

# Oregon Birds

The quarterly journal of Oregon field ornithology

Volume 21, Number 3, Fall 1995

## Gyr Falcon

at Finley National Wildlife Refuge



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*Gyr Falcon, 22 January 1995, Finley NWR, Benton Co.  
Photo/Skip Russell.*

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*The quarterly journal of Oregon field ornithology*

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

Deadline for the next issue of *Oregon Birds* — OB 21(4), Winter 1995 — is 20 October 1995. The next issue should get to you by the first week of December 1995. 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.

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# SITE GUIDE: Southern Lincoln County

Darrel Faxon, 1192 Thornton Creek Road, Toledo, OR 97391

A number of years ago, a site guide in *Oregon Birds* referred to northern Lincoln County as the heart of darkness. Times have changed. Boiler Bay, Drift Creek Meadows and other good spots in that area are regularly visited by birders, and the mantle of obscurity has now fallen on the southern section of Lincoln County. Yet this little known area has produced an outstanding array of rarities, and has a great deal of excellent birding habitat.

To explore this area, begin at Ona Beach State Park (1) at milepost 149 on U.S. Highway 101. The park itself is now famous among birders for the Tricolored Heron found there in November 1993, but it also is a reasonably good place to find Brown Creeper in winter. A vagrant Phainopepla was sighted here one fall, and the mouth of the creek is a gathering spot for gulls.

Three-tenths of a mile north of the park on the east side of Hwy. 101 is a large marsh. Red-winged Blackbird and Marsh Wren are the normal fare, but Yellow Warbler can sometimes be found in the willows bordering the marsh.

Directly across from the entry to the park is Beaver Creek Road. Fifty yards east is a pond on the north side of the road (2). Green Heron and Wood Duck are regular here during spring and summer. All 3 teal have been seen here during May. Recent development near this pond has reduced its potential as a good birding spot, as well as limiting access to it.

Fifty yards past the east end of the pond, you come to a shallow lagoon on the north side of the road. The scattered snags in the lagoon attract a variety of swallows, flycatchers, and other passerines. A Black Phoebe took up residence at this spot for several

weeks one recent February.

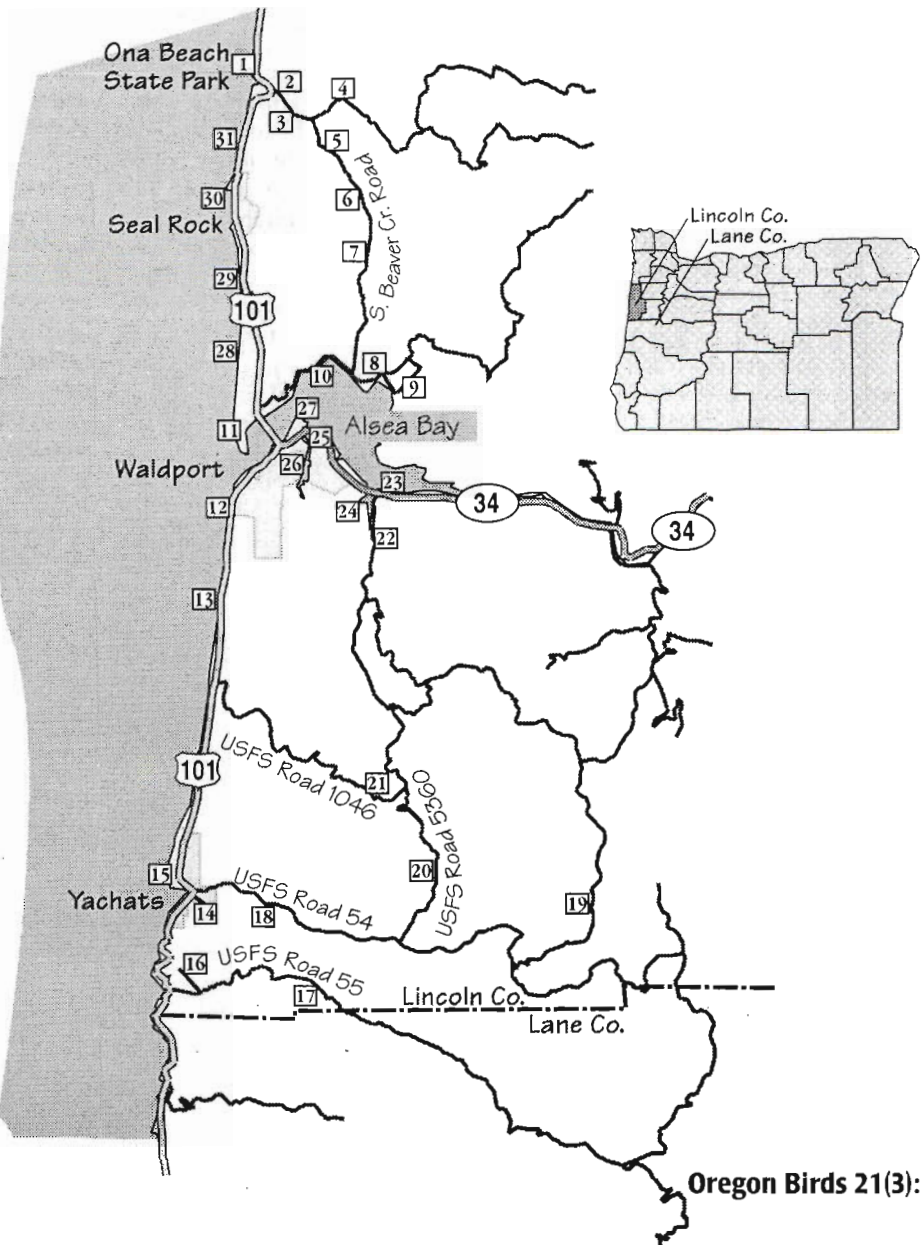
The lower reaches of Beaver Creek are an extensive bulrush marsh. American Bittern, Swamp Sparrow, and Northern shrike have all been sighted in this area. There is a small pullout 0.7 mi. upstream from which one may view the marsh (3).

At 1.0 mi. the road forks. Take the left fork 1.2 mi. to another pullout overlooking the south side of the road (4). In spring and summer Sora are very regular here, perhaps outnumbering Virginia Rails. During wet years when this field floods in winter and spring, it hosts a variety of

ducks, shorebirds, and sometimes gulls. The hillside pasture across the road has been visited by Cattle Egret, and among the swallows on the overhead wires one may occasionally find Purple Martin.

After returning to the fork at 1.0 mi., go south 0.1 mi. to the head of a dirt road (it is best to walk it) leading west (5). The road leads to a brushy area along the edge of Beaver Creek Marsh, good for flycatchers, waxwings, and other passerines. Yellow Warbler can often be found here.

Another 1.5 miles south there is a very narrow shoulder on which you



may park adjacent to a pasture on the west side of the road (6). During wet winters this pasture floods, and becomes a magnet for ducks. Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Gadwall are all regular. In the spring, expect Wood Duck and possibly Cinnamon Teal. From early April to late May, as this pasture begins to dry out, it attracts a variety of shorebirds. In the spring of 1995, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Long and Short-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Western, Least, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers, Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes, and American Golden-Plover all spent time here.

Continue south. At 2.8 mi. is another spot (7) where American Bittern has been seen. At 5.3 miles you will come to North Alsea Bay Road. Go east 0.1 mi. and look over the pasture on the north side of the road (8). Up to 8 Eurasian Wigeon have been seen here at one time. Among the Canada Geese which are regular here one can sometimes find a few White-fronts. At extreme high tide, when Alsea Bay is flooded, this pasture often becomes a haven for shorebirds. Black-bellied Plovers are particularly fond of this spot, but it has also hosted Dunlin, other peeps, Dowitchers, and even a Rock Sandpiper. A Sandhill Crane was discovered here in mid-May 1995.

Another 0.2 mi. east, go right on Bayview Loop. Soon you will come alongside the bay on your right (9). A large mudflat opens up here at low tide and most viewing is then long distance. So either check this area at mid-high tide, or have a very good spotting scope. Greater Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Semipalmated Plover, and peeps are common here, and even Ruddy Turnstone has appeared. A flock of Sandhill Cranes made a stopover in June 1994.

Near the end of the mudflat, the road forks again. Go left on North Bayview Loop. For the first one-half mile, this road passes through a series of small farms and pastures, good for swallows, sparrows, finches, and who knows what might show up. Then the road enters the woods, and for another mile wanders through a series of curves before joining Bayview Road at the top of the ridge.

Nearly all of the regularly occurring Coast Range passerines can be found along this stretch of the road: Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, Orange-crowned and Hermit Warblers, Warbling Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Swainson's Thrush, and Band-tailed Pigeon are all to be expected. After dark, Great Horned, Western Screech, and Northern Saw-whet Owls may call. Mountain Quail are sometimes encountered in the road.

Once you have come to Bayview Road, turn left and return to the junction of Bayview and Beaver Creek Roads. From here, go west 0.6 mi. to milepost 2. This is another good place to scope Alsea Bay for shorebirds (10). Marbled Godwits especially favor this spot.

Continue west to Hwy. 101. Cross it and park at Alsea Bay North Wayside (11). A small grove of trees here may prove attractive to vagrant warblers such as the male Northern Parula that set up territory for a few days in June 1994. Please resist the temptation to bird the trailer court to the west. It is heavily posted and the owners are not friendly to birders.

Back on Hwy. 101, go south into Waldport. At the south end of town is a small parking lot next to the seawall (12). Here one can see the usual assortment of gulls and cormorants and a few ducks. Bald Eagles often pass overhead or even perch on the beach to the south. Caspian Terns can sometimes be observed fishing, and during Elegant Tern incursions, this species has been regular here as well.

Continue south on Hwy. 101. At 1.3 mi. there is a gravel pullout and access to the beach. A creek here is a gathering spot for gulls (13). Most of them will be of the Glaucous-winged/Western hybrid complex, but Black-legged Kittiwake and Glaucous Gull are possible.

Driving south towards Yachats, keep your eyes open. In recent years the Yachats/Cape Perpetua area has produced sightings of a number of rarities: Phainopepla, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Dickcissel, Lazuli Bunting, Black-chinned, Calliope, and Allen's Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker (twice!), Flammulated Owl, Rock Wren, Burrowing Owl, and Bohemian Waxwing. Why this section of the coast has played host to so many

vagrants normally found east of the Cascades is a mystery, and unfortunately, there is no one area that is predictably good for them, as most have been seen at random sites. The hummingbirds were all recorded at one feeder, but the people who maintained it no longer live there. The Black-chinned Hummingbirds apparently even nested, as adults remained throughout the season and young were later seen at the same feeder.

In Yachats, take 2nd St. to Ocean View Drive. Go 0.1 mi. west to a gravel pullout near the mouth of the river. From here you may check out the gulls that congregate at low tide (14). Herring Gulls can actually be common. Glaucous Gull is usually easy to find, and even Black-legged Kittiwake is often sighted. California, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls are visitors during migration. On rare occasions, shorebirds stop here. Marbled Godwit and American Avocet (once) have been seen. To get a good view of the rocky coast just north of the river mouth, go 0.4 mi. to a pullout at the end of the guardrail (15). The surfline is usually full of scoters, and in summer Marbled Murrelets frequent the nearshore ocean.

Returning to Hwy. 101, go south 2.2 mi. to Cape Perpetua. Turn east on U.S. Forest Service Road 55. At 0.8 mi. turn left and drive to the Cape Perpetua overlook (16). A trail from the parking lot leads through the woods to a viewpoint. In spring and summer, these woods resound with the calls of Varied Thrush. The viewpoint at the end of the trail yields a spectacular view of the coastline, and might be an excellent spot from which to conduct a daywatch during spring migration. This spot is also fairly reliable for Red Crossbill, even when they are hard to find elsewhere.

After returning to road 55, go east 2.8 mi. to a large clearcut on the south side of the road (17). Most of the interior Coast Range breeding birds can be found here. MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers, White-crowned Sparrow, and Vaux's Swift are all fairly common. Cooper's Hawk has been seen. A Loggerhead Shrike was a surprising find in June 1991. Shortly after passing this point, road 55 goes into Lane County. There is good birding habitat all along the road until it enters Lincoln County again near

Keller Creek, but for the purpose of this guide, return to Hwy. 101 and Yachats.

Just north of the Yachats River, take the Yachats River Road east. At 1.6 miles you come to a large pasture (18). A sizable group of Rough-winged Swallows nest in the river cutbank here, and American Kestrel can often be found in winter.

For the next several miles, the road passes through a lot of good riparian habitat, the type of habitat most likely to harbor Solitary Vireo in Lincoln County.

Nearly 6 miles upriver, after crossing a bridge, turn left on the North Yachats River road. Go 1.3 mi to the North Fork covered bridge (19). According to local residents, Dipper is highly reliable here (although I did not find one when I looked).

Return to the Yachats River road. Go 2.5 mi. west and turn right on Beamer Creek Road (USFS Road 5360). It wanders through some interior Coast Range high country, offering good birding in a variety of habitats. Mountain Quail, Spotted Owl, and White-headed Woodpecker have all been seen along this road, the owl in mixed forest with a sprinkling of defective trees, and the woodpecker and quail near clearcuts. Two recommended stops are at 1.2 mi. (20), and 4.1 mi. (21). The second spot, in particular, is good for Mountain Quail. For best results, turn left on USFS Road 1046 where it joins road 5360. Go 0.2 mi. to where a logging road goes out into the clearcut. A short walk along this road will usually produce a quail. Ruffed Grouse have also been sighted here, and Olive-sided Flycatcher, a species getting harder to find in the Coast Range, is still pretty easy here along the forest edge.

At 8 miles, road 5360 joins USFS road 53. Continuing north another 1.6 mi. you come to Lakeside Drive at the south end of Eckman Lake (22). The Marsh on the south side of the road is good for Virginia Rail. In late summer and fall, an extensive mudflat opens up at the south end of the lake. It attracts many shorebirds, including both yellowlegs and peeps. Pectoral Sandpiper highly favors this area, and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was seen once. The lake itself is a haven for ducks during the winter. Some of the

more uncommon species recorded during fall are Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal. Most waterfowl tend to move out of Eckman Lake by mid-January, so a visit between September and January will likely be most productive.

At the north end of Eckman Lake, you will come to Oregon Highway 34. Go west 0.1 mi. to a spot overlooking the lake to the south, and Eckman Slough to the north (23). More good views of waterfowl can be obtained here. Osprey and Bald Eagle often soar overhead. The slough is a regular hang-out for Green Heron. At low to mid-tide it is good for shorebirds, especially peeps. A Long-toed Stint was found here in August 1990.

Before leaving the Eckman Lake area, be sure to check the northwest shore near Nelson Wayside (24). Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese at times occur among the domestic and semi-tame Canada Geese here. In late summer, Purple Martins gather on the overhead wires.

When you arrive in Waldport, check the boat basin just east of Lint Slough (25). It is a good spot for grebes and diving ducks, and has one record for Yellow-billed Loon.

After crossing Lint Slough, turn left, and go past the high school to Lint Slough Road. Two-tenths of a mile in, you come to the Waldport sewage pond (26). It is a small pond, and only recently completed, so its potential as a birding spot is unknown. One advantage for birders is that it is easily viewed from outside the fence.

Now return along Lint Slough Road, cross Hwy 34, and go north to the port docks. Every winter several Barrow's Goldeneye hang out at this spot (27). They are quite often found very close to shore, or even within the dock area.

To complete the tour, return to Hwy. 101 and go north. Between Waldport and Seal Rock there are a number of creeks and seeps flowing onto the open beach. During migration they often attract thousands of shorebirds. Birding here is highly variable, depending on the weather and the number of tourists, but it can be spectacular. There are 3 main access points to this beach. At each location, the habitat is slightly different and attracts different birds.

The first access is 1.0 mi. north of the Alsea Bay Bridge, off Sandpiper Drive. Turn left, and follow it 0.7 mi.

to Oceania Drive. Turn right, go 0.3 mi. and park next to a trail leading to the beach (28). The seepage flowing onto the beach here is highly attractive to shorebirds, but may not be to birders. You may wish to wear boots. If the birds are there, you will soon forget what is underfoot. Sanderling, Dunlin, Western, Least, and Baird's Sandpipers, both turnstones, Red Knot, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover and dowitchers are all regular during migration. More unusual species recorded here include Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (fairly regular in fall), Franklin's Gull, Common Tern, and Parasitic Jaeger.

When leaving this area, you might wish to turn left off Sandpiper Drive onto Parker St., and drive its full length. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sometimes hang around in the trees along the brow of the hill to the east of the street, particularly south of the intersection of Parker and Cutter Streets. A Blue Jay visited a feeder in this area in November 1994.

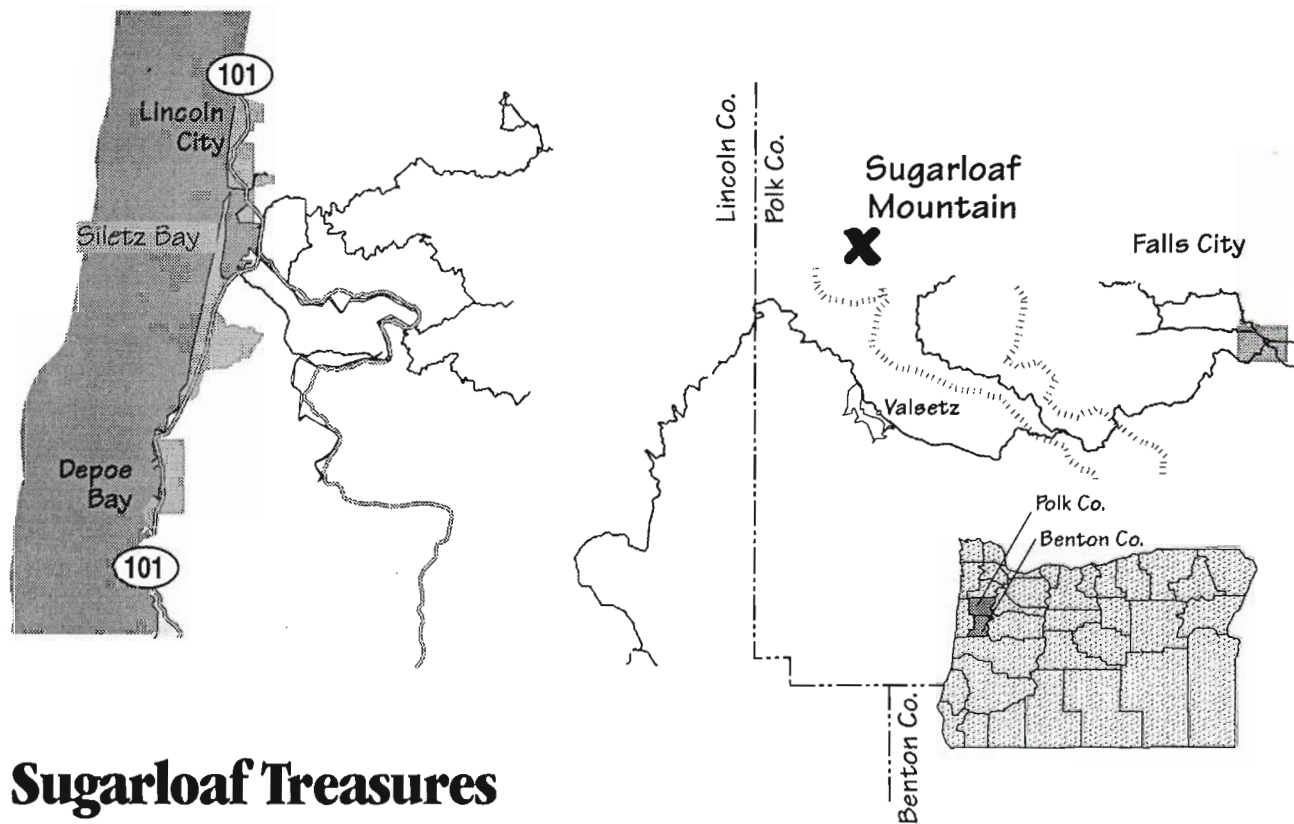
The next stop to the north on Hwy. 101 is at Driftwood State Park (29). It serves primarily as a spot from which to look to see whether shorebirds are concentrated north or south, but on occasion there will be concentrations of birds near the mouth of the creek a short way to the south. (Warning: For several years there have been a number of car burglaries along this stretch of the coast. Birders have had scopes stolen from locked cars at this park).

From Driftwood Park, go 1.3 mi. north to Quail St. The beach here is a combination of sandy and rocky areas (30). The sandy beach often hosts many of the same species that use the area off Sandpiper Drive, but also seems to be a bit more attractive to larger shorebirds. Whimbrel are common here, and Marbled, Hudsonian, and Bar-tailed Godwit have all been seen! The rocky area often plays host to Surf-birds, Wandering Tattler, and both species of turnstone. During winter, a little searching here will usually turn up a Rock Sandpiper or 2, and a Great Knot was reported here in October 1991. Over a dozen Harlequin Ducks can often be found in the surf, and Pigeon Guillemots nest in the nearby cliff face.

The final stop is just a little to the north at Seal Rocks. Most of the species found in the rocky area off Quail St. can be found here as well, and a

scanning of the ocean from one of the several pullouts along Hwy. 101 can sometimes produce a sighting of shearwaters or a Fulmar. If you want

to try for something more unusual, try checking the grassy headland at Seal Rock State Park (31). A Smith's Longspur once turned up here. ◇



## Sugarloaf Treasures

Bill Tice, 750 Wood Street, Falls City, OR 97344

The weather was just beautiful for an early November day. Blue sky, no clouds, and only a slight breeze. The view was great, but there was not a bird in sight, and there was not even one on our "heard only" list yet.

"This place can be pretty birdless sometimes," said Roy Gerig, my partner on many birding forays.

"Yea, I know what you mean," I replied.

Here we were on Sugarloaf Mountain trying to crank out the first Polk County record of Rosy Finch. If we

were to gear our hopes up by what was seen or heard in the first 5 minutes we would have lots of reason for pessimism. This was simply one of those days when the birds were few and far between. I had to admit that I was about as optimistic as I dared to be. But after all, Rosy Finches seem to show up on Mary's Peak every November, so why should Benton County have the market of all the coast range counties? We reasoned that they had to be found in our county as well since we have a few

mountains almost as inviting to any rational Rosy Finch.

Sugarloaf Mountain (1052 Km) is a ridge that runs north and south for about 400 yards. One could drive to the top with a 4-wheel drive, but we find it better to park after 150 yards and walk the rest of the way. Upon reaching the top on this birdless day we slowed down so as not to scare any birds that were not around anyway. We looked over the grassy flat on top, which is about the size of a basketball court. After a few seconds

our eyes rested on one lone, small, whitish bird, barely visible about 30 feet away.

"What's that," said Roy?

"Snow Bunting," I replied. "I'll take it."

"Yea, me too," was the natural response.

This was only Polk County's second record. If that was all we saw that day it would have been worth it, but there was more to come. We didn't have a field guide with us, and Roy felt we needed one, and he also felt he needed some exercise, so off he went back to the car to get both. Why he felt we needed the field guide I never really could figure out, but I didn't really care at this point since the bird was tolerating us real well and it isn't often I get good looks at snow buntings.

He was back in record time, which proved to me that he couldn't have been in too bad of physical shape. Upon reaching the last incline to the top I heard him say something about "2 birds just flew in." But because of looking through my scope with tunnel vision I certainly didn't notice them and was rather unconcerned as I thought, "What could be better than this?"

"They landed right over there by that tree," he said. "Rosy Finches," he declared after getting a bead on them.

The way he said this sounded to me as if he were joking, but since he kept pursuing the matter I realized he wasn't and soon saw them with my own eyes. They only stayed for about 30 seconds, but that was long enough. Our strategy had paid big dividends and we were ecstatic to say the least. It isn't very often that 2 top county listers each get 2 county birds 5 minutes apart. The next bird to get on our list for the day was a Merlin, which appeared to be in a hurry to get some California sunshine. Gray Jays next put in a show, which are a always nice bird to find anywhere in the coast range. After this they were all "trash birds" as far as we were concerned.

The next day there were 4 Rosy Finches (one without a tail), and 3 days later there were 5 (all with tails).

Two days later it snowed heavily, making the place inaccessible, much to my dismay. The mountain remained out of reach for 2 long months, until

7 January, and even then the wind and sleet would turn off the most devout birders. It must have turned off the birds as well for there were none around. I got up there again on the 20 January to be greeted by cold wind. No birds were around, but I brought a bucket full of bird-seed and scattered it around the summit. For the next week it was unseasonably dry, until the day I was able to get up there again on 26 January. Enlivening my spirits were 2 Rosy Finches. The next day there were about 20 Rosy Finches, which is certainly noteworthy. The last time any were seen was on 3 February when there was a flock of 14, although twice afterward my seed was eaten.

Also to show up here this fall was Clark's Nutcracker, Cassin's Finch, and a Swainson's Hawk, all considered accidental to Polk County by Summers/Miller standards (less than 5 records), and these were all within a 5-week time frame! As I think about these exciting finds I am forced to wonder how well the Coast Range mountains get coverage by birders. Most of us usually drive through them on our way to the coast where the chances of something rarer are greater.

But for those of us who have taken a greater interest in county listing, the Coast Range mountains may offer chances for some unusual finds, as our experience indicated to me this fall. Mary's Peak has had such visitors in the past as Mountain Bluebird (3 records), Snow Bunting (3 records), Williamson's Sapsucker (2 records), Red-naped Sapsucker (2 records), Black-billed Magpie, Mountain Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Rock Wren, Dusky Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcrackers, with Rosy Finches appearing to be annual. Mount Hebo in Tillamook County has had visitors like Black Swift (2 records), and Mountain Bluebird. Saddle Mountain in Clatsop County, has had records of Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds, Rosy Finches, with Mountain Chickadees a few times. Apparently there are 2 pairs of Rock Wrens on the mountain. Hogback Mountain in Lincoln County, had a Clark's Nutcracker and Horned Larks this fall on a 1-time visit. Horned Larks, rather tough birds to get on the coast, are probably regular in the higher eleva-

tions in the Coast Range during fall migration. These are the only records for these places that I am aware of. I would be interested to know of more. It may be found in the future that some of these birds are more regular than is now believed if greater coverage is given.

Some people think that the Broad-winged Hawks migrate from B.C. to California right down the Coast Range, and I feel there may be some validity to this. Don't laugh, the surface of this mystery is not even scratched yet! And it would be extremely embarrassing to have found a place where they were migrating through which was right under our noses.

Granted, in the fall there are other more inviting places to bird, especially if it is raining. And often these high places are simply inaccessible due to snow. These are 2 other good reasons why they have received little coverage.

Our knowledge of other species in the coast range still has holes in it. What about species like Rock Wren, Dusky Flycatcher, and Townsend's Solitaire. How about Harlequin Duck or Barred Owl? What is the status of these birds west of the Willamette Valley? What other possibilities of vagrancy are there on these higher places?

I really like the idea of state listing, even if my list is not that impressive. Since I don't have the time or money to build it up I have settled on beating the bushes closer to home. This may not be as exciting for some, but I find it can be at times. It can be educational as well. When one does some research and investigation, and then plans some strategy that pays off, the rewards can be very satisfying.

As you can tell, this article was written to encourage greater coverage of a few somewhat neglected areas. If some are impressed to cover these places a little more next fall as a result I'd be interested in hearing of any rare bird sightings.

By the way, was that Snow Bunting a male or a female? It had a brown rump. If we go by the National Geographic guide it could be a female. If we went by Peterson's guide it could be a male. Does anyone out there know which is correct?

◇

# Where were those birds?

## Highlights of the North American Migration Count

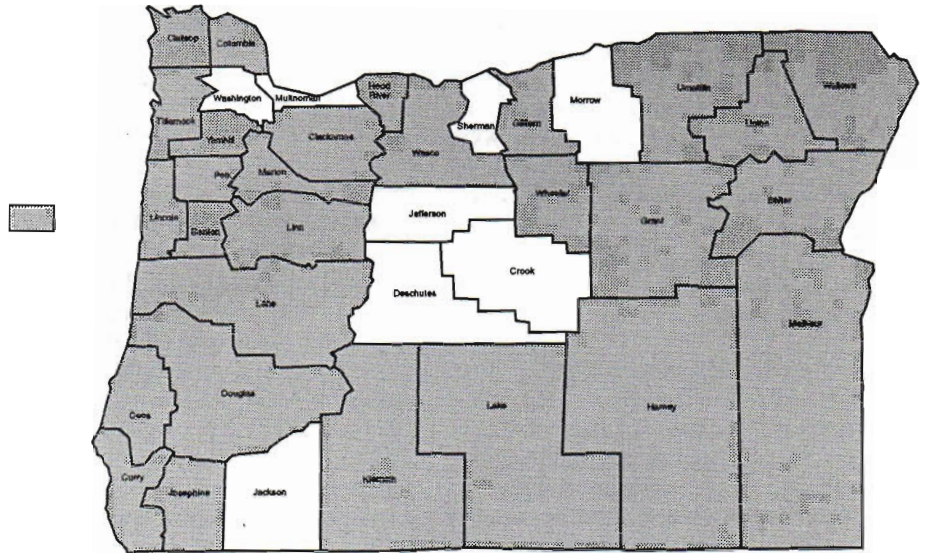
Pat French, Oregon NAMC Coordinator, 400 E. 31st Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405  
(french@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

The birds were there and so were many of you as the North American Migration Count (NAMC) took place on 13 May 1995. Twenty-eight of Oregon's counties reported count data with 230 observers throughout the state. A total of 287 species of birds were recorded. As good citizens, you contributed to the economy by driving 6018 miles. That is the equivalent of driving from Seattle to New York, back to Seattle, and then down to Los Angeles. Hours by car totaled about 440 (the equivalent of 11 work weeks). Total party hours invested in all forms of walking and driving observation were 952 (the equivalent of 5.5 months of work weeks). Many, many thanks to each of you who participated.

A couple of our stated goals were to have fun and to gather data that will give us a 1-day snapshot of where the birds were in their migration route. I hope everyone had fun. And we certainly have a great start toward mapping migration patterns. As you take a moment to review a couple of the maps, many of you will notice that there were no big surprises. Even so, our data fulfills the goal of giving us a very valuable basis of documented information.

As of the date of the count, the majority of our summer breeders have begun to arrive. Caspian Terns were reported in 9 counties. Calliope Hummingbirds were observed in 7 counties, while Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in 22 of the 28 reporting counties. Many of our flycatchers, vireos, and warblers had arrived. All 6 of our swallow species were reported in 7 counties. Several of these swallows have come all the way from South American wintering grounds (Dobkin 1994).

Most of our wintering waterfowl were long gone, but Ring-necked Ducks were found in 14 of the 28 counties submitting data. Twelve counties observed Lesser Scaup. Bufflehead were reported in 17 coun-



Oregon counties participating in the North American Migration Count, May 1995

ties. Although it is likely that a very few of these waterfowl might be staying to breed, it is possible that our protracted spring season caused some waterfowl to linger a little longer this year than usual. Counts of future years will tell us the exciting answers to such questions.

Snowy Plovers were reported from Coos, Lake, and Wallowa Counties. In addition to coastal sightings, Semipalmated Plovers were counted in Lake, Marion, Polk, and Wallowa Counties (uncommon transient inland, Gilligan et al. 1994). Whimbrel were seen in 4 coastal counties. Ruddy Turnstones were observed in Lake County (vagrant inland, per Gilligan et al. 1994), as well as Clatsop and Coos Counties. Three Stilt Sandpipers were counted in Lake County, a very unusual occurrence according to Gilligan et al. Small numbers of Dunlin were reported from 6 counties. Western and Least Sandpipers were each observed in 10 counties.

It has been thrilling to see this data gathered from throughout Oregon. The entire 13-page spreadsheet showing the count of each species by county is available for the cost of photocopying and mailing. Send

\$1.00 with your request for a copy of the spring NAMC count results. Your county coordinator also has a copy of the count data, which you should be able to view or photocopy if you prefer. The data can also be made available in IBM PC-compatible Lotus format on 3.5-inch high density floppy disk at cost. Contact me for more information.

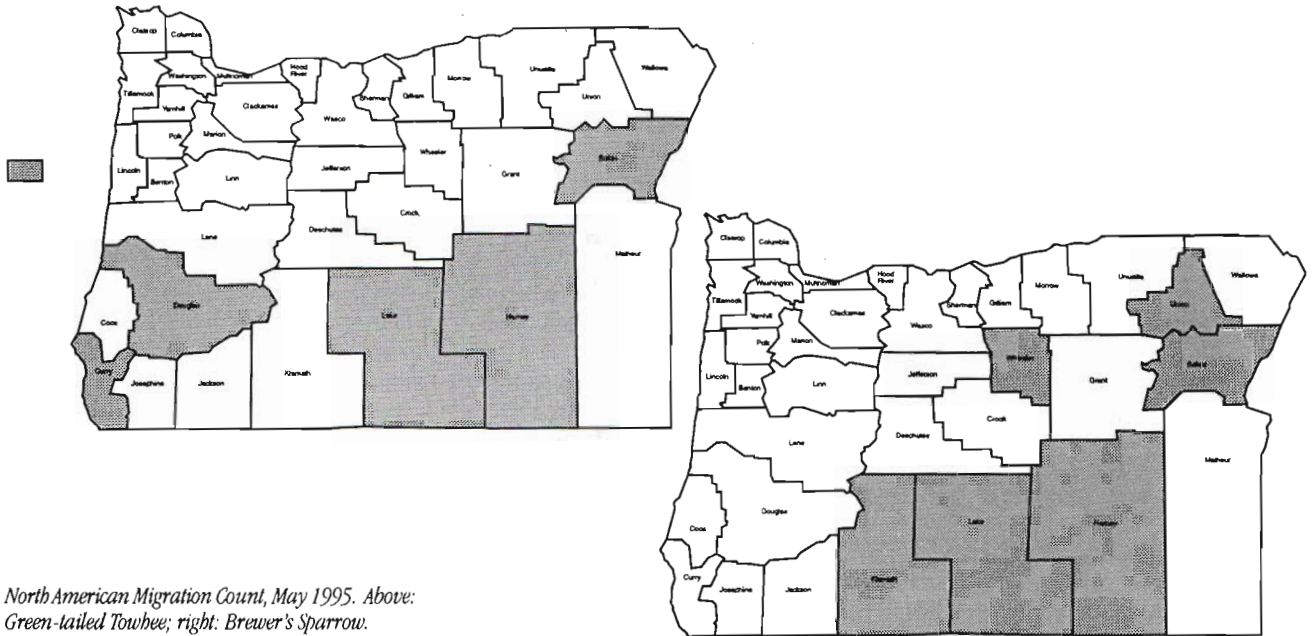
Our Fall Migration Count will take place Saturday, 16 September 1995. If you will be birding and are willing to keep count information, please contact the county coordinator of the area in which you wish to count. Most coordinators are the same people who coordinated the spring counts for each county. If you are unsure who to contact, please feel free to contact me for more information.

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North American Migration Count, May 1995. Above: Green-tailed Towhee; right: Brewer's Sparrow.

## First confirmed record of Veery for Malheur County, Oregon

Alan Contreras, 2254 Crestview Drive S., Salem, OR 97302

Kenneth C. Parkes, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080

This note establishes the earliest confirmed record of Veery (*Catbarus fuscescens salicicola*) for Malheur County, Oregon, and corrects an apparent oversight in early Oregon ornithological literature.

While responding to a request for information regarding an Oregon specimen for Veery, Parkes noted that the bird held in the Carnegie collection (CM 36142) had been one of several specimens purchased by the museum from Morton E. Peck. Peck collected the bird in Malheur County, Oregon, on 30 June 1910, according to the specimen tag.

The exact collecting locality in the Willow Creek Valley is described in detail in Peck's published account of his summer there (Peck 1911) in which the following statement regarding Olive-backed (Swainson's) Thrush occurs: "numerous specimens were seen and two or three taken in the willow timber." This statement is cited by Gabrielson and Jewett (1940), who do not mention the presence of Veery in northern Malheur County.

The specimen tag has the date and

location written in Peck's hand, but the identification as a Veery is in a different hand, possibly that of George M. Sutton, who worked at the museum in the 1920s. It therefore seems likely that Peck, while collecting multiple specimens of Swainson's Thrush, did not realize that he had also collected a Veery, and as a consequence did not cite the record in his 1911 paper. This mistake, which may seem odd to readers familiar with both species in the east, is more understandable in eastern Oregon, both because the Veery was not known from the Willow Creek valley then or today and because the western subspecies of Swainson's Thrush and Veery are more similar to one another than are the eastern races.

Although there is another old reference to Veery in Malheur County, by Preble at Disaster Peak on 10 June 1915 (Gabrielson and Jewett, 1940), it is not clear whether this bird was in Oregon or Nevada. Bob Kindschy, recently retired from the Vale BLM office, has 2 certain sight records of the species from Malheur County, one at Bogus Lakes on 6 June 1975 and one

at Batch Lake on 13 June 1983. These sites are northwest and north of Jordan Valley, respectively. Kindschy has noted probable Veeries on a few other occasions in the same areas.

We are unaware of any other records for the county, although the species breeds locally in the Burnt River Valley in southern Baker County, and in Idaho north of the Snake River lowlands (Stephens and Sturts 1991).

We would like to thank Teri Waldron of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for providing the Malheur County base data from which this record was first extracted.

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# What bird was that? Birding with a hearing loss

John Lundsten, 2352 Bunker Hill Rd. S., Salem, OR 97306

My introduction to serious birding was joining up with Gary Keppinger for the Salem Christmas Bird Count in 1987. Gary and I both have daughters who are interested in birding, and in following years we would often joke about needing one of our daughters to join us so they could point out the Kinglets and other tree top birds that we couldn't seem to hear. But in general I felt my hearing was good and that the real key to seeing birds was learning where and how to look.

In the following years I became more aware of the problems that come with being "audiologically challenged." Birding outings with my daughters would get tense when they would ask "what bird was that?" and I would have to say "what bird?" It was frustrating to see a bird singing and not hear anything. I would tend to hang back on field trips so I would not be asked "doesn't that sound like a Pipit going by?"

On the plus side, I could still hear about half or more of our birds, and started listening to tapes and learning to identify these birds by sound. I began to see how this multiplied the number of species I could find.

My first move to try to improve my hearing was sending for a pair of "Magna Ears" that I saw advertised in a birding journal. These are large plastic "ears" that strap on your head with the idea that they catch the sound waves and deflect them into your ears, like cupping your hands behind your ears. They do look a little strange, and after trying them out in private I decided they really did not help me.

My next move was to purchase a small hearing aid called the "Walker Game Ear." This is a powerful device that brought in bird songs loud and clear. The problem with it is that it amplifies all sound frequencies, including the faint bird song but also all background noise. Footsteps, wind in the leaves, raindrops, and distant traffic are also greatly amplified — overpowering the faint bird sound.

Because of these problems, I returned the Game Ear, but later repurchased it, as it was better than nothing. It does work quite well for doing "point counts" when it is not too windy and away from traffic noise.

I eventually went to an audiologist for a hearing evaluation and found out I had a high frequency hearing loss. My hearing was normal up to about 2500 cycles per second, or "hertz" (Hz), but declined rapidly with higher frequencies, with little hearing beyond the 6 to 7000 Hz levels. Any bird with a song at 8000 Hz and above I have little chance of hearing.

In the fall of 1994 I read an article in *Bird Watcher's Digest* on hearing aids for birders. The author had a hearing loss similar to mine, and this article gave me new hope. I decided to try the Argosy "High Band" hearing aid that the author had chosen. This device only amplifies high frequency sounds and can be adjusted to a specific range or band. I also tried out what must be the most advanced aid put out by ReSound Corp. and AT&T. It has a microchip that adjusts sounds to your needs, which results in a more natural sound than from the Argosy. As you might expect, the price of the ReSound aid was high and so I opted for the Argosy.

I also contacted Lang Elliot, who has developed a unique device called the "Songfinder." Instead of amplifying high frequency sounds, this unit lowers the frequency so it can be heard with your own ears. With this device I should be able to hear bird songs over 8000 Hz. Mr. Elliot has an audio tape he sends out that demonstrates how this unit makes the songs sound. Of course the high pitched songs come out at a lower pitch and so some "relearning" is necessary.

I decided to stay with the Argosy and have been using it for the last 3 months. I am now able to hear most of our birds. A nice problem that presents itself is the need to learn some of the warbler songs that I now can hear for the first time. I am also learning that many birds, like the Song

Sparrow have both low and high pitch parts to their song, and I had just been hearing the low parts.

Any song over 8000 Hz is still out of my ability to hear, even with the hearing aid. Fortunately, this is not a large number of our birds. Some of those I am aware of are: Grasshopper Sparrow - 8600 Hz; Blackpoll Warbler - 8900 Hz; Golden Crowned Kinglet - 8000 Hz; Cedar Waxwing - 8400 Hz; and Cape May Warbler - 10,000 Hz (I should be so lucky).

While I have been quite pleased so far with the use of these hearing aids, there are some drawbacks. Just like wearing glasses, these ear aids can be a bother. They are small and so are easily misplaced. If you happen to scratch your ear or swat at a bug on your head, you can get an irritating squeal (called feedback). Some birdsongs have a rather tinny sound and some sounds like the shrill whistle of the male Red-winged Blackbird can come through uncomfortably loud.

However, these inconveniences are easy to tolerate given the option of not hearing many of the birds. Some high points so far have been being able to hear and locate a male American Redstart high in a cottonwood tree. A few months ago my daughter Susan and I visited a high rock outcrop in the south Cascades where a pair of Peregrine Falcons were living. As we stood on the top watching the falcons, the song of the Canyon Wren far below came drifting up to us. That experience was worth far more than any inconvenience from having an artificial device in my ear.

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# More *Zonotrichia* "Grand Slam" Records from Oregon

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

In *Oregon Birds* 19(1): 23, Shirley Muse and I related an apparently rare event that had taken place 3 May 1992 at Malheur NWR headquarters, Harney Co., Oregon. We observed all 4 *Zonotrichia* sparrows in a very short time (15-20 minutes).

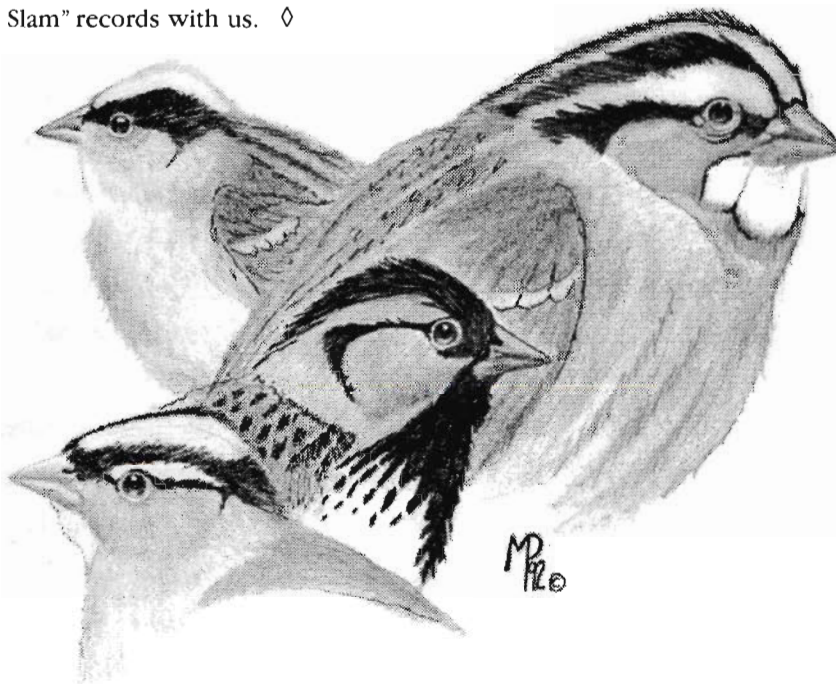
Not knowing of any other such records, we asked *Oregon Birds* readers to respond if you knew of more "Grand Slams." We received a number of other "Grand Slam" *Zonotrichia* records in Oregon, plus 2 out-of-state records.

After going through all the replies, it became notable that only one person had ever observed all 4 *Zonos* in one location at one time more than twice. Matt Hunter reported a "Grand Slam" a grand total of 5 times. Ninety percent of observers responding had been witness to a "Grand Slam" only once in many years of birding. We stated that we felt the West Coast is the only place this is likely to happen. We seem to be correct. There are no Idaho records (so far).

Below is a list of known records of *Zonotrichia* "Grand Slams" in Oregon

through September 1993.

In closing, we would hope that this type of record adds a whole new dimension to birding. We would like to express our warmest appreciation to all those that shared their "Grand Slam" records with us. ♦



Date	Location	Observers
25 Mar 1972	Medford, Jackson Co.	Craig Roberts
20 Feb 1983	Alton Baker Park, Lane Co.	Hunter, Heini
19 Dec 1983	Forest Grove S.P., Washington Co.	Hunter, Irons
23 Dec 1985	Corvallis, Benton Co.	Elzy Eltzroth
27 Dec 1985	Florence CBC, Lane Co.	Hunter, Rogers, Heini
9 Mar-2 Apr 1986	Eugene, Lane Co.	Roger Robb
26 Feb 1989	Minto Island, Marion Co.	Bill Tice
Sep 1989	Malheur NWR hq, Harney Co.	Bill Tice
Dec 1991-April 1992	Waldport, Lincoln Co.	Jean Weakland, m.ob.
8 Feb 1992	Waldport, Lincoln Co.	Rich Hoyer
3 May 1992	Malheur NWR hq, Harney Co.	Dauble, Dennys, Muse
N/D, "early-80's"	Roseburg, Douglas Co.	Hunter, Sawyer
N/D, "mid-80's"	Roseburg, Douglas Co.	Hunter, Sawyer
Same County same day		
1 Jan 1992	Lincoln Co.	Elzy Eltzroth
3 Jan 1993	Umatilla Co.	C. Corder, K. Kronner, J. Stevens
Out-of-state records		
Jan-22 Feb 1989	Seattle, King Co., WA	Alan Richards
20 Oct 1987	Point Reyes, Marin Co., CA	Don MacDonald, m.ob.

# Reading the Birds

*Brian Doyle, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Boulevard, Portland OR 97203-5798*

**B**ig birds: A Golden Eagle, huge and huddled, its head drawn down between its shoulders against hissing snow, standing forlornly on a pine branch like a sorrowful monk. Two young Bald Eagles, not yet hooded with white, launching together from a Sitka spruce like two immense prayers; the bough they gripped shivers for a moment, remembering. A Red-tailed Hawk the size of a toddler sliding from an oak snag onto a rabbit; the rabbit screams twice, a thin awful whistle; the hawk drapes its wings over the scene like a curtain. Last, largest, a baleful condor in a zoo cage, staring at awed children, its unblinking hooded yellow eyes forgetting nothing.

Small birds: A hummingbird the color of joy. A wren in a winter thicket, a circle amid lines. A sparrow, tiny and cocky, shouting at cars and dogs. A finch pouring summer from its mouth. A Tree Swallow, no bigger than the hand of a child, carving the huge air into circles of iridescent green and blue and black. It swims and slices through the air. It is as light as a whip tip. It is made of sunlight and insect juice, exuberance and desire.

\*

Once, years ago, I had my own woods. My wife and I were caretakers of the house that anchored them, that rose above them like a shambling wooden castle. The house and its woods stood on a muscle of earth called Snake Hill.

I spent a great deal of time in the woods of Snake Hill, collecting kindling, tracking pheasants in snow, reading the runes of twigs. Many twilights I stood and watched buttery last light spatter through oaks, birches, beeches. One evening I noticed five immense birds in a maple. They were huddled together like a feathered fist. They were nearly three feet tall, they hunched their heads like shy children, they lurched out of the tree at dusk with the gracelessness of small sofas. But they were not

graceless long; within a second or two they unfurled their enormous wings and flapped away croaking, groaning, sobbing. Far below I gaped at their huge silhouettes against the corduroy sky.

They were Night-Herons. I learned this from a neighbor who knew his neighbors. We stood under the tree one night and watched the herons soar away. It was my neighbor's firm opinion that we should know the names of our neighbors, that residence entailed self-education, that full life in a place meant knowing the creatures of that place. He believed that stories were ways to live, and so he collected and told stories with an eagerness that belied his age and failing health.

Those five feathered stories meant a great deal to me. Sitting in my trees, slicing through the woolen twilight, they blessed my house, my land, my residence on Snake Hill. They added awe and savor to the woods. They excited the landscape, underlined its wildness, underscored the fact that it belonged to no one and was only borrowed by the house and people in its midst.

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Wimbledon, England, two years ago. Eventual Lawn Tennis Champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden winds up for a backhand return to his opponent, Boris Becker of Germany. Suddenly a Pied Wagtail, a tiny British bird, zooms right across Edberg's line of vision, perhaps a foot from his face. He hits his shot deep into the stands, then scowls, then laughs. The television announcer informs the audience worldwide that a family of Pied Wagtails has taken up residence in Centre Court's eaves. The British, ever respectful of hearth and home, have not seen fit to evict the birds.

Starlings take up residence in eaves, dryers, garages, attics, air conditioner vents. The tiny flycatchers called phoebes set up nests on porch lights. So do Barn Swallows. Swallows and Barn

Owls live in barns, tool sheds, abandoned farmhouses, unattended shacks. Guillemots live on abandoned docks and wharves and wrecks. Peregrine Falcons nest on skyscrapers and bridges. Pigeons live under bridges and highway abutments. I remember the House Sparrows that lived for years in our garage when I was a boy; their eggs fell from the roof every spring like slow blue rain.

Once, on a wet Easter morning, I found a fallen sparrow chick on the concrete floor of the garage. It was a male, about a week old. He was twisted, small, deceased. Sometime during the night he had fallen, or been shoved by his siblings, from their disheveled nest in the eaves. My brothers and I buried him in a crayon box. We prayed over the gaudy coffin. My youngest brother sobbed uncontrollably. The broken chick did not rise from the dead, as we hoped but did not expect. Ever after, says my brother, he looked upon Jesus with a jaundiced eye, and wondered at the potency of a story that could not stir life in something so small as a shriveled sparrow.

\*

Human beings are attached to the world by intricate strings of memory and desire. We make of our sensory impressions the stuff of a life, a career, a love affair, a story. Birds are players in this drama; they flit about us, encapsulating the ways that we feel, acting as poems, as prayers. I once cried at the sight of a sparrow's defiant, thin-legged stance because it was a speck of unbearable delight in a black time.

Perhaps birds are most powerful poems for the youngest human beings. The writer Richard Lewis, director of a children's art center in New York City, annually has his young students make bird masks and don them and then tell stories about the birds that they are. "My bird is in you," said Joel, eight years old. "His name is imagination. He lives in a place called heart

brain body. It is in everyone. Some adults think it is childish but it will never leave you even if you hide it."

Birds are in us, in our stories of ourselves. Raven stole the sun from heaven and gave it to the Northwest Indian tribes. Eagle gave the Iroquois the dew, made the wind for the Chippewa, tore Prometheus's liver from his body day after day. Wrens and cranes fly through the legends of Saint Kevin of Glendalough, swallows and doves through stories of Saint Francis, crows through the lore of the Desert Fathers.

They are still in our stories. The day after my father-in-law died, his widow noticed a Robin persistently trying to enter their house through what had been her husband's favorite window. The bird tried to get in for a week, always through the same window. I explained to her that the Robin, an aggressively territorial bird in season, was probably trying to drive off the intruder he saw reflected in the glass. She listened politely and was not convinced. Ever after there is a soft place in her heart for Robins. For her they are symbols, messages, memories in feathered jackets; for her Robins are bits of her husband, whom she loved desperately and completely, whom she misses most in spring, when Robins return and he does not.

\*

I have seen many eagles, none low or reduced to this dimension, each lord of the immediate air. They freeze the creatures below them. I have seen a yearling blacktail deer flinch when an eagle's cold shadow passed by. Recently I stood on a high hill in Sitka spruce country, on the Oregon coast, trying to read history by trees: ancient hemlocks in inaccessible ravines, second-growth spruce near trails, alder and brush on open hillsides. Suddenly, silently, two Bald Eagles were above me. Their shadows swept over the woods, over thickets of salal, salmon-berry, blackberry. The hills held their breath. One eagle screamed

twice; both eagles slid over the ridge line and were gone; a wren piped; time resumed.

Walt Whitman saw Bald Eagles once, over his native Long Island. They were performing their mating dance, a violent swirling waltz conducted wholly in air. Old Walt, characteristically, got the sight down in one enormous sentence. "Skyward in air a sudden muffled sound, the dalliance of the eagles," he wrote. "The rushing amorous contact high in space together, the clinching interlocking claws, a living, fierce, gyrating wheel, four beating wings, two beaks, a swirling mass tight grappling, in tumbling turning clustering loops, straight downward falling, till o'er the river pois'd, the twain yet one, a moment's lull, a motionless still balance in the air, then parting, talons loosening, upward again on slow-firm pinions slanting, their separate diverse flight, she hers, he his, pursuing."

She hers, he his, pursuing.

\*

They are creatures from other universes, performing physical feats we can only imagine. A Peregrine Falcon in full stoop upon a duck is the fastest autonomous creature in the history of the world, reaching speeds of perhaps 200 miles an hour just before it collides with its prey. It has been designed, over many thousands of years, to be a bullet of feathers and toothpick bones and knife-fingers. A Golden Eagle can see a rabbit's ear twitch from two miles away. A Screech-Owl can hear a mouse running 100 feet away. An albatross, nine feet wing-wide, spends nearly its entire life floating over the ocean; it sleeps on the wing, dozing amid billows. The Rufous-sided Hummingbird, the common tiny hummer of the Pacific Northwest, has a heartbeat rate of some 300 beats per minute — about five times as fast as the human heartbeat. ("*Everything* about a hummingbird is a superlative," wrote the naturalist Tom Colazo.)

The implications of its heartbeat intrigue me. Does the hummingbird live faster than we do? Does the hummingbird literally live in a different time zone? Time must be made of a different liquid for the hummingbird, since he goes through it so

quickly. I imagine my life running five times faster. It seems to run too fast now, and I am a man with a peaceable wife and one small child.

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The first word my daughter learned, other than the labels she has used since for her parents, was Bird. I think this is because birds moved across her nascent vision in delightful ways. I spent many hours, in her first few months, holding her against my shoulder so that she could see out a large window. The window overlooks cedar, fir, spruce, laurel, honeysuckle. In the trees and bushes live sparrows, juncos, warblers, jays, starlings, flickers, robins, crows. The trees are green, the bushes are red, the birds are Joseph's coat. In the chimney of the house next door are brick-brown swifts, which issue forth in a dark cloud at dusk. They swirl and swim in the air like dreams.

Many times I shifted a bit in my chair and felt my daughter's pumpkin head resting against my shoulder and assumed she had fallen asleep, and then turned slightly to see her eyes, and saw them wide open and filled with birds. One day she told me what she saw, muttering wetly in my ear, her feathery voice a pale blue sound, a faint fluted note from a new country. Bird, she whispered, Bird Bird.

Now, a year later, when she sees Bird she does not name him, but blows him a kiss, as she does to family and friends. She holds her fingers over her tiny pursed lips and then swings her hand out and away into the air. Her linked fingers float in the air for a curved instant like a wing.

\*

They are travelers beyond our imagination. I once lived along the New England shore, in the middle of what ornithologists call the Atlantic Flyway. Every September hundreds of thousands of birds funneled through the air over my head. Hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures, while only a fraction of the millions of birds sailing along the coast, are the biggest and most dramatic

of the migrants. Ordinarily solitary hunters, they band together in the fall not from camaraderie but because they all ride rising columns of warm air along ridges and hills. From September through November it's possible to see hundreds, sometimes thousands, of hawks and falcons rising together from the woods, a reverse rain of raptors, all intent on gaining soaring height for their trips to Central and South America.

For the raptors this little autumnal jaunt can mean two thousand miles in the air. The Arctic tern sneers at that trip; it travels from one pole to the other in its migration. Other birds travel short distances thoroughly. Hummingbirds have rectangular territories a few yards wide. Wrens have slightly larger territories, perhaps a hundred yards square. Western jays have territories with ceilings: at sea level is the scrub jay, in the woods is the Steller's Jay, at high elevations is the whiskeyjack, or camp robber, and at the tree line is Clark's Nutcracker, the jay closest to heaven. (The bird is named for Captain William Clark, the first white man to describe it; Clark himself was led to the Northwest by a Shoshoni woman named Sacagawea, or Bird Woman.) In a single vertical mile there may be four jay territories, each inviolate, bound only by elevation above the sea. To travel well within your neighborhood, said Samuel Johnson, is the greatest of journeys.

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I work at the University of Portland, which is perched on a high bluff over the Willamette River. Across the river is a line of velvet hills punctuated by soaring hawks; below the campus is the sinuous gleam of the river, a highway for creaking flotillas of great blue herons. The campus itself is a village of many species: students, professors, employees, cars, insects, trees, birds. Students and birds are the most exuberant. The students chirp, preen, molt, congregate in gaggles and flocks, perform bizarre courtship dances. The birds study insects, analyze traffic patterns, edit lawns, flutter through classrooms. Some birds live in residence halls; others commute to the University. I have seen nests in eaves, nests in pipes, nests in windows.

The office where I type these words, in Waldschmidt Hall, was an empty attic corner two years ago. Where my fingers rise and fall there was a pigeon nest. Perhaps there has been life in this corner of the building since 1891, when it was built as West Hall. One year it stood empty and there were goats in the halls. Then this floor was a dormitory filled with boys. Then it was a biology laboratory filled with animals and insects. Then it was a place where the wind lived. Now I live here on weekdays, and under the window where there were pigeons there is me, writing about birds, my fingers fluttering.

\*

In the ancient days of falconry, according to the Abbess Juliana Berners, there was a hierarchy of bird possession: eagles were for emperors, Gyrfalcons for kings, Peregrine Falcons for earls, Merlins for ladies, Goshawks for yeomen, Kestrels (sparrow hawks) for priests, and muskets (woodland hawks) for altar servers. Those days of yore were the halcyon days of falconry, the art by which raptors are trained to the hand. Probably this ancient art began as a means to procure food, but by the Abbess's day falconry was a pastime fully as ritualistic and as filled with lore as any religion, and the reaping of rabbits and birds for the pot was incidental to the training and flying of the hawks themselves. No craft of the medieval ages was as respected, and none led to as many arguments about the best way to practice the art. It was King James I, the fellow for whom the King James Bible is named, who noted that falconry is an extreme stirrer-up of passions. "That is because the hawks themselves are furious creatures, and the people who associate with them catch it," wrote T.H. White, whose book *The Goshawk* is both meditation on the poetry of raptors and modern manual for their training to the fist.

Of all birds I love the raptors best. They are the most dramatic, the largest, among the most intelligent. Falconers say that raptors are fully capable of love, hate, and violent emotional instability. They are creatures that veer wildly from love to hate, that eat their fellow creatures, that soar in the sky and

squabble in the mud, that care tenderly for their infants and battle with their adolescents, that reportedly can love, lust, laugh, play, mourn, wage war, speak a language, and endure depression.

I think that they are my cousins.

\*

We eat birds. We have eaten them for many thousands of years. Chickens, pheasants, game hens, sparrows, pigeons, doves, quail, Chukar, turkeys, hens, geese, grouse, ducks, larks. We have eaten nearly every bird that flies or swims or runs; it may be that we have eaten at least one of every species of bird. (Occasionally one *person* tries to eat every species of bird: King Richard's menu for a weekend jaunt to his country home, in the year 1387, included 5 herons, 50 swans, 96 capons, 110 geese, 192 pullets, 240 cranes and curlews, 720 hens, and 1,200 peacocks.)

Birds die for us by the billions. They become feasts, cures, salvifics, sandwiches, soup. Their bodies stave off our hunger and sadness. The writer M.F.K. Fisher tells the tale of the Marechal de Mouchy, who returned home from the funeral of his best friend and ordered two roast pigeons for dinner. "I have noticed that after eating a brace of pigeons I arise from the table feeling much more resigned," he said to his cook. His cook, if frugal, probably took the remnants of the roast birds and made soup, perhaps to succor a sick child, perhaps to savor on a cold winter afternoon, when all seems bleak and dead, and steaming soup may lift the heart.

\*

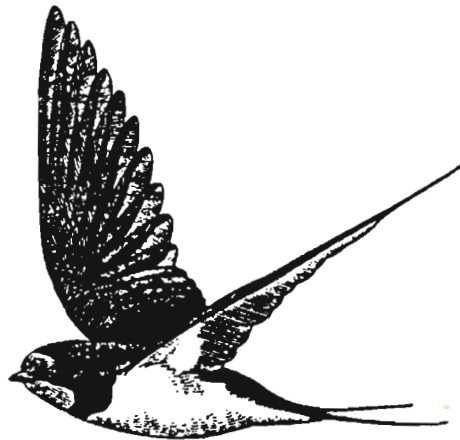
They *fly*. They go where we cannot go. They lift themselves into the air and dream away. A simple process: Weighing next to nothing, hollow-boned, with lung capacities a hundred times

greater than ours, they swim into the air and stay there, their wings marshalling what poet William Blake called the First Element. Their wings are curiously human in bone structure: The outstretched arm of an albatross could be that of a basketball player — humerus, radius, ulna, carpus, hand, fingers. My friend Marlene Wilson, who teaches biology at the University, tells me she always used birds as examples when teaching bone structure. No other creature, she says, made such an immediate impact on students. Once in a while she would notice a student surreptitiously extend his arm like a wing, seeing his own appendage with new eyes, flexing his fingers up like a hawk surfing a thermal.

\*

They are what we once were: vigorous creatures fully immersed in the physical world. For better, I think, human beings long ago grew out of that immersion, and strove toward a different world, one of reason, one of the spirit. But we do well when we pay attention to our forebears, who are exuberant; we do evil when we cast them aside as appendages, servants, underlings, tools. We are ourselves underlings to something vast, and a scrabbling for power among servants is a battle of children in dust.

In them is poetry, energy, exuberance; in them is life, pure and untrammled, unadulterated and holy. We learn most and best about life by contemplating life; that is why we stare achingly at our children as they sleep, that is why our happiest moments are those spent in the arms and hearts of those who love us, that is why we are inexplicably pleased when a sparrow pauses for a second at the window and regards us with an irrepressible eye. Small as she is, she is our teacher and our companion, our fellow tatter torn from the cloak of the Maker. She is a small vigorous prayer, a hymn with wings, a laugh given life and set aloft. ◇





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The Bird Guide  
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# Oregon Shorebird Festival

## 8 - 9 - 10 September 1995

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

### Friday, 8 September

Registration at OIMB, 5-8 pm • Evening session, Boat House, OIMB • opening remarks, Ray Nolan • evening program, Oriane Williams, "Waterbird Ecology and Wetland Management in The Grasslands" of the North San Joaquin Valley" • field trip announcements

### Saturday, 9 September

6:00 am, pelagic trip, meet at Betty Kay Charters in the Charleston Boat Basin at 6:15 am • 7:45 am, field trips, meet at OIMB to carpool • Bandon Marsh, meet 8:15 am at Ray's Marketplace, Hwy. 101 and 42S in Bandon • New River Estuary, meet 8:30 am at West Coast Game Park 7 miles s. of Bandon • Millicoma Marsh Trail, meet at 8:15 am at Millicoma Middle School Parking lot • Lunch on your own • 6:00 pm, dinner at OIMB • 8:00 pm, OIMB Boat House, review of day's birds, keynote speaker Dr. Susan M. Haig, Associate Professor in Zoology and Senior Wildlife Ecologist for the National Biological Service at Oregon State University, "Piper of the Dunes: A 15-Year Perspective on Recovery Efforts for the Piping Plover"

### Sunday, 10 September

6:00 am, pelagic trip, meet at Betty Kay Charters in the Charleston Boat Basin at 6:15 am • 7:45 am, repeat of Saturday field trips • Sunday afternoon birding trips on your own

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

Lodging: The dormitory at OIMB is available Friday and Saturday night at \$18.50 per night. You must bring your own bedding and towels; space is limited. Many major motels and campgrounds are available; call for a list.

# Oregon Shorebird Festival

## 8 - 9 - 10 September 1995

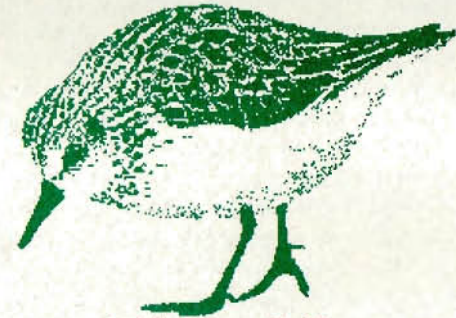
Cape Arago Audubon Society

in cooperation with

Oregon Field Ornithologists

Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

Charleston, Oregon



Registration	Individual	\$12.00
	Family	\$20.00
Pelagic Trip	Saturday	\$40.00
	Sunday	\$40.00
Dinner Saturday night (pre-registration needed)		\$8.00
Lodging in OIMB dorm, per night		\$18.50
Hanes T-Shirt (S, M, L, XL)		\$12.00
Hat		\$6.00

For more information, contact:

Lyn Topits ..... 503-267-7208

Barb Griffin ..... 503-756-5688

Ken Dazey ..... 503-756-7280

## Complete checklist of Oregon's birds - OB 21(3)

___ Red-throated Loon	___ American Wigeon	___* Mongolian Plover	___ Thayer's Gull
___ Pacific Loon	___ Canvasback	___ Snowy Plover	___* Slaty-backed Gull
___ Common Loon	___ Redhead	___ Semipalmated Plover	___ Western Gull
___* Yellow-billed Loon	___ Ring-necked Duck	___** Piping Plover	___ Glaucous-winged Gull
___ Pied-billed Grebe	___* Tufted Duck	___ Killdeer	___ Glaucous Gull
___ Horned Grebe	___ Greater Scaup	___* Mountain Plover	___ Bl.-legged Kittiwake
___ Red-necked Grebe	___ Lesser Scaup	___ Bl. Oystercatcher	___* Red-legged Kittiwake
___ Eared Grebe	___* King Eider	___ Bl.-necked Stilt	___* Ross' Gull
___ Western Grebe	___* Steller's Eider	___ American Avocet	___ Sabine's Gull
___ Clark's Grebe	___ Harlequin Duck	___ Greater Yellowlegs	___ Caspian Tern
___** Short-tailed Albatross	___ Oldsquaw	___ Lesser Yellowlegs	___ Elegant Tern
___ Bl.-footed Albatross	___ Bl. Scoter	___* Spotted Redshank	___ Common Tern
___ Laysan Albatross	___ Surf Scoter	___ Solitary Sandpiper	___ Arctic Tern
___ N. Fulmar	___ White-winged Scoter	___ Willet	___ Forster's Tern
___* Mottled Petrel	___ Common Goldeneye	___ Wandering Tattler	___* Least Tern
___* Murphy's Petrel	___ Barrow's Goldeneye	___ Spotted Sandpiper	___ Bl. Tern
___ Pink-footed Shearwater	___ Bufflehead	___ Upland Sandpiper	___ Common Murre
___ Flesh-footed Shearwater	___* Smew	___ Whimbrel	___* Thick-billed Murre
___ Buller's Shearwater	___ Hooded Merganser	___** Bristle-thighed Curlew	___ Pigeon Guillemot
___ Sooty Shearwater	___ Common Merganser	___ Long-billed Curlew	___ Marbled Murrelet
___ Short-tailed Shearwater	___ Red-breasted Merganser	___* Hudsonian Godwit	___* Xantus' Murrelet
___** Wilson's Storm-Petrel	___ Ruddy Duck	___* Bar-tailed Godwit	___ Ancient Murrelet
___ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	___ Turkey Vulture	___ Marbled Godwit	___ Cassin's Auklet
___ Leach's Storm-Petrel	___*E California Condor	___ Ruddy Turnstone	___* Parakeet Auklet
___* Bl. Storm-Petrel	___ Osprey	___ Bl. Turnstone	___ Rhinoceros Auklet
___ American White Pelican	___ White-tailed Kite	___ Surfbird	___ Tufted Puffin
___ Brown Pelican	___ Bald Eagle	___* Great Knot	___ Horned Puffin
___ Double-crested Cormorant	___ N. Harrier	___ Red Knot	___ I Rock Dove
___ Brandt's Cormorant	___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	___ Sanderling	___ Band-tailed Pigeon
___ Pelagic Cormorant	___ Cooper's Hawk	___ Semipalmated Sandpiper	___* White-winged Dove
___* Magnificent Frigatebird	___ N. Goshawk	___ Western Sandpiper	___ Mourning Dove
___ American Bittern	___ Red-shouldered Hawk	___* Rufous-necked Stint	___* Yellow-billed Cuckoo
___ Least Bittern	___* Broad-winged Hawk	___* Little Stint	___ Barn Owl
___ Great Blue Heron	___ Swainson's Hawk	___* Long-toed Stint	___ Flammulated Owl
___ Great Egret	___ Red-tailed Hawk	___ Least Sandpiper	___ Western Screech-Owl
___ Snowy Egret	___ Ferruginous Hawk	___ Baird's Sandpiper	___ Great Horned Owl
___* Little Blue Heron	___ Rough-legged Hawk	___ Pectoral Sandpiper	___ Snowy Owl
___* Tricolored Heron	___ Golden Eagle	___ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	___* N. Hawk Owl
___ Cattle Egret	___ American Kestrel	___ Rock Sandpiper	___ N. Pygmy-Owl
___ Green Heron	___ Merlin	___ Dunlin	___ Burrowing Owl
___ Bl.-crowned Night-Heron	___ Prairie Falcon	___* Curlew Sandpiper	___ Spotted Owl
___ White-faced Ibis	___ Peregrine Falcon	___ Stilt Sandpiper	___ Barred Owl
___* Fulvous Whistling-Duck	___* Gyrfalcon	___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper	___ Great Gray Owl
___ Tundra Swan	___ I Gray Partridge	___ Ruff	___ Long-eared Owl
___** Whooper Swan	___ I Chukar	___ Short-billed Dowitcher	___ Short-eared Owl
___ Trumpeter Swan	___ I Ring-necked Pheasant	___ Long-billed Dowitcher	___* Boreal Owl
___ Greater White-fronted Goose	___ Spruce Grouse	___ Common Snipe	___ N. Saw-whet Owl
___ Snow Goose	___ Blue Grouse	___ Wilson's Phalarope	___ Common Nighthawk
___ Ross' Goose	___ Ruffed Grouse	___ Red-necked Phalarope	___ Common Poorwill
___ Emperor Goose	___ Sage Grouse	___ Red Phalarope	___ Bl. Swift
___ Brant	___*E Sharp-tailed Grouse	___ Pomarine Jaeger	___ Vaux's Swift
___ Canada Goose	___ I Wild Turkey	___ Parasitic Jaeger	___ White-throated Swift
___ Wood Duck	___ I N. Bobwhite	___ Long-tailed Jaeger	___ Bl.-chinned Hummingbird
___ Green-winged Teal	___ California Quail	___ South Polar Skua	___ Anna's Hummingbird
___* Baikal Teal	___ Mountain Quail	___* Laughing Gull	___* Costa's Hummingbird
___* American Bl. Duck	___ Yellow Rail	___ Franklin's Gull	___ Calliope Hummingbird
___ Mallard	___ Virginia Rail	___* Little Gull	___ Broad-tailed Hummingbird
___ N. Pintail	___ Sora	___* Common Bl.-headed Gull	___ Rufous Hummingbird
___* Garganey	___* Common Moorhen	___ Bonaparte's Gull	___ Allen's Hummingbird
___ Blue-winged Teal	___ American Coot	___ Heermann's Gull	___ Belted Kingfisher
___ Cinnamon Teal	___ Sandhill Crane	___ Mew Gull	___ Lewis' Woodpecker
___ N. Shoveler	___ Bl.-bellied Plover	___ Ring-billed Gull	___ Acorn Woodpecker
___ Gadwall	___ American Golden-Plover	___ California Gull	___* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
___ Eurasian Wigeon	___ Pacific Golden-Plover	___ Herring Gull	___ Red-naped Sapsucker

___ Red-breasted Sapsucker	___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	___ Common Yellowthroat	___ * Rustic Bunting
___ Williamson's Sapsucker	___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	___ * Hooded Warbler	___ Snow Bunting
___ * Nuttall's Woodpecker	___ N. Wheatear	___ Wilson's Warbler	___ * McKay's Bunting
___ Downy Woodpecker	___ Western Bluebird	___ * Canada Warbler	___ Bobolink
___ Hairy Woodpecker	___ Mountain Bluebird	___ Yellow-breasted Chat	___ Red-winged Blackbird
___ White-headed Woodpecker	___ Townsend's Solitaire	___ * Summer Tanager	___ Tricolored Blackbird
___ Three-toed Woodpecker	___ Veery	___ * Scarlet Tanager	___ Western Meadowlark
___ Bl.-backed Woodpecker	___ * Gray-cheeked Thrush	___ * Western Tanager	___ Yellow-headed Blackbird
___ N. Flicker	___ Swainson's Thrush	___ * Rose-breasted Grosbeak	___ * Rusty Blackbird
___ Pileated Woodpecker	___ Hermit Thrush	___ Bl.-headed Grosbeak	___ Brewer's Blackbird
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	___ * Wood Thrush	___ * Blue Grosbeak	___ * Great-tailed Grackle
___ Western Wood-Pewee	___ American Robin	___ Lazuli Bunting	___ * Common Grackle
___ * Eastern Wood-Pewee	___ Varied Thrush	___ * Indigo Bunting	___ Brown-headed Cowbird
___ * Alder Flycatcher	___ Wren Tit	___ * Painted Bunting	___ * Orchard Oriole
___ Willow Flycatcher	___ Gray Catbird	___ * Dickcissel	___ * Hooded Oriole
___ * Least Flycatcher	___ N. Mockingbird	___ Green-tailed Towhee	___ N. Oriole
___ Hammond's Flycatcher	___ Sage Thrasher	___ Rufous-sided Towhee	___ * Streak-backed Oriole
___ Dusky Flycatcher	___ * Brown Thrasher	___ California Towhee	___ ** Scott's Oriole
___ Gray Flycatcher	___ ** California Thrasher	___ American Tree Sparrow	___ * Brambling
___ Pacific-slope Flycatcher	___ * Bl.-backed Wagtail	___ Chipping Sparrow	___ * Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
___ Cordilleran Flycatcher	___ American Pipit	___ * Clay-colored Sparrow	___ Bl. Rosy Finch
___ Bl. Phoebe	___ Bohemian Waxwing	___ Brewer's Sparrow	___ Pine Grosbeak
___ * Eastern Phoebe	___ Cedar Waxwing	___ * Bl.-chinned Sparrow	___ Purple Finch
___ Say's Phoebe	___ * Phainopepla	___ Vesper Sparrow	___ Cassin's Finch
___ * Vermilion Flycatcher	___ N. Shrike	___ Lark Sparrow	___ House Finch
___ Ash-throated Flycatcher	___ Loggerhead Shrike	___ Bl.-throated Sparrow	___ Red Crossbill
___ * Tropical Kingbird	___ European Starling	___ Sage Sparrow	___ White-winged Crossbill
___ Western Kingbird	___ ** Bell's Vireo	___ * Lark Bunting	___ Common Redpoll
___ Eastern Kingbird	___ Solitary Vireo	___ Savannah Sparrow	___ ** Hoary Redpoll
___ * Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	___ Hutton's Vireo	___ Grasshopper Sparrow	___ Pine Siskin
___ Horned Lark	___ Warbling Vireo	___ * Le Conte's Sparrow	___ Lesser Goldfinch
___ Purple Martin	___ Red-eyed Vireo	___ Fox Sparrow	___ * Lawrence's Goldfinch
___ Tree Swallow	___ * Golden-winged Warbler	___ Song Sparrow	___ American Goldfinch
___ Violet-green Swallow	___ Tennessee Warbler	___ Lincoln's Sparrow	___ Evening Grosbeak
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow	___ Orange-crowned Warbler	___ Swamp Sparrow	___ I House Sparrow
___ Bank Swallow	___ Nashville Warbler	___ White-throated Sparrow	
___ Cliff Swallow	___ * Virginia's Warbler	___ Golden-crowned Sparrow	
___ Barn Swallow	___ * Lucy's Warbler	___ White-crowned Sparrow	
___ Gray Jay	___ * N. Parula	___ Harris' Sparrow	
___ Steller's Jay	___ Yellow Warbler	___ Dark-eyed Junco	
___ Blue Jay	___ * Chestnut-sided Warbler	___ ** McCown's Longspur	
___ Scrub Jay	___ * Magnolia Warbler	___ Lapland Longspur	
___ Pinyon Jay	___ * Cape May Warbler	___ * Chestnut-collared	
___ Clark's Nutcracker	___ Bl.-throated Blue Warbler	___ Longspur	
___ Bl.-billed Magpie	___ Yellow-rumped Warbler		
___ American Crow	___ Bl.-throated Gray Warbler		
___ Northwestern Crow	___ Townsend's Warbler		
___ Common Raven	___ Hermit Warbler		
___ Bl.-capped Chickadee	___ * Bl.-throated Green Warbler		
___ Mountain Chickadee	___ * Blackburnian Warbler		
___ Chestnut-backed Chickadee	___ * Yellow-throated Warbler		
___ Plain Titmouse	___ ** Pine Warbler		
___ Bushtit	___ * Prairie Warbler		
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	___ Palm Warbler		
___ White-breasted Nuthatch	___ * Bay-breasted Warbler		
___ Pygmy Nuthatch	___ * Blackpoll Warbler		
___ Brown Creeper	___ Bl.-and-white Warbler		
___ Rock Wren	___ American Redstart		
___ Canyon Wren	___ * Prothonotary Warbler		
___ Bewick's Wren	___ ** Worm-eating Warbler		
___ House Wren	___ Ovenbird		
___ Winter Wren	___ * Kentucky Warbler		
___ Marsh Wren	___ N. Waterthrush		
___ American Dipper	___ ** Mourning Warbler		
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	___ MacGillivray's Warbler		

This list is based on the records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) and uses the taxonomic sequence and nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), as published in AOU, 1983, Check-list of North American birds, 6th edition (Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, KS), as supplemented. The OBRC asks for reports of any bird species recorded in Oregon not on this list, and all species represented on this list with one asterisk (\*) or two (\*\*). Write: **OBRC, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.**

### LEGEND

- \* ..... A review species. At least one record verified by photograph, specimen, or video or sound recording – 99 species.
  - \*\* ..... A review species. Sight records only, no verification – 13 species.
  - E ..... Extirpated. No modern records – California Condor and Sharp-tailed Grouse.
  - I ..... Introduced species – 8 species.
  - ..... Total species: 464.
  - Bl. .... Black
  - N. .... Northern
- Prepared by  
Harry Nehls, Secretary, Oregon Bird  
Records Committee  
Owen Schmidt, Editor, Oregon Birds  
September 1995

# Refuge REPORTER

Avocet Crossing, Millwood, Virginia 22646-0156 + 703-837-2152

March 11, 1995

David B. Marshall  
4265 S.W. Chesapeake Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I had the pleasure of reading your article on state funding of wildlife in the Spring 1995 issue of *Oregon Birds*. Your amazement over the ignorance of conservationists regarding funding sources for state wildlife programs is understandable. We are equally amazed by wildlife observers, including birders, who are unaware of how the National Wildlife Refuges they visit are administered. Information access is partially to blame and is the reason that we are publishing a journal devoted exclusively to comprehensive coverage of the system.

Contrary to popular belief and the state situation, the National Wildlife Refuge System does not owe its existence to hunters and the fees and licenses they pay and purchase. To be sure, hunters have made financial contributions through the purchases of Duck Stamps, which, as you point out, first helped finance refuge administration and later had to be restricted to the acquisition of wetlands for waterfowl only. Revenues from hunters have been melded with other funds to acquire over 4 million acres of the 9-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System.

U.S. taxpayers pay for the entire cost of operating and maintaining the refuge system, and they supplemented the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, to which Duck Stamp receipts are deposited, with a \$200 million loan that was subsequently forgiven when it was realized that payback was not feasible. In addition, oil and gas royalties deposited in the Land and Water Conservation Fund are paying the largest share of refuge acquisition costs. Since 1962, the LWC Fund paid for 56 percent of refuge acquisitions; Duck Stamps 23 percent. Generous donors have also contributed over 600,000 acres to the refuge system.

My point is that the inequities you see at the state level should not be presumed to exist at the federal level. Virtually no one is excluded from paying something for our national wildlife refuge resource. But even at the federal level, it can be argued that new fees are needed whether they be for voluntary purchases of a new song-bird stamp or an *ad valorem* tax on binoculars or other merchandise. The refuge system suffers a growing \$339 million maintenance backlog, which is unlikely to get much attention in the current budget-cutting climate.

By coincidence, we published a related article in our Spring 1995 edition of *Refuge Reporter*, which is enclosed for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
James E. Clark III

cc: Editor, *Oregon Birds*



DAVID B. MARSHALL  
Consulting Wildlife Biologist  
4265 S.W. Chesapeake Ave.  
Portland, Oregon 97201

March 21, 1995

Mr. James E. Clark III, Editor  
*Refuge Reporter*  
Avocet Crossing  
Millwood, VA 22646-0156

Dear Mr. Clark:

This is in response to your letter of 11 March, which commented on my note in *Oregon Birds* entitled "Should Oregon Birders Help Fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife?"

As indicated by my note's title, my purpose in writing the piece was to call attention to the source of funding for state, specifically Oregon, wildlife programs. It was not intended to indicate that funding for operation of national wildlife refuges comes from hunters today. The Sauvie Island and Summer Lake wildlife areas, which I specifically named, are state areas which I should hope Oregon birders (who are very familiar with them) would not infer to be federal refuges. I thought I made it clear that the federal areas were at one time funded by duck stamps, but not today. I brought that out because of the effect it had on me as a young biologist at one time, knowing this is where my salary came from. It could not help but bias me in terms of who my constituency was. I wanted to point out that state wildlife workers and commissions similarly feel beholden today to those who fund them.

I am quite aware of the sources of funding for national wildlife refuge acquisitions, having been the Regional Refuge Biologist for FWS Region 1 between 1960 and 1972. During that time I played a lead role in establishing new refuges in the region, including William L. Finley, Baskett Slough, and Ankeny National Wildlife Refuges — that were purchased with Migratory Bird Commission (MBC) funds largely through Duck Stamps, the now Julia Butler Hansen Refuge in Washington with LWC funds and numerous additions to the Oregon Islands Refuge that were acquired via public land withdrawals through BLM.

I regret any presumption that readers might have from my note that national wildlife refuges are funded only by hunter dollars.

I was not aware of the *Refuge Reporter*. The National Wildlife Refuge Systems needs all the help it can get. You will find a subscription from me enclosed.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
David B. Marshall

cc: Editor, *Oregon Birds*

# “Critical habitat” proposed for Western Snowy Plover

Critical habitat for the Western Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* has been proposed for designation in Washington, Oregon, and California. Comments on the proposal were to have been received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by 31 May 1995. The coastal population of the Western Snowy Plover has been listed as a threatened species since 5 March 1993. Here is a paraphrase of the critical habitat announcement, from Federal Register 60(41): 11767, 2 March 1995:

The Western Snowy Plover, which is one of 12 subspecies of the Snowy Plover, is a small, pale colored shorebird with dark patches on either side of the upper breast. The species was first described in 1758 by Linnaeus.

The Pacific coast population of the Western Snowy Plover breeds in loose colonies primarily on coastal beaches from southern Washington to southern Baja California, Mexico. On the Pacific coast, larger concentrations of breeding birds occur in the south than in the north, suggesting that the center of the plovers' coastal distribution lies closer to the southern boundary of California.

Based on the most recent surveys, a total of 28 Snowy Plover breeding sites or areas currently occur on the Pacific Coast of the United States. Two sites occur in southern Washington. In Oregon, nesting birds were recorded in 6 locations in 1990 with 3 sites — Bayocean Spit, North Spit Coos Bay and spoils, and Bandon State Park-Floras Lake — supporting 81 percent of the total coastal nesting population.

The coastal population of the Western Snowy Plover consists of both resident and migratory birds. Some birds winter in the same areas used for breeding. Other birds migrate either north or south to wintering areas. Plovers occasionally winter in southern coastal Washington. The recent discovery of Snowy Plovers wintering near Cape Shoalwater in Pacific County, Washington, represents the northernmost record of wintering Snowy Plovers on the Pacific Coast.

From 43 to 81 plovers wintered on

the Oregon coast between 1982-1990, primarily on 3 beach segments. The majority of birds, however winter south of Bodega Bay, California.

Historic records indicate that nesting Western Snowy Plovers were once more widely distributed in coastal California, Oregon, and Washington than they are currently. In coastal California, Snowy Plovers bred at 53 locations prior to 1970. Since that time, no evidence of breeding birds has been found at 33 of these 53 sites, representing a 62 percent decline in breeding sites.

In Oregon, Snowy Plovers historically nested at 29 locations on the coast. In 1990 only 6 nesting colonies remained, representing a 79 percent decline in active breeding sites. In addition to loss of nesting sites, the plover breeding population in California, Oregon, and Washington has declined 17 percent between 1977 and

71 Snowy Plovers were counted along the Oregon coast during the winter 1995 count, up from 36 in 1994. Northwest Regional Report for February 1995, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 59, Portland, OR 97207, 503-229-5454.

1989. Declines in the breeding population have been specifically documented in Oregon and California. Breeding season surveys along the Oregon coast from 1978 to 1993 show that the number of adult Snowy Plovers has declined significantly at an average annual rate of about 7 percent. The number of adults has declined from a high of 142 adults in 1981 to a low of 30 adults in 1992. If the current trend continues, breeding Snowy Plovers could disappear from coastal Oregon by 1999.

The most important form of habitat loss to coastal breeding Snowy Plovers has been encroachment of European beachgrass. This non-native plant was introduced to the west coast around 1989 to stabilize dunes. Since then it has spread up and down the coast and now is found from British Columbia to southern California. European beachgrass is currently a major dune plant at about 50 percent of California breeding sites and all of

those in Oregon and Washington. Stabilizing sand dunes with European beachgrass has reduced the amount of unvegetated area above the tideline, decreased the width of the beach, and increased its slope. These changes have reduced the amount of potential Snowy Plover nesting habitat on many beaches and may hamper brood movements. The beachgrass community also provides habitat for Snowy Plover predators that historically would have been largely precluded by the lack of cover in the dune community. Cost-effective methods to control or eradicate European beachgrass have not yet been found.

In the habitat remaining for Snowy Plover nesting, human activity (e.g., walking, jogging, running pets, horseback riding, off-road vehicle use, and beach raking) is a key factor in the ongoing decline in Snowy Plover coastal breeding sites and breeding populations in California, Oregon, and Washington. The nesting season of the Western Snowy Plover coincides with the season of greatest human use on beaches of the west coast — Memorial Day through Labor Day. Human activities detrimental to nesting Snowy Plovers include unintentional disturbance and trampling of eggs by people and unleashed pets, off-road vehicle use, horseback riding, and beach raking. Researchers found that Snowy Plovers were disturbed more than twice as often by such human activities than all other natural causes combined.

In Oregon, critical habitat is proposed to be designated for these 7 areas: Bayocean Spit (Tillamook Co.), Heceta Head to the Siuslaw River (Lane Co.), the Siuslaw River to the Siltcoos River (Lane Co.), the Siltcoos River to Threemile Creek (Land and Douglas Cos.), the Umpqua River to Horsfall Beach (Douglas and Coos Cos.), Horsfall Beach to Coos Bay (Coos Co.), and Bandon Park to Floras Lake (Coos and Curry Cos.).

For more information, write to Joel Medlin, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803, Sacramento, CA 95825-1846.

# Why Save Neotropical Migratory Birds?

Arthur Weissman, *Green Seal*, 1250 23rd Street NW, Washington, DC 20037

With all the irony and surprise found in the natural world, we can truly say that we need to save nature to save ourselves, and to care for other animals to become better human beings.

That we depend physically and biologically on the world around us is at once obvious to the point of tautology and also frustratingly elusive. Nature provides the basic materials and energy necessary for all life to survive and reproduce. Birds play an important role in the so-called life-support systems by keeping in balance the growth of insects and other prey, by spreading seeds and in some cases causing them to germinate, and by providing food to their predators.

But would removal of the avian class—much less the subset of Neotropical migratory birds — in itself undermine these systems? The very question makes us shift uncomfortably, both because it evokes a horrible thought and because it is so difficult to answer affirmatively. We can tally up the tons of insects removed by feeding birds, the number of seeds ingested and dispersed, the larvae that might otherwise smother a forest.

It becomes a speculative matter, hypothetical but not proved, that certain ecosystems may become impaired or destroyed without birds. With a few exceptions, such as the oilbirds of Venezuela, we lack the definitive connection demonstrating not only that birds are part of the web of life, which is self-evident, but that their absence would tear the web asunder. As a result, we often fall back on the equally compelling notion that birds are indicators of ecosystem health: if they go, the rest is going, too.

And so it is throughout nature. It is difficult enough to obtain an accurate baseline along 1 ecosystem dimension—witness the continuing controversy about the real population trends of Neotropical migrants (see Hagan and Johnston, eds., *Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds*). Trying to correlate 2 or more variables in an ecosys-

tem becomes a formidable task that often eludes us in all but the most egregious (or elegant) cases. A still further connection then needs to be made between ecosystem structure and function and the presence of any particular species, and then between ecosystem health and the health of our species — a connection which, in view of society's indifference to the loss of species and to global warming, does not appear to be transparent or automatically compelling.

So we can't with certainty assert that loss of birds or any subset of bird species necessarily undermines ecosystems and endangers our existence. Many of us remain convinced, however, that major ecological processes cannot be destroyed or grievously al-

This article first appeared in *Partners in Flight* 3(2), Summer 1993, the newsletter published by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It is reproduced here with minor editorial changes, with permission. For more information about *Partners in Flight*, write National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Suite 900 Bender Building, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

tered without threatening our very survival. In the spirit of Leopold, we are also inclined to believe that major components of an ecosystem are vital to its survival, and that removal of a number of bird species, for example, could damage the ecosystem irreparably.

As human beings we are also concerned about our moral state. If we were truly children of nature, we would not consciously consider the welfare of other species, except perhaps as it might affect our own survival. But we are endowed with the potential of a moral conscience — both a curse and a blessing, but most of all an under-used faculty. The development of a moral conscience is directly correlated with the extent to which one is truly concerned for the welfare of others: outside the self (the first step), outside the family, outside

the nation, and ultimately outside our own species.

The vanguard of humanity has just reached this final moral frontier. The vast majority scarcely realizes it exists, or is more likely to belittle the notion of caring intrinsically for other species, especially if it compromises its own immediate desires or needs. This is why it is essential for us as human beings to care about the welfare of the rest of nature.

Yes, there are many unmet needs in our own species: people are starving, living in substandard conditions, or not getting opportunities to produce or be fulfilled. While these social needs must be addressed even more than they are today, we must reserve an important portion of our efforts to benefit other species as well. The other species we help tend at first to be the glamour species or those with whom we can best identify or empathize: large mammals of land or sea, birds, big trees, and fish. This is equivalent to expanding our love to relatives or friends; there's nothing wrong with it, but it is a limited and somewhat self-serving love. Caring about the small and unglamorous (even ugly) species reflects not only a fuller appreciation of the web of life but also a greater love for the whole of life.

Neotropical migratory landbirds probably fit in both categories. Many are colorful and aesthetically appealing, stars of the nature-appreciation sweepstakes. But as a group they suffer from being out of sight for over half the year, as well as from having an un-catchy name. Even birders are not apt to think about what happens to them outside breeding season. It takes a moral leap to appreciate their special existence and the vicissitudes involved.

As ecologists, then, we seek to save birds because we have reason to believe they are important to the ecosystems upon which we and all living things depend. As human beings, we strive to save birds, including Neotropical migratory birds, because we have learned to care. ♦

# A message from your President

Mike Patterson, 1338 Kensington Avenue, Astoria, OR 97103 mpatters@ednet1.osl.or.gov

I guess I take the ornithologist part of "Oregon Field Ornithologists" pretty seriously. Ornithology, of course, is the study of birds — their form, their function, their distribution, their ecology and I genuinely believe that every time someone goes out into the field and makes an observation of a bird that person is doing a little bit of science. I've had people argue with me about this. It has been suggested that the mere massing of lists is not science (and science does and certainly should go deeper than this), but every observation is a data point. When one puts enough data points together, a picture of the world emerges. If that picture of the world happens to include birds, it's ornithology.

What's lacking in Oregon ornithology is a focus. There are some amazing and wonderful efforts going on to create a big picture of birds in Oregon. The Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas is attempting to document the breeding biogeography of Oregon. Project COOT is coordinating information about the distribution of birds in Oregon on a county basis year-round. At last count, there were 40 Christmas bird counts in Oregon. There are shorebird censuses using volunteers from our ranks, hawk watches, feeder surveys, and there are lists.

There are many interesting avian projects going on, big and small ... but why? I know this probably sounds strange coming from someone who spends his weekends bird banding, but the collection of data without a focus is ... well, just data. A picture of the status of birds in Oregon is only useful if we can carry it to the next step.

Science can only get you as far as the data and an interpretation of what it might mean. The next step comes from outside science. How do we participate in the discussion about how all this information should be applied? How will we participate in the educational process as it relates to this data? How do we involve ourselves in the management of resources that affect or may be affected

by the picture we have drawn?

I would like to see OFO sharpen its focus, to go beyond data collection and list building. To this end, I will be working with the OFO board to define OFO's mission. We will be looking into ways to build an educational component as part of what we do. Education of the public through our public schools and other venues is a way of ensuring informed policy decisions. We will be looking at what our role should be as participants in the public forum. Not everyone shares a bird-centered view of the world and, while we may think our data speaks for itself with obvious conclusions, we really are a special

interest group and we are obliged to participate in the consensus-building process.

Finally, the OFO board will be exploring ways to organize access to the data generated by the field ornithologists of Oregon so that it is available and may be applied to the decision making process throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Access to information is the key to empowering people to make rational decisions about the world around them. Oregon Field Ornithologists have been leaders in gathering information on avian distribution and status. We must now take that next step. ◇

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## Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Brings Millions Into Local Economy

United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge generates several millions of dollars for the local economy of Harney County, according to an independent study partially funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The study, conducted during the 1993-94 season, concludes that the refuge is an important ecotourism destination for tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Not only are visitors interested in the birdlife; they also come for the scenery, wildlife, geology, hiking, and botany. And because of the remoteness of the area, most visitors stay several days, with most camping or staying at a hotel or motel. They also buy meals in the area and fill their gas tanks. The total spent on lodging, food and gas was \$1,360,976, with another \$1,659,960 going to other purchases: groceries, clothing, books, souvenirs, and other items.

"Conservative numbers were used in most of the analyses," according to the study's author, Paul Kerlinger of the New Jersey Audubon Society. "In most studies of the economic impact of tourism a multiplier is used, but this study uses no economic multipli-

ers." The multiplier reflects the total economic gain as tourist money is spent by retailers. If a multiplier had been used, Kerlinger estimates that ecotourists account for an economic impact of \$1.04-6.04 million per year.

"Without the national wildlife refuge," Kerlinger states, "several millions of dollars would not boost the local economy each year. This does not include the budget for the actual refuge, which goes into local salaries and the pockets of local vendors. The refuge is a magnet that will continue to draw tourists from great distances."

Interest in birdwatching and feeding is growing fast. The number of specialty stores selling wild birdseed, feeders, and equipment has exploded in recent years (the franchise chain Wild Bird Centers of America expanded from 5 stores in 1990 to more than 90 in 1995, while another chain, Wild Birds Unlimited, has grown to more than 200 stores) along with subscriptions to birdwatching magazines.

In comparison to the \$5.2 billion spent on birding, Americans spend \$5.8 billion on movie tickets and \$5.9 billion on tickets to sporting events



such as football, baseball, and basketball. For wild birdseed alone, Americans spend an astonishing \$2 billion a year.

Despite the increasing interest, biologists say loss of vital habitat throughout North and South America and the Caribbean is causing a decline of migratory birds. The United States has lost more than half its wetlands, nearly all its tallgrass prairie, 75 percent of shortgrass prairie, and almost all of its virgin forest.

"The decline of many species will have a negative effect on the

economy if we don't take action now to conserve their habitat," according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Mollie Beattie. "Quite simply, the jobs and livelihoods of people who make their living in the many businesses that support birdwatching are at risk if there are no birds to watch."

Kerlinger adds that the positive economic effect of the refuge is dependent on sustainable economic development that depends on clean, open space and an abundance of wildlife. "Without these things, the

tourists will not come, nor will their dollars benefit the community. A healthy environment translates into a healthy economy," Kerlinger concludes.

Besides support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Kerlinger's research was also funded by New England Biolabs Foundation and members of the New Jersey Audubon Society and Cape May Bird Observatory. No federal dollars were used for the study. ♦



## News and Notes OB 21(3)

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 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 — from the quarter in which you joined or renewed. If the number 21(3) appears — *this is your last issue*. So it's time to send in your membership dues! If the number 21(4) or higher appears, feel free to send in your dues early. You'll be guaranteed an extension of 4 issues at today's rates, you won't have to worry about your subscription for more than a year, and you'll make the accounting at OFO a little easier. The entire OB team thanks you! Send in your renewal now, and help us out at OB!

All requests for publications from OFO's Bookcase should be sent directly to Clarice Watson in Eugene. Clarice has generously agreed to take on the task of cataloguing and mailing OFO's bookcase items. This takes a load off the Treasurer and gets OFO's members better service. Requests for publications that are sent to OFO's P.O. Box might encounter long delays. Clarice Watson, OFO Publications, 3787 Wilshire Lane, Eugene, OR 97405.

Rare bird reports can be sent directly to Harry Nehls, Secretary of the Oregon Bird Records Committee. The "rare bird report form" appearing in the center pages of each

issue of *Oregon Birds* lists the OFO post office box in Eugene as the address to which rare bird reports should be sent. That is the permanent OFO address. But birders who send reports directly to Harry will shave a little time off the OBRC review. Harry Nehls, Secretary, Oregon Bird Records Committee, 2736 S.E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202, 503-233-3976.

Highlights of the OFO Board meeting at the Sixteenth Annual OFO Meeting, 17 June 1995:

- Cindy Lawes and Paul Sullivan were applauded and thanked for making meeting arrangements and handling registration, housing, meals, speakers, and field trips.
- Clarice Watson was presented a plaque in recognition of her outstanding service to OFO.
- The OFO Board has established 2 annual \$200 grants to encourage research in ornithology, one for a high school and one for a college student. Persons interested in applying should submit appropriate applications to the OFO Secretary. Applications should be made by 31 December of each year, should include the purpose of the research, methods to be employed, and a proposed budget. Grant winners will also get a complimen-

- tary 1-year membership in OFO.
  - The Oregon Bird Records Committee has requested \$180 to fund an Internet account; action will be taken at the next OFO Board meeting.
  - The new roster of OFO officers is printed inside the front cover of this issue of *Oregon Birds*.
  - Sixty-four OFO members and guests were registered for the annual meeting; Paul Adamus gave a progress report on the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas; Mark Henjum was the evening speaker.
- David R. Copeland, Secretary, Oregon Field Ornithologists, 703 Maine Avenue N.E., Keizer, OR 97303, 503-393-4420.

Fall pelagic trips, made known to OB:

- 9-10 September 1995, out of Coos Bay, in connection with the Oregon Shorebird Festival. For more information contact Lyn Topits, 503-267-7208
- 23 September and 21 October, 1995, out of Garibaldi, sponsored by Portland Audubon Society. For more information contact Portland Audubon, 503-292-6855
- 4 November and 2 December 1995, out of Newport, sponsored by The Bird Guide. For more information contact Greg Gillson, 503-324-0508

Group	Meets	At
Portland	First Tuesday (except Jun, Jul, Aug), 7:30 pm	Portland Audubon House, 5151 N.W. Cornell Road, Portland
Salem Audubon Society	Third Wednesday of the month (except Jun, Jul, Aug), 7:00 pm social, 7:30 pm	The Dye House, Mission Mill, 1313 Mill Street S.E., Salem
Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (SWOC)	Second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm	Lane Memorial Blood Bank, 2211 Willamette Street, Eugene — contact Clarice Watson, 485-6137
Yaquina Birders and Naturalists (Lincoln Co.)	Every third Tuesday (except Jul, Aug)	Hatfield Marine Science Center, Meeting Room 9, South Beach

**G**olden-Plovers (*Pluvialis fulva* and *P. dominica*) have been banded on Oahu, HI, and near Nome, AK. Each bird wears a FWS metal band plus some combination of color bands or color flags. Observers are asked to note the colors and exact sequence of all bands or flags on the bird. It is important that we know which leg carries the particular color(s) and, where used together, whether the color band is above or below the metal band. We are especially interested in migration routes and the locations of breeding grounds. Sightings are possible over vast areas including the insular Pacific, Pacific coast, portions of South and Central America, prairie regions of the U.S. and Canada, Alaska, and northeastern Russia. Please send observations with as much information as possible to Oscar Johnson, Dept. Biol., Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT 59717, 406-996-4548, or Phillip Bruner, Nat. Sci. Div., BYU—Hawaii, Laie, HI 96762, 808-293-3820, or WHSRN, c/o Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, 508-224-6521.

**B**lack-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*) have been banded near Nome, AK. We ask that observers along the Pacific coast be alert to possible sightings of these birds during spring migration. Each bird wears a FWS metal band plus two color bands on one leg, and a single color band on the opposite leg. It is important that we know the exact combination of color(s) carried on each leg. Please send observations with as much information as possible to Oscar Johnson, Dept. Biol., Montana State Univ., Bozeman, MT 59717, 406-996-4548, or WHSRN, c/o Manomet Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345, 508-224-6521.

**B**anded sandpipers from Paraças, Peru. I marked ca. 500 hundred sandpipers (Western and Semipalmated) with USF&WS metal bands, yellow dye in the breast or belly and a small number with yellow flags in the upper left leg. Also, a number of Sanderlings have been individually marked with color rings in the lower legs, USF&WS metal band in the

upper right leg and yellow flag in the upper left leg. If you sight these birds, please record the band's position, ring number, date and location. Should you catch a banded bird, I would appreciate if you can weigh and record the molt of the individual. All information will be properly acknowledged. J.C. Riveros Salcedo, GAAP, P.O. Box 11-0730, Lima 11, Peru, fax 51-14-633048; e-mail: jc%psj@upch.edu.pe.

**W**estern and Semipalmated Sandpipers have been color-banded near Nome, Alaska. I would be grateful to learn of any sightings of these 2000 marked birds. The majority have been marked with a dark green flag on the upper leg, and a metal band above a white band on the upper part of the opposite leg. A small number have also been individually marked with 3 color bands on the lower legs and a metal band on the upper leg. Please record the location and date of the sighting, species and age class, the position of the bands on the legs, and the number and species accompanying the banded bird. At least 10 Western Sandpipers banded at Nome have been resighted in the Pacific Northwest. Brett K. Sandercock, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC Canada V5A 1S6, 604-291-5618, bsanderc@fraser.sfu.ca.

**T**he Peregrine Fund, a non-profit conservation/research organization with 17 biologists on its permanent staff, is establishing a major conservation biology-ornithological research library at the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. Tax-deductible donations of individual publications and entire libraries will be warmly welcomed. Lloyd Kiff, Science Director, The Peregrine Fund, 5666 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709, 208-362-3716; fax 208-362-2376.



**R**are birds — running tally of the birds of the Oregon rare bird phone network:

- 30 May 1995, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Yaquina Head, Lincoln Co., by BLM staff;
- 30 May 1995, Indigo Bunting, a male coming to a feeder at the Endicott Gardens Bed & Breakfast, 5 miles from Gold Beach, Curry Co., passed on by Colin Dillingham;
- 10 June 1995, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak coming to a feeder (the same as last year!), Village of Meares, Tillamook Co., by Jerry Thompson; and
- 15 June 1995, a female Northern Parula Warbler, Malheur NWR Headquarters, by Alan Contreras.

**W**hat will be Oregon's 5 next "first" state record birds? There may still be time to enter the competition! In OB 20(4):118, Winter 1994, Bill Tice invited Oregon birders to predict the 5 species that will be here next. "Only those who send in their list before the next first state record bird is discovered are eligible!" Bill Tice, 750 Wood Street, Falls City, OR 97344.

**O**regon Birds is printed on 65-pound Simpson Ecopaque Text Recycled paper, and the cover is 65-pound Simpson Ecopaque Cover Recycled. The interior pages are 70-pound Concept Sandstone Recycled. Text font is Adobe Garamond Book and other members of the Adobe Garamond family are used throughout. Ink is soy-based. We're Green!

**I**n response to many requests for cassettes of forest birds, similar to the sets made for the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in 1993, Eleanor Pugh now offers a new cassette, "Mountain Forest Birds" with songs and calls of 72 species, including some small squirrels that often sound like birds. This cassette complements the newly revised, "Birds of Foothill Woodland Edges" — with few duplications. The 2 cassettes comprise a set that covers almost all the species one might usually encounter in Western forests.

90 minutes, \$10.00 postpaid each cassette. To order, use the handy order form in the center of this issue of OB, or write to Clarice Watson, OFO Publications, 3787 Wilshire Lane, Eugene, OR 97405.

**E**velyn Bull asks for information about the route and timing of Vaux's Swift migration. Birders are asked to observe any roost — chimney or other — over a period of several weeks, 2 times a week, in the fall (mid-September to mid-October). Forms are available. Evelyn Bull, Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory, 1401 Gekeler Lane, La Grande, OR 97850, 503-962-6547.

**C**itizen's Guide to Migratory Bird Conservation is the title of a new 32-page booklet to help birders help birds. It is loaded with great ideas for projects and activities you can do on your own or with a group of like-minded birders. You'll learn to write a publishable letter to the editor of your local paper or an action-inspiring letter to your legislator. A chapter on projects you can do around your house includes information on maintaining bird-friendly habitat in your backyard. Production of the Citizen's Guide was funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. \$5.00 each or \$2.00 each in quantities of 5 or more. Martha Fischer, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

## Meetings, events & deadlines made known to OB:

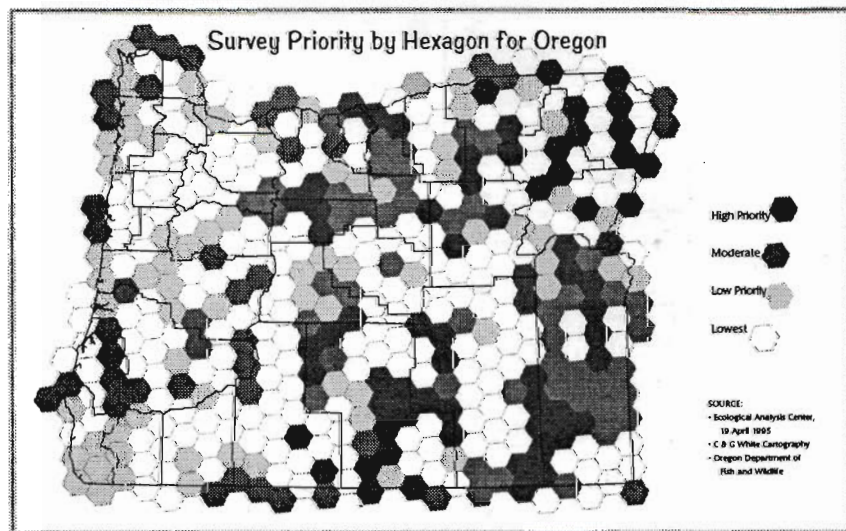
- 8-10 September 1995, Oregon Shorebird Festival, Cape Arago Audubon Society. Pelagic trips and shorebird field trips. Barbara Griffin, 1691 Grant Street, North Bend, OR 97459, 503-756-5688.
- 12-17 September 1995, The Wildlife Society's Second Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon. "Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education." Featuring symposia, workshops, contributed paper and poster sessions, Working Group meetings, student activities, Member's Forum, tours to Mt. St. Helens, old-growth forest, Oregon's coast, and more! Also featuring: TWS's Second Annual Trade Show and Exhibition; Long-Term Research on Keystone Species: Implications for Ecosystem Management. Co-hosted by the Oregon and Washington Chapters, TWS. Oregon Chapter, The Wildlife Society, P.O. Box 2214, Corvallis, OR 97339-2214.
- 14-16 September 1995, Society for Ecological Restoration, Seattle, Washington. SER Conference Registration, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison WI 53711, 608-262-9547.
- 15-17 September 1995, Oregon Field Ornithologists' Fall Birding Weekend at Malheur. Features speaker Jeff Gilligan on shorebirds. Sheran Jones, 9785 S.W. Ventura Court, Tigard, OR 97223, 503-246-5594.
- 16 September 1995, Fall Count, North American Migration Count, a first for all of North America as well as for Oregon. Pat French, Oregon NAMC Coordinator, 400 E. 31st Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405, 503-683-4292 before 9:00 pm.



*Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology*

## Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas Project

*Paul Adamus, Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas, P.O. Box 2189, Corvallis, OR 97330, 503-745-5625*

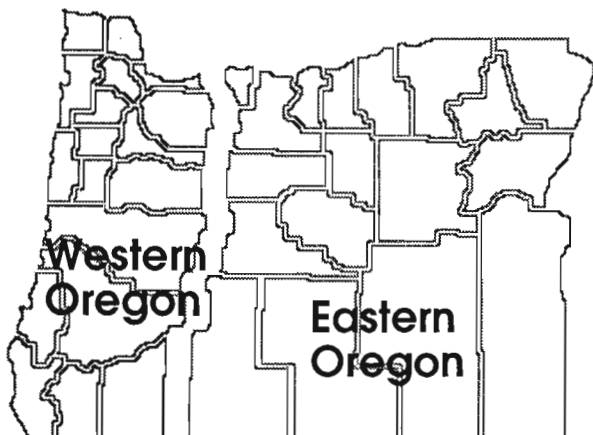


- 20-23 September 1995, 4th Annual Watchable Wildlife Conference, Estes Park, Colorado. Fourth Annual Watchable Wildlife Conference, 4800 Baseline Road, Suite A-112, Boulder CO 80303, 1-800-499-6336.
- 22-24 September 1995, 1995 Western Bird Banding Association Meeting, Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque New Mexico. Catherine I. Sandell, 8101 N. Main, Las Cruces NM 88012. Papers for presentation should be sent to Thomas Pogson, Alaska Bird Observatory, PO Box 80505, Fairbanks, AK 99708.
- 8-12 November 1995, Colonial Waterbird Society and Pacific Seabird Group joint meeting, Conference Centre in Victoria, British Columbia. The theme of the meeting will be "Behavioral Mechanisms of Population Regulation" and will include plenary speakers. Dr. Rob Butler, Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 340, Delta, B.C. V4K 3Y3 Canada, or Dr. Ron Ydenberg, Dept. of Biosciences, Simon Fraser Univ., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6 Canada.
- 8-15 November 1995, Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. Birding trips by Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours. Harlingen Chamber of Commerce, 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550, 800-531-7346.
- 16-19 November 1995, Festival of the Cranes, New Mexico. Features tours of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Socorro Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 743-B, Socorro, NM 87801, 505-835-0424.
- 16 December 1995-2 January 1996, inclusive, 96th Christmas Bird Count. National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.
- 10-12 January 1996, North American Crane Workshop, Biloxi, MS. Wendy Brown, North American Crane Working Group, 1208 Claire Court N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87104, fax 505-766-8063. Local Chair is Scott Hereford, Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR, 7200 Crane Lane, Gauthier, MS 39553, 601-497-6322.
- 16-22 August 1998, The XXII International Ornithological Congress, Durban, South Africa. Prof. Peter Berthold (Germany) will serve as President, Dr. Janet Kear (United Kingdom) as Vice President and Dr. Aldo Berruti as Secretary-General. This Congress will include a full scientific program and a large series of ornithological tours to numerous areas within southern Africa. All interested ornithologists are invited to take part. Potential members of the Durban congress are requested to contact Dr. Aldo Berruti (Durban Natural Science Museum, PO Box 4085, Durban 4000, South Africa) to be placed on the mailing list, or to provide suggestions on any aspects of the 22nd Congress. Persons on the mailing list will be sent information on all aspects of the congress in proper time. Suggestions for the scientific program should be sent to the chairman of the Scientific Program Committee, Dr. Lukas Jenni (Schweizerische Voegelwarte, CH-6204 Sempach, Switzerland; fax 011-41-41-462-9710). Announcements for the scientific program will be published separately. Letters of inquiry about the scientific program can be sent to Dr. Jenni, Prof. Berthold, or Prof. Walter Bock (Secretary of the IOC, Box 37 Schermerhorn Hall, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Columbia Univ., New York, NY 10027, USA). ◊

# FIELDNOTES

Oregon Birds and Audubon Field Notes have synchronized reporting areas, periods, and deadlines. Field reports for eastern and western Oregon are due to the OB Regional Editor and AFN Regional Editor at the same time.

Season	Months	Due date
Spring	March—May	10 June
Summer	June—July	10 August
Fall	August—November	10 December
Winter	December—February	10 March



## Oregon Birds Regional Editors

Western Oregon • Fall	Jeff Gilligan 231-0971	26 N.E. 32nd Avenue Portland, OR 97232
Western Oregon • Spring	Gerard Lillie 257-9344	329 N.E. Gilham Portland, OR 97215
Western Oregon • Winter/Summer	Jim Johnson 360-576-6984	10405 N.E. 9th Ave. Apt G-10 Vancouver, WA 98685
Eastern Oregon • Fall/Spring	Paul T. Sullivan 646-7889	4470 S.W. Murray Blvd. #26 Beaverton, OR 97005
Eastern Oregon • Winter/Summer	Tom Crabtree 389-7723	1667 N.W. Iowa Bend, OR 97701

## Audubon Field Notes Regional Editor

All of Oregon	Bill Tweit 206-754-7098	P.O. Box 1271 Olympia, WA 98507
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## Audubon Field Notes Sub-Regional Editors

Eastern Oregon	Tom Crabtree 388-2462	1667 N.W. Iowa Bend, OR 97701
Western Oregon	Harry Nehls 233-3976	2736 S.E. 20th Portland, OR 97202
Salem area	Barb Bellin 393-0243	4730 Elizabeth St. N. Salem, OR 97303
Rogue Valley	Marjorie Moore 535-5138	4729 S. Pacific Hwy. #11 Phoenix, OR 97535

Oregon Field Ornithologists members bird all over the state, and often find birds that are of interest to local birders. OFO supports publication of local field notes and encourages OFO members to contact local newsletter publishers or field notes editors whenever birding in or near

the Oregon locations listed below. If you would like to add a local newsletter or revise any of the information below, please contact the Editor, Oregon Birds, 3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212.

Area	Publication	Publisher	Address	Fieldnotes editor	Phone
Bend	Eagle Eye	Central Oregon Audubon Society	PO Box 565 Bend OR 97709	Tom Crabtree Ivy Hilly (Madras)	503-388-2462 503-475-3290
Coos Bay		Cape Arago Audubon Society	888 Telegraph Coos Bay OR 97420		
Corvallis	The Chat	Audubon Society of Corvallis	PO Box 148 Corvallis OR 97339	Mark Nebeker	503-745-7028
Eugene	The Quail	Lane County Audubon Society	PO Box 5086 Eugene OR 97405	Allison Mickel	503-485-7112
Florence		Florence Bird Club			
Grants Pass	The Siskin	Siskiyou Audubon Society	PO Box 1047 Grants Pass OR 97526	Eleanor Pugh	503-866-2665
Hood River		Columbia Gorge Audubon Society	PO Box 512 Hood River OR 97031		
John Day	The Upland Sandpiper	Grant County Bird Club	P.O. Box 111 Canyon City OR 97820	Tom Winters	503-575-2833 (h) 503-575-2570 (w)
Klamath Falls	The Grebe	Klamath Basin Audubon Society	PO Box 354 Klamath Falls OR 97601		
La Grande	The Rav-on	Grande Ronde Bird Club	PO Box 29 La Grande OR 97850	Bill & Chris Dowdy	963-4768
Medford	The Chat	Rogue Valley Audubon	6045 Foley Lane Central Point OR 97520	Ric Thowless	503-535-3280
Newport	The Sandpiper	Yaquina Birders and Naturalists	PO Box 1467 Newport OR 97365	Range Bayer	503-265-2965 d'dline: 20th of mo.
Portland	Audubon Warbler	Audubon Society of Portland	5151 NW Cornell Road Portland OR 97210	Harry Nehls	503-233-3976
Port Orford	The Storm Petrel	Kalmiopsis Audubon Society	PO Box 1265 Port Orford OR 97465		
Roseburg	Wing-Tips	Umpqua Valley Audubon Society	Box 381 Roseburg OR 97470		
Salem	The Kestrel	Salem Audubon Society	1313 Mill St SE Salem OR 97301	John Lundsten	503-585-9442

# FIELD NOTES: Eastern Oregon, Winter 1994-95

Tom Crabtree, 1667 NW Iowa, Bend, OR 97701 tom\_crabtre@bendnet.com

The winter season was fairly uneventful east of the Cascades. Warmer than normal temperatures persisted during the period. February was the second warmest on record. This year typical "winter" species were conspicuous by their absence. The highlights for this season were few: a Gyrfalcon and a record number of Blue Jays. Reports were also few this season, perhaps reflecting the lack of exciting birding in the region. Those of you who have signed up for Oregon Birders On Line may send your field notes to me via the address above.

## Abbreviations used:

CBC	Christmas Bird Count
HQ	headquarters
m.ob.	many observers
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

## Common Loon

1 was at McNary dam on 4 Dec; another was at the mouth of the Deschutes River on 8 Jan (PTS, JM); 2 were on Wallow Lake on 2 Jan (JJ).

## Horned Grebe

1 was at the mouth of the Deschutes River on 8 Jan (PTS, JM); an-

other was at the Prineville Sewage Ponds on 11 Feb (CC, JS).

## Eared Grebe

1 was near Arlington on 18 Feb (CC, JS). These birds are rare but regular along the Columbia in winter.

## Western Grebe

1 was at Ana Res., Summer Lake WMA on 20 Dec (PTS, JM).

## Red-necked Grebe

4 were on the Columbia near the Deschutes River mouth on 3 Dec (DL); 4 were at the John Day Dam 4 Dec (JJ, DB).

## American White Pelican

3 were at the Malheur NWR display pond on 6 Dec (REV).

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

25+ were in a roost at McNary Wildlife area 31 Dec (AC *et al.*).

## Greater White-fronted Goose

2 were east of Prineville on 31 Dec (PTS, JM).

## Trumpeter Swan

14 were in the Blitzen Valley on 17 Dec; 5 were in the Catlow Valley on 5 Jan (RTV).

## Snow Goose

1 was east of Prineville on 31 Dec (PTS, JM).

## Common Goldeneye

5000 along the Snake River from Farewell Bend to Annex was an amazing number (JG).

## Red-breasted Merganser

1 was on the Columbia River near Mosier on 15 Jan (DL), another was at Mayer State Park near Rowena on 19 Feb (DL); a female was at McNary Dam and another at John Day Dam on 4 Dec. 2 females were at Hood River on 1 Jan (JJ, DB).

## Oldsquaw

1 was at the John Day Dam on 4 Dec (JJ, DB).

## Bald Eagle

23 were in the Harney Basin on 9 Jan (*vide* RTV), 2 adults and an immature were at Cold Springs WMA on 4 Dec (PTS, JM); 4 were at Klamath Forest Marsh on 4 Feb (R&PM).

## Northern Goshawk

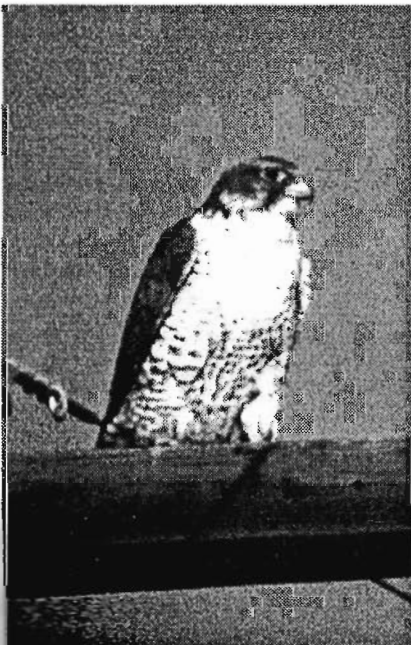
An immature was found dead at Malheur NWR HQ on 26 Jan (GL).

## Red-tailed Hawk

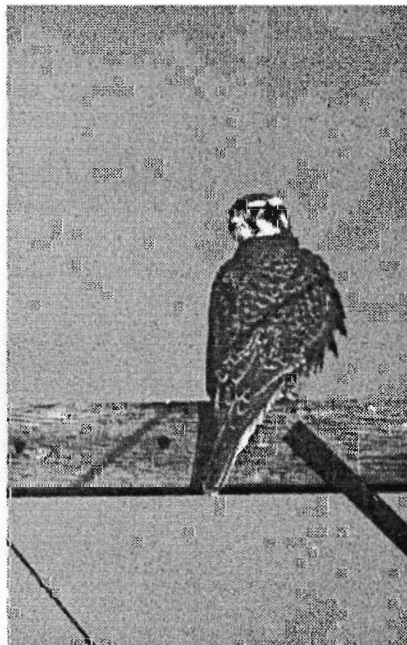
Large numbers were in the Baker and Enterprise areas this season with over 40 reported in each area (m.ob.).

## Red-shouldered Hawk

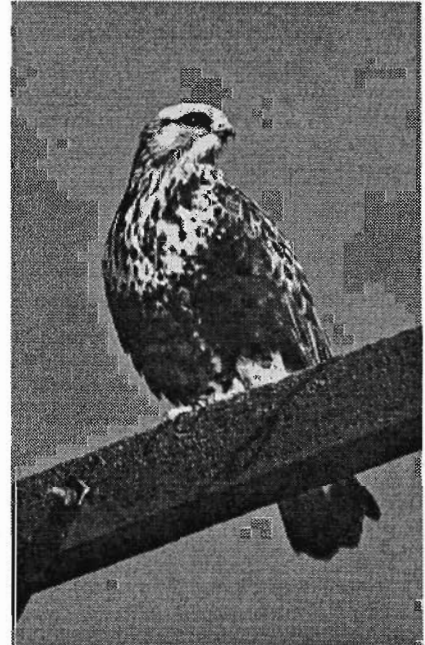
An immature was seen near Malheur NWR HQ on 19 Feb (DS).



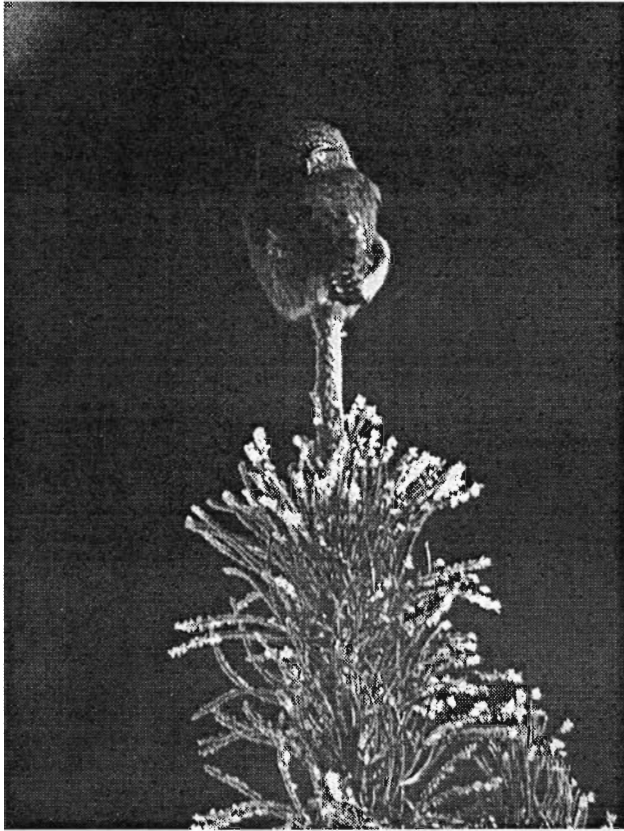
Peregrine Falcon, 29 December 1994, near Joseph, Wallowa Co. Photo/Mike Denny.



Prairie Falcon, 1 January 1995, Klagis Road, Wallowa Co. Photo/Skip Russell.



Rough-legged Hawk, 31 December 1994, Crow Creek Road, Wallowa Co. Photo/Skip Russell.



Northern Pygmy-Owl, 1 January 1995, North Highway, Wallowa Co. Photo/Skip Russell.

**Merlin**

1 was in Prineville on 1 Jan (TC, PTS, JM). It was still being reported on 10 Feb (CC, JS); 1 was at Page Springs, Harney, on 6 Dec (KJ); 1 was at Napton Malheur on 14 Jan (JG); 1 was at Jamieson Malheur (JG) and another was in Bend on 17 Dec (TC, CM).

**Peregrine Falcon**

2 were seen on Malheur NWR in December (see RTV), 1 was NE of Enterprise on 7 Jan (PTS, JM).

**Gyr Falcon**

At least one, and possibly 2 gray-phased adults wintered near Joseph (J, DB, m.ob.).

**Dunlin**

14 were along the Columbia River near Arlington. They are regular in small numbers in winter (CC, JS).

**Western Gull**

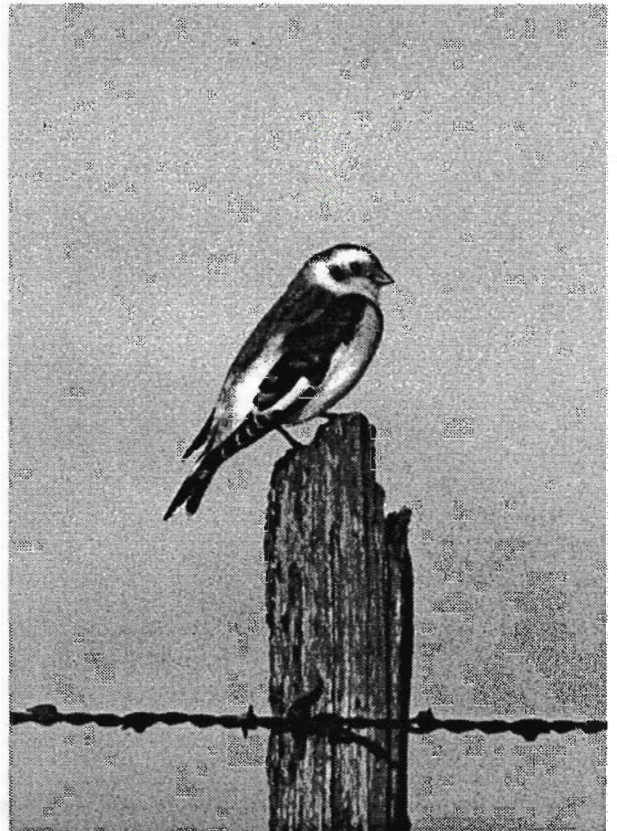
An adult was along the Columbia River in Sherman Co. on 2 Jan (AC); another (???) was at McNary Dam on 26 Dec (PTS, JM).

**Herring Gull**

1 was at Malheur NWR HQ on 14 Feb (RTV).

**Glaucous Gull**

A white first-winter bird, was spotted flying west down the Columbia River west of Arlington. It then was located below the John Day Dam where it rested for an hour and then



Snow Bunting (above and below), 4 December 1994, Crow Creek Road, Wallowa Co. Photo/Skip Russell.

it proceeded west and avoided subsequent detection (CC, JS).

**ROSS' GULL**

The bird found last November at McNary Dam barely lingered into this period, being last observed on 1 Dec (m.ob.).

**Barn Owl**

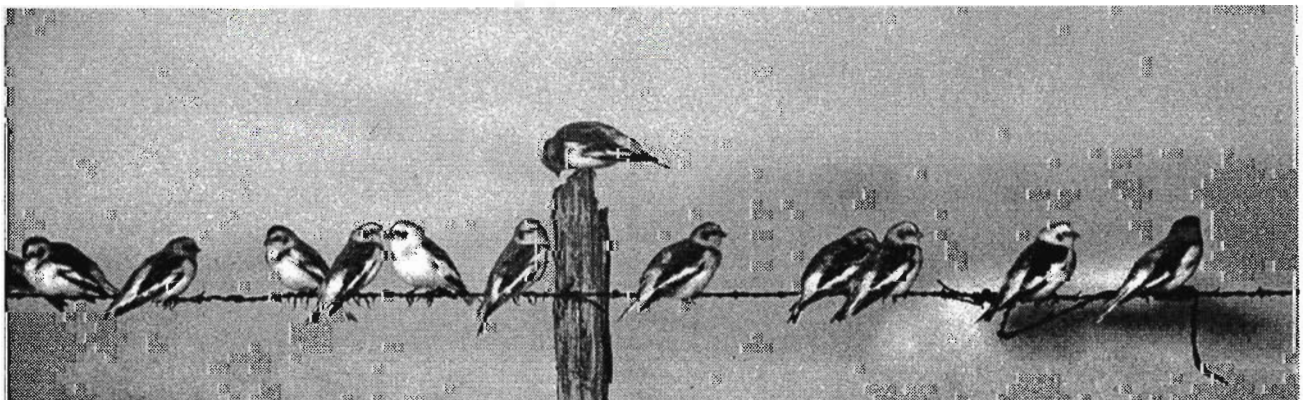
8 were in the willows south of Benson Pond on 4 Dec (fide KJ).

**Long-eared Owl**

Up to 11 were in the Willows around Haystack Res. this winter.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**

2 were at Malheur NWR HQ between 31 Jan and 28 Feb (REV); 1 was in Bend on 17 Dec for a rare record



(TC, CM).

**Common Poorwill**

One was found wintering north of Imnaha on 4 Feb (FC).

**Say's Phoebe**

The earliest reported was one below the Owyhee Dam on 6 Feb (JG).

**Violet-green Swallow**

4 were at Miller Island for the first record this spring (ED).

**Lewis' Woodpecker**

5 were in Mosier on 1 Jan (JJ).

**"Yellow-shafted" Flicker**

One apparently pure male was seen near Hood River on 1 Jan (JJ).

**Scrub Jay**

5 or more of the *californicus* race were in Bend all winter (TC, CM).

**BLUE JAY**

Singles were reported in the following locations during this winter: John Day, Page Springs, Elgin, Ochoco Ranger Station, Malheur NWR HQ, and Black Butte Ranch; 2 birds were at Burns and 3 were at Cove. This is the largest invasion in Eastern Oregon that I am aware of (m.ob.).

**Brown Creeper**

2 were at Page Springs, Harney, on 5 Dec, for a late Refuge record (KJ).

**Rock Wren**

1 found near Arlington on 25 Feb probably wintered (CC, JS).

**Winter Wren**

1 was at Malheur NWR HQ from mid-Dec through mid-Jan (RTV).

**American Dipper**

1 was in the unusual location of the Blitzen River at Page Springs on 17 Dec (RTV); another was along Marks Creek, east of Prineville on 31 Dec (PTS, JM); a dozen were along the Wallowa River between Minam and Wallowa on 7 Dec (PTS, JM).

**American Pipit**

3 were near Wamic on 4 Feb (DL).

**Bohemian Waxwing**

1 was at McNary WMA on 31 Dec (AC *et al.*); 1 was near Arlington on 18 February (CC, JS); 3 were seen in Summer Lake on 20 Dec (PTS, JM); 75 were in Joseph on 7 Jan (PTS, JM); 2 were in Adrian, Malheur on 14 Jan (JG); a flock of up to 50 was in Bend this winter (TC).

**American Tree Sparrow**

4 were north of Joseph on 2 Jan (JJ, DB); 17 were around the Enterprise area between late Dec and 7 Jan (PTS, JM); 2 were along the Columbia River near Arlington on 24 Dec (CC, JS).

**Sage Sparrow**

3 were found near Foster Flat Rd. along Hwy 205 on 19 Dec (*fide* RTV).

**Snow Bunting**

150 were at Flora Jct., N. of Enterprise on 29 Dec (PTS, JM).

**Tricolored Blackbird**

3 were north of Prineville in a mixed flock of Redwings and Brewers during the winter (m.ob.); 1 was in a flock of 500 Redwings north of Madras (CC, JS).

**Gray-crowned Rosy Finch**

40 were seen around Smith Rocks during Jan & Feb (m.ob.); 1 was west of Arlington near Philippi Canyon on 25 Feb. for a rare Gilliam Co. record (CG, JS)

**Cited observers**

Those who submitted reports directly to me are in boldface type.

DS David Bailey; AC Alan Contreras; CC Craig Corder; TC Tom Crabtree; ED Elisa & Ed Dale; KJ Ken Jones; JJ Jim Johnson; DL Donna Luthoff; GL Gretchen Lech; CM Craig Miller; JM Judy Meredith; R&PM Ron & Polly Maertz; DS Dan Svingin; JS Judy Stevens; PTS Paul T. Sullivan; RTV Rick Vetter.

◇



Northern Shrike, 4 December 1994, north of Enterprise, Wallowa Co. Photo/Skip Russell.



Cooper's Hawk, 3 February 1995, Umatilla, Umatilla Co. Photo/M.L. Denny.



Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, 4 December 1994, Crow Creek Road, Wallowa Co. Photo/Skip Russell.

# FIELDNOTES: Western Oregon, Winter 1994-95

Jim Johnson, 10405 N.E. 9th Avenue, Apt. G-10, Vancouver, WA 98685 jimjohn@teleport.com

## Abbreviations used:

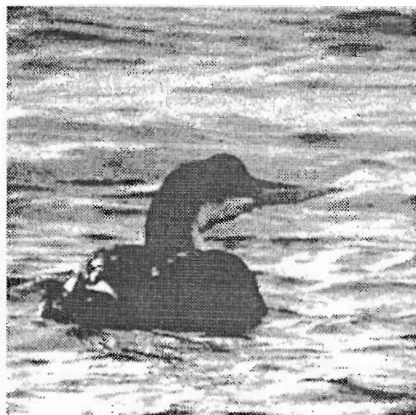
ANWR Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge  
BSNWR Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge  
CBC Christmas Bird Count  
Co. County  
FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir  
FNWR Finley National Wildlife Refuge  
HMSC Hatfield Marine Science Center, Lincoln Co.  
m.ob. many observers  
SJCR South Jetty of the Columbia River  
s.p. sewage ponds  
WMA Wildlife Management Area

## Red-throated Loon

Two were reported from inland locations — both on the Columbia R.: 1 at Portland throughout the period (DB, *fide* HN); and 1 at Sauvie I. 14 Jan. (MH, *fide* HN).

## Yellow-billed Loon

One was at Netarts Bay 7-8 Jan. (CR, DB, JJ, DL, SR, HN). One or 2 are typically found in the region during the winter.



Yellow-billed Loon, 8 January 1995, Netarts Bay, Tillamook Co., OBRC Record Number 008-95-33B. Photo/Harry Nebbs.

## Red-necked Grebe

Very rare inland, 1 was on the Willamette R. in Portland, 31 Dec. (HN).

## Eared Grebe

Four inland reports were received: 1 at Salem 1 Dec. (PSu *fide* HN); 1 at Henry Hagg L., Washington Co., 18 Dec. (HN); 1 at the Monmouth s.p., Polk Co., 27 Dec. (JJ); and 1 at the Molalla s.p., Clackamas Co., 31 Jan.-21 Feb. (TJ, ES<sub>p</sub>). This species occurs

with greater regularity at coastal estuaries during this period.

## Clark's Grebe

Only rarely reported from the interior valleys during the winter, 1 was at Henry Hagg L., Washington Co., 18 Dec. (HN) and 2 Jan. (DL). The only reports from the coast came from Curry Co. where 4 were found in Jan. and Feb. (DM, CD).

## Brown Pelican

As usual, a few lingered at coastal locations into Dec.: 1 at Boiler Bay 3 Dec. (CR *fide* HN); and 2 at Yaquina Head, 25 Dec. (*fide* RB). A very late bird was at Hammond, Clatsop Co., 14 Jan. (*fide* HN).

## Great Egret

Six near Eugene 26 Feb was a large number for that date (T&AM).

## Snowy Egret

One was on the lower Winchuck R., Curry Co., 8 Jan. and 22 Feb. (DM). For the third consecutive winter none were reported from the Coos Bay area where 1 to a few were regular fare during the winter.

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

Birds were reported from known roosts in northeast Portland (DB, JJ) and on the Chetco R., Curry Co. (CD) all season. The first known roost in Lane Co. was found in a residential area of Eugene (*fide* TM). Eleven birds were present. Singles were in the Rogue Valley at Central Point and near the Denman wildlife area in Jan. (MM, BS).

## Snow Goose

About 750 wintered on Sauvie I. (HN) which is average. A flock of 35+ near Eugene 4 Jan. was a large number for the area (RT, *fide* TM). Rare in the Rogue Valley, 3 or 4 were present at various sites in that area during Jan. and Feb. (MM, HS).

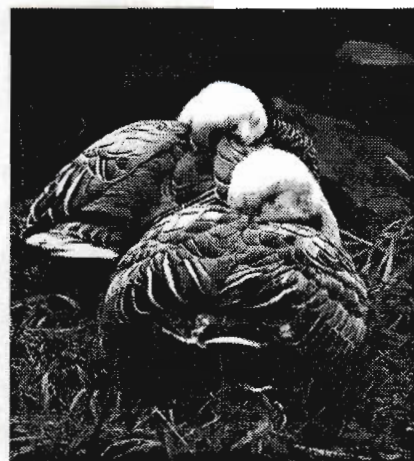
## Ross' Goose

The only report came from the Rogue Valley where 1 was at Eagle Point, Jackson Co., 4 Jan., with a Snow Goose (MM).

## Emperor Goose

Two very tame birds were at Netarts Bay 13 Dec.-7 Jan., and 1 was at the Bay City s.p. 17 Dec. (m.ob.). A fourth was at the mouth of the

Umpqua R., Douglas Co., 27 Dec. (RM).



Emperor Geese, 17 December 1994, Netarts Bay, Tillamook Co. Photo/Skip Russell.

## Brant

A 28-29 Dec. census of Brant on the Oregon coast produced an abnormally low 708 birds (RL *fide* RB). The token Willamette Valley report came from Sauvie I./Ridgefield NWR where 1 or more were present all winter (HN).

## Cinnamon Teal

There were several out-of-season reports: a male at Salem, 17 Dec. (TD *fide* BB); 2 in the Coquille Valley 26 Dec. (*fide* RH); 1 at Brownsmead, Clatsop Co. 15 Jan. (*fide* HN); and 2 in Polk, 2 Feb. (RH).

## Redhead

Eight birds were reported from the Willamette Valley where this species is typically rather uncommon: 1 at Burlington Bottoms near Sauvie I., 18 Dec. (DB); 1 in northeast Portland, 25 Dec. (DB); 2 at the Monmouth s.p., Polk Co., 27 Dec. (JJ); 1 at the Molalla s.p., Clackamas Co., 24 Jan. (TJ, ES<sub>p</sub>); 2 at Vernonia, Columbia Co., 25 Feb. (DL); and 1 at FRR 24 Feb+ (ESc, *fide* TM).

## TUFTED DUCK

A female in southeastern Polk Co. 28 Jan.-9 Feb. (RH). Tufted Ducks that are not in adult male plumage must be carefully scrutinized to rule out Tufted Duck X scaup hybrid, which may not be possible under field con-



ditions.

### White-winged Scoter

An inland bird was at Winchester, Douglas Co., 17 Dec. (*fide* RM).

### Barrow's Goldeneye

The usual smattering of individuals and pairs—mostly on the coast: 1 at Garibaldi, 17 Dec. (DL); 1 at FRR 1 Jan. (DG, *fide* TM); 1 on Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., 6 Jan. (*fide* HN); 1 at Yaquina Bay, 19 Jan. (*fide* RB); 1 at Siletz Bay, 28 Jan. (DL); and a pair at Alsea Bay, Lincoln Co. in Feb. (*fide* RB). Thirty were present in the Rogue Valley for the Medford CBC (MM).

### Red-breasted Merganser

One was inland at Lake Oswego, Clackamas Co., 31 Dec. (*fide* HN).

### Turkey Vulture

Out-of-season reports were as follows: 1 along the Willamette R. in Salem 1 Dec.; 1 was south of Monmouth, Polk Co., 10 Dec. (MF, *fide* BB); 1 at Kellogg, Douglas Co., 9 Dec. (*fide* RM); 1 at Adair Village, Benton Co., 14 Dec. (RH); and 1 feeding on a deer carcass near Toledo, Lincoln Co., 1 Jan. (*fide* RB).

The first northbound migrants were noted as follows: 1 along the lower Rogue R. on 16 Jan. (EI *fide* DM); 4 circling over Harbor, Curry Co., 19 Jan. (DM); 1 near McMinnville 19 Jan. (R&NM); first reported near Eugene 8 Feb. (AP *fide* TM); first noted in Lincoln Co. 15 Feb. (*fide* RB); and first noted in Astoria and Beaverton 20 Feb. (*fide* HN).

### Osprey

An unusually high number of Ospreys were found this season: 1 at Eckman L., Lincoln Co., 9 Dec. (*fide*



Barrow's Goldeneye (top) and Common Goldeneye composite photo, Tillamook Bay CBC, 17 December 1994. Photo/Owen Schmidl.

RB); 1 along the Rogue R., Curry Co., all winter (CD); 1 near Canby, Clackamas Co., 1 Jan. (*fide* HN); 1 at HMSC 19 Jan. (TM *fide* RB); 1 along the North Santiam R. between Scio and Jefferson, Linn Co., 12 Feb. (RH); 1 at Newport Reservoir, Lincoln Co. 25 Feb. (TM *fide* RB); 1 north of Medford 28 Feb. (BS *fide* MM); and 3 to 5 wintered in the Eugene/Springfield area along the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers (*fide* TM). Birds have wintered in this area most of the last 5-7 winters, but usually singles or at most 2.

### White-tailed Kite

Seventeen wintered in the Rogue

Valley during the period (*fide* MM). Elsewhere, the species was generally under-reported, but 6 were along a one-mile stretch of road in Polk Co. 15 Dec. (RG, BT *fide* BB) which is a high number for the area, and 1 was just in Yamhill Co. 20 Feb. (TJ) where it is very rare. Only 1-2 wintered at FRR, much below normal for the last few years (*fide* TM).

### Red-shouldered Hawk

Two were observed working on a nest at Brookings, 5 Feb. (CD). This is one of few known nests in Oregon.

Three or more wintered at FRR up to the end of the period (*fide* TM) which is becoming typical for the area, and at least 10 were in the lower Coquille Valley this season (*fide* AC). Elsewhere, reports were as follows: 1 at Reedsport, Douglas Co., 27 Dec. (RM); 1 at ANWR 2 Jan. (possibly the first for Marion Co., KS, SS, *fide* BB); 1 near Sutherlin, Douglas Co., from end of Dec. to the end of the period (*fide* RM); 3 or more in the Rogue Valley in Dec. and Jan. (m.ob., *fide* MM); and 1 at Scappoose, Columbia Co., 14 Jan. (*fide* HN).

### "Harlan's" Hawk

For the fifth winter, 1 was at the intersection of Suver and Corvallis Rds., Polk Co., throughout the period (RH).

### Ferruginous Hawk

An adult was north of Medford on the CBC and through 29 Jan. (*fide* MM). There are few acceptable records for western Oregon.

### Rough-legged Hawk

Very low numbers in the Eugene area (1 or 2 birds) this winter (m.ob. *fide* TM).

### Golden Eagle

An adult and an immature were at BSNWR, 27 Dec. (JJ), and an immature was at FNWR in Jan. (AC, RH). Very unusual on the north coast, an adult was at Tillamook, 8 Jan. (JJ, DB).

### Gyrfalcon

One was at FNWR 26 Dec.-11 Feb. (AM, m.ob., *fide* RH).

### Prairie Falcon

Up to 6 were present in the Rogue Valley during the period (*fide* MM). Elsewhere, reports were as follows: 1 at FNWR all season (m.ob.); 1 near Hillsboro, Washington Co., 3 Dec. (HN); 1 at Dixonville, Douglas Co., 17 Dec. (*fide* RM); 1 at Scappoose, Columbia Co., 18 Dec. (DB); and 1 at FRR 16 Jan. (DS, *fide* TM).



Harlequin Ducks, 17 December 1994, Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co. Photo/Skip Russell.

### **Sandhill Crane**

An average 150 wintered on Sauvie Island (*fide* JJ). Flocks of 37 and 55 were seen flying over FRR and near Lebanon, Linn Co., respectively, 22 Feb. (DS, *fide* TM, RH).

### **Semipalmated Plover**

Not expected in the interior valleys during winter, 4 were in N. Linn Co. on a 21 Jan. shorebird census (RT, *fide* TM), and 3 were at FRR 26 Feb. (DJ, *fide* TM).

A flock of 50 at Pony Slough, Coos Bay, 22 Feb. (TM) was a fairly high number for the coast.

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

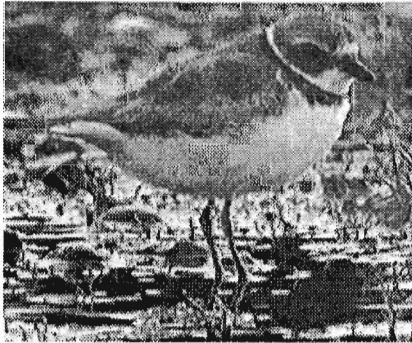
Up to 5 were in the FRR area from mid-Jan. to the end of the period.

### **Long-billed Curlew**

Up to 3 were at Bandon all winter (DM, AC), 2 were at Netarts Bay 19 Jan. (PSu).

### **Dunlin**

About 6000 were at FRR on a 3 Dec. shorebird census which was half the previous Dec. total. Numbers peaked at 20,000 at FRR in mid-Jan. (DG, BC, *fide* TM).



*Semipalmated Plover, Tillamook Bay CBC, 17 December 1994. Photo/Owen Schmidl.*



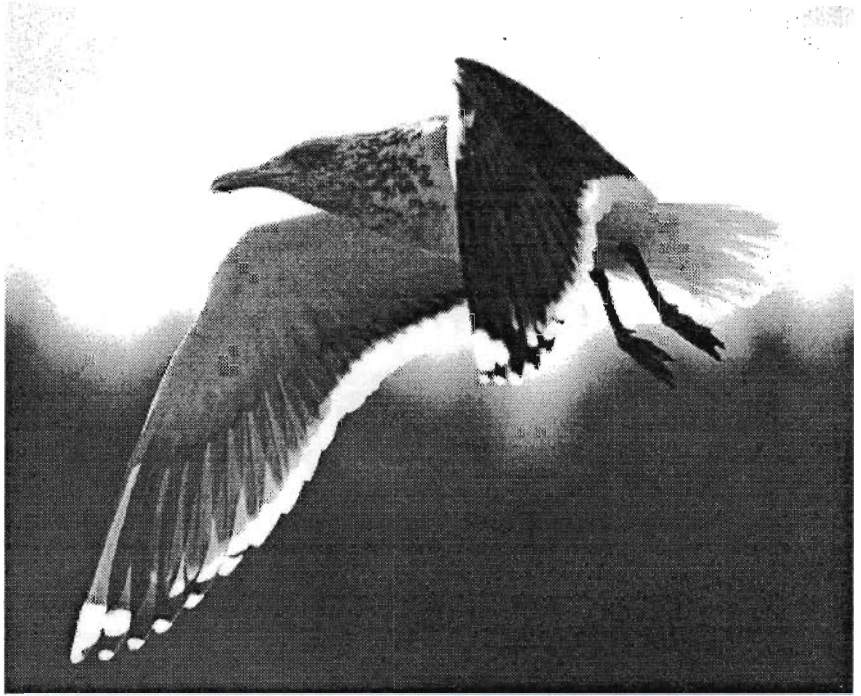
*Western Sandpiper, Tillamook Bay CBC, 17 December 1994. Photo/Owen Schmidl.*

### **Red Phalarope**

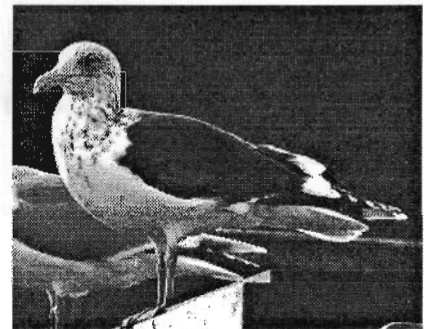
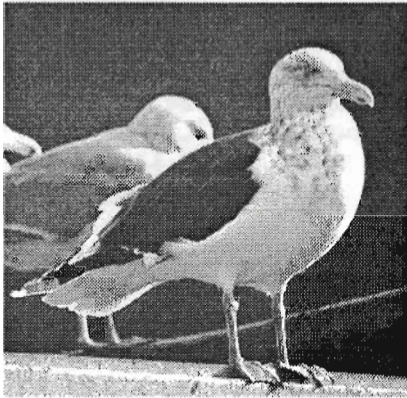
Only 5 were reported throughout the period—all at the coast (m.ob.).

### **Franklin's Gull**

Very rare during the winter, 1 was in Kiezer, Marion Co., 17 Dec. on the



*Slaty-backed Gull, 23 January 1995, Sauvie Island, Multnomah Co. Photo/Skip Russell.*



*Slaty-backed Gull, 23 January 1995, Sauvie Island, Multnomah Co. Above: Photo/Skip Russell. Left: OBRC Record Number 048-95-04C. Photo/Harry Nehls.*

Salem CBC (BB, DC), and 1 was at Forest Grove, Washington Co., 18 & 26 Dec. (BW, DL).

### **Heermann's Gull**

A straggler was at Harbor, Curry Co., 12 Jan. (DM).

### **SLATY-BACKED GULL**

An adult was well-photographed at Sauvie I. 7-23 Jan. (DB, m.ob) for the second occurrence of the species in Oregon.

### **PARAKEET AUKLET**

One was found dead on Clatsop Beach 12 Dec. (*fide* HN). It is not known if the specimen was saved or if any photos were taken.

### **Mourning Dove**

Wintered at Sandpiper Village up to 4 Feb. This species typically does not winter in Lincoln Co. (*fide* RB).

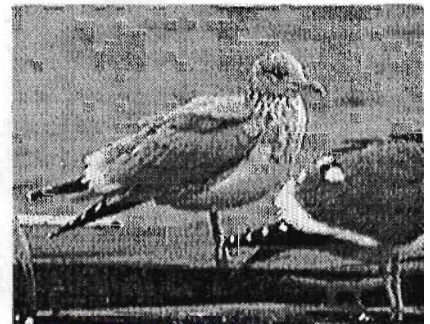
### **Burrowing Owl**

One was present throughout the

period to 12 Feb. near Shedd, Linn Co. (RH), and 2 wintered at Gold Beach (CD).

### **Barred Owl**

A pair was heard in the Coast Range near Crow, Lincoln Co., 14 Jan. (TF, *fide* TM). TM states that Barred Owls have become quite common in both



*Thayer's Gull (typical Western Gull hybrid in front), Tillamook Bay CBC, 17 December 1994. Photo/Owen Schmidl.*

the Coast Range and Cascades in Lane County over the last 5+ years. Elsewhere, one was heard calling on Peavine Ridge, Curry Co., 22 Feb. (DM), and one was at FNWR, 22 Feb. (RH *fide* HN).

### **Long-eared Owl**

Three wintered at E.E. Wilson WMA, Benton Co., PSu *fide* HN. A traditional wintering site.

### **Rufous Hummingbird**

First spring migrants were reported as follows: at Waldport, Lincoln Co. and Neskowin, Tillamook Co., 19 Feb. (*fide* RB); at Jacksonville, Jackson Co., (*fide* MM) and Albany (AM) Feb. 20; in coastal Lane Co. 22 Feb. (B&ZS, *fide* TM); and at Eugene 25 Feb. (PL, *fide* TM).

### **Lewis' Woodpecker**

Ninety-one were on the Medford CBC compared with 6 last year (*fide* MM).

### **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER**

An immature female was first seen in Salem 16 Nov. (when reported as a Red-naped Sapsucker) and then re-sighted 3 Feb. (BB, m.ob) for about the seventh Oregon record. The bird remained through the end of the period. In Feb. much of the dark brown mottling and spotting of the immature plumage was still present and there was no red visible in the nape or throat.

### **Hairy Woodpecker**

Three were in Eugene during the period where they are very uncommon around town (*fide* TM).

### **Black Phoebe**

Over 40 were in the lower Coquille Valley on CBC day (*fide* AC).

### **Say's Phoebe**

As is typical, 2 or more wintered in the Rogue Valley (*fide* MM). Much more unusual were 1 at Tillamook, 2-22 Dec. (*fide* HN, m.ob), and 1 at E.E. Wilson WMA through 23 Feb. (AM).

### **Horned Lark**

Flocks of up to 15 were at 3 locations in Linn Co. in Jan. and Feb. and a group of 3 was in Benton Co. in Feb. (RH). A flock of 200 was at FNWR 14 Jan. (AC).

### **Tree Swallow**

Late fall migrants were at FRR 3 & 4 Dec. (TM, DG, BC), at ANWR, 14 Dec. (RH, HH, CL), and at Medford 29 Dec. (*fide* MM).

First spring migrant reports were as follows: at FRR (PF, *fide* TM) and near Lebanon, Linn Co. (RH) 8 Feb;

near Medford 17 Feb. (BS *fide* MM); in Clackamas Co. 21 Feb. (TJ); and in Lincoln Co. 22 Feb. (*fide* RB).

### **Violet-green Swallow**

A late adult female was at BSNWR, 27 Dec. (JJ).

The first of the spring were noted near Lebanon, Linn Co., 22 Feb. (RH), and at FRR 26b Feb. (T&AM).

### **Blue Jay**

One was at Thiel Cr., Lincoln Co. to 11 Dec. (*fide* RB) and 1 was at North Plains, Washington Co., to 18 Dec. (m.ob. *fide* HN).

### **Scrub Jay**

One was at Netarts, Tillamook Co., 17 Dec.-19 Jan. (DB, JJ, PSu). There are only 1 or 2 previous records for the county.

### **Mountain Chickadee**

One was near Roseburg, Douglas Co., 17 Dec. (*fide* RM).

### **Mountain Bluebird**

Three or 4 were on the Rogue Valley floor in Dec. (*fide* MM), 1 was at Corvallis, 20 Dec. (*fide* HN), and 3 were at FRR 17 Jan. and remained for 2 weeks (DJ, m.ob., *fide* TM).

### **Townsend's Solitaire**

One was on the west side of Eugene 9 Dec. (RT, *fide* TM).

### **Varied Thrush**

One hundred and fourteen were on the Medford CBC compared with

none last year (*fide* MM).

### **Northern Mockingbird**

Four were in Curry Co. (CD) and 3 were in the Rogue Valley (*fide* MM) during the period. Reports from elsewhere were as follows: 1 at FRR to 4 Feb. (m.ob., *fide* TM); 1 at ANWR 27 Dec. (JL *fide* BB); 1 at South Beach, Lincoln Co., 28 Dec. (*fide* RB); and 1 at BSNWR 29 & 39 Jan. (DL).

### **Bohemian Waxwing**

One was with 8 Cedars in Monmouth, Polk Co., through most of Feb. (BT, RH).

### **Northern Shrike**

The species was reported to be more common in the Eugene area than in the last several years (*fide* TM).

### **Palm Warbler**

Reports of 7 birds were received: singles at HMSC 30 Dec. & 18 Jan. (*fide* RB); up to 3 in Old Town Florence through 4 Feb. (*fide* TM); 1 in Curry Co., 11 Feb. (CD); and 1 at Coos Bay all season (*fide* HN).

### **Common Yellowthroat**

One was found during the Eugene CBC, 1 Jan. (TM).

### **Yellow-breasted Chat**

One visited a suet feeder in Ashland 14 Dec.-25 Jan. (MU *fide* MM) for the third winter record for Oregon.

### **Black-headed Grosbeak**

One adult male visited a feeder at

*Gyr Falcon at Finley NWR, Benton Co., 7 January 1995, OBRC Record Number 354-94-19D. Photo/Ron Maertz.*



*Gyr Falcon at Finley NWR, Benton Co., 30 December 1994, OBRC Record Number 354-94-19I. Photo/Richard Fulham.*



St. Helens, Columbia Co., 18 Feb. to the end of the period (*vide* HN) for what is probably the first over-winter record in Oregon.

#### **Green-tailed Towhee**

One visited a feeder in Riverton, Coos Co., 24-26 Dec. (m.ob. *vide* RH) for the first winter record in Oregon.

#### **Lark Sparrow**

One was near Toledo, Lincoln Co., 23 Dec. (*vide* RB).

#### **Swamp Sparrow**

Eleven birds (rather low for recent years) were reported from throughout the region, but the Swamp Sparrow stronghold at Tillamook was inaccessible during the CBC because of flood conditions.

#### **White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow**

One was in a flock of Golden-crowns near Lebanon, Linn Co., 18 Jan. (RH).

#### **Harris' Sparrow**

One was at Pony Slough, Coos Co., 2 Feb. and 1 was at Albany 15 Feb. to the end of the period (*vide* HN).

#### **Snow Bunting**

One was seen sporadically on Mary's Peak, Benton Co., accompanying the Rosy-Finches in early Feb. (JL, m.ob).

#### **Yellow-headed Blackbird**

One was at BSNWR, 13 Jan (*vide* HN). There is usually 1 around somewhere during the winter.

#### **Northern Oriole**

One visited a hummingbird feeder in Medford through 22 Jan. (*vide* MM), and another visited a hummingbird feeder in Eugene 28 Feb. (*vide* TM). There are about 13 previous winter records for Oregon.

#### **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**

Eight were at the traditional winter site of Mary's Peak, Benton Co., from late Jan. through Feb. (JL, m.ob.), but additional birds were found on Sugarloaf Mt., Polk Co. — 2 on 26 Jan. and 20 on 27 Jan. (BB, BT). Future investigations are needed to determine if Sugarloaf Mt. is another regular wintering site in the Coast Range. Eleven were in Sutherlin, Dou-

glas Co., 6 Dec. (*vide* RM).

#### **Common Redpoll**

One visited a feeder in Independence, Polk Co., 5 Dec. (EF *vide* BB).

#### **Observers**

David Bailey, Range Bayer, Barb Bellin, Barbara Cooper, Dave Copeland, Tom DeSousa, Colin Dillingham, Mary French, Pat French, Elaine Ferguson, Roy Gerig, Dan Gleason, Steve Gordon, Hendrik Herlyn, Mike Houck, Rich Hoyer, Elizabeth Irle, Tim Janzen, Jim Johnson, Dave Jones, Ted Kenefick, Paul Land, Chris Lassen, Roy Lowe, John Lundsten, Donna Lusthoff, Ron Maertz, Alan McGie, Tom & Allison Mickel, Rick & Nora Miller, Marjorie Moore, Terry Morse, Don Munson, Al Prigge, Craig Roberts, Skip Russell, Howard Sands, Don Schrouder, Eva Schultz (ESc), Paul Sherrell (PSH), Karen Sparkman, Stuart Sparkman, Elmer Specht (ESp), Bruce Stewart, Bill & Zannah Stotz, Paul Sullivan (PSu), Bill Tice, Roy Titus, Mike Uhtoff, Bing Wong. ◊

# Oregon Birds

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- 16 September 1995, North American Migration Count, fall count
- 20 October 1995, DEADLINE for the next issue of OB!
- 10 December 1995, Fall (August-November) field notes due to field notes editors
- 16 December 1995 - 2 January 1996, 96th Christmas Bird Count



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