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President’s Message

Richard Palmer

On October 15, the OFO board of directors met in Eugene with the primary purpose to establish direction for next year’s annual meeting. The board, after much discussion, elected to accept Joe Evanich’s proposal to hold the fifth annual meeting in La Grande, Oregon around the middle of June. A firm date will be announced in the next issue of Oregon Birds as arrangements are completed with Eastern Oregon State College. La Grande offers several Oregon specialties such as GRAY CATBIRD, AMERICAN REDSTART, VEERY, and RED-EYED VIREO. An effort will be made to locate other hard-to-find species such as GRAY PARTRIDGE, THREE-TOED WOODPECKER and possibly even FLAMMULATED OWL. Due to the time required for travel to La Grande for many of the members, this convention will try to concentrate more on field trips. Less time will be devoted to business meetings and paper presentations during optimum birding hours.

Allison Mickel reports that our financial position has improved slightly compared to last year. Membership has increased from 222 to a new high of 248. Good news like this is always welcome to the membership because it results in no dues increase. However, as we need new members to help the organization grow. The most effective way to increase membership is by passing the word about OFO. Why not try and get us a new member this year?

Clare Watson reports that the Oregon Birds Record Committee will not meet as often as in the past and submitted records will take longer to review. This delay in procedure is the result of a policy change by the committee. All written records are to be reviewed by each committee member without consultation with the other committee members and their vote mailed to Clare for compilation. The purpose of this procedural change is to reduce peer pressure and time constraints present under the former procedure. Group meetings will still be required on a less frequent basis to review slides of the birds for acceptance on their own merit. I, as president of OFO, welcome this change which will bring further credibility to the OBRC. Please be patient and allow the committee enough time to review your records.

The next board meeting will be held on January 21, 1984 in Eugene. Members wishing to attend or who have comments or proposals should contact me prior to the meeting for additional details.

Highlights from the Field Notes:

Summer 1983

Joe Evanich and David Fix

In this edition of the Highlights, I’d like to welcome David Fix to the column. Much to my relief, David will be responsible for what you read here concerning the sightings and reports from Western Oregon. I’m sure the Field Notes will benefit from Dave’s more indepth knowledge of the birdlife west of the Cascades.

Summer 1983 was generally dry and pleasant throughout the state and birders enjoyed a number of ornithological pasttimes, the most commented on being the immense Lane County Breeding Bird Atlas project everyone is aware of by now. The coordinators, Steve Gordon and Herb Wisner, will keep Oregon Birds readers updated on the progress of this ongoing project.

Natural phenomenon that had the greatest effect on the summer’s birdlife include the remaining high water levels of Malheur National Wildlife Reserve (NWR) which completely rearranged many species’ nesting habits. The conditions were extremely devastating for the nesting SNOWY PLOVER in the Harney Basin—not only were no nests discovered this season, but no plovers were even seen. If alternate nesting areas were not used, this inland population has surely suffered (CDL).

In Western Oregon, Fix notes that it was the amazing El Nino current that caused the most interesting bird reports. The appearance of this abnormally warm water off Oregon was most likely responsible for the unprecedented large numbers of BROWN PELICANS, poor alcid nesting results, and the awesome invasion of ELEGANT TERNS—hundreds of these subtropical birds moved northward into Oregon for the first time and were present along our coasts well into September.

Birders were encouraged to send reports and photos (if available) of rare birds found in Oregon to: Oregon Bird Records Committee, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

EAST OF THE CASCADES (Joe Evanich)

WHITE PELICANS peaked at about 1200 birds at Malheur NWR during early July, and due to the high water levels on the refuge, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS resorted to tree nesting there for the second consecutive year (CDL). There was only one LEAST BITTERN reported this summer—a single bird.
BURROWING OWLS appeared to have fared quite well in southeastern Oregon, and three pairs and their broods were captured near Malheur NWR for reintroduction purposes near Medford (DDF&W, CDL). The GREAT GRAY OWLS at Spring Creek, Union County, raised two young this year; a third fledgling was apparently killed by a GOSHAWK (JE, HN, et al.). The Adrian, Malheur County, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was present at its usual spot along the Owyhee River for the third successive summer (fide HN). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMERS were present all summer in the Galena area, Grant County (CDL), and an adult male BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD, the only report this summer, was noted at a John Day feeder during mid-July (fide HN). Very rare for northeastern Oregon were two BLACK SWIFT reports: one north of Enterprise on July 2 (AL), and four birds seen from Sacajawea Peak, Wallowa County, on August 24 (VC).

The ALDER FLYCATCHERS found nesting outside La Grande in early June abandoned their completed nest and four eggs later that month; the remaining three eggs and the nest will be sent to the National Museum for verification (JE, et al.). A possible YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, as yet undocumented for Oregon, was reported at Malheur NWR on June 10 (JG, MK, fide HN). Union County had its fourth or fifth record of BUSHTIT when a flock of 11 was seen in La Grande on July 10-12 (JE, K & CC).

Very exciting was the BROWN THRASHER found along Highway 205, just south of Wright's Point near Malheur NWR on June 19 (RP)--this is one of Oregon's rarest vagrants. The only truly unusual warbler report involved the inconspicuous TENNESSEE WARBLER: on June 21, an adult male was found on territory at a Highway 395 rest area south of John Day, and on June 27 another singing male appeared along Canyon Creek, also in Grant County (fide HN). From Cottonwood Creek in the Alvord Basin comes the report of a ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK on June 11 (CDL)--perhaps the same bird reported near Fields in the last Highlights? This summer's PINE GROSBEAK sightings all came from the Wallowa Mountains, their Oregon stronghold: a female outside of Union during July (MH); another female along the Bonney Lakes Trail in Wallowa County, August 14 (JE, LT); and five immature males also on the Bonney Lakes Trail September 4 (JE, R & DP, B & JB). Possible new GRASSHOPPER SPARROW areas were found this summer--a "colony" was noted along Highway 86 east of Baker during July (fide HN), a single singing bird was seen at Cold Springs NWR, Umatilla County, on July 9 (CCor), and one was found singing on an apparent territory between Crowley and Shumway, Malheur County, on June 28 (MSt).

WEST OF THE CASCADES (David Fix)

Tubenoses were very well reported during summer and early fall. Although offshore numbers were about normal, two BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSSES were reported off the Columbia River mouth on July 17 (BC, et al.). A FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER was off Tillamook County on September 3, and another was seen sitting on the water below Cape Meares on August 27 (JG, fide D1). Two BULLER'S SHEARWATERS, uncommon in recent seasons, were

Shorebird migration was being reported during all three summer months. There were an amazing 21 species mentioned, mostly from the Bend area and northeast Oregon. Highlights include rare Deschutes County records of WHIMBREL (July 7), DUNLIN (June 1), SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (August 8), and AMERICAN AVOCET (July 23), all from Hatfield Lake near Bend (TC). SOLITARY SANDPIERS appeared during late August and September in Union and Wallowa Counties (JE, PC, et al.), and one was on Hatfield Lake July 30 (TC). Extremely rare for Eastern Oregon were the SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS recorded at Hatfield Lake during July (TC, CM) and at the Joseph sewage ponds in late August (FC). A SANDERLING on June 8 and a WHIMBREL at Double O Station on July 14 were the only unusual shorebird reports from Malheur NWR (CDL). There were few lariid reports out of the ordinary, but due to flooding, CASPIAN TERNs raised young this year on Harney Lake, the first nesting record for Malheur NWR since 1960 (CDL).
found off Lane County August 28 (m.ob.) and off Tillamook County September 3 (fide DI). A good example of “almost anything can happen” were all the FORK-TAILED STORM-PETRELS reported onshore during the second half of August: most were from the southern coast including as many as 200 seen between Crescent City, California and Port Orford, Curry County, on August 20-22 (JC); three at the Yaquina Bay jetties on August 20-21 (MH, AC, et al.); and four or five at the Umpqua River mouth on August 27 (m.ob.). Several reports of all dark storm-petrels were received during this time period involving small numbers at the Umpqua River mouth (MS) and at the Yaquina Bay jetties (fide RB). No firm identification was assigned to these birds.

BROWN PELICANS enjoyed perhaps their best year yet in Oregon, and record numbers were seen flying north past the South Jetty of the Columbia River (SJCR)—they are historically scarce in Washington. On July 29, what was likely the same immature MAGNIFICANT FRIGATEBIRD soared past startled birders at Yaquina Bay at 1:30 (JH) and again at 2:30 p.m. (AP). Almost surely the same bird was seen 42 miles to the south at the Siuslaw River mouth the same day (4:40 p.m.; DF). The bird(s) was photographed for Oregon’s fourth or fifth record. Both GREAT and SNOWY EGRETS summered at Coos Bay, with as many as four SNOWIES there on June 7 (JG). A possible BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON nest site was found at Yaquina Bay August 10 (fide RB); the Western Oregon status of this largely nocturnal bird is poorly known.

RUDDY DUCKS nested again at Lane Community College in Eugene; at least seven broods were reported (SH, et al.). Four RUDDIES were at the sewage ponds in Aloha, Washington County, on June 18 (JG, DI). A female NORTHERN GOSHAWK was captured and relocated after killing domestic guinea fowl in Coburg, Lane County, on August 16 (APa). One or two adult GOLDEN EAGLES, rare in the Willamette drainage, were seen in central Lane County in June (fide LM); this species breeds locally in interior southwestern Oregon. NORTHERN BOBWHITE were reported in fair numbers in eastern Clackamas County (BC, LC, fide HN).

While SEMIPALMATED PLOVER were still northward bound as late as June 1, the first southward migrants appeared July 9 at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County (JG). A rather early LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER was at Nehalem Meadows, Tillamook County, on July 26 (JG); a juvenile and adult in partial breeding plumage were at Eugene’s airport sewage ponds on August 16 (DR). Up to three LONG-BILLED CURLEWS were at Yaquina Bay on August 3 (FS) and 20 (J & RK), one was at Siletz Bay, Lincoln County (PP), and at Bayocean Spits (m.ob.). At least three SOLITARY SANPIPERs appeared to have summered at Gold Lake bog, Lane County, this year, but there was no direct evidence of breeding (JG, SH, et al.). A RUFOUS-NECKED STINT was reported at Bayocean Spit on August 27 (fide HN). SEMIPALMATED SANPIPERs were found in numbers typical of the past few seasons beginning with one adult July 10 at Bayocean Spit (JG), the one-day maximum was four birds on July 31 and August 3 (fide HN) at Bayocean. An adult LONG-TAILED STINT was identified at SJCR on July 16 (DI, et al.), and a more nebulous report was from Bayocean Spit on August 5 (fide DI, HN). A juvenile CURLEW SANPIPER at Bayocean Spit July 17 was very early for a bird of this age group this far south (DF, AD), but a juvenile at the Necanicum River mouth on August 31 was a bit less unexpected (RS). The adult STILT SANPIPER in breeding plumage at Bayocean Spit on July 17 was a record early fall arrival in Oregon by one day (m.ob.). Small numbers of SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were detected passing through the interior of western Oregon during late August.

A second year WESTERN GULL was at Sauvie Island on June 7 (AL) where they are more expected during the winter. A first year FRANKLIN’S GULL at SJCR June 24 lacked white in the wing tips; such birds can easily be mistaken for the much less likely LAUGHING GULL (HN). Five FORSTER’S TERNs were at SJCR the same day (HN), and a single was at Hagg Lake, Washington County, on June 23 (JG). CAPSIAN TERNs peaked at 600 birds at SJCR on June 1 (HN) where they declined to about half that number through the summer. As expected, there were a few
inland western Oregon sightings (three) during June and July. While lingering on the Oregon Coast (where they are not known to nest), adult CASPIANS regularly attend and feed the juvenile birds; this does not indicate local nesting.

The first ELEGANT TERNS seen were a flock of 29 at Coos Bay on August 6 (MGr, BP). The following invasion into Oregon was nothing short of astonishing. Reports came from nearly every coastal point checked by birders; from the California border to SJCR: a few records include 26 at Cape Blanco, August 22 (JC); 40 at Yaquina Bay, August 20 (MH, J & RK, et al.); and a fair number at SJCR (HN). By mid-August they appeared at several Washington locations, and on August 16 a flock of seven ELEGANTS had reached Boundary Bay, B.C. for a first Canadian record. The largest number reported up to September 1 was 215 at Rogue River mouth (SS).

Alcids in general seemed to suffer a poor nesting season (RB, et al.). Many more adult than juvenile COMMON MURRES were found dead on northern beaches (HN). This widespread failure was attributed to El Nino's disruption of littoral fish distribution. TUFTED PUFFINS also appeared to have a poor nesting season. One positive note was the sighting of 83 MARBLED MURRELETS at Boiler Bay, Lincoln County, on August 22 (PP). A MONK PARAKEET nest with up to nine attendant birds was found in northeast Portland during July, and 12 were seen near the airport (HN, DA). A LONG-EARED OWL summered at Hagg Lake (JGa, VT, et al.). Six to nine BLACK SWIFTS were seen near their suspected nesting site at Salt Creek Falls, Lane County, during July (JC, m.ob.); three were seen on Sauvie Island on June 18 (DA, LW). A THREE-TOED WOODPECKER nest was located near Gold Lake, Lane County, for the Breeding Bird Atlas project (MR).

A WESTERN KINGBIRD in Broadbent was a first Coos County breeding record (fide Amc), and a single at SJCR on July 19 was highly unusual on the north coast (RS). DUSKY FLYCATCHERS continue to be reported from the mountains of western Oregon: single birds were seen in June above Hagg Lake (VT) and on Mt. Bolivar, Coos County (GK). PURPLE MARTIN reports seemed typical, perhaps encouraging. A "new" colony was found near Dorena Reservoir, Lane County (AD). ROCK WREN, like DUSKY FLYCATCHER and TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE, is being reported more often as birders explore the mountains. ROCK WREN nesting was confirmed in Washington County with the discovery of a family on August 8 (JGa, VT). Several NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were seen, without any evidence of breeding. A SAGE THRASHER was video-taped at Fern Ridge Reservoir near Eugene on June 6 for a late spring straggler record (DF, MB). The 140 nestlings banded on the Corvallis WESTERN BLUEBIRD trail were the most since 1976 (EE). TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES continue to be encountered throughout forested western Oregon (m. ob.).

A PHILADELPHIA VIREO found on Cape Blanco on June 7 (JG) may furnish a first Oregon record, pending OBRC action. RED-EYED VIREOS were found again along the Long Tom River near Elmira, Lane County, in early July (DF, SH) in riparian Oregon Ash habitat. A male BLACKPOLL WARBLER was seen briefly near Florence on July 21 (MM). Very interesting was the pair of NORTHERN WATERTHRESHES taped and photographed on upper Salt Creek in Lane County about July 8 (LM) -- where else might these little charmers be found in the western Cascades? An OVENBIRD was seen at Wolf Creek, Josephine County, on June 19-20 for one of few state reports (EP). Unusual records of
YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS include one at Hagg Lake during June (JE, JGa) and one near Broadbent on June 25 (fide AMc). One of the more shocking finds was the discovery of a TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD colony at St. John's Landfill in north Portland, first noted June 25 (MHo, BL). All 36 birds had left the immediate nesting area by July 14, and were last seen July 31. This colony is about 250 miles north of their closest nesting areas in the central Rogue River Valley. A family group of recently fledged NORTHERN ORIOLES at Hammond, Clatsop County, on July 16 furnish a first nesting report for the north Oregon coast where orioles are rare even as migrants (JG, fide HN). A male and possible female LARK BUNTING along Highway 101 on the northern Lane County coast on July 17 were totally unexpected (AM, et al.). Another oddity was the BLACK-THROATED SPARROW photographed at boreal Clear Lake, Linn County, on June 29 (MM); previous western Oregon records are of birds much earlier in the season as spring migrants.

OBERVERS

David Anderson (DA)
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Barb & Jerry Bellin (B & JB)
Jim Carlson (JC)
Kent & Cilla Coe (K & CC)
Vic Coggins (CC)
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Craig Corder (CCor)
Tom Crabtree (TC)
Linda Craig (LC)
Alan Dyck (AD)
Joe Evanich (JE)
David Fix (DF)
John Gatchet (JGa)
Jeff Gilligan (JG)
Mike Graybill (MGr)

These highlights were taken from the following Oregon newsletters:

The Audubon Warbler (Portland Audubon Society)
The Chat (Audubon Society of Corvallis)
The Chat (Rogue River Valley Audubon Society)
The Dipper (Oakridge Audubon Society)
The Eagle-Eye (Central Oregon Audubon Society)
The Oregon Grape Leaf (Salem Audubon Society)
The Quail (Lane County Audubon Society)
The Rav-on (Grande Ronde Bird Club)
The Sandpiper (Yaquina Birders & Naturalists)
The Tattler (Cape Arago Audubon Society)

Also, personal communications with the following people were used:

Merlin Eltzroth
Frank Conley
C. D. Littlefield
Marty St. Louis
Big Days: Union County

Joe Evanich

The 1983 Union County Big Day was held June 4; unlike the Big Days of the previous two years (netting 104 and 112 species, respectively), 1983's project was well organized and included much more area, habitat, and time. Our four party members—myself, Craig Corder from Hermiston, and Barb and Jerry Bellin of Salem—were quite surprised at the grand total of 137 species. While that may not compare to the large tallies of Klamath and Douglas Counties reported in previous issues of Oregon Birds, remember that Union County does not have an ocean or the large land area of these two counties. And besides, our priority was quality over quantity.

Our Big Day began at 4:00 a.m. at Thief Valley Reservoir in extreme southern Union County—the lake straddles the Union/Baker County line, but all the species counted here were in Union County. Being the largest body of water in the county, this reservoir was very important to our Big Day efforts. During our two hour stay here we found our first 57 species including most of our waterfowl, and some rather unusual EARED and WESTERN GREBES and two BLACK TERNS. Near the tiny town of Medical Springs we found our local sagebrush species, most notably BREWER'S and VESPER SPARROWS, HORNED LARK, and SAGE THRASHER. ROCK WRENS were calling from nearby cliffs and a GOLDEN EAGLE cooperatively flew by.

Along Highway 203 between Medical Springs and Union, we passed through some of Oregon's most beautiful mountain scenery. Here we added WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, VEERY, HERMIT and SWAINSON'S THRUSHES, and WESTERN BLUEBIRDS, among other species. All four of us had excellent studies of HAMMOND'S and DUSKY FLYCATCHERS here, nearly side by side, contrasting voices, habits, and habitat preferences. A little higher in elevation we found singing TOWNSEND'S and YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, SOLITARY VIREO, STELLER'S JAY, and MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE. An adult and immature SHARP-SHINNED HAWK made a brief appearance for all to enjoy. Before entering Union we passed through some prime riparian habitat—although we missed the hoped for RED-
About 3:00 p.m. we headed for the old rifle range about 18 miles out of La Grande along the Grande Ronde River. This excellent deciduous woodland was a real treat to bird. The expected GRAY CATBIRDS were noted, VEERIES were singing all over, and a male CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD displayed for us. With a little patience we finally turned up at least four singing AMERICAN REDSTARTS, including two adult males which were seen clearly. WILLOW FLYCATCHERS were singing “FITZ-bew” everywhere, but while enjoying the REDSTARTS, we all picked up on an unusual Empidonax call—a relatively clear, three syllabled “fee-BE-o.” We were all surprised to find a pair of singing ALDER FLYCATCHERS in the nearby marshy alder/willow bog. After a ten-minute study at about fifty yards, the flycatchers disappeared into the brush.

Our final planned stop was farther west on I-84, along the Spring Creek Road. Here we added the hoped for GREAT GRAY OWL; it’s neat to see a birder’s reaction to their first sighting of this elusive owl, and Barb and Jerry’s excitement was a prize in itself. Also, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, HAIRY WOODPECKER, and OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER were netted here. Well, we had a fair amount of daylight left over, so we decided to do some running around the valley for special birds. At Rhinehart near Elgin we got the YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, and along the base of the Wallowas near Cove we nearly made a roadkill out of a GRAY PARTRIDGE.

We began owling at dusk with six SHORT-EARED OWLS near Ladd Marsh. With only two stops we added WESTERN SCREECH, GREAT HORNED, NORTHERN SAW-WHET, and even FLAMMULATED OWLS to end our Big Day list at 11:40 p.m.

**************************

Some general comments on our 1983 Union County Big Day. First, readers may note that our date (June 4) is much later than those Big Days held in Western Oregon. True, we do miss the migrant shorebirds and waterfowl by going so late, but unlike Western Oregon, many of our passerines and other birds are extremely late spring arrivals—VEERY, GRAY CATBIRD, AMERICAN REDSTARTS, LAZULI BUNTING, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, FLAMMULATED OWL, and EASTERN KINGBIRD, to name just a few. The gain is greater by sacrificing the May migrants rather than the June summer residents.

Second, on June 5 (the following morning), we returned to the old rifle range to hopefully record the ALDER FLYCATCHERS—unfortunately, they were not calling that morning. We did relocate the AMERICAN REDSTARTS, including two females along with three to four males; it looks like the Davis Lake/Odel Creek area has nothing on this stretch of the Grande Ronde River when it comes to REDSTARTS. Also, that morning we had GREEN-WINGED TEAL, RUFFED GROUSE, and PILEATED WOODPECKERS, all species missed on the Big Day.

And third, the following reasonably expected (or seen on the previous two Big Days) species were missed: WOOD DUCK, RING-NECKED DUCK, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, PRAIRIE FALCON, CHUKAR, COMMON BARN OWL, RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD, WILLIAMSON’S SAPSUCKER (a staked out nest at Spring Creek didn’t come through in 1983), BLACK-BACKED and THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS, GRAY JAY, BROWN CREEPER, AMERICAN DIPPER, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, RED-EYED VIREO, WILSON’S WARBLER, and LARK SPARROW.

PIED-BILLED GREBE
EARED GREBE
WESTERN GREBE
AMERICAN BITTERN
GREAT BLUE HERON
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON
CANADA GOOSE
MALLARD
NORTHERN PINTAIL
BLUE-WINGED TEAL
CINNAMON TEAL
NORTHERN SHOVELER
GADWALL
AMERICAN WIGEON
CANVASBACK
REDHEAD

LESSE SCAUP
COMMON MERCANSER
RUDDY DUCK
TURKEY VULTURE
NORTHERN HARRIER
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK
SWAINSON’S HAWK
RED-TAILED HAWK
GOLDEN EAGLE
AMERICAN KESTREL
GRAY PARTRIDGE
CALIFORNIA QUAIL
VIRGINIA RAIL
SORA
AMERICAN COOT
SANDHILL CRANE
Summer Solstice Count

David Anderson

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is well known to all active birders. These counts not only are the highlight of the winter season, but also provide a means to monitor the numbers of wintering bird populations. By taking the total number of individuals of a given species and dividing the figure by the total number of party hours, an abundance ratio can be determined. From the abundance ratio, year-to-year fluctuations can be noted as well as longer-term fluctuations within a population. For example, the recent winter range expansion of the ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD can be seen quite well by mapping the Christmas Count data from the 1960s into the 1970s.

During the compilation dinner for last year's Portland CBC—after having had to put up with a thin coating of annoying ice—several people remarked that a "Summer Solstice Count" (SSC) held in June might result in more species being seen and better weather conditions. At any rate, the count would also provide a census of summer resident birds.

With these thoughts in mind, members of Portland Audubon decided to conduct counts using the Portland and Sauvie Island CBC circles and to inaugurate a count centered near Cougar, Washington. The Cougar Count was run in conjunction with the Willapa Hills Audubon Group.

Needless to say, for both the Sauvie Island and Portland Counts, the numbers of species and individuals noted are not as high as those noted on the CBCs. This can be attributed to the large number of wintering waterfowl and STARLINGS present. The reverse, however, probably holds for the Cougar Count in that the variety of species is most likely greater during the summer months than during the winter.

Highlights of the three counts include: BLACK SWIFT (S.I.-3); BANK SWALLOW (S.I.-1); TRI-COLORED BLACKBIRD (P-12); MONK PARAKEET (P-1); BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (C-2); and LINCOLN'S SPARROW (C-10).

Next year it is envisioned that the three counts will be held during the same time period—during the last few weeks in June. Anyone interested in starting a SSC in their area is encouraged to do so. Counts should be run in established CBC circles or in areas where no CBC exists, such as in the High Cascades or desert areas, where coverage is sparse. The same basic information and guidelines of the CBC should be observed. All interested parties are encouraged to contact David Anderson for details or to advise that a Summer Solstice Count will be conducted.
Site Guide: Cascade Gateway Park

Barb Bellin

Last year a wintering BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER drew many birders to Cascade Gateway Park near the Salem airport. This park's two stocked lakes, small oak groves, open grassy areas, creek bank growth of cottonwoods, alder and Himalaya, provide good habitat for a variety of birds. At least 140 species have been sighted in the Gateway Park/airport area in recent years. Salem Audubon Society field trips to the park in late November have averaged 45 species.

From I-5, take the Santiam exit (#253) onto Highway 22 westbound. Turn left at the first light, go one block and turn left again onto Turner Road. The airport will be on your right. To your left is an extensive gravel pit pond, good for wintering waterfowl like CANVASBACK and COMMON GOLDENEYE. Watch for a very small turnout on the right side of the road, about two blocks after your turn onto Turner Road, where you can safely pull off. (Traffic here is usually brisk.)

Continuing past the pond, you will see the park entrance on your left, .6 miles from where you turned onto Turner Road. At the entrance to the park, LEAST SANDPIPERS have been found in the roadside ditch. Follow the park road across a one-lane bridge over Mill Creek, to a small parking lot across from the restrooms. There is a small oak grove behind the restrooms where WESTERN BLUEBIRDS have occurred in winter.

Black-and-White Warbler
OREGON LISTING REPORT FORM

Report totals in designated spaces as of December 31, 1983 and return by January 31, 1984. For information refer to the "Short Note" elsewhere in this issue, OB (9:3). Send form to: Steve Summers, 1009 Merryman Dr., Klamath Falls 97603.

Name______________________________

(Threshold)

Oregon Life List _______ (275)
Oregon Year List (1983) ______ (250)

INDIVIDUAL COUNTY LISTING INFORMATION

Indicate County Life (at least 100) and Year (at least 150) Lists:

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<th>Life</th>
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<td>Klamath</td>
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You may want to start your birding by walking back over the bridge to scope Walter L. Wirth Lake for wintering waterfowl, such as GADWALL and COMMON and HOODED MERGANSERS. SPOTTED SANDPIPERS are likely at the lake edge and flybys of BELTED KINGFISHERS are almost certain.

As you walk along the east side of the lake, Mill Creek will be to your left. YELLOW WARBLERS appeared in creekside brush here in September 1983. Both KINGLETS, FOX SPARROWS, etc., are reliable here in season.

Near the south end of the lake is a marshy area where an AMERICAN BITTERN has shown up and COMMON YELLOWTHROATS may be found in season. Beyond the bit of marsh, is an area combining evergreens, oaks, mobile homes (some with feeders), and a thick patch of Himalayas. A RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER was seen here in September 1983, and in November 1981 a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER was noted at this spot.
After your trek around the lake, you may want to check Arrowhead Picnic Area—the oak grove just west of where you parked—for DOWNY WOODPECKER, BROWN CREEPER, and both Valley NUTHATCHES.

To your left, at the south end of the oak grove, walk west along Mill Creek, and then north, where it parallels the park's unnamed north lake, checking the trees and brush on both sides of the dike. Besides the famous BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was found here in November 1982. A MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE appeared here among the BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES in October 1983.

Some of the spring birds sighted here are WESTERN TANAGER, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE, WILLOW and WESTERN FLYCATCHERS, and all the common warblers, including NASHVILLE.

A RED-NECKED GREBE appeared on this lake in November 1982. OSPREY have been seen here in season and GREEN-BACKED HERONS have wintered here for several years.

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<td>COMMON LOON</td>
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<td>ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK</td>
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<td>DUNLIN</td>
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<td>LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER</td>
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<td>COMMON SNIP</td>
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<td>COMMON BARN-OWL</td>
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<td>WESTERN MEADOWLARK</td>
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<td>BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD</td>
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<td>AMERICAN GOLDFINCH</td>
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<td>EVENING GROSBEAK</td>
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Distribution: Anna's Hummingbird in Eastern Oregon

Tom Crabtree

The status of ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Archilochus anna*) is little known east of the Cascades. Johnsgard (1983) describes the bird as "rare but regular in Western Oregon," but does not mention any Eastern Oregon records. Zimmerman (1973) cited over 20 records of the species in Oregon as of that date, but all were from Western Oregon.

Prior to 1980, there were five published records from Eastern Oregon, three from the Klamath Falls area. The first was a specimen obtained in Heppner on November 19, 1972 (Rogers, 1973). One was observed at a row of feeders in Chiloquin on August 2, 1975 (Rogers, 1976). Then from one to four birds were seen in the Klamath Basin (Rogers, 1978, 1979, 1980). While there have been more summer records for the region since then, there still is not an acceptable winter record for Eastern Oregon. In fact, the Heppner bird is the latest the ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD has been recorded in our area, although further north the bird had been seen into December, and in one case January.

The range map in Johnsgard shows the species wintering in southern Klamath, Lake and Harney Counties, which is inaccurate. The species does winter in Medford and sporadically up the Willamette Valley and as far north as Seattle. It does not, however, winter in the Klamath Basin or anywhere else east of the Cascades.

For at least the last two years (the only ones I have lived in Bend), the ANNA'S has been the most common summering, and presumably, breeding hummingbird in and around Bend. In the West Hills region of Bend it is the only hummingbird usually encountered between May 20 and July 15. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS nest higher in the mountains than Bend (elevation 3700 feet). CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS do nest in Bend, but almost exclusively along the Deschutes River or Tumalo Creek.

The average arrival date for the ANNA'S during the last two years has been May 1. The birds disappear by mid-October, with the last sighting occurring on October 23.

During the summer of 1983 at least three territorial male ANNA'S were displaying in the West Hills of Bend. By August 1 several females and immature birds were frequenting feeders in that area. Many of the immatures still had downy feathers on them, supporting the notion that ANNA'S did breed in this area. (Just recently a nest was found in Klamath Falls, providing the first confirmed nesting East of the Cascades.)

One of the young Bend birds had an unusual pattern on the gorget. The top of the head was green. One side of the gorget was fully formed and was metallic rose. The other half of the gorget was almost nonexistent, with only a few iridescent feathers present. This emphasizes the care needed in identifying BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRDS which do occur as vagrants in this area. The characteristic metallic buzzing of the male BROAD-TAILED while in flight is a critical field mark. While there are some plumage differences, sightings of adult male BROAD-TAILS where the "buzzing" was not noticed should be viewed with distrust.

There is a need for observers of ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS in the eastern part of the state to get their records known. One would get the impression by reading Oregon Birds and American Birds that the ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD is exceedingly rare east of the Cascades. If it is the most common summering hummingbird around Bend, it also must be common in other parts of Eastern Oregon.

LITERATURE CITED


Identification: 
Adult Sanderlings in Moult

David Fix

On the surface, the identification of SANDERLING (Calidris Alba) seems far too simple to be discussed here. Most of the time, this is one of the easiest shorebirds to recognize. With their rusty alternate plumage, boldly patterned juvenile plumage, and almost whitish basic plumage, they do not present any difficulties. However, during the early fall shorebird migration, SANDERLING in changing plumage may confuse those who are unfamiliar with shorebirds. Even birders with several seasons of shorebirding behind them may experience a moment of confusion upon first noticing the returning adult SANDERLINGS in mid-summer. This situation is worth discussing—-it can really fool. To explain...

Adult SANDERLINGS begin to appear in numbers along the Oregon coast in mid-July. At this time they are moulting their colorful alternate (breeding) plumage and acquiring the pale grey feathers so distinctive of winter SANDERLINGS. Since the moult is a process of gradual feather loss and replacement, such birds typically have an in-between, neither-rust-nor-pale appearance, caused by the mixture of old and new feathers. In this non-definitive plumage, SANDERLINGS may superficially resemble several other species, such BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (C. Bairdii) and the smaller peep sandpipers.

To separate "summer SANDERLINGS" from BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, note the obvious white wing-stripe, different back pattern and color, and loud "twick" call-note characteristic of the former. These marks, along with larger size and a stouter bill, will also eliminate the peep sandpipers.

When learning to deal with the subtleties of small- and medium-sized shorebirds, the various shapes, sizes, and brown colors can confuse one for a good while. Mistakes usually are due to simple inexperience or to familiarity lost from one season to the next. But perhaps the main reason for the frequency of confusion in this particular situation has to do with something not directly related to similar appearances. I tend to consider the problem more in terms of what may be referred to as "circumstantial association." It is a concept which underlies many misidentifications, and is easily related to our puzzling SANDERLING situation.

From the beginning of our birding experience—and generally even before we began to think of birds as objects of recreational pursuit—the majority of us have become most accustomed to seeing SANDERLING:
Non-Game Checkoff Fund

Charlie Bruce

In 1971 the Oregon State Legislature officially recognized that some 500 "nongame" wildlife species were out there somewhere and needed looking after. The only problem is that they've never provided any funding to do the looking (and probably never will). This left the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon conservationists in the familiar position of being on their own. Borrowing from the successes of Colorado, the idea of a checkoff on our state income tax form was pushed through the 1979 Legislature by conservation groups. Five years and $1.5 million later we have had a good look at many species and like what we see. Here is a partial list of bird related projects that your money is funding.

1. PIGEON GIULLEMIOT breeding success on the central Oregon coast.
2. Feeding ecology of migrant waterbirds at Abert Lake.
3. WHITE PELICAN foraging habitat utilization in southeast Oregon.
4. Heron rookery surveys in five counties (four different projects).
5. Fledging mortality of GREATER SANDHILL CRANES on the Malheur N.W.R.
6. Inventory of BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE population and habitat in Tillamook County.
7. Survey of raptor nesting success in northeastern Oregon.
8. Nest locations of GOLDEN EAGLES, statewide.
9. GOLDEN EAGLE nest production in central Oregon and Baker County (two studies).
10. Survey of BALD EAGLE nesting activity and success statewide for 5-10 years.
11. BALD EAGLE food habits and habitat use in the Klamath Basin.
12. BALD EAGLE food habits at Thompson Reservoir.
13. OSPREY reproduction and food habits at Crane Prairie.
14. PRAIRIE FALCON nest locations and productivity in Deschutes, Lake and Klamath County (two studies).
15. PEREGRINE FALCON habitat surveys statewide.
16. PEREGRINE FALCON reintroduction through hacking.
17. SNOWY PLOVER nesting survey and habitat analysis on the Oregon coast and Klamath Basin (two studies).
18. FLAMMULATED OWL habitat use in northeast Oregon.
19. BURROWING OWL reintroduction in southern Oregon.
20. GREAT GRAY OWL reintroduction in southern Oregon.
21. PILEATED WOODPECKER habitat requirements in the coast range.
22. Dispersal and habitat use of juvenile SPOTTED OWLS.
Besides the basic studies and projects listed above there are other programs involving habitat protection, land acquisition and public education that are just as important. However, unless we see a major recovery in our economy, contributions will probably continue to fall as they have in the past three years from a high of $360,000 in 1980 to $216,000 this year. We’re in fairly good shape for the next two years, but after that it will be time for a more permanent funding source. Ideas (and contributions) are welcomed.

Oregon Field Ornithologists


Field Checklist of the Birds of Oregon -- Steven C. Gordon, 16 pages, April 1981. Special Publication #2 ................................................................. $ .50


OREGON BIRDS: Volumes 6 - 8, Issues 1-4--per issue ........................................... $2.00

OREGON BIRDS/ Volume 5, Issues 1-6 -- per issue ........................................... $1.00

SWOC TALK Volume 4, Issues 3 and 5 -- per issue ........................................... $1.00

Volume 3, Issue 2 (without cover) ........................................... $1.00

Volume 2, Issue 6 ........................................... $1.00

Audubon Society of Corvallis

Birding Oregon -- Fred Ramsey ........................................... $4.75

Checklist of the Birds of Oregon--Bertrand & Scott (rev) $1.25

Field Checking Card ........................................... $ .10

Portland Audubon Society

Birds of Northwest Forests and Fields -- David Marshall...$2.50

Birds of Northwest Shores and Waters -- Harry Nehls...$2.50

Oaks Bottom Checklist ........................................... $1.25

Sauvie Island Checklist ........................................... $1.00

Lane County Audubon Society

Eugene-Springfield Checklist ........................................... $ .15

Grande Ronde Bird Club

Union-Walla Wallowa County Checklist ........................................... $ .50
Site Guide: Lakeview

Kevin Spencer

Lakeview isn't just a hamburger stop on your way to Winnemucca. For anyone driving through, the loop described here could be very interesting during peak migration or even in the winter.

The most notable spot in the Lakeview area is the Hot Springs Pond, which is about two miles north of town near Lakeview's geyser. Geothermally heated, this shallow water mudflat remains open even during the coldest of winters and helps to concentrate any remaining ducks even when everything else is frozen over. Surprisingly, a couple of LEAST SANDPIPER were seen there in late December 1982. The water level is fairly stable, so it is good for shorebirds throughout the summer and fall. DUNLIN and SEMIPALMATED PLOVER have shown up in late April, while LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, WESTERN SANDPIPER, and PECTORAL SANDPIPER have been sighted in the fall. The pond itself is on private land but can be approached by walking along the south side of the barbed wire fence.

The sewage ponds, just southwest of town, offer a variety of birds with numerous duck species present, especially in the fall. RED-NECKED and WILSON'S PHALAROPE gather in large numbers during late August. A small group of BONAPARTE'S GULL summer there and February is the best time to see both COMMON and BARROW'S GOLDENEYE. The gates to the ponds are closed, so park at the site's southeast corner and walk along the eastern fenceline. Be sure to check both of the ponds as there is usually a difference between the two.

When there is snow on the ground, Lakeview's city park can be a refuge for winter birds. BOHEMIAN WAXWING and NORTHERN SHRIKE have both been found here. Bullard Canyon, immediately to the east of the city park, is best in May and June. Most of the warblers that I have recorded have been seen within the first quarter mile, while LAZULI BUNTING and BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK can be seen farther up the canyon. There are occasionally turnouts but the road steepens after a mile or so and passage really depends on the vehicle you are driving. The entire loop covers about seven miles and can easily be birded in an hour.
I just read Terry Morgan's two commentaries in Oregon Birds, Vol. 2, pp. 79-82, relating to county lists and conservation. Being under contract with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete a planning document on the state's nongame wildlife resource, I can relate to both articles. Among the requirements for a state wildlife plan is a description of the state's wildlife and its habitats. I found Oregon Birds to be a major source of material on birds, but it would have been even more valuable if presented by habitats and some system of biological regions. As Terry said, conservation is not an objective of OFO, but why not present data in a more professional manner with a stronger biological base so better use can be made of it by the scientific community and conservationists alike?

A county list has limited meaning, especially for a county like Lane that extends from the coast to the Cascade Range crest. I made extensive use of the Union-Wallowa checklist, but found it lacking for my frame of reference, the Blue-Wallowa-Ochoco region.

There are several ways by which Oregon can be broken into biological units. After an extensive analysis of the breeding ranges of over 400 Oregon vertebrates, we decided to describe the state's wildlife by the nine physiographic provinces used by The Nature Conservancy for the Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base, the state's Natural Heritage Council and various plant ecologists (see Dyrness et al., Research Natural Area Needs of the Pacific Northwest, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Forest Service General Technical Report PNW-38, 1975 or Oregon Natural Heritage Plan, Natural Heritage Advisory Council to the State Land Board, 1981). A map showing these provinces as recently prepared by The Nature Conservancy is shown here. Like any system devised, this one has disadvantages and problems, but it appears to be the best system to date. It could be broken into sub-provinces as desired; for example, an offshore division or a splitting out of the three major western interior valleys. Any division based on natural features poses a problem to those who play the listing game in that such features are not delineated by precise lines like counties. I would hope, however, that this would not be a major obstacle.

For describing habitats within a province, one doesn't have to be a plant taxonomist. Use of terms like coniferous forest, mixed needleleaf/broadleaf evergreen forest, brushy fencerows, rimrock, desert shrub or riparian, along with locations provide the kind of information needed for assessment of habitat and habitat preservation needs.

Thanks to Terry Morgan for two fine articles.
Short Notes

Oregon Bird Records Committee Nominations

OFO members are again encouraged to send the secretary of the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) their nominations for the three positions to be vacated in January 1984. Those committee members whose terms expire are Jeff Gilligan (Portland), David Fix (Eugene), and David Irons (Portland). Nominators are responsible for obtaining the consent of the nominee to serve if elected—terms are for three years. Nominees should be experienced and knowledgeable in identification of birds. In addition to the three vacancies on the committee, there are seven alternate positions which will be filled from the list of nominees. For further information on the election process, see OREGON BIRDS vol. 6 no. 2, p. 76, “nominations”, in the OBRC rules of operation. Nominations, with the nominee’s address and phone number, should be sent to: Secretary, Oregon Bird Records Committee, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440 by December 15, 1983.

1983 Listing Report Form

County listing has become increasingly popular, as can be seen by last year’s listing results (OB 9:1). It is now time to begin thinking about the 1983 report. The North American (ABA area) category has been eliminated due to popular demand. It has been felt that this category is somewhat inappropriate in a publication dealing primarily with Oregon. Those interested in comparing ABA lists should report their lists to the American Birding Association for publication in Birding.

Last year county year listing was added. This proved to be a popular new area of interest. It will continue again this year with the same threshold of 150. We are also going to maintain the same threshold for all other categories including 100 for each county list. It was felt by the Board that this relatively low threshold would allow more members to join in the fun of having their names listed.

If you are interested in sharing your lists in Oregon Birds, fill out the insert in this issue and mail it to Steve Summers, 1009 Merryman Dr., Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603 by the deadline — January 31, 1984.

Larry McQueen Art Exhibit

LARRY McQUEEN

Some Recent Work
-Exhibition and Sales-


December 2 - 31, 1983
Opening Friday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

McDONALD Frame Shop and Gallery
417 High Street, Eugene, Oregon. Phone: (503) 687-2513

Plates for a comprehensive bird guide to Peru, written by John O’Neil and Ted Parker, are now being prepared by Larry McQueen. The book will illustrate all of the 1700+ species in all distinctive plumages.

General Description

Each plate is 21” x 14”; includes 15 or up to 35 figures in watercolor. Species generally grouped by family (examples: Woodpeckers and Piculets—3 plates—37 species; 83 figures. Cuckoos—1 plate—16 species; 20 figures).

Priced individually by plate, starting at $800. For additional information, please contact Larry McQueen, 2175 Agate Street, Eugene, Oregon 97403. Phone: (503) 344-8761.
New Christmas Bird Counts

There will be an official Christmas Bird Count held in the Florence area, Lane County, on Friday, December 30, 1983. Your participation would be welcomed. If interested please call Alan Contreras at 345-7339 or contact him at 735 E. 22nd Ave., Eugene, OR 97405. The count will cover the area from Heceta Head to Cleawox Lake, including the Siuslaw River Estuary.

Another new count will be conducted in the Grants Pass area by the new Siskiyou Audubon Society. This count will be conducted on Sunday, December 18. If you are interested in trying this count, contact Lee Webb at 479-6859.

Townsendian Soliloquy