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**Articles** are longer contributions dealing with identification, distribution, ecology, management, conservation, taxonomy, behavior, biology, and historical aspects of ornithology and birding in Oregon. Articles cite references (if any) at the end of the text. Names and addresses of authors typically appear at the beginning of the text.

**Short Notes** are shorter communications dealing with the same subjects as articles. Short Notes typically cite no references, or at most a few in parentheses in the text. Names and addresses of authors appear at the end of the text.

**Bird Finding Guides** "where to find a _____ in Oregon" (for some of the rarer birds) and "where to find birds in the _____ area" (for some of the better spots).

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**Photographs** of birds, especially photos taken recently in Oregon. Color slide duplicates are preferred. Please label all photos with photographer's name and address, bird identification, date and place the photo was taken. Photos will be returned; contact the Editor for more information.

Deadline for the next issue of *Oregon Birds*—OB 17(4) — is 25 October 1991. The next issue should get to you by the first week of December 1991. Material can be submitted any time, and the sooner the better. Please send materials directly to the Editor, 3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212, (503)282-9403.

Introduction
Lake Abert is a large, shallow, alkaline (pH = 9.8) lake lying at the base of the Abert Rim fault scarp in Lake Co., Oregon. The saline waters of Lake Abert do not support any fish but do provide habitat for one of the most abundant and concentrated populations of brine shrimp (Artemia salina) and alkali flies (Ephydra hians) in North America (Herbst 1988). These aquatic invertebrates are an important food source for migratory birds, attracting in total over 100,000 Eared Grebes, Ring-billed Gulls, Northern Shovelers, and Red-necked Phalaropes between mid-July and September (Boula 1986). In recognition of this important stopover of migratory waterbirds in the Pacific Flyway, Lake Abert was designated a Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve.

Just north of Lake Abert is a large alkaline playa which varies in size according to the level of the lake. Adjacent to the playa are numerous small seeps, one major spring with an outflow, native alkaline meadows, small tule marshes, dunes, and arid shrub vegetation characteristic of the northern Great Basin. This mosaic of vegetation and freshwater bordering the expansive playa and lake edge of North Lake Abert attracts a diverse guild of migrant and breeding birds. In this paper, we report avian observations in the area we refer to as North Lake Abert.

Study Area and Methods
Lake Abert lies at an elevation of 1297 meters. It is west of the massive, near-vertical Abert fault scarp and east of the gentle eastern slope of Coglan Buttes. Precipitation in this area averages 25 cm annually, falling mostly in the winter months as snow. The Chewaucan River is the only perennial tributary that drains into the closed lake basin and is the major source of freshwater. The lake is 8 km by 26 km but only 7 m deep, holding approximately 1 million acre feet of water at maximum water levels (Phillips & Van Denburgh 1971). Peak lake levels occurred in 1965 and again in 1984, while in 1937 the lake was completely dry during a severe drought. There are upwards of 20 perennial springs which contribute little inflow to the lake but do provide important habitat for breeding and migratory birds. The extent of the alkali playa at the north end varies considerably with the fluctuating lake levels. In 1988, there were approximately 4000 hectares of exposed playa, while in 1989, there were 6000 hectares of playa.

The vegetation of the Lake Abert area is characteristic of the arid northern Great Basin. For the purposes of describing avian activity, 6 vegetation habitat types were defined.

• One, the lake edge, is defined as the variable margin where Lake Abert reaches the playa along the north end of the lake. With its immense populations of brine shrimp and alkali flies, the lake edge is an ecologically significant habitat at Lake Abert. The alkali flies form dense black carpets along the shore line and provide food for migrating birds.

• Two, the flat, alkaline playa that occurs between the lake edge and the saltgrass flats, lacks vegetation except where there are freshwater seeps with patches of hardstem bulrush (Scirpus acutus).

• Three, the habitat type, saltgrass/greasewood flats, is the most salt-tolerant plant community in the study area. This community is dominated by alkali saltgrass (Distichlis stricta), borax weed (Nitrophiya occidentalis) and Nevada bulrush (Scirpus nevadensis). Black greasewood (Sarcobatus vermiculatus) occurs on sites with slightly deeper soils and upon a series of sand dunes along the northern edge of the playa.

• The fourth habitat, the XL Spring area, includes a 1-2 hectare freshwater pond, a small grove of 4 cottonwoods (Populus sp.), 2 willows (Salix sp.) and a small patch of hardstem bulrush. XL Spring and its adjacent waters provide habitat for the rare Oregon Lakes Tui chub (Gila bicolor oregonensis).

• The wet meadows surrounding the many seeps of the north end comprise the fifth habitat type and are characterized by Lemmon's alkali grass (Puccinella lemmontii), alkali cordgrass (Spartina gracilliss), Nevada bluegrass (Poa nevadensis), owl clover (Orthocarpus sp.), Baltic rush (Juncus balticus), alkali bulrush (Scirpus maritimus), Olney's bulrush (Scirpus americanus) and shallowly-flooded stands of hardstem bulrush.

• The adjacent shrub uplands comprise the sixth habitat type and are characterized by volcanic rimrock and talus slopes covered with spiny saltbrush (Atriplex confertifolia), spiny hopsage (Atriplex spinosa), rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus sp.), horsebrush (Tetradymia sp.), bud sage (Artemesia spinescens) and big sagebrush (Artemesia tridentata).

Our avian observations were made from 2 May through 8 July 1988, and from 24 April through 18 July 1989 concurrently with our field work on the nesting ecology and dispersal of the Western Snowy Plover (Stern et al. 1990).

Results and Discussion
We recorded 155 species of birds during the study period, 60 of which are probable nesters in the area (Table 1). Patterns of abundance and distribution were similar in both years. The avian guild of breeding birds at Lake Abert is best characterized by 3 species: American Avocet, Western Snowy Plover, and Long-billed Curlew. All 3 species use various aspects of the saltgrass playa.

American Avocets are the most numerous and conspicuous of Lake Abert’s breeding birds. Avocet numbers increased from an estimated 1000 breeding birds in May to over 5000 post-breeders in July. The Avocets nested in loose colonies on the open playa near the lake edge or a spring and in saltgrass/Nevada bulrush flats near freshwater ponds and seeps. Nesting activity peaked between 15 May and 15 June. By 27 June 1989, Avocet chicks were commonly observed along the lake edge while many adults were still incubating eggs. In early July both resident and migrant Avocets congregated along the lake’s northern edge.

Though less conspicuous, the Western Snowy Plover is also a common breeder at north Lake Abert. The plovers nest on the barren playa and in the adjacent saltgrass flats. The breeding population of plovers at Lake Abert varies through the nesting period (15 April - 15 July) but averages approximately 100 pairs. Peak nesting occurs between mid-May and mid-June. Presently, the
breeding population of Snowy Plovers at Lake Abert is the largest in Oregon (Page and Bruce 1989). The Western Snowy Plover is a state-listed threatened species in Oregon and is a federal category 2 candidate species.

There are an estimated 40 pairs of Long-billed Curlews nesting in the alkali saltgrass flats along the north end of the lake. Curlews are also a federal category 2 candidate species. Breeding season for Long-billed Curlews extends from early April through early July, with peak nesting occurring from late April through mid May. In 1989, 7 nests were found, 3 in the saltgrass habitat, 3 in the wet meadow habitat, and 1 in the shrub upland. Historically, Long-billed Curlews favored the shortgrass habitats (Pampush 1990), and we believe that the habitats used at Lake Abert are characteristic of the primary pre-agricultural nesting sites for this species.

Other breeding species of interest within the study area include Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Greater Sandhill Crane, Canyon Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, and a small colony of Black-throated Sparrows (see Appendix 1).

The north Lake Abert area is also an important staging area for migratory birds, especially shorebirds. Shorebirds pass through Lake Abert in large numbers in spring (April/May) and again in mid-summer through early fall (July-September). These migrant shorebirds congregate along the north edge of the lake to feed upon the extensive mats of alkali flies. Common spring migrants include Western Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Dunlins, Semipalmated Plovers, Red-necked Phalaropes, and Wilson's Phalaropes, with peak spring numbers occurring in early May, or perhaps earlier in April prior to our arrival in late April. Stormy weather patterns during spring migration resulted in several unusual sightings along the lake edge. Brant, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper have all been seen at least once during the month of May.

Several species of migratory shorebirds were seen sporadically throughout June in 1988 and 1989 but it was not until the first week of July that fall migration started in earnest. On 15 July 1989, counts of the 4 most abundant species yielded 9654 phalaropes (majority were Wilson's but a significant number of Red-necked Phalaropes were also present), 5014 peeps (majority were Westerns with some Least Sandpipers), 2687 American Avocets, and 2144 Ring-billed and California Gulls. Boula (1986) estimated that peak numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes may exceed 50,000 and Northern Shoveler numbers range into and above the 10,000 mark. Adult and juvenile Horned Larks gathered by the hundreds along the lake edge in the northwest corner of the area to feed upon the flies in early July.

In addition to the lake edge, the small cottonwood grove at XL Springs provides a resting area and an opportunity to feed for migratory species. Peak passerine migration at XL Springs occurs between 10 and 25 May and it is not unusual to see 20 or more warblers of several species feeding in the willows. Several unusual species sightings at XL Springs include Lewis' Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Palm Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Sparrow, and Lesser Goldfinch. The pond adjacent to the cottonwoods attracts a variety of waterbirds, including several piscivorous species such as Western and Pied-billed Grebes, Great and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons and Belted Kingfishers which feed on the Oregon Lakes tui chub. Overall, 117 species or 76 percent of total species observed at north Lake Abert have been recorded at least once at XL Springs.

In conclusion, the 10,000 hectare site along the north edge of Lake Abert provides a diverse assemblage of habitat types ranging from lake edge and vast playa to saltgrass flats, wet meadows, marshes and shrub steppe uplands. These varied habitats contain the largest breeding population of Snowy Plovers in Oregon and support a significant number of Long-billed Curlews, American Avocets and numerous other species common to the northern Great Basin. The north Lake Abert site is also an important migratory corridor for shorebirds and passerines and provides a migratory stopover site of regional significance for transient shorebirds.

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Appendix 1. Annotated Species List of Birds of North Lake Abert

Pied-billed Grebe
These grebes were vagrants to the area as there has been only 6 sightings during the study. A single adult bird was observed on the XL Spring Pond (XLSP) on 5 May, 21 May and 14 June 1988 and on 18 May 1998 near the southeast end of the lake. A single adult was seen along the lake edge on 6 May 1989 and at the XLSP on 17 July 1989.

Eared Grebe
Eared Grebes were very abundant at Lake Abert during our study with counts in excess of 200 on 5, 7, 11 May and 1 June 1988. The largest concentrations of grebes occur in the northeast corner of Lake Abert with individuals and small groups scattered along the entire east shore.

Western Grebe
A single adult bird was observed at XLSP between 7 June and 19 June 1988.

American White Pelican
Pelicans were seen on the 7th and 8th of July 1988 in the northwest and the northeast corners of Lake Abert. A flock of 40 was seen on the morning of 7 July 1988 in the northwest corner. These birds appeared to be feeding where a freshwater spring enters the lake. A single adult was observed at Tule Springs on 27 June 1989.

Great Egret
A single egret was seen in the XLSP area on 17, 20 and 21 May and 2 adults were seen on 20 May 1988. A pair of Snowy Egrets were seen on 20 May 1988. A single adult was observed on 7 May and 16 and 17 May a group of 3 adults were spotted in the cottonwoods. A second spring-plumaged bird was seen on 31 May and 6 June 1988. In 1989 single adults were seen on 6 June and on 21 June.

White-faced Ibis
Ibis were seen regularly in May in groups ranging from 7 to 73 adults in 1988. In 1989 ibis were seen from 28 April to 7 May in the western portion of the study area. Over 200 nesting ibises were counted in the nearby Lower Chewaucan Marsh on 27 June 1989 during an aerial survey (Marty St. Louis, pers. comm.). The ibises seen at the north end of Lake Abert may have been from this colony.

Tundra Swan
A lone swan was observed in the NW corner of Lake Abert from 2 May to 6 May 1989.

Trumpeter Swan
A pair of these swans was seen feeding in the meadows of XLSP on 13 May 1989.

Snow Goose
Snow Geese were observed in 1988 in the NW corner of Lake Abert on 4 days in May. Three birds were seen on 6 May, 4 on 8 May and 17 May and 1 on 27 May. There were no sightings in 1989.

Brant
A lone Brant was seen along the lake edge on 30 May 1989 after a period of strong westerly storms.

Northern Pintail
Individual drakes and lone pairs were observed sporadically in the spring. By mid-June there were hundreds of pintails along the lake shore.

Cinnamon Teal
These teal were the most commonly observed waterfowl on the study area in early May. Drakes could be found courting hens where ever there was freshwater. By mid-May most of the teal had left the study area except for a few nesting hens. Broods were occasionally seen in June 1988 but none were spotted in 1989.

Northern Shoveler
In 1988, pairs of shovelers and groups of up to 6 males with 1 or 2 females were observed throughout May. On 6 May, 40 shoveler were seen feeding in shallow ponds in the NW corner of the study area. Shovelers were uncommon during the first 3 weeks of June. By the end of June shovelers comprised a large percentage of the ducks gathered along the north shore. In late April and early May 1989, flocks of 200 to 300 shoveler were spotted on the lake off of Sawed Horn Point and in a small lake in the NW corner of the study area. Shovelers were seen only sporadically in the second half of May but by 10 June there were 300+ drakes along the lake edge. By August shoveler numbers may swell to 10,000 making them the most numerous duck in the area (Boula 1986).

Gadwall
Gadwalls were present in small numbers throughout the north end during the entire study period. Single adults or lone pairs were sighted often in suitable habitat in May with a decrease in sightings during early June. By mid-June there were small flocks of up to 30 adults along the north shore of Lake Abert.

American Wigeon
Wigeon were seen only twice during 1988. On 6 May a flock of 30 was observed feeding on North Lake Abert.
ers 2 km south of XLSP. A group of 7 was spotted on 8 May in the NW corner of the study area. In 1989 there was a group of 6 drakes in the NE corner of the lake on 29 April and 2 drakes on 2 June at Tule springs.

**Redhead**

In 1988, a pair was observed from 10 May to 23 May NE of Pike’s Place Ranch on a small pond and on 27 May, 27 birds were spotted along the NE side of the lake. The last sighting in 1988 was on 5 July when 6 adults were seen in the NE corner of the lake. Groups of up to 4 adults were seen occasionally in May 1989. The last sighting in 1989 was of 11 drakes along the lake edge on 6 June.

**Lesser Scaup**

The only sighting for 1988 occurred on 8 May when 2 males and 1 female were seen in the NW section of the study area. In 1989 there were 4 sightings: 2 drakes on 5 May, 7 drakes on 5 June, 3 drakes on 10 June, and a single drake on 11 June.

**Hooded Merganser**

On 1 July 1988 a single drake was seen among a large raft of ducks along the north shore of the lake.

**Ruddy Duck**

There were 6 sightings of Ruddy Ducks in 1986 and 1989. All sightings were of pairs and small groups of less than 10 birds and occurred between 23 April and 10 May.

**Turkey Vulture**

Vultures were occasionally seen soaring over the north end throughout the study period.

**Osprey**

A lone Osprey was seen flying north over the XLSP area on 30 April 1989 and on 16 May 1989 a single bird was seen flying north along Abert Rim.

**Northern Harrier**

There were 5 pairs of harriers that nested in the scattered tule patches around the north end. In both 1988 and 1989, 2 pairs nested along highway 395, 1 pair nested east of Sawed Horn, and 2 pairs nested in the wet meadows of XLSP. By mid-June harriers were seen foraging over the salt pan and along the lake edge which coincided with an increasing population of Snowy Plover and American Avocet chicks. Harriers started to leave the study area toward the end of June.

**Swainson’s Hawk**

These hawks were often seen near the town of Paisley (approx. 30 km southeast of the study area) but our only sighting occurred on 2 May 1989, when a dark phase adult was seen perched in the cottonwoods at XLSP.

**Red-tailed Hawk**

In 1988, adult Red-tails were seen only 3 times in the XLSP area although they were quite common at the south end of Lake Abert and the town of Valley Falls. In 1989, adults were seen frequently and an immature was often seen roosting in the cottonwoods of XLSP from 8 May to 28 June.

**Golden Eagle**

In 1988, a nest with 2, 4 week old chicks was found in the rimrock near XLSP on 9 May. On 15 June the fully feathered chicks were observed hopping and flapping their wings along the nesting ledge. The young birds fledged the next day and were seen intermittently near the nest site over the next 3 weeks. Examination of the nest site revealed that black-tailed jackrabbit (Lepus californicus) was the major prey item. This nest was not used in 1989 but a second nest was found by Chris Carey of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in a large canyon on the western edge of the lake. First and second year eagles and adults were commonly seen in 1989.

**American Kestrel**

Kestrels were only seen on 2, 5 and 23 May 1989 at XLSP but were very common at the south end of the lake near Valley Falls.

**Merlin**

On 29 April 1989 a male was seen flying north along Abert Rim.

**Peregrine Falcon**

A lone adult was observed perched on an alkali-encrusted log near the lake edge on 29 April 1989.

**Prairie Falcon**

In 1986, a lone falcon was observed along the rimrock near XLSP throughout May. The next sighting of this species occurred on 7 July when a pair was observed along the northwest shore of the lake. In 1989 Chris Carey spotted a nest in a large canyon on the west side of the lake. Raptor-killed avocets were found near the mouth of this canyon. On 31 May 1989 a falcon was observed taking a curlew chick at XLSP.

**Chukar**

Chukars were heard calling from the steep slopes of Abert Rim in the northeast corner of the study area throughout May and June in 1988 and 1989.

**California Quail**

Quail were common around XLSP in 1988 but were not observed as frequently in 1989 nor heard in other locations on the study area.

**Sora**

Sora were heard calling wherever there were patches of tules and open water. Calling activity was very high during early May and decreased during the latter half. As with the quail, Sora’s were not detected as often in 1989 as they were in 1988.

**American Coot**

Coots nested in the tules at XLSP and in other perennial fresh water sites on the study area. In 1989, the first chicks were seen on 28 April at XLSP. Downy chicks were seen again at this site on 18 June. There appeared to be heavy predation on young coots as only 1 chick made it to fledging at XLSP.

**Greater Sandhill Crane**

In 1988, at least 1 pair of sandhill was observed frequently during May in the meadows near XLSP and occasionally near a large pond north of Pike’s Place Ranch. This pair was thought to be nesting because a pair with a chick was seen here in 1986. Cranes were last seen in the northeast end of Lake Abert on 5 June. In 1 July, 10 birds were observed foraging at Rivers End Ranch located at the southern end of Lake Abert. Twenty-five birds were spotted here on 7 July 1988. In 1989, an unpaired crane was seen or heard on a daily basis at XLSP from 7 May to 7 July.

**Black-bellied Plover**

A single adult was observed foraging along the northern shore on 1 June 1988. In 1989, 2 plovers were seen on 9 and 13 May and a lone bird was seen on 15 May. On 20 May 1989, a group of 11 plovers was spotted on the lake edge.

**Lesser Golden-Plover**

A single adult in breeding plumage was sighted along a small pond in the NW section of the study area on 17 May 1988.

**Snowy Plover**

Since 1985, Lake Abert has had the largest breeding population of these plovers in Oregon. In 1980, Herman et al. (1988) counted 345 plovers at Lake Abert. In 1988 an intensive survey accounted for only 256 adults and 60 hatch-year birds. The largest number of plovers counted during 1989 was on 15 July when 256 adults and 25 hatch-year birds were seen along the lake edge.

**Semipalmated Plover**

Between 4 and 10 May 1988, plovers were seen in small groups of 2-19 birds along the lake edge and the perimeter of small ephemeral ponds. Three flocks were at XLSP between 21 and 25 May 1988. Plovers were not seen again until 7 July 1988 when 2 adults were spotted along the north shore. These flocks were seen from 30 April 1989 to 30 May 1989 in flocks numbering from 2 to over 200 birds in the early part of May. The first returning migrants were seen on 21 June 1989.

**Kildeer**

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Killdeer were very common nesters in all habitat types but preferred areas where saltgrass (*Distichlis sp.*) surrounded a body of fresh water, often nesting in association with American Avocets and Snowy Plovers. The first chicks were seen on 29 May 1988 and the first fledged juvenile on 3 July 1988. In 1989 the first chicks were seen on 11 May.

**Black-necked Stilt**

Small groups of 2 to 8 stilts were observed from 4 May to 2 June 1989. The majority of sightings were at a small, heavily-vegetated pond NE of Pike's Place Ranch. Stilts were often observed performing distraction displays consisting of aerial mobbing, broken wing, and mock incubation at this site when disturbed. No stilt nests were found although this area was heavily used by avocets as a nesting area. Stilts were rarely seen in June as we concentrated our work in other areas. A lone adult was spotted with a group of 54 avocets along the NE shore of Lake Abert on 3 July 1988. Groups of 2-4 stilts were commonly seen between 28 April 1989 and 6 May 1989 in wet meadow habitat. Sightings of a lone stilt on 28 May 1989, a group of 6 on 7 June 1989, and 2 birds on 11 June 1989 all occurred along the lake edge.

**American Avocet**

Avocets were the most abundant nesting shorebird at Lake Abert with an estimated 1000 breeding birds. Avocets congregated in the NE corner of Lake Abert, east of Sawed Horn point, and along the fresh water seeps of the west side. By mid-July avocet numbers increased two- to threefold as post breeders gathered to feed on the rich concentrations of alkali flies. **Willet**

Willet were a conspicuous but not numerous breeder at Lake Abert.

**Greater Yellowlegs**

A lone bird was observed on 14 May 1989 near Dune Lake. Greater Yellowlegs were heard calling between 4 and 7 July 1989 at XLSP.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Lone sandpipers were observed at XLSP on 9, 19, 23 and 29 May 1988. In 1989 a single bird was observed at XLSP on 4 and 15 May and 2 birds were seen here on 13 May.

**Whimbrel**

A lone Whimbrel was observed feeding along the lake edge near Tule Springs on 30 May 1989.

**Long-billed Curlew**

The curlews' large size coupled with its loud, unmistakable call made it a very conspicuous inhabitant of our study area. Eight nests were found between 7 and 25 May 1988. The first known hatch occurred on 27 May 1988, but the first sighting of chicks occurred on 14 June 1988. One adult was observed incubating on 3 July 1988. In 1989, 7 nests were found out of an estimated 40 nesting pairs. Thirteen broods totaling 34 chicks were observed between 30 May and 1 July 1989. Curlews nest in the saltgrass flats and the wet meadows that surround the north end. Chicks were seen most often in the wet meadow areas where ungrazed sedge/rush patches provided cover from predators. Pairs staked out territories in late April and early May and by mid-May most females were incubating. Peak hatching occurred in the first half of June and by 1 July curlews without young had left the study area.

**Marbled Godwit**

Godwits were irregular migrants at Lake Abert in 1989. The first sighting was of 4 adults at XLSP on 29 April 1989. Two were spotted on 30 April and singles were seen on 20, 24 May, and 24 June 1989. On 30 June 1989, 7 adults were observed foraging along the lake shore. The last sighting was of a single on 16 July 1989.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

A lone adult in breeding plumage was sighted along the lake edge on 13 May 1989.

**Red Knot**

Three adults in breeding plumage were seen feeding on alkali flies along the NW lake edge on 20 May 1989.

**Sanderling**

Two adult Sanderlings were seen feeding along the lake edge along with 11 Baird's Sandpipers and hundreds of Western and Least Sandpipers and 1000+ Red-necked Phalaropes on 20 May 1989.

**Western Sandpiper**

Western Sandpipers were one of the most abundant shorebirds at Lake Abert during the first half of May. In 1988, these peeps left the study area between 13-16 May and were not resighted until 1 July. On 4 May 1989 there were an estimated 15,000 peeps along the northern lake edge. By 9 May 1989, the number of peeps seen along the lake edge had dropped to approximately 5000 birds and by 11 May only 1 Western Sandpiper was seen. Westerners were not seen again until 3 June 1989, when 3 birds were spotted. Westerners were seen sporadically in the last week of June and then by 4 July 1989 there were hundreds of peeps along the shore. A shorebird census conducted on 17 July 1989, accounted for 5014 peeps (Western and Least Sandpipers) along the lake edge.

**Least Sandpiper**

Least Sandpipers were the second most abundant shorebird at Lake Abert during the first half of May. These peeps were the first to return to Lake Abert and were first seen on 28 June 1988. In 1989 Least Sandpipers were more common than Westerns between 28 April and 3 May. Six thousand of these sandpipers were seen by Merle Archie on 27 April 1989 in the northeastern corner of the lake (Rogers 1989). Between 3 May and 9 May, Westerns outnumbered Least Sandpipers. Small groups of Least Sandpipers were seen until 17 May 1989. Least Sandpipers, like Westerns, were not commonly seen until 4 July 1989.

**Baird's Sandpiper**

These sandpipers were first observed on 20 May 1989, feeding along side of hundreds of peeps, phalaropes and one Sanderling. On 30 May 1989, a lone Baird's was seen along the lake edge.

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

A lone female was observed NE of Pike's Place Ranch on 20 May 1989.

**Dunlin**

Groups of 5-63 Dunlin were observed foraging along lake and pond edges between 6 and 10 May 1989. In 1989, counts of 300+ Dunlin were made from 28 April to 6 May. Small groups of Dunlin (2-30 birds) were seen until 20 May when 6 birds were the last sighting made in the 1989 study period.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**

In 1988, small groups of 1 to 5 dowitchers were observed between 5 and 20 May. High counts of 14, 22 and 32 dowitchers occurred on 8, 9 and 18 May. Dowitchers were again sighted on 5 July 1988, when 4 birds were seen along the northern lake edge. In 1989, dowitchers were commonly seen in flocks of up to 80 birds until 17 May. A lone dowitcher was spotted on 24 June but were not commonly seen until 7 July.

**Common Snipe**

In 1988, snipe were common in the wet meadow areas of north Lake Abert and were heard winnowing throughout May and into early June. In 1989 the first snipe was not heard until 6 June.

**Wilson's Phalarope**

These phalaropes could be seen throughout the study period but were common during early May when flocks in excess of 2000 phalaropes could be seen along the lake edge. Phalarope numbers began to increase towards mid-June and by 30 June there were thousands of birds along the lake edge. Boulia (1986) estimated 50,000+ phalaropes (Wilson's and Red-necked) along the lake edge by late July. A count conducted on 17 July 1989 accounted for 9640 phalaropes along the lake edge.
Red-necked Phalarope

These phalaropes were quite numerous throughout May with the largest numbers (2000+) occurring in mid-May. These birds are absent from the study area until the end of June when thousands of these phalaropes congregated along the NE shore of the lake.

Franklin’s Gull

Two adults in breeding plumage were observed on 12 May 1989, in the NW corner of the study area. In 1989, Franklin’s Gulls were seen in groups of 1-3 adults on 28 and 30 April, 4, 17, 24 and 30 May, and 5 and 27 June, and 15-16 July.

Bonaparte’s Gull

A lone bird in non-breeding plumage was first seen on 10 May 1989 and then again on 10 June. A small flock of 10 Bonapartes were seen often in the NW corner of the lake in late June and late July 1989.

Ring-billed Gull

In 1988 and 1989 small groups of Ring-bills were seen in early May. By late May flocks of 70-100+ gulls gathered along the lake edge. The majority of the gulls observed in May were first and second summer birds while adult numbers increased throughout June.

California Gull

California Gulls were seen throughout the study period in 1989 but were not seen until mid-June in 1988. The majority of the gulls sighted in May were second and third year birds with adult numbers increasing in late June. By 5 July 1989, thousands of gulls gathered along the eastern and northern shores of the lake.

Caspiin Tern

Two adults were observed near Tule Springs on 10 June 1989.

Forster’s Tern

These terns were uncommon at north Lake Abert having been observed only 4 times during 1988. A group of 3 were seen on 20 May and a single adult was spotted at XLSP on 7 and 8 June. The last sighting in 1988 occurred on 16 June when 11 terns were observed in the NW corner of the study area. In 1989, these terns were seen 5 May (single adult), 1 June (2 adults), and on 10 June (3 adults).

Black Tern

Single adults were seen on 13, 20 and 24 May 1989 along the lake edge. Rock Dove

A flock of 15 doves was observed flying south on 17 June 1989. Rock Doves are known to nest along the cliffs of Abert Rim but have only been sighted on the study area once.

Mourning Dove

Small groups of 2 to 8 doves were often seen at XLSP and PPR throughout the study period.

Great Horned Owl

These owls were heard calling on several nights during May 1989 in the vicinity of XLSP. Great Horned Owls were not heard nor seen in 1989.

Barrow’s Owl

On 6 July 1989 an adult was seen perched in the sage uplands on the west side of the study area.

Short-eared Owl

In 1989 a Short-eared Owl was observed diving at a Red-tailed Hawk at XLSP on 9 May and a single owl was flushed from approximately the same location in a wet meadow near Pike’s Place Ranch on 24 May and 2 June. These owls were not seen in 1989.

Common Nighthawk

The first nighthawk of 1988 was first sighted on 31 May near XLSP. By 3 June 1988 these birds were abundant. In 1989, nighthawks were first sighted on 4 June. A nest containing 2 eggs was found on the scab flat upon Sawed Horn on 30 June 1989. Twenty or more birds foraging over the shallow channels of XLSP was a common sight by mid June.

Common Poorwill

A poorwill was heard calling at XLSP on the morning of 30 May 1988. In 1989, a bird was heard calling on 14 May at XLSP and on 30 June a bird was observed on the scab-flats of Sawed Horn. Vaux’s Swift

A single swift was seen along the rimrock on the west side on 17 May 1989.

Rufous Hummingbird

A female was spotted at XLSP on 1 July 1988 and once on 12 July 1989.

Belted Kingfisher

In 1988 a female was observed feeding at XLSP between 4 and 7 May while on 11 and 12 May a male was seen at XLSP. The same pattern was repeated in 1989 when a female was seen feeding at XLSP between 26 and 28 April followed by sightings of a single male between 1 and 7 May and 17-18 May.

Lewis’ Woodpecker

A single adult was seen at XLSP between 1 and 4 June 1988 and on 29 April 1989.

Red-naped Sapsucker

A male was observed on 30 April 1989 in the cottonwoods at XLSP.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

One adult was seen perched on a fence wire in the NW corner of the study area on 2 June 1988. Single adults were seen at XLSP between 18 and 23 May 1989.

Western Wood-Pewee

Pewees were observed foraging among the willows of XLSP between 11 May and 6 June 1988. Most sightings were of a pair but on 16 May and 6 June 1988, 4 pewees were seen at XLSP. Single adults were seen on 5 and 15 May 1989 and several birds were in the XLSP area from 24 May to 1 June 1989.

Willow Flycatcher

A single adult was spotted at XLSP on 27 May 1988 and on 1 July 1989.

Dusky Flycatcher

A single Dusky was observed at XLSP from 2 to 14 May 1989.

Say’s Phoebe

A single adult was spotted foraging over the alkali flats on 7 May 1988 and along the east side on 29 April 1989. These were the only sightings on the study area but Say’s Phoebes were more common on the sage-covered slopes which surrounded the study area.

Western Kingbird

In 1988, single kingbirds were sighted on 6, 7 and 8 May at XLSP and in the NW corner. A pair arrived at XLSP on 17 May and initiated nest building in the cottonwoods on 24 May. This pair was still incubating on 4 July as their nest was twice destroyed by high winds. The first kingbird of 1989 was spotted on 29 April on the east side. Single birds were spotted on 6, 10 and 18 May and then a group of 5 was spotted along the lake edge on 30 May. Once again a pair nested in the cottonwoods at XLSP. A copulation was witnessed on 17 June and the adults were feeding young on 8 July 1989.

Eastern Kingbird

A single adult was seen at XLSP on 29 and 30 May 1989.

Horned Lark

Larks were very common nesters at Lake Abert and can be seen in all habitats. Larks were often observed consuming brine flies along the lake edge. By mid-June hundreds of fledged young and adults could be seen feeding on the dense concentrations of brine flies along the northwest shore of the lake.

Tree Swallow

These were the most abundant swallows at XLSP between 4 and 6 May 1988. By 7 May 1988 all but the pair plus an attendant that used a nest box at XLSP had left. In 1989 the first sighting, a lone adult, occurred on 1 May. On 2 May there were at least 30 Tree Swallows at XL spring and by 7 May all but a nesting pair had left the area.

Violet-green Swallow

In 1988, 20-30 of these swallows were observed daily at XLSP between 4 and 7 May. These swallows were seen only on 29 April and on 2 May during 1989.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Single birds were spotted along the
Red-breasted Nuthatch

Canyon Wren

Bank Swallow

In 1988, Bank Swallows were very numerous between 4 and 6 May at XLSP but only 1 bird was seen on 7 May. On 21 May several swallows were observed foraging near an active Golden Eagle nest. These swallows were sporadically seen near XLSP throughout the study period and probably nest in the adjacent rickrock. In 1989, small flocks between 5-10 birds were seen from 28 April and 3 May. Smaller groups were seen sporadically after this date.

Barn Swallow

In 1988, several pairs of Barn Swallows were seen at XLSP on 4-5 May and by 6 May they were the dominant species of swallows. On 7 May 1988, many pairs were flying around the cabin at XLSP looking for nest sites. By 27 May these swallows were nesting in many of the abandoned outbuildings of the XL Ranch. In 1989, these swallows were already present at XLSP when we arrived on 23 April. The greatest numbers of Barn Swallows were observed on 1-2 May when 25-30 swallows were foraging around XLSP. Nest building began around 8 June and by 7 July there were young in the nest.

Black-billed Magpie

Magpies were periodically seen perched upon one of several old nests located in the two willows of XLSP. They were occasionally seen in other parts of the study area. No active nests were found but 2 recently fledged young were seen on 4 July 1989 near XLSP.

Common Raven

Ravens were often observed soaring over the study area. Many inactive nests were located in several abandoned cabins. Several inactive nests were located in abandoned outbuildings on the study area. In 1988, a pair of ravens nesting south of Pike's Place Ranch in a large cottonwood fledged 3 young.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Single nuthatches were observed foraging in the cottonwoods of XLSP on 11, 18, 20 May and 7 June 1988. The only sighting in 1989 was on 7 June at XLSP.

Canyon Wren

A wren was heard singing in a canyon on the west side on 12 July 1989.

Rock Wren

Rock Wrens could be heard calling in all of the rickrock areas and were very common at XLSP.

House Wren

One adult was seen at XLSP on 11 May 1988.

Marsh Wren

These wrens nested in all areas where tules occurred on the study site.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

One kinglet was seen on 5 and 3 were seen on 8 May foraging among the willows of XLSP in 1988. Kinglets were seen almost daily at XLSP from 26 April to 18 May 1989 and not seen after 19 May 1989.

Hermit Thrush

Lone thrushes were spotted on 28 and 30 May 1989 at XLSP.

American Robin

The only sighting in 1988 was of an adult on 6 June. In 1989, single robins were seen on 29 April and 6 May at XLSP. On 1 May there were 2 females seen at XLSP. Robins may have passed through the Lake Abert area prior to our arrival on 4 May 1988.

Sage Thrasher

Thrashers were heard singing throughout the study period and can usually be found in the appropriate upland habitat.

Water Pipit

Pipits were seen or heard sporadically from 28 April to 13 May 1989.

Cedar Waxwing

A lone adult was seen perched in the willows of XLSP on 25 May 1988. Lone waxwings were observed at XLSP on 27-28 May 1989.

Loggerhead Shrike

Shrikes were often seen in the greasewood scrub zones of the study area. These birds nest in the desert scrub surrounding the alkali flats of the north end. On 4 July 1989 a group of 4 recently fledged young and 2 adults were seen near XLSP.

European Starling

Starlings were very common nesters in the cottonwoods at XLSP, displacing Tree Swallows and other cavity nesters. The first young were seen on 6 June 1988.

Solitary Vireo

One adult was seen in the willows of XLSP on 25 May 1988.

Warbling Vireo

Single adults were seen at XLSP on 18, 25, 24 May and 7 June 1988. In 1989, these vireos were seen between 8 May and 18 May at XLSP.

Orange-crowned Warbler

One adult was observed at XLSP on the evening of 24 May 1988. These warblers were seen between 29 April and 18 May 1989. On 18 May a single Orange-crowned Warbler was seen in the willows along with several Yellow-rumped Warblers, Wilson's Warblers, Yellow Warblers, a Palm Warbler, a Townsend's Warbler, and a Common Yellowthroat.

Nashville Warbler

One was observed on 11 May 1988. In 1989 these warblers were seen on 29 April (2 adults) and on 2 and 15 May (single adults) at XLSP.

Yellow Warbler

Yellow Warblers were common at XLSP in May and into the first week of June. From 2 to 6 birds could usually be seen foraging in the willows during this time period.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Both the “Myrtle” and the “Audubon’s” forms of this warbler were common at XLSP during late April and into early June. The high count for this species in 1988 was 6 birds on 11 May. In 1989, on 2 May a flock of approximately 30 Yellow-rumped Warblers flew into the XLSP area.

Townsend’s Warbler

Townsend’s Warblers were seen on 3 occasions at XLSP in 1988. The first sighting was of a brilliantly-colored male on 11 May. The next sighting was of a female on 23 May followed by 2 males on 25 May. The only sighting in 1989 was of a male on 18 May at XLSP.

Palm Warbler

A bright male, along with 6 other warbler species (see Orange-crowned Warbler account) was seen in the willows of XLSP on 18 May 1989.

Northern Waterthrush

A single adult was seen foraging along the edge of XLSP on 8 and 9 May 1988.

MacGillivray’s Warbler

A lone male was seen at XLSP on 23 and 24 May.

Common Yellowthroat


Wilson’s Warbler

These warblers were common at XLSP throughout May and early June. During May 1 to 3 males could be seen foraging in the willows of XLSP while females were only occasionally observed.

Yellow-breasted Chat

One chat was observed foraging in the cottonwoods at XLSP on 20 May 1988.

Western Tanager

Tanagers were commonly seen at XLSP throughout May in both 1988 and 1989.
Black-throated Sparrow
A lone male was observed at XLSP between 24 and 30 May 1988 and on 16 May 1989.

Lazuli Bunting
Lazuli Buntings were observed on 3 occasions at XLSP in 1988. The first sighting was of a male on 11 May followed by sightings of females on 24 May and 3 June. In 1989, Lazuli Buntings were seen almost daily in May and were last seen on 5 June.

Chipping Sparrow
Chipping Sparrows were common around XLSP from 4 to 12 May and were not seen after 17 May 1988. These sparrows were seen only on 30 April and 1 May in 1989.

Brewer's Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrows were common breeders on the sage-covered hillsides which surround the north end of the study area.

Vesper Sparrow
These sparrows were common breeders at XLSP and occur in the wet meadow and saltgrass areas.

Lark Sparrow
In 1988, Lark Sparrows were observed most frequently at XLSP during May when courtship activities were observed. Lark Sparrows were not observed in June and were not seen until 3 July when 3 were observed at XLSP. On 8 July 1988 a juvenile was spotted being fed by adults at XLSP. In 1989 these sparrows were often seen in May and into mid-June.

Black-throated Sparrow
There was a small breeding population of these sparrows located 2.0 km west of XLSP. This area was visited several times during the study period. Up to 3 males were seen on territory on each visit. These sparrows have also been seen at XLSP and have been heard singing along the west side of Sawed Horn.

Table 1. Checklist of Bird Species of North Lake Abert, Lake Co., Oregon

Habitat Key
LE Lake edge; the variable margin where the lake meets the playa
PL Playa; the extensive unvetegated saltflats of the north end of Lake Abert
SG Saltgrass; the areas dominated by saltgrass with scattered greasewood
WM Wet meadow; areas that are dominated by sedges, rushes, and grasses; formerly used as hay meadows
XL XL Spring and Ranch; former working ranch that has a small pond and several trees
UP Upland areas; sage, rabbitbrush, and greasewood covered slopes surrounding the north end of the lake

Abundance Key
a Abundant - seen in large numbers on every visit to proper habitat in proper season
b Common - smaller numbers seen on at least 50 percent of visits to proper habitat in proper season
c Uncommon - seen on approximately 10-50 percent of visits to proper habitat in proper season
d Occasional - seen in 1988 and in 1989 but less than 15 records; to be expected yearly
r Rare - seen only in 1986 or only in 1989 or less than 5 records; not to be expected on a yearly basis
A Accidental - only one observation during our study; species not normally encountered in Lake County
*K Known breeder at Lake Abert
** Possible breeder at Lake Abert

Sage Sparrow
These sparrows were common breeders on the shrub covered slopes which surround the northern end of the study area.

Savannah Sparrow
Savannah Sparrows were the most common breeding sparrows at Lake Abert and can be found over the entire study area.

Fox Sparrow
A single Fox Sparrow was seen on 10 May 1988 and on 20 May 1989 at XLSP.

Song Sparrow
Single adults were seen on 17, 18, and 24 May 1988 and 8 May 1989 at XLSP.

Lincoln's Sparrow
One adult was observed on 24 May 1988 in the NW corner of the study area.

Golden-crowned Sparrow
A single adult in breeding plumage was observed on 11 May 1988 at XLSP. In 1989, single Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen on 1, 2, and May. White-crowned Sparrow
Single adults were seen on 9 and 21 May 1988. These sparrows were seen on 30 April, 2 and 5 May 1989. All sightings were at XLSP.

Red-winged Blackbird
Redwings were common breeders in the wet meadow areas of north Lake Abert.

Western Meadowlark
Meadowlarks were abundant in the wet meadow and the surrounding greasewood covered slopes of the north end. The first fledged juvenile was spotted on 31 May in 1988.

Yellow-headed Blackbird
Yellowheads were abundant along the edges of perennial ponds and seeps that had tule stands. Yellowheads were observed in large flocks into early May, but by the end of the first week of May males were on territories. The willows at XLSP was the roosting site for approximately 50 Yellowheads. By late June the males had left their territories and formed large flocks that congregated near the freshwater seeps in the NE corner of the study area. The females were still on territory at the end of the study period.

Brewer's Blackbird
These blackbirds were numerous around the horse corrals and heavily grazed areas adjacent to XLSP and Pike's Place Ranch often in association with cowbirds. These birds were also numerous in the isolated patches of greasewood that were located around seeps in the midst of the playa.

Brown-headed Cowbird
Cowbirds were abundant at XLSP through May and into June in 1988 and 1989.

Northern Oriole
These birds nested in the cottonwoods at XLSP in 1988 and 1989. Migrants passed through XLSP between late April and mid-June.

House Finch
A single male was observed singing at XLSP between 22 and 25 May 1988.

Pine Siskin
Single adults were seen on 17 and 21 May 1988 at XLSP. A flock of 15 siskins stopped briefly at XLSP on 19 May 1988.

Lesser Goldfinch
A single adult female was observed at XLSP on 23 May 1988.

American Goldfinch
A small flock of approximately 20 Lesser Goldfinches arrived at XLSP on the evening of 18 May 1988 and remained until the next morning.

Evening Grosbeak
Two males were observed at XLSP on 19 May and a single male was seen on 21 May 1988. The last sighting was of a female on 4 June 1988. In 1989, 2 females were seen at XLSP on 4 May.
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Birds of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon is apparently the first book published about the birds of any National Wildlife Refuge. As a pioneering effort, "C.D." Littlefield's book is a qualified success. It was written as a reference, and not as a birding guide. It has to be assessed for what it is — an evaluation of the bird diversity within the boundaries of one of the country's best wildlife refuges and not as a birding guide to the region.

Oregon birders, particularly, would have preferred a book that encompassed Harney County, where the refuge is located, rather than merely the refuge itself. At 10,132 square miles, Harney County is larger than 7 states. Although this would have greatly expanded the scope of the book, it would have been a much better production if it had been a county-wide book. Many good records were omitted by the failure to include such places as Fields, Cottonwood Creek, the mountains north of Burns, and the Catlow Valley. As a result, Oregon's only records of Gray-cheeked Thrush, Le Conte's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, and its second record of Wood Thrush are left out.

The book begins with a description of the area in which the refuge is located. This section is brief and factual. Twelve pages are devoted to a discussion of the vegetation of the area and the bird habitats present on the 184,000 acre refuge. Thirteen pages are spent discussing bird finding in the region. This information is concise, and provides a first-time visitor to the area useful information on where to go to find the various species of birds that occur on the refuge. There are 8 maps, some of which depict the whole refuge, and some are larger scale maps of portions of the refuge.

The bulk of the book is made up of species accounts. A total of 312 species are said to have occurred on the refuge (and the surrounding region) since 1874. However, the book only includes species accounts for 308. The refuge itself was established in 1906, although the bulk of the records for the refuge dates back to the mid-70's when birders "discovered" the refuge. The species accounts consist of 238 pages. They cover a time period from when Major Charles Bendire (referred to as Captain in this book) was stationed at nearby Camp Harney in the 1870's through 1986. An amusing passage of the book states "bird records for this remote region of the west are available from 1874 through 1986, a period of 112 years."

The bird finding section gives a good overview of the seasonal bird activity on the refuge. The information included here is more of a reference than a birding guide. The information covers some of the best birding areas on the refuge and nearby area, but it by no means covers them all. This section is not as detailed as that in Ramsey's Birder's Oregon, but is on a par with that in Evanich's Birder's Guide to Oregon.

The species accounts are generally good. Some, like the American White Pelican, provide a good historical review covering more than a century. The species accounts for the regularly-occurring birds include the average arrival and departure dates, status, the habitat the species is found in on the refuge and occasionally other pertinent information. For some reason, only refuge and C.D.'s personal records were consulted.

Official records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee were not consulted, even though they are readily available in Rare Birds of Oregon (Schmidt, O., Ed., 1989, Oregon Field Ornithologists Special Publication No. 5). Among those records missed were an immature Broad-winged Hawk on 2 October 1983; a Hudsonian Godwit on 21

September 1984; all records of Alder and Least Flycatchers, Oregon's only Northern Wheatear on 22 June 1977; Magnolia Warbler on 27 May 1979 and 29 May 1981; Black-throated Blue Warbler on 23 September 1987. Neither American Birds nor Oregon Birds were consulted for records on the refuge. Additionally, some dates are erroneously recorded, something that perhaps was inevitable, but could have been caught with a little bit of research.

Other minor defects include the fact that the mammal list includes only 5 species, while the official refuge list includes 58 currently-occurring species and 6 that occurred in historical times. Most birders would have preferred that bar graphs be included to show seasonal abundance in an easy to understand format. Also, an index for place names in addition to the bird species would have been helpful.

A birder would have written a different book. Nevertheless, C.D. Littlefield, the wildlife biologist, has provided a good basic reference on the birds of one of the West's most important National Wildlife Refuges.
REVIEW — No Woman Tenderfoot: Florence Merriam Bailey, Pioneer Naturalist

By Harriet Kofalk
Texas A & M University Press, 1989, $19.95 plus shipping (cost varies), (800)826-8911 to order directly.

Anyone interested in the natural history of the west cannot help but be impressed by the career of Florence Merriam Bailey, an ornithologist born at a time when young ladies did not, by and large, study birds in the more rugged parts of the country. She was the first woman to become a Fellow of the American Ornithologists’ Union, an honor earned by her contribution to knowledge of bird behavior and distribution, especially in the American southwest. Eugene, Oregon, author Harriet Kofalk brings to life for a modern audience Florence Merriam, the young lady who went to Smith College in Massachusetts (receiving her degree decades later) and later married and worked with longtime western mammalogist Vernon Bailey.

One of the most telling chapters in this biography deals with Florence's years at Smith, where she organized the women against wearing hats with bird ornaments as 13 stuffed birds. Her own diaries with longtime western mammalogist Morse Nice, and others. Her interactions with useful results without shooting them.

Another early book, A Birding on a Bronco, resulted from two western trips, and included not only notes on the Phainopepla (some of which also appeared in The Auk), but the first published book illustrated by an artist whose name would become so synonymous with excellence in bird illustrations that his work would be reprinted nearly a century later in American Birds. This was Louis Agassiz Fuertes, then a college junior, whom Florence had met when he was a boy.

Perhaps the most significant of Bailey's contributions to published ornithology was one of her last books, the monumental Birds of Oregon (still a significant reference) where I sought and found, with pleasure, several references to Bailey's contributions to knowledge of the birds of Oregon. Kofalk's book even contains a photograph taken in Garibaldi, Tillamook Co., close to the town where I was born, and also of her party up the McKenzie River. It was thrilling to know that I had watched birds where she had.

Despite the reputation of the New Mexico book and other scientific articles and books of her later years, the most important contribution Florence Merriam Bailey made to the study of birds may have been her tireless promotion of the idea that much could be learned by observing birds in the field rather than shooting bags of them to carry back to the museum, a concept dating from her first small book. Although she did not oppose collecting for some purposes, she played a significant role in expanding the milieu of ornithology from the study of what birds are to the additional consideration of where birds do and the context in which they do it. This key focus of Bailey's life, upon which a significant part of modern ornithology is based, is deftly traced by Kofalk, and can be illustrated by Bailey's description of a female hummingbird building a nest, in which she noted that

"...the peculiar feature of her work was her quivering motion in moulding. When her material was placed she moulded her nest like a potter, twirling around against the sides, sometimes pressing so hard she ruffled up the feathers of her breast ...." To round the outside, she would sit on the rim and lean over, smoothing the sides with her bill, often with the same peculiar tremulous motion...."

Bailey's life was full of remarkable people including, in addition to Burroughs and Fuertes, botanist Alice Eastwood, entomologist Mary Treat, artist Ernest Thompson Seton, and ornithologists Olive Thorne Miller, Robert Rigidway, Althea Sherman, Margaret Morse Nice, and others. Her interactions with useful results without shooting them.

(Continued on page 81.)

Oregon Birds 17(3): 79, Fall 1991
For the past 5 years (June 1985 - February 1990) I have been mist-netting and banding passerine birds in McDonald Forest, Benton County, Oregon. These studies have provided numerous opportunities for bird observation. Most of the banding studies were conducted in forest “edge” habitat so the majority of my observations pertain to this habitat type, but I also spent considerable time in other habitat types. Over this time period, I spent approximately 50-60 days per year observing birds.

McDonald Forest is an experimental forest managed by the Forestry Department of Oregon State University for profit logging, but also serves as a state game reserve. It is located on the eastern slopes of the central Oregon Coast Range, and habitat types and avifauna are probably typical of the eastern coast range adjacent to the Willamette Valley, excepting medium to large stream riparian habitats and large ponds or lakes. Habitat types include small stream riparian, open meadow, second-growth conifer forest, and clear-cut areas.

The following checklist includes 84 species and consists of all birds I have observed at least once over the time period of my studies. Symbols used in the checklist are described below. Abundances given are the likelihood that an experienced observer would see a given bird on a given day. Seasonal status includes summer residents or visitors (s), winter residents or visitors (w), and permanent residents or visitors not specific to any season (unmarked). This list is not intended as a comprehensive review of the avifauna of McDonald Forest, only as a guide to what is likely to be found there according to my experience. The following is a synopsis of my observations.

LEGEND

Status Note

tape to miss a
should see c
may see u
hard to find regularly o
seldom seen r

Order Ciconiformes
Family Ardeidae
Great Blue Heron r

Order Anseriformes
Family Anatidae
Canada Goose r
Mallard r

Order Falconiformes
Family Accipitridae
Bald Eagle r
Sharp-shinned Hawk o
Red-tailed Hawk o

Order Galliformes
Family Phasianidae
Blue Grouse us, ow
Ruffed Grouse o
Califonia Quail o
Mountain Quail us, ow

Order Columbiformes
Family Columbidae
Band-tailed Pigeon us
Mourning Dove cs

Order Strigiformes
Family Strigidae
Great Horned Owl o
Northern Pygmy-Owl o

Black-capped Chickadee c
Chestnut-backed Chickadee c
Family Aegithalidae
Bush tit u
Family Sittidae
Red-breasted Nuthatch c
White-breasted Nuthatch c
Family Certhiidae
Brown Creeper u
Family Troglodytidae
Bewick’s Wren c
House Wren us
Winter Wren us, cw
Family Muscicapidae
Golden-crowned Kinglet ow, rs 10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet cw
Western Bluebird os
Townsend’s Solitaire r 11
Swainson’s Thrush cs
Hemnit Thrush ow
American Robin c
Varned Thrush u
Wrenlet o 12
Family Bomyccillidae
Cedar Waxing u
Family Vireonidae
Solitary Vireo os
Hutton’s Vireo o 13
Warbling Vireo os
Family Emberizidae
Orange-crowned Warbler cs
Yellow Warbler rs
Yellow-rumped Warbler us, ow
Black-thr. Gray Warbler us
Townsend’s Warbler o
Hemnit Warbler os 14
MacGillivray’s Warbler cs
Common Yellowthroat us
Wilson’s Warbler cs
Western Tanager us
Black-headed Grosbeak us
Lazuli Bunting us
Rufous-sided Towhee c
Chipping Sparrow os
Fox Sparrow u
Song Sparrow c
Family Fringillidae
Purple Finch o
American Goldfinch us
Evening Grosbeak o
Oregon Shorebird Festival
6-7-8 September 1991

To get to the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, follow the signs to Charleston. OIMB is on the right hand side coming over the bridge from Coos Bay. Follow the signs. Park at OIMB and walk to the Boat House. Charleston Charters is just before the bridge on the left hand side coming from Coos Bay.

Friday, 6 September
Registration, 5-8 pm • "Shorebird and Seabird Identification," OIMB, Boat House, 8 pm

Saturday, 7 September
Pelagic Trip, Charleston Charters, 5:45 am • Field trips to Bandon Marsh, Pony Slough, North Spit, New River Estuary, 7:45 am • Dinner at OIMB, 6 pm • Dave Shuford, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, "The Pacific Flyway Project," 8 pm

Sunday, 8 September
Pelagic Trip, Charleston Charters, 5:45 am • Field trips to Bandon Marsh, Pony Slough, North Spit, New River Estuary, 7:45 am

We will have a pelagic trip both Saturday and Sunday mornings. These trips are on a large boat piloted by an experienced captain who knows where to find birds. There will be an expert in identification on board during each trip. Dress in layers and take rain gear. If motion sickness is a problem get a TransDerm Scop patch from your doctor. Breakfast is on your own. Birds usually seen include Black-footed Albatross, Sooty, Pink-footed and Buller's Shearwaters, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Sabine's Gulls and many other species. Whales are often seen.

We will lead a field trip into the New River area south of Bandon. This is an all-day trip so bring a sack lunch. You may need to wade across shallow water. Be prepared for wind and sun.

We will also lead a field trip to Bandon Marsh, North Spit, and Pony Slough. This is an excellent time of year to see fall migration shorebirds. Surfbirds and Marbled Godwits are commonly seen. Wandering Tattlers are usually seen and hopefully Red Knots and Lesser Golden Plovers. There will be a short side trip to see Snowy Plovers.

Lodging: The dormitory at OIMB is available Friday and Saturday night at $10.00 per night. You must bring your own bedding and towels; space is limited. Many major motels and campgrounds are available; write for a list.

Photo contest and exhibit. There will be a photography contest and exhibit featuring shorebirds on display at the North Bend Public Library. For details and entry form, contact Ken Dazez, 3333 Kentuck Way, North Bend, OR 97459, (503)756-7280

For more information, contact Lyn Topits, Cape Arago Audubon Society, P.O. Box 381, North Bend, OR 97459, (503)267-7208.
Oregon Field Ornithologists' Fall Weekend at Malheur Field Station
27 - 29 September 1991

Remember OFO's birding weekend at Malheur Field Station in September 1986? Remember the 177 species seen by birders that weekend — including Red-Shouldered Hawk, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, and Ovenbird? Remember Dave Irons announcing in the crowded dining hall that he had just seen a possible Lesser Nighthawk? Remember the dining hall being completely empty 30 seconds later?

If you do, then you'll remember that the idea behind that weekend was to have a second OFO meeting, other than the Annual Meeting, that would be "field" oriented. That 1986 weekend was well-attended, lots of fun, and not repeated — until this year!

Set aside the dates of 27 - 29 September for the second OFO Fall Weekend at Malheur Field Station. Dorms C, D, G, and Owl have been reserved for OFO, and some trailers are still available. A few RV spaces are also available (RVs must be completely contained). Meals may be taken at the MFS dining hall or you may bring your own food. Trailers and some dorms have cooking facilities. Please call MFS at (503)493-2629 to make your lodging and dining reservations, or write to MFS at HC 72 Box 260, Princeton, OR 97721.

The registration fee, besides supporting OFO, covers the rare bird slide show to be presented by Harry Nehls after the Saturday night count-down dinner. MFS director Lucile Housley has arranged for a special seating in the dining hall at 6:30 p.m. Saturday night for OFO members. Those not registering may dine in the dining hall at 5:30 p.m. The Saturday night meal will be a chicken dinner. Those who require vegetarian meals will need to make that specification to MFS no later than 14 September. Other than a get-together Friday night to show a few of our own best slides and the presentation by Harry Saturday night, the weekend will be unstructured — you'll be free to explore Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas at your own pace.

Some other notable species found at Malheur mid- to late-September in recent years have been Solitary Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-eyed Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Palm Warbler, Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Bay-Breasted Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, White-throated Sparrow, Rosy Finch [Steens Mtn.], and Summer Tanager.

So for great birding, no mosquitos, and an opportunity to support both OFO and MFS, fill out the attached registration form and join us at MFS in September!

Sheran Jones, 9785 S.W. Ventura Court, Tigard, OR 97223, (503)246-5594.
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27 - 29 September 1991

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So for great birding, no mosquitoes, and an opportunity to support both OFO and MFS, fill out the attached registration form and join us at MFS in September!

Sheran Jones, 9785 S.W. Ventura Court, Tigard, OR 97223, (503)246-5594.
MEMBERSHIP IN OFO BRINGS YOU

- **Oregon Birds** — OFO's quarterly journal with news briefs • status and identification of Oregon's birds • bird-finding guides to Oregon's better birding spots and rarer species.
- **Proceedings of the Oregon Bird Records Committee** — Stay current on the rare birds of Oregon.
- **Annual meetings** — Participate in OFO's birding meetings, held at some of Oregon's top birding spots.
- **Publications** — OFO publishes useful field cards and other field checklists accurate according to the Official Checklist of Oregon birds prepared by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

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Application for membership

FOR USE IN 1991 ONLY

1. Name

2. Address

3. City State Zip

4. Telephone

5. □ $16.00 Individual  6. □ Renewal
8. □ $20.00 Family  □ New member
9. □ $35.00 Sustaining
10. □ $500.00 Life Membership
11. □ $       Oregon Fund for Ornithology

7. □ Do NOT put my name and phone number in OFO Directory
8. Make check payable to Oregon Field Ornithologists or OFO, and mail to the
Treasurer, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440

OFO BOOKCASE and MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This form good in 1991

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<td>Special Publication No. 4, A Bibliography of Bird Identification Articles in Five Journals, with Cross-References to a List of Over 650 Species. Clarice Watson, 53 pp., August 1990</td>
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<td>Checklist of Oregon Birds, 1989. 22 pp.</td>
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<td>OFO's Field Checking Card (this card fits into field guide)</td>
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<td>Natural Sound Cassettes by Eleanor Pugh 90-minute tapes</td>
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<td>Learn to Identify Birds by Ear 60-minute tapes</td>
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All items postage paid. Make check payable to Oregon Field Ornithologists or OFO, and mail to the
Treasurer, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440
The Editor, Oregon Birds
3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97212

Please feel free to send ideas and suggestions, too!

Rules for a network are simple: rare birds only (no east/west or west/east Oregon birds); birders who get calls have to make calls (this means long distance tolls); and once on the network, keep it going by keeping your address and phone numbers current. Minimum information on a rare bird call should include species, age and sex (if not known, say so), number of birds, who found it (them), and who to call (this means long distance tolls); and once on the network, keep it going by keeping your address and phone numbers current. Minimum information on a rare bird call should include species, age and sex (if not known, say so), number of birds, who found it (them), and who to call (this means long distance tolls); and once on the network, keep it going by keeping your address and phone numbers current. Minimum information on a rare bird call should include species, age and sex (if not known, say so).
First, this is for compilers of Christmas Bird Counts. If you are one, please fill in this form. If you know of one who is not an OFO member and is not reading this, please either bring this to their attention, or contact the Editor of Oregon Birds. Numbers correspond to past published reports, see OB 16(4): insert; OB 15(4): 240, 1989; OB 16(4): insert.

Second, circle your CBC on the map above. If your CBC is not on the map, please pencil it in.

Third, fill in this information:
- Name and address of Compiler:
- Compiler’s phone number(s):
- Name of Count:
- Date of Count (92nd CBC):
- Information on meeting time and place, and other notes:

Fourth, please mail this form to the Oregon Birds Editor by 25 October 1991:
Editor, 3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212, (503)282-9403.
Notes
1 Due to the lack of larger streams, ponds, or lakes, waterfowl are very seldom observed in McDonald Forest. The Canada Goose is listed from a single sighting of 1 bird flushed from an ephemeral stream during high water conditions on 14 February 1990. Overhead sightings of migrating birds are the most likely possibilities for viewing waterfowl.

2 Bald Eagles are rare probably due to the lack of larger bodies of water.

3 I believe Northern Pygmy-Owls are more common than generally believed. I have seen Pygmy-Owls attack and kill a Dark-eyed Junco and a juvenile Rufous-sided Towhee that were trapped in my nets. Pygmy-Owls are relatively easy to see (and hear) during February and March. If one is heard calling at this time of year it will usually respond to an imitation of its call and persistence will usually result in bringing the bird into view.

4 The Long-eared Owl is listed on the basis of a single sighting of an individual bird on 8 June 1987. Observation at this time of year is noteworthy since Long-eared Owls are not regular breeders in western Oregon.

5 I believe Northern Saw-whet Owls are more common than generally accepted. I have 2 records of this species (both in July). Both records were of birds tangled in mist-nets that had been set up before dawn.

6 Common Nighthawks presumably breed in certain areas of McDonald Forest in small numbers. They are the last of the spring migrants to arrive, usually around 1 June. They are best viewed at dusk, flying over clear-cuts. I have noticed fewer of these birds over the past 2 years than in previous years.

7 Belted Kingfishers are rare due to lack of larger bodies of water. The listing is from a single sighting of an individual bird along Baker Cr.

8 Scrub Jays rarely penetrate the forest habitat typical of McDonald Forest. Its listing stems from 1 record in August 1987.

9 The vast majority of my American Crow sightings were of large flocks flying overhead in the early morn-
NORTH SPIT AREA
As you approach North Bend from the north on Highway 101, follow the signs west for "Horsfall Dune and Beach." This road to the North Spit is on a causeway 0.7 miles north of the McCullough Bridge across the Coos River. At 1.1 miles, the road forks. In the late fall, watch the telephone wires for Tropical Kingbirds. If you take the right fork, you are headed for Horsfall Beach and Bluebill Lake.

Horsfall Beach (#1) is another 2.5 miles beyond the fork. This dune area is good for Water Pipits in the fall and other passerines such as sparrows and even Horned Larks.

If you take the left fork you head west toward the North Spit on "Trans-Pacific Parkway." At 0.4 mile you may turn left onto "an unnamed road following the signs toward "Roseburg Forest Products." Jordan Cove (#2), on the left, is 0.3 miles from the "Trans-Pacific Parkway" and can be very good for shorebirds on the mudflats and waterfowl (possibly the rare Emperor Goose again) in the winter. This road dead-ends and you will eventually need to return.

Back at the intersection with the Trans-Pacific Parkway, continue west 2.3 miles to an enormous effluent pond (#3) behind the dike on the west side of the Trans-Pacific Parkway. As you travel this section of road, look for raptors in the trees (Peregrine Falcons, Black-shouldered Kites, Rough-legged Hawks, and Merlins among others). Northern Shrikes can be anywhere in the fields as well. Tundra Swans use the lake in the winter. Numerous shorebirds use the muddy margins of the lake and the islands during the fall and winter. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in this pond (13 September 1986). Just 0.8 miles farther south is a temporary pond in the deflation plain of the dunes (#4). During shorebird migration in the fall, this is the best shorebirding hotspot on the Coos River. Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Sandpipers. This same pond was where our only county record of Barrow's Goldeneye was found. Parasitic Jaegers, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and White-faced Ibis have been located at this tiny pond. Later in the winter, there are a large variety of waterfowl that use this small pond such a Ruddy Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Cinnamon Teal, and both scaups.

The improved road ends at the Anadromous Inc. salmon hatchery 1.0 mile farther south of the deflation plain pond. Walk along the sand roads (#5) through the trees can be good for a variety of passerines during the spring and fall. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Black-and-white Warblers are among the most unusual. The mudflats along the estuary south of the Anadromous hatchery are also good for shorebirds. Bay ducks raft up just offshore. Bring a scope. There is great variety.

Snowy Plovers are most common on the ocean side of the North Spit (#6). The further south along the spit, the greater the chance of encounter. But it is a long walk (4 miles one way) through soft sand.

PONY SLOUGH
Back on highway 101, cross the McCullough Bridge south into North Bend. Follow the signs to Charleston. As you travel west on Virginia Avenue, Pony Village Mall will be on your left and Pony Slough (#7) will be on your right. Turn right at 0.6 mile on Marion Street for access to the slough. Pony Slough is within the city limits of North Bend and attracts shorebirds in large numbers. Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Red Knots, Snowy Plovers, and Red-necked Phalaropes are some of the more noteworthy. Shorebirds may be found almost any time that mudflats are exposed, but by picking the time of day and the tide cycle you can optimize the quality of your birding. Marion Street continues as a gravel road along the west side of Pony Slough between the North Bend airport and the mudflats. Waterfowl numbers have approached 10,000 in the winter months. Canvasbacks, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, and American Wigeon being the most common. Eurasian Wigeon are found each winter with regularity. Blue-winged Teal and White-fronted Geese have been recorded in the past. Several species of herons and egrets are likely. The brushy margin of the slough is good for passerines including Palm Warblers. Watch the air and the snags across the slough for raptors including the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Merlin. The airport runway area has yielded Lapland Longspurs in the fall.

EMPIRE to CHARLESTON
Leaving Pony Slough from Marion Street turn right onto Virginia Avenue again. Follow the signs to Charleston. The road turns south onto Broadway Avenue then west onto Newmark Avenue. In the community of Empire, the road turns south toward Charleston as Empire Boulevard. A sewage treatment plant (#8) is 0.5 mile from the intersection of Newmark and Empire Blvd. Turn right on Fulton Avenue. The area north of the sewage plant is a haven for Snowy Egrets in the winter as well many waterfowl including Eurasian Wigeon.

Another 2.2 miles south of the sewage treatment plant on Empire Blvd, there is an unmarked parking area along the Coos River next to the cement water treatment building (#9). It is only 0.1 mile beyond the Dairy Queen. This is a popular wintering area for Clark's Grebe, Brant, Harlequin Ducks, and Common Goldeneyes, among a variety of other aquatic birds. The rocky bottom to the Coos River is unique.

Continue south on Empire Blvd another 1.6 miles to the Charleston Bridge (#10). Park at either end and walk to the center of the bridge for best viewing. Winter gull populations hanging around the fish canneries number in the thousands — Glaucous Gulls, Herring Gulls, Thayer's Gulls, among others. The open water channel into the South Slough can provide a rich variety of loons, grebes, and waterfowl.

At the west end of the Charleston Bridge, turn right onto Boat Basin Drive. 0.5 mile further the road ends at the United States Coast Guard housing facility (though you may drive along a diked road to the right which dead ends at Point Adams Packing Company). First park along the road across from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Charleston District Office). The sandy cove between the USCG housing and Point Adams Packing Company is a bird-rich area (#11). This is one of the best locations to find Oldsquaw in the winter. You may walk or drive out the diked road to Point Adams Packing Company. The channel areas are excellent for birding.

The terrestrial birds near the office of the ODFW (#12) can be exciting too. The Northern Parula, Summer Tana-
ger, and Black-throated Sparrow are among the more unusual records. The wooded hill above ODFW may be travelled by trail or gravel road. Hermit Warblers, Hutton’s Vireos, and Pileated Woodpeckers nest on the hill. Goshawks have been seen as well.

You may wish to spend some time birding in the boat basin area for seabirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Return to the beginning of Boat Basin Drive by the Charleston Bridge. Turn right onto the Cape Arago Highway and follow the signs to the “state parks”.

BASTENDORF BEACH TO CAPE ARAGO

Continuing west from Charleston on the Cape Arago Highway follow the signs to Cape Arago. 0.7 mile along the Cape Arago Highway turn right on Coos Head Road. Continue on this road 0.9 mile to the “south jetty” of the Coos River (#13). From the paved walkway on top of the jetty there is a good view of the channel. (Do watch the waves with care!) This location is an excellent viewpoint for seabirds ranging from all the loons, cormorants, grebes, and alcids. Occasional shearwaters and petrels can be found as well.

When you return back along the Coos Head Road, turn right at the first road (0.2 mile) which parallels Bastendorff Beach. 0.7 mile from the intersection there is a pullout with a view of the sandy beach (#14). This is a good location in the winter to find several species of gulls and shorebirds including the Snowy Plover in the extreme upper reaches of the beach.

Continue along this road to the Cape Arago highway again. Turn right and continue 1.5 miles to Sunset Bay State Park campground (#15). In the winter season it is closed to camping but ideal for quiet birding for passerines.

0.9 miles further south on the Cape Arago Highway is Shore Acres State Park (#16). Scan the ocean from behind the wall along the rocky seaciffs. Numerous seabirds can be found during the winter season of which the Marbled Murrelet and Ancient Murrelet are regular. Carefully scope the rocks below for the Rock Sandpiper and Black Oystercatcher. There is a trail along the seaciffs which leads north from Shoreacres. The trail leads in a large loop after leaving the cliffs back through the trees to the park again. Before the trail leaves the cliffs, there is a great look at a Pelagic Cormorant rookery. Watch the trees along the cliffs for Peregrine falcons as they perch here to bird watch as well. The trail back through the woods in the spring is full of warblers, thrushes, and occasional woodpeckers such as the Pileated. The botanical gardens should be checked for hummingbirds too — Anna’s, Rufous, and Allen’s.

1.0 mile beyond the Shore Acres State Park on the Cape Arago Highway there is an overlook of Shell Island (#17). This is where a King Eider was sighted in December 1985. This view is interesting for its marine mammals as well. Cape Arago State Park (#18) is another 0.5 mile south on the Cape Arago Highway. Any view of the ocean from the various trails and seaciffs can be worthwhile. During migrations, large numbers of seabirds fly by. Below in the water, watch for Marbled Murrelets and Ancient Murrelets.

The road through Cape Arago State Park loops back in the direction from which you arrived.
SITE GUIDE: Bandon Area, Coos County

Larry Thornburgh, 2058 Cedar Court, North Bend, OR 97459

BULLARD’S BEACH

0.2 miles north of the bridge where Highway 101 crosses the Coquille River, turn west into Bullard’s Beach State Park. Park in any of the day-use picnic areas (0.5 to 0.9 miles) (#1) and walk among the lodgepole pine forest with the heavy understory growth. There are maintained trails for easy access. Numerous passerines typical of the coast can be found here — Wren, Rufous-sided Towhee, Townsend’s and Wilson’s Warbler, Fox and Song Sparrow, and woodpeckers.

Continue toward the lighthouse (2.0 miles) on the north jetty of the Coquille River. The road turns south to parallel the beach, which cannot be seen due to the foredune. There are freshwater ponds in the deflation plain on the east side of the road except during the summer. Shorebirds that are forced off the mudflats at high tide move into these grassy areas. Lapland Longspurs and Water Pipits are found in the same habitat during the fall.

At the lighthouse (#2) scan the ocean or river channel for seabirds. Scan the beach for shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Surfbirds, Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Rock Sandpipers, Black Oystercatchers frequent the rocks of the north and south jetty.

NORTH BANK ROAD to COQUILLE and SOUTH BANK ROAD to BANDON

Back on Highway 101, turn south toward Bandon. Turn east on the North Bank Road, 0.1 miles from Bullard’s Beach State Park entrance. 1.2 miles east the road overlooks some pastureland on the south side of the road (#3). This is a wintering location of 100+ Tundra Swans and even an occasional Snow Goose. This is a place to find Cattle Egrets in the winter also.

0.9 mile further up the road is a boat launch ramp (#4). The blackberry vines are good habitat for wintering sparrows including the Lincoln and Swamp sparrow.

If you drive the North Bank Road to its end (15.3 miles further at Highway 42 between Coos Bay and Coquille), keep an eye out for raptors. The road parallels the Coquille River through bottomland used for pasturing with fencerows of alder trees and shrubs. Black-shouldered Kites, Peregrine Falcons, and Red-shouldered Hawks are regular sightings in the winter. Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels are common. Wherever there is water, waterfowl (and hunters!), herons, and egrets can be found in large numbers.

At the intersection of Highway 42, turn right towards Coquille. The pastureland just 0.4 mile down the road floods in the winter. Therefore it is locally known as “Winter Lakes” (#5). The waterfowl and raptors are on permanent display in the winter for the next 2 miles. Our only Tufted duck was located here (11 March 1988).

If you continue into Coquille (5 miles from North Bank Road), follow the signs to Bandon by way of Highway 42S. After crossing the Coquille River leaving Coquille, drive slowly for the next 2 miles (#6) while searching the pastures for Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egrets, as well as Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. Watch the trees and perches for Black-shouldered Kites and Red-shouldered Hawks. The grasslands along Fat Elk Road, which is 2.0 miles west of the bridge across the Coquille River, has recorded Solitary Sandpipers and Ruffs. The return trip to Bandon by way of South Bank Road (Highway 42S) is the same river bottom habitat as the North Bank Road. The distance is 16.5 miles with potential for all the raptors and waterfowl and egrets already mentioned.

When you reach Highway 101, turn north 1.5 miles. Then turn west on Riverside Drive.

BANDON MARSH

Riverside Drive is the first road south of the Highway 101 bridge across the Coquille River. Turning west on Riverside Drive you will parallel Bandon Marsh. A vantage point to these mudflats and salt marshes which does not require special footwear is 0.8 miles south on Riverside Drive from the junction with Highway 101. There is a small dirt road that leads through the trees to the mudflat (#7). You can park along Riverside Drive near a mailbox with box #1056 Cody. Fifty feet through the trees brings you to the mudflat. Find a comfortable spot to spend some time with a spotting scope. This is the best shorebird viewing area on the southern Oregon coast. Thousands of shorebirds use this area every month but June. Red Knots, Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Lesser Golden-plovers are among the more interesting. This is a good site to view peeps such as the Western and Least Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and Semipalmated Plovers. Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrels, Black-bellied Plovers, Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Willet, Dunlin, Killdeer, and Common Snipe are some of the larger shorebird species. As you approach the mudflats in fall especially, look for Pectoral Sandpipers in the grass nearer the mudflat. Some of the rarer shorebird species found on this mudflat include the Semipalmated Sandpiper, Rufous-necked Stint, Hudsonian and Bar-tailed Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Mongolian Plover. From the end of July to the end of September, this is a shorebirders paradise!

Virginia Rails and Soras nest in the saltmarsh. Tundra Swans may be found in the winter. Purple Martins may be found in the summer. Winter raptors include the Black-shouldered Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT TO THE SOUTH JETTY

Continue along Riverside Drive another 0.8 miles to where it intersects with First Street SE. Turn west on First Street and immediately pull off to the side of the road (#8). There is a small mudflat with numerous rocks bordered by riprap. In addition to some of the shorebirds already mentioned, look for the Wandering Tattler in the spring and fall along with the Spotted Sandpiper.

Continue along First Street (which becomes Edison as it turns south) for another 0.5 mile and turn right on Jetty Road. Anywhere between 0.2 and 0.3 mile, stop and climb over the crude dike along the Jetty Road (#9). There is a large expanse of rocky area that continues all the way to the south jetty of the Coquille River. Though this area may appear devoid of birds at first look, persevere. There will be movement among those stones! Besides some of the aforementioned birds, you may add Surfbirds, Rock Sandpipers (if winter), Black Oystercatchers, or rarely a Ruff.

The south jetty is only another 0.4 mile (#10). This will complete the view...
mile (#10). This will complete the view of the rocky intertidal area. But look in the channel and open ocean as well. Loons, grebes, shearwaters, petrels, pelicans, cormorants, scoters (including Black), Harlequin ducks, gulls, terns, and alcids are regulars at the right season.

**BREEDING ROCKS**

Return to the beginning of Jetty Road where it intersects Edison. Turn right on Edison and turn west at the top of the hill on 4th Street SW. Follow the bends of 4th Street SW to Ocean Drive to 7th Street to Beach Loop Road. At 0.9 mile turn west on 11th and drive into the parking area straight ahead (#11). The offshore islands and rocks are full of breeding colonies of seabirds. Between April and August, you are guaranteed excellent views of Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots, Pelagic and Brandt’s Cormorants, Western Gulls, and Common Murres.

If you return east on 11th Street, you will eventually reach Highway 101.
**Things to do.** Check out the "tear sheets" in the middle of this issue. The Oregon Shorebird Festival runs 6 through 8 September on the south Oregon coast. This is in the peak of shorebird migration. Last year at this time a Great Knot appeared at Bandon. Pigeon Point is scheduled out of Charleston. OFO's Fall Birthing Weekend at Malheur runs 27 through 29 September. This is a peak time for strays at the migrant traps in southeast Oregon. Last year good September birds reported at Malheur included Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, and Worm-eating Warblers. It's time to start organizing for the Christmas Bird Counts. Oregon Birds prints the dates and meeting times for all of Oregon's CBCs for which the information is available by pressure. So you are a CBC compiler, or know someone who is, please fill out one of the tear sheets and mail it in by the end of October. The fourth issue of OB comes out the first week of December, in prime time to reach birders planning on participating in CBCs. Owen Schmidt, Editor, 3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212, (503)282-9403.

**101 in Benton County.** The listing of Paul Sullivan as having 101 birds in Benton County, OB 17(2): 32, Summer 1991, is hereby corrected. Actually, Paul Osburn has that distinction. The Oregon Birds team regrets the error and apologizes to both Pauls. Steve Summers, P.O. Box 202, Silver Lake, OR 97638, (503)576-2190.

**Need for used equipment.** The Birder's Forum, coordinated by the Manomet Bird Observatory, accepts donations of used field equipment—especially binoculars, scopes, field guides, etc.—for researchers in the Neotropics. If you have field equipment and would like to see it put to use, contact The Birder's Forum, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345.

**Great Blue Heron Week.** A week-long celebration of the Great Blue Heron as Portland's official city bird, 30 May - 9 June 1991, emphasized the "importance of local wetland and riparian habitat to the continued existence of this stately symbol in our midst." Highlights of Great Blue Heron Week included dedication of wildlife interpretive signs at Heron Pointe Wetlands and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge on the Willamette Greenway; dedication of a mural depicting a Great Blue Heron in wetland habitat; canoe and kayak trips along the Willamette River to the Ross Island heronry, along the lower reaches of the Columbia Slough, and from Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge to Salmon Creek in the state of Washington; and numerous hikes at Oaks Bottom, Heron Lakes Golf Course, Powell Butte, and along the Willamette Greenway. The mural, drawn from a watercolor painting by medical illustrator and artist instructor Lynn Kitagawa, will be on one of the west-facing walls of the Portland Memorial overlooking Oaks Bottom. Mike Hoeck, Urban Naturalist, Portland Audubon Society, 5151 N.W. Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97210, (503)224-1004.

**Oregon National Park Association.** The Oregon National Park Association has been formed to serve as a coordinating organization to promote 3 national park campaigns in Oregon: Hells Canyon, Klamath-Siskiyou, and Steens Mountain. Each of these efforts have operated independently for several years and are now seeking to become more efficient through cooperation. The Association will also be researching opportunities for additional national parks in Oregon. The ultimate goal of the Oregon National Park Association is to see that each of these park proposals becomes a reality in a way that assures their ecological integrity. The Association is seeking funding assistance for fieldwork, proposal development, community organizing, and educational materials. For more information contact Bruce Amsbary, Oregon National Park Association, 1969 SW Park #1105, Portland, Oregon 97201, (503)228-0991.

**Sharp-tails dancing again.** This item appeared in the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society's Newsletter, Spring 1991, page 10: "If you talk to long-time residents of Wallowa County, you can hear stories of how abundant the Sharp-tailed Grouse used to be, how youngsters were sent out to shoot birds to feed farmhands during haying seasons, how grouse could be heard in the quiet mornings of early spring beginning their mating rituals. Up until now, all you would hear is how things used to be. Loss of suitable habitat led to the disappearance of Sharp-tailed Grouse in Northeast Oregon during the 1950's. Because of a concerted effort from several different groups and individuals, the stories of how things used to be may change to stories of how things are going to be. On 12 April 1991, 33 Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (18 females and 15 males) were released in a remote section of Wallowa County. Much preparation went into the release. Special boxes were built for releasing the birds onto an artificial lek. Decoys and tape recordings of strutting grouse were used to acclimate the birds and hopefully encourage them to remain in the immediate area. Monitoring over the first few days showed the grouse staying within earshot of the release site. Some of the grouse will be monitored with radio telemetry for long-term data on movements and mortality. In a profession such as wildlife management where oftentimes we fight to keep a balance for the resources in our care, it is rewarding to report on efforts to re-establish native species. This is especially true when it is a cooperative program. Such is the case in this venture with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon State University working to bring back these elegant birds." Tara Wertz, c/o Oregon Chapter, The Wildlife Society, Oregon State University, 104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-3803.

**The Flock.** The American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Wilson Ornithological Soci-
Dyed shorebirds. The Canadian Wildlife Service, Western and Northern Region, will be banding shorebirds during the fall migration in Saskatchewan. Birds will be dyed yellow (orange) on their underparts and banded with white flags and a red or green color band. Please send reports of sightings to H. L. Dickson, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2nd Floor, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2X3, Canada, or to Cheri Gratto-Trevor, CWS, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon S7N 0X4, Canada.

Bird count data. Landbird population trend data from the western United States and Canada are needed for comparison with BBS data for the same region. If you have (or know anyone with) at least 20 years of count data of any kind from within the western region, please contact Richard L. Hutto.
Oregon Bird Records Committee: You Be The Judge

Harry Nehls, 2736 S.E. 20th. Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

On 21 June 1987, 2 birders visiting the “P” Ranch, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon, observed a bird the “size similar to Hairy Woodpecker.” It “flew into a tree close to the ranch house, then flew off to another tree behind the ranch house and attached itself to the trunk of the tree in typical woodpecker fashion.” They identified it as an adult Red-headed Woodpecker. They immediately wrote up a species report form and submitted it the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

The bird was observed for about 5 minutes using 8 x 40 binoculars and 8 x 24-50 zoom lens binoculars at a distance of 100 feet. It was a high overcast day. Although the observers had no previous experience, they used Peterson’s Guide to Western Birds during and after observation. The observers were positive of the identification.

The observers described the bird as having a “brilliant red head and neck, pure white belly, black back with white on wings.”

In separating it from similar species: “Red-breasted Sapsucker - the belly is too dull and not brilliantly white. The black and white on back and wings is not a sharp contrast. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - yellow on belly did not appear. Less red coloring on head and neck. Dull white belly. Black mottled with white, not clearly defined. Striped face.”

The OBRC voted on this record, based on the above information, and came to its conclusion. Now it is your turn. YOU BE THE JUDGE. You vote on this record, putting down in writing the comments why you voted the way you did. Then send your vote to me at the above address. In the next issue of Oregon Birds we will discuss the vote of the OBRC and the comments of the Committee members on reaching their decision. We will then compare the comments received from our readers.
FIELDNOTES: Eastern Oregon,
Winter 1990-91

Joe Evanich, 5026 N.E. Clackamas Street, Portland, OR 97213

The winter of 1990-91 was very dry and basically mild throughout Eastern Oregon. Precipitation amounts were well below normal, with some areas of Southeastern Oregon receiving less than a third of what is average for the 3-month period. Snowpacks were also well below normal throughout all mountainous areas (up to half of normal in the Wallowas and Blues), and it looks like 1991 could be shaping up to be a severe drought year. Temperatures were generally very mild throughout Eastern Oregon, except when a front of frigid Arctic air settled over the entire state from 19 Dec to 10 Jan. Temperatures dropped as low as -40 degrees F. (without wind chill factor) in Grant Co. during this “Arctic Express.” Otherwise, record warm weather was the rule in most areas during Jan and Feb, and many CBCs held prior to 20 Dec found many unusual or late species. Undoubtedly, the freezing spell was fatal for many birds and other wildlife, but other effects of the mild winter were more obvious. A lack of snow on the ground and generally dry, warm conditions were very beneficial to gallinaceous birds, and water birds seemed more widespread and numerous with all the unfrozen water. Raptor numbers seemed down, but all 3 accipiters were well-reported. Passerines were more widespread than normal with the mild weather — this actually resulted in poor birding conditions since the forest and seed-eating birds did not congregate in residential areas, at feeders, and along roadsides as they often do during winter.

The following abbreviations appear in this report: CBC (Christmas Bird Count); NWR (National Wildlife Refuge); WMA (Wildlife Management Area); St. Pk. (State Park); Lk. (Lake); Res. (Reservoir); Co. (County); GRBC (Grande Ronde Bird Club); fide (reported by); m.ob. (many observers); et al (and others). All county names are italicized.

Loons to herons

Only 7 Common Loons were reported this winter (Grant, Hood River, Jefferson, Umatilla, and Wallowa), and overall numbers (especially along the Columbia River) were below normal (HN, MD). A Pacific Loon was found at Haystack Res., Jefferson on 2 Dec (TC, LR; second Co. record), and 2 appeared on Lk. Billy Chinook, Jefferson on 6 Jan (LR). Another was reported at Hood River on 10-16 Feb for a first (but certainly not unexpected) co. record (DL, DA, J&RK, et al). An overwintering Pied-billed Grebe was a new species for the John Day CBC, Grant (fide TW), and rare Red-necked Grebes were observed at Pine Hollow Res., Wasco on 6 Dec (DL) and at Government Cove, Hood River on 24 Feb (JE, et al). Horned Grebe numbers appeared down, with reports received only from Jefferson and the Columbia River counties. Up to 3 Eared Grebes were noted at Haystack Res. from 2 Feb to the close of the report period (LR), and singles were also found at the Mouth of Hood River on 30 Jan (MD); at Pine Hollow Res. on 8 Dec (DL); and at Government Cove 24 Feb (JE). Interestingly, DL managed to find 5 of Oregon’s 6 grebe species on an 8 Dec trip to Wasco — even more unusual, all were seen on 1 body of water (Pine Hollow Res.), Can anyone else claim that for Oregon?

The last “fall” American White Pelicans were 19 very late birds found on...
RV), and 7 birds were noted on the west shore of Harney Lake 21 Feb for a new spring arrival date on the refuge (RV). One pelican appeared on the Summer Lk. CBC, Lake of 18 Dec (fide MSL), and another 5 were on the Columbia River at McNary Dam, Umatilla on 5 Jan (MD). Summer Lk. also had 2 American Bitterns and 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons reported on their CBC (fide MSL), both very good winter finds.

**Waterfowl**

Twenty-seven Trumpeter Swans were recorded on the 2 Malheur area CBC’s of 15 and 17 Dec (fide RV), and a family group (2 adults, 3 immatures) was noted near River Ranch and at Dutchy Lk., Lake on 16 Jan and 14 Feb (MSL). The first northward-bound Tundra Swans were 19 birds on 15 Feb at Double O’ Ranch, Malheur NWR (fide RV). By the close of the report period, small numbers of migrant Tundra Swans were being reported at numerous Eastern Oregon sites, and up to 3500 were at Summer Lk. WMA in late Feb (fide MSL). The “non-Canada” geese arrived on time this spring: 3 White-fronted Geese were east of Burns, Harney on 10 Feb (TD, fide MSL) for the earliest report this spring, and up to 300 were utilizing Conley Lk. near Cove, Union by the end of Feb (fide GRBC). Two hardy White-fronts were found among the wintering Canada Geese near Black Butte Ranch, Deschutes on 16 Jan (fide MA). 560 Snow Geese were still present at Summer Lk. WMA on 1 Dec, but they all departed by mid-Dec (fide MSL). Twenty Snow Geese noted near Boardman, Umatilla on 5 Jan were probably local winterers along the Columbia (JS), and 25 birds near Burns on 9 Feb were the first spring migrants (RV).

On 9 Jan, a Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey was conducted in the Harney Basin (including Malheur NWR and the farmland between Burns and the refuge); the results are found in the following table (fide RV):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-winged Teal</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pintail</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadwall</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Wigeon</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
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<td>Canvasback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ring-necked Duck</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Scaup</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of the early spring waterfowl arrived on schedule throughout Eastern Oregon, but 2 Cinnamon Teal at Knox Pond, Malheur NWR on 14 Feb were early (RV). Another male Cinnamon Teal was shot at Summer Lk. WMA on 8 Dec (fide MSL). The winter status of Wood Duck throughout Eastern Oregon remains an enigma; therefore, a flock of up to 52 birds at McNary Wildlife Park, Umatilla during Jan (MD) and a group of 15 at Tygh Valley, Wasco on 8 Dec (DL) were noteworthy occurrences. Single Eurasian Wigeons were noted at Boca Lk., Malheur NWR on 14 Feb (RV); at Hat Rock St. Pk., Umatilla on 2 Feb (CC); at Thompson Res., Lake on 28 Feb (SS); and on the 18 Dec Summer Lk. CBC (fide MSL). More expected were the 3 or 4 males observed throughout the period in the Hood River-Cascade Locks area (DA, DL, m.o.b.), and singles at The Dales, Wasco on 8 Dec and 15 Feb (DL, J&K).

The upper Columbia River in Oregon supported great numbers of wintering waterfowl this season, especially above the major dams. Up to 2500 Greater Scaup were counted at Biggs, Sherman on 2 Feb (DL, JE, SJ); 200 were at Mosier, Wasco on 8 Dec (DL); and another 200 were at The Dales also on 8 Dec (DL). More unusual were the single Greater Scaup found at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery (county ?) in Central Oregon on 19 Jan (MA) and on Ana Res., Lake on 22 Feb (SS). Up to 600 Redheads wintered in the Columbia Gorge area this season, but most were on the Washington side of the river near Stevenson. Barrow’s Goldeneyes were noted in small numbers all along the Columbia River from Washougal, WA. to McNary Dam this winter; the largest concentration was 94 at Biggs on 18 Feb (NL). A rare Oldsquaw appeared at Summer Lk. WMA on 17 Dec and remained until around the first of the year (MSEL, m.o.b.). A male Red-breasted Merganser wintered at Government Cove, and up to 2 were seen at the Mouth of the Deschutes River, Wasco — Sherman during Jan and Feb (DL, VT).

Undoubtedly the birthing event of the year (so far) for Oregon and Washington was the discovery of a bright adult male SMEW in the Columbia River Gorge. The bird was first found on 26 Jan at Stevenson on the Washington side of the river (WC), and on 27 Jan it was seen near Viento St. Pk., Hood River (JB, et al). The Smew frequently wandered up and down the Columbia on both shores before finally settling in at Government Cove, just east of Cascade locks, from mid-Feb to the close of the report period. The bird has since been very tame and continues to be seen well into March. Many photos were obtained (in both states), and this constitutes the first verified record of the species for both states. Interestingly, an adult Smew was reported near White Salmon (about 15 miles upriver from Stevenson in WA.) in Dec of 1989, but the bird could not be relocated for verification.

**Raptors, gallinaceous birds**

In general, raptors were widely distributed and reported in numbers smaller than usual due to the mild weather and lack of snow cover. A record 93 Bald Eagles were found at a roost near Double O’ Ranch, Malheur NWR, on 21 Feb; these are more than triple the usual number that winter at this traditional site (RV). Numbers of Bald Eagles appeared throughout the rest of Eastern Oregon also. Up to 26 birds wintered in the Grande Ronde Valley, Union this season (m.o.b., GRBC), and a small roost of 7 birds was discovered along Camae Creek near Ukiah, Umatilla on 19 Jan (MD). Nine Northern Goshawk reports were received; most were from the foothill areas of the Cascades and Blues, but on 16 and 17 Dec 1 was reported at Malheur NWR headquarters, well-away from the species’ usual forested habitats (fide RV). Single “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawks were seen at Spring Creek, Union on 2 Feb (JE, DL, SJ), and at Umatilla WMR, Morrow on 18 Feb (NL). Winter Ferruginous Hawks were seen 25 Dec at Boardman (1 bird; CC), at Haystack Res. on 5 Jan (1 bird; PR), and at Summer Lk. on 8 Feb (2 birds; SS). Many observers commented on the low numbers of Rough-legged Hawks this winter throughout Eastern Oregon. Merlins were found in the usual small numbers, and there were only 3 Peregrine Falcon reports — 1 bird at Lk. Billy Chinook on 1 Dec (LR), another at Rufus, Gilliam on 27 Feb (IH), and 1 at River Ranch, Lake on 20 Feb (MSL). No Gyrfalcons were reported this winter.

A lack of snow cover throughout the lower elevations of Eastern Oregon kept upland gamebird numbers fairly high, but there was apparently some mortality during the mid-winter cold spell. Five Gray Partridge were found on the Wallowa Co. CBC (fide JS), and 25 were noted on the Union Co. CBC (fide GRBC). Red-legged Partridges were released by ODFW along Winter Rim above Summer Lk. on 8 Dec; the late Dec freeze caused substantial mortality, but birds have been observed throughout the report period at feeders on the WMA (fide MSL). Wild Turkeys were reported at
"Undoubtedly the birding event of the year (so far) for Oregon and Washington was the discovery of a bright adult male SMEW in the Columbia River Gorge. The bird was first found on 26 Jan at Stevenson on the Washington side of the river, and on 27 Jan it was seen near Viento St. Pk., Hood River County. The Smew frequently wandered up and down the Columbia on both shores before finally settling in at Government Cove, just east of Cascade Locks, from mid-Feb to the close of the report period. The bird was seen well into March. Many photos were obtained (in both states), and this constitutes the first verified record of the species for both states."
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Murderer’s Creek WMA, Grant (date and number of birds unknown; TW); in the Blue Mountains northeast of Pendleton, Umatilla on 23 Feb (CC); and on the 18 Dec Summer Lk. CBC (8 birds; fide MSL). This latter group is part of a flock released on Winter Rim in Feb 1988.

Coots to gulls

An American Coot with a bright yellow neck band marked with black numbers (#167) was seen at McNary Wildlife Park on 5 Jan (MD); does anyone out there know of a study being done on coots? At least 2 Virginia Rails wintered as usual at the Wallowa Fish Hatchery in Enterprise, Wallowa (fide JS), and others were found west of Boardman on 23 Dec (CC), on the 18 Dec Summer Lk. CBC (MSL), on the Union Co. CBC (4 birds; fide GRBC), and at Lower Bridge, Deschutes on 5-20 Jan (LR).

Few shorebirds were reported even with the mild conditions. An extremely early Marbled Godwit was reported without details from Malheur NWR on 28 Feb (refuge personnel, fide HN), and early Greater Yellowlegs were noted on 23 Feb at Summer Lk. WMA (4 birds; MSL), and at Malheur NWR on 28 Feb (refuge personnel, fide HN). A Least Sandpiper was reported from Malheur NWR on 17 Dec (CG, fide TW), and 17 of that species were found on the Summer Lk. CBC (fide MSL). Two late Dunlins were discovered at Irrigon, Morrow on 23 Dec (CC), and 8 Long-billed Dowitchers appeared on the 18 Dec Summer Lk. CBC (MSL).

With all the unfrozen water this season, there were more than the usual number of Ring-billed and California Gull reports all winter. Eight Herring Gulls were reported from Malheur NWR headquarters on 17 Dec (D&SB, fide RV), and 6 of that species were observed at Hart Lk., Lake on 12 Feb (SS, KT, CM). Jefferson had 2nd Thayer’s Gull report on 16 Feb when 1 was observed at Haystack Res. (LR). There were only 3 reports of Glaucous-winged Gulls along the Columbia River this season: 1 at the Mouth of the Deschutes River on 30 Jan; 3 birds below McNary Dam on 5 Jan; and 1 at Hat Rock St. PK on 20 Jan (all MD). No Glaucous Gulls were reported from Eastern Oregon this winter. A Western Gull was photographed along the Columbia River at Umatilla on 3 Feb (CC). And rounding out the gull reports is a hybrid Glaucous-winged X Western bird (adult) seen at McNary Dam on 5 Jan (MD, BH).

Owls to woodpeckers

Nine Barn Owls were found on the Union Co. CBC and 2 birds were observed “setting up house” in a barn as early as 6 Feb in the Grande Ronde Valley (fide GRBC). A Northern Pygmy-Owl was observed at Beech Creek, Grant on 16 Dec (fide TW); 2 were heard and 1 seen at Spring Creek on 2 Feb (JE, DL, SJ); 1 was calling at Cooper Spur on Mt. Hood, Hood River on 16 Feb (J&R); and 1 was on the John Day CBC, Grant on 16 Dec (fide TW). A well-observed Spotted Owl was found at Black Butte Ranch on 6 Feb (MA, et al); this federally-listed threatened species is extremely rare anywhere east of the Cascades Crest. One of the Spring Creek Great Gray Owls was first reported this year on 24 Feb (MD), and another was found along Hwy. 31, 13 miles south of Summer Lk. WMA on 18 Feb (MSL, CE). There were no Snowy or Barred Owl reports this winter. A roost of 8 Long-eared Owls was found near Hamilton, in northern Grant on 5 Dec; the birds remained there until the cold spell hit on 18 Dec (Terry Pflugrad, fide MD). A road-killed Northern Saw-whet Owl was found on the Bend CBC near Tumalo, Deschutes (fide TC), and 2 were seen alive near Hamilton on 18 Jan (MD). Even more noteworthy was the Saw-whet Owl first discovered at Malheur NWR headquarters on 3 Feb; it remained in the same roost tree well into March (LM, fide RV). An early Rufous Hummingbird, the first this year for Eastern Oregon, was observed at Government Cove on 24 Feb (JE).

Last year’s Awbry Hall Burn near Shevlin Park (outside of Bend) attracted unprecedented numbers of woodpeckers this winter. An amazing 5 Downy, 40 Hairy, 3 White-headed, and 10 Black-backed Woodpeckers were observed there on 8 Jan (TC, CM, SS); another trip on 16 Feb found smaller numbers of all these species as well as a Three-toed Woodpecker (Charles Gates, fide TC). Apparently the Deschutes National Forest supervisor has promised that all public land within the burn will be preserved as wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, much of the burn is also privately owned; let’s hope these landowners are also aware of the value of this habitat. Up to 4 Acorn Woodpeckers were discovered in the oak woods of Soros Park in The Dalles this winter; they were first noted on 21 Jan (PM, LW, DL, m.ob.). This is the first record of Acorn Woodpecker in Wasco in recent years, and the only known site for the species in Eastern Oregon. A dead Red-naped Sapsucker was found northwest of Bend during Jan (fide TC). One male and 2 female Three-toed Woodpeckers were noted at Spout Springs Ski Resort, Umatilla on 24 Feb; 1 of them was even visiting a feeder (MD). A “Yellow-shafted” Flicker was reported at a feeder in Bend on 17 Jan (fide TC).

Flycatchers to shrikes

There were only 5 Say’s Phoebe reports this season, all in late Feb; the earliest was 16 Feb in Lake (fide MSL), a typical arrival date. Tree Swallows were first recorded in Lake on 16 Feb (MSL), and a “small flock” was found in Jefferson on 23 Feb (DL, fide HN). A very early Violet-green Swallow was found at Malheur NWR on 28 Feb (refuge personnel, fide HN). Up to 4 Blue Jays wintered in Hermiston, Umatilla; they were first noted on 1 Nov, and were still visiting feeders in town well into March (CC, HH, m.ob.) Almost as rare was the Scrub Jay that appeared at Malheur NWR on 31 Dec (AP, fide HN). The only Pinyon Jay report was a group of 90 birds found on the Bend CBC in mid-Dec (fide TC). More than the usual number of American Crows wintered throughout Eastern Oregon this season, another result of the mild weather conditions. A Bewick’s Wren was discovered on 16 Dec along the East Canal at Malheur NWR (JC, SS); the species is still considered accidental on the refuge. Another Bewick’s Wren was found at the Summer Lk. WMA headquarters on 18 and 19 Dec (MSL). An American Dipper was noted carrying nesting material at Cascade Locks as early as 16 Feb (J&R).

Western Bluebirds fared well in the Bend area; 69 were counted on the Bend CBC (fide TC), and small numbers were reported in late Jan and Feb (m.ob.). Three Western Bluebirds were exploring nesting boxes at Glaze Meadows near Black Butte Ranch on 16 Feb (MA). There were 4 reports of Hermit Thrushes, all during Dec and Jan; the species is very rare most winters throughout Eastern Oregon. A real surprise was the Northern Mockingbird found in Canyon City, Grant on 30 Dec (m.ob., fide TW). It looks like Harney can produce “Eastern” vagrants even in the dead of winter — a remarkable Brown Thrasher was found at the Frenchglen Hotel on 17 Dec (JC, SS).

Bohemian Waxwings were found in good numbers throughout Eastern Oregon this winter; flocks generally numbering less than 200 birds were reported in Baker, Dechutes, Grant, Harney, Lake, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa. Northern Shrikes appeared widespread and in good numbers, especially in Northeastern Oregon. Single
and it remained throughout the period (TC, SS).

Bohemian Waxwings were found in good numbers throughout Eastern Oregon this winter; flocks generally numbering less than 200 birds were reported in Baker, Deschutes (they were very rare in Deschutes this winter—TC), Grant, Harney, Lake, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa. Northern Shrikes appeared widespread and in good numbers, especially in Northeastern Oregon. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were found at Dufur, Wasco on 17 Feb (DL, fide HN), and near the town of Wallowa on 27 Feb (HN).

Warblers to finches

Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted in “good numbers” only in the Hermiston area during early Dec; they promptly disappeared when the cold spell hit (CC). Singles were found at Dayville, Grant on 15 Dec (CG) and on the Bend CBC (fide TC). American Tree Sparrows were found in typical numbers in Northeastern Oregon; 22 on the Union Co. CBC was the largest number recorded (fide GRBC). Others were found in Baker, Lake, Morrow, Umatilla, and Wallowa. An early Sage Sparrow was near Silver Lake, Lake on 24 Feb (SS). Unusual in Eastern Oregon during the winter, single Fox Sparrows were noted on the Summer Lk. CBC (fide MSL); on the John Day CBC (fide TW); in Bend all winter (fide TC); and on the Madras CBC, Jefferson (L. Rubin). A White-throated Sparrow was also reported for the Madras CBC (L. Rubin), and 1 wintered at a feeder in La Grande, Union for the third county record (fide GRBC). Harris’ Sparrows were found in small numbers in the usual areas; reports came from Harney, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa. There were no Snow Bunting or Lapland Longspur reports this season.

It appears that Tricolored Blackbirds are expanding their wintering range into Eastern Oregon. Two were seen near Crooked River Ranch, Deschutes on 2 Dec, and up to 5 were in that same area from 1-5 Jan (TC, LR). Thirty were near Powell Butte, Cook, on 3 Feb (LR, TC). Another Tricolored was found in Summer Lk. (the town) on 16 and 22 Feb (A&Mar, SS). A flock of 20 Brown-headed Cowbirds was found at a feedlot near Boardman on 23 Dec (CC). Rosy Finch reports came from Grant, Harney, Lake, Morrow, Union, and Wallowa; most involved flocks of less than 20 birds except the 44 seen in Joseph on 2 Dec (PS); 56 on the Wallowa Co. CBC of 16 Dec (fide JS); and up to 300 birds that wintered outside the town of Union (fide GRBC). The only Pine Grosbeak report this winter was a male and 2 female birds observed at the head of Tiger Canyon in the Umatilla National Forest (Umatilla) on 16 Jan (MD, MLD). There were 3 or 4 sightings of Purple Finches in the John Day Valley, Grant during the season, all reported with no supporting details. This species is extremely rare throughout Eastern Oregon away from the Cascades, especially during the winter; any reports of Purple Finches in eastern Oregon away from the Cascades should include exhaustive details that eliminate Cassin’s and House Finches. Red Crossbills were down in numbers in all mountainous regions this winter (only 4 sightings) (“almost nonexistent in Central Oregon after extremely high numbers last fall”—TC), and there were no White-winged Crossbills reported. The only Common Redpoll report was a single bird found at the Silver Lk. Ranger Station from 6-26 Feb (SS).

Observers

David A. Anderson (DA); Marilyn Anderson (MA); Ann & Merle Archie (A&Mar); John Biewener (JB); D. & S. Browder (D&SB); Wilson Cadyn (WC); Jim Carlson (JC); Craig Corder (CC); Tom Crabtree (TC); Mike Denny (MD); Merry Lynn Denny (MLD); T. Downs (TD); Curtis Edwards (CE); Joe Evanich (JE); Anthony Floyd (AF); Cecil Gagnon (CG); Greg Gillson (GG); L. Hammond (LH); Bill Hayes (BH); Irv Hilty (IH); Tom Hunt (TH); Gary Ivey (GI); Steve Jaggers (SJ); Jan & Rick Krabbe (J&RK); Nick Lehty (NL); Donna Lusthoff (DL); L. McGowen (LM); Craig Miller (CM); Pat Muller (PM); Harry Nehls (HN); Pete Read (PR); Lew Reme (LR); Jaime Simmons (JS); Martin St. Louis (MSL); Paul Sullivan (PS); Steve Summers (SS); Verda Teale (VT); Karen Theodos (KT); Rick Vetter (RV); Tom Winters (TW).

Field notes were obtained from the following newsletters: The Eagle Eye (Central Oregon Audubon Society), The RAV-on (Grande Ronde Bird Club), The Upland Sandpiper (Grant Co. Bird Club), as well as from personal communications with CC, MD, GG, DL, HN, JS, MSL, and RV.
Smew. 7 February 1991, at Cascade Locks, Hood River County, Oregon. OBRC record number 131.1-91-01C. Photo/Nick Lethaby.


Jim Johnson, 3244 N.E. Brazee Street, Portland, OR 97212

Up to 13 Red-throated Loons were on the Columbia R. at Sauvie I. most of the winter (JJ, m.ob.), which has been the norm for the last couple years. The only other inland Red-throated Loon reported was at Henry Hagg L. 24 Feb. (DL). Inland Red-necked Grebes were at the Forest Grove s.p. 2 Dec. (DL) and on the Columbia R. at Bonneville Dam 14 Feb. (fide ME). Seven Clark's Grebes were reported from coastal locations from SJC to Coos Bay in December and January (m.ob.). One Clark's Grebe was on the Columbia R. at Portland 29 Dec. (JJ). This author has come to expect 1 or 2 at this location annually.

Two LAYSAN ALBATROSSES and 3 MOTTLLED PETRELS were 45 mi. off Lincoln and Tillamook Cos. within the expected time frame, 11 Dec. (TS). A beached-bird survey on Clatsop Beach 19 Jan. turned up 12 Northern Fulmars and 1 Short-tailed Shearwater (MP). An out-of-season Brown Pelican was at Yaquina Head 13 Jan. (KM). As is expected, a Snowy Egret was at Coos Bay 10 Dec. (HN, JE). The only Cattle Egrets reported were 1 at Tillamook 15 Dec. (JJ), and 1 found dead near Monroe (Benton) 16 Jan. (fide ME).

Sixty-two Tundra Swans on the Medford CBC 29 Dec. was "a very high count for the valley" (MM). At least 11 Trumpeter Swans wintered at the traditional Maple Grove site (Polk) (m.ob.). A Roes' Goose spent the season at Nehalem meadows (fide HN) for the only report of this species. Single Emperor Geese were at Roseburg 15 Dec. and Sauvie I. 2 Feb. (fide HN). Single Brant were at Sauvie I. all season and Finley N.W.R. 14 Jan. (fide HN).

Four Cinnamon Teal lingered at the Independence s.p. to 8 Dec. (fide HN). The first of the spring migrants were at the Nehalem s.p. 17 Feb. (JJ). A male Tufted Duck, now annual in western Oregon, was at the Sheridan s.p. to 6 Feb. (m.ob.). A female Harlequin Duck on the Rogue R. 0.5 mi. upstream from Savage Rapids Dam 29 Dec. was the first record for Jackson Co. (MO). Inland Surf Scoters were at the Sheridan s.p. 18 Feb. (fide ME) and on Sauvie I. 21 Feb. (HN). Seven Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from coastal Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln Cos. all season (m.ob.). Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were reported as follows: singles at the Forest Grove s.p. 2 Dec., Portland 5 Jan., and Sauvie I. 15 Feb.; 4 were in the Rogue Valley during December (m.ob.). Oregon's first SMEW, a brilliant male, stayed at Cascade Locks to at least 23 Feb. after first being found at Stevensen, WA (m.ob.).

The first Turkey Vultures of the spring migration were 3 at Central Point 16 Feb. (MM) and 1 at Kentuck Inlet (Cocoa) 24 Feb. (fide LT). An unusual mid-winter report of Osprey came from Bonneville Dam 27 Jan. (JJ). One at Oregon City 21 Feb. may have been an early spring migrant. Wintering numbers of Black-shouldered Kites appear to continue on a downward trend of the last 2 years. Outside of Coos and Curry Cos., single Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Whitehorse Park, Grants Pass 25 Jan. (fide HH), and Cannon Beach 19 Jan. (JJ). An out-of-range Golden Eagle was at Finley N.W.R. most of the winter (m.ob.). Ten on the Medford CBC 29 Dec. was a high count (fide MM).

Two Prairie Falcons were reported from Willamette Valley locations, while 6 were on the Medford CBC 29 Dec. (fide MM).

Two Soras were reported from the Denman area (Jackson) 16 Dec. (HS), and 1 was seen at the Ashland Pond 23 & 25 Dec. (RS). Snowy Plover reports were as follows: 4 at Manzanita 20 Dec.; 4 at Yaquina Bay 22 Dec.; and 1 on Gleneden Beach 11 Jan. A Lesser Yellowlegs was at Netarts Bay 30 Dec. (GL), and a Wandering Tattler was at Yaquina Head 8 Jan. (KL). Both of these species are very rare in mid-winter. The only Long-billed Curlew reported was at Coos Bay 8 Dec. (PL). Single Marbled Godwits were at Coos Bay 8 Dec., Newport 9 Dec. and Alsea Bay 22 Dec.
Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen from Cape Blanco 2 Dec. and Cape Meares 31 Dec. (GL). An incredible 17 Glaucous Gulls were reported from western Oregon of which 8(!) could be seen among the Moolack Beach gull flock most of the season (DF, HN). Above average numbers of Ancient Murrelets were found along most of the coast throughout the season. Most notably, up to 27 were at Yaquina Head (KM), and 50 were at Port Orford (GL).

A Burrowing Owl at the north spit of the Coos R 8 Dec. and 1 at the north spit of the Coquille R. 9-10 Feb. were Coos Co.'s, sixth and seventh records, respectively (fide LT). Four wintered in the Rogue Valley (fide MM). Two Long-eared Owls were at the traditional E. E. Wilson Game Management Area wintering spot 21 Jan. (fide ME). A male COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD visited a S. Ashland feeder 18-25 Dec. (fide MM). A male visited this same feeder last spring. A male Costa's, possibly a different individual, was seen in N. Ashland 9 Jan. (fide MM). Rufous Hummingbirds returned to Coos Co. 6 Feb. (fide LT), Central Point 19 Feb. (fide MM), and Astoria 22 Feb. (MP). The Medford CBC found 204 Lewis' Woodpeckers 29 Dec. — a very high number compared with recent years. The 1975-1989 average is 59 (fide MM). An imm. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was reported, without details, from Curry Co. 24 Feb.-2 Mar. This would be the sixth or seventh Oregon record if accepted.

Single Black Phoebes were at Myrtle Point 10 Jan. and in the Coos Bay area 10 Feb. (fide LT). Two Say's Phoebes were found on the Medford CBC 29 Dec. (fide MM). This species appears to winter in very small numbers in the Rogue Valley. A lingering Tree Swallow was at the Kirtland Rd. s.p. (Jackson) 1 Dec. (MM). The first spring migrants were in Portland 6 Feb. (GL). Hundreds were at Finley N.W.R. by 16 Feb.

A flock of 8 Pinyon Jays was in the Emigrant L. area and visited a nearby feeder 6 Dec.-20 Jan. (RS, MM). There is only 1 other Jackson Co. record known to MM from the past 12 years.

There was a widespread, but low-density influx of Mountain Chickadees into western Oregon this season. Singles were reported from the following locales: Saddle Mtn. (Clatsop), Brookings, Cape Arago, Gladstone, South Beach State Park, Newport, and Portland. A Pygmy Nuthatch was in Ashland Jan. to 20 Feb. (MU, RS). This species is extremely rare in Jackson Co. Single Northern Mockingbirds were in Brookings 9 Dec., Oregon City 14 Feb., and Eugene all season (fide HN). Three were found on the Medford CBC 29 Dec. (fide MM). A Loggerhead Shrike was found on the Medford CBC 29 Dec. and another was in Central Point 6 Feb. (fide MM)

A lingering Palm Warbler was in Waldport 30 Dec. (fide DF). A male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK visited an Ashland feeder 12-13 Jan. (fide MM). Twenty-one Swamp Sparrows were reported from throughout western Oregon, which is about average for the last few years. All reports were of ones and twos except for 10 on the Tillamook CBC. Eighteen White-throated Sparrows in western Oregon was about average. A Harris' Sparrow which spent the season on Sauvie I. was the only one reported. A Lapland Longspur at Bridge, Coos Co. 21 Dec. was only the sixth record for Coos Co. (fide LT). Six Snow Buntings at Bayocean sandpit 7 Feb. (fide HN) were the only ones reported.

Rare winter Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Ashland (2) 1 Jan. (RS), and on Sauvie I. 3 Feb. (fide HN). The Brookings ORCHARD ORIOLE remained to 12 Dec. (AB). A Common Redpoll videotaped in Reedsport 19 Feb. (KC) was the only one reported from western Oregon.

Observers

Alan Barron, Kathy Crocker, Merlin Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Ben Fawver, Darrel Faxon (DF), David Fix (DFi), Anthony Floyd, Jeff Gilligan, Tim Janzen, Jim Johnson, Paul Lehman, Gerard Lillye, Kathy Liska, Tom Love, Donna Lusthoff, Kathy Merrifield, Marjorie Moore, Harry Nehls, Mike Patterson, Mike Robbins, Howard Sands, Ray Skibby, Tom Staudt, Larry Thornburgh, Mike Uhtoff.