Oregon Birds
Vol. 7, No. 3 – 1981

Black Swift
OREGON BIRDS is published quarterly for and distributed to the members of OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS (OFO). Correspondence for OREGON BIRDS, OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS or the OREGON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE should be sent to: P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.

Membership classes and annual dues for OFO are: Individual - $7.00, Family - $11.00; sustaining - $15.00. Membership in any class is accompanied by one volume of OREGON BIRDS.

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President’s Message  
M.S. “Elzy” Eltzroth

Here are a few notes from the OFO Board meeting on 17 October: We now have 228 members and enough funds to publish the last issue of Oregon Birds this year, with about $500 to spare. The editors say they will have Issue 4 to you before the Christmas Counts begin. On the convention, we came out $78 ahead which speaks well of the committee’s ability to guestimate expenses.

Alan Contreras has agreed to edit OB for the coming year with the help of present editor Steve Gordon. Alan is a charter member of both SWOC and OFO. He has edited, or assisted in the publication of SWOC Talk and Oregon Birds since their inception. Thanks to Steve for his great editorship of the two latest volumes and for his earlier help – and welcome Alan. Articles and art work are always wanted.

We are exploring the possibility of working with Board Member Alice Parker and the Umpqua Valley Audubon Society on publishing a field checklist for the Birds of Douglas County; also with Range Bayer and the Yaquina Birders on a new Birds of Lincoln County. Western Birds is distributing a list of the Birds of Oregon and has asked us to handle reprints. We’re talking about the price.

Since many of you suggested our next annual meeting be held in Bend, we asked Tom Crabtree, OBRC member and newly relocated there, to look into facilities and arrangements. He readily agreed and we’ll get back to you on this. The tentative dates suggested are May 7-9. The proposed format is pretty much the same as this year – except we will not plan a banquet unless the price is quite reasonable.

In October, Audubon Society of Corvallis got two Red-tailed Hawks that had been shot and offered $300 reward each, for information leading to conviction of the shooters. One hawk came from Benton County, the other from Lincoln County. So birders – keep your eyes open!

While on the subject of shooting protected nongame birds, here is a verbatim transcription of a note from Condor 32:124, entitled, "Horned Owl Attacks Chickens". But I think the perfect title would have been, "Protecting the Chickens". Anyway:

"At four o’clock on the morning of November 16, 1929, I was awakened by something disturbing a hen with small chickens that was roosting in a small wire coop in my yard. I suspected a coyote, got out of bed and grabbed my shotgun, which was in the corner ready for emergency, and looked out the window. The moon was bright and I could see all over the yard. Nothing was in sight and I was almost ready to go back to bed, when I heard something leave the roof of a near-by shed and saw the owl sail down and strike the wire coop at the corner where the hen and her chicks were roosting. The owl stayed on the ground and I immediately shot and killed it, also killing the hen and two of her chicks. ..."The Owl was a large female and is now number 16684 in the collection of the Los Angeles Museum.”

The disposition of the hapless chickens was not revealed!

[Image of a bird on a branch]
The BEWICK'S WREN (Thryomanes bewickii) appears to be another species of bird that has derived substantial benefits from modern civilization. It is a highly dynamic species that responds rapidly to environmental changes. This article will discuss the distribution of the species in Oregon and Washington and will describe a major range expansion into the Columbia Basin.

Up to a few years ago BEWICK'S WRENS were considered to be permanent residents west of the Cascade Mountains from Southern British Columbia through Oregon and Washington into California, and being resident in portions of Klamath and Lake Counties, Oregon and Yakima County, Washington. The Oregon populations arrive into the State from three different sources, one group reaching northward beyond Oregon's border. The three, distinct subspecies, remain more or less geographically isolated from each other by intervening improper habitat. Within the range of each subspecies, there are centers of peak populations with lesser numbers expanding out into suitable habitats over a broader area.

The largest and brownest of the three races, the Seattle Wren (T.b. calophonous), is the most widespread and abundant, and best known. Formerly it was a common permanent resident west of the Cascades from British Columbia southward to Coos and Douglas Counties, Oregon, with an isolated colony along the Yakima River in Central Washington. With extensive logging over the past hundred years or so it has extended its range via clear-cuts right to the crest of the Cascades. A few cross the crest and might be found on the east slopes, but these individuals most probably are non-breeding birds, at this time.

Early observers apparently found few BEWICK'S WRENS in Curry County, Oregon, so it came as a surprise to Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) when the American Ornithological Union (AOU) listed the Nicasio Wren (T.b. marinensis), a race occupying the Northwest Coast of California, as ranging northward into Curry County in the 1931 "Checklist of North American Birds". This was apparently based on a single specimen collected at Gold Beach. In the 1957 "Checklist", the AOU reversed itself and identified the bird as a Seattle Wren. There is little difference between the two races, size being the most obvious criteria, and this might be more of a north-south cline than a racial distinction. In recent years James G. Olson and Eleanor Pugh have found a rather small but steady population of BEWICK'S WRENS on their Breeding Bird Survey Routes near Gold Beach and Brookings. These birds probably are more related to the southern population and may have little or no contact with the wrens to the north.
The San Joaquin Wren (T.b. drymoecus), quite a bit paler and somewhat smaller than the coastal races, inhabits the Central Valley of California southward to the northern half of the San Joaquin Valley. It reaches northward into the Rogue River and Klamath Basins, eastward to the Langell Valley and west to the Curry County Line, in Oregon. The birds are well established in Oregon in proper habitat and apparently are quite stable. They are seldom reported out of the range noted above.

A closely related form, being even smaller and paler than the San Joaquin Wren occupies a range in Northeastern California and Western Nevada south into the Walker River Basin south of Reno. This race, the Warner Valley Wren (T.B. atrestus) is found in the Warner Valley, Lake County, Oregon, in a stable, fairly sizable population. It is also seldom reported out of its chosen haunts.

Although widespread, the BEWICK'S WREN is not common over most of the Northwest. The largest populations occur along the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers and about Puget Sound. Elsewhere they are well scattered throughout the available preferred habitat. Although most publications refer to this species as permanent residents it is by no means sedentary. They may not evacuate their ranges in winter but most do move to more favorable wintering quarters. It is quite possible that some of the Curry County and Warner Valley birds drop into California to winter, as do many of the Rogue and Klamath populations. The Seattle Wren occurs in good numbers in winter south of its summer range. Some individuals wander about after the nesting season possibly pioneering, or searching for, additional nesting territories. All races withdraw from their less favorable nesting areas and concentrate in the more protected lowlands. BEWICK'S WREN populations in the Lower Columbia and Willamette River lowlands swell enormously in winter to very high numbers. J. Michael Scott (Pers. Comm.) noted up to 188 birds per 100 acres in the winter of 1978-79 in the Columbia River lowlands from Bonneville Dam downstream to about Puget Island.

The expansion of the BEWICK’S WREN'S range into the Columbia Basin in recent years has been well noted. There has long been an isolated colony in the bottomlands of the Yakima River in Central Washington but it was quite isolated and tightly contained near the town of Parker. Stan Jewett (1953) considered them to be racially distinct but few agreed with him; it may be academic now. The first reports of the species settling in new territory came when John Akin and Walter Anderson (AFN: 22:5, 631) noted one at the Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge, near Hermiston, Oregon July 9 and 24, 1968. They have been reported from this area regularly since.

During 1973 and 1974, Dr. J. Michael Scott conducted a survey of the birds along the flood plain of the Columbia River from its mouth to River Mile 292 at the upper reaches of the John Day Dam Pool. In this survey, Scott (Pers. Comm.) noted that below Bonneville Dam there was a very high resident population of
BEWICK'S WRENS that showed a marked increase during the winter months. About the Bonneville Pool, he found a small but stable population showing a marked increase during the spring and fall months. About the pool above the Dalles Dam there resided an even smaller resident population that showed a drop in numbers during the winter months. Although Scott did not find any BEWICK’S WRENS about the John Day Pool, he did note that they were present in small numbers in the surrounding area during the spring and summer months; this corresponds with the "Checklist of Birds for the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge" (1973) which lists them as uncommon in spring and summer.

It is inconceivable that the BEWICK’S WRENS were missed by the early ornithologists that heavily worked the Columbia River lowlands. It is most likely that this species found new suitable habitats as the waters backed up behind the dams as they were built, allowing them to make their way upstream over the years. Reports of these wrens from the John Day Pool continue but the birds do not seem to be increasing greatly in this area, perhaps due to a lack of suitable habitat. Judging, however, from the reports further upstream in Southeastern Washington, BEWICK’S WRENS are increasing and expanding through the region.

Reports from along the Yakima River over the years indicated a rather small, localized population. But beginning in 1971, BEWICK’S WRENS have been increasing through the entire Yakima River Watershed and about its junction with the Columbia River in the Tri-cities area. This is well recorded in the pages of "American Birds" for this period. Lewke (1974), noted one along the Snake River a few miles west of Clarkston from January 17 to March 1, 1974, and the next winter one reached Wenatchee, on the Columbia River (AB 29:3, 718); both well away from any previous sighting. During the spring of 1975, they were noted at Melaga, on the Columbia just south of Wenatchee, and at the Lewis and Clark Trails State Park near Dayton (AB 29:4, 884). During the winter of 1975 they were noted near Blue Creek, in the Blue Mountains east of Walla Walla (AB 30:3, 745). The last two sites continue to provide numerous sightings over most of the year.

In the fall of 1976, one was observed in Indian Canyon near Spokane (AB 31:2 202). Weber and Larrison (1977) recorded one that was observed from November 24, 1976 to February 17, 1977 along the Snake River about the small community of Asotin, a few miles south of Clarkston and about twenty miles north of the mouth of the Grande Ronde River. Rohweder (1978) noted one at Ladd Marsh, near La Grande, Oregon January 26, 1978. During the summer of 1978 a small group of BEWICK’S WRENS were noted along Crab Creek in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, south of Moses Lake, and a singing male was reported from the Pot Holes area a bit further north (AB 32:5, 1026; AB 32:6, 1189).

If these birds continue to increase, chances are good that all suitable habitats throughout Northeastern Oregon and Eastern Washington will be utilized. If they continue to work southward along the Snake River and its tributaries, a whole new territory awaits settlement in Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho.

REFERENCES
AFN - Audubon Field Notes. 1968. National Audubon Society. Thomas Rogers, Editor Northern Rocky Mountain - Intermountain Region.


Highlights from the Field Notes:  
late Spring - Fall 1981
Clarice Watson

Have you heard of SOLANDER'S PETRELS or MURPHY'S PETRELS? Well, I hadn't until this summer and they may be new birds on our Oregon list! Since May we have also had a COMMON GALLINULE, LONG-TOED STINT, CURLEW SANDPIPER and, would you believe, two BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEWS!!! These are only a few of the rarities that delighted OFO members this season.

Spring migration weather was good for birders as well as the birds--no snow storm at Malheur NWR this year. Scores of birders made their annual pilgrimage to Malheur in May and almost all of the bulletins carried a report of a very successful field trip there. June and July were pleasant and comfortable months, good for hunting some of the nesting species, especially in the mountains and eastern Oregon. August started out with record breaking high temperatures, about the same time the shorebirds were starting to move well along the coast on their way south. The passage of land birds was less noticeable than in years when the weather has been more unsettled. As this is being written, in mid-September, reports of vagrants are still coming in. Again, as in the past issues, those records that have been submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee are indicated with an asterisk(*) and in most cases the committee has not completed its review of them.

EAST OF THE CASCADES

Some 'western Oregon' species along with the 'eastern United States' species in this region provided good birding again this year. Included are some early spring records previously missed, as well as the summer highlights. Seven DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, very rare for northeastern Oregon, were at the mouth of Ladd Creek, Union Co. from April 24-26 (BR, GS, RS), while a GREEN HERON, also rare for its location, was at the Lake-of-the-Woods in Klamath Co. on June 21 (SS). A very secretive LEAST BITTERN was flushed at Upper Klamath NWR on July 3 after a lengthy search by canoe (MS, JG), in the same place where one was seen in 1975 from a canoe. Three CATTLE EGRETS were discovered May 8-9 along State Line Rd., Klamath Co. (SS) and one was there July 3-4 (MS, JG, OS); another was near Hermiston along our northern border on Apr. 23 (CC, MC, NB). Anyone for placing a wager on how soon they will be found nesting in Oregon?

Northeastern birders added another species to the Union Co. list when an injured ROSS' GOOSE spent from May 5 - June 7 at Ladd Marsh (JE, GS, RR). A WHITE-WINGED SCOTER on the Link River May 9 and a female RED-BREASTED Merganser from May 2-9 also in Klamath Falls, were far from their normal habitat (SS).

There were no unusual raptor sightings, but single GOSHAWKS were spotted Aug. 2 near Bachelor Butte (RK, JK) and on Aug. 15 at Summit Springs north of Sisters (AM, DM) while ten GOSHAWKS and one nest were found when the Central Oregon Audubon Society helped survey an area of the Ochoco Nat. Forest on April 18. Also from the Bend area comes an extraordinary report of a HOUSE SPARROW nesting in the lower part of a RED-TAILED HAWK nest (C & EP).

We have just received a belated report of 10-15 WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN in two loose flocks startling two birder/hikers on Eagle Cap Mountain Aug. 14, 1980 (DC). This is the largest number of this introduced species that has been reported for years. Two other birders were fortunate in finding one bird in the same area on Aug. 1* of this year (JE, LT). Perhaps the most pursued bird at Malheur NWR this spring was a COMMON GALLINULE along Cole Island Dike from May 23 - June 5. It was photographed* (OS) and seen by some but not all that looked for it--it is Oregon's third record of this close relative of the COOT.

Noteworthy shorebird migrants include two WHIMBREL May 9 and thirty SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS May 3 along State Line Rd. (SS); a WILLET May 1 at Wallowa Lake (FC); and two BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS at Davis Lake near Willamette Pass on July 25 (TMi). UPLAND SANDPIPERS were located again this year at Logan and Bear Valleys in Grant Co., probably about four pair at each location. In addition, several were found near Ukiah, Umatilla Co., two pair were at Sycan Marsh, Lake Co. and one pair summered near Madras, Jefferson Co. (KK fide IH). The latter two sites are locations where they have not been previously noted--good news for a very local and rare bird in Oregon. Five LONG-BILLED CURLEWS were also observed near Madras on July 21 (IH). A HERRING GULL at Wallowa Lake on May 20 was a first for that area (FC).

Four BAND-TAILED PIGEONS in La Grande, May 2 (JE, GS, RS) and one June 17 at Baker (AB) add to the few recent reports of this species, which is a 'western' Oregon species. At Gibbon, Umatilla Co., this year's only reported YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was discovered July 3 (CC).

Winner of the 'wish I had been there' contest goes to a sighting of the elusive SAW-WHET OWL which was viewed in full daylight at Malheur NWR on Aug. 27 (MH). A BARRED OWL calling northeast of La Grande on April 1 (RR) is not surprising since they have been in northeastern Oregon at least since 1974, but the one found in the Winema Nt. Forest, Klamath Co. on May 7 and 9* (EF, SS et al) is a new location and indicates this owl is continuing to expand its range. Unfortunately, this brings it into competition with its close relative, the SPOTTED OWL.
Single BLACK SWIFTS were spotted May 15 near Imnaha (JA) and July 12 near Madras (JG et al) while three WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS were at Davis Lake July 25, west of their usual haunts (TMi). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS showed up in three spots: at Bend on May 15 (FvH), at Union on May 16 (MK), and at Gibbon July 11 (JG). BROAD-TAILED HUMMERS returned to a La Grande feeder May 19 (J & WB, JE) and were seen June 25 at Gibbon and on July 3 at Spring Creek between Pendleton and La Grande (JE, CC). Bend had an ANNA'S HUMMER on Aug. 1 (MET). Another RIVOLI'S (Magnificent) HUMMINGBIRD has been reported, this one at Malheur NWR, no details are available however. This species is reported about once every year or so but has yet to be confirmed.

More than the normal number of NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were found on the eastern slope of the Cascade Mts. this summer, the six along Tumalo Creek on May 9 seen by members of the Central Oregon Audubon Society field trip, was the largest concentration. BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOEDS were also found in the same general areas as the NORTHERNS.

There were reports of two eastern flycatchers; a GREAT CRESTED at Smith Rocks St. Park, Crook Co. on July 8, no further details available, and a LEAST reportedly seen and heard June 16 at Clyde Holliday St. Park near John Day (RSm). A COMMON CROW was present south of Klamath Falls where it is uncommon, Feb. 25-26 (SS) and a WRENTIT along the Link River on July 14 provided a first summer record for the Klamath Basin (SS). Three MOCKINGBIRDS in three different areas attracted attention: at Boardman, Morrow Co. in mid-June; at Cottonwood Creek in the Alvord Basin on June 3 (LP, Mca); and at Madras July 15. How long before a pair of these perennial wanderers get together and we have a new breeding species for the state? Will they beat the CATTLE EGRETS?? Though the GRAY CATBIRD is a regular summer resident in northeast Oregon, one at Malheur NWR this spring was unusual.

RED-EYED VIREOS were well reported here this spring and a possible BELL'S VIREO was seen at Bend Apr. 5 (AS)--this difficult-to-identify bird (it is very similar to HUTTON'S VIREO) has also been reported several times before in the state but has yet to be confirmed. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS made a good showing at Malheur NWR, reports for May 22* (ME, EE, JK, RK), May 30* (TC, RSm) and June 9* (JR, DR) were submitted to the Records Committee, while only one CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER was spotted in this region this year--it was along Cottonwood Creek on June 3 (LP, Mca); and at Madras June 25. How long before a pair of these perennial wanderers get together and we have a new breeding species for the state? Will they beat the CATTLE EGRETS?? Though the GRAY CATBIRD is a regular summer resident in northeast Oregon, one at Malheur NWR this spring was unusual.

REDBRAZED GROSBEAKS was again at Indian Ford Campground near Sisters on May 28-9 (BT) and a single bird was at Malheur NWR June 5. Of special interest is a female with possible young on the southeastern slope of Mt. Hood July 5 (JG).

Though most of the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL sightings this summer have been just west of the crest of the Cascades, three males were seen Labor Day weekend along Indian Ford Road at Sisters (R & BR). For the first time in ten years, a GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE was observed in Union Co.--at La Grande on May 3 (JE, GS). Most of our unusual sparrow records are in the winter months, but four species caused comment this season. A new colony of GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS was discovered May 19 south of Pendleton near the Nye Junction (CC); these sparrows are considered irregular nesters in Oregon but may often be undetected since they apparently move their breeding grounds from place to place. Another first for northeastern Oregon was a BLACK-THROATED SPARROW at Wallowa Lake on May 2 (BJ, LG). At La Grande, a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was sighted on May 26* (JE) and another was found near Fields on June 10* (HN). A TREE SPARROW reported near the Ochoco Ranger Station Aug. 22 is most unusual for this irregular winter visitor to Oregon (AM, DM).
WEST OF THE CASCADES

Three possible additions to our state list, 'eastern Oregon' species, 'eastern United States' species, Asian shorebirds and nesting records kept summer birders well entertained here. Several possible SOLANDER'S PETRELS, (Pterodroma solandri), a southern Pacific bird unknown in the northeastern Pacific waters, were seen May 20 about 50-60 miles off the coast (BP) and a MURPHY'S PETREL (Pterodroma ultima) was picked up dead on a beach near Tillamook on June 15 and sent to the Smithsonian Museum (BL). These records are especially exciting since they would be new species for North America as well as for Oregon if they are confirmed. The first of the season's pelagic trips was Aug. 29 from Brookings and provided observations of a NORTHERN FULMAR; 10 PINK-FOOTED and 2 BULLER'S SHEARWATERS; a possible FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER; 1 POMARINE and 3 PARASITIC JAEGERS; and 1 SKUA among the species seen (JC). A SKUA* seen from Cape Arago in Coos Co. and 2 PARASITIC JAEGERS viewed from the South Jetty of the Siuslaw at Florence on Sept. 15 were goad finds from coastal viewpoints (R & BRo) as were 2 PARASITIC and 1 LONG-TAILED JAEGERS at the South Jetty of the Columbia River (hereafter SJCR) on Sep. 3 (SH, MH).

Two noteworthy sightings of waterfowl were an inland BLACK BRANT at Agate Lake, Jackson Co. Apr. 7-26 (HS), and a nesting BARROW'S GOLDENEYE at Gold Lake just west of the community in Lane Co. (SS). A CATTLE EGGRET at Red Hill near Oakland, Douglas Co. on Sep. 1 was an early sighting for this area (fide AP) but not surprising considering the eastern Oregon sightings. A WHITE-FACED IBIS delighted Eugene birders when it was discovered May 24 (SG, SS) at a pond on Stewart Road. Seven were found there May 26 (MMA, AV).

All indications are that several pairs of WHITE-TAILED KITES nested successfully in Oregon this year. One adult and two immatures were seen near Lorane, south of Eugene, in July (fide AP); two adults and four immatures were along the Coquille River in Coos Co. Aug. 14 (CW, DW); and two adults and two immatures were found Aug. 29 near Medford (OSw) where there were five birds on Sept. 6 (BM, MPa). Two more were found near Brookings Aug. 29 (JG, JC, JuC). RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS continued to be located near Brookings this summer, where it is considered 'regular', while one at Bandon Sept. 19 was more unusual (AC, SH, DR). A HARRIS' HAWK five miles south of Monroe, Benton C. on July 31* disappointed birders when a broken wing was seen on one leg indicating it had been used in falconry (ME, EE). It would be most unusual for this southern hawk to reach Oregon on its own. An introduced bird that is seldom seen any more is the BOBWHITE, so one at Sauvie Island Apr. 26 is noteworthy (TC).

Some belated spring records of migrating shorebirds include two LONG-BILLED CURLEWS at Pony Slough, North Bend on Apr. 19 (AM); seven SOLITARY SANDPIPERS near Gaston Apr. 26-27 in a flooded field; 23 RED KNOTS at Pony Slough May 10 (AM) and 8 at Siletz Bay May 8 (FS); an amazing 145 MARBLED GODWITS near 1-5 at Ashland Apr. 26 (MMy, VZ, OSw); a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER at Finley NWR near Corvallis May 14 (RK, JK); three BLACK-NECKED STILTS near Medford Apr. 18 (MPa, LPa) and two near Ashland Apr. 26 (VZ, MMy); and single WILSON'S PHALAROPES at the Stewart Road Pond, Eugene on May 27 (JB) and at Finley NWR May 9 (KR). An AMERICAN AVOCET was at Cottage Grove Reservoir June 24 (fide DL), and two were near Ashland April 26 (VZ, MMy).

The possibility of SOLITARY SANDPIPERS nesting at Gold Lake Bog, near the Willamette Pass, Lane Co. caused much excitement this summer. A pair was discovered defending territory there on June 28 (MS, WW) and four birds were present on July 25 (MS, AP). A nest was never located, but all who visited the area agreed the birds were acting like nesting birds. There have been more than the normal number of sightings of this species in western Oregon this year, but they normally do not nest south of Central British Columbia and the only confirmed nesting in the U.S. is of one in Minnesota. You can be sure Gold Lake Bog will be on many birder's itinerary next summer to see if they return.

Shorebirds start their southward migration by early July and Ford's Pond near Sutherlin, Douglas Co. hosted a WILLET on July 5 (MH) and a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER on July 16 (MS, MH). On Aug. 16 another WILLET and a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER were at Agate Lake near Medford (OSw). A rare CURLEW SANDPIPER in breeding plumage reportedly stopped at Bandon July 18 (MH) but eluded many birders the next day. However, on July 18, there were three RED KNOTS, a couple of hundred RUDDY TURNSTONES in their unique breeding plumage and about 15 other species of shorebirds there. By early August more observations of RED KNOTS were made including 7-8 at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook Co., Aug. 18 (Dl, JE, CW, DW) and 'some' at Tahkenitch, Douglas Co. the third week in Aug. (RO).

PECTORAL and BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS and GOLDEN PLOVERS were found in about normal numbers for this section of the state during the late summer and early fall. Twenty SNOWY PLOVERS found at Bayocean Spit in early Sept. (DR, SH), though normal for that site, is very welcome news of the endangered coastal population of this plover. An out-of-place AMERICAN AVOCET (one of 3 seen in April and June?) gave birders a chance to add it to their Tillamook Co. list as it graced the Bayocean Spit area during part of Aug. and Sept.
A STILT SANDPIPER Aug. 22 at the SJCR was the lone sighting of that species (JG) while single SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPERS were reported at Tillamook Aug. 29 (KR) and at Nehalem Aug. 30 (RK, JK). Single BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were at the SJCR in late Aug. and at Bayocean Spit Sep. 2* (DR et al). At least two RUFFS and a REEVE appeared at the SJCR the latter part of Aug. through the first few days of Sept. (HH et al). A single bird of this species was at Gold Beach on Aug. 30 (JG, DR, JC). There were probable second Oregon sightings of two Asiatic species; a RUFOUS-NECKED STINT (Sandpiper) at Bayocean Spit Aug. 18* (DJ, JE, CW, DW) to Aug. 22 when it was photographed (OS, JG) and a LONG-TOED STINT in juvenal plumage seen Sept. 2* (MH, SH), photographed and voice recorded Sept. 5 (OS et al) and found at least through Sept. 6* (AC et al). A possible first for Oregon and the lower 48 states is a sighting of two BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEWS photographed and studied with a WHIMBREL at Bandon Sept. 17 (JG, DJ). This species, which nests in western Alaska and winters in the Central Pacific Islands, closely resembles a WHIMBREL. The birds could not be found the next day.

The latest GLAUCOUS GULL was at Yaquina Bay May 3 (DF), the same date we reported one in Florence in the last Highlights. CASPIAN TERNs were very obvious along the northern coast this summer, but two at Ford's Pond June 20 were unusual (RW). Ford's Pond (obviously Douglas County's hot spot!!) also attracted a BLACK TERN July 6 (MH, MS); four adults and three juveniles of this species along the Willamette River north of Corvallis on July 15 (FR) indicates likely nesting at a site where they are known to have nested in 1963. Twenty-four ARCTIC TERNs, usually reported only in the fall, were watched May 11 at Winchester Bay (DMa).

Our coastal birders at Newport indicate that the COMMON MURRE die-off was relatively small this year, but they also noted a small die-off of RHINOCEROS AUKLETS in mid-Aug. (LO, BL). A HORNED PUFFIN (the same individual as seen in past years??) was seen again from Cape Lookout, Tillamook Co. on Aug. 22 (OS). MARBLED MURRELETS showed up as usual in coastal waters this summer, but an ANCIENT MURRELET at Yaquina Head on Aug. 20 (SH, AC, SGr) was unexpected.

Another BURROWING OWL was discovered by a state trooper on Aug. 31 near Peoria, Benton Co. were one was shot last January (RV fide ME). Twelve of the endangered SPOTTED OWLS were counted in early Aug. in the Sweet Home Ranger District, WILLAMETE TERNs and a pair of LONG-EARED OWLS were near Crescent Mt. on the Santiam pass Aug. 13 (FG, JM fide ME). All good news for owl lovers.

The last Highlights told of eight BLACK SWIFTS in the Eugene area in May--this species was seen by many people until at least May 25 with 15 being the most found at one time (SG). One in Philomath Aug. 20 may have been a southward migrant (DM). Two North Bend feeders attracted single BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS--Mar. 28 (AMc and Apr. 21-24 (EGW); one also spent three weeks in April at a feeder in Ashland (D & MN fide MMO, PM). A CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD appeared at another Ashland feeder May 4 (MMo) and single birds were in Lane Co. in July--one at a feeder (WJ) and the other on Bohemia Mt. (MP).
Our report of a wayward SAGE THRASHER this spring comes from Bayocean Spit, where one was spotted May 17 (DH). On May 26 the MOCKINGBIRD at Florence was seen again (SG), another built a nest in Medford but failed to attract a mate (m.ob), and one (or two) were in the Corvallis area Aug. 24 (JK) and Aug. 28 (FR). TOWSEND’S SOLITAIRES were found nesting in the coast range again--two adults and three young were near Linslaw Co. Park, Lane Co. on July 22 (TMi). At least three locations in Lane Co. had RED-EYED VIREOS--Jasper Park, Elmira and Oakridge.

This was a good year for TENNESSEE WARBLERS with numerous sightings as they migrated through the area the first part of May. Reports were submitted to the records committee for those found May 3* in Portland (PT), May 8* in Salem (TB), and May 14-15* in Winchester (MS). Other rare warblers include a MAGNOLIA, well studied June 4* in the Coast Range west of Eugene (TMi); a BLACK AND WHITE April 23 at Cornelius (GW et al) and a CHESTNUT-SIDED at Tualatin May 6 (GD). The Roseburg area was the hot spot for ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS; sightings were made of singles April 23 (MA) and the first week of May (BdW), and of a pair on June 1 (CP). From July 27 - Aug. 5 another was at a feeder in Port Orford (DR).

The nomadic RED CROSSBILL invaded the southern Willamette Valley in extraordinarily large numbers in May and apparently nested in Eugene (JC) and in Corvallis (UK) since adults were seen feeding immature birds. At least one WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL was detected among the REDS in Eugene by voice on May 15 (GM) and by sight May 22 (CW, DW). On July 25 a male was seen carrying insects at Gold Lake (suggesting nesting) (AP) and on Aug. 29, 4-5 were watched at Waldo Lake (AMi, TMi). During the next several weeks up to 9 at a time were found there leading to speculation that there were 'quite a number' of the WHITE-WINGED among the 'thousands' of RED CROSSBILLS. This erratic wanderer is normally difficult to find in the Wallowa Mts. where it irregularly appears, but has not been known to invade the Cascades in numbers before.

Another interesting probable nesting record is of BROWN TOWHEES near Myrtle Creek in Douglas Co. Three pair were found here in chaparral thickets June 10 (MS, MH). These birds haven’t been found in Douglas Co. for many years through they are listed as nesting there by Gabrielsson and Jewett in Birds of Oregon (1940). Vagrant BLACK-THROATED SPARRROWS appear irregularly in the spring in western Oregon, this year they showed up on May 9-10 in Florence (MM, MF), at Central Point in Jackson Co. on May 20 (CR), and in Glenwood, Lane Co. on May 25 (AV).
Field notes from issues of the following newsletters were used for this article: **AUDUBON WARBLER** (Audubon Society of Portland); **THE CHAT** (Rogue River Valley Audubon Society); **THE CHAT** (Corvallis Audubon Society); **THE EAGLE EYE** (Central Oregon Audubon Society); **OREGON GRAPELEAF** (Salem Audubon Society); **THE RAV-ON** (Grande Ronde Bird Club); **THE SANDPIPER** (Umpqua Valley Audubon Society). In addition, reports to the regional editors for **AMERICAN BIRDS** (ME), a copy of the Northern Pacific Coast Region report to **AMERICAN BIRDS** (PM), personal communications (DC, MS, SS, JRo, and GHa) and a few records submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee were used.

A REMINDER TO THE OBSERVERS

Send extensive written details and photographs, if available, of rare and unusual birds found in Oregon to the **OREGON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.

**OBSERVERS:**

- Jim Applegate
- Marie Ayers
- Anne Baker
- Jerry & Winnie Binger
- Bob Bender
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- Nancy Bock
- Joan Bray
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- Ron Rohweder
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- Richard Smith (RSm)
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- Otis Swisher (OSw)
- Bob Talley
- Larry Thornburgh
- Peter Turnbull
- Ray Valberg
- Bruce Van Housten (BVH)
- Faye Van Hise (FVH)
- Anna Vermont
- Ken Vogel
- Glen Walthall
- Clarice Watson
- Don Watson
- E.G. White-Swift (EGW)
- Wendell Wood
- Ray Woodall
- Vince Zauskey
Broad-Tailed Hummingbird: Identification and Status in Oregon
Joe Evanich

One of the most characteristic birds of the Rocky Mountain states is the BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (Selasphorus platycercus), a species which seems to reach the northwestern limit of its range here in Oregon. As with all hummingbird species, the BROAD-TAILED’s breeding range is hard to define, due to the bird’s diminutive size and rather inconspicuous habits.

The male BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD is easily distinguished from other Oregon hummers by its large size, rose-red gorget, and its green plumage with no rufous coloration in it. Its most distinctive characteristic, however, is the unique metallic trilling sound produced by the wings in flight. This is due to the two outer primaries, which are abruptly narrower at their tips, forming two slots in the wing which the air passes through, thus producing the trill. This characteristic is absent in females and most immature males.

The female and immature birds are very similar to the more abundant female RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (Selasphorus rufus), and can be safely identified only at extremely close range or in the hand. True to its name, the BROAD-TAILED tends to have much broader tail feathers, evident only in the hand. A few female BROAD-TAILEDS can be safely identified by a total lack of rufous coloration in the plumage; all female RUFOUS show rufous along their sides and especially at the base of their tail feathers. The female BROAD-TAILEDS usually appear somewhat larger and more robust, the body being more pear-shaped than that of the RUFOUS. All these characteristics are very subtle and work only at close range (such as at a feeder), and then only when the observer is very familiar with at least one of the two species.

The BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD is a mountain bird. In its native Rocky Mountain range, the species breeds higher than most hummers except the tiny CALLIOPE (Stellula calliope); the BROAD-TAILED usually nests from 4,000 - 11,000 feet in elevation, and these figures probably hold true in Oregon, also. It commonly migrates through lower elevations, often visiting flowers and feeders in residential areas. On its breeding grounds, the BROAD-TAILED generally favors dense streamside thickets (willow, elder, dogwood, etc.) amid coniferous forest to nest and display in.

When in the coniferous forest, the bird is very difficult to locate except when the male’s trilling is heard.

The actual status of this species in Oregon is still very unclear. There seem to be two major population areas in the state: one in the canyons and mountains of southeastern Oregon; and one in the mountainous country of northeastern Oregon. Although there is much appropriate habitat between these areas, there are few records that fall in between. This is almost surely due to a lack of field work in such areas as the John Day Valley of Grant County and the Powder River Valley of Baker County.

Most records from southeastern Oregon occur during spring and early summer (late May - mid June), and probably involve migrant birds. These birds are usually found at lower elevations at springs, feeders, and in the coniferous forest, Roaring Springs Ranch, Fields, and Adel, generally below the desired breeding elevations. BROAD-TAILED HUMMERS have been encountered on Hart Mountain during nesting season, and this high ridge (8,065 ft.) and neighboring Steens Mountain (9,733 ft.) have appropriate habitat for nesting. One other area in this corner of the state which could very well have breeding BROAD-TAILEDS is the Mahogany Mountains of central Malheur County. Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon) mention a number of records of this species from southern Malheur County, and two adult males were encountered here in June 1978 (Gilligan, 1980). This mountain range, like Hart and Steens, is a unique island of vegetation reaching more than 6,500 feet in elevation above the surrounding desert areas.

The northeastern corner of the state (Wallowa and Union Counties in particular) appear to be the BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD’s center of population in Oregon. As the map illustrates, there are a number of records from Grant, Umatilla, Union, Wallowas, and northern Baker Counties, and the species has been found here annually since 1976. As with southeastern Oregon, most records for the northeast are of migrant birds, but this is because these migrants are usually seen in towns where there are feeders and more observers. The species has been reported at a La Grande feeder for the past three springs (1979-1981), arriving around May 18 each year. In 1980, an adult male staked out a territory at this feeder and was accompanied by what were probably two females (identification of $ birds is difficult). During May, this species tends to set up a temporary territory at the feeder, then disappears after about two weeks. There has been a similar pattern in the town of Union, southeast of La Grande. It is assumed that these birds head into the higher hills and mountains to breed during the summer.

There are a few records involving birds which may have been on breeding territory. An adult male was found at Spring Creek near La Grande on July 3, 1981, and it appeared to have been displaying. At an elevation of 4,000 ft., this sighting matches the appropriate date and elevation for a breeding bird. There are a few sightings like this where a displaying bird was virtually stumbled upon by backpackers in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area of southern Wallowa County.

Of the vagrant BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRDS in Oregon, about all one can do with them is show where they have occurred. Unfortunately, most of these involve $ birds and cannot be accepted except in a few very rare cases. The species has had a
BROAD-TAILED HUMMER
Range in Oregon...

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD
unique occurrence in the Medford area of southwestern Oregon, and it is not clear whether the birds involved were vagrants or whether they are more common than is generally realized. A feeder in the small town of Shady Cove, north of Medford, had a displaying male BROAD-TAILED for a couple of springs in a row during the mid 1960's. Apparently the bird would arrive in mid May, disappear around mid-June, and would not show up again until the following spring. This bird (or birds) may have come from the mountains of northeastern California, where there is a small population of breeding BROAD-TAILED. The species has also occurred at Gilchrist, Klamath County.

Although an actual nest of the BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD has yet to be located in Oregon, the species has undoubtedly bred in the state. The areas most likely to yield the first nest include the mountainous northeastern corner of the state and Hart, Steens, and possibly Mahogany Mountain in the southeastern corner. When birding these areas, the observer should keep an eye out for this beautiful and rare Oregon bird.

Literature Cited:

Solitary Sandpiper: Probable Nesting in Oregon
Martha Sawyer

On June 28, 1981, I visited Gold Lake and the bog bordering the lake with a small group of people on an Audubon field trip. We entered the bog at the north end and were immediately approached by a Solitary Sandpiper. The bird flew directly at us; its behavior best described as aggressive and persistent. After about five minutes, a second bird appeared, behaving in the same manner. They stayed within fifty feet of us, frequently perching in the tops of small trees, some as close as fifteen feet. They constantly voiced their opinion of us with a sharp, repetitive note. They had typical plumage; although the most vocal bird which came the closest had only a faint eye ring. We did not search for a nest, even though their behavior was certainly territorial, because we were not familiar with the nesting habits of Solitary Sandpipers.

The Gold Lake bog is near the summit of the Willamette Pass in the Willamette National Forest, Lane County, Oregon. The bog is at approximately 4000 feet and is encompassed in 465 acres which has been designated a natural area by the Forest Service. Bog and open marsh comprise 190 acres, the remaining area is timbered. There are three small ponds adjacent to the bog, covering about four acres, and two springs flow through the bog to the lake. The timber includes spruce, pine, fir, and hemlock; marsh areas support growth of willows, alders, bog laurel, lodgepole pine and huckleberry.

Two weeks later I returned to the areas knowing a little more about the nesting habits of Solitary Sandpipers. I had hoped to observe the bird from outside the bog, thinking the bird might pinpoint a nest or young. Since there are no trails into the bog, I inadvertently entered as I had before and was immediately spotted. The behavior was the same but only one bird appeared. I took pictures and left marking the trail where I might enter the next day without notice. I did just that but managed to flush a nesting Spotted Sandpiper which gave me away again! I was unable to locate a nest or young birds. I did find a clump of trees which may have harbored a nest or young because it was the only area where the bird would not follow me.

A third trip, on July 25th, was more productive. On the largest pond, four birds were found. Initially, one aggressive bird appeared; a faint eye ring identified it as the bird seen on the two previous trips. The behavior was not vigorous and was soon abandoned when it flew down to the edge of a pond and joined a second bird. This second bird was a little larger and had a more definite eye ring. Also, this larger bird appeared to have a split in the center of its breast markings. Since female shore birds
are larger than males, I assumed this to be a female; the split in her breast markings possible evidence of a brood patch. At this time there was no sign of young; the male was feeding and the female sunned herself along the shore.

Since I wanted more pictures I walked to the far side of the pond. This was not easy since the bog had areas of very poor footing. My observations were entirely on my next step and not on the sandpipers, so when I arrived at a somewhat firm vantage point I was confronted with first three, and then four birds. Apparently I had flushed them out of the grass as I approached the pond. The two new birds were very similar to the male, being slightly smaller and having faint eye rings. Also, these birds appeared to have a slight mottling on the head. Otherwise, I could not see any major differences in plumage.

A final visit was made on August 8th, and the birds were not found.

Although conclusive evidence of nesting was not found, I feel that the sandpipers most probably nested. The aggressive behavior from the tops of trees certainly could be described as territorial. The long summer stay was very unusual, since Oregon sightings have been limited to April-May and August-September; undoubtedly migration records. And finally the group increasing from two to four birds; Solitary Sandpipers usually being seen in Oregon as a lone bird.

Nesting records for the lower U.S. are limited to one, that in Minnesota in 1973, so comparable information was not available. I would like to thank Wendell Wood and Ron Mertz who were with me on the initial visit and Alice and Fred Parker who were with me when the four birds were found.

Incomplete Albinism in a Western Bluebird Nestling
Elsie K. Eltzroth

On July 22, 1981 five WESTERN BLUEBIRD (Sialia mexicana) nestlings on the Audubon Society of Corvallis Bluebird Trail, were banded with USF&W numbered bands. Four of these birds had normal feather coloration: blue, gray, brownish gray and multi-color speckling on the breast and back. All of the feathers of the fifth bird were white. Feather growth indicated that these birds were about 16 days old.

The incomplete albino nestling was taken from the others on banding day so that it could be examined more closely, photographed and observed through the post juvenile molt (USF&W Permit #PRT 2-0650-PT). This bird has black eyes, the feet and legs are flesh colored, the beak is horn colored except for the gape flanges which are soft yellow.

By July 25 the normal nestlings had fledged. The adult birds attending the next box were typically colored WESTERN BLUEBIRDS. It was evident that they had accepted the white feathered nestling as had the siblings; however it may be important to note that when the nest box was first opened, the albino bird was farthest from the box opening. It was also the lightest, the weights ranging from 21 to 25 grams.

Bird Name Quiz Answers
Dan Gleason

The following are answers to the quiz which appeared in the previous issue, OREGON BIRDS, Vol. 7, No. 2. Use of more standardized common names makes communication easier. Do we have any experts out there?

EXPERT
2. Cliff Swallow  12. Common Nighthawk
5. Rufous-sided Towhee  15. Yellow-breasted Chat
7. Northern Green Heron  17. Common Murde
8. Willet  18. Dunlin
9. Great Horned Owl  19. Cooper’s Hawk

INTERMEDIATE
2. Plain Titmouse  12. Sooty Shearwater
4. Song Sparrow  14. Vesper Sparrow
5. Lincoln’s Sparrow  15. Goshawk
7. White-breasted Nuthatch  17. Varied Thrush

EASY
1. House Wren  11. Swainson's Thrush
5. American Wigeon  15. Saw-Whet Owl
7. Spotted Sandpiper  17. Upland Sandpiper
8. Marbled Murrelet  18. Oldsquaw
9. Western Kingbird  19. Swainson’s Hawk
10. Canon Wren  20. Fox Sparrow
Book Review: Rare Birds of the West Coast

Alan Contreras

Don Roberson's Rare Birds of the West Coast (Woodcock Publications, 1980) is a fascinating record of west coast rarities, and is worth adding to any serious bird enthusiast's library. It is not without problems, however, and anyone who intends to acquire a copy should be apprised of its weak points as well as its strengths.

The book is organized by species, and includes the status of all species on the "review lists" of the west coast states' Rare Bird Records Committees, plus information on eastern warblers in California and on Eurasian strays in Alaska. Each species section includes a summary of its status in each west coast state and province, and in most cases shows the location of the various records on a map. Bar graphs are used very effectively to show the times of years when certain rarities tend to appear, and this use of graphs is one of the book's greatest assets. It is very useful to be able to determine at a glance which of the more regular rarities one is likely to see on a trip, and to review field marks accordingly. For example, it is easy to see, using the graphs, that a shorebirding trip during the first week of September stands a reasonable chance of stumbling across a Stilt Sandpiper, while a trip three weeks later does not.

This kind of data is obviously less valuable for species for which there are only a few records, but for "regular rarities" such as Buff-breasted, Sharp-tailed and Stilt Sandpiper, it is quite useful.

The book also includes considerable identification information, with special sections on "peep" sandpipers, Empidonax flycatchers, pipits and other difficult groups. This information ranges from fair to excellent, in terms of ease of applicability in Oregon. Unfortunately, the color plates that are presumably intended to complement the text are of inconsistent quality, with only the pipit plate being really good. The plate showing the small "peeps" or "stints" is a disappointment, especially for such difficult-to-identify species. Stint identification is a rapidly-expanding area of knowledge, but the plate of stint plumages is confusing and should be largely ignored in favor of the text on stints, which is good. An example of the confusion produced by the plate is the encouraging statement that we should "...be familiar with the common species..." appended to a color plate showing an immature Western Sandpiper with garish, nearly scarlet edgings on almost every visible back and wing feather. Immature Westerns are not that color, and do not appear so in the field or in the hand. The Least Sandpiper juvenal is better, but its color are too dull, in contrast to the Western. In short, the color plates are not the reason to buy this book.

The photographs, however, are plentiful, and many are excellent. They are all printed in black and white, except for five of rare shorebirds, so the usefulness of some as identification tools is limited. There are many which serve very well in that capacity, though, such as those of Yellow-billed Loon, Little Gull and Mongolian Plover. The photos provide a fascinating collection of state records, and include many from Oregon. A few of the photos are simply bad - blobs in the dark - and the author's contention that "any photo is better than no photo" simply doesn't fly for those cases. An impressionistic Prothonotary Warbler from California would better be labeled as the "Darkroom Technician's Revenge" than as an identifiable bird. Printing it serves no purpose.

The book contains a few photos which are erroneously labeled, our own Black-headed Gull record which has since been reconsidered by the Records Committee is one example; a "Rufous-necked" Stint from California looks suspiciously like a Semipalmated Sandpiper to this reviewer. Many of these errors are dealt with in a neat, fairly comprehensive errata sheet which is now provided with all orders, and the author expects an eventual reprinting, which will contain many changes. Some of these errors are merely nuisances, such as the consistent spelling of "Klamath" with two m's, others involve incorrect locations shown on the maps, and so forth.

The author makes a few mild and not altogether inappropriate criticisms of the standards of accuracy of the Oregon Bird Records Committee, but generally treats its decisions as correct and includes records which it approved. In one instance, however, he further blurs a controversial record of Long-toed Stint by neglecting to mention that the OBRC relied on British authorities for advice, instead stating that "All [West Coast] observers except those in Oregon agree that the photos...fail to distinguish the bird from [Least Sandpiper]."

All things considered, this is a good, not excellent, book which will doubtless be recognized ten years from now as the forerunner of a new kind of bird book, the Active Birder's Handbook.

Rare Birds of the West Coast is available from Woodcock Publications, P.O. Box 985, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 for 26.50 at this writing in fall, 1981.
REVISION OF THE BIRDS OF LINCOLN COUNTY

Range Bayer is beginning a revision of the *Birds of Lincoln County*. He is interested in observations of common as well as exotic species. Any assistance will be appreciated. Send your notes to:

Range D. Bayer
423 S.W. 9th
Newport, Oregon 97365

THIRD ANNUAL OFO MEETING

Be sure to mark your 1982 calendar and reserve the weekend of May 7-9 for the Third Annual OFO Meeting. More details on the meeting will appear in future issues and through announcements to the membership. The location for the 1982 meeting is Bend. (PINON JAYS, YELLOW WARBLERS, bird programs, and lots of visiting are planned.)

HEY!! There are birds over here, too! Did you realize that 115 species of Oregon’s 400 or so birds are unique to Eastern Oregon? That’s quite a large chunk of the total!

First, let’s define “Eastern Oregon”. The present definition includes roughly anything east of the Cascade Crest (affectionately referred to as the Great Cascade Wall over here). Obviously, this is the Western Oregonian’s definition. Geographically, this division may be accurate, but environmentally and birdwise, the division between East and West lies along the base of the eastern slope of the Cascades, where the juniper, ponderosa pine, and sage brush become dominant. Thus, to the people who live in Eastern Oregon, Bend, LaPine, and Klamath Falls are not “eastern”, but actually part of a transition zone between East and West with its own unique environments—a third major division of the state!

As illustrated by the choice of Oregon Field Ornithologists convention sites, Eastern Oregon is relatively uncharted territory for most of the state’s birders. Granted it lies deep in the heart of the East; a yearly trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is hardly considered experiencing Eastern Oregon’s birdlife. I suggest that since 13 of the state’s 20 “most wanted” bird species are strictly found in Eastern Oregon, OFO should plan to hold every other one of their conventions somewhere over here—Lakeview, La Grande, Ontario, John Day, The Dalles, Baker, but certainly not Malheur each time. So many people are intrigued by our birdlife, but only about ten of OFO’s Western Oregon members are regular visitors, barring Malheur. Sure, the distances are great, but just consider how many Portland birders go to Coos Bay or Bandon each fall; it’s really not much farther to go to Pendleton or Prineville!

Also, with a convention held somewhere over here, imagine the wealth of information that could be learned about our state’s birdlife. I truly feel that it’s time our eastern half of Oregon was given more attention; after all, we do have well over half of Oregon’s land and some of its most fascinating birdlife.

Joe Evanich
P.O. Box 1386
La Grande, OR 97850
Editor's Note

While issue No. 2 was about five months late and this issue is two months late, we are narrowing the late gap. We still plan to publish issue 4 before the 1981 Christmas Bird Counts.

We continually invite suggestions for, ideas for, and comments on OREGON BIRDS. We also accept artwork and articles. In fact, we are hereby promoting articles for 1982. While we have been fortunate to receive articles such as those by Harry Nehls and Joe Evanich in this issue, we recognize some gaps in our publication-especially when compared with other state journals.

We are seeking "short notes" of one-half to two pages in length. Accounts of unusual sightings, historic Oregon records (such as Martha Sawyer's account of SOLITARY SANDPIPER probable nesting at Gold Lake), county records, or good narrative descriptions of rare bird records submitted to the Records Committee are needed for future issues. We know several "Big Days" have been undertaken in the past few years-let's share those adventures with our readers. Very little has been written regarding the numerous pelagic trips off the Oregon Coast during the past decade. Come on! Someone should be documenting these trips in our quarterly!

We would like to have more site guides. Fred Ramsey's book didn't cover every good birding spot in Oregon. We urge qualified authors to submit articles on tricky identifications. Don't hesitate to review the list of "Most Wanted Oregon Species" if you wonder what birds members are most interested in (see O B 7:1,57). Joe Evanich's article on BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD is one example of treatment of a "wanted" species.

A number of OFO members have recently completed drafts of species accounts for the upcoming Birds of Oregon project, a joint OFO/Portland Audubon venture. Surely, in the exhaustive and thorough research on each species, subject material for an O B article was uncovered--something somewhat divorced from the project's thrust, but appropriate for a feature article.

Authors, please send us a postcard before Christmas and let us know what you plan to contribute in 1982. We could use articles on a couple of CBC's for the first issue in 1982...we have to go start work on issue 4 now before the CBC's start on December 19th...

Steve

"Send Field Notes To..."

When afield in Oregon, please share your unusual or exciting finds with others. Cooperative communication with the individuals listed below will help promote a better understanding of Oregon's birds. Many of the twelve 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. Thomas Crabtree, 3733 Stanley Lane S., Salem 97302
3. M. S. "Elzy" Eltzroth, 3595 N.W. Roosevelt, Corvallis 97330
4. Jim Carlson, 1560 Chasa, Eugene 97401
5. Fred Parker, 313 W. Hickory, Roseburg 97470
6. Alan McGie, 3801 Edgewood Dr., North Bend 97459
7. Jim Rogers, Stat Rte., Box 151-A, Port Orford 97465
8. Vince Zauskey, 945 E. Main, Ashland 97520
9. Steve Summers, 1009 Merryman, Klamath Falls 97601
10. Adele Rodriguez, 630 6th St., Madras 97741
11. Joe Evanich, P.O. Box 1386, LaGrande 97850
12. C. D. Littlefield and Steve Thompson, Malheur N.W.R., Box 113, Burns 97720

OREGON FIELD NOTES REPORT ZONES

[Map showing Oregon's field notes report zones]