Oregon's First Steller's Eider ............................................. 67
John Griffith
Oregon's Only Baikal Teal ............................................... 68
Harry Nehls
What the AOU Has Planned For Your Life List .............. 69
Tom Crabtree
PRELIMINARY DRAFT: Oregon County Maps .................. 71
Steve Summers
Birding the North Coast ............................................... 73
Anthony Floyd, Martin Campbell
Black Turnstone Seen Eating Millet ............................... 74
Mike Denny
Hawking ........................................................................... 75
Brian Doyle
Hot Pursuit ....................................................................... 76
Paul T. Sullivan
Birding Ethics: You Be The Judge ................................. 76
Alan Contreras
High-altitude, Overland Migration of Common
Loons Near Cape Blanco, Curry County, Oregon .......... 77
Roy Lawe, Range D. Beyer
Leach's Storm-Petrel — From Land! ......................... 78
Colin Dillingham
Oregon Birds Crossword Puzzle No. 4 ......................... 79
Karen Kearney
News and Notes ............................................................... 80
Oregon's Sensitive Bird Species .................................... 81
Hearing Aid for Birders ................................................... 86
Barbara M. Haas
FIELDNOTES ..................................................................... 87
Eastern Oregon, Winter 1991-92 ................................. 87
Joe Bearnich
Western Oregon, Winter 1991-92 ............................... 91
Jim Johnson
COVER PHOTO
Steller's Eider. Photo/Tom Crabtree.
Oregon Birds is looking for material in these categories:

**News Briefs** on things of temporal importance, such as meetings, birding trips, announcements, news items, etc.

**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).

**Reviews** for published material on Oregon birds or of interest to Oregon birders.

**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 18(4) — is 23 October 1992. The next issue should get to you by the first week of December 1992. 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.

*Oregon Birds* Board of Editors:
While fly fishing for lingcod on 10 February 1992, I saw an amazing-looking bird in the rip alongside the north jetty of Coos Bay. I didn't know just then, but the bird was an adult male Steller's Eider — Oregon's first.

I started birding very casually about 2 years ago and have little knowledge of the birds I see. But on the jetty that day, I had enough experience to know that the duck bobbing in the surf 50 feet away was uncommon. I had just enough experience to know I should make a sketch. I got my binoculars from the car, a cheap pair for the beach, and made a sketch in my little fishing notebook.

Getting back to my fishing, every so often I'd look at the duck to see what he was doing. He appeared very contented, just hanging out with a few dozen scoters, diving under waves, preening, standing on the water and flapping his wings, riding the rip out and making short flights back. He was a strikingly handsome bird. The sun was out and it made his colors radiant. When I got home, I keyed out the bird in the "Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds" and the National Geographic Society's "Field Guide to the Birds of North America." It was easy work. My sketch and recollection of the bird's appearance matched exactly the pictures in the books. I read that the Steller's Eider lives in the Aleutians and may winter south to the coast of British Columbia.

That was on a Monday. I was back out to the jetty 2 days later: same business, lingcod on fly tackle. The eider was in the same place, apparently with the same gang of scoters, just doing what sea ducks do. I decided to put my sighting in the local paper, for which I write a weekly sport-fishing column. "Bird of the week: Steller's Eider, in the rip on the north side of the north jetty of Coos Bay," I wrote. The column ran the next day, Thursday, 13 February. Not knowing it was an Oregon first, I thought the eider was merely a pretty neat-looking bird.

At the advice of birder L.J. Fagnan, M.D., who's a friend, I called Larry Thomborough, to make a positive identification of the eider. I called him Thursday afternoon and we went to the jetty. The duck was right where he'd been the past 4 days.

Larry immediately put the news over the rare bird hotline. I started getting calls within an hour after we got back to town. I went back to the jetty that Saturday for another attempt at lingcod (got one, too).

I arrived at dawn. Within 2 hours, I met 2 4-wheel drives full of birders. Driving back up the spit, I saw 7 more birders easier to identify than sea ducks because they carry scopes and tripods. Harry Nehls told a Medford reporter that 50-60 birders traveled to Coos Bay to see the eider.

As nearly as I can tell, the eider stayed at the jetty for 1 week. I saw him on a Monday afternoon. The last person saw him the following Monday afternoon. He hasn't been seen in Coos Bay since. If I'd known the eider would cause such a stir, I would have told Larry about it the first day I saw it, so more people could have shared the experience.

I've been called a maniac fisherman, because I spend so much time trying weird approaches to catching fish most people don't like. I've had great success at it, make a good part of my income writing about it. I started birding largely to get more out of my fishing. I started by going on a couple of Christmas Bird Counts and joining Oregon Field Ornithologists.

Getting an Oregon first sighting is among the finest accomplishments in my life as an outdoorsman. It's something I'll always cherish. And I promise never to let 4 days pass before reporting such an event if I'm lucky enough to have it happen again.

Steller's Eider, right, north jetty of Coos Bay. Surf Scoter on left. Photo/L.J. Fagnan, M.D.
Oregon’s Only Baikal Teal

Harry Nebbs, Secretary, Oregon Bird Records Committee, 2736 S.E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.

On 12 January 1974, David Horning shot a full adult male Baikal Teal while hunting two miles east of Finley NWR. Mr. Horning donated the specimen to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bird was mounted by David Hagerbaumer and was placed on display at the Finley NWR Headquarters. Jeff Gilligan observed the mount several years later and reported it to the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

When the Bird Records Committee attempted to obtain photos to verify the record, the specimen could not be relocated. The Fish and Wildlife Service had placed it in the Oregon State University Collection. When that collection was broken up the Baikal Teal mount disappeared.

During May 1992, Rich Hoyer searched the University for this bird. He eventually found it on a shelf in a Biology Department classroom, and was able to take several excellent photos for the OBRC files.

This record constitutes the first, and so far, the only record of a Baikal Teal for Oregon.

What The AOU Has Planned For Your Life List

Tom Crabtree, 1667 NW Iowa, Bend, OR 97701

The 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union "Check-list" is in preparation for release in 1993. What the final decision of the AOU Committee on Nomenclature and Classification (usually referred to as the Checklist Committee) will be on the question of what species are recognized is a closely held secret. However, a preview of what is likely to come can be obtained by studying Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World by Charles G. Sibley and Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (Yale University Press, 1990). This book contains the authors' views on what are the recognized species around the world.

The book is essentially a distributional list of all the birds of the world. The taxonomic decisions are based to a large degree on the DNA-DNA hybridization studies by Jon Ahlquist and Charles Sibley. The species are listed in the new phylogenetic order envisioned by these new studies. The accounts consist of the scientific name, author of the scientific name, year of the publication of the original description, the accepted English name of the species, the World List number (which for AOU species is the AOU number) and the species accounts. This consists of a description of the habitat and range of the species and then comments relating to the species.

It is beyond the expertise of this author to detail the approach of how scientists determine species status using DNA research. For a description of this process, see DeBeneditics, "Gleanings from the Technical Literature." Birding 20:322, 20:391 (1988).

Perhaps the biggest change suggested by this book is the new phylogenetic order of species. The new order reflects the authors' views on which families are most closely related to one another. It presents the species of North American birds in the following order:

- Galliformes — grouse, pheasants, quail
- Anseriformes — ducks, geese, swans
- Piciformes — woodpeckers
- Trogoniformes — trogons
- Coraciiformes — kingfishers
- Cuculiformes — cuckoos, anis
- Psittaciformes — parrots
- Apodiformes — swifts
- Trochiliformes — hummingbirds
- Sturniformes — starlings, waxwings, dippers
- Passeriformes — finches, wagtails & pipits, goldfinches & crossbills, buntings/longspurs/towhees, wood warblers, tanagers, cardinals, meadowlarks & blackbirds
- Columbiformes — pigeons, doves
- Gruiformes — cranes, rails, coots
- Giconiformes — this is a new order which contains the families for shorebirds, gulls, terns, alcid, hawks, falcons, grebes, tropicbirds, boobies, anhingas, comorants, herons, pelicans, vultures, storks, penguins, loons, and tubenoses — in that order
- Passeriformes — this order contains the following families (in the new phylogenetic order) flycatchers, shrikes, vireos, crows & jays, onioles, waxwings, dippers, thrushes, chats, starlings, mockingbirds & thrashers, nuthatches, wrens, gnatcatchers, tits, swallows, kinglets, larks, weaver finches, wagtails & pipits, goldfinches & crossbills, buntings/longspurs/towhees, wood warblers, tanagers, cardinals, meadowlarks & blackbirds

This alone will cause every current field guide to be out of date and in need of revision. Perhaps the most interesting changes for birders are the many proposals of the authors as to what constitutes a separate species. Some of the changes have been anticipated for years, but others will come as quite a surprise. Sibley and Monroe use a triage approach to species changes: those that are definite and are given their own name, heading and number in the book; those that are probably distinct species or at the other extreme, conspecific, and those that may be separate species or conspecific. The first category of changes is considered to be almost certainly accepted by the AOU. After all, Burt Monroe is the chairman of the Checklist Committee.

I. Species changes that are listed as Definite

The Northern Flicker complex is considered to consist of 2 species, the Northern Flicker (consisting of "Red-shafted" and "Yellow-shafted" Flickers) and the Gilded Flicker. There are 2 species of Pygmy-Owl in North America: (1) Glaucidium californicum, the Northern Pygmy-Owl, which is the species found in Oregon and occurs in the coniferous forests from Alaska to Central Arizona, and (2) Glaucidium gnoma, which occurs in the pine-oak forests of SE Arizona south into Mexico. The latter species, which differs in vocalizations, morphology and ecological requirements is to be called the Mountain Pygmy-Owl.

The Lesser Golden-Plover is finally recognized as 2 distinct species: (1) the American Golden-Plover and (2) the Pacific Golden-Plover.

The 2 races of Iceland Gull and Thayer's Gulls are lumped into a single species. "All these forms constitute one continuum of breeding populations representing a single species." This change was anticipated since it was discovered that the original research leading to the recognition of Thayer's Gull as a separate species was falsified. See, Snell, R.R., "Status of Larus Gulls at Home Bay, Baffin Island," Colonial Waterbirds 12:12-23 (1989).

The authors indicate that Solitary Vireo complex actually consists of 3 species: (1) Cassin's Vireo, the common west coast form; (2) Plumbeous Vireo, the blue-gray colored form that occurs in the central Rocky Mountains; and (3) the Solitary Vireo, the blue-headed eastern form.

The Warbling Vireo consists of 2 species, the Eastern Warbling Vireo and the Western Warbling Vireo. These species are said to differ morphologically, vocally and genetically. There is no information on how they can be separated by plumage in the field.

The Scrub Jay, Sibley and Monroe note, consists of at least 3 species. Those elevated to species status are the Florida Jay and the Santa Cruz Jay, the...
latter being an endemic to Santa Cruz Island, California, off Santa Barbara. The western mainland species retains the name Scrub Jay.

The Black-crested Titmouse is once again split from the Tufted Titmouse and elevated to full species status.

Another re-splitting is of the Rosy Finches. Gray-crowned, Brown-capped and Black Rosy Finches are all restored to full specific status.

The final 2 splits come as somewhat of a surprise. The first is the Brewer's Sparrow, split into that species and the Timberline Sparrow, which breeds in montane and dwarf birch habitat in the mountains of interior western Canada as far west as SW Yukon Territory and NW interior British Columbia and winters in the southwestern United States. It is said to differ in vocalization, morphology and ecology. By range this species almost certainly migrates through Oregon.

Finally, a third species of Meadowlark is created, Lillian's Meadowlark, which formerly was considered a race of the Eastern Meadowlark that occurred in the southwestern United States.

The final count for new species listed by Sibley and Monroe is 13 new species split off and 1 species lumped, for a net gain of 12 species. In Oregon we will gain a plover and a rosy finch, most likely a sparrow and potentially a vireo or two, subject to Oregon Bird Records Committee approval.

II. Probable Species Changes

The next category of species changes are those that Sibley and Monroe consider "probably distinct species" or "probably conspecific." The AOU's ultimate decision on what to do with these taxonomic recommendations is uncertain.

The first of these is a split of the Blue Grouse into the Dusky and Sooty Grouse. Sibley and Monroe note that the 2 differ in morphology and ecology and are probably distinct species, but intermediates have been reported. Both species occur in Oregon.

The Canada Goose complex is more of a problem. Sibley and Monroe say that this complex probably consists of "several" species. In a recent article in *Birding*, Paul DeBenedictis concludes that there are 2, and no more than 2 species involved in each of the Canada Goose and Brant complexes. "Gleanings from the Technical Literature: Branta Geese," *Birding* 23:357-359 (1991).

The Black Brant is also considered to be a probable species by the authors. DeBenedictis has indicated that the Black Brant is definitely a separate species.

A change that has little impact in North America is their view that the Yellow-legged Gull is probably a species distinct from the Herring Gull. This species normally occurs in Europe. There is at least one record for the Washington D.C. area.

Another surprise is that 2 races of the Plain Titmouse, *mormonensis* and *ridgwayi*, the latter of which occurs in SE Oregon and the former in SW Oregon are stated to be "as genetically distinct at a level equivalent to other species pairs in *Panus.*" The new species would be called Ridgway's Titmouse. One of the best places to see "Ridgway's Titmouse" in Oregon is along Deep Creek between Lakeview and Adel.

A potential change that might be a surprise only in the sense that it is so limited is Red Crossbill, which Sibley and Monroe state "there are apparently two sibling species with different morphology and vocalizations that are presently sympatric in the southern Appalachians." Perhaps additional research into western races would produce similar results.

The final probable split is the Fox Sparrow. Sibley and Monroe indicate that more than 1 species is likely included in the present Fox Sparrow complex. They do not indicate which or how many new species are likely to be recognized.

There is one probable lumping which comes as no surprise to Northwesterners. The authors consider the Northwestern Crow probably conspecific with the Common Crow, but they indicate the conservative approach is to consider it an "allopecies."

There are a lot of potential changes in specific status that Sibley and Monroe consider to be "possible." Most of these probably will not be acted upon by the AOU, but they are interesting and do bear watching for the future.

III. Possible Splits

- Tule Goose to be split from Greater White-fronted Goose
- Northern and Southern Spotted Owls to be recognized as full species
- Common Snipe to be split into 2 species, the Eurasian species breeds in the outer Aleutians
- Kamchatka Gull may be a separate species from Mew Gull
- Dusky Flycatcher to be separated into 3 species, the Common Dusky Flycatcher, the Very Dusky Flycatcher, and the Semi-Dusky Flycatcher (just kidding about this one, folks, but the rest are all legitimate)
- Bicknell's Thrush to be split from the Gray-cheeked Thrush, creating an instant endangered species
- Marsh Wrens — possible these will be split into 2 species
- Cave Swallow — the 2 populations that occur in the United States may be separate species
- Red-winged Blackbird — there may be more than 1 species in the taxon known as *Agelaius phoeniceus* including the "Bicolorable Blackbird"
- Swainson’s/Olive-backed Thrushes — Sibley and Monroe indicate these groups probably are conspecific but note they differ in morphology and in wintering areas

IV. Possible Lumps

There are quite a few candidates in this category, including:

- Lesser and Greater Prairie Chickens
- American Black Duck and Mallard — these may be conspecific but current evidence still suggests specific status for each
- Yellow-bellied, Red-naped and Red- breasted Sapsuckers
- Western and Eastern Screech Owls
- Eskimo and Little Curlews
- Long-toed Stint and Least Sandpiper
- Purple and Rock Sandpipers
- Black and American Oystercatchers
- Semipalmated and Common Ringed Plovers — the same person who did the now-discredited research on Thayer's/Iceland Gulls did the research on these species
- Glacous-winged and Western Gulls
- Craven's and Xantus' Murrelets
- Long-billed and Brown Thrashers

Only members of the AOU Checklist Committee know how many of the foregoing proposed changes are likely to result in AOU action, but it is clear that the publication of the 7th Checklist will lead to many changes in the number of species recognized. It would be possible, though not very likely, to have 28 new species created.

On the other hand it is also possible to lose 15 species to "lumping" by the Committee. Given the direction of the committee in recent years, it seems more likely to be the former rather than the latter. For some of us, it might be the best chance we have to get 700 species in North America. In any event, birders would be wise to make a note of any separately identifiable forms they see in the field. With the wide range of changes being proposed there is no telling where the changes will end.
In early 1991, after working on my county list report for Oregon Birds, I thought it would be nice for Oregon's county birders to have some way of knowing (in a general way) the status of a bird in each of Oregon's counties. I figured I was in a good position to start such lists by soliciting the information I would need from some of the top county birders in the state. To compile such lists on my own — by searching the literature and field reports in various journals — was way beyond the effort and time I had to spend on such a project. All or most of that information was in the heads of various county birders throughout the state. Therefore, acting as an editor of sorts, I sent out inquiries to see what kind of response I would get. I sent a rather complex looking 11-page chart to 37 of the top county listers who had sent in county lists that year, and to a few other selected people. This chart listed all Oregon counties across the top and all species of Oregon's birds down the side. I asked them to fill in the blanks, where they felt they could make a contribution to any county, using a number code that rated how easy it is to find that species there.

Over the next year I received 24 responses, a nearly 65 percent return. This was great to get the project started, but the chart was so cluttered that it was enough to repel anyone from trying to extract information about a particular species or county. At that point, Craig Miller of Bend suggested that he try using his computer to put all that information down on maps. So, he went to work and came up with a mapping program that has worked out great and is easy to use and change. I then decided to go directly to publishing a rough draft of the maps, instead of my original intention of publishing the chart first to get everyone involved and then the maps.

So now I'm at the point where I'd like to get everyone who's interested involved. I know the maps are far from complete and accurate. My hope is for you to use them, to find what needs to be changed, added, or subtracted, then write to me telling me what you think should be corrected. After I receive lots of additional input (hopefully in a year or 2), a new revised and updated set of maps will be published.

I'd like to thank all those who responded to my initial inquiries for information, your help is greatly appreciated and I hope you will continue that help after seeing and using these maps: David Anderson, Jack Corbett, Tom Crabtree, Elsie and Elzy Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Ben Fawver, Roy Gereg, Greg Gillson, Steve Heinl, Jan and Rick Krabbe, Donna Lusthoff, Alan McGie, Ron Maertz, Craig Miller, Harry Nehls, Mike Patterson, Phil Pickering, Lewis Rems, Mike Robbins, Dennis Rogers, Tim Shelmerdine, Paul Sullivan, Otis Swisher, and Larry Thornburgh. It is my hope that this list of contributors will greatly increase with the next publication of these maps.

Below are the codes used on the maps and a map key showing what shading goes to what code. These codes are not based on a species' absolute abundance. They are based on a species' "detectability" and conspicuousness or relative abundance. In other words, how likely is it that an active birder, birding in the proper habitat at the proper season, will find that bird? The map and codes do not show season of occurrence. They are only meant to show the status of a species when it is at its peak relative abundance in the county. I think most observers will be able to figure out which season each species is most likely to fit the given status. Only accepted records were used for species on the Oregon Rare Bird Committee review list (marked with *). There are however a few exceptions where I felt a pending record is almost certain to be accepted or where a species has been off the list and then recently put on (or back on in some cases).

1. Nearly always detected, usually without any special searching. This is due to large numbers and/or widespread distribution and/or conspicuous behavior. Normally these are species you should expect to find with no to minimal effort; basically just be in the proper habitat at the proper season.

2. Infrequently to often detected, usually requires some sort of special searching. This is due to lower numbers and/or limited distribution and/or secretive behavior. Finding some of these species may require a moderate amount of effort, while others may be almost as easily detected as category 1 birds. This is a broad category meant to fit in between the more restrictive 1 and 3 codes. If conscientiously searched for there should be a somewhat to fairly good success rate in locating many or most of these species.

3. Scarce and hard to find, usually requires intensive, specialized searching. This is due to extremely low numbers and/or extremely limited distribution and/or extreme secretive behavior. These species, though, are expected to occur every year in the county.

4. Only occasionally found, not expected to occur every year. These species can occur in 2 ways: (1) although not expected every year, these species are still within their accepted range (irregular though it may be) and can be scarce to often detected when present or...
a vagrant (a species out of expected or normal range) with 5 or more records for the county.

5. Less than five records for the county.

I feel a few additional notes are needed on a couple of species. First, I believe the Northwestern Crow map should be taken with "a grain of salt" so to speak. Many people I've talked with recently don't believe that this "species" can reliably be identified in Oregon. I find many crows farther south on the Oregon coast and even into California to be as small-appearing or even smaller than the crows on the northwestern coast. These more southern small crows even sound different from the interior crows. I've included a map for "Northwestern Crow" only because it's still on the official Oregon state list.

Another bird of recent concern and confusion is the Western Flycatcher. With the recent splitting of this species into the Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers, birders have been scrambling to figure out exactly which is which and where it occurs. There has been some confusion when it comes to voice (call) recognition of the 2 species. There are 2 primary papers that resulted in the splitting of the Western Flycatcher (Johnson, Ned K., 1980, Character variation and evolution of sibling species in the Empidonax difficilis-flavescens complex (Aves: Tyrannidae), University of California Publications in Zoology 112: 1-151; and Johnson, Ned K., and Jill A. Marten, 1988, Evolutionary genetics of flycatchers. II. Differentiation in the Empidonax difficilis complex, The Auk 105: 177-191).

Both papers give the dividing line in Oregon between the 2 species as the crest of the Cascades. Everything breeding west of the crest is Pacific-slope and anything east is Cordilleran. I have followed that for this project as far as breeding birds are concerned. I would recommend both these papers for anyone interested in trying to find a deeper understanding of these 2 species. The first paper can answer the question "Why don't eastern Oregon Cordilleran Flycatchers sound as different from Pacific-slope Flycatchers as the Rocky Mountain Cordillerans do?"

At any rate, here are the first round maps. Use them, write on them, find out what's wrong and right about them and then let me hear from you. I heartily encourage all to participate, the more who do the better the final result!
When we left Corvallis at midnight, 18 August 1991, and headed for the coast we had no idea that it was to be our biggest day. We merely hoped to see some of the unusual shorebirds that had been noted along the northern Oregon coast in recent weeks. We ended up pitching our tent (at 2:00 am.) at Whalen Island Campground near Sand Lake (Tillamook County) and fell asleep to the raspy lullaby of a Black-crowned Night Heron.

We were up and about by 6:00 am and after confirming the presence of the aforementioned heron sitting in a conifer just north of Sand Lake, we headed northward along the Three Capes Road to Lake Meares. Noteworthy birds seen along this route included 12 Band-tailed Pigeons seen in the woods just west of Sand Lake, 1 Wrentit and 1 Hutton’s Vireo seen at the Cape Lookout Trailhead, 1 Common Yellowthroat and 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks seen in a boggy area just south of Oceanside, and 1 male Harlequin Duck seen in the breakers at Cape Meares State Park.

We then spent a couple of hours birding the Tillamook Bay area, spotting 1 juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper and 2 Dunlin at Bayocean Spit, 1 American Bittern and 1 Purple Martin at Lake Meares 4 American Pipits and 2 Common Terns at the cobble beach near Lake Meares, and 2 Brant on the bay itself. As well as we were doing, with 58 species noted in the Tillamook Bay area, I cursed myself for missing 2 Parasitic Jaegers seen by another observer as they harassed the gull flocks at Bayocean Spit. One life missed while concentrating hard on identifying another (the Semipalmated Sandpiper!)

The fields just north of Tillamook yielded several interesting sightings including 1 Black-shouldered Kite, 4 Vaux’s Swifts, and a fence/hedgerow roost of over 100 Turkey Vultures — surely the largest group of vultures either of us had ever seen on the Oregon coast! The Hayes Oyster Plant stop produced good sightings of 1 Ruddy and 18 Black Turnstones as well as providing an excellent opportunity to photograph a few of the dozen or so Purple Martins present.

A thorough exploration of the Nehalem Meadows area rewarded us with sightings of 1 Hooded Merganser, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, and 1 Lincoln’s Sparrow. The drive northward to Seaside yielded 11 species new for the day including 1 Black Oystercatcher and 2 Surfbirds at Cannon Beach.

Despite a terrible lack of sleep, Martin drove doggedly northward to the southern exit off of Highway 101 to Fort Stevens State Park. Anthony dozed off, coming to full alert only to note a pair of Osprey and a Willow Flycatcher during a bog stop just south of the aforementioned exit.

Fort Stevens State Park proved as productive as always with 46 species seen, 10 of which were new for the day including 1 Western Bluebird seen at the military cemetery, 1 Red-necked Phalarope and 2 breeding-plumage Black-bellied Plovers seen at the base of the jetty, and 6 Green-backed Herons seen in the bogs near Battery Russell.

The light was dimming as we headed eastward to Astoria and along Highway 30 to Westport. The only productive stops were at the Warrenton Sewage Ponds where 3 Lesser Yellowlegs were added to the list, and at the base of the bridge to Astoria where 4 Black Scoters were picked out of a large group of other scoters.

At this point we had birded from 6:00 am to 8:20 pm and had garnered a list of 119 species while touring the coastal section only of 2 counties (Tillamook and Clatsop). Only 1 more species, the Barn Owl, was added to our daily total and it was seen in Longview, Washington, as we made a dash for Vancouver. The total of 120 species for the day took us by surprise as we had noted very few unusual species and felt we had missed quite a few common ones. In fact, our pre-count guess was 80-90 species. Needless to say, we were quite pleased by our biggest day thus far while birding as a team.

It should be pointed out that our trip is that it highlights the productivity of the northern Oregon coast in terms of birdwatching opportunities. Again, only a couple of somewhat unusual species were noted (Semipalmated Sandpiper and Common Tern) and we missed 15 species that can be easily seen along our route.

Species seen (in chronological order) 18 August 1991, Sand Lake to Astoria
Total Species - 119 (120 if the Barn Owl in WA is included)
Percent seen by both observers - 96 (95 with Barn Owl)

- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Belted Kingfisher
- Barn Swallow
- Great Blue Heron
- Western Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- American Crow
- Song Sparrow
- Swainson’s Thrush
- Savannah Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- American Robin
- European Starling
- Brewer’s Blackbird
- Steller’s Jay
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- House Sparrow
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Herring Gull
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Winter Wren
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Wilson’s Warbler
- Wrentit
- Hutton’s Vireo
- Red Crossbill
- Brandt’s Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Common Yellowthroat
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Common Murre
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Harlequin Duck
- Heermann’s Gull
- Caspian Tern
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Fox Sparrow
Yellow Warbler
Greater Scaup
Short-billed Dowitcher
Red-necked Phalarope
Cinnamon Teal
Green-backed Heron
Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Gadwall
Lesser Scaup
California Gull
Lesser Yellowlegs
Common Snipe
Black Scoter
Varied Thrush
Barn Owl

Species each observer missed:
M.C. - Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Western Meadowlark, Barn Owl
A.F. - Hutton's Vireo, Fox Sparrow

Common species missed during the day:
Northern Pintail
Northern Shoveler
Wandering Tattler
Long-billed Dowitcher
Parasitic Jaeger (see body of paper)
Mourning Dove
Anna's Hummingbird
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Bush tit
Warbling Vireo
Orange-crowned Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Brown-headed Cowbird

On the morning of 19 December 1991, while birding the town of Depoe Bay, Lincoln County, my wife MerryLynn and I noticed a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds, Rock Doves, and House Sparrows gathering in the observation area on the north side of the Made in Oregon store. We entered this store and watched out the north side window.

The blackbirds, doves, and sparrows were feeding on millet that had been scattered on the observation deck. As we watched, a Black Turnstone flew in and lit near the edge of this flock of seed-eaters. In a few seconds the turnstone was in the crush of birds inhaling millet at such a rate that it put the Brewer's Blackbirds to shame.

Not believing that we were seeing a shorebird devouring millet, MerryLynn took a photograph. Has this behavior ever been seen or heard of before in any species of shorebird? Do all Black Turnstones eat millet? Or only Oregon turnstones? ☃

Black Turnstone Seen Eating Millet

Mike Denny, 323 Scenic View Drive, College Place, WA 99324

Black Turnstone, 19 December 1991, Depoe Bay, Lincoln Co. Photo/MerryLynn Denny.
I grew up on the edge of a marsh, and so was introduced to its creatures early: industrious mice, gluttonous rabbits, quicksilver foxes, brawling mobs of starlings and blackbirds. Animals whirled about my childhood in waves and circles. Above them all, and above all the long-lit days of my boyhood, hovered the marsh hawk, a slim bird whose enormous wings carried it buoyantly through the air and into the red nightmares of its prey.

There were always a couple of these hawks in view, floating lazily along the marsh at dawn, slipping gracefully along a fence-row, cruising quietly along a stream line. They hung, wind-buffeted, only a few feet above the ground, unlike the bigger birds—falcons, eagles, guils, crows—that soared disdainfully over the faraway hills.

Living in that sandy town, we were far from farmers and their hatred of hawks, far from the fusillade of gunfire that ostensibly protected chickens and their ilk from marauding raptors. We had duck hunters and goose gunners in season, and the occasional trapper looking for coon and mink, but my young years were long before wetlands were considered anything but wasted land, and so it was a blessedly solitary life among the long reeds and woven grasses. “In-between land,” my mother called it: not quite soil; not yet water.

There, over the years, I learned the lives of each creature, and the circles that bound them to each other. While very young I cried over their carcasses and cursed their deaths, but came, in time, to read the slaughter of ducklings, or the casual beheading of a blackbird, as normal. Death bred life in a simple, inevitable calculus. Tears—for the rent bird, for the gaunt corpse of a starved fox, for smothered hawk chicks—were misplaced, and were better saved for the heartbreaks of human creatures, who tore each other with a bitter hunger no food could satisfy.

As I grew, I watched the hawks with increasing respect and affection. I learned that they were called Northern Harriers in the books, and they were the only harrier on the continent. I learned that they were like us, earth-bound and earth-conscious, attached by eye and ear to the ground and its denizens. When they come to ground they come quickly, dropping with a spinning rush on a mouse, or slipping suddenly out of the air onto their nests. Otherwise they float gently at head-height; walking across the marsh at dusk, I’d see hawks at eye level against the tree-line, riding the breeze, vigilant and silent.

They are thin birds, almost fragile, dwarfed by their own huge wings. When fully mature they weigh less than a pound of butter. Their legs are long yellow pencils armed with razor-sharp talons. The male is bright gray, with wingtips so black they seem dipped in ink. The female is larger and brown. Their vision is astonishing—they can see a rabbit’s ear twitch from a mile away—but they hunt by ear, swinging quietly over the ground and listening for sudden terror below.

The males, in season, perform a looping dance in the air to draw their mates to them. In this they’re no different from a million other creatures; I remember well the odd rituals and dances my high-school cronies performed, to impress the girls who pretended not to watch. After the hawks choose partners they settle a nest together and bring up a family. The male does most of the hunting while his partner stays with the eggs, and then with the awkward chicks. When the male makes a kill, he flies over the nest and drops the prey; the female rises into the air and catches it, in a smooth and graceful transfer. Only once did I ever see this maneuver go awry. A male dropped a blackbird, but before his mate could catch it the stunned blackbird recovered itself and darted away.

They are migratory, for the most part, sailing off in the late fall to Cuba and points south. Some few hardy adventurers stay in the marsh through the winter, eating rabbits and starlings from the terse pages of the coldest season. In April, when the marsh is muddy and asleap, the main body of hawks come back and drift across the sinuous waters, listening for first frogs and careless mice. In the open softness of spring they choose their mates and build grass nests and slide along the moist air. By June chicks teeter precariously on the edges of nests, flapping their stubby wings with exuberant fury.

For me that first flush of full summer is prime hawking time. Sometimes, on a quiet evening, I walk in the marsh at dusk, deciphering the riddling loops of the hawks, watching the wash of the fading light over quiet waters. I stare at the graceful birds swooping across the mirrored waters. Their wind-buffeted voyages across the yellow and blue lines of the marsh lift my heart. They swim patiently through the air. The lines they fly are musical to me. Against the sun, in the last light, they shine like beautiful knives. Beneath them, in the endless coursing of reedy waters, is a dense symphony of bright creatures. Here and there I pick out a note; I hope, with practice, to learn the song.

Brian Doyle, Editor, University Publications, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Boulevard, Portland, OR 97203-5798
Hot Pursuit

Paul T. Sullivan, 4470 s.W. Murray Boulevard #26, Beaverton, OR 97005

It was a sunny, warm 10 September morning when I met Barb Bellín at St. Paul, Oregon, for a bit of Marion County birding. We found a Baird’s Sandpiper at the slough east of town. By late morning we were at the sewage ponds. One pond held water, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Cinnamon Teal, etc. We concentrated on the nearly dry middle pond, studying shorebirds.

We searched through half a dozen yellowlegs of both species, small flocks of Western Sandpipers and Red-necked Phalaropes, and a few Least Sandpipers to study a Short-billed Dowitcher. Suddenly the birds in our scopes exploded. A raptor! We looked up to see a large dark bird make 2 or 3 passes through the swirling flock of shorebirds. We quickly identified the dark helmet, pointed wings, striped underparts, and light axillaries of a young Peregrine Falcon.

The Peregrine soon fixed on a yellowleg and began a steady, determined pursuit. It made a couple passes which the yellowlegs dodged, crying. The yellowlegs circled and climbed to deny the falcon the advantage of a stoop. The Peregrine lunged again, and again. The yellowlegs dodged.

We continued to watch the aerial duel. The Peregrine flew with powerful strokes, but couldn’t gain the speed or height needed for a lethal stoop. The yellowlegs was fast and agile.

Our necks tired, we looked down. We congratulated ourselves on such a sighting. It was our first sighting of a Peregrine in Marion County, a bird long sought by Barb. We talked about the juvenile plumage of the falcon. The mud before us was empty.

We looked up again. The falcon was a small dark dot high above us. Through binoculars we could see the circling bird. It was still in pursuit, making attacks. Then we could see the flash of white as the yellowlegs flared its tail or wings to dodge and change direction. Spectacular.

Again our necks tired and we looked down. I commented on how an experienced adult falcon would break off the chase if it lost the element of surprise. The young bird was inexperienced. Barb commented that it might also be hungry. I thought its hunting strategy was energy-wasteful.

We looked up. The chase was still on. The yellowlegs seemed to be losing speed. The Peregrine attacked, and attacked again, and again. Still the yellowlegs had the strength to dodge. It was still alive in this desperate game.

The yellowlegs began a long, circling descent, not giving the falcon the height advantage in large increments. It continued to evade every strike the falcon attempted. They came lower and lower. More attacks. More dodges. Still alive.

At last they were right over us. Another circle, attack, dodge, a whoosh of wings over our heads and across the pond. The yellowlegs hit the water, ducked. The Peregrine’s feet splashed. The yellowlegs skipped like a stone off water into the tall grass, alive. Safe! The Peregrine pulled up, empty. It slowly circled away, pursued by a milling flock of Barn Swallows.

Two birders in the box seats cheered.


Birding Ethics:
You Be The Judge

Alan Contreras, 4098 Market Street N.E. #22, Salem, OR 97301

The second state record of Magruder’s Teal (Anas inexpectabilis) has appeared at the Bay City sewage ponds. You are there in the drizzle at 7:00 pm on Saturday night a few hours after the bird was reported. As far as you know no one has seen the bird since the initial report, and no photos have been obtained. No other birders are present in the 20 minutes that you have been watching the bird.

You think that such a rarity needs to be photographed. The bird stays along the east bank of the south pond, where it cannot be photographed from the back road or the turnaround. Since birding ethics do not allow you to trespass by jumping the posted back fence and approaching the bird along the southern bank, you choose to approach it by walking south on the railroad tracks from the substation. As you reach the south pond, you flush a group of dowitchers. They fly over the pond and the Magruder’s Teal flushes as well, flying out of sight over the trees to the south. All of the other ducks remain on the ponds. You fail to obtain photos.

When you return to your car, you notice that other birders have arrived and are looking for the bird. You tell them what happened. The bird does not return for more than 24 hours, and many birders search for it unsuccessfully during the intervening day. Some succeed in seeing it when it returns to the ponds during the following weeks.

Have you violated birding ethics by flushing the bird under the conditions described?

You be the judge. Write your answer (typewritten, or on computer disk, please), and mail it to the Editor by 23 October 1992. Your answer will be presented in a subsequent issue of Oregon Birds (after customary editing) along with your name (unless you request anonymity). What do you think? Were you ethical in this situation, attempting to get a photograph but succeeding only in flushing this bird so that other birders were not successful in seeing this rare bird? You be the judge!
High-altitude, Overland Migration of Common Loons Near Cape Blanco, Curry County, Oregon

Roy W. Lowe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR 97365
Range D. Bayer, Oregon State University, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR 97365

The Oregon Coastal Refuges Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Newport, Oregon, conducts a variety of aerial surveys annually along the Oregon coast in a single-engine airplane. Surveys beginning at Newport and going south are generally conducted at a low altitude of 200-300 ft above sea level (ASL) until the southern destination is reached at Smith River or Crescent City, California. The return flight north is conducted at altitudes ranging from 1000-4000 ft ASL while using telemetry equipment to scan for radio-tagged birds. On 3 occasions, high-altitude Common Loon (Gavia immer) flights were observed just south and east of Cape Blanco, Curry County. Altitudes of the aircraft and loons reported for the observations are expressed as above ground level (AGL) altitudes. The AGL altitudes were estimated by subtracting ground elevations as indicated on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps from the ASL altitude of the aircraft’s altimeter.

On 13 April 1987 at 1702 Pacific Standard Time (PST), the aircraft was flying north at an altitude of 3960 ft AGL over the Elk River east of U.S. Highway 101 and about 4 miles east of the coastline. A flock of 18 Common Loons was observed flying north at about 2960 ft AGL. About a minute or so later while over the Sixes River, 2-3 miles east of the coastline, a second flock of 20 Common Loons was observed flying north at about 2960 ft AGL.

On 18 April 1990 at 1430 PST, the aircraft was flying north at an altitude of 1060 ft AGL over the Sixes River and U.S. Highway 101, approximately 2-3 miles east of the coastline. A flock of 6 Common Loons was observed flying north at the same altitude as the aircraft. As the aircraft approached the flock, the loons took evasive action to avoid collision with the plane.

On 14 November 1991 at 1254 PST, the aircraft was flying north at about 1740 ft AGL mid-way between the Elk River and the city of Port Orford about 0.3 miles east of U.S. Highway 101 and 2-3 miles east of the coastline. A loose flock of 25 Common Loons was observed flying south at about the same altitude as the aircraft.

Migrating loons are often seen in large numbers flying low over the ocean from shore during April-May and November along the Oregon coast (pers. obs.), but we are not aware of any other records of Common Loons migrating at such high altitudes or above land along the Pacific Coast. At an inland site in Florida, Common Loons were recorded flying at an estimated 1500 ft (Williams, 1973, Wilson Bull. 85:230) and in eastern New York state Common Loons were recorded at altitudes ranging from 3192-7110 ft AGL (Kerlinger, 1982, Condor 84:91-100). The lack of Oregon records, however, may reflect a lack of observation effort, as biologists and birders on the ground probably have not attempted to observe loons and waterbirds flying inland at such high altitudes. Even if attempts had been made by setting up spotting scopes to look directly overhead, loons flying in small flocks at 1060-2960 ft AGL may be inconspicuous and easily missed.

Along the Oregon coast this phenomenon may be limited to the Cape Blanco area as Common Loons may choose to fly over the Cape rather than the long way around. However, it would seem much more energetically demanding for a loon to climb to an altitude of 3000 ft for the short flight over the Cape than to fly around it if it were not maintaining this altitude for some distance. High-altitude (1000-4000 ft) loon migrations have not been observed at any other location along the Oregon coast between Nehalem Bay and the California border during annual April and November aerial surveys conducted by the USFWS since 1986. Nevertheless, we urge biologists, birders, and pilots flying along the Oregon coast to look for and report migrating loons in the spring and fall to determine if this phenomenon is more widespread.

Leach’s Storm-Petrel — From Land!

Colin Dillingham, 437 Azalea Park Road, Brookings, OR 97415

Leach's Storm-Petrels (Oceanodroma leucorhoa) are well known to be a common to abundant breeding species in the region (Evanich 1990, Ramsey 1978). However, they are rarely seen, presumably because they are nocturnal on their breeding colonies and forage far offshore (Speich and Wahl 1989, Yocom and Harris 1975). I have discovered a location near Brookings, Curry County, Oregon, where Leach’s Storm-Petrels can be easily seen from land.

Goat Island, located off Harris Beach State Park near Brookings, has a known breeding colony of Leach’s and Fork-tailed (Oceanodroma furcata) Storm-Petrels (Evanich 1990). Within a quarter mile of this nesting colony, a lumber mill operates 24 hours per day. During the night, the mill operates bright lights, and on foggy nights, these lights appear to attract Leach’s Storm-Petrels in fairly large numbers. Apparently the birds get disoriented during foggy conditions when coming to their nesting colony and fly around the lights. I presume that other species such as Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels also occur at this site, but in lower densities. One dead Cassin’s Auklet (Ptychoramphus aleuticus) has been found at this site on 27 September 1991.

I observed greater densities of petrels in the 2000-2300 hour period than at later nighttime hours. Forty-one detections have been recorded in 103 minutes of observation during the 2000-2300 hour period, compared with 1 detection in approximately 120 minutes of observation during nighttime observations between 2300-0500 hours.

The season during which petrels may be found at this location are unknown at this time. Speich and Wahl (1989) believe that Leach’s Storm-Petrels are present on their breeding colonies from 1 March through late November. My limited records show that they are present at the mill from at least mid-July (based on carcasses found at site) through 15 October.

A point of interest is that although this site provides excellent viewing opportunities for Oregon birders, it is also quite fatal to petrels. While circling the bright lights in dense fog, many petrels fall victim to the abundant power lines, power and light poles, and buildings.

Keen Sands observed a petrel collide with a light pole and fall to the ground on 27 September 1991. The bird was observed later to fly from the ground by all 4 observers present (Kevin Sands, Howard Sands, James Livaudais, and Colin Dillingham). I observed another petrel collide with a power line on 8 October 1991; this bird was also able to fly away.

Communication with mill workers and personal observations lead me to believe that up to 5-15 petrels die during each foggy night. The South Coast Lumber mill can be found by going 1.7 miles north of Brookings on Hwy 101 and heading 0.1 miles inland on Carpenterville Road. A private security guard patrolled parking lot is located under the lights. Do not park in this lot. Rather, park on Carpenterville Road. I would be more than happy to personally lead any birders to the site. Please send a copy of any field notes from this site to me.

**Literature Cited**


Oregon Birds Crossword Puzzle No. 4

Karen Kearney, 6875 S.W. 158th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97007

Across
1. Historically, one of the best places to hope for a Horned Puffin: Cape
4. Duck similar to a Tufted Duck, without a tuft
8. Environmental disaster; ______ spill
10. Deschutes Co. campground known for its Green-tailed Towhees and woodpeckers
11. Jaeger most often seen inland
14. Sea duck that nests inland along rivers
16. This oriole visited the Kearney’s hummingbird feeder in Beaverton, May 1990
17. Overlook at Sauvie Island: ______ Point
20. Smallest hummingbird
21. It winnows
23. The Clay-colored Sparrow has a gray one
25. This owl has the most monotonous call in the world
26. A fall Garganey closely resembles a Blue-winged ______
27. Oregon CBC that boasts the most species: ______ Bay
29. The mountain variety has straight head plumes
31. Pale redpoll
33. Common winter shorebird
35. The Evening Grosbeak belongs to this family
37. Oregon’s most common bird is probably the Sooty ______
38. Says “teacher, teacher, teacher!”
41. Smallest goose
44. Kinglet crown patch color
45. Shorebird habitat at low tide
46. Our most widespread phoebe: ______’s
47. The way to find the rarity is to get out your scope and ______ the flock
48. Our titmouse
49. Adult accipiters have red ones
51. The Great Knot breeds here

Down
1. The college library in this town hosted Pine Grosbeaks in 1985
2. Icterus blackbird
3. Winter sea ducks common in Puget Sound, rare here
4. Large Old World shorebird
5. Many argue this crow does not exist in Oregon
6. Flycatcher genus that drives birders nuts
7. Birds are most active at dawn and ______
9. Second state record of this sparrow was found by Lillie and Johnson, October 1991 in Fields
12. Uncommon vireo that breeds at Virginia Lake
13. Rare kingbird, best looked for in the fall
15. Campground north of Burns good for ______
18. The hoped-for first state record of this bird at Commonwealth L. wasn’t ______
19. Red-tailed tyrant flycatcher
22. Annoying, constant companion at Malheur during the summer
24. Bird’s “shoulders”
28. The best seawatch in Lincoln County
30. Yellow-billed murrelet
32. Larry McQueen may never be forgiven for not reporting his Scissor-tailed ______
34. Unlike the Cassin’s, this finch has unstreaked undertail coverts
36. Rare but regular wintering sparrow species
39. The Marsh Wren used to be Long-______
40. Orange-breasted thrushes
42. The spring and the vegetation at Fields
43. Extensive Lake County marsh
50. Favorite spring birding month

Crossword puzzle answer on page 85.
Please check your mailing label. The volume and issue number of your last issue of Oregon Birds is printed in the upper right hand corner. OB is now sent on a 1-year basis, not on a volume-year basis. In other words, your membership runs for 4 quarters — 4 issues of OB — without regard to the quarter in which you first subscribed. If the number 18(3) or earlier appears — this is your last issue. If the number 18(4) appears, the next issue is your last. So its time to send in your membership dues! If the number 18(4) or 19(1) appears, feel free to send your dues a little early. You'll be guaranteed an extension of 4 issues at today's rates, you won't have to worry about your subscription for the next year, and you'll make the accounting at OFO a little easier. The entire OB team thanks you!

New logo, new T-Shirts. OFO has adopted a new official logo — a Hermit Warbler inside a circular Oregon Field Ornithologists banner. The new logo has been printed onto quality T-Shirts in striking black-and-white with radiant yellow in the appropriate places. See the "bookcase" tear sheet in the center of this issue for an order form — $14 postpaid, specify size (M-L-XL). The T-Shirts will be available for first-hand inspection and will be offered for sale at

the upcoming Fall Birding Weekend at Malheur, see below and tear sheet. Treasurer, Oregon Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.

Sheran Jones has once again put together the Fall Birding Weekend at Malheur. Birders enjoying Malheur in the fall will want to take advantage of this program, for which a tear-sheet appears in the middle of this issue. 25 - 27 September 1992. Please call Malheur Field Station at (503)493-2629 to make your lodging and dining reservations, or write to MFS at HC 72 Box 260, Princeton, OR 97721. Sheran Jones, 9785 S.W. Ventura Court, Tigard, OR 97223, (503)246-5594.

Oregon Shorebird Festival, 11-13 September 1992, at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston, Oregon, sponsored by Cape Arago Audubon Society in cooperation with Oregon Field Ornithologists. Events include field trips to Bandon Marsh, Pony Slough, North Spit, and the New River estuary, pelagic trips out of Charleston, and programs. Keynote speaker on Saturday night is Mark Stern from the Oregon National Heritage Program speaking on Snowy Plovers on the Oregon Coast. Registration is $12 per person, $20 per family, the pelagic trip is $40, lodging is $10 per night in the OIMB dorm with your own bedding and towels. For more information, contact Lyn Topits (267-7208), Barb Griffin (756-5688), or Ken Dazey (756-7280). Cape Arago Audubon Society, P.O. Box 381, North Bend, OR 97708.

County birders' hotline. Birders who would like to be included on a county bird hotline, please send your name and phone number along with the county(ies) in which you want to be placed. I am involved in a project of producing checklists for each of Oregon's counties. Along with the checklists, I plan to publish the names and phone numbers of any person(s) wanting to be contacted if a rare bird for the county is located. This would work in a similar fashion to the statewide network now active but would not take its place. State rare birds should still be called in to the state hotline. Craig Miller, P.O. Box 6376, Bend, OR 97708.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has published Sensitive Species of Oregon, First Edition, June 1992, by David B. Marshall. "It is the policy of the State of Oregon to prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species.*** One tool used to help avert the listing of fish and wildlife species is the Oregon Sensitive Species List, required under OAR 635-100-040. This is a 'watchlist' of species that could qualify for listing as threatened or endangered species in the future and serves as an early-warning system for land managers and the public.*** This publication is a summary of the most up-to-date information on fish and wildlife species currently on the state's Sensitive Species List.*** We at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife hope you will use this information and join in our efforts to protect Sensitive Species and their habitats." Claire A. Puchy, Chief, Nongame Wildlife Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2501 S.W. First Avenue, P.O. Box 59, Portland, OR 97207, (503)229-5400.
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- 11-13 September 1992, Oregon Shorebird Festival at Charleston
- 25-27 September 1992, Third OFO Fall Weekend at Malheur
- 23 October, deadline for next issue of Oregon Birds — OB 18(4)
- 10 December, deadline to send Fall fieldnotes to field notes editors
- 4-6 June 1993, Oregon Field Ornithologists annual meeting at Malheur Field Station
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Second Edition (Revised), ISBN 1-877693-20-0, 1992, by Joe Evanich $5.00...
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Rare Bird Phone Network...

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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 number(s) 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
for more information, if anyone.

Birders who would like to represent their local birding areas should write to The Editor, Oregon
Birds, 3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212

Please feel free to send ideas and suggestions, too!
A good time was had by all birders at last September's OFO Fall Weekend at Malheur, despite the slowest fall birding at Malheur NWR — and throughout Oregon for that matter — in recent memory. Although last year's fall birding at Malheur found low numbers of migrating birds, and still fewer rarities, some unusual species were noted: American Redstart, a male Magnolia Warbler, an out-of-place Scrub Jay, and (2 weeks after the OFO weekend) the second state record of Le Conte's Sparrow (at Fields). In addition, a female Phainopepla was found in nearby (sort of) Lakeview. In recent years, Fall birding at Malheur has produced such notable species as Solitary Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Red-eyed Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Palm Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-Breasted Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, White-throated Sparrow, Rosy Finch (Steens Mtn.), and Summer Tanager.

So set aside the dates of 25 - 27 September 1992 for the Third OFO Fall Weekend at Malheur. We will once again request permission from Refuge personnel to walk out on the Benson Boat Landing Road. Last year many sandpipers and waders were observed, including Western, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, both Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwits, a Golden and several Black-bellied Plovers. A Prairie Falcon and 2 Snow Geese were also observed there.

Malheur Field Station (MFS) member dorm rates are $10/night plus $1/person/night if cooking facilities in the dorm are used. Some trailers are still available at $18/night minimum to $36/night maximum (for 4+ occupants). A few RV spaces are also available (RVs must be completely contained). MFS non-member rates are slightly higher. Meals may be taken at the MFS dining hall or you may bring your own food. Trailers and some dorms have cooking facilities. Dining hall meal rates are breakfast $5.50, lunch $5.00 (a sack lunch you prepare at breakfast time), and dinner $7.00. 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. This year MFS has a policy that the first night's lodging fee and the first day's meal fees (if taking meals in the dining hall) must be paid at least 2 weeks in advance as a deposit to hold reservations.

The OFO registration fee, besides supporting OFO, covers the rare bird slide show to be presented again this year by Harry Nehls after the Saturday night count-down dinner. Harry will show different slides than those seen last year. 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 12 September. Other than a get-together Friday night to show a few of our own best slides (please bring your favorite Oregon bird slides — not more than 20) 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. Descriptions of/directions to points of interest, bird checklists, and other information are available at Refuge headquarters.

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!
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon’s Sensitive Bird Species

Sensitive Bird Species (in alphabetical order)

- Acorn Woodpecker
- American White Pelican, Breeding Population
- Bank Swallow
- Barrow’s Goldeneye, Breeding Population
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Black Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa atrata*), Basin and Range (Steens Mountain)
- Black Swift, Assumed Breeding Population
- Bobolink
- Bufflehead, Breeding Population
- Burrowing Owl, Western Interior Valleys, Columbia Basin, and Blue Mountains
- Dusky Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*)
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Flammulated Owl
- Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Breeding Population
- Franklin’s Gull
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Great Grey Owl
- Greater Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*)
- Harlequin Duck, Breeding Population
- Horned Grebe, Breeding Population
- Least Bittern
- Lewis’ Woodpecker, Western Interior Valleys, West and East Slopes of Cascades, and Columbia Basin
- Marbled Murrelet
- Northern Goshawk
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Purple Martin
- Pygmy Nuthatch
- Red-necked Grebe, Breeding Population
- Sage Grouse, East Slopes of Cascades, Columbia Basin, and Blue Mountains
- Snowy Egret, Breeding Population
- Spruce Grouse
- Streaked Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*), Western Interior Valleys
- Three-toed Woodpecker
- Tricolored Blackbird
- Upland Sandpiper
- Western Bluebird, Coast Range.
- Western Interior Valleys, and West Slopes of Cascades
- White-faced Ibis
- White-headed Woodpecker
- Williamson’s Sapsucker
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow Rail


Western Field Ornithologists announces their 17th annual meeting, hosted by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, 18-20 September 1992, in Sunnyvale — strategically located in Silicon Valley with ready access to the San Jose airport, San Francisco, and Monterey.

Highlights include pelagic trips, other field trips, a barbecue, and banquet speaker Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences. San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002.

Bustards in Oregon? Don Alan Hall’s article on “bustards” reported from the south Oregon coast in the 1820s asked for thoughts and suggestions on what those birds might really have been. The article appeared at OB 17(4): 112, Winter 1991. Don is still accepting input while preparing a follow-up note. Contact him soon on what birds you think were identified as “bustards” in Oregon. Don Alan Hall, 37112 Moss Rock Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330-9351.

Upcoming pelagic trips:
- 26 September 1992, departs Brookings, 8 hours, Colin Dillingham, 469-9624.
Reports of Harlequin Duck sightings in the Cascade Range and Wallowa Mountains are requested. The breeding population of Harlequins in the Pacific Northwest is on the U.S. Forest Service’s Region 6 sensitive species list. Very little is known about this duck’s breeding behavior or habitat needs, however. As a first step in assessing the habitat requirements and breeding ecology of the Harlequin Duck in the Pacific Northwest, the Willamette National Forest and the International Harlequin Duck Working Group are cooperating in developing a complete record of sightings of Harlequin Ducks in Oregon. “We are interested in any occurrences of Harlequins, winter or summer records, whether recent or historic. While dates and locations of sightings are most important, other relevant data pertaining to habitat characteristics is desirable and can be recorded on sighting report forms. These data will be used to map the current and historical range of Harlequin Ducks in Oregon and to prioritize stream systems for more intensive survey efforts.” Steven Latta, Wildlife Biologist, Willamette National Forest, 211 East 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, (503)465-6320.

If you have papers, reports, or unpublished material on Double-crested Cormorants, I would be pleased to receive copies for the species account for the Birds of North America project. “We are trying to produce a draft of the account in time for the symposium on the species at the meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Society in Oxford, Mississippi, in October 1992.” Jeremy J. Hatch, Biology Department, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA 02125, fax (617)287-6650.

Birders interested in butterflies will be interested in the Portland-based Xerces Society. Why be interested in invertebrates? “Invertebrates account for 90 percent of the animal biomass of our planet and 95 percent of all animal species. They drive the world’s biological systems. These organisms are a major source of food for birds, fishes, frogs, lizards, and many mammals; they pollinate plants and crops; recycle nutrients in soils and water; produce active compounds for life-saving medicines; and indicate the health of ecosystems. Invertebrates are critical to maintaining life on earth.” Regular membership is $25.00.


- Mexico has instituted strict requirements for the temporary (less than 6 months) entry of private vehicles from the U.S. The restrictions apply to vehicles that will be driven beyond the approximately 20 km “free zone” south of the border. The free zone includes all of Baja California. You must (a) provide documentary evidence that the vehicle carries full U.S. auto insurance valid for at least 2 months or (b) post a bond based on the value of the car (as determined by Mexican Customs), which may be as high as 50 percent value (the bond is reimbursable but an additional processing fee is not). For additional information, potential travelers by private auto should contact the Mexican Embassy in Washington DC, or the Mexican Consulate nearest their residence. Further, in an effort to reduce air pollution, Mexican authorities restrict tourist vehicular traffic in Mexico City. Vehicles of non-Mexican registrants are restricted 1 day a week, based on the last digit of the license plate. The Department of State has a publication Tips for Travelers to Mexico. It is available for $1.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20401.

- Mail sent to the republics that formerly comprised the USSR should not show USSR or Soviet Union as the country destination. The name of the republic should show on the last line of the address as the country name. The following names should be used: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Byelarus, Republic of Georgia (to avoid confusion with the state of Georgia), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation (Russia), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Postage rates, size and weight limits, and restrictions now shown in the International Mail Manual continue to apply for the republics until further notice. Requirements of the USSR no longer apply to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, restrictions for those countries are listed separately.

- The American Birding Association and the Bureau of Land Management have signed a cooperative agreement to enhance inventories and monitor management of nongame birds and their habitats on the 270 million acres of public lands administered by BLM. The 2 organizations will cooperate to monitor key bird habitats, and educate the recreational public on the importance of birds to the American heritage.

- Authors of articles or publications on owls and wishing them to be listed in the second edition of a Working Bibliography of Owls of the World are asked to send reprints to Richard J. Clark, The Owl Bibliography, c/o Dept. of Biology, York
A version for the Macintosh should send should be \( b^2 \). This is the statement that I

Ornithological Societies of North America, Ornithological Newsletter, Richard C.

Users with interpreted versions of the program can make the corrections themselves. Those who obtained a compiled version for the Macintosh should send the disk back for replacement. Fred Schaffner, c/o P.O. Box 510, Boqueron PR 00602.

A new series of ornithological monographs, *The Birds of North America*, is published by the American Ornithologists' Union and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The first 8 monographs are: Barn Owl, Piping Plover, King Rail, Indigo Bunting, Spruce Grouse, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Northern Mockingbird, and Mexican Chickadee. *The Birds of North America* has been designed to replace Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds* as the primary comprehensive reference on what is known (and not known) about the biology and behavior of our native nesting birds. Each illustrated profile is being prepared by the expert(s) on that species and will include a major bibliography of references as well as unpublished information. Accounts will be released in sets of 8 as completed over the next decade resulting in 18 volumes of 40 accounts each. Four or five sets of eight will be produced this year with as many as ten sets in the following years. Special slip cases will be available for each volume of individual species profiles. A charter subscription to the full series is \$1875 up front, a regular subscription is \$175 for each volume of 40 species accounts.

Discounts are available to authors and to those who secure institutional subscriptions. The Birds of North America, c/o The Academy of Natural Sciences, P.O. Box 687, Holmes, PA 19043, (800) 345-8112, fax (215) 586-3232.

**If you are using C.J. Pennycuick's bird flight computer program, you should know that there is an error in Program 2. Line 910 contains a bracket \( b^2 \) which should be \( b^2 \). This is the statement that tells a gliding bird how much to flex its elbows and reduce its wingspan. It is a sneaky error, because many typical soaring birds have a wingspan of about 2 meters, in which case \( b^2 \) equals \( b \). Users with interpreted versions of the program can make the corrections themselves. Those who obtained a compiled version for the Macintosh should send the disk back for replacement. Fred Schaffner, c/o P.O. Box 510, Boqueron PR 00602.**

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- 22 May 1992, Parula Warbler, female at Headquarters, Malheur NWR, Harney Co., by Craig Corder and Judy Smith.
- 23 May 1992, Broad-winged Hawk, subadult flying over Catlow Valley, Harney Co., by Don Baccus and Portland Audubon Society Field Trip participants.
- 25 May 1992, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, adult on fenceline along Marine Drive, near Blue Lake Park, Multnomah Co., by Paul Osburn.
- 28 May 1992, Ovenbird, territorial male near Blue River, Lane Co., reported by Barb Bellin.
- 29 May 1992, Parula Warbler, male at Headquarters, Malheur NWR, Harney Co., by Tom Crabtree.
- 29 May 1992, Least Flycatcher, one at Fields and one near Frenchglen, Harney Co., by Tom Crabtree.
- 30 May 1992, Common Grackle, one at Malheur Field Station feeders, Harney Co., by Gerard Lillie.
- 30 May 1992, Hooded Warbler, a male at Malheur NWR headquarters, Harney Co., by Owen Schmidt, Tom Crabtree, and Dan van den Broek.
- 1 June 1992, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, in woods at Fields, Harney Co., by Dan van den Broek.
- 2-10 June 1992, Great-tailed Grackle, a bird coming to a feeder in Port Orford, Coos Co., by Alice Pfand.
- 6 June 1992, Least Flycatcher, 2 birds at Clyde Holiday State Park, Grant Co., by Joe Ewanich.
- 6 June 1992, Eastern Phoebe, territorial male at Falls City, Polk Co., by Bill Tice.
- 7 June 1992, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a bird along Lightning Creek, near Imnaha, Wallowa Co., reported by Frank Conley.
- 9 June 1992, Brambling, singing adult along Grande Ronde River at Rhinehart, near Elgin, Union Co., by Laurel Rubin.
- 10 June 1992, Common Grackle, a male and female exhibiting nesting behavior, coming to a feeder in Port Orford, Coos Co., by Alice Pfand.
- 18 June 1992, Brown Booby, one among a large feeding flock of birds off Cape Arago, Coos Co., reported by Barbara Griffin.
- 26 June 1992, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, adult on fenceline along access road to Cape Blanco, about a mile from Highway 101, by Don Hall.
- 29 June 1992, Common Grackle, 2 birds coming to feed at Garrison Lake, Port Orford, Curry Co., by Horst and Alice Pfand.
- 4 July 1992, Elegant Tern, 5 birds at Hunter Creek, Curry Co., by Paul Sullivan.
- 6 July 1992, Elegant Tern, 48 birds at mouth of Siuslaw River, Lane Co., by Bill Stotz.
- 22 July 1992, Orchard Oriole, an adult male coming to a feeder in Toledo, Lincoln Co., by Chuck Philo; and
- 26 July 1992, Masked Booby, a flyby at the mouth of Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co.

Meetings, events & deadlines

11-13 September 1992, Oregon Shorebird Festival, at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Charleston, Oregon, sponsored by Cape Arago Audubon Society in cooperation with Oregon Field Ornithologists. See note above. For more information, contact Lyn Topits (267-7208), Barb Griffin (756-5688), or Ken Daze (756-7280). Cape Arago Audubon Society, P.O. Box 381, North Bend, OR 97759.

18-20 September 1992, Western Field Ornithologists announces their 17th annual meeting, hosted by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, 18-20 September 1992, in Sunnyvale — strategically located in Silicon Valley with ready access to the San Jose airport, San Francisco, and Monterey. Highlights include pelagic trips, other field trips, a barbecue, and banquet speaker Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences. San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002.

22-25 September 1992, Neotropical Migration Bird Symposium and Workshop, at Estes Park, Colorado. Paper presentations, roundtable sessions, and panels to review management needs, conservation priorities, and state-of-the-art knowledge of neotropical migratory birds. Tom Martin, Arkansas Coop. Fish & Wildlife Unit, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

23-25 October 1992, Western Bird Banding Association, at the University of California's Motte Rimrock Reserve near Perris, 15 miles south of Riverside. Barbara Carlson, Department of Biology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, (714)657-3111.


• 9-13 February 1993, Pacific Seabird Group, 20th annual meeting, Seattle, Washington, will include a symposium on the status and conservation of Pacific Northwest seabirds. Lora Leschner, Washington Department of Fish and Game, 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard, Mill Creek, WA 98012, (206)774-8812.


• 29 April - 1 May 1993, Wilson Ornithological Society, at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Alex Middleton, Zoology Department, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.

• 4-6 June 1993, Oregon Field Ornithologists annual meeting at Malheur Field Station. Tim Shelm erdine, President, Oregon Field Ornithologists, 6873 S.W. Montauk Circle, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, (503)620-5105.

• 8-12 June 1993, American Ornithologists' Union, 111th stated meeting at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Edward C. Murphy, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-0180, Robert H. Day, Alaska Biological Research, Inc., P.O. Box 81934, Fairbanks, AK 99708.


• 21-26 June 1994, American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society, 1994 joint annual meeting at the University of Montana, Missoula, MT.

WANTED

Back issues of Oregon Birds

The National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian) is looking for a complete set of Oregon Birds. If you have SWOC Talk volumes 1-3, or Oregon Birds volumes 3 onward — and would like to make a tax-deductible donation — please contact the Editor. If you have any volume or issue of SWOC Talk or Oregon Birds, that you would be willing to donate or sell, please contact the Editor. Put those musty old issues back to work!

The Editor
3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97212

Crossword puzzle, from page 79.
Hearing Aid for Birders

Barbara M. Haas, Haas Hearing Center, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9726, (215)445-5010

Can you hear a Grasshopper Sparrow at 100 yards? Or a Blue-winged, Golden-winged, or Black-and-white Warbler? If not, then you may have a high frequency hearing loss.

For twenty years I have worked with hearing-impaired people and hearing aids. I have constantly endeavored to provide amplification which would furnish the extended high frequencies so birders with hearing loss could again hear warblers, sparrows, etc., in the field.

Hearing aids in the past had high frequency emphasis, but not the extended high frequencies necessary for birders. Other inherent problems in the devices often made them unsuitable for field listening, most noticeably the amplification of loud sounds, for example, traffic, etc.

That is, until the BIRDER was developed. I have worked closely with one manufacturer to the point that I now have the BIRDER available. Originally developed for those individuals with mild-to-moderate high frequency losses, it now has a significantly broader range of fitting. I can state with assurance that most hearing losses can be fitted successfully, especially those with pure high frequency loss.

The patented amplifier has a unique feature: it only amplifies quiet sounds. Other sounds that present problems for most hearing aid wearers (dishes clattering, paper crunching, wind howling, someone shouting) pass through without amplification, just as if the hearing aid were not there. Gain for loud sounds is available if the user chooses it, but it usually will not be necessary. In essence the BIRDER gives the most treble boost for quiet sounds by having a built-in sensor that detects and amplifies only quiet sounds, and it is acoustically transparent for loud sounds.

Fortunately for me, my husband (unfortunately for him) has a moderate high frequency hearing loss bilaterally, so I used his ears for empirical studies. When birding together it was apparent to me that he was missing many of the Blue-winged and Black-and-white Warblers and Grasshopper Sparrows, for example, unless we were exceptionally close to them. I tried everything available to help him, but there were always disparaging comments about the instruments. Until the BIRDER.

He tried one and then, not unexpectedly, said that although he could now hear these birds, he could not localize them. So now he is wearing 2 BIRDERS, one for each ear, for birding and all other less-than-ideal listening situations. I might add that when he is wearing them, the volume of the TV in the house and the radio in the car is significantly lower.

There is an added feature. They serve as active ear protection. When wearing them, you can be around noise such as power tools without excessive noise causing further damage to hearing. I use them when mowing the lawn.

And there is a further advantage for birders. I wear them on bird counts! It is amazing how much more one can hear. They should prove to be outstanding for Breeding Bird Survey routes, since birds in the zone between stops may be picked up. Wait till they catch on for Big Days! No corner of New Jersey will be safe for the World Series of Birding!

To demonstrate it to birders, I play a tape of Blue-winged Warbler and other species with high-pitched songs with the volume of the tape recorder set low and have the individual stand across a 30-foot room. With the BIRDER they are able to hear it clearly. Many have remarked that they are hearing the full song once again. Without the BIRDER they often are just a couple of feet away from the speakers before they can pick up part or all of the song. And when appropriate, we also go outside and listen.

The BIRDER has been a tremendous success for non-birders as well. The extended high frequencies allow for the high-pitched consonants to be amplified, thereby making speech, a crucial aspect in our lives, more easily understood. To date, everyone I have fit has been extremely pleased. A bonus is that music is more enjoyable.

Will it "cure" a hearing loss? No. Nor is it intended to do so. Will it aid most birders to hear birds a greater distance than they can without? You bet. A panacea, no. A significant breakthrough, yes.

The BIRDER in-the-ear (ITE) instrument is only available in a full shell model. For this model it is imperative that the wearer have an adequate-sized ear canal. In December 1991 our company will have a behind-the-ear (BTE) model available for those without adequate-sized canals. The BIRDER can be made in a smaller model, but does not have the extended range that I feel is critical for birders.

It all boils down to the fact that I have never been so excited about being able to help birders... ever. The BIRDER is doing what it is supposed to do. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in following up on this dramatic breakthrough, please let me know.

Editor's Note: This item first appeared in Pennsylvania Birds 5(3): 114, 1991. It is reprinted here as a service to Oregon Birds readers who may have high-frequency hearing loss. Oregon birders who have tried the BIRDER are invited to share their experiences. Please write to the Editor.
Winter 1991-92 was merely a continuation of the mild dry fall that preceded it. The most common adjective describing the weather throughout Eastern Oregon was warm. Malheur NWR had its warmest winter ever since records began in 1939; this was par for the course in all of Eastern Oregon. There was also a noticeable lack of precipitation throughout the region up to mid-Feb when a few minor storm fronts passed through—unfortunately, the little precipitation that did fall was only the proverbial drop in the bucket. With snowpacks well below normal in all regions (58 percent of normal on Steens Mtn., 49 percent of normal near Baker City), Eastern Oregon is heading into its sixth consecutive year of serious drought.

In general, birds wintering throughout this half of Oregon found the mild conditions very easy for survival. Many species that typically depart by Nov remained to overwinter this year—most notably grebes, ducks and geese, rails, and other waterbirds. Most passerines that overwintered were widespread and frequently difficult to locate, but some (especially finches, sparrows, crossbills, and other seed-eaters) appeared in better-than-usual numbers. In response to the warm and dry weather, many species arrived on their summerring grounds as early as mid-Feb.

The following abbreviations appear in this report:
- NWR... National Wildlife Refuge
- WMA... Wildlife Management Area
- USFWS... U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- NARBA... North American Rare Bird Alert
- CBC... Christmas Bird Count
- Co.... County
- Lk.... Lake
- Res.... Reservoir
- Ri.... River
- m.ob.... many observers
- et al.... and others
- fide... reported by

All county names appear in italics. Christmas Bird Count (CBC) dates for Eastern Oregon counts are as follows (1991-92): Baker City 29 Dec; Bend 14 Dec; Hood River 1 Jan; John Day 21 Dec; Klamath Falls 14 Dec; P-Ranch (Malheur NWR south) 14 Dec; Salisbury (Baker Co.) 14 Dec; Sodhouse (Malheur NWR north) 16 Dec; Union Co. 14 Dec, and Wallowa Co. 15 Dec.

Loons to Herons

Common Loons were reported in their usual small numbers from throughout the region; numbers wintering along the Columbia R. in Morrow and Umatilla seemed up over last winter (MD, HN). The Common Loon at Christmas Valley, Lake on 4 Dec was very unusual (SS). A Pacific Loon at the Deschutes R. mouth, Sherman on 10 Jan (CM) was the only other loon species reported this winter. Single Pied-billed Grebes were very rare winter finds on the P-Ranch CBC (fide RV) and the John Day CBC (fide TW). Three Eared Grebes remained for the Klamath Falls CBC (fide MK), and even more unusual were the 3 Eared Grebes on the Union Co. CBC (JW). Horned Grebes were found in good numbers only along the Columbia R., and the 3 on the Wallowa Co. CBC were a notable find (fide FC). Two Western Grebes on Phillips Res., Baker was a new species for the Salisbury CBC (KK, fide LH). A single Clark’s Grebe at Cascades Locks, Hood River on 8 Feb was the only one reported (HN).

Two American White Pelicans overwintered at Harney Lk., Malheur NWR, and other loon species were also reported.
Double-crested Cormorants wintered in good numbers along the Columbia; up to 150 birds, mostly juveniles, were noted at The Dalles Dam, Wasco on 7 Dec (DL). An extremely late Great Egret was reported from Sunriver, Deschutes on 15 Dec (D. Danley, fide TC), and 11 were reported on the Klamath Falls CBC (fide MK). Nineteen Black-crowned Night-Herons were also found on the Klamath Falls CBC (fide MK).

**Waterfowl**

Wintering Tundra Swans were widespread but nowhere common except in the Klamath and Harney Basins. By 21 Feb, approximately 5000 were present in the meadowlands north of Lower Klamath NWR (HN, JE, m.ob.) About 800 migrant Tundra Swans were noted on Harney Lk. as early as 24 Jan (RV). An immature bird apparently wintered in northern Wasco and was reported from a number of locations throughout the period (DL, et al). A collared Tundra Swan and its uncollared mate were observed at Krumbo Res., Harney during Feb (RV); this bird originated at the Yukon R. Delta in AK, and was banded in 1990 (C. Babcock, USFWS, Anchorage, AK).

The Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey at Malheur NWR found 26 adult and 13 immature Trumpeter Swans on 6 Jan (GI, RV). A small population of 100 Trumpeters was introduced at Summer Lk. WMA, Lake during Nov and Dec 1991; these birds, distinguished by their green neck collars and yellow-dyed wings, came from the traditional population at Harriman St. Pk. in ID. (USFWS personnel). Birders should watch for these swans as they have already begun to wander away from Summer Lk. — one was noted at Harney Lk. on 6-9 Jan (GI, RV), and another was found at Ladd Marsh WMA, Union from 28 Feb into Mar (JW). Other Trumpeters not of the Summer Lk. stock included 1 noted on Ochoco Res., Crook from 21 Dec to the end of the report period (TC, CM, et al), and 4 adults noted with the introduced swans at Summer Lk. all winter (SS).

On 26 Nov 1991, Ray Eckstrom found an astonishing adult **WHOOPER SWAN** on the California side of White Lk. at Lower Klamath NWR. This bird spent the entire winter in the company of Tundra Swans, and was observed by hundreds of birders from across the continent. At least 2 occasions — 7 Dec 1991 (MC) and 22 Feb 1992 (JE) — the bird was observed flying over the Oregon side of the border. There were a few other reports of the bird being seen on the Oregon side, but no other details were submitted (fide USFWS Refuge personnel, HN). It was last reported on 3 Mar (fide TN). This Asiatic species is considered a very rare but regular migrant and winter visitor to the outer Aleutians. Outside of AK, there are only 2 widely accepted reports of wild Whooper Swans in North America — an old specimen taken in Maine (1903), and a bird that wintered near Chico, California, about 10 years ago.

Numbers of non-Canada geese began showing up at their traditional migration areas as early as mid-Feb. Six Greater White-fronted Geese at Pt. Harney on 8 Feb (Tom Downs), and 50 Snow Geese on Harney Lk. on 19 Feb (RV) were the first north-bound migrants of those species reported. About 100 Ross' Geese were present in the Klamath Basin as early as 20 Feb (HN, JE). Two White-fronts were found on the Bend CBC; 3 were at Hatfield Lake on 17 Feb (TC); 1 was on the Prineville CBC (SS, LR). The second and probably third consecutive concentration was 740 birds (mostly Commons) on Harney Lk. on 6 Jan (GI, RV); the following table includes the results (GI, RV):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American White Pelican</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Blue Heron</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tundra Swan</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpeter Swan</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>11,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-winged Teal</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>1154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pintail</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadwall</td>
<td>1121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Wigeon</td>
<td>1177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goldeneye, sp.</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major movements of Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, and American Wigeon were not during Eastern Oregon beginning in early Feb. Eurasian Wigeon were found at their usual haunts in **Hood River** (up to 3 males) and in the Klamath Basin (at least 2 males). Singles were noted at Rowena, Wasco from 11 Jan to 1 Feb (DL, CC), and at Malheur NWR on 1 Mar (fide TW). Five Wood Ducks wintered at Pete's Pond in Enterprise, **Wallowa** (FC), and 2 were seen along the Grande Ronde R. near Elgin, **Union** on 1 Jan (TR). This species is extremely rare in Northeast Oregon during the winter (away from the Columbia R.). Up to 70 Wood Ducks wintered at McNary Wildlife Park, **Umatilla** (MD, CC); numbers at this site were down this winter due to construction disturbance.

Up to 100 scaup (mostly Greaters) were noted at Mosier, Wasco along the Columbia R. on 7 Dec (DL); 1000+ scaup, almost entirely Greaters, were found at Biggs, **Sherman** on 11 Jan (MD). Far more unusual was the single Greater Scaup at Prineville on 15 Dec (SS, CM, second Crook record; see OB 17(4):124 for the first record); and up to 3 were at Deschutes R. Crossing, **Jefferson** during late Jan (BB, JB, DL, PTS); 1 was at Hatfield Lake, Deschutes on 1 Feb (TC). Goldeneyes were well-reported; the largest concentration was 740 birds (mostly Commons) on Harney Lk. on 6 Jan (GI, RV). An amazing 100+ Barrow's Goldeneyes were counted on the Columbia R. at Biggs on 11 Jan (MD, MLD).

The adult male **SMEW** returned for the second and probably third consecutive winter in the Columbia R. Gorge. It was first reported this season at Stevenson, WA, on 2 Jan (Carroll Davis, Charles Walker). It moved over to Government Cove, **Hood River** on 1 Feb (DL), and was observed thereafter by many birders. On 11 Feb, the bird was reported "with a bloodyed head" (NARBA); subsequent observations found the duck with a damaged bill and possibly missing a leg. It was last reported on 16 Feb (Nancy Smew, 9 February 1992, Cascade Locks, OBRC Record No. 131.1-92-03B. Photo/Harry Nehls.
MacDonald, *fide* DL). It is believed that the unfortunate Smew was attacked by a mink or some other mustelid and did not survive its injuries. Red-breasted Mergansers, rare anywhere and at any time of year in Eastern Oregon, were noted at Pine Hollow Res., *Wasco* on 7 Dec (one bird, DL), and at the Deschutes R. mouth on 11 Jan (2 adults) and 8 Feb (2 adults and 1 immature; all DL, CC).

**Hawks To Gulls**

Bald Eagles were widespread and well-reported. More than 1000 were reported wintering in the Klamath Basin (*The Grebe*, JE, HN), and 79 were noted on the 19 Feb Harney Basin Roost Count (George Kiester, *fide* RV). An amazing 96 eagles were counted in early Feb in the John Day Valley between Prairie City and Dayville, *Grant* (TW).

Accipiters put in a good showing. There were up to 20 reports of Northern Goshawks, most coming from *Umatilla* (6 reports) and *Grant* (4 reports). A trip to northern *Umatilla* on 15 Feb (MD, MLD) found a Northern Goshawk, 2 Cooper’s Hawks, and 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks! There were 2 early Ferruginous Hawk reports: an immature near the Crooked R. Bridge along Hwy. 97, *Jefferson* on 25 Jan (PTS, BB, JB), and an adult west of Pendleton on 29 Feb (HH). A “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk was observed in the Hood River Valley on 1 Jan (HN), and another was found on the Klamath Falls CBC (*fide* MK). A well-described Swainson’s Hawk found at Hines, *Harney* on 22 Feb (RV, Joan Suther) was almost 2 months early.

There were 16 Merlins reported from 10 counties; Union came in first with 5 reports (*fide* JW). The single Peregrine Falcon found near Joseph, *Wallowa* on 15 Dec (FC) and 3 Feb (CC) was the only one reported.

The 7 Gray Partridge on the Wallowa Co. CBC were the only ones reported (PTS); 6 Chukar were also found on that count (FC). Unspecified numbers of Red-legged Partridge were reported throughout Dec and Jan in the vicinity of Ladd Marsh WMA near La Grande (*fide* JW); these birds were released in that area last fall. A flock of 24 Wild Turkeys was observed north of Elgin, *Union* on 4 Jan (TR, *fide* JW). Twelve Sage Grouse were already present and displaying at their traditional lek west of Millican, *Deschutes* as early as 25 Feb (Matt Hunter).

The first migrant Sandhill Cranes (2 birds) were found south of Burns on 18 Feb, the average arrival date for the Harney Basin (Dave Ganskopp, *fide* RV).

A flock of 40 cranes was noted over Bear Valley, *Grant* on 22 Feb (TW), and another 40 were seen over the community of Warm Springs, *Jefferson* on 29 Feb (Ivy Hilty, *fide* TC). Four wintering Virginia Rails at John Day on were a first for their CBC (*fide* TW); 3 were found on the Soda House CBC (*fide* RV); and 4 others were noted at the Harney 1k. Hot Springs marsh on 17 Dec (*fide* RV). Far more unusual, however, was the *Sora* found near Benson Pond, Malheur NWR on 2 Feb (TW); this was believed to have been an overwintering bird rather than an early migrant.

Shorebirds went virtually unreported. Due to the mild conditions, Killdeer and Common Snipe were recorded on many more CBCs than usual for most winters. Eleven Greater Yellowlegs were found on the Klamath Falls CBC (*fide* MK), and 4 of that species were noted south of Merril, *Klamath* on 21 Feb (JE). Note-worthy gull reports included 2 Californias on the John Day CBC (a first for them; TW); a Ring-billed on the Bend CBC (TC); and 14 each Ring-billeds and Californias on Wallowa 1k. for their CBC (*fide* FC). The single Mew Gull at McNary Dam along the Columbia R. on 19-26 Jan (CC), and 2 at the Deschutes R. mouth on 8 Feb (DL) were well east of their usual range. Single Thayer’s Gulls were found at the Deschutes R. mouth and at Hood River, both on 16 Dec (PTS), and 2 were noted on the Klamath Falls CBC (*fide* MK). Twelve Glaucous-winged Gulls were found at the Deschutes R. mouth, and 4 more were at Biggs, all on 11 Jan (MD, MLD). An adult *Western Gull* at McNary Dam on 25 Jan (CC) was an outstanding find.

**Owls To Woodpeckers**

A Barn Owl was on the Prineville CBC on 4 Jan (*TC* *et al*). Another was heard calling over Bend on 1 Feb (TC, KC). This species is very rare in *Deschutes*. The 15 Great Horned Owls found on the John Day CBC was an impressive total (*fide* TW). A rare Snowy Owl was found near 1-84 just west of Pendleton from 14-22 Feb for the only report of the species in Oregon this winter (CC, MD, MLD, *et al*). Up to 6 Great Gray Owls were observed in the vicinity of the Fort Klamath Dump during Jan and Feb (*fide* HN), and another was heard calling 21 Feb at the north end of Agency 1k., *Klamath* (HN). A Northern Saw-whet Owl at McNary Wildlife Park on 15 Feb was the only one reported (MD, MLD). There were 16 Northern Pygmy-Owls reported this season from 6 counties; *Grant* led the way with 6 reports. Three Long-eared Owls were found on the P-Ranch CBC (*fide* RV), and another was found on the Salisbury CBC (*fide* LH).

An Anna’s Hummingbird appeared on the Bend CBC (TC), it or another lingered in Bend until 24 Dec (Kathi, Stefan, & Nathan Crabtree). This is a good 7 weeks late for the species in Central Oregon! Single Red-breasted Sapsuckers appeared on the Bend CBC (*The Eagle Eye*), and on the Klamath Falls CBC (*fide* MK). A Red-naped Sapsucker was also noted on the Klamath Falls CBC (MK). Williamson’s Sapsuckers were noted in Fox Valley, *Grant* during late Jan (*fide* TW). Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported a number of times in the new burn just outside Joseph (many birds; CC, PTS), and near Odell on 8 Feb (one bird; JE, DA). A Three-toed Woodpecker was also found at the burn near Joseph for their 15 Dec CBC (*fide* FC).

**Flycatchers To Shrikes**

The first Say’s Phoebes of the “spring” were singles found near Kimberly, *Grant* on 13 Jan (Tom Hunt), at Pendleton on 5 Feb (CC); at Dayville on 6 Feb (TW); and in Wheeler on 16 Feb (DL). A truly astonishing “Western-type” Flycatcher was reported without details from the P-Ranch on their CBC (*fide* RV). If verified, this would represent an extremely rare sighting (if not the only record) of a winter Empidonax flycatcher in Oregon.

Migrant Tree Swallows were first noted at Bend on 15 Feb (Kathi Crabtree); about 50-60 swallows, both Trees and Violet-greens, were found at the Deschutes R. mouth on 29 Feb (HH). Four Violet-greens were also noted in *Jefferson* on 29 Feb (Lew Rems).

Two *BLUE JAYS* were reported this winter. The one found last fall in Union was reported again on the Union Co. CBC (*fide* JW). *Jefferson* had its second record of the species when one appeared in Metolius from early Dec into Jan (TC, CM). The Scrub Jay invasion that began last fall continued well into the winter. Singles wintered at feeders in *Union* (*fide* JW) and at Mt. Vernon, *Grant* (Pat & Sharon Sweeney), and were observed right up to 1 Mar. *Crook* had its first Scrub Jay record when one appeared at the ODFW feeder from 6 Nov to mid-Jan (Greg Concannon, Chris Carey). Yet another was present in Bend all winter (TC, KC). Thirty Pinyon Jays found on the Bend CBC were the only ones reported (*fide* TC).

Bohemian Waxwings were scarce this winter. A flock of 300+ in Joseph, and
Vireos To Icterids

A Hutton's Vireo, very rare anywhere in Eastern Oregon, was reported from the Klamath Falls CBC (fide MK). Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported on only 1 Eastern Oregon CBC (Hood River; DA). A most unusual find was the Palm Warbler reported without details at the Deschutes R. mouth on 2 Feb (Skip Russell, fide HN); although regular along the coast in Western Oregon, there are still less than 5 records for the species from east of the Cascades.

American Tree Sparrows were widely scattered, mainly in Northeast Oregon. There were 20 birds recorded on 4 CBC's, and up to 10 wintered at McKay Cr. NWR, Umatilla throughout the period (CC). Two were found at Enterprise on 3 Feb (CC), and 3 were found along the Sycan R., Lake on 10 Dec (SS). Unconfirmed Chipping Sparrows were reported from Bear Valley in Dec (fide TW), and on the P-Ranch CBC (fide RV). This species is virtually unheard of during the winter anywhere in Eastern Oregon; any reports should be supported with exhaustive details. Three very late Sage Sparrows were the only second record for that species on the Sodhouse CBC (fide RV). A number of Fox Sparrows overwintered in areas where the species is normally quite rare during winter. The only Lincoln's Sparrow reported was one at McNary Wildlife Park on 15 Feb (MD, MLD). The 2 Swamp Sparrows found last Nov at McNary Park remained there all winter (CC). There were 7 different White-throated Sparrows reported, 3 in Umatilla, 2 in Grant, and 2 in Harney (m.ob.) Single Harris' Sparrows were noted at McKay Cr. NWR on 22 Dec (CC); at Summer Lk. WMA from 17 Dec to 6 Jan (SS); at Malheur NWR headquarters from 10 Dec to Mar (fide RV), Canyon City during Jan and Feb (fide TW), Enterprise on 3 Feb (CC); and at Deschutes Park, Sherman on 10 Jan (CM). Two different Harris' Sparrows wintered at feeders in La Grande (fide JW).

Eleven Lapland Longspurs were observed along the Sycan R. in Lake on 10 Dec (SS) for a rare Eastern Oregon report. Up to 200 Snow Buntings were noted north of Enterprise on 15 Dec (PTS), and one frequented a feeder at the town of Ft. Rock, Lake from late Nov to late Feb (fide SS). Tricolored Blackbirds again wintered near Prineville (TC, LR); a "large flock" of blackbirds along Upper Klamath Lk. on 20 Feb was estimated to contain 20%Tricoloreds (HN). Forty were seen near Powell Butte, Crook also on 20 Feb (SS). An extremely late immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird was a first for the Salisbury CBC (fide LH).

Fringillid Finches

An adult male BRAMBLING in basic plumage made a brief appearance at a feeder near Umapine, Umatilla on 8 Feb (MD, MLD, KK). Although well-described by very competent observers, the bird was present for only a few hours and could not be relocated. If accepted by the Oregon Bird Records Committee, this would be only the fourth state record.

Rosy Finches were widespread but seldom encountered this winter. A flock of 50 appeared on the Baker City CBC (fide LH). An unspecified number were seen near Keating, Baker on 20 Jan (Jan Messersmith). Cassin's Finches were seldom mentioned, but Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches were found in good numbers after a poor showing last winter. Two White-winged Crossbills were reported without details from the Awbrey Hall Burn near Bend on 2 Dec (George Cruden). Single Common Redpolls continued to frequent feeders in La Grande and Joseph through the report period (fide JW, FC), and a flock of 200+ was found near Elgin on 23 Feb (Doug & Janet Eustace, fide JW). Another flock of 69 redpolls appeared on the Baker City CBC (fide LH). Far more unusual, however, was a single Common Redpoll at a Canyon City feeder on 8 Dec (fide TW).

Observers


What do you think? With this issue I am conducting an experiment. Instead of writing the fieldnotes in traditional American Birds style of prose, I am using a format adopted by other journals. I think it will be easier on the readers' eyes and more accommodating to researchers. Please let me know if it works.

Red-throated Loon

Inland reports: up to 5 on the Columbia R., Portland/Sauvie I. all winter (JJ).

Yellow-billed Loon

One at Garibaldi 14 Dec.-1 Feb. (DL, m.ob.).

Red-necked Grebe


Clark's Grebe

Reports of 6 birds on the coast from the Columbia estuary to Winchester Bay, all winter (m.ob.).

Black-footed Albatross

One seen from the north jetty of Coos Bay 15 Feb. (GL).

A pelagic trip to about 20 mi. off Newport 8 Feb. reported the following tubenoses (BO, PS, m.ob.):

- Black-footed Albatross .................. 8
- Laysan Albatross, up to .................. 8
- Northern Fulmar .......................... 5
- Pink-footed Shearwater .................. 10
- Sooty Shearwater .......................... 2
- Short-tailed Shearwater .................. 5

Brown Pelican

Late fall migrants: 1 at the Rogue R. mouth 11 Dec. (CD) and 2 at the Coquille estuary 22 Dec. (fide HN). An immature at Yaquina Head 20 Feb. (fide DF) may have wintered.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

One immature flying north past Cape Arago 1 Feb. (JK, excellent description).

Snowy Egret

Five wintered at Coos Bay as usual (HN).

Cattle Egret

Five at Myrtle Point 21-23 Dec. (fide HN); 2 at Corvallis 24 Nov.-1 Dec. (HH);
and 1 at Glide Ranger Station, Douglas Co. 22 Jan. into Feb. (DFi).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

Six in the Rogue Valley during the period (*fide* MM) were the only ones reported.

**"Bewick's" Tundra Swan**

One on Sauvie I. 8 Feb. (HN) was the second Oregon record. The first was at the same location.

**Snow Goose**

One at the Kirtland Rd. sewage ponds, Medford, 17 Feb.; unusual in the upper Rogue Valley (*fide* MM).

**Brant**

One-2 at Sauvie I. all winter (*fide* HN) was the only inland report.

**Mandarin Duck**

One male, no doubt an escapee, wintered at Scappoose and mated with a female Wood Duck in Feb. (*fide* HN). The outcome of this relationship is unknown.

**TUFTED DUCK**

One male at the Sheridan sewage ponds to 9 Feb. (PS, m.ob.)

**KING EIDER**

One female at Bandon to 29 Feb. (m.ob.) was the fifth Oregon record.
STELLER’S EIDER
A male at the north jetty of Coos Bay 10-17 Feb. (JGr, m.ob.) was the first Oregon record.

Oldsquaw
Seven reports of 14 birds were received, all from the coast.

Surf Scoter
Two found on the Roseburg CBC 14 Dec. (HN) was the only inland report.

Barrow’s Goldeneye
Reports away from the Cascades foothills: 2 males at Garibaldi 14 Dec-1 Feb. (DL, PS, m.ob.); 1 at Troutdale, Multnomah Co., 15 Jan. (fide HN); and 1 at the Nehalem sewage ponds 18 Jan. (GL).

Red-breasted Merganser
One at the Forest Grove sewage ponds 15 Dec. (HN) was the only inland report.

Turkey Vulture
First dates were given for the following locales: Rogue Valley, 22 Jan.; Euchre Cr., 8 Feb.; Brownsville, 17 Feb.; Salem, 21 Feb.; and Thornton Cr., Lincoln Co., 25 Feb.

Black-shouldered Kite
Thirty-five were reported for the period including 11 in the Rogue Valley and 7 on the Columbia Est. CBC, a high total for that northern location.

Osprey
More out-of-season reports than normal. A late or wintering bird was near Ankeny N.W.R. 26 Dec. (MP). Wintering or very early birds were along Hwy. 105 n. of Springfield in Jan. and Feb. (MH), at the confluence of Rogue and Illinois Rivers 15 Jan. (fide CD), and near Lebanon 20 Feb. (fide ME).
Red-shouldered Hawk
Reports away from Curry and Coos Cos.: 1 at the Wilson R. mouth, Tillamook Co., 14 Dec.-24 Jan. (JJ, JG); 3 at Fern Ridge Res. all winter (Ore. Dept. of Fish and Wild.); and 1 near Medford 18-20 Jan. (MM).

“Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk
One was on Sauvie I. 22 Dec. (HN), and 1 was near Finley N.W.R. 23 Feb. (HH).

Ferruginous Hawk
An immature was near Central Point, Jackson Co., 12-18 Jan. (RE, photos, m.ob.) for the third or fourth western Oregon record.

Rough-legged Hawk
A “regular showing in s. Willamette Valley” (fide MH), while much below average in the northern Willamette Valley, particularly on Sauvie I. (fide JJ).

Golden Eagle
Five wintered in the Rogue Valley while another 5 wintered in the Glide area of Douglas Co. Three were seen regularly in Dec. on Kitson Ridge n.e. of Hills Cr. Res., Lane Co., where they fed on elk carcasses (fide MH). Out-of-range reports were as follows: 1 at Baskett Slough N.W.R. all winter (fide BB); 1 at Independence 31 Dec. (fide BB) (maybe the Baskett Slough bird?); 5(0) in the vicinity of Corvallis 27 Feb. (RH), and up to 2 on Sauvie I. Jan.-Feb. (fide HN).

Golden Eagle, 26 February 1992, Baskett Slough, Marion Co. Photo/HH.}

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Golden Eagle, 26 February 1992, Baskett Slough, Marion Co. Photo/HH.
Western Screech-Owl
Fifty-five on the Roseburg CBC (fide MH) not only beat the previous Oregon CBC record of 48, but it also surpassed the North American CBC record of 52 at Palo Alto, CA.

Burrowing Owl
One at the north jetty of Chetco R. 1 Dec.-25 Jan. (CD); 1 at the north spit of Coquille R. 22 Dec. (fide CD); and 2 wintering in the Rogue Valley at Agate L. and Eagle Point (fide MM).

Great Gray Owl
Two were near Howard Prairie L. in Dec. where they regularly breed (MM).

Long-eared Owl
No more than 2 wintered at the traditional E.E. Wilson W.M.A. site, Benton Co. (HH. fide ME). One in the Coquille Valley 1 Jan. (SR) was an unusual “subcoastal” record.

Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird
First noted (a female) at Harbor, Curry Co., 23 Jan. (CD)—2 or 3 weeks early. Away from the south coast, “Rufous” were first reported at Eagle Point 27 Feb. (fide MM), and in the Salem area 29 Feb. (fide BB). MP states that this was the first year that Rufous Hummingbird had not turned up in Astoria by 23 Feb.

Lewis’ Woodpecker
Alarmingly, only ~ were recorded on the Medford CBC, 14 Dec., compared with 204 of the previous year (fide MM).

“Yellow-shafted” Flicker
Often reported, rarely described. A very good description accompanied a report of 1 at Eagle Point, 31 Jan. (fide MM).

Black Phoebe
None were found on the Medford CBC (fide MM), while 6 or 7 wintered in the Coquille Valley (fide HN), and 1 spent much of the winter at Eugene Sand and Gravel (MH).

Say’s Phoebe
Two on the Medford CBC (fide MM) was usual.

Tree Swallow
The usual mish-mash of late/winter-
ing/early records: 4 near Medford 7 Dec.; 3 on the Roseburg CBC; and 1 in Salem 21 Jan. First noted at Finley N.W.R. 6 Feb., and the Rogue Valley and Lincoln Co. 23 Feb.

Violet-green Swallow
Two were near Medford 24 Dec. (fide MM). First noted in Lincoln Co. 25 Feb., and the Rogue Valley 29 Feb.

Pygmy Nuthatch
A well described bird frequented a South Salem feeder 19-20 Dec. (fide BB). Extremely rare west of the Cascade crest.

Western Bluebird
One hundred and fifty-three on the Medford CBC was said to be low (fide MM).

Northern Mockingbird
Three at the Denman Wildlife Area, Jackson Co., 18 Jan. (MM).

Loggerhead Shrike
One in Central Point, Jackson Co., 1-18 Jan. (fide MM).

TENNESSEE WARBLER
One male was at the Marine Science Center, Newport, 5-14 Jan. (BT, DF, m.ob.) for the third or fourth winter record.

Black-throated Gray Warbler
One female at Grants Pass 18 Jan. (SS). Five reports was about average.

Harris' Sparrow
Five reports was about average.

Tricolored Blackbird
One hundred and thirty were found on the Medford CBC 14 Dec. (fide MM).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
One at Central Point, 14 Dec. (fide MM), and 1 on Sauvie I., 22 Dec. (fide JJ). One at Brookings 1 Dec.-7 Mar. (CD, m.ob.).

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH
One male coming to a Florence feeder 24 Dec.-1 Jan. (BS, ZS, m.ob.) was Oregon's first record.

Observers
Alan Barron, Barb Bellin, Mike Denny, Colin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Ray Ekstrom, Merlin Elzroth, Darrel Faxon (DF), David Fix (DFi), Jeff Gilligan (JG), John Griffith (Gr), Hendrik Herlyn, Rich Hoyer, Sr., Matt Hunter, Jim Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Nick Lethaby, Gerard Lille, Donna Lusthoff, Marjorie Moore, Harry Nehls, Bob O'Brien, Mike Patterson, Skip Russell, Howard Sands, Bill Stotz, Zannah Stotz, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Larry Thornburgh, Bill Tice. Ⓛ