The quarterly journal of Oregon field ornithology

Volume 24, Number 3, Fall 1998

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COVER PHOTO

CENTER
- OFO Membership form - OFO Bookcase - OFO Birding Weekends - Oregon Rare Bird Phone Network - Checklist of Oregon’s birds - Oregon Shorebird Festival
Oregon Birds is looking for material in these categories: news briefs on things of temporal importance, such as meetings, birding trips, announcements, news items, etc.; articles are longer contributions dealing with identification, distribution, ecology, management, conservation, taxonomy, behavior, biology, and historical aspects of ornithology and birding in Oregon (articles cite references — if any — at the end of the text); short notes are shorter communications dealing with the same subjects as articles (short notes typically cite no references, or at most a few in parentheses in the text; names and addresses of authors appear at the end of the text); bird finding guides "where to find a ___ in Oregon" (for some of the rarer birds) and "where to find birds in the ___ area" (for some of the better spots); reviews for published material on Oregon birds or of interest to Oregon birders; photographs of birds, especially photos taken recently in Oregon (color slide originals are preferred; please label all photos with photographer’s name and address, bird identification, date and place the photo was taken; all photos will be returned; contact the Editor for more information).

Deadline for the next issue of Oregon Birds — OB 24(4), Winter 1998 — is 20 October 1998. The next issue should get to you by the first week of December 1998. Material can be submitted any time, and the sooner the better. Please send materials directly to the Editor.
From July 1997 to July 1998 the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) completed the following records. The first group of records are those for which the written report and/or photographs or specimens supported the stated identification and are accepted records. If photo(s) or specimen is indicated for a record it was accepted as verified. Other records were accepted as sight records.

Of the 26 records reviewed by the Committee 12 were accepted and 14 were not accepted.

Information presented below for each species includes location of sighting, number of birds, sex and age if known, special information (such as collection and museum number) and date(s), initial(s) of observer(s) submitting written or other evidence for accepted records, and the OBRC record file number. The OBRC record file number reads as follows: the first 3 digits are the AOU number for the species, the second 2 are the year in which the record was observed, and the last numbers are the consecutive numbers for the records as they are filled.

The members of the OBRC for 1998 are Tom Crabtree, Colin Dillingham, Jeff Gilligan, Jim Johnson, Gerard Lillie, Larry McQueen, Craig Roberts, Skip Russell, and Owen Schmidt. The alternates are Craig Corder, Kamal Islam, Steven Dowlan, Kevin Spencer, and Bill Tice.

The OBRC thanks the following organizations for having made financial contributions in the past year to help with expenses: Cape Arago Audubon Society, Corvallis Audubon Society, Grant County Bird Club, Grande Ronde Bird Club, Lane County Audubon Society, Portland Audubon Society, Umpqua Valley Audubon, and Yaquina Birders and Naturalists.

Finally, the OBRC solicits nominations for membership. Each year the OBRC elects 3 of its 9 members for 3-year terms (technically, the OBRC elects nominees for appointment by the OFO Board). Birders themselves interested in serving on the OBRC should nominate themselves. All nominees must be members of OFO in good standing and all nominations must be received by the Secretary before 30 October 1998. New terms begin at the new calendar year.

**Records Accepted**

**Little Stint**
242.3-95-05 South Jetty Columbia River, Clatsop Co., 1 immature 10-11 August 1995 (MP, photos by HN).

**Costa's Hummingbird**

**Least Flycatcher**
647-97-32 Benson Pond, Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 1 singing bird on 3 June 1997 (Tape recordings by DH).

**Tropical Kingbird**
446-96-19 Brookings, Curry Co., 1 bird on 17 October 1996 (ED).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**

**Black-backed Wagtail**
695.1-96-02 Cape Blanco, Curry Co., 1 bird on 9 November 1996 (TWa, photos by DMu).

**Cape May Warbler**

**Blackpoll Warbler**
661-96-35 Cape Blanco, Curry Co., 1 immature bird on 27 September 1996 (photos by CD).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**
595-96-32 Hunter Creek, Curry Co., 1 second year male on 8 July 1996 (photo by CD).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**
Hooded Oriole
505-95-17 Bend, Deschutes Co., 1 adult male on 2 May 1996 (PMe).

Baltimore Oriole
507-91-03 Brookings, Curry Co., 1 immature male on 1 December 1991 (photos by CD).

Contributors
Colin Dillingham (CD)
Tony Greager (TG)
David Herr (DH)
Elizabeth Irle (EI)
Tim Janzen (TJ)
Cindy Lawes** (CI)
Patty Mechan (PMe)
Don Munson** (DMu)
Harry Nehls (HN)
Mike Patterson (MP)
Dennis Vroman (DV)
Terry Wahl** (TWa)

** New to the all time contributors list.

Records Not Accepted

Yellow-billed Loon
008-94-31 Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., 1 winter plumaged adult 21-27 November 1994. Details submitted were rather sketchy and incomplete and did not completely rule out second winter plumaged Common Loon.

008-94-32 Wallowa Lake, Wallowa Co., 1 winter plumaged bird on 29 December 1994. Details submitted adequately described a Yellow-billed Loon but the photos created some questions. Other birders visiting the area a few days later observed a loon that appeared to be the bird described and photographed earlier. After close examination it was identified as a Common Loon. As there was some question on the identification of this bird the record was not accepted.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck
178-95-02 Upper Campbell Lake, Lake Co., 2 birds were observed 18 September 1995. Not accepted as descriptions did not adequately describe a Fulvous Whistling-Duck or completely rule out similar duck species.

American Black Duck
133-86-03 Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., 1 bird observed 7 September 1986. The description submitted indicated that this individual was a hybrid, most probably Mallard X American Black Duck. The dull olive-green upper mandible with considerable black mottling plus other plumage characteristics indicate hybrid. The origin of this bird was discussed but it was not the reason this record was not accepted.

Gyrfalcon
354-96-20 Bayocean Spit, Tillamook Co., 1 subadult gray phase bird on 1 January 1996. This record was very brief and did not give enough detail to completely eliminate a Peregrine Falcon. A large falcon in flight is very difficult to identify to species.

354-95-21 Baskett Slough NWR, Polk Co., 1 dark bird on 9 November 1995. Details of this sighting was of a flying bird and was based more on size and coloration than any other field point. As the description did not eliminate other large falcons the record was not accepted.

Common Moorhen
219-95-07 1-84 east of the Sandy River, Multnomah Co., 2 adults on 31 August 1995. The description submitted fit that of adult Moorhens. However, at the time of the observation no American Coots were observed. Yet the next day the observer and several other birders found two juvenile American Coots on the pond where the Moorhens were seen; they could not find any Moorhens. This species is very rare in Oregon, has occurred only as single individuals, and only during the spring. The record raises questions despite the good description. The Committee decided not to accept the record.

Curlew Sandpiper
244-95-14 South Jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop Co., 1 bird on 26 August 1995. The descriptions submitted appeared to be that of a Curlew Sandpiper. However, the slide taken of the bird showed chestnut or dark reddish tertails edges and a back pattern inconsistent with that species. The Committee did not accept this questionable individual.

Ross's Gull
061-93-02 Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., 1 immature bird on 18-19 April 1993. The description of this individual was of a bird in transitional plumage. It was seen at a distance and many identifiable field points were not seen and some that were described could well have been distorted by lighting and distance. This re-
port did not completely eliminate other species of small gulls.

**Costa's Hummingbird**
430-94-28 Agate Beach, Lincoln Co., a male from 10 November to 13 December 1994. The descriptions submitted did not completely describe a Costa's Hummingbird. The feeder attracted a good number of Anna's Hummingbirds and there was considerable confusion and discussion during the period of observation about a Costa's actually being there. Because of the doubt raised the Committee did not accept this record.

**Least Flycatcher**
467-90-29 Thornton Creek, Lincoln Co., 1 bird observed 24 August 1990. The plumage description provided was not complete enough to identify a Least Flycatcher and eliminate other Empidonax species. A persistently calling bird in late August is highly unusual and raised questions on what was actually heard.

**Northern Parula**
648-93-22 Bayocean Peninsula,Tillamook Co., 1 female or immature on 24 July 1993. There were too many inconsistencies in the description to identify this bird as a Northern Parula and eliminate other warbler species.

648-93-23 Florence, Lane Co., 1 female on 21 August 1993. The observation of this bird was brief and the chance of mis-identification great. The description of the bird was incomplete and did not fully eliminate other species of warbler.

There were enough questions for the Committee to not accept the record.

**Curve-billed Thrasher**
707-95-01 Toketee Lake, Douglas Co., 1 bird on 12 July and 1 August 1995. The descriptions given were contradictory and somewhat incomplete. They did not rule out similar thrasher species that may have been in heavily worn plumage at this time of year.

**August 9, 1933 - May 16, 1998**

**MEMORIAM: Janice G. “Jan” Krabbe**

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., reared in Little Rock, Arkansas, after finishing high school there she earned a BS degree at the University of Houston. Jan moved to Corvallis in 1965 and received a Master's degree in Marine Biology from Oregon State University in 1969. Her employment, first with the Environmental Protection Agency, then with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was followed by 10 years with the Student Development Division at Linn-Benton Community College.

She joined the Audubon Society of Corvallis in 1978 and was elected Secretary in 1980. After that she served as editor of the chapter newsletter *Chat* for 2 years and edited or co-edited *the* field notes for 4 years. During this time Jan assisted in non-game bird rehabilitation and with the bluebird trail by field testing different types of nest boxes. The March–April 1984 issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* published her article "Reserved for Bluebirds." Jan took part in many Christmas Bird Counts and was Corvallis Audubon Society's representative in helping get the Jackson-Frazier Wetland established as a Benton County Park.

In February 1980 she was elected founding Secretary of Oregon Field Ornithologists and held that position for 2 terms. Her campaign slogan was "I can type 50 birds a minute!" Following that she was elected an OFO board member for 2 additional years. One of her achievements was organizing the first statewide Rare Bird Phone Network for OFO in 1982. Until last year, she was listed as co-leader for the most birds seen in Benton County. Certainly a highlight was being one of the first group of observers to correctly identify the Spotted Redshank at the south jetty of the Columbia River in February 1981. It was the first Spotted Redshank on the West Coast south of Canada and created widespread interest.

— Merlin S. (Elzy) Eltzroth, 6980 N.W. Cardinal Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330-9527

Oregon Birds 24(3): 73, Fall 1998
Cassin's Vireo (Vireo cassinii), Blue-headed Vireo (V. solitarius) and Plumbeous Vireo (V. plumbeus) were considered conspecific under the name Solitary Vireo (V. solitarius) until July 1997, when the American Ornithologists' Union published the forty-first supplement to the Checklist of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union 1997). Cassin's Vireo is the common and widespread breeder throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon, while Blue-headed and Plumbeous Vireos are rare in the state. The latter 2 species are included on the Oregon Bird Records Committee's (hereafter OBRC) list of review species.

In this article I summarize and discuss the timing and distribution of known reports of Blue-headed and Plumbeous Vireos in Oregon through fall 1997, but no attempt was made to assess the validity of these reports. Also, I summarize the field identification of Blue-headed and Plumbeous Vireos. All reports in the tables below refer to single birds except where noted. I use the name "Solitary Vireo" in this article to refer to all 3 species collectively.

Blue-headed Vireo Reports in Oregon

The Blue-headed Vireo breeds throughout much of southern Canada (west to northeastern British Columbia), the Great Lakes region, northeastern United States and the Appalachian Mountains (American Ornithologists' Union 1983).

There are only 6 reports of Blue-headed Vireo in Oregon (Table 1). The first 2 reports were, amazingly, found at the same location almost exactly 5 years apart: at Bayocean sandspit, Tillamook County, by Harry Nehls on 4 October 1980; and by Jeff Gilligan and Stefan Adolfsson on 5 October 1985. Three additional fall birds have been reported — 2 in Lake County during September and one in Deschutes County in early October. The only spring report was in 1992 when Gerard Lillie found one on Mt. Tabor in Portland, Multnomah County, on 29 March.

One published report of a Blue-headed Vireo at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters (Anderson 1989) is not included in this summary because the observer is now unsure that the identification was correct.

Plumbeous Vireo Reports in Oregon

The Plumbeous Vireo breeds in Great Basin and Rocky Mountain woodlands north to southern Montana and west to east-central California (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). So far, all Oregon reports have come from east of the Cascades crest. For purposes of this summary of Plumbeous Vireo sightings, the spring period is considered to extend through mid-June; the summer or breeding season is mid-June through mid-August; and the fall period starts in mid-August.

The first Oregon Plumbeous Vireo report came from Plush, Lake Co., on 28 May 1976 by Steve and Priscilla Summers (Table 2). The species was not reported again until 1992, but since then it has been found annually in Harney County and rarely elsewhere.

Twelve (60 percent) of the 20 Oregon reports fall within the spring period, and all but one of these were reported from Harney County migrant traps such as the town of Fields and the Malheur N.W.R. headquarters. Note that some records, in particular the 22 May-12 June 1994 report, may pertain to more than one individual.

Table 1. Reports of Blue-headed Vireo in Oregon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>OBSERVER(S)</th>
<th>SOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/04/80</td>
<td>Bayocean sandspit, Tillamook Co.</td>
<td>HN</td>
<td>pers. comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/05/85</td>
<td>Bayocean sandspit, Tillamook Co.</td>
<td>JG, SA</td>
<td>pers. comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/29/92</td>
<td>Mt. Tabor, Portland, Multnomah Co.</td>
<td>GL</td>
<td>pers. comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/08/92</td>
<td>Rosabud Ranch, Summer L. Basin, Lake Co.</td>
<td>SS</td>
<td>AB 47(1), OB 19(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/93</td>
<td>Summer Lake Basin, Lake Co.</td>
<td>SS</td>
<td>AB 46(1), OB 20(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/93</td>
<td>Sawyer Park, Bend, Deschutes Co.</td>
<td>TC</td>
<td>AB 48(1), OB 20(2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Potential Blue-headed and Plumbeous Vireos

Comments regarding the field identification of Blue-headed and Plumbeous Vireos and their separation from Cassin's Vireo were largely gleaned from Heindel (1996). Refer to that article for a more detailed discussion of identification and several color photographs.
Plumbeous Vireos in Oregon must be identified with caution and every effort should be made to obtain photographs and/or song recordings. Note that some Solitary Vireos, possibly hybrids, have intermediate characteristics and may not be identified to species with confidence.

Knowledge of the Solitary Vireo molt schedule is important when identifying an out-of-range bird. Adults go through a complete prebasic molt on the breeding grounds in July and August. Therefore, adults look their brightest during fall migration, and some Cassin's Vireos, especially males, may appear closer to Blue-headed.

Conversely, southbound immature Blue-headed Vireos, generally less colorful than adults, may appear closer to Cassin's at this time of year. The prealternate molt before spring migration is partial, involving only some of the greater wing coverts and tertials. Because much of the plumage is several months old during spring migration and may be worn and faded, some Cassin's Vireos at this time of year may look quite gray and could be confused with Plumbeous Vireo. For the same reason, some spring Blue-headed Vireos, especially females, may be faded and appear closer to Cassin's Vireo.

Blue-headed Vireo

Identification characters to look for in the field include: blue-gray to gray head contrasting sharply with both a snow-white throat and a green back; bright lemon or greenish-yellow along the sides and vent; and often extensive, contrasting white edgings on the outer three tail feathers. Note that there is a decrease in plumage brightness and contrast from adult males to immature females, particularly with regard to head coloration. Any Solitary Vireo with an obviously blue head can safely be called a Blue-headed Vireo, and is likely a male.

Cassin's Vireos are more uniformly colored with less bright yellow and green tones and dingier white throat and breast, with softer, diffuse head/back and head/throat contrasts.

Plumbeous Vireo

Field identification characters of Plumbeous Vireo include: all gray head and back; white edgings to the flight feathers, rather than greenish as in Cassin's; and dingy underparts (aside from a bold white throat) with a grayish wash along the flanks. Though essentially a gray-and-white species, some may have a slight greenish tinge to the rump, olive at the sides of the breast or pale yellow along the lower flanks. Beware of faded and worn spring Cassin's Vireos which can look quite gray, but close inspection should reveal faint greenish edges on the flight feathers, and some greenish tones on the back and/or sides. Just as with Blue-headed Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo flicks its wings less than Cassin's Vireo.

The Gray Vireo (V. virinior), although unrecorded in Oregon, is superficially similar to Plumbeous Vireo and has a chance of occurring in the state. On the face, the Gray Vireo has a thin white eyering and pale gray lore, rather than the bold white spectacles and dark lores of Plumbeous Vireo. Also, Gray Vireos typically differ in having only one well-formed wing bar on the greater wing coverts, rather than two bold white wing bars.

Discussion

The Blue-headed Vireo is clearly a vagrant in Oregon, primarily during fall migration. Reports of this species are split between western and eastern Oregon, but there is only one spring record — the rest found during fall migration. It is interesting that there are no Blue-headed Vireo records from the well-birded migrant traps of Harney County such as the Malheur N.W.R. headquarters and the town of Fields, long popular with northwestern birders looking for eastern vagrants. A significant percentage of Oregon's vagrant warbler records come from these migrant traps, so it seems natural to assume that more Blue-headed Vireos would be found there as well. There is no explanation for this apparent anomaly.

The Basin and Range area of southeastern Oregon seems to be just at the fringe, or just outside, the Plumbeous Vireo's known breeding range, but this species has been found annually in this region's migrant traps in recent years, with 60 percent reported from the period of mid-May to mid-June. Only 3 of the 20 reports were from areas outside Harney and Lake Counties. More intensive searching may prove that the Plumbeous Vireo is a regular, though uncommon, breeder in southeast Oregon, as suggested by its annual occurrence and one confirmed breeding attempt.

Also of interest is that the Plumbeous Vireo was largely unreported in Oregon until 1992, except for the 1976 report. This was about when rumors of a potential split of the Solitary Vireo were first going around, and perhaps this encouraged many birders to really start looking. On the other hand, Plumbeous Vireo is typically distinct enough from our familiar Cassin's Vireo that I think they would be difficult to overlook. Another possible explanation for the rise in Plumbeous Vireo reports is that they are expanding their range into southeastern Oregon from Nevada and Idaho, but only time can confirm this hypothesis.

If the Plumbeous Vireo does expand its breeding range into eastern Oregon, it will be interesting to see how it will affect breeding populations of Cassin's Vireo. The present breeding status of Cassin's Vireo in southeast Oregon is somewhat un-
clear; however, Littlefield (1990) mentions that he has found nesting Solitary Vireos on Steens Mtn. in an aspen-juniper association, but doesn’t state which form they were; Marshall (1987) doesn’t mention any birds of the Solitary Vireo complex being found on 4 ranges, including Steens, in southern Harney and Malheur Counties; and Contreras and Kindschy (1996) state that Cassin’s Vireo breeds only in the northwestern corner of Malheur County.

**Caveat**

Is it just coincidence that most reports of Blue-headed Vireo have come in fall, when Cassin’s Vireo may look more “blue-headed” and colorful? And, is it just coincidence that most reports of Plumbeous Vireo have come in late spring, when Cassin’s Vireo is in its most worn plumage and looks most “plumbeous”? Do these reports represent the normal pattern of occurrence of these species in Oregon? It is possible that some reports of Blue-headed and Plumbeous Vireos from Oregon are incorrect.

On the other hand, some of the drab Blue-headed Vireos (spring, adults and fall immatures) and brighter Plumbeous Vireos in fall probably have been overlooked. It will be interesting to see how our understanding of these species’ occurrence in Oregon evolves over the coming years.

Observers are asked to consider the following factors when viewing a possible Blue-headed or Plumbeous Vireo in Oregon and separating it from Cassin’s Vireo:

- plumage variation by season (brighter, fresh-plumaged adults in the fall, and duller, worn-plumaged birds in the spring);
- plumage variation by age and sex (adults generally more colorful than immatures, males generally more colorful than females); and
- have you recently observed several Cassin’s Vireos at the same time of year for comparison?

Commendable careful observation and documentation by birders may shed some light on the true status of these species in Oregon.

**Acknowledgments**

I thank everyone who contributed Oregon reports, and Matt Hunter, Jeff Gilligan and David Bailey for providing many helpful comments on an early draft of this article.

**Literature Cited**


**Table 2. Reports of Plumbeous Vireo in Oregon.**

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<th>SOURCE2</th>
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<td>Plush, Lake Co.</td>
<td>S&amp;PS</td>
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<td>9 mi. n. of Buchanan, Harney Co.</td>
<td>JL</td>
<td>pers. comm.</td>
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1 DB, David Bailey; DvdB, Dan van den Broek; CC, Craig Corder; M&MD, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny; JG, Jeff Gilligan; TJ, Tim Janzen; JJ, Jim Johnson; RJ, Ray Korpi; GL, Gerard Lillie; JL, John Lundsten, AM, Alan McGie; M, Maitreya; HN, Harry Nehls; SR, Skip Russell; JSI, Jamie Simmons; DS, Dave Stesjkal; JSI, Judy Stevens; S&PS, Steve & Priscilla Summers

2 AB, American Birds Field Notes; CM, Craig Miller; OB, Oregon Birds Field Notes

3 May pertain to more than one bird.
Greater White-fronted Geese at rest in a field in the Klamath Basin. Photo/Don Hummel.

The Klamath Basin and Yukon Delta are linked by waterfowl. Millions of acres of wetlands and roadless tundra make the Yukon Delta in western Alaska the most productive waterfowl breeding grounds in North America. Thousands of miles to the south on the California-Oregon border, the Klamath Basin is a funnel for 80 percent of waterfowl migrating along the Pacific flyway. Five federal waterfowl refuges and tens of thousands of acres of grain fields and marshes make the Basin a critical staging area for ducks, geese, and swans migrating along the Pacific flyway.

The Yukon Delta — which encompasses the broad outlets of Alaska's 2 largest rivers, the Yukon and Kuskokwim — is a vast, flat wetland-tundra complex underlain with permafrost and dotted with countless ponds, lakes, and meandering rivers. Most of this land lies within the protective boundaries of the 26-million acre Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The Delta provides habitat for all 4 of North America's flyways, but the preponderance of the million ducks and half-million geese that annually nest in the Delta are from the Pacific flyway.

Sky-blackening swirls of migrating ducks and geese can sometimes still be seen in Fall in the Klamath Basin — for this is where the Pacific flyway constricts, like the waist of an hourglass. Waterfowl were once drawn to the immense, shallow lakes and marshes that filled this inland plateau. Most of these wetlands were drained in reclamation projects, and today fields of alfalfa and grain grow on the reclaimed lands. Migrating waterfowl are now drawn to the Basin's crop-lands; the refuges there cooperatively farm part of their land and leave a third of the crops on the ground as high energy food for waterfowl.

Historically, the Klamath Basin has been the most important Fall staging area in the Pacific flyway for both Cackling Canada Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese. Both species fly non-stop for 2000 miles from Alaska to Oregon, crossing the Gulf of Alaska and making land-fall at the mouth of the Columbia River. In September, when the grain fields are golden, waves of White-fronts descend on the Klamath Basin by the thousands, and blue autumn skies set off their orange feet and black-and-white bellies. In October, Cackling Canada Geese arrive and their oft-repeated, high-pitched "luk-luk, luk-luk" fill the air.

Cackling Canada Geese, a western sub-species of the Canada Goose found only in the Pacific flyway, are the smallest of the white-cheeked geese — only slightly heavier than a Mallard. They are commonly known as cacklers because their shrill calls sound like laughter. Historically, over 60 percent of the world's population gathered at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in the Klamath Basin each Fall before continuing south to winter in California's Sacramento and San Juaquin Valleys. Recently, most cacklers have been wintering in
northern Oregon's Willamette Valley; only 15,000 cacklers congregated in the Tule Lake Refuge in November 1997. Overhunting in the nineteen-sixties and seventies decimated Cackling Canada Geese, cutting their numbers by 90 percent — but a 10-year strict hunting ban has increased their population to 205,000.

The best place in the Klamath Basin to see cacklers in November, according to Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge wildlife biologist Dave Mauser, is along the Tule Lake refuge tour route, where the geese feed on alfalfa and green-sprouting winter wheat. In November 1987, a flock of 40,000 Cackling Canada Geese was seen feeding in one alfalfa field near Tule Lake. (While the mature cacklers favor carbohydrate-rich grain seeds, immature birds favor protein-rich green forage.)

One of the largest concentrations of White-fronted Geese in North America occurs in the Klamath Basin, where most of the Pacific population gathers in late October and early November. These Pacific flyway geese also suffered an 80-percent population decline from overhunting a few years ago, but their numbers have rebounded to 318,000. In early November when their numbers peak in the Basin, you can expect to see about 100,000 White-fronts at Tule Lake refuge, according to Mauser. These geese prefer to forage in barley stubble fields, especially flooding fields where water lifts barley seeds within easy reach.

After staging in the Klamath Basin, these geese fly south to winter in California's Central Valley, with some White-fronts continuing south to Mexico. They begin moving back north in February — but in a more gradual, less concentrated migration than in Fall. In Spring they are scattered throughout the Basin, as hunting pressure does not drive them to the safety of the refuges. A good place to see cacklers and White-fronts in the Klamath Basin in April, according to Mauser, is the Miller Island Wildlife Management Area south of Klamath Falls.

The Yukon Delta is the nesting ground for virtually all the world's Cackling Canada Geese and for most of the Pacific population of Greater White-fronted Geese. In May, when the tundra is often still covered with snow and the lakes are just beginning to open, these geese descend on the Delta to nest. White-fronts are the first to nest, and sometimes late snowstorms cover the backs of these incubating geese.

The principal duck species to nest on the Delta are Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, and Northern Pintails. About 5 percent of the Pintails in North America nest on the Delta; over three-quarters of these Pintails migrate to California to winter. Pintails, the most abundant duck in the Pacific flyway, are one of the first ducks to migrate south in Fall; and they are also one of the first to return north in Spring. Early arrivals at the Delta feed on the tundra's over-wintered blueberries and crowberries.

Two important pintail migration corridors that connect Alaska and the Klamath Basin are an inland route via Alberta and a coastal route from the tip of the Alaska Peninsula direct to the Klamath Basin, across a corner of the Pacific Ocean. Northern Pintails mass in the Basin in peak numbers in early November, according to Mauser, and you can then expect to see about

300,000 pintails at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. (The US Fish and Wildlife Service census at the end of October 1997 counted 570,000 Northern Pintails at Lower Klamath Refuge.) After staging in the Basin, Pintails fly on south to winter in the California's Central Valley, with smaller numbers continuing on to the west Coast of Mexico.

The Yukon Delta provides nesting habitat for 45 percent of the continent's Tundra Swans. In the first weeks of May, Tundra Swans arrive at the Delta and begin to build nests almost as soon as they land. Eighty percent of nesting swans on the Delta select sites on small islands in lakes or on the shores of lakes and ponds within 20 yards of the water; the rest pick hummocks in marshes, heath tundra within 100 yards of water or, more rarely, level meadow areas.

Most Tundra Swans that nest on the Delta winter in the Pacific flyway. Migrating swans start to leave the Delta in mid-September, although some remain until freeze up in October. Their Fall migration is more leisurely than in Spring — the Tundra Swans gradually move south as freeze-up overtakes them. They are interior migrants, using the same corridors Fall and Spring, migrating through Alberta. Most Pacific flyway Tundra Swans stage at Great Salt Lake enroute to California's Central Valley, but large numbers veer from Alberta to stage at the Klamath Basin before continuing south to their wintering grounds. They don't arrive in the Basin in substantial numbers until early December.

In the Pacific flyway, Tundra Swans are the last to arrive in Fall and the first to leave again for their breeding grounds in the north. With the first Spring thaw, Tundra Swans become restless and begin to push north. They usually begin to leave central California in mid-February and within 3 weeks almost all have departed. Many north-bound Tundra Swans stage in the Klamath Basin in the Spring; but by mid-March they are departing the Basin on their northerly migration.

The best time to see Tundra Swans in the Basin is early to mid-February, according to Mauser, for they stage there in greatest concentrations in Spring. You can expect to see 5000 to 10,000 then, although peak numbers often exceed 30,000. (The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Klamath Basin waterfowl survey for 17 February 1988, counted 19,140 Tundra Swans just at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.) In February, flocks of Tundra Swans trace oblique white lines across the Basin's skies: their big, white wings beat a slow, steady, shallow cadence, their loud, eerie “hooping” calls flow constantly across the air — each note preceded by a wheezy, whistling exhalation. The sights and sounds of migrating swans, once experienced, are never forgotten.

The Klamath Basin is home to the first waterfowl refuge created in this country: President Theodore Roosevelt set aside Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge in 1908. The following year Roosevelt set aside land in the Yukon Delta as a preserve and breeding ground for birds. This area was greatly expanded in the nineteen-twenties, thirties, sixties, and eighties, and now the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge is more than 100 times the size of all the federal refuges in the Klamath Basin. But today — as has been true for millennia — both Basin and Delta are critical links in the Pacific flyway. 


Oregon Birds 24(3): 79, Fall 1998
Birding the mouth of New River, Coos Co., Oregon

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There are 2 relatively easy access points to New River. Traveling south of Bandon on Hwy. 101 there is a Wildlife Park and Zoo. Immediately after the parking lot of the park is Lower Four Mile Road. Turn right here. Travel on this road and it will become gravel, curve past several houses, and straighten toward the dunes to the west. The road bends sharply to the right with a driveway and house continuing straight ahead. On the left side of the private driveway is a fenced 2-rutted road that leads into a field. Just to the south is another private residence. This field is the property of the BLM, and is a public access point to New River. Park along the road and fence, but park clear of the private driveway.

Walk through the fence along the rutted old road, and follow it out through the field. Keep walking west when the grass gets thick. Soon you will see New River in front of you, with Four Mile Creek just to the south. During mid- to late-summer the river shallows to dry conditions, and it is along here that mudflats form. The conditions may change yearly, so some scouting may be needed to find the current best areas.

The mudflats attract excellent numbers of migrating shorebirds, with Western and Least Sandpipers being the most common. Other common shorebirds include Black-bellied Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, and Short-billed Dowitchers, but a large variety of shorebirds are also frequently found including Golden-Plovers, Baird's Sandpipers, and Whimbrels. Scan the shorebirds carefully for the unusual, as the potential to find just about anything is excellent here.

Further south after the wildlife park on Hwy. 101 you will cross Fourmile Creek, and the next right is Croft Road (with the blueberry farm sign). Turn right here (west) and follow this road until the pavement ends and the road forks. Stay right, and drive past the cranberry fields, then stay left at the end of the field, go up the hill and onto the BLM's Storm Ranch property. This place has many of the common birds that inhabit the coastal shrub and short pine forest, and definitely has both Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, as well as Anna's. It is a fine place to study the difference between displaying males (Tim Rodenkirk, personal communication). Also check the hummingbird feeder at the host's trailer. There are trails leading throughout the property. See Birding in Southwestern Oregon for better details.

During summer, vehicles are not permitted to drive all the way down to the boat ramp (this is to restrict access to New River during the breeding season of the Snowy Plover; New River is one of the better nesting locations in the state). The walk down is only about a mile, and is relatively flat and easy. The walk along the road will be excellent for passerines. In September this access point is opened and one can drive down to the river.

At the boat ramp there is a need to cross. The best thing to do is bring an
inflatable along (or canoe, kayak, etc.) and float across, but one can wade here. Beware however that directly off the ramp is a deep hole, so do not cross here! Go down river (north) between 25 to 75 yards or so, and cross. It may be as deep as your waist in places, but you may find a place no deeper than thigh deep. Of course every winter this could all change, so be careful — and hold your optics high!

The area just south of the boat ramp and across from the boat ramp is good to check for “grass-loving” shorebirds such as Buff-breasted and Pectoral Sandpipers. The area is more marshy here and often ducks are present. Rails most likely use these shorelines, too.

Once across head north (downstream) along the wide west bank and shorebird! After a mile you will come to Four Mile Creek on the east side of New River, and the BLM access property. North of here is the private property. You may continue along, as this has been an excellent area. If you choose to continue north through private property soon the dunes on your left will fade out and a long sand spit will be in front of you. This is the New River spit. The river side may still have some good areas for shorebirds. A long walk out the spit brings you to the mouth of the river, which changes every year. The mouth almost always has gulls and Caspian Terns in summer, and Brown Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants may sit on the beach here too. An Elegant Tern was noted here only once during the big summer 1997 invasion.

Throughout all the dunes, the spit, and along the high beach is prime Snowy Plover nesting habitat. It is generally a restricted area throughout the summer, although there are no signs to inform you of this. Please be very sensitive if you pass through any of these areas. Plover nests are very cryptic; you may never see an adult, as they see you before you see them and they sneak off the nest unnoticed. Nests are easily stepped on and you would be surprised how out in the open they could be, yet incredibly hard to see. If you see an adult feigning injury or anxiously flying and running about, please back away from the area as there is either a nest or chicks nearby. Do not go near any fencing enclosures as these are plover nests and approaching an enclosure may be a violation of law for harassment.

So if you elect to go onto the beach please be careful, but please do enjoy the plovers, as there are good numbers here and should be relatively easy to find. In fact they are often easiest to see along the river, where they brood chicks, chase meals, and hide from the wind.

The ocean here can be productive for Marbled Murrelets. Common Murres are common, and Cassin’s and Rhinoceros Auklet have been seen. Shearwaters tend to be out pretty far at New River, depending on the wind. Check the ocean for loons, grebes, scoters, and other waterfowl.

If you have walked all the way to the mouth of the river, you can return via a long walk up the beach or via the river. Either way be prepared to spend 6 hours here, but it is a most rewarding and interesting place with incredible potential.
Inland observations of Red-breasted Merganser in Oregon

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The Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) is a relatively common bird in North America and Eurasia, and nests across the entire Northern Hemisphere, including all of Alaska, most of Canada, southern Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, and northern Siberia. It winters chiefly on all the coasts north of the Tropic of Cancer (23 degrees latitude) except Africa. During the winter months, it is found most often in Oregon on coastal bays, estuaries, and to a lesser extent beyond the surf. Most sightings are of individuals, pairs, or small groups.

Red-breasted Mergansers are also occasionally found on inland waters in Oregon. These birds are either wintering or are seen during migration. In recent years, due to greater coverage of certain areas of the state, more inland sightings have been reported. In fact, over half of all sightings have been since 1990! With thorough coverage through the next decade, we may come to expect the species to be regular but very uncommon along the Columbia River during winter.

Over a half of a century ago Gabrielson and Jewett said in the 1940 publication *Birds Of Oregon* (later re-issued by Dover Books as *Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, which it is not):

First reported by Lewis and Clark (1814) from the mouth of the Columbia River on March 27, 1806, the Red-breasted Merganser is now known as a winter bird on all the larger bays and river mouths along the coast, where it replaces the American [= Common] Merganser, which is abundant over the fresh waters of the state. It arrives in November and remains until early May (our earliest date Nov. 22; latest May 23, both Tillamook Co.) during which time it may be seen as single birds or as little flocks. All Oregon specimens [of Red-breasted Merganser] that we have been able to obtain have come from the coastal district, and so far as we know the species is at best only a casual visitor to the interior. Bendire (1877) and Merrill (1888) recorded it from Fort Klamath, and Bendire (1877) from the Blue Mountains. Although the adult males can be distinguished easily in life, it is possible to tell the young males and females only [italics supplied] by specimens in hand. We feel, therefore, that many of the Red-breasted Mergansers reported on sight observation from Malheur and Klamath basins are in reality the American Merganser.

Due to better optics, field marks recognition, and greater field coverage by competent birders, few would hesitate to identify these birds with certainty on inland waters 57 years later. While we are still at risk for mistaking Common Mergansers for Red-breasted Mergansers in certain plumages, we may wish to reconsider their conclusion:

We feel, therefore, that many of the Red-breasted Mergansers reported on sight observation from Malheur and Klamath basins are in reality the American Merganser.

Because this species normally appears to prefer coastal waters, the majority of birders do not anticipate or look for it inland. The increase in the number of skilled birders in Oregon has resulted in an increase in the number and frequency of sightings of the species in the last 10 years. Most of the sightings listed below were gathered from past issues of *Oregon Birds, American Birds, Audubon Field Notes*, and from personal communications and discussions with Craig Miller and other birders. In as much as field notes editors scrutinize reports, it can be assumed that these reports are for the most part valid.

I have been able to find a total of 125 records of this species on inland waters in Oregon. Forty-eight records are from the Columbia River, 41 are from other locations east of the Cascades, and 34 from sites west of the Cascades. There are inland records for all inland counties except Polk, Yamhill, Josephine, Wallowa, Union, and Grant.

**Records East of the Cascades:**

**Lake Co., 12 Records:**
1/13/88 (1 adult drake) Summer Lake WA, River Campground, Marty St. Louis
5/4/88 (5) Summer Lake WA, C. Miller, Marty St. Louis (1 pair at Duchy Lake, 2 females, 1 drake at Schoolhouse Lake) OB 14(3):370
5/9/90 (1 female) Summer Lake WA, Schoolhouse Lake, Merle Archie
9/26/90 (1) Summer Lake WA & vicinity, Steve Summers
11/21/91 (1) Summer Lake WA, Steve Summers
5/2/94 (1) Summer Lake WA, Mike Jorgensen, C. Miller, OB 17(4):125
4/18/92 (1 male) Thompson Reservoir, C. Miller, Central Oregon Audubon field trip, OB 18(4):125
11/21/90 (1 female) Summer Lake WA, C. Miller, OB 16(2):58
1/11/92 (2 adults) Thompson Reservoir, C. Miller, E.J. Miller OB 17(2):52
5/13/91 (1) Thompson Reservoir, C. Miller, OB 17(4):125

**Pine Hollow Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB**
3/6/89 (1 female) Pine Hollow Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB 18(3):89
3/14/92 (1 female) Pine Hollow Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB 18(3):89
4/14/95 (1) Craig Corder & Judy Stevens, OB 21(4):124
4/25/93 (1 female) Pine Hollow Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB 22(4):120

**Twin Falls Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB**
3/14/92 (1 female) Twin Falls Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB 18(3):89
5/13/91 (1) Thompson Reservoir, C. Miller, OB 17(4):125
1/11/92 (2 adults) Thompson Reservoir, C. Miller, OB 17(4):125

**The Mouth of the Deschutes River - Wasco/Sherman Cos., 10 Records**
5/21/90 (3) Roy Gereg, Floyd Schrock, OB 16(4):315
1/11/92 (2 adults) Donna Lusthoff & Verda Teale, OB 17(3):90; OB 17(4):125
3/6/93 (1 female) Wamic, Donna Lusthoff, OB 17(4):125
3/6/93 (1 pair at Duchy Lake, 2 females, 1 drake at Schoolhouse Lake) OB 14(3):370
3/15/94 (1 female) Jenny & Donny T. Davies, OB 18(4):125
3/15/94 (1 female) Jenny & Donny T. Davies, OB 18(4):125
11/27/94 (1 female) Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, OB 21(2):58
4/14/95 (1) Craig Corder & Judy Stevens, OB 21(4):124
4/25/93 (1 female) Dave Bailey, OB 22(4):120

**Wasco Co., 10 Records**
12/20/88 (1 male) 3 miles west of Celilo Falls rest area on the Columbia River, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, OB 15(3):182
11/21/90 (2) Pine Hollow Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB 17(2):52
12/7/91 (1) Pine Hollow Reservoir, Donna Lusthoff, OB 18(3):89
3/6/93 (1 female) Mosier, Donna Lusthoff, OB 19(4):114
4/25/93 (1 female) Wamic, Donna Lusthoff, OB

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Deschutes Co., 8 Records:
11/1-8/87 (4) Wickiup Reservoir, Tom Crabtree & Craig Miller, OB 14(2):195
Hatfield Lake, Craig Miller, Eagle Eye Dec 88, p2; OB 15(2):114
8/21/89 (1) Wickiup Reservoir, Craig Miller, Eagle Eye Sep 89 p5
10/13/91 (1) Wickiup Reservoir, Lew Rens, Eagle Eye Nov 91 p2
5/17/92 (1 female) Hatfield Lake, Craig Miller
11/17/96 (2) Tumalo Reservoir, Dean Hale, OB 23(2):70
5/20-28/97 (1 female) Hatfield Lake, Dean Hale, OBOL, fide J. Meredith

Crook Co., 6 Records:
4/21/83 (1) Ochoco Reservoir, Christy Steck, Eagle Eye May 1983 p5
11/10/90 (1) Prineville sewage ponds, Craig Miller & Lew Rens, Eagle Eye Dec 90 p2. OB 17(2):52
11/16/90 (1) Ochoco Res, Craig Miller & Lew Rens
9/8/91 (1) Ochoco Reservoir, Lew Rens, Eagle Eye Nov 91 p2
11/3/91 (1) Ochoco Reservoir, Tom Crabtree, OB 18(2):59
12/28/96 (1) Barnes Butte Reservoir, Tom Crabtree & Craig Miller, OB 22(3):89

Sherman Co., 8 Records:
11/23/89 (7 1 male and 6 females) John Day Dam, Jim Johnson
11/26/89 (1) John Day Dam, Craig Miller
11/9/91 (1) John Day Dam, Nick Lethaby, OB 18(2):59
1/11/92 (2 adults) Donna Lusthoff & Craig Corder, OB 18(3):89
2/8/92 (2 adults and 1 imm) Donna Lusthoff & Craig Corder, OB 18(3):89
12/4/94 (1) John Day Dam, Jim Johnson & Dave Bailey, OB 21(3):93
3/14/95 (1 female) John Day Dam, Dave Bailey, OB 21(4):124
10/27-11/5/95 (1) John Day Dam, Harry Nehls & Jim Johnson, OB 22(2):60

Umatilla Co., 5 Records
11/18/84 (2 females) McNary Dam, Craig Corder, OB 11(4):186
1/6/85 (pair) McNary Dam, Craig Corder, OB 11(4):186
1/11/87 (1 male) 1 mile below McNary Dam, Craig & Marion Corder, OB 13(2):307
8/23/92 (1) near Hermiston, Judy Stevens, OB 19(2):53
12/4/95 (1 female) McNary Dam, Jim Johnson, Dave Bailey

Hood River Co., 5 Records
12/14-21/88 (1) Mouth of the Hood River, David Anderson, OB 15(3):182
4/2/89 (4) Mouth of the Hood River, Donna Lusthoff, OB 15(4):292
1/1/95 (1) Mouth of the Hood River, Jim Johnson & Dave Bailey, OB 21(3):93
10/19/96 (1) Hood River mouth, Jim Johnson, OB 23(2):70

Harney Co., 4 Records:
11/23/86 (1) Dry Lake (See C.D. Littlefield; Birds of Malheur NWR. pg. 88-89
11/25/83 (1 male) near O0 Ranch, Merle and Ann Archie, OB 9(4):27
4/16/83 (3 males) Boca Lake (See C.D. Littlefield; Birds of Malheur NWR. pg. 88-89)

Klamath Co., 2 Records
5/2-9/81 (1 female) Link River, Steve Summers, OB 7(3):115
3/2/85 (2 males) Link River, Steve Summers, OB 11(4):186

Jefferson Co., 2 Records
11/20/90 (1) Haystack Reservoir, Lew Rens, OB 17(2):52

Wheeler Co., 1 Record
2/13/93 (3) Donna Lusthoff

Malheur Co., 1 Record
5/3/88 (pair) Ontario Sewage Ponds, Jammie Simmons, OB 14(3):370

Morrow Co., 1 Record
10/13/90 (1) Boardman, Craig Corder, OB 17(2):52

Baker Co., 1 Record
5/7/76 (14 Birds!) Phillips Lake, Ann Ward, AB 30(4):866

Records West of the Cascades:

Multnomah Co., 14 Records
8/16/88 (1) Sturgeon Lake, Verda Teale (pers. com. Verda Teale)
12/1/63 (1) Sturgeon Lake, Verda Teale (pers. com. Verda Teale)
1/2/84 (1) Columbia River near Portland, Jeff Gilligan, OB 10(2):37
11/27/86 (1) Jim Johnson (Columbia River off Sauvie Island), OB 13(2):313
12/27/87 (1) Jim Johnson, Columbia River near Portland, OB 13(2):313
10/22/88 (2) Columbia River near Portland, Jim Johnson
11/15/80 (1) Columbia River near Portland, Dave Irons & Dave Fix, OB 16(3):245
1/2/84 (1) Portland, OB 17(3):95
2/15/91 (1) Sauvie Island, OB 17(3):95
4/21/91 (1) Bull Run Reservoir, C. Corkran & Donna Lusthoff (fide Tim Jansen)
11/16/91 (3) Near Dalton Point on the Columbia River, Jim Johnson, OB 18(2):62
12/29/96 (1) Columbia River off Sauvie Island, Anthony Floyd, OB 22(3):91

Jackson Co., 8 Records
11/22/64 (2 females) At a pond north of Medford, R.B., W.C., L.H., AB 19(1):69
2/10-mid March/65 (pair) At a pond north of Medford, W.C., AB 19(3):410
11/6/87 (1) Lost Creek Reservoir, Dave Fix, OB 14(3):287
12/90 (4) (“4 were in the Rogue Valley during December.” M.ob.”) OB 17(3):95
9/10/92 (2) Agate Reservoir Howard Sands, Jerry Wahl, OB 19(2):57

Lane Co., 6 Records
4/21/58 (1 Female, 5 males) Fern Ridge Res. John Boddy, AEN 12, #4 p. 378
12/73 (2) Fern Ridge Res. Alan Contreras & Harry Nehls, AB 28(3):684
6/4 Cottage Grove CBC, OB 11(2&3):101
1/7/90 (1) Fern Ridge Res. Dave Irons, Jim Johnson, OB 16(3):245
10/21/96 (2) at Lookout Point Reservoir, Reid Freeman, OB 23(2):80

Washington Co., 6 Records
12/9/83 (1 female and imm. male) Forest Grove Sewage Pond, Verda Teale (pers. com. Verda Teale)
83-84 One wintered at the Forest Grove Sewage Pond, Dave Irons, OB 10(2):37
Benton Co., 4 Records
Douglas Co., 4 Records
Marion Co., 3 Records
Benton Co., 4 Records
Clackamas Co., 3 Records
Marion Co., 3 Records
Linn Co., 1 Record
Total 125 Inland Records
Discussion
Red-breasted Merganser appears to strongly favor large inland waterways, such as the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, and as well as large lakes and reservoirs. Eighty-seven percent of all sightings have occurred on larger lakes, reservoirs, or rivers. The other 13 percent were from ponds or sewage lagoons. It may be assumed that an adequate supply of fish must be present in these smaller bodies of water to sustain any wintering mergansers.

It should be noted that 76 (61 percent) of these records are from observations which were reported after 1990 and the decade is not over. There were 38 (31 percent) records from the 1980s, 4 in the 1970s, 3 in the 1960s, and 3 in the 1950s. It should be obvious that this data represents greater coverage by more birders, rather than an increase in occurrence for the species, which is also possible.

It is also interesting to note that there were no records from Lake Abert, the Warner Valley, Crater Lake, Hills Creek Reservoir, Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Lake, Lake Billy Chinook, or Timothy Lake. It is likely that this species has used these large bodies of water. Perhaps in the future birders will observe the species on these lakes as well. Observations have occurred at similar sites nearby, some of which would appear to be just as attractive to the Red-breasted Merganser.

Many parts of large bodies of water are simply inaccessible or largely restricted, such as Upper Klamath Lake, Goose Lake, Harney Lake, Malheur Lake, Lake Abert, Summer Lake. These lakes and others comprise many square miles of water where Red-breasted Mergansers could rest while migrating through inland Oregon, or provide wintering habitat.

Thirty-nine percent (48 records) of all sightings are from along the Columbia River, most from the 1990s. Very little of the Columbia River is accessible from Interstate 84, and it is interesting to note that all but 2 of the 42 sightings were recorded from 6 locations: McNary, John Day, and The Dalles Dams, the mouths of the Deschutes and Hood Rivers, and the Sauvie Island/Portland areas. This leads to the possibility many more birds may be found if more of this river could be accessed from shore. The following entry in a recent AB issue helps confirm this: “As usual, all but one of the 19 Red-breasted Merganser reports from the interior were along the Columbia River.” (AB 49(2):190.) This was in winter 1994-95.

Of note also is a sighting of 75 Red-breasted Mergansers on the Columbia River near Longview, Washington on 20 March 1966 by Alan Baldridge and David Marshall, which were thought to be attracted to the smelt run with Common Mergansers (over 100) there. (AB 20(3):450.) This is indeed an unprecedented number to be found inland! Being found in association with Common Mergansers may be a helpful hint to scan over flocks of this species in searching for Red-breasteds. It may also occasionally associate with other species of

Figure 1. Red-breasted Merganser records in Oregon along the Columbia River, east of the Cascades (away from the Columbia River), and west of the Cascades (away from the Columbia River).
**OFO Bookcase**

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<td>Special Publication No. 2</td>
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We will check out the fall migrants on the Columbia River from the John Day dam to Hood River. Base: The Dalles.

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Anyone interested in leading all or part of a 1999 OFO Birding Weekend should contact Paul T. Sullivan.
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, 11 September
Registration at OIMB, 5:00-7:30 pm • Evening session, Boat House, OIMB, 7:30 pm • opening remarks, Ray Nolan • evening program, Jonathan Plissner, post-doctorate associate with Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey Resources Division, "Movements of Shorebirds in the Great Basin" • field trip announcements

Saturday, 12 September
6:30 am, pelagic trip, meet at Betty Kay Charters in the Charleston Boat Basin at 5:45 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; this is an excellent time to see the fall migration of shorebirds; Godwits are commonly seen, Wandering Tattlers are usually seen, as well as Red Knots and Golden-Plovers; short side trip for Snowy Plovers • Millicoma Marsh Trail, meet at 8:15 am at Millicoma Middle School Parking lot; shorebirds and view a wetland creation project • Lunch on your own • 6:00 pm, dinner at OIMB • 7:30 pm, OIMB Boat House, review of day’s birds, keynote speaker Dr. Lewis W. Oring, Professor of Environmental and Resources Sciences, “Breeding Biology of the Spotted Sandpiper: Aggressive Female and Domestic Male”

Sunday, 13 September
6:30 am, pelagic trip, meet at Betty Kay Charters in the Charleston Boat Basin at 5:45 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, plan accordingly. 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 and dolphins are often seen.

Lodging: The dormitory at OIMB is available Friday and Saturday night at $20.00 per night. You must bring your own bedding and towels; space is limited. Many major motels and campgrounds are available; call for a list.

Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Family</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pelagic Trip (7 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner Saturday night</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging in OIMB dorm/person/night</td>
<td>Fri $20.00</td>
<td>Sat $20.00</td>
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For more information, contact:
Lyn Topits ............... 541-267-7208
Barb Griffin ............. 541-756-5688
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Species</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Red-throated Loon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Loon</td>
<td>Likely to be encountered in Oregon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Loon</td>
<td>Likely to be encountered in Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Grebe</td>
<td>Likely to be encountered in Oregon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horned Grebe</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Merganser</td>
<td>Likely to be encountered in Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
<td>Likely to be encountered in Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-winged Teal</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Goldfinch</td>
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<td>House Finch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Siskin</td>
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<td>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</td>
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<td>Northern Mockingbird</td>
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<td>Sage Thrasher</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Nuthatch</td>
<td>Likely to be encountered in Oregon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a list of the 352 species most likely to be encountered in Oregon. This list is based on the records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee and uses the taxonomic sequence and nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union, as published in their 1963 Check-list of North American birds, 5th edition, as supplemented. Any bird seen in Oregon that is not listed here is considered to be a “rare bird” and a report of its occurrence is requested by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.
**Rare Bird Report Form**

**RARE BIRD REPORT FORM — 1994**
Oregon Bird Records Committee — OBRC

**OBRC**
P.O. Box 10373
Eugene, OR 97440

---

1. **YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS**

2. **BIRD IDENTIFICATION.** Write in the name of the species you have identified and information on numbers, sex, plumage, and age.

3. **DATE(S).** Month, day, and year. If there are multiple observations, each date.

4. **LOCATION.** Be specific; describe habitat. Always list the county; give compass orientation to the nearest notable geographic feature. Use the DeLorme Oregon Atlas and Gazetteer with version number, page number, and coordinates.

5. **DETAILS.** Include only what was actually observed, not what should have been seen or heard. Stress field marks: bill, eye, wings, tail, legs, shape, proportions, "jizz", etc. Include behavior: feeding, resting, flying, interactions with other species, etc. Describe voice — song, calls, or notes — if heard. If you have made field notes and/or field sketches, include them (or copies of them).

---

**Rules for a network are simple:** rare birds only (no east/west or west/east Oregon birds); birders who get calls have to make calls (this means long distance tolls); and once on the network, keep it going by keeping your address and phone number(s) current. Minimum information on a rare bird call should include species, age and sex (if not known, say so), number of birds, who found it (them), and who to call for more information, if anyone.

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

Please feel free to send ideas and suggestions, too!
Rare Bird Phone Network... OR 24(3)

• Albany
  Rick & Kathy Krabbe, 1035 Lawrence, Albany, OR 97321, (H) 541-928-1803

• Ashland/Medford area
  Marjorie Moore, 4729 S. Pacific Hwy. #11, Phoenix, OR 97535, (H) 535-5138 (W) 776-7293 or 776-7294
  Douglas Kirkpatrick, 330 Harvard Place, Medford, OR 97504, (H) 772-2232 (W) 779-1672

• Astoria
  Mike Patterson, 1338 Kensington Avenue, Astoria, OR 97103, (H) 326-1366

• Bend
  Tom Crabtree, 1567 N.W. Iowa, Bend, OR 97701, (H) 388-2462 (W) 389-7723, 1-800-752-6618

• Brookings
  Colin Dillingham, 437 Azalea Park Road, Brookings, OR 97415, (H) 469-9624

• Canyon City
  Tom Winters, P.O. Box 111, Canyon City, OR 97820, (H) 541-542-2006 (W) 541-575-2570

• Coos Bay/North Bend
  Ben Fawer, 793 Johnson, Coos Bay, OR 97420, (H) 267-0485
  Barbara Griffin, 1691 Grant Street, North Bend OR 97459, (H) 756-5688
  Larry Thorneburg, 2056 Cedar Court, North Bend, OR 97459, (H) 756-4281

• Corvallis/Philomath
  Elzy & Elsie Eltzroth, 6980 N.W. Cardinal, Corvallis, OR 97330, (H) 745-7806

• Eugene
  Jim Carlson, 1560 Chaswa St., Eugene, OR 97401, (H) 485-4491 (W) 687-4436 (leave message)
  Barb Combs, 1466 Elka Drive, Eugene, OR 97404, (H) 689-6660, (W) 378-6190
  Kit Larsen, 2162 Kincaid Street, Eugene, OR 97405, (H) 424-9747 (W) 685-4394
  Tom Mickel, 5259 Overbrook Lane, Eugene, OR 97405, (H) 465-7112, (W) 305-2283
  Glance Watson, 5767 Wilshe Lane, Eugene, OR 97405, (H) 495-6157

• Florence
  Bill Stoltz, 1305 Laurel, Florence, OR 97439, (H) 397-8978

• Grants Pass
  Barbara Hoffman, 251 Brooke Lane, Grants Pass, OR 97527, 541-471-6019

• Portland
  Jeff Gilligan, 26 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97232, (H) 231-0791 (W) 326-3057
  Harry Nehis, 2736 S.E. 20th, Portland, OR 97202, (H) 233-3976
  Owen Schmidt, 3007 N.E. 22nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212, (H) 282-9403 (W) 326-3268

• Pacific
  Jim Rogers & Carrie Osborn, 95187 Elk River Rd., Port Orford, OR 97465, (H) 332-2555

• Roseburg/Glide
  Alice Parker, 131 W. Hickory St., Roseburg, OR 97470, (H) 672-1549
  Meredith Jones, 2224 N.W. Calkins, Roseburg, OR 97470, (H) 672-3677
  Ron Maertz, 257 Brown Street, Glide, OR 97443, (H) 333-6207

• Salem
  Barb Bellin, 4730 Elizabeth Street N., Salem, OR 97303, (H) 333-0243
  Bob Lucas, 822 Holser Lane S.E., Salem, OR 97306, (H) 369-0710

• Tillamook
  Craig Roberts, 2880 Old Netarts Road W., Tillamook, OR 97141, (H) 842-5762

• Umatilla/Hermiston
  Craig Corder, 880 E. Tamarack, Hermiston, OR 97838, (H) 687-0305 (W) 687-6414

Phone number in italics means you may reach an answering machine.

6. PHOTOS, RECORDINGS. State whether photos were taken or video or sound recordings were made. OBRC will duplicate and return original slides and tapes promptly. Donations of slide duplicates (OBRC prefers a double set) and copies of recordings may be considered a tax-deductible expense.

7. SIGNATURE, DATE. Sign this form, and date it to when it was filled out.
diving ducks where smelt runs can be located. From the following observation, it may be well to figure out when smelt runs occur on the Columbia River: “The smelt run up the Columbia River in early April attracted an estimated 50,000 gulls, mostly Californias (H.N.).” AB 32(5): 1047.

It is also interesting to note that birds have not been found at the mouth of the Deschutes River prior to 1990. This curious statistic could be explained by the fact that birders have figured out that the confluence of rivers provide an abundance of food for waterfowl and other types of birds, and can be hot spots for birders. Also, certain birders have taken it upon themselves to do extensive birding in a few of the lesser-birded counties east of the Cascades. This particular location is well worth checking, since silt build-up provides a large sand bar which is used heavily by waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds, especially during migration. Other great finds here include Heermann’s and Sabine’s Gulls.

Another look at the location of these records reveals that when David Fix lived at a high elevation location in the Central Cascades, he came up with 4 records from that area, all in the month of November. Wickiup Reservoir, the only other high elevation site, has produced 4 records, one of which was also in November. This is not a month during which birders check the higher elevation lakes, but it is the time when this species most often appears at inland sites, so it may be that Red-breasted Mergansers are also using these areas much more than records might indicate.

When Red-breasted Mergansers have been found inland, 2 out of every 3 sightings were of individual birds. Twenty-one sightings have been of pairs (or two 2 birds together) Five observations have been of groups of 3, and 3 each were of groups of 4 and 5. Two observations of up to 7 birds have been reported. The only other sighting of a larger group was of 14 birds, which was also Baker County’s only sighting. This is the size of groups generally found on the coast.

Red-breasted Merganser does in fact winter inland in Oregon (Figure 2). Birds begin to trickle in with the start of fall migration in late summer and build to a peak from November through January. There is a noticeable drop by February, but numbers then begin to pick up again with spring migration. While this mimics the species’ patterns on the coast, it is nevertheless interesting to see it addressed for this purpose.

As previously mentioned, over half of all inland sightings have occurred since 1990. During the 1980s, 4.4 birds per year were seen. Since then, 9.2 birds have been reported per year. Prior to 1980 there where 10 records dating as far back as 1958. Have we reached a plateau in the numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers we will see inland each year? Only time will tell. Sightings began to increase and become more consistent since 1983. Five were reported in that year, and birds were reported every year since then.

While it is rather doubtful that Red-breasted Mergansers are on the increase here in North America, more sightings are to be expected here on inland waters in Oregon With birding becoming more popular as the years go by, and more birders becoming more experienced, it is certain that this species will be seen with at least the same frequency in the future, and will be found in places where it has not previously been seen.

Figure 2. Red-breasted Merganser inland. “Birds begin to trickle in with the start of fall migration in late summer and build to peak from November through January. There is a noticeable drop by February, but number then begin to pick up again with spring migration.”
News and Notes OB 24(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 24(3) appears — this is your last issue. So it's time to send in your membership dues! If the number 24(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!

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The Oregon Fund for Ornithology sets aside money for worthwhile projects related to the purposes of OFO, to be dedicated at the OFO Board's discretion. Examples include special publications, improvements in Oregon Birds, support for ornithological research projects, etc. All donations are tax-deductible. A handy check box on the OFO membership form makes it easy to earmark contributions to the Fund. Birders wishing to contribute to the Fund should send contributions to OFO Treasurer, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.

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to ListServ@mail.orst.edu. Please note: firstname lastname is your actual first name and last name. For more information, go to Oregon State's ListServe Web page, which is http://www.net.orst.edu/lis/lisuserref.html. The OBOL list owner is Lucy Biggs, lb@cyber-dyne.com.

The text for all of this is on the World Wide Web at http://www.cyber-dyne.com/~lb/subscr.html. Set a bookmark on your browser! On several occasions OBOL subscribers have asked to have an email message re-sent because they inadvertently "trashed" it from their In Box. There is another way to accomplish this if not very much time has passed. You can go to www.cyber-dyne/~lb/obol.html, then select email digests. Lucy Biggs, lb@cyber-dyne.com. Gretchen Oosterhout, Ph.D., dmatrix@europa.com

The 1998 midwinter eagle count found 833 Bald Eagles in Oregon, an increase of 22 percent over last year. About two-thirds were adults. Golden Eagles were down to 88 from 100 in 1997. About two-thirds of these were adults.

Midwinter eagle counts in Oregon, 1988 – 1998. No attempt has been made to adjust for differences in weather, observers, or routes. The population of Bald Eagles in Oregon in the first half of January appears to be stable or increasing. Clinton: Isaac, EB. 1998. Results of the 1998 Midwinter Eagle Count for Oregon. Oregon Eagle Foundation, Klamath Falls, Oregon. 1 page, 2 tables.
93 the year before. Oregon Eagle Foundation, Inc., Frank B. Isaacs, Secretary, 337 South G Street, Lakeview, OR 97630-1823, 541-947-2544 fbisaacs@talltown.com.

Meetings, events & deadlines made known to Oregon Birds:
- 28 – 30 September 1998, Western Bird Banding Association, annual meeting, Marshall, California. Kay Loughman, 393 Gravatt Drive, Berkeley, CA 94705, 510-841-7428 Kayloughman@berk.net. 
- 30 September – 4 October 1998, international scientific conference at Ebeltoft, Denmark, to celebrate 100 years since Hans Christian Cornelius Mortensen started to band birds systematically. Lb Clausager, ic@dmu.dk or http://www.dum.dk/news/birds.htm.
- 1 – 4 October 1998, Western Field Ornithologists, 23rd annual meeting, Arcata, California. Carl D. Marti, 801-626-6172 cmarti@weber.edu http://www.weber.edu/rrf WFO Conference, Mad River Biologists, P.O. Box 3020, McKinleyville CA 95519, 707-822-6393 madriverbio@aol.com.
- 29 March – 3 April 1999, Cooper Ornithological Society, 69th Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. Symposium and workshops will include “The effects of habitat fragmentation on western bird populations” and “Conservation of avian diversity in an urbanizing world”.
- The 1998 Miller Awardee Russell Stalder will speak on “The use of natural history information in predicting cognitive abilities of corvids: clever corvids and cooperative colleagues.” Concurrent general paper sessions are scheduled as well as poster sessions. For information on the scientific program contact Martin G. Raphael, Pacific Northwest Research Station, 3625 93rd Avenue S.W., Olympia, WA 98512, 360-753-7662 mraphael@compuserve.com. For information on local arrangements contact Erick G. Campbell, BLM, 1515 S.W. 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201, 503-952-6382 ecampbel@or.blm.gov. Visit the COS home page at http://www.ets.uidaho.edu/coop/cooper/cos/home.htm for more information.
- 16 December 1999 through 3 January 2000, 100th Christmas Bird Count, National Audubon Society.

The Western Meadowlark Recovery Project

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) plans to conduct an intensive landowner education program to maintain and improve privately-owned habitat for these grassland-associated birds in the Willamette Valley in 1998 and 1999.

The objectives for this proposal are to: (1) create and distribute a brochure for private agricultural landowners that integrates management for grassland birds with economically viable commodity production; (2) conduct “hands-on” workshops for interested landowners to learn about integrating habitat management with production of their specific commodity; and (3) work with landowners as they implement on-the-ground habitat improvement recovery projects. In addition, ODFW will develop species accounts for these grassland bird species for its publication Species at Risk. This publication is widely used by managers, educators, students and the public. The beautiful song of Oregon’s state bird — the Western Meadowlark — was commonly heard by residents of the Willamette Valley as recently as 30 years ago. Now it’s difficult to find this species as well as other grassland bird species.

The Problem... Through recent studies conducted by the “Wildlife Diversity Program” of ODFW we now know the declining trends are due to changes in habitat.

The Good News...is that with minimal modifications in the way land is managed, the status of these grassland birds can be improved.

The Western Meadowlark and other Willamette Valley grassland birds need your help! Recovery projects take money! Please make a donation toward this very important project. Checks should be made payable to the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and mailed to the address below.

Let’s work together so the next generation can wake up to the melodious song of Oregon’s State Bird.”A low throaty, explosive chuck and a rattling flight call—variable series of bubbling flutelike notes, accelerating toward the end.”

Fund Raising Goal: $30,000. Committed Funds: $20,000. Help Needed: $10,000.

Western Meadowlark Fund, P.O. Box 30406, Portland, OR 97294-3406, 503-255-6059 fax 503-255-6467

Oregon Birds 24(3): 87, Fall 1998
OFO Birding Weekend in Curry County

Nathaniel Wander, P.O. Box 301, Port Orford OR 97465

About 119 species were tallied during the Oregon Field Ornithologists birding weekend in Curry County, 23-25 May 1998. Participants were Tom Burnett, Linda Gilbert, Maeve Lofton, Jim Regali, Liba Stanek, Margaret Stephens, Harold and Voyla Steves, Paul Sullivan, and Nathaniel Wander.

The trip was guided by local expert Don Munson.

At Brookings on Saturday morning, a peek into Chetco Cove from the north bank of the river turned up one of the few local Purple Martin colonies, nesting in holes under the Highway 101 bridge. On the beach to the east, Black-crowned Night Herons, and breeding plumaged Spotted Sandpipers were seen.

Along the Winchuck River above Ludlum House, an American Dipper nested on a branch in a corrugated retaining wall. It mostly bobbed before the nest, occasionally turning and poking its head inside. Periodically, it would drop to the riverbed, and stroll about in the shallow flow.

Further up the East Fork, we saw the day's first red-gorgeted green-backed Allen’s Hummingbird, a lifebird for at least one participant. Paul also called in a Northern Pygmy Owl, which was mobbed by chickadees and other small fry. Despite this rude reception, the owl continued to follow our group in an attempt to dialogue with Paul, though it is not certain who got the best of the debate. Acorn Woodpeckers and their tan oak larders, absent on the coastal plain, were plentiful at this altitude. A Mountain Quail could be clearly heard across the valley, but would not be induced to exhibit himself.

Don showed some of us Black Phoebes nesting in an old barn along the river, and another near his home in Harbor. We heard Virginia Rails on the Lower Chetco River — but got no views. In a field above Hwy. 101 off Pelican Bay Drive, a tape called in a Yellow-breasted Chat. Remarkable for its all-over-the-map range of vocalizations, this gray and yellow, white-spectacled bird is the largest warbler to summer in Curry. Don also pointed out an American Kestrel, growing scarce as most have departed for their northern breeding grounds.

On a wire fence southwest of the Chetco Valley Museum, Don showed us a Western Kingbird, distinguished from other yellow-bottomed tyrant flycatchers by the white parenthesis of its outer tail feathers. They are moderately common here for a month as they migrate through, and we saw two more from Oceanview Drive, and an additional trio on the south fork of Pistol River.

A lunch stop at the harbor turned up a Brown Pelican and an immature Heermann’s Gull. Because both lingered here throughout the winter, it was impossible to decide whether they were early specimens or late. The harbor also held black-headed Bonaparte’s Gulls, passing through in fair numbers on their way to northern breeding grounds.

Wading in the Chetco River between Loeb Park and the bridge, were a pair of black-beaked, yellow-footed Snowy Egrets, smaller than the locally common Great Egrets. We also heard a Red-shouldered Hawk, though it never came into view. The fields around Pistol River were full of both neon-bright American Goldfinches, and olive-backed Lesser ones, the latter common enough in Curry, but uncommon further north. A pair of Ruddy Ducks, nearing the end of their local season, puddled in the river.

Gold Beach boat basin held a good Curry Co., continued next page.

OFO Birding Weekend, Baker County, 23-25 May 1998

Mike Bogar, 6536 S.E. Apple, Milwaukie, OR 97222

Paul Sullivan, Marti Anderson, Jim Norris, Margaret Stephens, Liba Stanek, and Mike Bogar travelled to Baker County on Memorial Day weekend for 3 full days of eastern Oregon birding. We met at 6:00 am Saturday to explore the environs south of Baker City, birded along the Burnt River and Unity Reservoir, and returned via Whitney and Phillips Reservoir.

Near Baker City, Paul called a pair of Yellow-breasted Chats into view. A pair of Virginia Rails responded to calls and came out of cover. On Dooley Mountain, we watched a pair of Williamson’s Sapsuckers nest-building and mating. Two Clark’s Grebes were mixed with western Grebes on Unity Reservoir. Birds detected in the Burnt River Valley include Sora, Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Kingbirds, Lark Sparrows, and Bobolinks (in hayfields, right where Paul said they’d be). Returning to Baker City, we visited Phillips Reservoir and saw nesting Osprey, a Tundra Swan, and a Pygmy Nuthatch. Saturday’s tally included all 6 of Oregon’s swallows.

Sunday, local birders Heidi and Lou joined us on the south edge of the Wallowas, heading up to Balm Creek Reservoir and down along Eagle Creek to Richland. Good sightings include Long-billed Curlews, Lazuli Buntings, Lewis’ Woodpeckers, Dip-pers taking food to a nest, and the first Common Nighthawks of the season. Margaret spotted a Goshawk. Near Eagle Creek, we were frustrated in our attempts to see a Fox Sparrow, which was singing in the bushes a few feet away. Not even Paul’s hooting and piping drew it out of cover. We had much better luck with a Red Fox than the Fox Sparrow, having clear views of the fox for 15 minutes. No piping required.

Monday morning, we explored the gravel ponds just north of Baker City. Notable species here were Bluewing Teal, Black Tern, Bank Swallows, Barn Owls in the shed, and Baker Co., continued next page.

Oregon Birds 24(3): 88, Fall 1998
OFO Spring Birding Weekend at Malheur NWR

Paul T. Sullivan, 4470 SW Murray #26, Beaverton, OR 97005

Nineteen participants gathered at Malheur Field Station on the morning of 50 May 1998, for introductions and a sketch of the days schedule by our leader, Steve Shunk. Then we headed over to Refuge headquarters for early morning birding. On the way we saw the expected Great Egrets, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and Long-billed Curlews. At headquarters we found the predictable legion of Yellow Warblers, a few Common Nighthawks, etc. Several in the group got to see an Eastern Wood-Pewee which had been captured at the banding station a couple days before. Others saw a Blackpoll Warbler.

Mid-morning we set off down “raptor alley” toward Princeton. Along this route Swainson’s Hawks were more numerous than Red-tails, but we also tallied Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, and Golden Eagles. A recently-tilled field with its exposed rodents had attracted some 15 raptors to one center-pivot irrigation rig near Crane.

We went on to Lawen Rd., where we saw numerous waterfowl, including a pair of Greater Scaup, Franklin’s Gulls, Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, and the usual wading birds. Hurrying back to the Field Station for supper we spotted a pair of Burrowing Owls nesting about a mile northwest of the Field Station. After supper some of the group returned to headquarters to add a few more species to the list. We enjoyed the resident Great Horned Owls reinforcing their pair bond. Those who checked headquarters on Sunday morning found a Black-and-white Warbler.

On Sunday morning we met for breakfast on Steve’s tailgate at Buena Vista station. There we found an Eastern Phoebe flycatching and calling around the outbuildings of the station. Climbing to the overlook we tallied Sage, Lark, and Brewer’s Sparrows, plus Ash-throated and Gray Flycatchers.

At Page Springs we tallied Lesser Goldfinches, Black-throated and MacGillivray’s Warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Working our way north from the P Ranch on the Center Patrol Road, we tallied Bobolinks, Sora, Eastern Kingbirds, and Willow Flycatchers. Steve saw a suspicious flycatcher that eluded further scrutiny. We drove by the spot were a Yellow-billed Cuckoo had been seen the afternoon before, but did not see it. (It was there 20 minutes later!) At Knox Pond we tallied Caspian, Forster’s and Black Terns.

Several participants departed at mid afternoon, but those who stayed added Trumpeter Swan to the list. Good birding and new birds were enjoyed by all, but especially by 2 ladies from England seeing the area for the first time.

Participants were Tom Burnett, Kathleen Ehrenberg, Kris Falco, Barbara Haney, Angela Harvey, Cindy & John, Lawes, Carol Ledford, Maeve Lofton, Malcolm & Joan Macdonald, Jim Norris, Jim Regali, Rita Smith, Liba Stanek, Harold & Voyla Steves, Mary Anne Sohlstorm, Paul Sullivan, and Stephen Shunk.

Curry Co., continued.

assortment of shorebirds, breeding-plumaged Dunlins at the end of their season here were the most notable. Sandpipers were already noticeably absent. Black-toupeed, orange dagger-billed Caspian Terns were in the thick of their migration. A small Canada Goose had insinuated itself into a flock of domestic.

Saturday night, a band of die-hard owlers attempted to call in a Northern Saw-whet near Quosatana campgrounds. Their tape brought in a much more common Screech Owl instead.

Sunday’s return visit to the Gold Beach boat basin added a pair of Brant. In the midst of their northern migration, these small, dark geese pass noisily over the Curry coast in large Vs, but touch down only rarely. Fish-bearing Osprey wheeled overhead in no short supply.

A hard hike over sand dunes to Crook’s Point produced sightings of Tufted Puffins flying to and from their nest burrows on the sea stacks, as well as views of breeding-plumaged Pacific Loons. On the return, we all but stumbled across the weekend’s piece de resistance: an Ash-throated Flycatcher in a wind-sheltered bosk between the highway and the dunes. A bird of the mesquite and of open pine and juniper forest, it has been recorded in Curry Co. on only a handful of occasions.

From the south bank of the Rogue we were afforded a look into a Great Blue Heron colony, and the remarkable spectacle of pair of White-tailed Kites exchanging an object in mid-air — apparently part of a courting ritual. At the river’s mouth along the North Jetty, we were provided a distant view of a Clark’s Grebe, more white-faced and yellow-beaked than the common Western.

After brief looks at the “Curry County Buffalohead Preserve,” a.k.a. the Doyle Point settling ponds, and the fields surrounding Euchre Creek, the group moved on to Garrison Lake in Port Orford. We heard Marsh Wrens and Red-winged Blackbirds, but were disappointed in attempts to call out Soras or Virginia Rails. Before breaking up, the group moved on to the old mill pond north of Buffington Park. We saw the promised Wood Ducks, as well as a bonus pair of Cinnamon Teal, familiar in the Willamette Valley, but relatively uncommon here.

Baker Co., continued.

Great Horned Owl. Farther on was a heron colony, Calliope Hummingbirds on a feeder, Horned Larks, and Red-necked Phalaropes. At Ladd Park, we watched a pair of Sandhill Cranes with a colt, some great Northern Harrier displays, and more Bobolinks (in hayfields, right where Paul said they’d be). After noticing us, the crane colt did an impressive job of disappearing by blending into the brown grasses.

An extra treat for Paul, Liba, and me was spotting Burrowing Owls along

Baker Co., continued next page.
Baker Co., continued.

1-94. En route to Baker City Friday, we found pellets where owls were reported last year, at milepost 294.5. In the last few minutes of twilight, we spotted an owl hovering over the adjacent field. Heading home on Sunday, we found 2 Burrowing Owls on the north side of the freeway at milepost 173, near the Umatilla army depot. The official tally for the field trip was 128 species. Paul didn’t include Northern Pygmy-Owl, though I distinctly heard them calling many times and often saw lots of little ‘dickie birds’ mobbing in response. Curiously, Paul was always standing nearby, making funny faces. I never did see one of the little owls, but I thought the calls warranted a positive ID. Paul didn’t agree, for some strange reason. He did, however, organize a great weekend and led us to a lot of good birds.

19th Annual OFO Meeting

Outgoing Secretary Cindy Lawes, 13380 S.W. Butner Road, Beaverton, OR 97005 cwlawes@earthlink.net

OFO held its 19th Annual Meeting this year in conjunction with the Southwestern Idaho Birders Association and the Golden Eagle Audubon Society. Fifty-five birders attended the meeting held in Ontario, Oregon, at the Four Rivers Cultural Center. The bird count for Malheur, Baker, and Grant Counties and western Idaho was 171 species. Highlights included Common Loon at Malheur Reservoir, Green Heron off Douglas Road north of Ontario, Pacific-slope Flycatcher near Ontario, and Blue Grosbeak at Brogan. In Idaho, highlights included Snow Goose, Great-tailed Grackle, and Common Grackle.

Two awards were given in recognition for contributions to Oregon Ornithology. Ann Ward from Baker County has been a long-time contributor from northeast Oregon. She and her husband started the Baker County CBC in 1957. This is one of the longest-running CBCs in Oregon. For many years Ann was the only birder reporting fieldnotes from this part of Oregon. A biography of Ann may be found in OB 21(1), Spring 1995. Alan Contreras presented the award for Ann, who could not be at the meeting.

Alan Contreras from Lane County is mostly known for his prolific writing about Oregon’s birds. He has published numerous books and articles, and served as President of OFO in 1987 and 1988. Some of his books include *Northwest Birds in Winter*, *Birds of Northeast Oregon*, *Birds of Oregon*, which he co-authored, and his most recent publication, *Cumulative Index to Oregon Birds, Volumes 1-22, 1975-1996*. His current project is co-authoring a new *Birds of Oregon* in cooperation with the Breeding Bird Atlas. Alan has also published at least 60 articles in *Oregon Birds*.

Nominations accepted for OFO Board positions for the 1998-99 term:

- President, Ray Korpi
- Secretary, Mary Anne Sohlstrom
- Treasurer, Reid Freeman

Board Members:

- Ted Ernst (continues his 1997-1999 term)
- Chuck Gates (finishes 1998-1999 term vacated by MAS)

Three new publications from OFO

**Special Publication No. 10.**
Cumulative Index to Oregon Birds, Vol. 1-22. Alan Contreras. $5.50
A fine cross-listed index to *Oregon Birds* as well as an index to the *Journal of Oregon Ornithology* and other resources. ISBN 1-877693-24-3.

**Special Publication No. 11.**
A Guide to Birds and other Wildlife of the Columbia River Estuary. Mike Patterson. $7.50
A guide for exploring the wildlife of the Columbia River Estuary from Ft. Canby and Baker Bay, Washington, south to Cannon Beach, Oregon, and east to Brownsmead and Nicolai Mountain. Topics include timing a visit, tips on targeting specific kinds of wildlife, site guides to the region’s best areas, an annotated list by species describing where to find the most interesting birds and mammals and a complete checklist and seasonal bar chart for the birds of Clatsop County. ISBN 1-877693-25-1.

**Special Publication No. 12.**
Birds of Coos County, Oregon: status and distribution. Alan Contreras. $16.00
The book is a joint production of Cape Arago Audubon and Oregon Field Ornithologists. Species accounts, habitat information and photos, 25-year CBC tables, a table of pelagic trip results, maps and detailed histograms. ISBN 1-877693-26-X.
The OFO Board of Directors gave 2 awards to outstanding Oregon birders at the Nineteenth OFO Annual Meeting in Ontario, 27 June 1998.

The first award was given to Ann Ward of Baker City for her many years of contributing sightings from eastern Oregon. When she moved to Baker City in 1954, she was coached by the local priest-birder to get the Peterson's guide and Gabrielson & Jewett's Birds of Oregon. With her late husband, Ann started the Baker City and Baker Valley Christmas Bird Counts and she was the compiler for many years. She participated in various bird surveys and discovered American Redstarts breeding near Baker City. In the early years Ann had to overcome the incredulity of some "experts" from western Oregon. All of this was done in her cheery, up-beat way. Although her health is not what it used to be, her spirit continues. It was a joy to visit with her and present this award.

The second award went to Alan Contreras. Alan has been Past President of OFO, and a member of the Oregon Bird Records Committee. He has written numerous articles and several books on Oregon's birds. Alan founded the Florence and Coquille Valley Christmas Bird Counts. His organizational skills have contributed greatly to our knowledge and enjoyment of Oregon's birds.

Paul T. Sullivan, paul.t.sullivan@bangate.tek.com
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.

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Oregon Birds 24(3): 92, Fall 1998
FIELDNOTES: Eastern Oregon, Winter 1997-98

Ray Korpi, 9112 North Tyler Avenue, Portland, OR 97203

The number of reports overall was down this winter, which is surprising given the mildness of the winter. Kevin Spencer reported from Klamath Falls that temperatures were above normal and rain predominated in December and January; snow came to Klamath in February. In the north, fog seemed to loom large in December.

Those species in italics are review species. The author wishes to ask that observers start differentiating Fox Sparrow races in light of need for data on ranges of these birds. Counties, when known, are in italics and abbreviated using the first 3 letters; I knew for sure where the sighting was.

Abbreviations
WA Wildlife Area
SP State Park
NWR National Wildlife Refuge
Publications Cited
Rv The Rav-on (Grande Ronde BC)
US Upland Sandpiper (Grant Co.)

Common Loon
1, Willow Creek Wa, Gil', 7 Dec (CC, JS)
Pied-billed Grebe
1, John Day CBC, 20 Dec (US)
Horned Grebe
5 at Sand Station, Uma, on the Columbia, 16 Jan (MM, MLD)
Red-necked Grebe
1, Horn River, Hoo, 31 Jan (WC)
Eared Grebe
1, Prineville Sewage Lagoons, Cro, 11 Dec (CG); 1, Bend CBC, 20 Dec (TC); 2, Horn River, Hoo, 4 Jan (HN)
Western Grebe
2 at Sand Station, Uma, on the Columbia, 16 Jan (MM, MLD)
Clark's Grebe
1, Bend area, Des, 20 Dec - 2 Jan (TC, DH). This was a first-record on the Bend CBC.
American Bittern
Reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG)
Great Egret
2, Lower Klamath NWR, Kla, throughout (CB, KS, et al.)
Cattle Egret
2 in Hermiston, Uma, continued into December (CC, JS)
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG)
Tundra Swan
1, west of Moon Creek, Gra, 5 Dec (US); 4, Pine Creek, Gra, 19 Jan (US); 4 adults, Confort Ranch, Uma, 14 Feb (MLD, MLD)
Bewick's Tundra Swan
4 in close group, Lower Klamath NWR, Kla, 31 Jan (AH); 1, HQ, Malheur NWR, Har, 21 Dec (DE)
Whooper Swan
up to 5, Lower Klamath NWR, Cal., W '97, with 1 at or over Oregon st. line, Kla, 24 Jan (KS)
Wood Duck
220 at wildlife area, McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD)
Mandarin Duck
1 female, probably an escapee (?), paired with a Wood Duck drake, McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD)
American Black Duck
1 pure adult male, Hood River, Hoo, 4 Jan to end of period (SR, DB, et al.). However, no write-ups had been received by the OBRC as of 5 July.
Northern Pintail
1, McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Blue-winged Teal
1, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan (CC)
Eurasian Wigeon
1, Prineville Sewage Lagoons, Cro, 11 Dec - 4 Feb (CG, CM, CC, SSH, JM); 1, John Day, Gra, 20 Dec, 27 Dec, and again 21 Jan (US); 1, Wingville, Bak, 9 Jan (SS)
American Wigeon
400+, Hat Rock SP, Uma, 1 Jan to end of period (WC, et al.)
Redhead
6, McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Ring-necked Duck
17, Hat Rock SP, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD)
Tufted Duck
1 female, John Day Dam, She, 13 Dec (LR); 1 male at Bingen, Wa, 31 Jan to end of period (WC, et al.)
Greater Scaup
1 male, Yat Rock SP, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD); "Usual large numbers in the Columbia River Gorge" (HN)
Oldsquaw
1, Summer Lake, Lak, 23-27 Dec (BT, RG); 1, Suttle Lake, Jef, 4 Jan to end of period (LR, SSH, DH, CM, JM, et al.)
Surf Scoter
2, Suttle Lake, Jef, 4 Jan (DH, CM, JM, et al.)
Common Goldeneye
22 at McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Barrow's Goldeneye
"Usual numbers in Columbia River Gorge" (HN); 2 males at McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Bufflehead
37 at McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Hooded Merganser
1 male at McNary NWR, Uma, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Turkey Vulture
1, Sisters, Des, 3 Feb, broke the early arrivals in Central Oregon by 20 days (LR Ede CM)
White-tailed Kite
1, Klamath Marsh NWR, Kla, Jan.-Feb. (DL, WW, et al.)
Bald Eagle
5 in the desert reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG); 1 adult and 1 immature, Hat Rock SP, 16 Jan (MLD, MLD)
Cooper's Hawk
1 immature female, Confort Ranch, Uma, 14 Feb

Northern Goshawk
1 wintering at Fields, Har, noted as "atypical" (M); 1, Canyon Creek, Gra, 20 Dec (US); 1, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan (CC)
Red-shouldered Hawk
1 imm., Miller Island WA, Kla, throughout period (KS); 1 other in Klamath Falls, Kla, Dec.-Jan. (EO, KW, KS, et al.)
Red-tailed Hawk
1 wintering at Fields, Har, noted as "atypical" (M)
Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk
1, Malheur WQ, Har, 9 Dec (DE)
Ferruginous Hawk
1 wintered south of Klamath Falls, Kla (KS); 1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan (TC)
Rough-legged Hawk
1 dark morph, Emigrant Hill, Uma, 3 Jan (MLD, MD, SM)
Peregrine Falcon
1, Dog Creek, Gra, 1 Dec (US); 1, Malheur NWR CBC, 20 Dec (DE); 1, Irrigon, Mor, 25 Dec (CC, JS)
Gyrfalcon
1 imm., Klamath Marsh NWR, Kla, 28 Feb (KS)
Gray Partridge
20, OPO Weekend in Wallowa County, 12 Jan (PS)
Mountain Quail
2, Cottonwood Creek between Long Creek and Monument, Gra, mid Feb (MD)
Virginia Rail
Reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG); 1, John Day CBC, 20 Dec (US); 1 wintered at Fields, Har (M); 4, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan (CM)
Sora
1, Hatfield Lake, Des, 1 Jan (JM) followed closely by 1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan, were Central Oregon's first two winter records (CM).
Killdeer
10, Alfalfa Rd., Johnson Rd., Des, 7 Feb
Greater Yellowlegs
2, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan (CC)
Least Sandpiper
1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan, for an unusual midwinter record (TO); "Handful" in with Dunlin, White Lake, Cal.-Or. border, 15 Feb. (DF)
Dunlin
1, Alfalfa Pond, Johnson Rd., Des, 7 Feb (DH); "large flock" at White Lake, Cal.-Or. border, 15 Feb (DF)
Mew Gull
1, Klamath Falls CBC, 3 Jan (EO); 1 imm., Klamath Falls, Kla, 15 Feb (DF)
Herring Gull
4, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan (CC)
Glaucous-winged Gull
2, Lake Ewauna, Klamath Falls, Kla, 3 Jan (KS; FM); 1 at Sand Station, Uma, on the Columbia, 16 Jan (MM, MLD)
Black-legged Kittiwake
1, John Day Dam, She, 13-16 Dec (CR, CM)
Barn Owl

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10 in 2 communal roosts, Malheur NWR CBC, 29 Dec (DE); 1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan (TC); 2, McNary NWR, Umat, 16 Jan (MLD, MD)

**Western Screech-Owl**
1, John Day CBC, 20 Dec (US)

**Northern Pygmy-Owl**
Reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG)

**Short-eared Owl**
1, Malheur NWR CBC, 20 Dec (DE); reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG)

**Red-breasted Sapsucker**
1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan (TC)

**Downy Woodpecker**
1 wintered in Bend, Des, for an unusual all-winter record (DH, PM, CM).

**Northern Flicker**
1, Bend, Des (DH, TC)

**Blue Jay**
1 wintered in Enterprise (GC, PS, et al.); 1 wintered in Bend (SW, DH, TC, et al.); 1, Burns, 28 Feb (CD)

**Western Scrub-Jay**
15, Bend CBC, 22 Dec; 4, Moro, She, 24 Dec (PS)

**Black-capped Chickadee**
2, Klamath Falls, Kla, 3 Jan - 15 Feb (MK, 3t al.)

**Juniper Titmouse**
1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan (TC)

**Anna's Hummingbird**
1 wintered in Bend, Des, for an unusual all-winter record (DH, PM, CM).

**Canyon Wren**
1, Malheur NWR CBC, 20 Dec (DE); 1, Prineville CBC, 4 Jan (TC); 2, McNary NWR, Umat, 16 Jan (MLD, MD); 1, Bend, 11 Feb (DH, PM); 1, Link River, Klamath Falls, Kla, 21 Feb (KS, FM)

**American Robin**
1 bird wintering in Fields, Har, was noted as "atypical" (M).

**Bohemian Waxwing**
1, Bend, Des, through Dec (SK, et al.); high of 128 at P Ranch, Har, during period (DE, et al.); 2, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan; high of 500 in Joseph, Wal, through period.

**Northern Shrike**
7 at Estacada, Kla, 3 Jan (MLD, MD, SM); "no shortage" in Lake County, week around Christmas (BT, RG)

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**
1, Bend, Des, 1 Dec; 31, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan; regular numbers in Northeast Oregon (fide CM).

**Chipping Sparrow**
1, Bend, Des, 1 Dec (IH)—2nd Deschutes County winter record.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**
1 on John Day CBC, 20 Dec (TC); 1, McNary NWR, Umat, 16 Jan (MLD, MD)

**Swamp Sparrow**
1, Hailey NWR CBC, 20 Dec-10 Jan (DH, TC)

**White-throated Sparrow**
1, Malheur NWR CBC, 20 Dec (DE); reported in Lake County the week after Christmas (BT, RG)

**Merit Thrush**
1, La Grande, 9 Dec (Rv); 1, Malheur NWR CBC, 20 Dec; 3, McNary NWR, Umat, 16 Jan (MLD, MD); 1, Bend, 11 Feb (DH, PM); 1, Link River, Klamath Falls, Kla, 21 Feb (KS, FM)

**American Robin**
1 large movements reported in Was on 14 Feb (DL, PB)

**Varied Thrush**
1, Klamath Falls, Kla, 3 Jan (MK)

**Northern Mockingbird**
1, Klamath Falls, Kla, 1-15 Jan (KM)

**Sage Thrasher**
2, near Silver lake, Lak, 28 Dec (BT, RG)

**Brown Thrasher**
2, Bend CBC, 20 Dec (TC)

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**
1, Heppner, Mor, 7 Dec (CC, JS); 1 immature, Mount Vernon, Gra, 4 Jan into February (US)

**Harri's Sparrow**
3, Fields, Har, 2 Dec (M); 1, Moro, She, 24 Dec (PS); 1 wintered near Sunset, Des (DH); 2, Pendleton CBC, 3 Jan (CC); 1, Hood River, Hoo, 12 Jan (HB); 1 Mount Vernon, Gra, 21 Jan into February (US)

**Dark-eyed Junco**
Pink-sided forms reported at Fields during period (M); 2 Slate-colored and 1 Pink-sided reported from Bend CBC (TC); an Oregon form with an all-white head seen on Umatilla CBC (MD)

**Lapland Longspur**
15, south of Burns, Har, 15 Dec (DE); 1, near Grass Valley, She, 24 Dec (PS); 10, Township Rd., Kla, 19-22 Jan

**Western Meadowlark**
Singing birds at Ladd Marsh, Um, 15 Feb (Rv)

**Purple Finch**
Reported at Mount Vernon, Gra, 4 Jan (US)

**Red Crossbill**
80+ at Poverty Flat, Umat, 3 Jan (MLD, MD, SM)

**White-winged Crossbill**
10, Moro, She, 24 Dec (PS); 25 at Odell Lake, Kla, 21 Feb (JH)

**Red Crossbill**
No reports this period.

**Lesser Goldfinch**
1, Bend, Des, 9, 10 Jan; 8, 23 Feb (DH, PM)—4th or 5th Deschutes record (fide CM).

**American Goldfinch**
1, Mount Vernon, Gra, 4 Jan into February (US)

**Evening Grosbeak**
Very few reports during the period.

**Observers**
PBB: Patti Bernard; CB-Clint Brumitt, HBS-Henry Burton; WC-Wilson Gady; CSS-Craig Corder; CT-Tom Crabtree; MLD-Merrylyn Denny; MD-Mike Denny; CD-Colon Dilhustings; DE-Duncan Evered; DF-David Fix; RG-Roy Gerig; AH-Arleen Hagen, DH-Dean Hale, HH-Howard Hornath; MK-Mark Kelley; DL-Dave Leter; DD-Donna Lusthoff; M-Mark Mieloszyk; FM-Frank Mayer; PM-Patty Meehan; JM-Judy Meredith; KM-Karen Mieloszyk; CM-Craig Miller; SM-Shirley Muse; HH-Harry Nehls; EO-Edith Olmsted; LL-Lou Reim; CR-Craig Roberts; BS-Brian Sharp; SSh-Steve Shunk; CR-CS-Craig Roberts; SS-Steven Speegle; KE-Keith Spencer; JS-Judy Stevens; PS-Paul Sullivan; BT-Bill Tice; WW-Karl Wintner; SL-Steve Willer; WW-Wendell Wood.
Above and left: Lark Sparrow, a bird on the Brownsville CBC, 4 January 1998, Bond Road, Linn Co. Photos/ Jamie Simmons.


Above: Whooper Swan, OBRC 179-97-03G; left, OBRC 179-97-03E, 1 December 1997, near Airlie, Polk Co. Photos/ Bill Tice.
Most will point the finger at El Niño as the cause of the mild winter. Many marginal wintering species were present in fair numbers, while some of the more northern species such as Snow Buntings, Snowy Owls, and Rosy Finches were absent. Heermann’s Gulls were not only found as far north as Astoria for the entire period, but staged an impressive movement north during mid-February. Many of these sightings were gleaned from OBOL (Oregon Birders On Line), *The Chat*, *The Kestrel*, *The Sandpiper*, *The Quail*, and *The Storm Petrel*.

**Clark’s Grebe**

2 were at Millalonna Marsh (Coos) for much of the period (TR).

**Laysan Albatross**

A dead bird was found near Thiel Creek Beach (Lincoln) 27 Feb (B&SLo).

**Pelagic Trip**

The pelagic trip out of Depoe Bay on 28 Feb. found the following:

1. Laysan Albatross
2. Black-footed Albatross
3. Fork-tailed Storm Petrel
4. jaeger sp.
5. 3I2 Black-legged Kittiwake

**Short-tailed Shearwater**

4 were on the Columbia Estuary CBC 21 Dec (fide TR); 1 was on the Tillamook CBC (Tillamook) 20 Dec (fide HR); 7 were off Orford Head (Curry) 14 Feb (JG,TW).

**BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER**

1 was seen 11 Feb off Cape Blanco (Curry) which would be Oregon’s 5th sight record if accepted by the ORBC (JR).

**Northern Fulmar**

One was near Coos Bay (Coos) 7 Dec (DL); 1 was seen prior to the Columbia Estuary CBC (fide TR); 38 were found on the Coos Bay (Coos) CBC 20 Dec (fide HR); 1 was found on the Tillamook CBC (Tillamook) 20 Dec (fide HR); 1 was found on the Port Orford CBC (Curry) 27 Dec (fide HR); 1 was found along a 3 mile stretch of beach near Thiel Creek during November (B&SLo, S&DBr, fide BR); 3 were on the Port Orford CBC (Curry) 27 Dec (fide HR); 1 was found along a 3 mile stretch of beach south of Yaquina Head (Lincoln) 2 Jan (AF); 3 were found dead along Sunset Beach (Clatsop) 18 Jan (MP).

**Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel**

1 was on the Columbia Estuary CBC 21 Dec (fide TR).

**Leach’s Storm-Petrel**

1 was seen prior to the Columbia Estuary CBC (fide TR).

**White Pelican**

2 wintered at FRR (fide BR).

**Brown Pelican**

Pelicans were seen throughout the period: 55 were at the Pistol River (Curry) 2 Dec (DM); 8 were at the mouth of the Chetco River (fide TR); 3 were seen flying past Yaquina Head (Lincoln) 27 Dec (BR); 5 were seen beyond the surf at the Lighthouse (Lincoln) 29 Dec (BR); 2 were at the Port Orford CBC (fide TR); 2 were on the Cottonwood CBC (fide TR); 1 was at the Mollala Sewage Ponds (Clack.) 25 Jan (JG).

**Red-necked Grebe**

2 were on the Portland CBC (Mult) 3 Jan (fide BR); the Portland CBC (Mult) 3 Jan (fide AC); 7 were on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 3 Jan (fide AC); These and the many scattered reports throughout the period attest to the mild winter.

**Snowy Egret**

1 was at Kentuck Inlet (Coos) 7 Feb (TR); 1 was at Empire (Coos) 11 Feb through the end of the period (TR).

**Cattle Egret**

One was on S.I. 1 Dec (HN); 2 were on the Eugene CBC (Lane) 31 Dec-1 Jan (BC); 1 was along Airlie Road (Polk) 5 Jan (CW).

**Green Heron**

1 was on the Salem CBC (Marion) 20 Dec (fide SD); 1 was on the Forest Grove CBC (Wasco) 21 Dec (MS), 1 was on the Grants Pass CBC 21 Dec (DD); 1 was on the Silverton CBC (Marion) 3 Jan (fide RF); 1 wintered near Fred Meyer’s in Astoria (fide BR); 1 was found on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 23 Dec that was seen into January (JS); 1 was along Neawap Road (Lane) 9 Feb (RF).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

2 were on the Grants Pass CBC 21 Dec (fide SD); 36 were at a roost near Eugene on 12 Jan (DD); up to 5-6 were at a roost in Roseburg (Douglas) for some of the winter (GC); 1 was at Pond Slough (Coos) 10 Jan (TR); 1-2 were near the MSC (Lincoln) 17 Jan to the end of period (fide TR) for an unusual winter record for the mid coast; 7 were at the roost along Marine Dr. (Mult) 14 Feb (SD).

**Sandhill Crane**

700 on S.I. was an unseasonably large number on 31 Dec, attesting to the mild December (HN); 5 landed briefly at the mouth of the Chetco River (Curry) 22 Dec (fide TR) for a rare coastal record; migrating blocks were seen by mid Feb. in the Willamette Valley.

**Tundra Swan**

15 were very unusual at Idaho Flats (Lincoln) on 25 Dec (B&M, fide BR).

**Trumpeter Swan**

More unusual sightings were 1 on the Salem CBC (Marion) 20 Dec (fide SD); 1-2 were at Cedar Canyon (Wash) 5 Dec (DD); 1 was along the coast in Lincoln County 20 Dec (MS); 1 was at Eckman Lake (Lincoln) 1 Jan (fide HR); 1 was at Richardson Rd (Lane) 2 Jan (SM); 1 was at FRR (Lane) 1 Jan (BB); 1 was at Henry Hagg Lake (Wasco) 19 Jan (GG).

**Whooper Swan**

Oregon’s 2nd record reported late last period was seen 1 Dec in the Maplegrove area (Polk) (M.OB).

**White-fronted Goose**

5-7 "Tule" White Fronts were at BSNWR (Polk) 15 Feb through end of period (HN, BT); 48 near the Eugene Airport (Lane) was a nice sized winter flock for the Willamette Valley on 5 Dec (AC).

**Snow Goose**

Unusual locations were 1 near Tillamook (Till.) 17 Jan (SS); 1 was on Sauvie’s Island (RC); 1 near Soldier Creek (Lincoln) 17 Jan (CD); Up to 1500 spent the winter near Sauvie’s Island (HN); 1 spent the winter near Canyonville (Douglas) (KG); As usual a few were reported from the WV during the period.
Ross' Goose
Wetlands Park (Wash.) 19 Jan (fide JP); 2 were at Willamette Valley this winter.

Emperor Goose
was at BSNWR (Polk) 28 Jan to end of period (Dkn).

Brant
was at FNWR (Benton) 15-19 Feb (SM).

Brant
was seen on and off at BSNWR (Polk) from 2 Dec (FDe) through 22 Jan.

Cinnamon Teal
males were in the large widgeon flock at BSNWR (Polk) 8 Feb (HN).

Common Goldeneye
1 was at the Cannon Beach Sewage Ponds (Clatsop) Dec (Af).

Cinnamon Teal
5 were on the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG); 1 was near Tillamook (Till.) 17 Jan (SS&K).

American Widgeon
2,000 were seen at BSNWR (Polk) on 8 Feb (HN) which was thought to be a healthy sized flock for the Willamette Valley.

Canvasback
100 at the Fernhill Wetlands (Wash.) on 13 Dec was a large flock for the WV (DLu).

Redhead
4 on the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG) which stayed through 7 Jan; 10 were on the Portland CBC (Mult.) 3 Jan (fide JG); 1 was on the Brownsville CBC (Linn) 4 Jan (fide PA) at Sally's Bend, Yaquina Bay (Lincoln) were a nice find (KM).

Ring-necked Duck
250 were at the Fernhill Wetlands (Wash.) on 13 Dec (DLu).

Oldsquaw
A female was at the effluent pond north of Coos Bay (Coos) 6 Dec (SR); 1-5 were at Yaquina Bay 1 Dec 17 Jan (KM, AS, et al.); 1 was at Alsea Bay (Lincoln) 21 Dec (fide RB); 2 were on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 5 Jan (fide AC); 1 was at Astoria (Clatsop) 18 Jan-8 Feb (MP); 1 was at Charleston Harbor (Coos) 23 Jan-11 Feb (TR); 1 was at the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (Lane) 31 Dec (B&B) near Seaside (Clatsop) 12 Feb (fide SB); 1 was on the Necanicum Estuary (Till.) 14 Feb WP.

Surf Scoter
1 was found on the Portland CBC (Mult.) 3 Jan (fide RK).

Black Scoter
64 was a high for the Columbia Estuary CBC (Clatsop) 21 Dec (fide MP).

Barrow's Goldeneye
3-4 were present at a pond at Mt. Hood Community College (Mult.) 13-28 Feb (SJ, et al.).

Common Goldeneye
A female was at MSP (Polk) 4-6 Feb (BT, RG) where they have become rare this decade. 2 were more regular at Dexter Reservoir (Lane) 11 Jan (DS, PSh) as were 5 at Fernhill Wetlands (Wash.) 13 Dec (DLu). Virginia Rail
1 was on the Grants Pass CBC 21 Dec (DV) an amazing 70 on the Port Orford CBC (Curry) 27 Dec (R, fide AC); 1 was on the Silverton CBC (Marion) 3 Jan (fide RF); near the end of period were widely reported.

Sora
3 were on the Columbia Estuary CBC 21 Dec (fide MP); 4 were on the Grants Pass CBC 21 Dec (fide RG); were a fairly large in-flock.

Snowy Plover
8 were found on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 3 Jan (fide AC).

Semipalmated Plover
1 was at BSNWR (Polk) 7 Feb (MH).

Black-bellied Plover
1 was on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 23 Dec (fide JP); a "small flock" was along Goodman Rd. (Lane) 2 Jan (DPe); 75 were at BSNWR (Polk) 9 Feb (RGu).

Black Oystercatcher
23 was a large gathering at Seal Rocks (Lincoln) 14 Dec (KM, fide RB).

Marbled Godwit
Up to 36 were in the Coos Bay area for the winter (TR, et al.).

Long-billed Curlew
Up to 6 were at Pony Slough (Coos) for much of the winter (TR, et al.).

Greater Yellowlegs
20 were at Beaver Crk. (Lincoln) through 15 Dec (fide MP); 1 was at Minto Brown Park (Marion) 19 Dec (BT, TL) at FRR 20 Dec (LM); 4 were on the Brownsville CBC (Linn) 4 Jan (fide JS); 8 were at Brownsmead (Clatsop) 8 Feb (MP); 8 were along Tangent Road (Linn) 12 Feb (SD).

Lesser Yellowlegs
1 was on the Columbia Estuary CBC 21 Dec (fide MP); 1 was found on the Coos Bay (Coos) CBC 20 Dec (fide SG).

Willet
3 were at Pony Slough (Coos) for most of the winter (TR, et al.).

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Western Gull
Inland, and away from the Columbia River there was one at the Coiffin Butte Landfill (Benton) on 1 Dec (AF) and 2 or more wintered in the vicinity (BT,SD); 1 was on the Salem CBC (Marion) 20 Dec (fide SD); a bird of the Wymanni race was well described from the Pellet Plant on S1. Mult.) 2 Jan (GG, GJ); 1 adult was 1 mile west of McMinnville in a large gull flock 17 Jan-8 Feb (FS) which was only Yamhill County's 2nd record.

Black-legged Kitiwake
Most interesting was a 2nd winter bird in the large gull flock in Southern Polk/Northern Benton Cos. Found on 23 Feb along Airlie Rd. (Polk) it stayed through 28 Feb (BT, et al.).

Caspian Tern
An extremely early bird was at Bandon (Coos) 20 Jan (AP).

Cassin's Auklet
3 were found dead along Sunset Beach (Clatsop) 18 Jan (MP); 10 dead were found on S. Newport Beach (Lincoln) 24 Jan (BW).

Raptors:

It was thought that the mild winter helped bolster the vole population in the Willamette Valley (RQf) which accounted for the impressive numbers of raptors this winter. Two observers in 5 hours counted 230 raptors in Polk Co. (BT,KT) on 5 Dec.

Turkey Vulture
A late bird was seen along Airlie Rd. (Polk) 1-3 Dec (JS, BA); another or the same was 4 miles south of Monmouth (Polk) 4 Dec (BT); 4 were in the Grant's Pass CBC area during count week (Jackson) 21 Dec (fide DV); 1 was found on the Port Orchard CBC (Grr) 20 Dec (fide AC); 2 were on the Eugene CBC (Lane) 31 Dec (fide BC); 1 was at EEWGMA (Benton) 17 Jan (Dade Buzan(fide AM); 1 was at FRR (Lane) 19 Jan (SD); 1 was north of Lebanon (Linn) 8 Feb (JH); 1 was on Cape Blanco (Cay) 12 Feb (TW); 1 was along Livermore Rd (Polk) 14 Feb (BT); 1 was at Glide (Douglas) 15 Feb (BK); after mid Feb migrants were widely reported.

Bald Eagle
23 was a high for the Columbia Estuary CBC (Clatsop) 21 Dec (fide MP).

Golden Eagle
1 was along Airlie Road (Polk) 1-4 Dec (m.ob.); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 25 Dec (fide JP); 1 was on the Tillamook CBC (Tillamook) 20 Dec and was seen through 26 Jan (JG, MT); 1 was seen at Langois (Cay) 27 Dec (TW); 1 was found on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 3 Jan (fide AC); 1 was on the Brownsville CBC (Linn) 1 Jan (fide PA); an imm bird was seen along Gap Road (Lane) 27 Dec (ESH); 1 was at BSNW (Polk) 17 Jan (BT) which stayed through the period; and imm was seen there 21 Feb (PS); 1 was east of Lebanon (Linn) 18 Jan (JH); 1 was at ANWR (Marion) 31 Jan (JS); 1 was at FNWR (Benton) 31 Jan (AF).

Oswprey
Late or wintering birds were: 1 at Pony Slough (Coos) 10 Dec-23 Jan (TR, DL,KC); it and another were on the Coos Bay CBC (fide RM); 2 at Eugene (Lane) 12 Dec (DL,KC) which may have been the 2 on the Eugene CBC (31 Dec) (fide BC); 2 were in Forest Grove (Was.) 15 Dec (BS); 2 were on the Grant's Pass CBC (Jackson) 21 Dec (fide DV); 1 on the Portland CBC (Mult.) 3 Jan (fide RK); 1 on the Port Orford CBC (Curry) 27 Dec (fide AC); 1 was at Eckman Lake (Lincoln) 9 Jan (AC); 1 was over the MSC (Lincoln) 16 Jan (BD).

White-tailed Kite
10 were found in the Maplegrove area (Polk) while looking for the Whopper Swan 2 Dec (TJ); 7-8 were in the FRR (Lane) area for the period (LM, et al.); 7 were in the Coquille Valley area 6 Dec (AC, RH); 7 were on the Grants CBC 21 Dec (DV); 13 were reported on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 3 Jan (fide AC); 8 individuals were seen about Douglas Co. during the period (fide RM); scattered reports of 1-2 birds from many areas.

Northern Goshawk
1 was found on the Tillamook CBC (Tillamook) 20 Dec (HN); 1 was in Astoria (Clatsop) 11 Jan (MP); 1 was in Eugene (Lane) 31 Jan (JC); 1 was found in the North Umpqua Ranger District (Douglas) 2 Dec and again 28 Feb (RM).

Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawks put on an excellent showing north of their usual range. (Where does their usual range now include?) They were reported from 14 of the 19 counties in W. Oregon. An imm. and an adult were at E.E. Wilson (Benton) on 1 Dec (fide AC) through the period; 4 were in the FRR (Lane) area from 4 Dec (LM) through end of period; 1-2 were along Farmer Rd. (Polk) 5 Dec through end of period (BT); 1 was at Jackson Bottoms 13 Dec (fide HN); 4 were found on the Coos Bay (Coos) CBC 20 Dec (fide HN); 1-2 were at FNWR (Benton) 20 Dec through end of period (fide JS); 4 were on the Grants CBC 21 Dec (DV); 2 were on the Roseburg CBC (Douglas) 20 Dec (fide RM); 1 along River Rd. (Marion) 25 Dec (MP); 1-2 continued on at ANWR (Marion) for the entire period (JL); 8 were reported on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 3 Jan (fide AC); 2-3 were near the North Spoi Coos Bay (Coos) for the period (SR et al.); 1 was in Newport (Lincoln) 7 Jan (CP,fide RB); 1 was along Rt. 99 south of Monmouth (Polk) 17 Jan (MC); 1 was north of Tillamook (Till.) 17 Jan through end of period (SK&JS); Yamhill had it's first on 4-11 Feb where one was found 1.5 miles north of Hopewell (FS); 1 was just west of Otis (Lincoln) 15 Feb (PS,MLO); 3 were seen near Whitehorse County Park (JOS) 25 Feb wherein territorial disputes looked evident to the observer and where a pair nested 3 years ago (DV); How long will it be until they breed in the Willamette Valley?

Red-tailed Hawk
A Harlan's Hawk returned to the Sover area (Polk) for its 6th winter 1 Dec (AC, m.ob.); another was near the Scappoose Waste Water Plant (Columbia) 27 Dec (JG); A few others were reported. Care needs to be given to the ID of Harlan's Hawks due to similarity with other dark morph buteos.

Ferruginous Hawk
An imm. bird was west of White City (Jackson) 28 Dec (PS) for a rare west side find.

Merlin
6 were found on the S1 CBC (fide JP); 4 were on the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG); It was thought that numbers were high in the region this winter.

Prairie Falcon
One was just east of E.E. Wilson (Benton) on 4 Dec (BT); One along Farmer Rd. (Polk) on 5 Dec (BT); 1 was on the Salem CBC (Marion) 20 Dec (fide SJ); 1 was in southern Polk Co. 1 Jan (fide MC); 1 was on S1. 10 Jan (WG); 1 was near FRR (Lane) 26-17 Jan (DH, RR); 1 was along Tarrat Rd (Polk) 22 Feb (RR); 1 was north of Helmick Park (Polk) 22 Feb (FS).

Peregrine Falcon
7 were on the Port Orford CBC (Curry) 27 Dec (fide HN); many inland reports as usual.

Gyr Falcon
One was reported (AF) along Airport Rd (Benton) 6 Dec; it or another was on the Corvallis CBC (Linn) 23 Dec (fide JP); another probable one was at Jack­son Bottoms (Wasch. 28 Dec (JF,fide HN); 1 was on S1. 17 Jan (fide HN); a tan colored bird was along Livermore Rd (Polk) 8-11 Feb (PS) for Polk's 3rd record; a different tan bird was at FNWR (Benton) 21 Feb (PS).

Band-tailed Pigeon
1 was found on the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG).

Burrowing Owl
1 was along Farmer Rd (Polk-4th County Record) 10 Dec (HI).

Barred Owl
2 were reported from Mary's Peak (Benton) 18 Jan (AF); 1 spent the winter at Mary S. Young Park in West Linn (Clark) (fide HN).

Long-eared Owl
1 on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 23 Dec (fide JP).

Cost's Hummingbird
1 male was on the Grant's Pass CBC (Jackson) 21 Dec which said to have been around since summer (DV) and continued to at least 22 Feb when it was joined by another; 1 was found on the Medford CBC (Jackson) (fide DV); 1 in Portland (Mult.) 7 Jan (Dhu,fide HN) and was seen for a few days after.

Rufous Hummingbird
1 male was on the Portland CBC (Mult.) was a rare winter find (fide RP); 1 male was at the North Spoi Coos Bay (Coos) 19 Jan (fide TR); a male was in Mapleton (Lane) 15 Feb (Dbb). 1 was in Coos Bay (Coos) 6 Feb (BG) and another 11 Feb (TR).

Allen's Hummingbird
A male was quite early at Harbor (Curry) 27 Jan (fide RP).

Lewis Woodpecker
1 was near the intersection of Llewellyn and Fern Roads (Benton) 6 Dec (AF); 1 was on the Roseburg CBC (Douglas) 20 Dec (fide RM); 2 were at Lower Table Rock (Jackson) on 13 Jan (DV).

Tropical Kingbird
One was still hanging around the effluent ponds north of Coos Bay (Coos) 13 Dec (TR); another was near Rocky Point County Park (Coos) 6-13 Dec (DLSB).

Black Phoebe
One was in Albany (Linn) on 3 Dec (JF); 1 was found on the Roseburg CBC (Douglas) 20 Dec; I wintered again at the Emerald Valley Golf Course near Cresswell (Lane) (KN).

Say's Phoebe
One returned to E.E. Wilson Game refuge (Benton) for the 5th or 6th year on 1 Dec (AF); 1 was along Simpson Road (Polk) 2 Dec (AF); 1 was found on the Roseburg CBC (Douglas) 20 Dec; 1 was along the Chetco River (Curry) 25 Feb (DM).

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Western Flycatcher  
1 was seen well on 30 Jan in an observer's yard (KC) in Fin Rock (Lane) for one of very few empid winter records.

Tree Swallow  
1 was found on the Coquille Valley CBC (Coos) 3 Jan (fide AC), by mid Feb were common.

Violet-green Swallow  
Early migrants were widely reported during the last week of Feb.

Barn Swallow  
1 was at the LCC Campus 4 Jan (RR); 2 were on the Eugene CBC (Lane) 31 Dec (fide BC).

Black-billed Magpie  
19 was an unusually large flock for the Emigrant Valley (Jackson) 3 Jan (DK).

House Wren  
1 was at John Lundsten's home 1 Dec (Marion) and on the Eugene CBC (Lane) 31 Dec (fide BC) were certainly far north of their usual winter range.

Northern Mockingbird  
1 was on the Salem CBC (Marion) 20 Dec (fide SD); 1 was found on the Tillamook CBC (Tillamook) 20 Dec (fide HN) and stayed through end of period (CL); 1 was found in Corvallis (Benton) early in the period and relocated 20 Dec (AF); 1 was in Eugene (Lane) 18-25 Jan (RR); 1 was in Creswell (Lane) 21 Dec (RR); 1 was near Grants Pass (Jose.) 20 Jan (DV); another one near Grants Pass 25 Jan was thought to be a different bird (JH); 1 was of Medford (Jackson) 1 Feb (SH); 2 were at the Sevyle place near Gold Beach (Curry) in Dec-Jan (fide AB, GD).

BROWN THRASHER  
A bird was found along Bond Butte Road (Linn Co.) 28 Feb (DH,PS,RF).

Bohemian Waxwing  
1 was seen at Minto Park (Marion) 22 Feb (LA) in a flock of Cedar's.

Cedar Waxwing  
50 near Rickreall (Polk) on 4 Feb (BT) and 100 in Springfield (Lane) 26 Feb (VA) were nice mid-winter flocks for the WV.

Loggerhead Shrike  
1 was at White City (Jackson) 28 Dec (PS); 1 was at Lower Table Rock (Jackson) on 13 Jan (DV).

Cassin's Vireo  
A rare winter find was of one in a suburban yard in Oak Grove (Clark.) 31 Dec (JG).

Orange-crowned Warbler  
1 was at Millicomna Marsh (Coos) 9 Dec (DL, KC); 1 was on the Salem CBC (Marion) 20 Dec (fide SD); 1 was on the Columbia Estuary CBC 21 Dec (fide MP).

Nashville Warbler  
1 was on Pony Slough (Coos) 22 Jan (TR).

Palm Warbler  
3 were at the effluent pond north of Coos Bay (Coos) 6 Dec (SR); then 6 were on the Coos Bay CBC (fide RM); 1 was at Coquille Pt Wildlife Refuge (Coos) 9 Dec (DV); 3 were at the BLM parking lot in North Bend (Coos) 9 Dec (TR); 1 was on the Yaquina Bay CBC (Lincoln) 3 Jan (fide RB); 2 were along the lower Elk River (Curry) 8 Feb (TW); 1 was found in a Eugene Backyard (17 Jan) for a rare inland sighting (CS).

Black-throated Gray Warbler  
1 near Pony Slough (Coos) 2 Feb (JT fide TR).

Townsend's Warbler  
53 was a high for the Columbia Estuary CBC (Clatsop) 21 Dec (fide MP); 7 was a high for the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG).

Common Yellowthroat  
1 was at Millicomna Marsh (Coos) 9 Dec (DL, KC); 1 on the Columbia Estuary CBC 21 Dec (fide MP).

Lark Sparrow  
1 adult was found on the Brownsville CBC (Linn) 4 Jan through the end of the period (JS).

Sage Sparrow  
1 was at the Sandy River mouth (Mult.) 15 Feb (BA, DVB) for Munlocoh's 3rd record.

American Tree Sparrow  
One remained at Minto Park (Marion) through 20 Dec (TJ, m.ob.) (3rd county record); 1 at FRR (Lane) 17 Dec (LM); 1 was a few miles south of Independence (Polk) 21 Dec (ML) (5th county record); 1-2 were at ANWR (Marion County's 4th record) 14-28 Feb (SD,m.ob.).

Chipping Sparrow  
1 was at BSNWR (Polk) on 1-2 Dec (ML) or it another one there was 21 Jan (BT), 1 on the Roseburg CBC (Jackson) 21 Dec (fide RM); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 25 Dec (JF); 3 were found on the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG); 1 was on Farmer Road (Polk) 19 Jan (TS); 1 was at ANWR (Marion) 31 Jan (JS); 1 was a flock of 13 west of West Salem (Polk) 14 Feb were early migrants (BT, RC).

Clay-colored Sparrow  
1 was near Conly (Clark. 1st county record) 11 Dec-27 Jan (TJ, FS, m.ob.).

White-throated Sparrow  
4 coming to a feeder in Roseburg for most of the period (DE&P, fide RM) and 12 at Minto Park (Marion) 7 Feb (RC) as well as numerous reports of individuals were evidence of another good winter for this species, and that it is increasing as a wintering species in the west.

Harris Sparrow  
1 was at Minto Park (Marion) 1 Dec-12 Jan (PS); 1 was near Coquille (Coos) 6 Dec (DL); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 23 Dec (JF); 3 were found on the S.I. CBC (fide JF); 1 was on the Dallas CBC (Polk) -4th period record 30 Dec (SD, BT); 1 was on Cantrel Rd. (Lane) 2 Jan (SM); 1 was at Aurora (Clark.) 15 Jan (TS) that was first seen late last period. 1 came to a feeder on River-side Rd (Marion) 19 Jan (PBR); 1 in Dayton (Tanshill's 1st) during Feb (MSO).

Fox Sparrow  
A Rusty (Eastern) Fox Sparrow of the ilicaca race was at Minto Brown and Riverfront Park (Marion) from 7-25 Jan (TS, mob.), another came to a feeder at the Robb's in Eugene (Lane) for the entire period. At Minto Park were 2 grey headed Fox Sparrows seen on and off during the period (SD, JL).

Swamp Sparrow  
Away from the coast there was one at E.E. Wilson (Benton) on 1 Dec (AF); 2 were at Minto Brown Park (Marion) through Dec (TJ, m.ob.); 1 near Riverton (Coos) 6 Dec (DL); 1 was near Herbert Av (Benton) 6 Dec (AF); 1 on Van Well Rd (Polk) on 12 Dec (RG); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC (Benton) 23 Dec (fide JF); 1 was on the Dallas CBC (Polk) 30 Dec (fide RG); 1 was at EEWGMA 26 Jan (AM).

Lapland Longspur  
3 on the Port Orford CBC (Curry) 27 Dec (CD).

Red Crossbill  
This species received only 2 reports. Were they mostly absent from the area this winter?

American Goldfinch  
Very low numbers this winter from the WV.

Lesser Goldfinch  
36 was a healthy number on the Portland CBC (Mult.) 3 Jan (fide RR), 6-9 coming to a feeder in Salem (Marion) for most of the period (AC) and 8 coming to a West Salem feeder (Polk) were also healthy (RG).

Lawrence's Goldfinch  
1 was observed coming to a feeder before Xmas (fide JH) but not made known until about 1 Feb in Jacksonvile (Jackson). This would be the 2nd or 3rd state record if accepted by the ORBC.

Observers  
JA Jon Anderson; BA Bob Almamn; WA Viera Arnold; LA Laurie Ashworth; DBa Diane Bagues; DB Dave Bailey; DBt Doug Barrett; AB Alan Barron; DBu Debbie Bush; DB Dick Bell; DBw Dave Brown; JB Joe Blowers; GB Greg Bogy; SB Stephen Brown; S&DBr Sara & Dan Brown; JG Jim Carlson; GG L. Casebolt; KC Kathy Castelein; RC Ron Claudwick; JC Jean Chard; AC Alan Contreas; KC Kurt Cox; MC Marcia Cutler; DD Don DeWitt; AD Angie Dillingham; CD Colin Cillingham; SF Stacy Fauqua; BF Ben Fawver; DF Dan Fay; JF Jeff Fleisher; AF Anthony Hoyt; RRe Reid Freeman; BF Roger Freeman; JF Jim Furling; RG Roy Gerig; JS Jeff Gillman; BG Brian Godby; KG Kie Kiebrew; GW Wink Grissel; RGu Rick Guadagno; SH Sherry Hager; JH Jeff Harding; JH Jim Hardeman; HH Herb Hamann; IM Dan Heylerly; RH Rich Hoyer; RHs Rich Hoyer Sr; MH Matt Hunter; TJ Tim Jenszen; SJ Steve Jaggars; SK Steve Kapilas; CK Carol Karlen; DX Doug Kirkpatrick; Dn Doug Knutson; EK Erik Knight; RG Ray Korpi; BK Brian Kruse; ML Margaret Laflave; Sla Skip Laubach; DL Dave Laute; CL Cindy Laws; MLI Mike Lippsmeyer; SL Sally Lockyear; B&SL Barb & shoreline Loeffel; MLO (Maeve Loeffel); TL Tom Love; RL Roy Lowe; DLu Donna Lusthoff; RM Ron Maertz; AM Al McGee; SM Sylvia Maulding; RM Ron McCreery; LM Larry McQueen; KM Kathy Merrifield; B&LMu Barb & Lyndon Mossel; FM Paz Mueller; DM Don Munson; JH Harry Nehls; MS Mike Nakas; D&OB Robert Olesen; SO Sue Oweislcz; LQ Laimons Ari; AP Alice Parker; DE& Paulson; Dp Diane Petrey; PP Dave Pitkin; JP Jonathon Flissner; SP Steve Powell; PBR Paul Berg-Rempel; RR Roger Robberson; TM Tim Rodenkirk; JF Roger Rogers; SR Skip Russell; DS Dan Schruder; ESh Eva Schultz; FS Fred Shipley; ES Elmer Spect; PSH Paul Sherrill; JS Jamie Sohlstrom; BS Barbara Story; MS Martha Stewert; PS Paul Sullivan; BKBS Bill & Zanah Stott; JT Jack Thomas; BT Bill Tice; RT Rosie Tice; RH Rick Though; MT Margaret Tweelickx; DV Dennis Vroman; DVB Dan VanDenBrook; TW Terry Tall; JW Jean Weakland; BW Barbara Wilson. 0

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