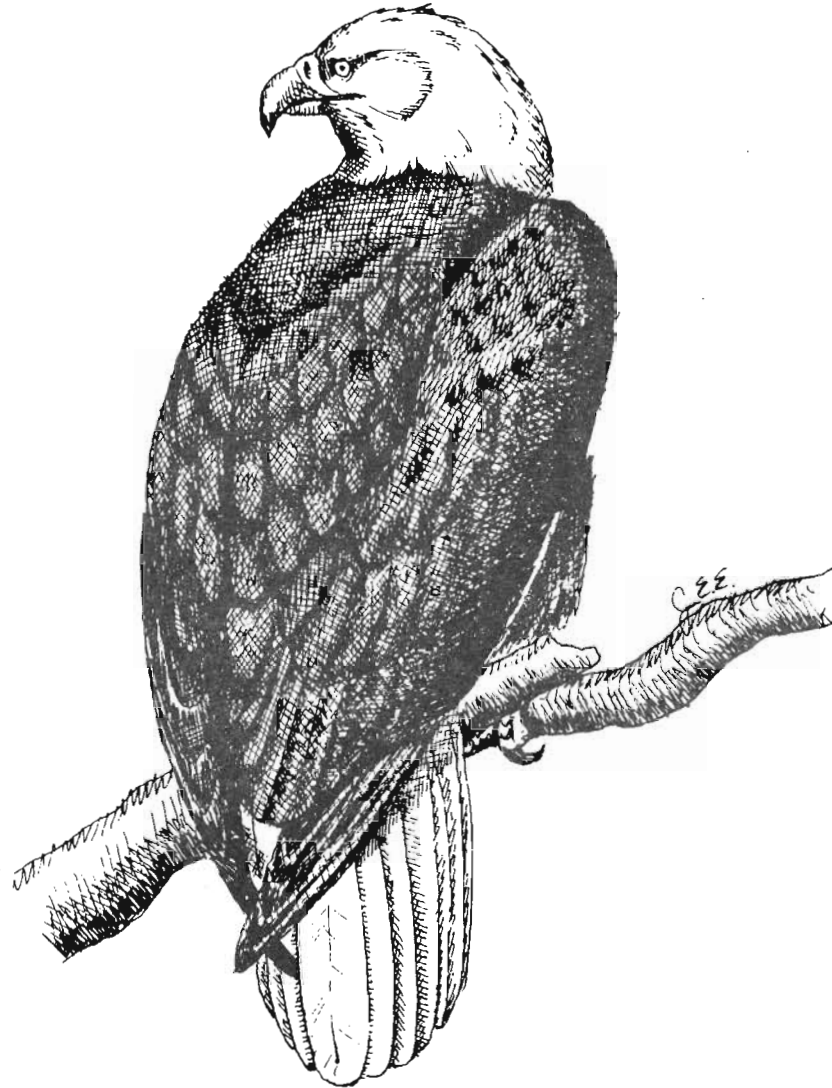


Oregon Birds

Vol. 5, No. 3 - 1979



Contents

Vol. 5, No. 3 - 1979

Oregon's First Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey; January 13-27, 1979	1
Ralph Opp	
Highlights from the Field Notes; Late March Through Early July, 1979	12
Clarice Watson	
Results of the Membership Questionnaire	20
Jim Carlson	
Letters to the Editor	23
Oldsquaws off Cape Blanco	26
Dennis W. Rogers	
Editor's Note	28

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Editors: Jim Carlson, Alan Contreras and Steve Gordon. Production/Distribution Staff: Clarice Watson, Barb Combs, Kathy Finnell, Susan Gordon, Herb Wisner, Bill Dotterer and Judy Carlson.

Cover illustration by Joe Evanich.

The Bald Eagle report is reprinted in OREGON BIRDS with permission from the author. The report was prepared in March 1979 for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We thank Ralph Opp and the Department for this opportunity to disseminate this information to others interested in Oregon's Bald Eagles.

Oregon's First Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey; January 13-27, 1979

Ralph R. Opp

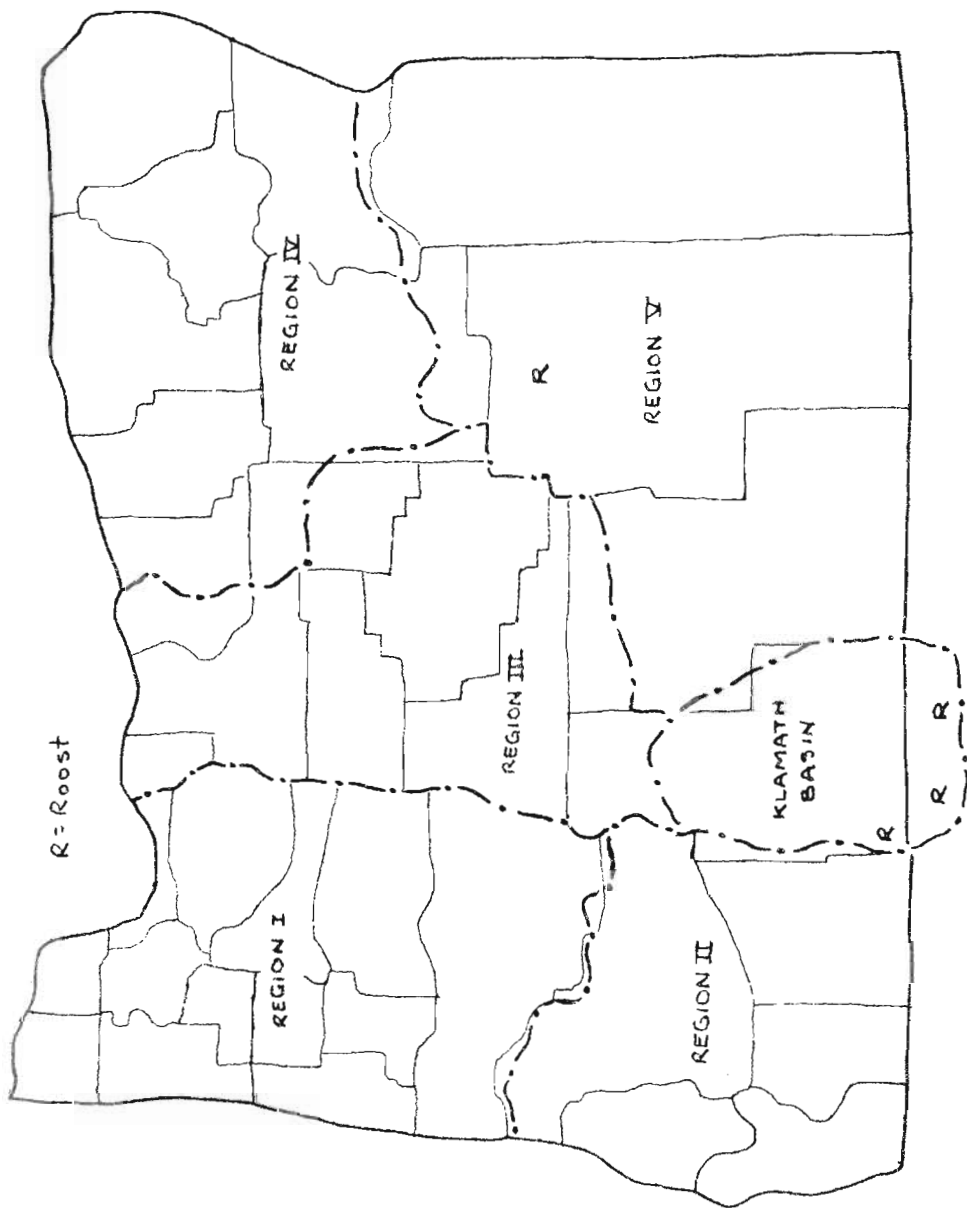
INTRODUCTION

The first National Wildlife Federation sponsored Bald Eagle Mid-Winter Survey was accomplished in Oregon between the suggested dates of January 13-27, 1979. Emphasis was on a January 19th survey date. The Friday date was chosen as agency personnel would mostly be involved in data gathering around the state. California accommodated by surveying north-central California (lower Klamath Basin) along with south-central Oregon.

For inventory, Oregon was divided into six basic sampling areas (map). These areas correspond to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) management regions. The areas also fall generally into separate geographical areas. Coordinating assistance was provided by ODFW biologists from within each regional area. The Klamath Basin (map), both Oregon and California portions, was surveyed separately because of the uniqueness of Bald Eagle use, numbers, and distribution around the "Basin". A well coordinated interagency counting technique developed over past winters was utilized. The technique appears to reduce duplicate counts and generally covers well bird-use areas within the Basin. (Wintering Bald Eagle use in the Basin shifts seasonally due to food distribution (waterfowl primarily) and certain climatic conditions.

Approximately 10 agencies were involved in the Oregon and Klamath Basin counts. Numerous private individuals also participated. Many represented groups such as the Audubon and Klamath Basin Nature Societies.

Food and feeding information was requested of most Oregon surveyors as added data. Response to requests for help on the surveys was generally



good with most of the state receiving a fairly good coverage.

A summary table and narrative summary, by areas, are included below.

NORTHWEST REGION I

Area coverage. Area coverage was generally good but not considered complete. Good response of surveyors was received. Over 11 parties surveyed a minimum of 266 ground (vehicle) miles. An additional 75 square miles were surveyed.

Distribution and count. Bald Eagle sightings generally followed known nesting areas except that approximately 30 eagles were drawn to feed on Sauvie Island, a waterfowl management area near Portland on the Columbia River. The lower Columbia River area apparently produced less numbers of wintering birds than anticipated, (only 20 birds). The regional inventory produced 33 adults, 55 immatures, and 3 unclassified for a total of 91 Bald Eagles. No Golden Eagles were tallied during the survey even though one known nesting pair is in the region.

Food observations. Food observations indicated that wintering Bald Eagles were feeding on fish and waterfowl.

Miscellaneous. Weather conditions were unseasonably cold for the NW area. It could have shifted Bald Eagle winter distribution but little indication of such a shift was noted. No tagged birds were observed.

SOUTHWEST REGION II

Area coverage. The SW region was generally well covered. Over eight parties surveyed a minimum of 268 air and 125 ground (vehicle) miles.

Distribution and count. As expected, a low count was tallied as the area is a relatively low-use area by both nesting and wintering Bald Eagles. Sightings appeared fairly well scattered. The regional inventory netted 3 adult and 5 immature Bald Eagles for a total of 8. One Golden Eagle was tallied during the survey period. No tagged eagles were observed.

Food observations. No special indications were given on winter food of the eagles.

Miscellaneous. Weather conditions appeared seasonably mild for the area.

CENTRAL REGION III (NORTH HALF)

Area coverage. Survey coverage was generally good over most of the area, except that a few known-use areas were not surveyed due to adverse climatic conditions. Surveyor response was good with over 16 parties censusing at least 1,220 ground miles.

Distribution and count. In spite of efforts expended, fewer birds were tallied than are believed wintering in the area. Sightings seemed well scattered over the region. A key nesting area, Crane Prairie Reservoir, and Odell and Crescent Lakes were not surveyed due to foul weather and access. Earlier winter sightings were noted at each area, especially during fish spawning runs. Region III inventories found 24 adult, 5 immature, and 2 unclassified Bald Eagles for a total of 31. Thirty-nine Golden Eagles were also counted.

Food observations. Several observations of Bald Eagles feeding on spawning Kokanee Salmon were noted early in the winter. Power plant fish kills also attracted eagle use. Feeding apparently turned more to waterfowl and other carrion during later freezing periods.

Miscellaneous. Weather conditions were seasonably cold with periods of hard freezing occurring. Most water bodies and numerous streams were frozen during inventory time. No tagged birds were reported.

NORTHEAST REGION IV

Area coverage. Coverage was generally good with mostly key-use areas being censused. Response was apparently light but a minimum of eight parties surveyed over 268 miles by ground, 195 by air, and 100 combined air and ground observations miles.

Distribution and counts. Bald Eagles were believed well concentrated on or close to the Snake River due to hard freezing conditions over the region. Only an estimated 50% of the wintering areas were considered surveyed. It is believed that 125-150 Bald Eagles normally move into the NE region to winter. However, 59 adult, 24 immature, and 20 unclassified Bald Eagles were counted for a total of 103 birds. An additional 20 Golden Eagles were counted during Bald Eagle searches.

Food observations. Waterfowl appeared to be the major Bald Eagle food item except that birds observed in interior areas depended mostly on road killed deer.

Miscellaneous. Weather conditions were seasonably cold with hard freezing perhaps above average. Most waters at higher elevations were frozen over completely. No tagged eagles were tallied. The NE area is not known to have many nesting Bald Eagles so wintering birds are basically in-migrants.

SOUTHEAST REGION V

Area coverage. Area coverage was very good especially in known-use areas. Surveyor response was good with a minimum of 17 parties recording over 930 ground and 400 air survey miles. One communal night roosting area was also located.

Distribution and count. Most Bald Eagles wintered around water bodies in the west, north, and north-east parts of the region. Extreme frozen conditions may have scattered eagles for feeding. A total of 93 Bald Eagles was tallied; 40 adults, 24 immatures, and 29 unclassified birds. Sixty-nine Golden Eagles were also counted.

Food observations. Several groups of Bald Eagles were reported feeding on waterfowl or fish (carp) but many of the scattered eagles were reported feeding on road killed deer, livestock carcasses, and jackrabbits.

Miscellaneous. Weather conditions were considered seasonably cold. Most water bodies were frozen over.

An immature Bald Eagle with yellow patagial wing tags was observed at the Rattlesnake Creek night roost (Burns, Oregon).

The SE region area is considered a very low nesting area for Bald Eagles.

KLAMATH BASIN (OREGON)

Area coverage. Area coverage was very good but not complete. However, most major known-use areas were sampled. Surveyor response was very good with over 14 parties covering more than 270 ground and 130 air survey miles. A 10-square mile communal night roost (Bear Valley) was also censused.

Oregon Klamath Basin Bald Eagle censusing was well coordinated with similar efforts realized in the California side of the Basin. Techniques used in the Basin were developed over the past three winters of wintering Bald Eagle censusing.

Distribution and count. Bald Eagle distribution appeared consistent with survey information from previous years. Weather and food conditions were also similar. Most birds were found at major feeding areas close to the Bear Valley roosting site or at the roost itself.

A population of birds was observed utilizing a feeding situation for approximately a two-week period in early January. Apparently, an abundance of field mice and ground squirrels were available to eagles (and other raptors) due to the early flooding of fields in that area. The Bald Eagles utilized a "satellite" communal night roost adjacent to the fields during that time.

Bald Eagles tallied during the January survey on the Oregon side of the Basin were 110 adults, 51 immatures, and 7 unclassified for a total of 168. (Note: Bald Eagle numbers on the Oregon side of the Basin inclined markedly in February with returning waterfowl and field flooding.) Only 6 Golden Eagles were tallied during the surveys.

Food observations. Waterfowl losses due to hunter mortality or disease (fowl cholera) provided the bulk of food for wintering Bald Eagles. Agriculture field flooding provides periods of mice and ground squirrel (Belding) diets occasionally. Occasional observations of eagles feeding on road killed deer or other carrion were also made, especially earlier in the winter.

Miscellaneous. Bald Eagle distribution typically appears more scattered early in the winter

(November and December), due to less frozen water, more scattered waterfowl, and "fresh" carrion supplies.

Three Bald Eagle nesting sites were observed "occupied" by adult birds on January 19.

No tagged birds were observed in the Basin during the winter.

SUMMARY

Agencies involved in the Oregon and Klamath Basin surveys included Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Lava Beds National Monument, California Fish and Game, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Cooperative Unit of Oregon State University. Audubon and Klamath Basin Nature Societies representing several conservation groups, also assisted. There were numerous private individuals participating also.

Survey data collected outside the January 13-27, 1979 period was generally not included in summary totals unless definitely applicable.

Weather conditions for the counting period were unseasonably cold in the NW region area, seasonably cold but severe at times in the NE area, and mostly seasonal in the remaining south half of the state.

Golden Eagle sightings probably were mostly incidental as survey emphasis was on wintering Bald Eagles. Golden Eagle survey numbers are indicative of their distribution but not necessarily of their relative abundance. Ageing data is also weak, probably due to the difficulty in ageing these birds. The Golden Eagle in Oregon

nests primarily east of the Cascade Mountain Range, in the drier climes. There is one known nesting pair west of the mountains in the NW region. [There is also a 1977 record for Linn Co., Charlie Thomas, Oregon Birds, Issue No. 2, Oct.-Nov. 1977 - Ed.]

The basic nesting areas for Bald Eagles in Oregon are the Klamath Basin (Upper Klamath Lake), Central Oregon, and the Lower Columbia River area. Winter inventory data supports this somewhat. Bald Eagles tallied in the NE and SE portions of the state are largely migrants as very few nesting pairs are found there. There is no indication of an east-west movement of eagles across the Cascade Mountains within Oregon. The westside eagles appear to be very residential in nature.

The observation of the marked immature Bald Eagle suggests a possible migration of eagles from the east of the Continental Divide. It is still believed this movement, if consistent, is minimal because of the mountain chain, distances, Klamath Basin climatic conditions and the more available Bald Eagle pool north of Oregon.

Age class data is quite varied. All implications have not yet been resolved. An age identification variable may also exist with Bald Eagles as it does in Golden Eagles. Age class percentages ranged from 17 (central) to 63 (NW) in the immature birds and 27 (SW) to 83 percent in adults.

Wintering Bald Eagle food was indicated as largely waterfowl. Fish were taken where available, especially early in the winter during fish spawning runs. Road killed deer, livestock carcasses and rodents are also important winter food items for Bald Eagles. Food-type information is deemed important and should be considered for inclusion in future surveys.

SUMMARY OF 1978-79 MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY
OREGON-KLAMATH BASIN AREAS

Oregon Regions/Areas	Survey Type & Miles*	Bald Eagles				Golden Eagles**			Comments
		Ad.	Im.	Unc.	Tot.	Ad.	Im.	Tot.	
Northwest I	B-20 G-321	33 (37%)	55 (63%)	3	91	--	--	--	30 reported from Sauvie Is. Birds reported from Wash. State not included
Southwest II	A-268 G-125	3 (27%)	5 (63%)	--	8	1	--	1	Low year-round BE use area
Northwest III of	G-316 A-245	59 (71%)	24 (29%)	20	103	--	1	20	Extreme cold weather bunched BE well on Snake River
Southeast V	G-938 A-402 R-I	40 (63%)	24 (37%)	29	93	10	8	69	Good survey help; 1 tagged Im. BE observed near Burns
Central III (North)	G-1220	24 (83%)	5 (17%)	2	31	14	8	39	Good but incomplete survey Bend area major BE nest area
Klamath Basin (Oregon)	G-273 A-132 R-10 sq/mi	110 (68%)	51 (32%)	7	168	1	1	6	Major Oregon BE nest and wintering area
Oregon Total		269	164	61	494	26	18	135	

Oregon Regions/Areas	Survey Type & Miles *	Bald Eagles				Golden Eagles**			Comments
		Ad.	Im.	Unc.	Tot.	Ad.	Im.	Tot.	
Klamath Basin (California)	300 sq/mi	227	156	22	405	--	--	55	
Klamath Basin Total (Or. & Ca.)		337	207	29	573	1	1	61	
Survey Total		496	320	83	899	26	18	190	

u
Total Survey Type and Miles
Ground 3193 miles
Aerial 1047 miles
Boat 20 miles
Roosts 2
Sq. Mi. 300

*A=aerial, G=ground, B=boat, R=roost

**Note: The difference between the sum of adults and immatures and the total equals unclassified birds.

Highlights from the Field Notes; -- late March through early July, 1979

Clarice Watson

Since the first summary of field notes was written for OREGON BIRDS, Vol. 5 No. 2, we're pleased to report that more newsletters are being received and we can now report more fully from more regions of the state. Available for this report were issues from the following publications: AUDUBON WARBLER (Audubon Society of Portland), THE CHAT (Corvallis Aud. Soc.), THE EAGLE EYE (Central Oregon Aud. Soc.), OREGON GRAPE LEAF (Salem Aud. Soc.), THE QUAIL (Lane County Aud. Soc.), THE RAV-ON (Grande Ronde Bird Club), and WING TIPS (Umpqua Valley Aud. Soc.). It is often difficult to select items from the many sources, but hopefully the information selected will be of interest to the readers. Most sightings are for May 1979 with a few earlier and some for June and July. This is a result of newsletters being published at varying times and frequencies and some not being published every month in the summer. Names of those people finding the birds and the dates of the sightings are included when available.

The birds causing the most excitement during this period were probably 11 vagrant warblers, 3 Chestnut-sided, 2 Magnolia, 2 Tennessee, single Black-throated Blue and Palm and possibly a Virginia's and a Northern Parula, which appeared in various parts of the state. Another Costa's Hummingbird, for the fifth (?) state record, appeared at a feeder and a Scarlet Tanager was found for a first state record. Spring migrations are usually exciting for birdwatchers (and probably for the birds too!!!) and this year was no exception.

NORTHEASTERN OREGON

Birding in Wallowa County in early May was quite productive with more than 30 species found

at the Joseph sewage lagoon on May 5 including Bonaparte's Gull, Black Tern, Solitary and Baird's Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plover. A five-hour field trip from Wallowa Lake to Imnaha on May 6 netted 84 species with a list including 13 different species of waterfowl, 5 different raptor species, 10 different species of shorebirds and all 6 swallows (FC, MH, et al). On May 2, 3 Ferruginous Hawks were found north of Enterprise.

At Ladd Marsh in Union County, Barn Owls successfully used nest boxes this year; Sandhill Crane chick was seen May 10--about a week earlier than the last two years; on May 18, 8 active Black-crowned Night Heron nests were located; by May 18 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were starting to lay eggs; and Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier) eggs were hatching the week of May 14 (RR).

Information on several raptor nestings is interesting. An active Red-tailed Hawk nest was found on the ground in Wallowa County and must surely have been a surprise; the monitoring of Golden Eagle nests indicated their nesting dates were spread over a longer than normal period this year with the first hatching the week of Apr. 23; and unfortunately the Great Gray Owl nest in Union County, noted in the previous summary, was found empty on Apr. 25--it was speculated that Ravens may have gotten either the eggs or the young (RR).

And finally, on May 12 a Harris' Sparrow was seen near Island City in Union County where 3 or 4 wintered (G & RS).

Contributors: Frank Conley, Mac Huff, Ron Rohweder, Georgia and Reed Sanderson.

SOUTHEASTERN OREGON

Many birders make a trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, hereafter MNWR, and the surrounding

areas in May in hopes of finding spring vagrants --and this year was very rewarding for them. "Rare" birds seen this year which made it worth worrying about finding the "rare" open gasoline station were: a Black-chinned Hummingbird at Page Springs, near Frenchglen, May 28 (TF et al); a Red-eyed Vireo at Benson Pond, MNWR, May 27 (JM, KW, et al); single Tennessee Warbler at MNWR Headquarters May 27 (SS et al) and at Fields, south of Frenchglen, May 28 (PS et al); a possible Virginia's Warbler at Fields May 28 (TF); a Magnolia Warbler (one of two state sightings) at Headquarters May 27 (SS et al); a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Buena Vista, MNWR, May 28 (one of three state sightings) (TF, SS et al); an American Redstart at Headquarters May 12 (KF) and 2 there May 19 (TF et al); a Scarlet Tanager at Headquarters June 2 and 3 (unfortunately too late for all the May birders) which was photographed for a first state record; a Grasshopper Sparrow at the P Ranch, MNWR, in June (TF); and several reports of Black-throated Sparrows on Coyote Butte, MNWR, in May and on Hart Mountain June 19 (ME & TF).

Some early arrival dates for birds at MNWR may be of interest to persons planning future trips. White-faced Ibis arrived Apr. 28, Swainson's Hawk Apr. 10, Ferruginous Hawk Apr. 9, Osprey Apr. 14, Long-billed Curlew Mar. 28 and Solitary Sandpiper Apr. 21.

From Klamath Falls comes word of a pair of Northern Mockingbirds being watched for possible nesting activity. At this time no word has been received regarding the outcome--should they nest, it would be the first known nesting for this species in Oregon (SS).

Contributors: Mark Egger, Kathy Finnell, Tad Finnell, John Mundahl, Priscilla Summers, Steve Summers and Kathy Wilson.

CENTRAL OREGON

While spring migration was still underway and some summer residents weren't even back in the Bend area, Pygmy Nuthatches were feeding young (EH); Dippers at Tumalo State Park were feeding "large babies" (JA), and on May 2 a Great Horned Owl with young owlets was seen. Birding was reported as being good around Bend during May with some of the highlights being 3 Prairie Falcons between Redmond and Prineville (MF); a Merlin at Bear Creek Road (FVH); a Flammulated Owl near Tumalo (MF); Calliope Hummingbird at Spring River (BG); a Williamson's Sapsucker near Central Oregon Community College (MF) and another at Spring River (BG); a banded Northern Waterthrush (FVH); and on May 9 a Black-throated Sparrow (FVH).

On May 28 a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found and photographed at Indian Ford Campground near Sisters (SG, J & JuC), and further east during the last week of May, two Upland Sandpipers were found east of Izee and several in Logan Valley, Grant County,--areas where they have been found in previous years (BH).

Interesting June sightings from Bend included "trees full of Pine Grosbeaks [while Pine Grosbeaks are possible, Red Crossbills seem more likely; details on this sighting are needed - Ed.] on the west side of Bend (MF) and flock of about 50 Common Nighthawks on June 26 (CS). Further east again, two Flammulated Owls calling at Starr Campground south of John Day the first week of June is especially noteworthy (ME) and 4 Long-eared Owls were found west of Izee June 2 (SS, T & KF).

From Madras come reports of two pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers nesting successfully in bluebird boxes (B & LG) and an American Kestrel pair fledging 2 young from a flicker box on July 8 (IH). An unconfirmed report of a Northern

Parula Warbler near Smith Rock State Park seems possible with all the other warbler sightings this year.

In July a nesting pair of Cooper's Hawks were found in the desert east of Brothers (MF); an "uncommon in Oregon" Common Redpoll [Cassin's Finch seems more likely this time of year - Ed.] and Black-throated Gray Warbler, Red Crossbill, Poorwill and many Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen at Sand Springs beyond Pine Mountain in Deschutes County (C & GW); Calliope, Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds were at Ochoco Lake (CS); and a Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the Ochoco Ranger Station Campground July 7 for the latest date of the three state sightings this year (DH).

Contributors: Jim Ariail, Jim & Judy Carlson, Mark Egger, Tad & Kathy Finnell, Mary Fraser, Ben Glading, Babe and Lowell Gilleland, Steve Gordon, Elise Hargreaves, Dan Heyerly, Ivy Hilty, Bob Hudson, Christy Steck, Steve Summers, Faye Van Hise and Cecile and Gene Wilton.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

In his Field Notes for the AUDUBON WARBLER, Vol. 43 No. 6, June/July 1979), Harry Nehls writes that he found 26 species arrived early this year in the valley, 3 were about on time, and 5 were late when he compared this year's arrival dates with those for the Corvallis area (compiled by Fred Ramsey for THE CHAT in Feb. of 1975 and 1976). Along with these regular "mostly early" migrants some unusual sightings were reported. They included a Black-crowned Night Heron in early May (DI); several sightings of the seldom found Bobwhite; Northern Phalaropes at the Lane Community College sewage ponds near Eugene, May 5 (BC); a Glaucous Gull at the South Jetty of the Columbia River Apr. 29; a single Bonaparte's Gull at Finley NWR near Corvallis

May 3 (JA) and some at Fern Ridge Reservoir near Eugene May 6 (SG); a Caspian Tern also at Fern Ridge May 6 (SG); an early Common Nighthawk on Sauvie's Island near Portland Apr. 22 (GW et al); a Black Swift with Vaux's Swifts along the Willamette River in Eugene May 10 (J & JuC); a Costa's Hummingbird at a feeder in Mollala in early July for the fifth (?) state record (PJ et al); Purple Martins in north Portland Apr. 25 and at Hammond Apr. 29; a Mockingbird in Glenwood near Eugene in June (DF fide DG); a Townsend's Solitaire at Fern Ridge Reservoir May 6 (SG); a very rare Magnolia Warbler the first part of May in Salem for the second state sighting in 1979 (TC); an extremely rare Black-throated Blue Warbler near Timberline on Mt. Hood July 1+ (DM et al); 2 Grasshopper Sparrows on Cantrell Road near Eugene where they have been found some years in the past, May 23+ (LM et al); and a misplaced Black-throated Sparrow at Autzen Stadium in Eugene May 18 (SW).

Nesting activities of three birds uncommon in this area were found. They are: a belated report of an Anna's Hummingbird carrying nest material in SW Portland in late Feb. and young at a feeder there Apr. 22 (JD); a nesting Northern Three-toed Woodpecker at the Hoodoo Ski Bowl parking lot on the Santiam Pass in early July (fide TC); and a pair of Rock Wrens nesting on Spencer's Butte in Eugene in July where they also nested in 1970 (DG).

Contributors: Jon Annear, Jim & Judy Carlson, Barbara Combs, Tom Crabtree, Jay Drake, Dan Fenski, Dan Gleason, Steve Gordon, David Irons, Peggy Johnson, David Marshall, Larry McQueen, Glenn Walthall and Stan Wilson.

UMPQUA AND ROGUE RIVER VALLEYS

In the Roseburg area many of the usual birds of spring migration were seen and reported. Of special interest during the early summer were

6 Pied-billed Grebes on Whistler's Bend Pond with evidence of nesting (RW); 4 Osprey on one snag on the North Umpqua River (JN); a White-tailed Kite at Riddle (PF); a pair of Bald Eagles on the North Bank Road (ER); 10 Black-headed Grosbeaks at a feeder (RW); and Acorn Woodpeckers with a sweet tooth at a hummingbird feeder (RW and EB).

From Roxy Anne Butte near Medford we have reports of a Gray Flycatcher Apr. 14 (FR et al) and a Black-chinned Sparrow (found only in this "little California" area of Oregon) on July 14 (SG).

Contributors: Evelyn Boyles, Pat French, Steve Gordon, Jack Nicholas, Fred Ramsey, Ellen Rees and Russ Wait.

COAST

The reports from the coast cover mainly the period from late March into May and of birds in migration as well as some returning to nesting grounds. Here again we find vagrant warblers showing up--spring migration on the coast is becoming almost as exciting as fall migration and it becomes more difficult to decide whether to go to eastern Oregon or the coast for the "rare" birds in May.

Following are some sightings gleaned from the newsletters: A Yellow-billed Loon at Yaquina Bay Mar. 31 (MS & NC); the first reported 1979 Sooty Shearwaters in late Apr.; the Emperor Goose at Nehalem, first found last Sept. at the sewage ponds, and featured on page 306 of the May 1979 issue of AMERICAN BIRDS, was still around at Nehalem Meadows in May; larger than usual numbers of Greater Scaup and Black Scoters; an Oldsquaw at Tillamook Bay May 5, Bald Eagles nesting at both Yaquina and Alsea Bays (RO); a Bobwhite at Airport Heights in North Bend Apr. 26; a Long-billed Curlew at Yaquina Bay during May (RO & DF) and 4 at Tillamook Bay Apr. 14; a Solitary Sandpiper at Newport May 6 and 8 (DF); 14 Red Knots at Coos Bay Apr. 14, 3 at Newport Apr. 29 (DF), and

4 at Tillamook Bay May 5; a "convincing report" of a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Newport May 12 (BM); the first reported 1979 Caspian Tern at Tillamook Bay Mar. 21 (AC); Marbled Murrelets all along the coast in early May; Rhinoceros Auklets at Cape Meares Apr. 14; at least 50 Tufted Puffins at Cape Meares Apr. 7; a dead Horned Puffin on the beach at Bayocean Mar. 30; 2 White-throated Swifts near Elephant Rock on the Sixes River Apr. 26 (BS); 2 Western Kingbirds at Nehalem Meadows May 5; and out-of-place Scrub Jay at Newport May 31 (RO); a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Florence May 26 (one of three state sightings) (MM fide AC); and a Palm Warbler at Port Orford the first week of May (JR).

By July 28 the birds were again on the move with many Heerman's Gulls, Caspian Terns, young Whimbrels, Short-billed Dowitchers, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers being found at Newport (ME).

Contributors: Alan Contreras, Neal Cobb, Mark Egger, Darrel Faxon, Margaret Markley, Bob Mead, Robert Olson, Jim Rogers, Mark Smith and Bill Stearn.



Results of the Membership Questionnaire

Jim Carlson

The December 1978 issue of Oregon Birds (Vol. 4 No. 6) contained a questionnaire designed to allow members of the Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC) to express their opinions on several issues. This article presents an analysis of the results of the survey. Since the name change of the publication from SWOC TALK to OREGON BIRDS with the August-September 1977 issue, there has been an intent on the part of the editors, contributors and members to produce a journal of interest to a broad audience of Oregon bird enthusiasts. That this effort has been successful can be verified by looking at the 1978 membership distribution in SWOC. The survey was returned by about one-third (37) of our members, in nearly the same proportions as the geographic distribution of our membership.

	<u>Total Membership</u>		<u>Survey Response</u>	
Eugene-Spfd. area	44	36%	14	38%
Other Oregon	65	54%	19	51%
Non-Oregon	9	7%	3	8%
Unknown	3	3%	1	3%
Total	<u>121</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>100%</u>

There were three questions and an open-ended request for comments and suggestions.

1) Do you favor retaining the name Southern Willamette Ornithological Club for the organization which publishes Oregon Birds?

	<u>Eugene Area</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	5	2	7	21
No	5	13	18	53
No Preference	4	5	9	26

Clearly the non-Eugene area members do not identify with SWOC as an organization which publishes Oregon Birds. Among Eugene area members there is an even split in opinion on this question. Overall, of those who expressed an opinion, 79% did not favor retaining the name SWOC.

2) If you do not favor retaining the name Southern Willamette Ornithological Club for the organization which publishes Oregon Birds, which suggested names do you prefer?

	<u>Eugene Area</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Oregon Ornithological Organization (OOO)		2	2	9
Oregon Birding Association	3	3	6	26
Oregon Field Ornithologists (OFO)	2	7	9	38
No Preference	1	2	3	14
Other Name				
Oregon Ornithological Society (OOS)		2	2	9
Oregon State-Wide Ornithological Club (OSWOC)	1		1	4

There does not appear to be a clear favorite, although Oregon Field Ornithologists got the most votes especially from those outside of the Eugene area. If a new organization were formed, another look at the name would be needed.

3) Would you be interested in attending an annual meeting of the organization?

Everyone who responded to this question answered yes.

It is clear that an annual meeting of the organization is well supported by the members who responded to the survey. Even the out-of-state members were in support of such a meeting, although some indicated that it might be difficult to attend.

The last section asked for other suggestions regarding Oregon Birds. Many comments were made, including two letters which are printed elsewhere in this issue. The two comments which were made most often were first, appreciation for the efforts and contributions of those responsible for Oregon Birds especially the editors and staff; and second, support for retention of SWOC as a local, informal group for Eugene area members. Other comments concerned ideas for new articles and technical concerns dealing with format and printing. All of the comments are appreciated.

The results of the survey will be discussed at the regular and business meetings of SWOC this fall and will likely result in a proposal for the membership toward the end of 1979. Judging from the results of the survey, it appears that there is support for the creation of a new state-wide organization which would have responsibility for publishing Oregon Birds and having an annual meeting. If this occurs, it is probable that the new organization would also sponsor the Oregon Records Committee. Two other issues also need to be addressed. The first is whether the editorial and printing activities would remain in Eugene; and second, whether SWOC could continue in its former roll as a strictly local bird club. Hopefully, by the end of the year we will have the answers to all of these questions.

Letters to the Editor

As a subscriber to Oregon Birds and an active member in a number of ornithological societies, I'd like to expand on my replies in the questionnaire and offer some suggestions concerning SWOC and Oregon Birds.

Basically, I strongly endorse the sentiments expressed by Alan Contreras in his "Letter to the Editor" in Oregon Birds Vol. 4, No. 3. It seems inappropriate for a basically local organization to produce a state bird journal, and is bound to result in some dissatisfaction among both Eugene members and out-of-town members. I would like to see a state ornithological association (Oregon Field Ornithologists, if you will) set up, separate from SWOC, and I think that members of both groups would be better served by such an arrangement. To draw from my knowledge of a parallel situation, there is in Canada a major scientific natural history journal, the Canadian Field-Naturalist, which is put out by a local natural history group, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club. Even though this journal is approaching its 100th year of publication, there has been and is continuing dissention about the situation; Ottawa members receive a rather technical scientific publication which many of them would just as soon not receive or pay dues to support, and out-of-town subscribers have part of their dues diverted to support the activities of the local club. I think the best way to avoid similar problems in Oregon would be to separate the two organizations as soon as it is convenient.

For Eugene area members, the main advantage would be a substantial reduction in dues. I would think most of you would want a local bird

newsletter, but this could probably be produced and mailed for about \$2.00 a year. The informal atmosphere of meetings mentioned in Contreras' letter could also be restored if Oregon Birds and Records Committee business took place elsewhere. Hopefully, most of the local members would also want to join the new O.F.O., so that the latter would still be a viable organization in terms of the number of members.

I don't suppose much, if any, money from out-of-town members currently goes to local Eugene area activities; for people like me, the main advantage in setting up the O.F.O. is simply that it seems more appropriate for a state society to produce a state bird journal. Although you people in Eugene have done an excellent job so far of putting together and editing Oregon Birds, I would hope that more people from other parts of the state could be involved in the future. There is no reason why Oregon Birds shouldn't continue to be edited in Eugene so long as the talent and enthusiasm is there, but I think an effort should be made to include people from various parts of Oregon in the new society's officers, and especially in the Records Committee. It may be ambitious to start having annual meetings in the next year or two, but this would be a super way to generate interest and attract new members, and nearly all state organizations have such meetings.

The one possible conflict I see is between O.F.O. and the Pacific Northwest Bird & Mammal Society, which includes Oregon as well as other northwestern states. I would hope the establishment of O.F.O. would not cut into PNWBMS membership. Basically, PNWBMS (publisher of the Murrelet) serves a more scientifically-oriented group. I think the present mix of articles in Oregon Birds is good, and should be maintained: articles on bird-finding areas, articles and

notes on unusual occurrences, Records Committee reports, Christmas Count summaries, and other items of interest to the average amateur birder. At the same time, occasional articles of a more scientific nature, like O'Donnell's article on warbler foraging, help to maintain variety in subject matter. As long as these more technical articles remain in the minority, I don't think there will be any serious conflict with the Murrelet.

I should point out that my interest in Oregon birds is not as remote as my Mississippi address might suggest. I come originally from Vancouver, Canada, and expect to return there shortly after finishing up graduate work here. I've done quite a bit of birding in Oregon since my first visit in 1960, and I hope to do lots more in the future.

I hope these few comments and suggestions will help in some way. Here in Mississippi, though there are far fewer active birders than in Oregon, we have an active state organization with over 150 members, an attractive and well-edited state bird journal, and well-attended spring and fall meetings every year. I would very much like to see a similar organization develop in Oregon, and I congratulate you on your efforts so far in this direction.

- Wayne C. Weber
Starkville, Mississippi

Separate SWOC and Oregon Birds. Oregon Birds should be published by a state-wide organization and not SWOC which, I believe, should be a local organization. I quit attending SWOC meetings due to the fact that it became a business meeting for the whole state! Emphasis switched from local to state-wide. I do not think SWOC should emphasize state-wide activities, nor use SWOC dues and resources to support state-wide publi-

cations and/or activities! If this is the direction SWOC is taking, I firmly believe the organization should change its name and emphasize the fact that it has become a/the state-wide organization. If this happens, I would still like this area to have local meetings for interested birders--perhaps "SWOC" could become a "chapter" of the state organization and concern itself with local issues and projects, and field trips, etc. It could have a separate dues structure or be incorporated with the state-wide dues.

If a state-wide organization is to be formed, I am willing to help in anyway I can, but only if SWOC is separate.

- Susan E. Motsinger
Eugene, Oregon

Oldsquaws off Cape Blanco

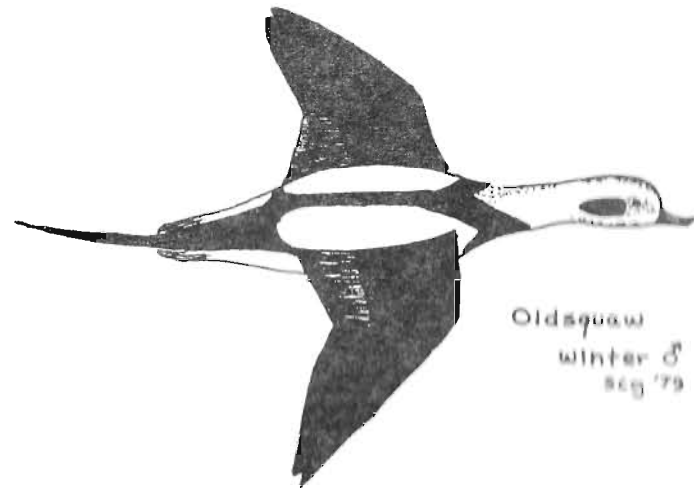
Dennis W. Rogers

On May 12, 1979 my father, Jim, and I were birding Cape Blanco (Curry County), and in the course of our usual circuit, stopped to scan the ocean from the high bluff at the tip of the Cape. Almost immediately a flock of eight Oldsquaws (*Clangula hyemalis*) went by, heading north. The males in the flock were easily identifiable by their white back-patches and needle tails. As we sat watching for the next hour, 15 more flocks ranging from 3 to 11 birds (plus one single) for a grand total of 100 passed our vantage point. We would spot each flock as it came around the south edge of the Cape and count the birds with our scope as they passed, generally about 500 meters off. The only time we saw any Oldsquaws flying with any of the other species migrating that day (mainly Surf Scoters and Caspian Terns) was when we observed three Oldsquaws traveling at the end of a flock of eight Surf Scoters. Although we only watched for an hour, I'm certain the flight continued all day.

The weather conditions that led to this remarkable sighting were: clear skies and a 20-plus knot (about 25 mph) wind from the northwest. The wind apparently forced the migrating Oldsquaws toward shore, so they passed close to Cape Blanco.

The only reference I could find to large numbers of Oldsquaws in Oregon is this: Gabrielson and Jewett in *Birds of Oregon* (1940) reported that Gabrielson saw "a total of perhaps 50 individuals at sea off Depoe Bay on May 7, 1932. All were flying northward in small groups or as individuals except one flock of 20." Perhaps spring pelagic trips would uncover currently unknown Oldsquaw migrations.

The big question is where these birds came from. Oldsquaws in California are considered rare. Obviously there is a substantial population wintering somewhere to the south of Oregon that is not being reported.



Oldsquaw
winter ♂
8/5 '79

Editor's Note

This issue contains our second set of "highlights from the field notes". SWOC shares Oregon Birds with each of the Audubon Society chapters throughout Oregon in return for copies of their respective newsletters. From the field notes sections of these newsletters, Clarice Watson extracts the information appropriate for the "highlights" section. By contacting key individuals, we plan to expand this system to areas within the state which are not represented by a regular field notes section (e.g., Klamath Basin). Using this expanded approach, we plan to provide a more complete Oregon reporting in a format similar to that of American Birds. We welcome your suggestions for improving the "highlights". We also encourage you to share your significant sightings with your local field notes person and those individuals listed on the inside back cover of Oregon Birds. Our goals are to improve communications and to provide a better record of Oregon bird field observations.

We want to remind readers to respond to the preliminary 1979 Oregon Blue List which was published in Oregon Birds, Vol. 5, No. 2. Comments should be sent to: Tom Lund, Blue List Compiler, c/o Oregon Birds, P. O. Box 3082, Eugene, Oregon 97403. You may respond on the insert form from that issue.

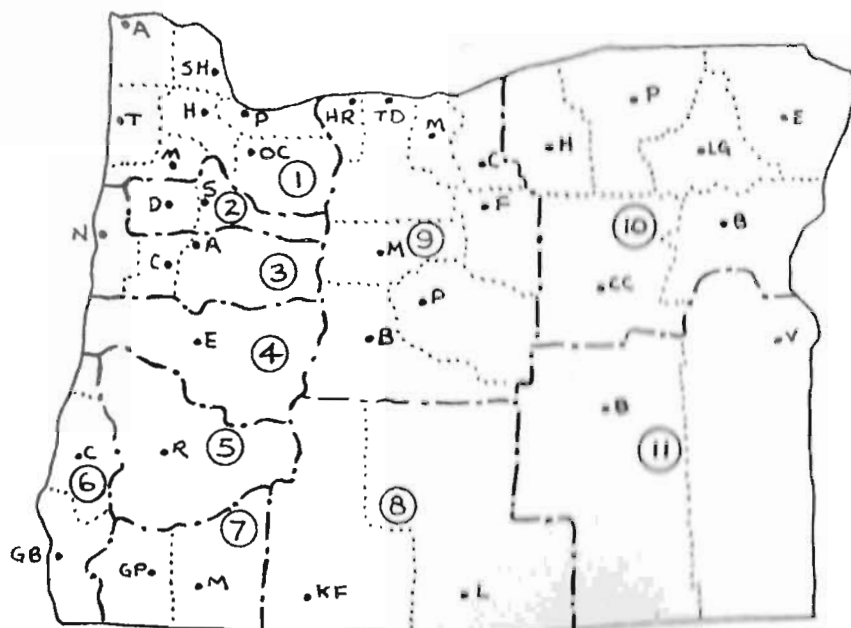
We have some articles planned for our next few issues, but always welcome new materials, suggestions and ideas for improvement, and expressions of what you would like to see in future issues. We openly invite you to share with us and our readership your knowledge of Oregon's birds.

In this issue, Jim Carlson provides analysis of the responses to the questionnaire sent to our membership last December. Before the end of this year, we will provide our membership with proposals for changing and improving our organization based on those responses. We have also included two letters which provide interesting perspectives on our situation.

"Send Field Notes To..."

When afield in Oregon, please share your unusual or exciting finds with others. Cooperative communication with the individuals and groups listed below will help promote a better understanding of Oregon's birds. Many of the eleven reporting areas are generally represented by Audubon groups or other bird clubs who regularly publish field notes and are interested in observations "close to home".

1. Harry Nehls, 2736 S.E. 20th, Portland 97202
2. Salem Audubon Society, Box 2013, Salem 97308
3. Fred Ramsey, 2504 N.W. Mulkey, Corvallis 97330
4. Tad Finnell, 2412 Alder, Eugene 97405
5. Fred Parker, 313 W. Hickory, Roseburg 97470
6. Alan McGie, 3603 Edgewood Dr., North Bend 97459
7. Vince Zauskey, 945 E. Main, Ashland 97520
8. Steve Summers, 1009 Merryman, Klamath Falls 97601
9. Adele Rodriguez, 630 6th St., Madras 97741
10. Grande Ronde Bird Club, Box 29, La Grande 97850
11. C. D. Littlefield and Steve Thompson, Malheur N.W.R., Box 113, Burns 97720



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Eugene, OR. 97403

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