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Caspian Terns and Columbia Estuary Research

Caspian Tern, Columbia River

Photo by David Craig
Oregon Birds

Oregon Field Ornithologists
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OFO Website: www.cyber-dyne.com/~lb/ofoweb.html

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For Submission Guidelines and Deadlines, see pages 59-61.
Oregon Birds - New Organizational Structure

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Matt Hunter, past president of OFO, as the new editor of Oregon Birds. As you can see from the following document, which is part of the current Oregon Birds web site (http://www.cyberdyne.com/~lb/ob/index.html), Matt has brought together a group of people to keep Oregon Birds a fine magazine. Matt’s tenure as editor will start with issue 25(4).

In the interim, Lucy Biggs, Alan Contreras, Reid Freeman, Barbara Gleason, Mike Patterson, and Kit Larsen have been important in keeping Oregon Birds close to the schedule that members are used to. I thank them for their efforts. I also must thank Owen Schmidt for his efforts and continued advice in this transitional period. There are articles still to appear in Oregon Birds that started in Owen’s capable hands.

—Ray Korpi, OFO President

Guidance for Submissions to Oregon Birds

We welcome your submissions to our magazine. Please direct correspondence to the appropriate section editor below, or feel free to contact the editor with questions. If you are a beginning writer (whom we encourage), you may want to contact a section editor early on in the process for help with ideas for developing your article. Each of these folks will be happy to help you. For those of you more experienced, please send submissions in electronic form to the appropriate section editor, including all text, graphics, and images (contact section editor for preferred file formats). If you have questions regarding which is the appropriate section editor, contact the editor. Note: all submissions to Oregon Birds are non-stipend, as is the entire editorial staff. THANKS!!!

Matthew G. Hunter, Editor, 232 NE Azalea Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330, 541-745-5199, mhunter@proaxis.com

Content

General Instructions: You may format the text, paragraphs, etc., however you want. However, the text will be given to Barb Gleason, Graphics Designer, with no formatting whatsoever, as formatting will be applied during layout. If specific formatting is required for your article, please send a hard copy of your article demonstrating the necessary formatting. Always include your name and address, and if you wish (I encourage it) your phone number and e-mail. Following are specific instructions for each section.

Short Notes

Dan Gleason, 3125 Onyx Street, Eugene OR 97405, phone/ fax (541) 345-0450, dgleason@oregon.uoregon.edu

Explanation of Section: Documentation of bird behavior, nest descriptions, regional rarities, observations representing range expansions. These typically document observation of isolated events, or a series of related observations over a fairly narrow period of time and/or space. The difference between this information and simple reports to Field Notes is that more detailed documentation is given in full here.

Instructions: Be sure to include location(s), date(s), time(s), observer(s), any photos or drawings, a description of the main item of interest, and some context as to the significance of the observation. Typically 1/4 - 1 page (200-800 wds plus illustrations/photos).

Ideas: Look for bird nests, describe location, height, structure supporting the nest, nest material. Similarly, look for bird roosts, for example shorebird roosts at high tide, gull roosts for preening or night-roosting, daytime roosts of owls, or night-time roosts for other birds. Describe the location, the habitat, and the number of birds. Describe daily movements of birds, perhaps from feeding areas to roosts, that you have discovered. Whenever you see an odd-plumaged bird, make a sketch and take some notes; do the same with regional rarities. Keep track in your neck of the woods of the timing of molt of some species (often quite obvious in wings of flying birds in summer); summarize frequency of molt observed in the birds. A similar tracking could be done on the timing of nesting for particular species.

ID and Taxonomy

Steve Dowlan, R.O. Box 267, Mehama, OR 97384, 503-859-3691, owlhooter@aol.com

Explanation of Section: Identification of birds, common and rare, species and subspecies; taxonomic issues affecting birders and ornithologists.

Instructions: Describe the problem or challenge; explain the differences between the forms of interest. Typically 1-6 pages (600-3600 wds plus illustrations/photos).

Ideas: Three-toed and hairy woodpeckers; a review of Empidonax ID in Oregon; a review of Gull ID in Oregon; black and Vaux’s Swift; Audubon and myrtle warblers; subspecies of juncos, fox sparrows, hermit thrushes, savannah sparrows, and others in Oregon; a strategy for identifying common and arctic terns in Oregon during spring, summer, and fall.

Media Reviews

VACANT, (send to Matt Hunter, 232 NE Azalea Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330, 541-745-5199, mhunter@proaxis.com).

Explanation of Section: Reviews of books, tapes, and computer software; new and old; comparisons of similar types.

Instructions: Give title, authors/editors, publisher, publication date, cost; describe the type of material, major sections, positive aspects and areas that could be improved. If reviewing a group of similar products, compare and contrast. Typically 1 page (400-800 wds).

Ideas: Any new books, of course, such as the 3rd Edition National Geographic Guide to North American Birds, and others; also might compare available books on a particular topic such as seabirds or owls or sparrows, etc.; computer software for listing or learning birds; also review new or old audio tapes.

Regional Ornithology and Site Guides

Greg Gillson, 3060 SW 153rd Dr., Beaverton, OR 97006, (hm) 503-641-7611, (wk) 503-627-5863,
Guide@teleport.com

Explanation of Section: Birds in a particular region or location, and/or good places to observe birds.

Instructions: Give general location, brief habitat and climate information, social/historical significance (opt.); describe particular locations and birds found there; include list of species or sample trip lists; photos or drawings (highly recommended); describe directions to general and specific locations, travel conditions, lodging/camping locations, food, other nearby attractions; include map. Larger articles covering larger areas should include all this information, while articles covering a single location/spot may forego some items. Typically 2-10 pages (1200-6000 wds, plus illustrations, photos, and maps).

Ideas: The best atlas hexagons in Oregon; single stop locations like parks, campgrounds, waysides, rest areas, lakes or reservoirs, peaks or lookout sites; or general areas such as the John Day Valley, best stops along Highway 20, Clatsop County, Oregon Canyon Mountains, the Umatilla National Forest, or the town of Moro.

**Birding Skills**

Dave Irons, 65 W-1 Division Ave #242, Eugene, OR 97404, 541-607-2751, irons5@aol.com

Explanation of Section: How to find birds; how to learn about birds; how to observe birds.

Instructions: Describe the purpose and benefits of the technique, how to develop and/or implement it, and the best time and place of its application. Typically 1-4 pages (400-3000 wds plus illustrations/photos).

Ideas: How to visually locate singing birds; techniques for pelagic birding; how to learn bird songs and calls; how to learn the tough ID groups; learning behavior as well as plumage ID; how weather relates to birds and birding; how to find your own local hot spot; looking for rarities; looking for birds by finding the habitat; how to take notes; how to sketch a bird; benefits of waiting vs. chasing; using owl imitations to attract passerines; flock birding; how to learn about cormorant identification by sitting in one place on the Oregon coast. Have you learned a particular skill that you would like to pass on? Have you learned a technique that works well to search for or detect a particular species or group of species, or a way to bird a particular habitat? Pass it on!

**Birding and Birders**

Terrie Murray, 4620 SE Flavel Drive, Portland, OR 97206, (eves) 503-775-3579, (days) 503-412-3106, timurray@teleport.com

Explanation of Section: Birding experiences/adventures; social aspects of birding; humor; biographies.

Instructions: Tell a humorous, tragic, or eye-opening story; paint a picture with words; tell us about an Oregon birder or ornithologist. Typically 1/4 - 3 pages (200-2400 wds, plus illustrations/photos).

Ideas: Atlassing adventures, big days, interactions with non-birders while birding; birder profiles from a variety of well-known and little-known Oregon personalities; memoria of Oregon birders or ornithologists.

**Focus on Species**

VACANT, (send to Matt Hunter, 232 NE Azalea Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330, 541-745-5199, mhunter@proaxis.com).

Explanation of Section: Discusses aspects (other than identification and taxonomy) of single bird species or groups of similar species. Instructions: Summarize current knowledge, with thorough review of available literature and personal communications. May include information on one or more of these topics: population status, distribution, habitat, diet, temporal activities, behavior, etc. Typically 2-8 pages (1200-5000 wds, plus illustrations/photos).

Ideas: Assess the distribution and interactions of rufous and Allen's hummingbirds in southwest Oregon. Tally up, map, and describe all red-eyed vireo nesting and migration records in Oregon. Update older articles on the status of broad-tailed hummingbird, veery, gray catbird, and others in Oregon. Tally up and synthesize all published and unpublished observations of some "regular rare" birds, such as black-chinned hummingbird, three-toed woodpecker, pine grosbeak, etc.

**Conservation**

Gary Ivey, PO. Box 6953, Bend, OR 97708, 541-389-4274, ivy@oregonvos.net

Explanation of Section: Issues affecting the lives of birds and/or subsequently the opportunity to go birding.

Instructions: Describe the social, political, and ecological context of the issue; describe how it affects birds and/or birding; suggest contacts for more information. Give the facts, be accurate, inform the readership. Typically 1-6 pages (600-4000 wds, plus illustrations/photos).

Ideas: Shorebird habitats, wetland mitigation, land exchanges, forest management, range management, operation and success of wildlife refuges, land acquisitions, how to enhance your small acreage for birds, how to enhance your residential yard or neighborhood for birds, urban expansion, urban forestry, agriculture, roads, reservoirs, dams, stock ponds, sewage ponds, river stabilization, native prairies.

**Field Notes**

Ray Korpi, 9112 North Tyler, Portland OR 97203, (503) 289-1676, rkorpi@clark.edu

Explanation of Section: Field Notes for western and eastern Oregon. Instructions: Field notes should be sent to the regional editors listed on page 61. Please include: species, date(s), location(s), number, sex and age if known, and description of any birds exceedingly rare for the time and place (contact the regional editor for questions on rarity). Contact the Field Notes editor for more general information.

**CITATIONS**

In all articles except those for short notes: cite author and...
year (e.g. Jones 1993) or personal communications (A. Jones p.c.) in text, and list full references in Sources Cited after the text. For multi-authored sources: 2 authors, Jones and Smith 1994: 3+ authors, Jones et al. 1995. List all authors in Sources Cited. For Short Notes, include brief, complete citation within text of article; no Sources Cited listing.

PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS
If you have photos or illustrations that you would like to contribute to Oregon Birds, not associated with an article, please send to Barbara Gleason, 3125 Onyx Street, Eugene OR 97405, phone and fax (541) 345-0450, bgleason@teleport.com.

Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, so that Barbara can send the slide, print, or illustration back to you, if desired (also include your phone and e-mail). If you have the capability of scanning images at 600 dpi or greater, in RGB color with no alterations, you may send the scanned image via e-mail to Barbara, or place on web page temporarily for Barbara to download.

Material desired: sketches of birds, with notes pointing out certain aspects of the plumage or behavior, illustrations of birds, habitats, landscapes, nests, and photographs of birds and/or habitats, landscapes (prints [preferred] or slides). If you have photos or illustrations associated with an article you are submitting to Oregon Birds, ask your section editor if you should scan them and include with your article, send originals/copies with your article, or send them directly to Barbara Gleason for scanning (see details above).

MAPS
If your article requires, or would be enhanced by a map, inform your section editor and ask for instructions. The best approach is usually for you to sketch out a map, and let the section editor, editor, or graphic designer prepare the final map for the article.

GRAPHS AND CHARTS
If you can create them in MS Word, do so. Otherwise, give the data needed for the chart to your section editor, and she will prepare the chart for you and pass it on to the editor.

EDITORIAL CALENDAR
The table below gives potential authors an idea of the yearly calendar of Oregon Birds. Articles appropriate for a particular issue need to be in FINAL FORM and to the Editor at least 3 months prior to the issue season. Therefore, it would be wise to submit your article at least 6 months prior to the appropriate issue season to allow some editing and correspondence with section editors. If your article does not require publication at a particular season, or you are not concerned about publication time, you need not be concerned about this schedule.

ISSUE (mailing time)
FINAL TO EDITOR
Spring (March) – December 20
Summer (June) – March 20
Fall (September) – June 20
Winter (December) – September 20

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826-5246 Eagle Point, OR 97524

* NOTE: The American Birding Association is changing the name of Audubon Field Notes to North American Birds effective with Volume 53.
Specimens of birds from Jackson County, Oregon: Distribution and Taxonomy of Selected Species

M. Ralph Browning, Formerly National Biological Service, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., now 15373 Elk Creek Road, Trail, Oregon 97541, and Stephen P. Cross, Department of Biology, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon 97520-0111.

Preserved specimens provide information on distribution and taxonomy (see Winker et al. 1991; Browning 1995). The study of specimens from Jackson County in southern interior Oregon is especially useful because several species (Browning 1975) and subspecies (e.g., American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] 1957) are unique to the state. Specimens from Jackson County reported herein document species new to the county and provide new information on several subspecies.

We report specimen records from Jackson County of 41 species that were not listed by Browning (1975), a work that reported only specimens in the collection at Southern Oregon State College. Specimens of 13 of the 41 species are from other collections and were mentioned briefly by others (e.g., Gabrielson 1931; Gabrielson and Jewett 1940). Specimens of 28 of the 41 species are new to Jackson County. We also discuss specimens of two species that Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) alleged to be from Jackson County.

Each species account includes data from specimens, with museum designation (see acknowledgments), catalogue number, age if other than adult, sex, locality, date, collector, and subspecific identification where relevant. Taxonomic comments (by Browning) provide new information, correct earlier literature, and summarize taxonomic status since the last subspecific listing (AOU 1957) for many of the species we list.

More detailed comments were required for Blue Grouse (Dendragapus obscurus), Williamson's Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus thyroides), Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii), and Swainson's Thrush (Catharus ustulatus) because of the complexity of those species' taxonomy. Terms used to estimate occurrence follow Browning (1975). Dashes used in the specimen listings indicate unknown data.

The locality Crater National Forest refers to what is now Rogue River National Forest. Mosquito Ranger Station, now abandoned, was in the SW corner of section 6 in T36S, R4E, and about 5.75 miles WNW of Mt. McLoughlin and about 10 miles SE of Butte Falls. The locality Big Elk Ranger Station, now Big Elk Guard Station, is in the northern part of section 16 in T37S, R4E, and is 1.25 miles ESE of Robinson Butte and 1.25 miles SSW of Fish Lake. The collectors I. N. Gabrielson, S. G. Jewett, and W. E. Sherwood are listed in the accounts by their last name only.

Species Accounts

**Gavia immer. Common Loon.**
Specimen: OSUFW 1442, male, Medco Pond, Medford, — 1963, collector unknown.

This monotypic species (Storer 1988) is uncommon in Jackson County.

**Aechmophorus occidentalis. Western Grebe.**

The specimen of Western Grebe is identified as nominate occidentalis, the large northern subspecies (Dickerman 1986; Storer and Nuechterlein 1992), and is an uncommon irregular winter visitor to the Rogue River Valley.

**Oceanodroma leucorhoa. Leach's Storm-Petrel.**

Leach's Storm-Petrels breeding on the coast of the Pacific Northwest are considered to be O. l. beali by Gabrielson and Jewett (1940), the AOU (1957), Palmer (1962), and Jouanin and Mougin (1979). However, because most nonbreeding specimens cannot be identified to subspecies (Crossin 1974), we follow Hubbs (1960) and Power and Ainley (1986) in synonymizing willitti from Los Coronados Islands, Baja California, and beali with nominate leucorhoa. The specimen from Medford documents the only occurrence of O. l. leucorhoa in Jackson County.

**Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron.**

We provisionally recognize nominate herodias as the subspecies breeding in Oregon. Ardea h. fannini, a darker subspecies that breeds from coastal southern Alaska and coastal British Columbia, is a rare winter visitor in fall and winter (specimens from Netarts, Tillamook County; Cleveland Museum of Natural History). Burleigh (1972) identified a specimen (USNM) from Idaho as fannini but it is pale and belongs to nominate herodias; fannini may wander to interior central and southern British Columbia (Byrd 1978).

**Ardea alba. Great Egret.**

The specimen of Great Egret from Rogue River belongs to nominate alba of North America. The species is a fairly common to uncommon visitor to the county.

**Butoxides virescens. Green Heron.**
Specimens: NFWFL 18, male, Cole M. Rivers Fish Hatchery (near McLeod and Lost Creek Lake), 7 June 1990, K. W. Harrington; SOSC 1748, imm. male, 2.5 miles "from"
Ruch, no date, L. Hamilton.

The specimens of Green Heron belong to *anthuryn*, the large western subspecies. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) considered Green Herons rare summer residents west of the Cascades and in Klamath County. The specimens from Jackson County and a specimen (University of Oregon Museum of Natural History) from 13 miles SE Grants Pass, Josephine County, collected 16 July 1915 (Jobanek 1988) are the only specimens from the Rogue River region. Recent sight reports indicate that the species is fairly common to uncommon during summer in the lower riparian regions.

**Anser albifrons. White-fronted Goose.**

Specimens: NFWFL 276 and 277, male and female, Elk Creek, SW 1/4 Sec. 33, T31S, R3E, 27 Sep. 1990, D. Wilson (both skeletons [277 also includes flat skin]).

The skeletons and flat skins could not be identified to subspecies. The species is a rare migrant and winter visitor to the lower Rogue River Valley (Browning 1975).

**Anas acuta. Northern Pintail.**

Specimen: FMNH 156507, male, Ashland, 16 Jan. 1924, Sherwood.

The species is monotypic (AOU 1998). Pintails are fairly uncommon migrants and common to uncommon winter visitors to Jackson County.

**Anas crecca. Green-winged Teal.**

Specimen: SOSC 1391, female, Agate Lake, 9 Dec. 1979, M. Paczolt.

We tentatively follow Johnsgard (1979) and AOU (1998) in considering *carolinensis* a subspecies of *A. crecca*, and note that the two taxa exhibit some genetic differences at the species level (Zink et al. 1995). The specimen from Agate Lake is an example of *A. crecca carolinensis*. The species is a very common to common migrant and winter visitor. The current status during breeding months in Jackson County is undetermined.

**Lophodytes cuculatus. Hooded Merganser.**


*Lophodytes cuculatus* is monotypic, and is fairly common to common in the county during winter and early spring.

**Mergus serrator. Red-breasted Merganser.**

Specimen: SOSC 1164, female, Emigrant Creek, 7 Jan. 1976, S. Cross.

We tentatively recognize nominate *serrator* as the North American subspecies (e.g., Johnsgard 1979); the other subspecies, *schioleri* from Greenland, may not be distinct (see Palmer 1976; Cramp 1977). Red-breasted Mergansers are rare migrants and winter visitors in Jackson County.

**Buteo swainsoni. Swainson’s Hawk.**

Specimen: SOSC 1001, female, Ashland, [died] 16 Nov. 1971 [held in captivity for unknown time], C. Milanovich.

Swainson’s Hawk, a monotypic species, is a rare migrant and summer visitor to Jackson County. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) considered birds breeding east of the Cascades to be common summer residents. A specimen from Corvallis collected 20 Nov. 1947 (Browning 1974a) and the SOSC specimen are probably late fall migrants (Palmer 1988:56).

**Pandion haliaetus. Osprey.**


The SOSC specimen of Osprey belongs to *carolinensis* of North America, a subspecies with barred underwing coverts (Prevost 1983). Ospreys, once uncommon in Jackson County (Browning 1975), have increased along the Rogue and Applegate rivers (Roberts and Lind 1977; Hetty et al. 1978), and are now fairly common during summer months. Population increases were probably influenced by man-made reservoirs and ability to nest in closer proximity to humans (Henny 1983).

**Dendragapus obscurus. Blue Grouse.**

Specimens: FMNH 413651 and 413652, male and female, Gold Hill, 31 Mar. 1916, Jewett; USNM 588556, male, NE slope Mt. McLoughlin, 24 July 1926, Gabrielison; FMNH 157156, female, 3 mi. SW Prospect, 18 Sep. 1929, Sherwood.

Gabrielison's (1931) records of Blue Grouse in Jackson County are apparently sightings. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940:212) stated they “have a few specimens from the Siskiyous south of the Rogue River,” and that eggs were collected in Jackson County. We were unable to locate such specimens.

Birds from the county were considered by Gabrielison (1931) to belong to *sierrae*, a subspecies that breeds primarily east of the Cascades, but Gabrielison and Jewett (1940) reported only *fuliginosus*, a darker subspecies from west of the Cascades. Other authors either included ranges of both subspecies in different parts of the county (e.g., Ridgway and Friedmann 1946), omitted most or all of the county (e.g., AOU 1957), or did not provide sufficient detail for defining subspecific ranges in southern Oregon (e.g., Johnsgard 1983, text; Bendell and Zwickel 1984; Zwickel 1992). Range maps (Aldrich and Duvall 1955; Aldrich 1963; Johnsgard 1983) appear to include *sierrae* in Jackson County and *fuliginosus* west of the county.

Two specimens (FMNH) from Gold Hill, both dark above and below, are *D. o. fuliginosus* as identified by Hellmayr and Conover (1942). A male (USNM) from the NE slope of Mt. McLoughlin, the only specimen collected during the breeding months (see Crawford et al. 1986), and a female (FMNH) from 3 mi. SW Prospect, both resemble *fuliginosus* above and *sierrae* below. The two specimens are here identified as *fuliginosus > sierrae*.

Specimens from Klamath County were also identified to determine the range of the subspecies from eastern Jackson County. The specimens from Klamath County were considered rare summer residents east of the Cascades to be common summer residents at Grants Pass, Josephine County. A specimen from Corvallis collected 20 Nov. 1947 (Browning 1974a) and the SOSC specimen are probably late fall migrants (Palmer 1988:56).
County. Farner (1952:43) had commented that the four specimens from Crater Lake National Park are "closest to fuliginosus . . . [but] actually intermediate between this race and . . . sierrae." However, Browning determined that two of the specimens (MVZ), from Red Blanket Creek and Annie Creek, are intermediate between fuliginosus and sierrae (not closest to fuliginosus), and a third specimen (MVZ), from Annie Creek, is pale above and below and is typical sierrae. The fourth specimen (Crater Lake National Park collection) was not compared. Several specimens from Ft. Klamath were identified as sierrae by Chapman (1904) who commented that others were more similar to fuliginosus. Those (USNM) collected during breeding months are clearly sierrae. A specimen (USNM) from Keno identified by Gabrielson and Jewett (1940:212) as "somewhat intermediate but closer to" sierrae is pale and is here reidentified as typical sierrae. We conclude that sierrae breeds in most of Klamath County and intergrades with fuliginosus in Crater Lake National Park.

Nonbreeding individuals of D. obscursus may move up to 50 km (Zwickel et al. 1968), and individuals of sierrae or intergrades from Klamath County might reach adjacent Jackson County. The single breeding specimen of fuliginosus > sierrae from near Mt. McLoughlin is insufficient for defining subspecific ranges in the county.

Blue Grouse populations in Oregon declined by more than 50% in the past 100 years (DeSante and George 1994). The species is fairly common in the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains of the county; recent observations during summer suggest it is relatively more abundant in the Siskiyou.

*Fulica americana. American Coot.*


The specimens of American Coot belong to nominate americana of North America. Coots are common to very common migrants and winter visitors in Bear Creek and lower Rogue River valleys; abundance during breeding is undetermined.

*Actite[i]s maculariu. Spotted Sandpiper.*

Specimen: FMNH 157865, female, Trail, 10 June 1926, Sherwood.

Spotted Sandpipers are monotypic (Browning 1990). The species is a common to fairly common migrant and summer resident, and is a rare to uncommon winter resident along Bear Creek and Rogue River.

*Tringa melanoleucus. Greater Yellowlegs.*

Specimen: USNM 589090, female, Crater Lake National Forest, Big Elk Ranger Station, 20 Sep. 1927, Gabrielson.

The specimen of T. melanoleucus was reported by Gabrielson (1931). The species is a common migrant in the Pacific Northwest (Paulson 1993). Buchanan (1988) reported that a mean of fewer than 5 birds per year was seen on Medford Christmas Bird Counts from 1970 to 1982.

*Calidris alpina. Dunlin.*

Specimen: FMNH 158293, female, Medford, 8 May 1926, Sherwood.

The specimen of Dunlin belongs to the subspecies pacifica, which migrates and winters in the western contiguous United States (Browning 1977, 1991). The species is an uncommon to fairly common irregular migrant to the county.

*Athene cucullata. Burrowing Owl.*

Specimens: USNM 589878, male, Brownsboro, 9 June 1921, Gabrielson; FMNH 160897, female, Medford, 1 May 1926, Sherwood; FMNH 159577 and 159578, male and female, Eagle Point, 16 Mar. and 6 Apr. 1927, Sherwood; SOSC 1444, male, near White City, 21 Jan. 1987, O. Swisher.

Old World *Athene and cucullata* share osteological characters that differ from other genera of owls (Ford 1967). Burrowing Owls and *Athene noctua* of the Old World also differ from other owls by lacking reverse sexual dimorphism (Miklošić 1983; Earhart and Johnson 1970; Plumpton 1994). We follow Ford (1967) and others (Eck and Busse 1973; AOUC 1976; Olson and Hilgartner 1982; Rea 1983; Vouis 1988) in merging (contra AOUC 1991) *Speotyto* with *Athene.* The specimens of Burrowing Owls belong to the western subspecies *hypugae.

Burrowing Owls now very rare visitors in the county. Populations declined primarily because of lack of suitable nesting sites because of the poisoning of ground squirrels (e.g., James et al. 1990), habitat alteration, and other human induced impacts (White 1994).

*Strix occidentalis. Spotted Owl.*


The female (AMNH) is likely the specimen Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) reported near Trail. FMNH 160898 from Prospect was illustrated in Karalus and Eckert (1974:plate 6). All specimens belong to *caurina,* the dark northern subspecies. Abundance of this species is in rapid decline (e.g., Gutierrez 1994).

Although reported to interbreed rarely with S. varia (Barred Owl), there is one confirmed incident of hybrid offspring in Jackson County (Hammer et al. 1994).

*Strix nebulosa. Great Gray Owl.*

Specimen: MVZ 699885, sex unknown, 7 mi. S Medford, 1 Jan. 1927, H. S. Fitch.

Jewett saw a mounted Great Gray Owl in a store in Medford,
and was informed by a taxidermist of three mounted winter birds from Prospect (Gabrielson 1931). We were unable to locate such specimens. The MVZ specimen is \textit{S. n. nebulosa} of North America.

Browning (1975) considered the species uncommon in the county on the basis of winter sight records. Birds were found in the vicinity of Hyatt Reservoir from Feb. to May 1984-1985 (Bryan and Forsman 1987); there are now several records of birds seen during most months at Hyatt and Howard Prairie reservoirs.

Great Gray Owls formerly bred in Oregon only in the northeast and the south-central Cascades. A pair with two young were found “in the mountains just e. of Ashland” (= Howard Prairie) in late June 1982 (Harrington-Tweit et al. 1982). The owl also bred on the west slope of the Cascades in Lane County in 1990 and 1991 (Coggans and Platt 1992). U.S. Forest Service surveys in 1993 reported birds breeding Rogue River National Forest, and that the species was present in Siskiyou and Winema National Forests (Verner 1994). We consider the species an uncommon regular permanent resident in the county.

\textit{Asio otus}. Long-eared Owl.


According to AOU (1957), nominate \textit{tufisi} breeds in western North America. However, specimens from Jackson County and elsewhere in the western United States are more similar to examples of the dark eastern subspecies \textit{wilsonianus} than to \textit{tufisi}. K. C. Parkes (in Rea 1983) was unable to substantiate a western subspecies. We defer, at this time, assigning any western specimens to subspecies.

\textit{Aegolius acadicus}. Northern Saw-whet Owl.


Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) stated that they “have or have seen skins” of this species from Jackson County, but we were unable to locate such specimens. The specimens listed above are \textit{A. a. acadicus}. Gilligan et al. (1994) considered the species to be a permanent resident west of the Cascades.

\textit{Chaetura vauxi}. Vaux’s Swift.


Specimens of \textit{Chaetura vauxi} are referrible to nominate \textit{vauxi}, the northern subspecies. The species is a common summer resident in the county.

\textbf{Sphyrapicus thyroideus}. Williamson’s Sapsucker.


Gabrielson (1931) reported collecting a fledgling Williamson’s Sapsucker near the Jackson and Klamath County boundary, and Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) mentioned a specimen from the summit of the Siskiyou Mountains. The specimens we list are likely those mentioned by the authors. Gabrielson (1931) also mentioned a specimen collected on Ruster Peak on 6 Nov. 1926, but his journal entry stated that he shot and lost a Williamson’s Sapsucker.

According to AOU (1957), nominate \textit{thyroideus} breeds from central-southern British Columbia southward in the Cascades to California and \textit{nataliae} breeds from southeastern British Columbia to the northern Rocky Mountains, and Great Basin ranges to Arizona and New Mexico. Short (1982) concluded that the subspecies are weakly defined, and characterized the bill as longer, wider, and deeper in nominate \textit{thyroideus} than in \textit{nataliae}.

On the basis of measurements of bill length and width, Cowan (1938) identified specimens from northeastern Oregon as nominate \textit{thyroideus, nataliae}, and as intermediate between the two subspecies. He combined measurements of males and females, and did not indicate dates of the specimens. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) and Farner (1952) identified specimens from Oregon as \textit{S. t. thyroideus}. According to the AOU (1957), birds from the summit and eastern slope of the Cascades in Oregon are \textit{thyroideus}, and the subspecies intergrades with \textit{nataliae} in the Blue Mountains and isolated ranges in eastern counties. Behle (1963) listed \textit{nataliae} as breeding in the Warner Mountains of Oregon and California, but Johnson (1970) concluded that birds from there are intergrades between \textit{nataliae} and \textit{thyroideus}.

Because published subspecific identifications of Oregon sapsuckers vary, we reevaluated the taxonomic status of \textit{nataliae}. Measurements of bill length of 95 adult males (N. K. Johnson, in litt. [data referred to in Johnson 1970]) and 28 USNM specimens, and of bill width (n = 30) reveal extensive overlap between samples of the two subspecies.

According to Raitt (1960), measurements "do not reveal the full extent of the difference in bulk of the bills," and according to Johnson (in litt.), bill shape is "only partially appreciated" from measurements of bill width. Both investigators concluded that visual comparisons were useful for identifying subspecies. To test this method, Browning and two colleagues independently identified specimens by visually inspecting the bills of 22 adult males from the ranges of the two subspecies. Only an average of 58% (60%, 59%, 55%) of the birds were identified correctly to subspecies, according to specimen localities and ranges (e.g., AOU 1957) of the two subspecies. Because of the considerable individual variation in bill, we recommend that \textit{S. thyroideus} be considered monotypic.
JACKSON COUNTY SPECIMENS

Gilligan et al. (1994) reported that a bird was seen near Siskiyou in May 1960 and one was photographed at Ashland in Jan. 1982. We consider the species to be a very rare visitor to Jackson County.

**Picoides albolarvatus. White-headed Woodpecker.**


Gabrielson (1931) reported shooting a female at Mosquito Ranger Station on 29 Sep. 1926, and seeing one at Rustler Peak on 6 Nov. 1926. In his journal, he listed one bird at the ranger station on 29 Sep., but he did not state whether this was seen or shot; at Rustler Peak on 6 Nov., a male was “wounded but lost.” The only specimen of White-headed Woodpecker from Jackson County (above) belongs to nominate albolarvatus, the short-billed subspecies.

Empidonax traillii. Willow Flycatcher.

Specimens: AMNH 369782, 369783, and 369784, male, Colestin, 18, 14, and 20 Aug. 1917, A. P. Smith; USNM 499681 (skeleton), male, Eagle Point, 17 July 1921, C. C. Sperry; USNM 590468, male, Little Butte Creek, 11 June 1921, Gabrielson; CM 127542, Sams Valley, 22 July 1941, A. C. Twomey; SOSC 188 and 189, male and female, 8 mi. SW Prospect, 7 June 1946 and 30 Aug. 1949, C. Richardson.

The only specimen of Willow Flycatcher that Gabrielson (1931) mentioned is apparently USNM 590468. It is too faded to be identified to subspecies. The specimens from Sams Valley and Colestin are examples of brewsteri, the dark subspecies that breeds in western Oregon; judging from the late dates, these are migrants. Other specimens from Jackson County are intermediate between brewsteri and adastus, a paler subspecies that breeds east of the Cascades (Browning 1993).

**Empidonax hammondii. Hammond’s Flycatcher.**

Specimens: USNM 590492, male, Little Butte Creek, 11 June 1921, Gabrielson; USNM 590494, male, Pinehurst, 17 June 1923, Gabrielson; FMNH 173699, female, 5 mi. NE Trail, 28 Apr. 1927, Sherwood; SOSC 191, male, 1 mi. S Prospect, 16 May 1935, C. Richardson; CM 127560 and 127568, male and female, Union Creek Camp, 12 July 1941, A. C. Twomey.

Gabrielson (1931) reported only the specimen from Little Butte Creek, and Johnson (1963) reported the two specimens from Union Creek. We could not locate the specimens mentioned by Gabrielson and Jewett (1940). The species is a common summer resident in the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains (Gilligan et al. 1994).

**Empidonax oberholseri. Dusky Flycatcher.**

Specimens: AMNH 369781 and 370034, imm. male and female, Colestin, 15 Aug. 1917, A. P. Smith; SOSC 192, female, 3 mi. N Prospect, 9 June 1934, C. Richardson; SOSC 778, 8 mi. SW Prospect, 5 May 1944, C. Richardson.

Two reported nests of the Dusky Flycatcher from the vicinity of Pinehurst (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940) could not be found. This monotypic species (Browning 1974b) breeds in the western Cascades and Siskiyou mountains (Fix 1989).

**Empidonax difficilis. Pacific-slope Flycatcher.**

Specimens: see Johnson (1980). A specimen of E. difficilis from Brownsboro (Gabrielson 1931) could not be found. Specimens (MVZ, n = 21) from several localities near Prospect are similar genetically (Johnson and Marten 1988) and vocally to coastal populations of the nominate subspecies, and are intermediate in size and color between E. d. difficilis and E. occidentalis hellmayr, the Cordilleran Flycatcher (Johnson 1980) that breeds east of the Cascades in Oregon (AOU 1989). The Pacific-slope Flycatcher is a common breeding bird in Jackson County.

**Perisoreus canadensis. Gray Jay.**

Specimens: 34 from the following localities and months: Ashland, Oct.; Crater National Forest, June; Little Butte Creek, June; Prospect, July, Aug., Sep., Nov., Dec.; Robinson Butte, June; Rustler Peak, June; between Union Creek (town) and Crater Lake National Park, June, Dec. Most specimens were collected in the 1920’s (complete collecting data available upon request).

Gabrielson (1931) and Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) did not mention specimens they collected in Jackson County. Those authors considered birds from the county to belong to griseus, a subspecific name synonymized with nominate

White-headed Woodpecker Photo Eric Horvath


**Pica pica. Black-billed Magpie.**

Specimen: DCM II.6.80.25, sex ?, skull only, no locality other than Jackson County, 1975, found by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The specimen belongs to *hudsonia*, the North American subspecies. Magpies are fairly regular visitors to the Rogue Valley.

**Eremophila alpestris. Horned Lark.**

Specimens: USNM 499688 (skeleton), sex ?, Brownsboro, 18 July 1921, C. C. Sperry; USNM 590673, male, Brownsboro, 14 May 1920, Gabriel; SDNHM 23401-23405 and 23413-23416, both sexes, Medford, Feb., Apr., and June 1920, 1922, and 1930, Jewett; FMNH 173842-173843 and 173844-173848, both sexes, Medford, Eagle Point, Jan., Mar.-May 1926, Sherwood; MVZ 164439, female, Agate Reservoir area, 4 mi. ESE White City, 16 Apr. 1976, R. E. Jones.

Gabrielson (1931:115) reported a Horned Lark collected near Medford on 21 Feb. 1930 by Jewett as “undoubtedly” an example of the subspecies *merrelli*. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) did not mention specimens from Jackson County. We tentatively follow Behle (1942) who identified several specimens from the Medford region and 1 from Eagle Point as *strigata*. However, the specimen (MVZ 164439) from Agate Reservoir area is an example of *arcticola*, a large subspecies that breeds from Alaska to at least British Columbia, or *alpina*, a similar subspecies from the mountains of Washington (N. K. Johnson, in litt.). A bird (USNM) from Fr. Klamath identified by Oberholser (1902) is the southernmost specimens of *arcticola* in Oregon. Numerical status of breeding birds in the county is undetermined.

**Tachycineta bicolor. Tree Swallow.**


This monotypic species (Browning 1978) is a common to very common migrant and breeding bird, but rare to uncommon during winter in Jackson County.

**Hirundo rustica. Barn Swallow.**


Oregon specimens of Barn Swallows belong to *erythrogaster*, the only subspecies that breeds in North America. Phillips (1986) provisionally applied the name *insularis* to a pale subspecies from the islands on the Gulf Coast of the United States (Burleigh 1942), but the ranges of variation in wing chord and tail length (Patterson 1981) and color of the type series (USNM) of insularis are within that of other North American specimens. We synonymize the name *insularis* with *erythrogaster*. The species is a common summer resident throughout the state (Gilligan et al. 1994).

**Thryomanes bewickii. Bewick’s Wren.**


Birds breeding in Jackson County have been identified historically as one of three subspecies or as intergrades. Gabrielson (1931:119) mentioned winter specimens of *Thryomanes bewickii calophonus* including two November specimens from Ashland that Grinnell identified as “calophonus, not typical,” and summer specimens of *T. b. drymoecus*. At that time, the name *calophonus* was used for birds breeding from southwestern British Columbia to Oregon, and *drymoecus* was used for a less reddish population breeding from the Warner Valley, Lake County, Oregon, to the San Joaquin Valley, California (AOU 1931). Oberholser (1932:8) proposed the name *atreus* for a subspecies from Warner Valley (Lake County) to Jackson County, but he characterized specimens from Ashland and Gold Hill, Jackson County, as ‘somewhat’ more rufescent above, thus tending towards *calophonus*. Miller (1941a) concluded that specimens from the Rogue River Valley belong to *drymoecus*, but “suggest” intergradation with *calophonus*. The AOU (1944) recognized *atreus* following Miller (1941b) as the subspecies from Warner Valley to central Nevada, and reported (AOU 1957) the range of *drymoecus* in Oregon as the Rogue River and Klamath Valleys. Rea (in Phillips 1986) recognized *drymoecus*, with *atreus* as a synonym, as the subspecies resident in Jackson County.

Browning compared specimens from Jackson County and elsewhere that were similar in museum age and season. The specimens included those that were available to Oberholser (USNM), Miller (MVZ), Gabrielson and Jewett, and Rea (SDNHM). Five (MVZ) from Jackson County were identified by Grinnell as *calophonus* and one (USNM) as *calophonus* “(not typical).” These, and a seventh (FMNH) identified as *calophonus* apparently when catalogued, resemble *calophonus* from northwestern Oregon and western Washington. Other specimens from the Jackson county, except those listed as “subspecies ?,” are more brownish above and on the flanks, and resemble *drymoecus* from California; none of these appeared intermediate between *drymoecus* and *calophonus* as suggested by Miller (1941a). Although Rea (in Phillips 1986) warned that older specimens are subject to considerable postmortem changes in color, only one specimen (MVZ) identified here as *drymoecus* had been identified by Grinnell as *calophonus*. Grinnell identified the other specimens as either *atreus* or *drymoecus*.
We conclude that *calophonus* is an occasional winter visitor, and that *dryomoecus* (sensu Rea in Phillips 1986) is a permanent resident in Jackson County. Intergradation between these subspecies north of Jackson County may occur about 9 miles northwest of Grants Pass, Josephine County, based on a specimen (CM) from Merlin, identified here as *dryomoecus* > *calophonus*; a specimen (CM) from Louise Creek, about 3 miles northwest of Grants Pass is typical *dryomoecus*. However, the undetermined ranges of the subspecies in southwestern Oregon (Nehls 1981) remain largely undiscovered.

The species is fairly common to common resident in the lower elevations of Jackson County. It occurs on the west slope of the Cascades to 2,000 feet (Gilligan et al. 1994), at least during breeding months.

*Catharus ustulatus*. Swainson's Thrush.


The species account on the Swainson's Thrush was omitted inadvertently by Browning (1975) who (Browning MS) considered the species to be a fairly common summer (late Apr. to late Sep.) resident above about 2400 ft. in the Siskiyou and Cascade mountains.

Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) mentioned only one specimen from Jackson County, a female (USNM) from Mt. McLoughlin, which they cited as the most eastern example of nominate *ustulatus* from Oregon. The subspecies was then regarded as breeding from the Cascades westward. Populations breeding in southwestern interior Oregon were later recognized by Bond (1963), Ripley (1964), Marshall (1988), and others as belonging to *oedicus*, a grayish subspecies. Ramos (in Phillips 1991:92) restricted the breeding range of *oedicus* to California from "probably" Siskiyou County to San Diego County, and gave the breeding range of *ustulatus* as the coastal region from Alaska to Humboldt County in California. Ramos (in Phillips 1991:92) did not identify a subspecies breeding in southwestern interior Oregon west of the Cascades but mentioned that *swainsoni* bred from the Great Basin to the mountains just east of the Cascades.

The specimens we list indicate that nominate *ustulatus* occurs in Jackson County only as a migrant. All of the other specimens are more grayish (less russet) above than *ustulatus* from northwestern Oregon and western Washington; most resemble *oedicus* from California. We conclude that *oedicus* should be regarded as the subspecies breeding in southwestern Oregon.

Breeding specimens from the east slope of the Cascades in western Klamath County (USNM) likewise are referable to *oedicus* with the exception of a specimen (USNM) of *almae* that was probably breeding. The subspecies *almae* synonymized with *swainsoni* by Godfrey (1951) and Ramos (in Phillips 1991) but recognized by Bond (1963), Ripley (1964), Godfrey (1986), and Marshall (1988), is a grayish-backed subspecies that breeds from Alaska (except SE coastal) to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and Idaho, and southeastern Oregon and northeastern California. The specimen of *almae* (USNM), an adult male, from Klamath County was collected 0.5 miles south of the south entrance of Crater Lake National Park on 29 June 1976 with a female (USNM) of *oedicus*. Both specimens were in breeding condition; the behavior of the two birds was not observed before they were captured. *Catharus ustulatus* has not been observed on subsequent visits to the collecting site.

The collection of two distinct subspecies in breeding condition at the same locality and day is not expected to occur between subspecies but might occur between species. Russet-backed (*ustulatus/oedicus*) and olive-backed (*swainsoni/almae*) subspecies have been found together in localities in northern California (Kellogg 1916) and were suspected to interbreed (Grinnell et al. 1930). Grinnell and Miller (1944) concluded that examples of *almae* in the normal breeding range of russet-backed birds were possibly migrants or intergrades. Bond (1963) erroneously believed that the birds Grinnell and Miller (1944) identified as possibly intergrades actually belonged to *almae*. Phillips (1991), who has not compared the possible intergrades from California (A.R. Phillips, pers. comm.), commented that olive-backed and russet-backed birds from British Columbia to Oregon are not reported to interbreed. Phillips (1991) concluded that the olive-backed *swainsoni* (including *almae*) might be a sibling species with the russet-backed *ustulatus*.

*Chamaea fasciata*. Wrentit.


Reports of Wrentits in Jackson County by Gabrielson (1931) and Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) were based on information by Jewett: neither source mentioned whether Jewett had specimens. Birds from the Rogue River Valley belong to *margina*, a subspecies that is more reddish-brown than *henshawi* from interior California and that is grayer above and paler below than *phaea* from the Coast Range of northwestern California and Oregon (Browning 1992).

Wrentits, once uncommon in Jackson County (Browning 1975), are now fairly common permanent residents. The northern limit of the species in interior western Oregon has moved north since Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) wrote, from the Rogue Valley to Roseburg (Gullion 1948), and the southern Willamette Valley (Gullion 1951; AOU 1957) and the northern Willamette Valley (Jobanek 1975, 1976). The species in not known in Washington (contra Larrison 1981).
**Dendroica petechia. Yellow Warbler.**


A specimen (USNM 592480) with data identical to that reported by Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) as rubiginosa and two other birds (NFWFL 1038 and 1565), belong to banksi, a more yellow subspecies that breeds in interior Alaska (see Browning 1994; Garrett and Dunn 1997). The immature male (NFWFL 677) belongs to morcomi, a paler subspecies that breeds east of the Cascades. Specific identification of NFWFL 1265 could not be determined. Other specimens belong to brewsteri, the subspecies that breeds west of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada from Washington to California. Dendroica p. brewsteri is more yellow above than morcomi is more yellow above than rubiginosa and is darker above than morcomi and brewsteri. Dendroica p. morcomi differs from brewsteri by being duller and greener above and below in adult (Browning 1994) and immature plumages. In Jackson County, the small sample of specimens indicates that brewsteri is the breeding subspecies, banksi is a spring and fall migrant, and morcomi is a visitor.

Yellow Warblers were estimated to be abundant in Oregon (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940) and common in Jackson County (Browning 1975). Destruction of riparian habitat (e.g., grazing; Taylor and Littlefield 1986) and parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds (Molothrus ater), a species that began breeding in western Oregon about 50 years ago (Rothstein 1994) are probable causes of recent declines in Yellow Warblers (DeSante and George 1994).

**Dendroica occidentalis. Hermit Warbler.**

Specimens: USNM 592673, male, Little Butte Creek, 10 June 1921, Gabrielson; 592674, 592675, and 592676, female, male, and male, NE slope Mt. McLoughlin, 23, 24, and 24 July 1927, Gabrielson; FMNH 162745 and 176265, females, Trail and Prospect, 11 June 1925 and 1 June 1924, Sherwood; CM 127561 and 127562, male and female, Union Creek Camp, 12 July 1941, A. C. Toomey; PSM 7520, female, Ashland, 21 May 1963, J. B. Hurley.

Specimens (USNM) of Hermit Warbler collected by Gabrielson (1931) on 24 July 1927 probably include some of the birds he reported as fledging young found at the north base of Mt. McLoughlin. Gabrielson and Jewett's (1940:508) "number of specimens" from the county may be represented by some of those listed above. The species is monotypic, and is fairly common in the Siskiyou and Cascade mountains.

**Geothlypis trichas. Common Yellowthroat.**

Specimen: OSUFW 536, male, Gold Hill, — Mar. 1916, collector unknown (from Jewett collection).

Specimens from the county were not specifically mentioned by Gabrielson (1931) and Gabrielson and Jewett (1940). Birds breeding west of the Cascades in southwestern Oregon were identified by Behle (1950) as G. t. arizela. However, Behle did not cite any breeding specimens, and we know of none from Jackson County. We did not identify the OSUFW specimen to subspecies.

**Wilsonia canadensis. Canada Warbler.**


The specimen of the monotypic Canada Warbler is the only one from Oregon. According to Fix (1991:63), it is the fourth "verified" record; others records include birds seen during fall at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, (where one was banded and released), and at Seaside, Clatsop County (Fix and Heinl 1990).

**Pipilo chlorura. Green-tailed Towhee.**


Gabrielson (1931) and Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) mentioned the July specimen. This monotypic species breeds in the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains (Browning 1975). The male from Ashland is the only specimen from Oregon in winter.

**Alleged specimens**

**Buteo lagopus. Rough-legged Hawk.**

A specimen of Rough-legged Hawk from near Medford (Gabrielson 1931) could not be located.

**Falco mexicanus. Prairie Falcon.**

Gabrielson (1931) reported that he collected a Prairie Falcon near Eagle Point on 8 Nov. 1926. We could not locate the specimen.

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subspecies distribution. SWOC Talk 1:3-4.


Caspian Terns on the Columbia River Estuary

Compiled by David Craig from observations by David Craig, Oregon State University, d CRAIG@transport.com, 503-791-7621 or 503-283-8534; Ken Collis, Real Time Research; Don Lyons, Oregon State University; Dan Roby, Oregon State University; Jessica Adkins, Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission.

INTRODUCTION

The following is provided by David Craig and was not part of the weekly updates provided to the avian predation working group.

Caspian Terns have only nested in coastal estuaries of the Pacific Northwest since 1957 (Gray's Harbor - about 50 pairs). Historical Caspian colonies and those colonies that remain in the West are typically around 100 - 300 pairs. In 1997 and 1998, around 7,000-9,000 pairs of Caspian Terns bred on Rice Island, an artificial island created from dredging the Columbia River for large ship commerce. This is the largest colony in North America and perhaps the world (the next biggest ever known was perhaps 3,000 pairs) and 75% of the Pacific/West Coast population. No terns were confirmed breeding at any other historical coastal site north of San Francisco and south of Alaska in the last two years. However, nesting was suspected at in southern Puget Sound, near Tacoma, Washington, and there may have been other unrecorded attempts in Washington and British Columbia. Some of the previous Pacific Northwest sites have been destroyed or naturally degraded through vegetation succession, winter storm erosion events, bald eagle and gull disruption of nesting activities, and severe droughts at inland sites in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The causes of failure are varied and complex. Today Pacific Coast Caspian Terns only breed on anthropogenic sites including artificial islands, salt dikes, and a fenced EPA superfund site with contaminated soils.

The tern chick production on Rice Island has been poor in the last two years (0.05 - 0.4 initiated nest), whereas typical productivity is around 1.1 chicks/pr. A primary reason for the low productivity is egg and chick predation by specialist-gull predators (Western/Glaucous-winged Gulls) that devastate the nests during Bald Eagle disturbances (eagles regularly kill adult terns). Nearly every time eagles fly over the colony, the adult terns abandon their nests and then the gulls steal the contents. We have observed approximately 70-85% of tern nests are lost to gulls, but the window of opportunity for gulls is not only related to bald eagle activity. As researchers we have unintentionally caused disturbances of incubating and brooding adults (especially problematic in 1997). Another minor cause of losses includes major storms. Other Caspian Tern researchers and our own observations suggest the exceptionally large Rice Island colony may be "overcrowded" and "stressed," based on the intense and constant aggressive interactions between terns. The biggest colony is probably not the best. It could just be the only available habitat. The Rice Island tern colony my currently be a population "sink" where reproduction is outstripped by natural mortality, but the social attraction of such large numbers of terns and the scarcity of alternative nesting habitat continues to draw more terns. Caspian Terns are likely to better off if distributed in smaller colonies over a larger geographic area.

To this end, an old Caspian Tern nesting site was restored on East Sand Island (15 miles down river from Rice). East Sand was chosen because it is close to marine habitat where a wider variety of forage fish is available. We hypothesized that terns might eat fewer salmonids if they had other types of fish available close to their breeding site. If possible we are seeking a win-win resolution to this problem: save salmon while not negatively affecting terns. Rice Island is surrounded by fresh water and few alternative prey are available besides salmon smolt.

The related field notes below focus on our efforts to relocate some terns to East Sand Island from Rice Island. This required some pushing (off of Rice) and pulling (with decoys and playback sounds at East Sand). Nesting habitat for terns at the Rice Island colony site was reduced by about 75% through planting vegetation and putting up fences (1 acre of good bare sand and another acre of unfenced buffer were left). The use of decoys, speakers, colony monitors, and limited specialist gull removal WAS based on the National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program (Steve Kress, Director). The shifting of breeding terns from one colony to another had not been attempted before.

THIS MANAGEMENT APPROACH WAS ADOPTED BY A CONSORTIUM OF FEDERAL AND STATE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES. This consortium (National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest Power Planning Council, Wildlife Services, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) called the Avian Predation Working Group (sometimes called the Caspian Tern Working Group) meets regularly to make management decisions. At present there is no long-term plan for Pacific Coast Caspian Tern restoration and management, but the working group is starting to consider this important issue. Public comments should be directed to one of these agencies or NGOs.

FIELD NOTES

The field notes that follow were excerpted from weekly updates provided to the Avian Predation Working Group, and are based on preliminary data.

Subsequent analyses of these data may yield somewhat different results.

April 26, 1999

Populations: Rice Island

Over the past week the number of terns on the 1-acre area has ranged from 415 to 3,600 birds. The highest numbers of birds observed on the colony were at dawn and dusk when it is likely that many nest sites have both parents in attendance. Additionally, dusk and dawn counts are sure to include some roosting non-breeders. During the day, there was consistently over 1,500 birds on the 1-acre colony. Many birds are digging and sitting in nest scrapes. It is too early to tell what we might have in the way of nesting pairs on the acre, but based on the minimum daily counts of terns on the colony site it is likely to be between 1,000 and 2,000 pairs.
On Tuesday, April 20, more silt fencing was put up to discourage terns from settling in the unfenced area between the two lobes of the colony (roughly 200 birds observed in that area before Tuesday). Since that time, the terns have not returned to that area. At noon today, roughly 500 terns were seen on the ridge east of the colony. An eagle decoy was placed nearby (i.e., just east of the ridge and out of sight of the terns on the 1-acre area) and we will monitor its effectiveness in deterring the terns from settling in that area. No other upland areas of Rice Is. have had appreciable numbers of nesting/roosting terns.

**Populations: East Sand Island**

The number of terns observed on the East Sand colony has been slowly increasing, particularly over the last 3-4 days. There are now consistently from 150 to 750 birds on the colony. Today, over 300 birds were observed on the colony during the middle of the day, which is up from previous mid-day counts of between 30-50 birds. The birds are digging and sitting in scrapes in the area near the decoys and sound systems.

**Elsewhere**

On Friday, April 23, there were roughly 40 terns observed above the high tide line on Miller Sands spit. To discourage nesting at that site, we erected an eagle decoy in the area and have not seen any birds there since. There continues to be large numbers of terns using roost sites below the high tide line throughout the estuary and upriver. It appears that many of these birds have not yet chosen a nest site. If these terns are to nest, they will likely settle on a site in the next couple of weeks. We will be conducting an aerial survey of the Columbia River estuary this Wednesday (April 28) and will include Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor as part of the survey area. One of the objectives of this survey is to identify potential alternative nesting sites prior to the initiation of egg laying.

**Diet**

East Sand Is. terns continue to eat fewer salmonids than Rice Is. terns, although the difference was less pronounced this week as compared to last week. For this last week (April 20-26), 64% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=90) were salmonids, compared to 96% at Rice Island (N=118). Year to date, 56% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=179) were salmonids, compared to 96% at Rice Island (N=255). The East Sand terns delivered far fewer sand lance to the colony this week compared to last week.

**Predators**

As of noon today, 3 adult and 2 very young raccoons have been collected on Rice Island. In addition, 2 opossums were collected on Rice on Friday (April 23) just after they had been released by an individual seen leaving the island in a boat going towards Miller Sand spit (@ 11:30 am). Based on tracks observed on the island, researchers believe that there may be as many as 3 more raccoons on Rice Island. I spoke with Al Clark (USFWS) who had just finished goose surveys on Rice and found out that of the 51 goose nests identified on Rice Island, roughly half had their contents predated on by mammalian predators (presumably, raccoons).

**April 30, 1999**

The first eggs were spotted on the Rice Island tern colony this morning. These first eggs this year are about 5 days earlier than we observed last year. Over the last two days we have observed an increase in the number of birds nesting/roosting on the 1-acre area and the adjacent vegetated buffer. The last counts (@11 am today) of terns on the Rice and East Sand colonies were 5,500 and 400 birds, respectively. The birds are very densely aggregated on Rice Island and distributed evenly throughout the open area all the way up to the fences. The vast majority of the birds on the Rice Island colony do not have scrapes (only 700 scrapes counted) and gull kleptoparasitism rates are as high as we have ever seen. Gulls were also observed preying on tern eggs at Rice Island. No gull kleptoparasitism has been observed at the East Sand Island colony. We expect to detect eggs at the East Sand Colony soon.

**May 3, 1999**

**Populations: Rice Island**

On Sunday, May 2, the number of terns counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer ranged between 4,300 and 7,300 birds. There are now eggs on the Rice Island tern colony. The birds are very densely aggregated at the colony site, including the vegetated buffer. We do not expect them to nest at the densities reported here and we feel it is still too early to predict what we may have for a breeding population at the Rice Island colony site this year.

Prior to the first egg, a total of 23 bald eagle decoys had been placed in areas off colony at Rice Island where the terns were roosting/nesting. These areas included the south beach, an area outside the fencing to the NW of the 1-acre area, and on the ridge east of the colony. These decoys have been successful in deterring most birds from the immediate area (roughly 50-100 yard radius) of the decoy.

**Populations: East Sand Island**

The number of terns observed on the East Sand colony continues to increase. On Sunday, May 2, roughly 1,100 terns were counted on the colony site. This morning, Monday, May 3, 650 terns were counted on the colony at 9:30 am, an increase of 44% (or roughly 200 birds) from the same time the previous day. Terns at the East Sand colony site are mostly staying within the perimeter of the outer most decoys placed at the site. To try to expand the area used by terns for roosting/nesting, we will deploy 15-25 decoys around the main colony site. We have yet to see the first egg at the East Sand colony but expect that it will appear any day.

**Elsewhere**

On Friday, April 30, there were another 40 terns observed above the high tide line on Miller Sands Spit away from the eagle decoy placed there last week. We deployed another eagle decoy in the area that they were using and have not seen any birds above the high tide line at Miller Sands Spit since. On Wednesday, April 28, an aerial survey for Caspian terns was conducted throughout the Columbia River estuary, Willapa Bay, and Grays Harbor. No roost/nest sites above the high tide line were observed at any other location other than Rice and East Sand islands. There were few birds (less than a total of 200) observed roosting below the high tide line at islands in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. There were several roost sites of 50 or more terns in the Columbia River estuary. Most terns, however, were observed at or near Rice and East Sand islands.

**Diet**

East Sand Is. terns continue to eat fewer salmonids than Rice Is. terns, although the difference was less pronounced this past week as compared to the previous two weeks. For this last week (April 26-May 2), 84% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=350) were salmonids, compared to 99% at Rice Island (N=407). Year to date, 74% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=529) were salmonids, compared to 98% at Rice Island (N=662). Note:
the year to date percentages are not corrected for differences in sample size from week to week at the two locations.

**Predators**
In total, 5 adult raccoons, 2 very young raccoons, and 2 opossums have been collected on Rice Island. Based on tracks observed on the island, researchers believe that there may be 2 more raccoons on the east end of Rice Island.

**May 10, 1999**

**Populations: Rice Island**
The high and low counts for the week were on May 3 (5,100 terns) and May 9 (8,300 terns), respectively. This morning, May 10 at 9:30 am, roughly 7,000 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The birds continued to be densely aggregated within the colony area and gull kleptoparasitism and nest predation rates have been high. Based on birds counted in plots this morning, we estimated that there were roughly 3,000 nesting pairs within the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. Given the current level of gull kleptoparasitism and predation on nests, we expect that many of these nesting pairs will fail, particularly those at the periphery of the colony. Many of these failed breeders will probably attempt to re-nest elsewhere, perhaps at off-colony locations on Rice Island (i.e., adjacent the colony and outside the silt fences or east of the colony on the ridge) or at East Sand Island.

We attempted to deter terns on Rice Island from nesting at off-colony locations using both eagle decoys, additional fencing, rebar with flagging attached, visits to the roosting/nesting sites to disturb the birds every few hours. Despite our efforts, eggs were laid in two satellite colonies just outside the silt-fenced area on the west end of the island. Neither of these two areas was used by nesting terns in 1997 or 1998. As of early this morning, May 10, a total of 1,025 terns were counted on these two sites. Once eggs were detected, we discontinued harassment of the terns roosting/nesting within the two discrete areas where the eggs were found. As directed by the Working Group, we continue to harass birds concentrated in off-colony locations where eggs have yet to be laid and will continue to do so until eggs are found.

**Populations: East Sand Island**
Over the past three days, May 8-May 10, the morning counts of terns on the East Sand colony have increased from 770 to 930 birds. The high and low counts for the week were on May 5 (1,250 terns) and May 6 (156 terns), respectively. The low count (May 6) occurred during a severe weather event (i.e., high winds and heavy rain). Terns at the East Sand colony site are beginning to roost/nest outside the perimeter of the outer most decoys placed at the site. As noted previously, there are now eggs on the East Sand Island tern colony. A minimum of 15 nests with eggs have been identified with two of those nests having more than one egg. Gull kleptoparasitism rates at the East Sand colony site have increased but are still well below the levels observed at the Rice Island colony site. No egg predation by gulls has been observed. No evidence of predation on adult terns by raptors has been detected at East Sand Island in the last week.

**Elsewhere**
No roost/nest sites above the high tide line were observed at any other location other than Rice and East Sand islands. Based on road-based surveys of the Columbia River estuary, there were fewer roost sites used by terns and fewer terns per roost than observed in previous weeks.

**Diet**
For this last week (May 3-9), 84% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=648) were salmonids, compared to 98% at Rice Island (N=300). Year to date, 70% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=1,177) were salmonids, compared to 98% at Rice Island (N=962). Note: the year to date percentages are corrected for differences in sample size from week to week at the two locations.

**May 17, 1999**

**Populations: Rice Island**
The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on May 15 (9,500 terns) and May 12 (6,900 terns), respectively. Yester-day evening, May 16, roughly 9,000 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer, and about half of this total appeared to be incubating eggs. On May 13, seven 5 X 5 meter plots were laid out on the Rice Island colony for monitoring nesting success. Based on the density of nest scrapes with eggs in these plots, there was a total of approximately 5,100 nests with eggs on the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The average clutch size of nests on these seven plots was 2.07 eggs/nest. There were also another roughly 1,500 terns nesting (with some birds on eggs) in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. Attempts to dissuade terns from nesting on the ridge to the east of the colony appear to have been successful, with the number of terns roosting in that area decreasing to 30 - 50 terns. Furthermore, the birds trying to settle on the east ridge are no longer digging nest scrapes. The maximum count of birds on- and off-colony at Rice Island was about 12,000 terns (plus or minus 2,000 birds). This is about the same number of terns that were counted on the colony from photographs taken for the population census in late May 1998 (12,176).

**Populations: East Sand Island**
The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on May 14 (670 terns) and May 13 (1,200 terns), respectively. On Thurs-day, May 13, we counted 133 nests with eggs on colony. Yester-day evening, May 16, roughly 950 terns were counted on the colony and we estimate that roughly 235 terns are incubating eggs. The average clutch size on the East Sand Island colony was 1.63 eggs/nest.

**Elsewhere**
We think that all the terns have returned to the estuary now and are distributed between the two colony sites (Rice and East Sand islands) and various roosting and foraging sites throughout the Columbia River estuary.

**Diet**
For this last week (May 10-16), 75% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=485) were salmonids, compared to 98% at Rice Island (N=384). Year to date, 71% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=1,662) were salmonids, compared to 98% at Rice Island (N=1,346). Fish watches are conducted concurrently at both colonies twice each day, once each at high and low tide to control for tidal and time of day effects on diet.
1998 Oregon Listing Results

Jim Johnson, 6303 S.E. Ramona Street, Portland, OR 97206 • e-mail: jimjohn@teleport.com

NOTE: For several years, Jim Johnson has coordinated the gathering of the listing results. He has decided to pass this on to Jamie Simmons in performing this duty.

Totals marked with an asterisk (*) are previously submitted totals as an updated total was not received this year. Only totals of 390 or more for next year. I want to thank Jim for his service to OFO and Oregon Birds in performing this duty.

NOTE: For several years, Jim Johnson has coordinated the gathering of the listing results. He has decided to pass this on to Jamie Simmons in performing this duty.

Total Oregon State List (300)

460 Jeff Gilligan
444 Tom Crabtree
431 Jim Johnson
426 Richard Smith
425 Gerrard Lillie
422 Sheraan Wright
419* Owen Schmidt
414 Donna Lusthoff
413 Alan Contreras
407 Paul Sullivan
406 Skip Russell
406* Linda Weiland
403 Tim Janzen
401 Craig Miller
401* Steve Summers
400 Jim Carlson
400* Dave Irons
398* Tom Michel
397* Patrick Muller
396* Rick Krabbe
396* David Bailey
395 Alan McGie
395* Larry Thornton
394 Joe Ennick (*)
393* Phillip Pickering
390 Paul Sherrill
388 Tim Shemlerdine
387 Walt Yungen
386 Tom Love
384 Stephen Dowlan
383 Cris Gorder
375 Martha Swarren (*)
375* David Anderson
372 Marshall Beretta
371 Ron Maertz
370 John Lundstuen
367 Roy Gerig
366 Alice Parker
363 Merry Lynn & Mike Denny
361 Reid Freeman
361 Greg Gillson
358 Ulo Kiigemagi
358 Jamie Simmons
356 Judy Stevens
356 Dan Heyerly
355 Roger Robb
355 Marion Gardner (*)
353 Colin Dillingham
350 Eva Schultz
347 Paul Osborn
346 Floyd Schrock
343 Sylvia Maudling
342 Don Munson
340 Diane Pettery

Total Oregon Year List (250)

339 Mark Nikas
339 Jim Rogers
335 Karen Sparkman
334 Stuart Sparkman
331 Fred Zeillemaker
330 Karen Theodore
327 Lewis Rems
323 Angie Dillingham
322 Dean Hale
318 Patty Meehan
318 Fred Parker (*)
315 Tim Rodenkirk
306 Brian Kruse
304 Michael Nomina
304 Elmer Specht
300 Todd Thornton

Oregon County Lists

Baker
231* Ann Ward
230 Craig Corder
203 Paul Sullivan
141 Judy Stevens
131 Walt Yungen
131 Merry Lynn & Mike Denny
113 Jamie Simmons
112 Wayne Weber
111 Donna Lusthoff

Benton
229* Alyson Floyd
214 Alan McGie
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201 Ulo Kiigemagi
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148 Bill Tice
146 Stephen Dowlan
143 Mark Nikas
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128 Tom Love
128 David Anderson
116 Walt Yungen
113 Craig Corder

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301* Larry Thornton
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264 Tim Rodenkirk
245 Alan Contreras
234 Paul Sullivan
232 Don Munson
227 Jim Rogers
227 Alice Parker
209 Walt Yungen
203 Ulo Kiigemagi
203 Ron Maertz
200 Brian Kruse
194 Jim Carlson
193 Roger Robb
182 Donna Lusthoff
178 Paul Sherrill
178 Colin Dillingham
164 Stephen Dowlan
163 Craig Miller
162 Greg Gillson
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146 Craig Corder
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137 Eva Schultz
135 Judy Stevens
126 Mark Nikas
120 Bill Tice
114 Dan Heyerly
105 Stuart Sparkman
102 Wayne Weber

Crook
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181 Karen Theodore
178 Paul Sullivan
163 David Anderson
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152 Walt Yungen
151 Dan Hale
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118 Ulo Kiigemagi
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161 Greg Gillson
150 Michael Nomina
149 Stephen Dowlan
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113 Reid Freeman
106 Wayne Weber
105 Tom Love
102 Judy Stevens

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224 Walt Yungen
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170 Donna Lusthoff
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130 Craig Corder
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279* Jeff Gilligan
209 Jim Johnson
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170 Walt Yungen
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129 Stephen Dowlan
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105 Judy Stevens
101 Craig Corder

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Baker, Benton

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Clatsop
203 Todd Thornton

Coos
259 Tim Roden Verde

Crook
210 Lewis Rems

Curry
233 Colin Dillingham
208 Jim Rogers
205 Buzz Stewart
189 Fred Huntley
160 Angie Dillingham

Deschutes
219 Dean Hale
160 Craig Miller
151 Patty Meehan

Douglas
185 Alice Parker

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Harney
168 Paul Sullivan

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219 Frank Mayer

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220 Craig Miller
207 Roy Gerg

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254 Paul Sherrill
235 Mark Nikas
215 Roger Robb
193 Sylvia Maudling
192 Dan Heyerly
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168 Roy Gerg

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<td>Yamhill</td>
<td>172 Floyd Schrock (1998)</td>
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**Introduced Predators**

No new mammal tracks have been observed on Rice Island since the last raccoon was collected on May 6.

**May 20, 1999**

Caspian Terns (N=15) from Rice Island were captured using noose carpets and have been fitted with radio transmitters. We expect to tag 15 more and then attempt to radio-tag birds on East Sand to compare the foraging distances.

**May 24, 1999**

**Populations:**

**Rice Island**

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on May 21 (10,000 terns) and May 23 (5,000 terns), respectively. Yesterday evening, May 23, roughly 8,200 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The number of nests with eggs on the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer seems to be holding steady at roughly 5,000. There are also another 1,500 - 1,900 terns nesting (with some birds on eggs) in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. The nesting chronology of birds in the satellite colonies is behind those nesting in the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer, with roughly 600 nest scrapes containing eggs. Attempts to dissuade terns from nesting on the ridge to the east of the colony continue to be successful, with less than 20 terns observed roosting in that area continuing to decrease. At the end of this week, Bonneville Power Administration will take high resolution aerial photographs of the Rice Island tern colony, as well as other tern colonies, for the purpose of estimating the number of nesting pairs on each colony.

**Populations: East Sand Island**

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on May 20 (1,700 terns) and May 18 (662 terns), respectively. Yesterday (May 23), 1,200 terns were counted on the colony and we estimate that roughly 450 terns are incubating eggs. We continue to see birds copulating and digging new nest scrapes at the East Sand colony site.

**Elsewhere**

No new tern nesting colonies have been discovered elsewhere in the Columbia River Estuary. Another aerial survey of potential tern colony sites will be flown later this week.

**Diet**

For this last week (May 17-23), 68% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=407) were salmonids, compared to 97% at Rice Island (N=289). Year to date, 71% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=2,069) were salmonids, compared to 98% at Rice Island (N=1,635). Less than 1% of fish delivered to the East Sand colony were stolen by gulls (kleptoparasitism), compared to 12% for fish delivered to the Rice Island tern colony. A total of thirty terns nesting on Rice Island have been radio-tagged and we are in the process of tagging an additional 30 terns nesting on East Sand Island.

**Predators**

No new mammal tracks have been observed on Rice Island since the last raccoon was collected on May 6.

**June 1, 1999**

**Nesting Populations: Rice Island**

The high and low on-colony counts for the week (May 23 - May 30) were on May 24 (9,000 terns) and May 27 (6,500 terns), respectively. Sunday evening, May 30, roughly 7,200 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The number of nests with eggs on the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer seems to be holding steady at roughly 4,800. There are also another 1,200 - 2,200 terns nesting (roughly 920 nests with eggs) in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. Attempts to dissuade terns from nesting on the ridge to the east of the colony continue to be successful, with less than 20 terns observed roosting in that area over the past week. The first chicks were observed on Rice Island on Friday, May 29. On Friday, May 29, BPA took high resolution aerial photographs of the Rice Island tern colony, as well as other tern colonies, for the purpose of estimating the number of nesting pairs on each colony. We will work with BPA to generate estimates of the number of nesting pairs on each colony as soon as possible. Estimates of the number of nesting pairs on Rice Island should be available in approximately three weeks.
Populations: East Sand Island

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on May 26 (1,376 terns) and May 25 (893 terns), respectively. On Sunday, May 30, 1,283 terns were counted on the colony and we estimate that roughly 550 terns are incubating eggs. We continue to see birds copulating and digging new nest scrapes at the East Sand colony site, although the frequency of these behaviors may be decreasing. No chicks have been observed on East Sand Island.

Elsewhere

An aerial survey of other potential tern colony sites was flown on Friday concurrent with the aerial photo census. No other nesting colonies were identified in the Columbia River Estuary.

Diet

For this last week, 61% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=374) were salmonids, compared to 96% at Rice Island (N=393). Year to date, 69% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=2,443) were salmonids, compared to 97% at Rice Island (N=2,028). Gull kleptoparasitism rates continue to be higher at the East Sand Island tern colony as compared to East Sand Island (0.3% and 7%, respectively).

Other

A total of thirty terns nesting on Rice Island have been radio-tagged, and we are in the process of tagging an additional 30 terns nesting on East Sand Island. To minimize impacts (i.e. losses of nests to gull predation) on the new tern colony at East Sand Island, we are trying to capture breeding terns at off-colony locations (e.g., noose mats placed at roost sites on the beach adjacent the colony and net guns used to capture terns flying into the colony with fish). These methods are not nearly as effective as methods to capture terns on-colony (noose mats placed around nests with eggs), with only 3 terns captured at off-colony locations thus far. Over the next few days, the Working Group should decide whether or not to capture terns on-colony and risk some nest failure associated with our disturbance in order to get a sufficient sample of radio-tagged terns from East Sand Island so that the foraging behavior of terns nesting at East Sand and Rice Island can be compared.

Predators

No new predator activity has been observed at either tern colony over the last week.

June 7, 1999

Populations: Rice Island

The high and low on-colony counts for the week (May 31 - June 6) were on May 31 (10,000 terns) and May 31 (7,300 terns), respectively. Sunday evening, June 6, roughly 8,300 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The number of nests with eggs or chicks on the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer was once again estimated to be around 5,000. There are also another 1,750 - 2,500 individual terns counted in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. There is still no tern nesting anywhere else on Rice Island. The incidence of pirating (terns stealing fish from other terns) and intraspecific aggression has increased dramatically on the Rice Island tern colony in the last week.

Populations: East Sand Island

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on June 5 (1,450 terns) and May 31 (1,066 terns), respectively. On Sunday (June 6), 1,091 terns were counted on the colony and we estimate that roughly 740 pairs of terns have nests with eggs or chicks.

First chicks were observed on the East Sand Island colony in the afternoon on Monday, May 31, shortly after the last update was distributed. The levels of pirating and intraspecific aggression that were observed on the Rice Island colony over the last week were not observed on the East Sand Island tern colony.

Diet

For this last week, 44% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=355) were salmonids, compared to 86% at Rice Island (N=350). Anchovies, herring, shiner perch, and peamouth are starting to replace salmonids in the diet of terns from both colonies, especially the East Sand Island colony. Year to date, 66% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=2,798) were salmonids, compared to 96% at Rice Island (N=2,378). Gull kleptoparasitism rates have declined at both the Rice Island and East Sand Island tern colonies (1.6% and 0%, respectively).

Foraging Ecology

Trapping: We trapped and radio-tagged a total of 15 terns on the East Sand Island tern colony on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6. Currently, we have 18 radio-tagged terns that are frequently in attendance at East Sand Island and another 30 radio-tagged terns that are apparently nesting on the Rice Island colony. The trapping that occurred over the weekend caused minimal immediate impacts to the colony. Trapping, and our associated disturbance of the colony, occurred over .5 hr and 1 hr periods on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Once researchers left the colony area following the setting of traps, the removal of birds from traps, or the pulling of traps at the end of trapping, the majority of the terns from the colony settled back on their nests within 5 minutes. Observers saw no incidents of predation on eggs or chicks during the trapping period. There were, however, five predation events (3 chicks and 2 eggs) that occurred more than one hour after trapping had ceased, and may have been related to disturbances caused by our trapping efforts. We have suspended trapping on the East Sand Island colony while we wait for good weather. We may choose to conduct one more trapping session on the East Sand Island colony if the weather improves and as long as most chicks on the colony are at a stage where our disturbance does not cause them to leave the nest.

Tracking

In the two flights that have occurred since terns were radio-tagged (before Saturday’s trapping), we recorded locations on 31 out of 33 radio-tagged birds. Of those birds that were radio-tagged at Rice Island (31), there have been a total of 11 resightings off the Rice Island colony (8 were located up-river from the colony, 3 were located down-river from the colony; and one tern was located below the Astoria Bridge). One tern that was tagged on Rice Island is now attempting to nest on East Sand Island. Of those radio-tagged birds at East Sand Island (3), there have been 2 resightings, and both were below the Astoria Bridge. The next flight is scheduled for tomorrow, June 8, and we plan to fly twice a week for the remainder of the season.

Predators

No new predator activity has been observed at either tern colony over the last week.

June 14, 1999

Populations: Rice Island

The high and low on-colony counts for the week (June 7 - June 13) were both on June 12 (9,000 and 8,200 terns, respectively).
On Sunday, June 13, roughly 8,800 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The number of nests with eggs or chicks on the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer was estimated to be around 6,000. There are also another 1,150 - 2,350 individual terns counted in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. Our best estimate of the number of active nests in the two satellite colonies is 1,300. This means that our current best estimate of the total number of active tern nests on Rice Island is 7,300. There is still no tern nesting anywhere else on Rice Island. The number of nests with the total number of active tern nests on Rice Island is 7,300, a best estimate of the number of active nests in the two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. Our estimate is based on the number of terns counted in two satellite colonies. We are currently working on a more accurate estimate.

Populations: East Sand Island
The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on June 13 (2,256 terns) and June 8 (991 terns), respectively. On Sunday, June 13, we estimated that approximately 844 pairs of terns had nests with eggs or chicks on the East Sand Island colony. Gull predation on chicks and eggs is very rare compared to Rice Island. This is a direct result of the limited lethal control of those gulls that have attempted to steal tern eggs or young. In 1998, our first attempt at an experimental tern colony at Miller Sand Island, terns never kept their eggs longer than 7 days before they were depredated. We did no gull control in 1998. These observations and the advice of other biologist working in tern restoration efforts on the east coast have identified that certain individual gulls learn to specialize on kleptoparasitism, egg stealing, and chick predation. A group of these specialist gulls can easily destroy a new breeding colony. As of Sunday, June 13, a total of 134 gulls have been shot on East Sand Island, a critical aspect to the success of the Working Group's tern relocation effort. This represents less than 1% of the estimated number of gulls nesting on East Sand Island in 1998.

Diet
For this last week, 37% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=379) were salmonids, compared to 70% at Rice Island (N=408). This was the largest week-to-week decline (16%) in the proportion of the diet that was salmonids for the Rice Island tern colony. Comparatively, the East Sand Island terns consumed 7% less salmonids this week compared to last week. Year to date, 63% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=3,177) were salmonids, compared to 93% at Rice Island (N=2,786). Gull kleptoparasitism rates at the East Sand Island tern colony (0%, N=382 deliveries) and the Rice Island tern colony (2%, N=409 deliveries) were similar to the rates reported last week.

Foraging Ecology
Trapping: We trapped and radio-tagged another 4 terns on the East Sand Island tern colony on Monday, June 7. The trapping that occurred on Monday lasted a total of 1.5 hours and we observed no predation on tern chicks or eggs associated with that trapping event. We did observe chicks being led off the colony, presumably by the chicks' parents, at the time that the trapping was taking place. These same chicks were led back to the colony area within 1 hour of us pulling the traps. Due to the increased mobility of chicks, we will not be doing any more trapping at either colony for the remainder of the breeding season. We now have a total of 22 and 30 adult terns radio-tagged at East Sand and Rice islands, respectively.

Tracking: Based on data from our fixed telemetry stations at Rice Island and East Sand Island, we believe that 38% and 50% of the radio-tagged terns are likely breeders at the Rice and East Sand Island colonies, respectively. We made this determination based on repeated nighttime attendance of radio-tagged birds at one of the colonies. From these same data, we estimate that 5-10 of the radio-tagged terns are non-breeders (as of June 13). Off colony observations of radio-tagged terns (based on flight telemetry) revealed that most birds nesting at East Sand Island and Rice Island were upriver and downriver from the island, whereas the proportion of resightings of Rice Island terns upriver and downriver from the colony was similar (44% and 56%, respectively). Foraging terns believed to be non-breeders, all resightings were downriver of Rice Island and only one resighting was upriver. The downriver resightings of terns nesting at Rice Island and East Sand Island, 22% and 50% were outside the estuary, respectively. There were 5 (12% of total resightings) and 2 (12% of total resightings) resightings of terns in Willapa Bay for terns nesting at Rice Island and East Sand Islands, respectively. Foraging terns in Willapa Bay, especially terns nesting at Rice Island, is a completely new finding that underscores the value of the radio-telemetry study. To increase our sample size we have decided to conduct 3-4 radio-telemetry flights per week for the remainder of the month. Flights are scheduled at low tide in an attempt to maximize our off-colony resightings of radio-tagged terns.

Predators
No new predator activity has been observed at either tern colony over the last week.

Brown Pelicans
Debra Jacques (USFWS) visited East Sand Island to observe roosting Brown Pelicans on the west end of the island. She didn't see any affects of our research activities on the brown pelicans roosting on the island. Currently, East Sand is the largest (1,375 birds) post-breeding roost site for brown pelicans north of San Francisco Bay.

June 21, 1999

Populations: Rice Island
The high and low on-colony counts for the week (June 14 - June...
20) were on June 16 (8,900 terns) and June 19 (7,600 terns), respectively. On Sunday, June 20, roughly 8,000 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. The number of nests with eggs or chicks on the 1-acre unvegetated area and adjacent vegetated buffer was estimated to be around 5,000. There are also another 1,040 - 1,750 individual terns counted in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. Our best estimate of the number of active nests in the two satellite colonies is 950. It appears as though the satellite colonies, and to a lesser degree the 1-acre area, are in decline, with fewer adult terns observed on those colonies during the day.

The chicks are starting to become more mobile now and are beginning to roam around the colony. Given that chicks will no longer be associated with individual nest scrapes, we will not be able to estimate the number of active nests on Rice Island in subsequent updates. We have planned another aerial photo census of the Rice and East Sand Island tern colonies on July 7 for the purpose of counting the number of chicks produced at each colony. We will present those results after they are analyzed by the Survey, Mapping, and Photogrammetry Department at BPA. BPA is currently counting birds on the Rice Island photos and are expected to complete the count in 2-3 weeks. They will then count birds on the East Sand Island photos and those results will not be available for at least another month.

Populations: East Sand Island

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on June 20 (2,492 terns) and June 18 (1,440 terns), respectively. On Sunday, June 20, we estimated that approximately 1,000 pairs of terns had nests with eggs or chicks on the East Sand Island colony. It appears that while the Rice Island colony is declining the East Sand Island colony is still increasing in numbers of nesting pairs. Roughly 35% of all fish delivered to East Sand Island are courtship feeds, as compared to only 0.6% at Rice Island, suggesting that there are many more new tern nests on East Sand as compared to Rice Island. Gull predation on chicks and eggs is rare on Rice Island, 50% were detected below Rice Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, 25% below East Sand Island, compared to Rice Island. This week, 16 gulls were shot at the East Sand Island tern colony, bringing the season total to 150 gulls removed from the colony area.

Elsewhere

On Friday, June 18, approximately 856 adult Caspian terns were observed on a mainland colony at the ASARCO Industrial Site in Commencement Bay near Tacoma, WA. A total of 25 chicks were observed from a distance with a spotting scope, the oldest of which was 7-10 days post hatch. These chicks week one week to 10 days younger than the majority of chicks on Rice Island. Roughly 58% of the adults were sitting on scrapes. Small numbers of terns (100-200) had been seen roosting at this site last year (D. Norman, Norman Consulting, pers. comm); however, no direct evidence of breeding was reported from last year. We are currently looking for funding to conduct aerial photo censuses at this and other Caspian tern colony sites along the Pacific Coast (e.g., Copper River Delta, Alaska) this year, if possible.

Diet

For this last week, 29% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=352) were salmonids, compared to 43% at Rice Island (N=351). This was the largest week-to-week decline (27%) in the proportion of the diet that was salmonids for the Rice Island tern colony. Comparatively, the East Sand Island terns consumed 8% less salmonids this week compared to last week. The decline in the proportion of the diet that is salmonids corresponds with a large increase in the number of anchovies that are being brought into the Rice Island colony. This might explain the relatively high proportion of radio-tagged terns from Rice Island sighted in Willapa Bay, where we suspect they are feeding on anchovies. In previous years, anchovies were not commonly seen in the diet of terns nesting on Rice Island.

Foraging Ecology

Rice Island birds shifted their foraging areas to focus on sites downriver from the Rice Island colony over the past week. East Sand birds continued to follow a pattern similar to previous weeks.

Cumulative data on all off-colony detections so far this season (N=110):
- East Sand Island breeders (N=30 detections): 33% detected above East Sand Island, 20% below East Sand and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 47% outside the Columbia Estuary.
- Rice Island breeders (N=24 detections): 17% were detected above Rice Island, 50% were detected below Rice Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 33% were detected outside the Columbia Estuary.
- Non-breeders (N=9 detections): 11% were detected above Rice Island, 22% below Rice but above East Sand, 0% below East Sand but still in the river, and 67% outside the Columbia Estuary.

Note: exact percentages will likely change as we have time to more carefully examine the breeding status of individual terns (some birds may be reclassified as non-breeders, etc.) based on the data from DCC receiving stations at the colonies. Current estimates...
June 28, 1999

Populations: Rice Island
The high and low on-colony counts for the week (June 21 - June 27) were on June 23 (8,200 terns) and June 24 (7,750 terns), respectively. On Sunday, June 27, roughly 8,060 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. Another 800 - 1,000 individual terns were counted in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. The number of terns on the two satellite colonies is continuing to decline, likely a result of early nest failure associated with gull predation.

Populations: East Sand Island
The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on June 27 (3,196 terns) and June 21 (1,639 terns), respectively. The number of terns on the East Sand Island colony site continues to increase. It is possible that many of the terns that are now just arriving on East Sand Island are failed breeders from Rice Island that are roosting on the colony (see below). We think it may be getting too late in the season for most terns to initiate new nests. There were, however, lots of eggs being incubated in the NE section of the colony, the location where many of the new arrivals over the last few weeks have been settling. Roughly 12% of all fish delivered to East Sand Island are courtship feeds, compared to 35% of all fish delivered to East Sand Island last week, again suggesting the incidence of new nest initiation is declining. Gull predation on chicks and eggs remains uncommon on East Sand Island, compared to Rice Island. This last week, 10 gulls were shot at the East Sand Island tern colony, bringing the season total to 160 gulls removed from the colony area.

Diet
For this last week, 14% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=327) were salmonids, compared to 45% at Rice Island (N=425). Year to date, 55% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=3,856) were salmonids, compared to 84% at Rice Island (N=3,562).

Foraging Ecology
We are seeing increased attendance of terns radio-tagged at Rice Island on East Sand, both by failed breeders (at East Sand during the day and night) and by birds still breeding at Rice (visiting East Sand during the day, presumably using the island as a roost or stopover before or after foraging). Based on our telemetry study results to date, roughly 1/4 of the foraging activity of terns breeding on Rice Island occurs outside the Columbia River Estuary, with the remainder of their foraging activity split equally above and below Rice Island on the Columbia River. In comparison, roughly 1/2 of the foraging activity of terns breeding on East Sand Island occurs outside the Columbia River Estuary, with the remainder of their foraging activity split equally above and below East Sand Island on the Columbia River. Off-colony observations of radio-tagged terns (based on aerial radio tracking) for the period June 19 - June 26 were as follows (N=63):

East Sand Island breeders (N=22 detections): 18% were detected above East Sand Island, 32% were detected below East Sand Island but still in the Columbia Estuary, and 50% were detected outside the Columbia Estuary, either in Willapa Bay or north or south of the river mouth along the coast.

Rice Island breeders (N=30 detections): 30% were detected above Rice Island, 23% were detected below Rice Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 47% were detected outside the Columbia Estuary.

Non-breeders (N=11 detections): 9% were detected above Rice Island, 9% below Rice but above East Sand, 9% below East Sand but still in the river, and 73% outside the Columbia Estuary.

Cumulative data on all off-colony detections so far this season (N=173):
East Sand Island breeders (N=55 detections): 25% detected above East Sand Island, 24% below East Sand and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 51% outside the Columbia Estuary.

Rice Island breeders (N=85 detections): 39% detected above Rice Island, 36% below Rice Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 25% were outside the Columbia Estuary.

Non-breeders (N=33 detections): 12% detected above Rice Island, 9% between Rice Island and East Sand Island, 9% below East Sand Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 70% outside the Columbia Estuary.

Note: exact percentages will likely change as we have time to more carefully examine the breeding status of individual terns (some birds may be reclassified as non-breeders, etc.) based on the data from DCC receiving stations at the colonies. Current estimates of numbers of radio-tagged adults are: 21 nesting at Rice Island, 16 nesting at East Sand Island, 4 recently failed breeders from Rice Island, and 5 non-breeder or early failed breeders.

Predators
No new predator activity has been observed at either tern colony over the last week.

June 28, 1999

Double-crested Cormorants—Foraging Ecology
On this date, four Double-crested Cormorants nesting on East Sand Island were radio-tagged. Our objectives in radio-tagging cormorants in 1999 were to investigate techniques to tag and radio track cormorants in the estuary. The qualitative data collected this year will be used to develop a comprehensive study investigating the foraging ecology of double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary, if warranted by the results.

July 6, 1999

Populations: Rice Island
The high and low on-colony counts for the week (June 28 - July 4) were on July 3 (8,150 terns) and June 30 (7,600 terns), respectively. On Sunday, July 4, roughly 8,100 terns were counted on the 1-acre area and adjacent vegetated buffer. Another 650 - 820 individual terns were counted in two satellite colonies outside the fencing on the west end of Rice Island. The number of terns on the two satellite colonies is continuing to decline, likely a result of nest failure associated with gull predation and the encroaching vegetation. The first few fledglings have been observed airborne at Rice Island in the last few days, but none are believed to have left the colony yet. On Wednesday, July 7, we plan to conduct another aerial photo census of the Rice and East Sand island tern colonies for the purpose of estimating the number of young
produced at each colony and estimating the number of new nests initiated on East Sand Island since the last photo census.

**Populations: East Sand Island**

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on June 30 (2,907 terns) and June 29 (1,650 terns), respectively. Roughly 5% of all fish delivered to the East Sand Island colony are courtship feeds, compared to 12% of all fish delivered to the colony last week, suggesting the incidence of new nest initiation is continuing to decline. Gull predation on chicks and eggs remains rare on East Sand Island, compared to Rice Island. This last week, 7 gulls were shot at the East Sand Island tern colony, bringing the season total to 167 gulls removed from the colony area.

**Diet**

For this last week, 15% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=356) were salmonids, compared to 51% at Rice Island (N=356). There was an increase in the proportion of the diet of breeding terns that was salmonids this week, as compared to last week (see below for interpretation). Year to date, 52% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=4,212) were salmonids, compared to 81% at Rice Island (N=3,918).

**Foraging Ecology**

This week, terns breeding on Rice and East Sand islands spent less time foraging outside the Columbia River Estuary, as compared to last week. Furthermore, there was an increase in the proportion of the diet of breeding terns that was salmonids this week, as compared to last week. This increase corresponds with a seasonal peak in the number of out-migrating subyearling chinook detected in-river at Bonneville Dam.

Off-colony observations of radio-tagged terns (based on aerial radio tracking) for the period June 27 - July 3 were as follows (N=46):

- East Sand Island breeders (N=19 detections): 32% were detected upriver from East Sand Island, 42% were detected downriver from East Sand Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 26% were detected outside the Columbia Estuary, either in Willapa Bay or north or south of the river mouth along the coast.
- Rice Island breeders (N=19 detections): 26% were detected upriver from Rice Island, 42% were detected downriver from Rice Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 32% were detected outside the Columbia River Estuary.
- Non-breeders (N=9 detections): 13% were detected upriver from Rice Island, 13% were detected between Rice and East Sand Islands, 0% were detected downriver from East Sand but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 75% were detected outside the Columbia River Estuary.

Cumulative data on all off-colony detections so far this season (N=219):

- East Sand Island breeders (N=74 detections): 27% were detected upriver from East Sand Island, 28% were detected downriver from East Sand but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 45% were detected outside the Columbia River Estuary.
- Rice Island breeders (N=104 detections): 36% were detected upriver from Rice Island, 37% were detected downriver from Rice Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 26% were detected outside the Columbia River Estuary.
- Non-breeders (N=41 detections): 12% were detected upriver from Rice Island, 10% were detected between Rice and East Sand Islands, 7% were detected downriver from East Sand Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 71% were detected outside the Columbia River Estuary.

Note: exact percentages will likely change as we have time to more carefully examine the breeding status of individual terns (some birds may be reclassified as non-breeders, etc.) based on the data from DCC receiving stations at the colonies. Current estimates of numbers of radio-tagged adults are: 21 nesting at Rice Island, 16 nesting at East Sand Island, 4 recently failed breeders from Rice Island, and 5 non-breeders or early failed breeders from Rice Island.

**Predators**

No new predator activity has been observed at either tern colony over the last week.

**July 26, 1999**

**Populations: Rice Island**

The July 23 count of terns on colony and on the two satellites was 3,000 and 300 terns, respectively. There were another 3,000 tern chicks counted on colony on Friday, July 23. This represents only a portion of the total chick production on Rice Island, since many chicks have fledged already. We will estimate the total number of fledglings produced on both Rice and East Sand islands and provide that information to the Working Group when available.

**Populations: East Sand Island**

The high and low on-colony counts for the week were on July 19 (2,777 terns) and July 20 (1,648 terns), respectively. This last week, 6 gulls were shot at the East Sand Island tern colony, bringing the season total to 186 gulls removed from the colony area. Gull control was most necessary during the initial tern chick hatching phase. The number of gulls killed dramatically tapered as the potential specialist birds were either removed or learned that the tern colony was a dangerous foraging area.

**Diet**

For this last week, 6% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=350) were salmonids, compared to 50% at Rice Island (N=330). Year to date, 44% of the fish delivered to East Sand Island (N=5,244) were salmonids, compared to 75% at Rice Island (N=4,950).

**Foraging Ecology**

Post-breeding adults and fledglings are spreading out and leaving the Columbia River Estuary, particularly from Rice Island. In the past week, fledglings have been seen accompanying adults as far away as Grays Harbor, WA. Most radio-tagged birds breeding at East Sand Island are still attending chicks, including 4-5 birds that appear to have moved from Rice Island to East Sand Island to breed.

Weekly (July 22) data on off-colony detections (1 flight, N=12 detections):

- East Sand Island breeders (N=5 detections): 20% were upriver from East Sand Island, 20% were downriver from East Sand Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 60% were outside the Columbia Estuary, either in Willapa Bay or north or south of the river mouth along the coast.
- Rice Island breeders (N=5 detections): none were upriver from Rice Island, 30% were downriver from Rice Island and still in the Columbia Estuary, and 70% were outside the Columbia River Estuary.
- Non-breeders (N=2 detections): both birds were outside the Columbia River Estuary.

Cumulative (May 28 - July 22) data on off-colony detections (18
flights, N=245 detections):  
East Sand Island breeders (N=87 detections): 24% were upriver from East Sand Island, 30% were downriver from East Sand Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 46% were outside the Columbia River Estuary.
Rice Island breeders (N=122 detections): 34% were upriver from Rice Island, 37% were downriver from Rice Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 29% were outside the Columbia River Estuary.
Non-breeders (N=48 detections): 10% were upriver from Rice Island, 10% were between Rice and East Sand islands, 10% were downriver from East Sand Island but still in the Columbia River Estuary, and 69% were outside the Columbia River Estuary.
Note: exact percentages will likely change as we have time to more carefully examine the breeding status of individual terns (some birds may be reclassified as non-breeders, etc.) based on the data from DCC receiving stations at the colonies. Current estimates of numbers of radio-tagged adults are: 20 nesting at Rice Island, 21 nesting at East Sand Island, 11 failed prior to fledging young.

Predators
No new predator activity has been observed at either tern colony over the last week.

End of Season Predictions—August 2, 1999
If the terns behave as they have in the previous two breeding seasons, then the expectations for the colonies are as follows.

Populations: Rice Island

As of July 29, all of the remaining chicks on the island were capable of at least weak flight. All of the late nesting attempts have apparently failed. The late nesting birds were interspersed among the majority of birds that laid eggs back in early May. They had the protective benefits of a colony until the majority of chicks fledged, then they were left spaced out as essentially single nesters. The specialist-nest-predator gulls make short work of such nests.
I would expect the Rice Island population will fluctuate from a few thousand to a few hundred towards zero over the next two weeks. Although the chicks are capable of flight, they spend a week or two improving their skills and begging for food from their parents. These weak flying chicks are still very vulnerable to gull predation. Gulls actually tackle chicks in the air, grabbing their wing tips, or head. If a chick is sufficiently dazed or the primaries are damaged then the gulls slowly, but surely peck the grounded fledgling to death. At this stage of the predation season, the gulls eat a bit of breast meat and then fly on to the next meal. Biweekly surveys of these dead chicks are conducted on the beaches of Rice until all birds are gone - usually August 15-20.

Populations: East Sand Island
On July 28, an on ground inspection of the colony found about 210 nest scrapes with chicks that were a week or younger in age. In addition, there were 85-90 scrapes with eggs. In contrast to Rice Island, these late breeding attempts are clumped in band at the edge of the colony. Although there will be a lot of edge, I predict that many of these nests will be successful because they retain a colony core and they benefit from earlier gull control. The latest chicks may fledge in early September. We will continue monitor these birds as long as they persist.

Announcements.... continued from page 71

The software provides an easy-to-use interface to turn off e-mail notifications permanently, or while on vacation (with e-mail turned back on automatically upon your return)
Sightings are archived, permanently, backed up nightly. You can read archived sightings at any time.
Alerts are stored in a generalized database, which means that over time interesting questions can be asked and the data analyzed by members of the birding community.
KEEPING RARE BIRD INFORMATION ONLINE'S COOL: WHY NOT DO IT FOR ALL BIRD SIGHTINGS? That is the next step. As we software engineers are fond of saying, that next step is 90% complete.
Consider the recent OBOL discussion on the distribution of Gray Jays in the Oregon Coast Range. We've seen several posts discussing anecdotal and more formal data on past sightings. If such data were entered into a centralized database, we wouldn't need to speculate, or to search our written or computerized records and compare notes. Simple programs could easily extract information from the database and answer such questions for us.
I have a basic system in place for recording basic information on bird sightings in the PNW, and it's being tested sporadically by birders today, and I've been testing it by experimentally adding data I've harvested from OBOL and Tweeters myself.
If you'd like to test it, all you need to do is register when you visit the rare bird alert service, and you'll be authorized to enter counts and checklists of plain old ordinary birds, as well. You'll find that its knowledge of geography is largely limited to US States and Counties at the moment. That will be changing soon.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? Computer technology's changing really fast. The site's built on entirely free software (much of it written by me), a Pentium 200 worth about $500, hooked up to the Internet with a $30/month DSL line from US West. It sits under my dining room table.
Five years ago, it would've been possible to program such a site, but not on a budget. The complete database project I envision would've taken a computer in the $10K range plus internet service in the $500/month range five years ago, just to build a prototype such as the one at <http://donb.photo.net/tweeterdom>.
I'm interested in exploring just what can be done on a tight budget. How well can a machine affordable by an individual support a regional bird database? How difficult is it to program a web interface that's usable by the average birder? What kind of services can be provided that would make the site interesting and useful to the birding community (E-MAIL me with any and all suggestions, please)?
IF I REGISTER USING MY E-MAIL ADDRESS, WON'T I GET SPAMMED? No. You can read rare bird posts without registering, but can't get the e-mail addresses of folks who've registered unless you register yourself. This defeats those pesky spam robots that run around looking for e-mail addresses to spam "make money fast."
I only received three submissions from field reporters beyond Harry Nehls' comprehensive and thorough report—my thanks to Mike and Merry Lynn Denny, Dean Hale, and Paul Sullivan. Other sightings were gleaned from the pages of The Rav-On, The Grebe, and The Upland Sandpiper. Researchers looking for additional information might look at Margaret LaFaive's OBOL archives at http://osu.orst.edu/pubs/birds/obolnts/index.htm or the web site for Christmas Bird Counts at http://www.im.nbs.gov/birds/cbc.html. Certainly the smaller number of reports may have been partially caused by the more severe winter weather due to La Nina. Snow levels were quite high (as high as I can recall from my seven years here), and even the OBOL archives do not contain a great deal of information beyond these reports. Observers are encouraged to submit their winter reports, no matter how small; bits of data such as the seemingly common birds found in Sherman County add to our knowledge of winter bird movements.

Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td>Christmas Bird Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Name</td>
<td>First three or four letters are used (enough to differentiate between all counties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NWR</td>
<td>National Wildlife Refuge</td>
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<tr>
<td>OFO</td>
<td>OFO Weekends Participants (reported by Paul Sullivan)</td>
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Format

Bird Names in *italics* Records significant for county or region

Bird Names in CAPS OBRC Review Species

Red-throated Loon
1 at the John Day Dam, SHE Jan 2 (CM).

Common Loon
1 at Wallowa Lake WAL Dec 12 (OFO).

Great Egret
3 near Klamath Falls, KLA Feb 28 (TB).

Turkey Vulture
1 near Redmond DES Feb 12.

Greater White-fronted Goose
14, Hatfield Lake DES Dec 13 (DeH).

Snow Goose
Northeast Oregon sightings included 25 at La Grande UNI (DLw) and 310 birds including a blue morph bird, "the single biggest flock I've seen in 20 years in Umatilla County," Feb 2 (MD). The Blue Goose was also Mike's first for Umatilla County.

Trumpeter Swan
1, Hatfield Lake DES Dec 6 (DeH). A recently killed second-year bird was found along side the North Fork of the John Day River, 8 miles west of Hwy. 395 in Grant County on Jan 7 (MD).

Wood Duck
105 were in the wildlife area below McNary Dam UMA Jan 19 (MD, JN).

Eurasian Wigeon
Singles were reported on the Bend CBC, DES Dec 19 (TC) and in John Day, GRA, in December (Rav-on).

Cinnamon Teal
1 at Lower Klamath NWR, KLA Feb 14 (KS).

Northern Pintail
4 were a first on the John Day CBC, GRA Dec 19 (UpSand).

Canvasback
12 at the mouth of the Deschutes River were noted as unusual on Jan 5 (M&MLD).

TUFTED DUCK
A single male wintered near Bingen, Washington, in the Gorge (WC, et al.).

Greater Scaup
The grain elevators at Biggs, SHE, continue to be an outstanding area for diving ducks of all species and especially for good comparative views of the scaup and goldeneye species. 1200 Greaters were at Biggs on Jan 23 (DB).

Surf Scoter
2 were at Biggs, SHE Jan 16 (TSh).

White-winged Scoter
2 were at Biggs and 1 at the John Day Dam, SHE Feb 7 (JE).

Oldsquaw
A first count record for the Bend CBC, DES occurred Dec 19 (TC).
Barrow’s Goldeneye
The Biggs, SHE, grain elevators attracted a flock of 500 birds on Jan 23. Also noted were 3 in the Enterprise area on Dec 12 (OFO) and another pair on Wallowa Lake, both WAL, on Dec 31 (M&MLD).

Red-breasted Merganser
Single birds were reported at the mouths of the Hood and Deschutes Rivers on Dec 5 (DB).

Bald Eagle
A single bird was at Rufus, SHE Dec 11 (PSu et al.). 2 were in the Enterprise area Dec 12 (OFO) and 8 around Wallowa Lake, both WAL, Dec 31 (M&MLD).

Northern Harrier
245 was a healthy count in Umatilla Co. Jan 2 (CC et al.).

Red-shouldered Hawk
A single bird wintered in the Klamath Falls area again this winter (KS).

Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk
1 was at Silver Lake, LAKE Jan 9 (SS).

Ferruginous Hawk
2 at Lower Klamath NWR on Feb 14 highlighted several reports in the Klamath Basin (KS). There seems to be one or two birds wintering there the past few years.

Rough-legged Hawk
2 were near Heppner MOR Jan 23 (M&MLD).

Golden Eagle
2 near Enterprise Dec 12 (OFO) and 4 along Zumwalt Rd., both WAL, Dec 31 (M&MLD).

Merlin
2 were in Hood River Co. Feb 15 (PSu).

GYRFALCON
1 gray morph female was along Rancho Rd., near Joseph, WAL Dec 31. The Dennys report that this is the third time they have found Gyrs near this location, and certainly past records seem to indicate that this species is nearly annual here.

Prairie Falcon
2 along Klages Rd., WAL Dec 31 (M&MLD).

Gray Partridge
8 on Cricket Flat, east of Elgin, UNI Dec 11 (PSu); 65 near Enterprise Dec 12 (OFO); 8 at Ladd Marsh UNI Jan 24 (OFO).

Ruffed Grouse
1 near Minam WAL Dec 11 (PSu et al.).

Wild Turkey
60 north of Wallowa, WAL Dec 12; 100 north of Elgin, UNI Jan 23 (both OFO).

Mountain Quail
11 were just up river from Camas Creek along the North Fork of the John Day River for a rare Umatilla County record (MD).

California Quail
Over 100 birds were at the base of Willow Creek Dam, MOR Jan 23 (M&MLD).

Sandhill Crane
1 was reported on the LaGrande CBC, UNI (Rav-on).

Virginia Rail
2 at the Enterprise Fish Hatchery, WAL Dec 12 (OFO).

Sora
1 bird was along Pine Creek GRA Dec 20 (UpSand).

Spotted Sandpiper
1 wintered at the mouth of the Deschutes River (DB et al.).

Common Snipe
1, John Day GRA in Dec (UpSand).

Western Gull
1 at the mouth of the Deschutes Dec 5 (DB).

Black-legged Kittiwake
1 was at the Snake River at Oxbow Dec 12 (AU).

Barn Owl
2 on the Burns-Hines CBC, HAR Jan 2 (RV); 1, Ladd Marsh, UNI Jan 23 (OFO).

Western Screech-Owl
1 near Odell HOOD Feb 15 (PSu).

Snowy Owl
The only report in eastern Oregon was an unconfirmed report from the Silvies Valley GRA Dec 19 (UpSand).

Northern Pygmy-Owl
1 bird near Joseph and 1 at Wallowa Lake, both WAL, Dec 31 (M&MLD); 1 on the Hood River CBC, HOOD Jan 3 (PSu, HN); 1, Tumalo Res. Area DES Feb 28 (DeH, PM).

Long-eared Owl
2 near Fossil WHE Dec 10 (BS).

Short-eared Owl
1, Burns-Hines CBC, HAR Jan 2 (RV); 2, Ladd Marsh, UNI Jan 23 (OFO).

Anna’s Hummingbird
A bird appeared in Bend DES Feb 12 (DH, PM).

Lewis’s Woodpecker
1, Cove UNI Jan 23 (OFO).

Red-naped Sapsucker
2 were seen for a second count record on the John Day CBC, GRA Dec 19 (UpSand).

Lewis’s Woodpecker photo by Eric Horvath
Downy Woodpecker
1, Moro SHE Feb 20 (PSu).

Black-backed Woodpecker
Many birds were encountered (up to 40) at the burn west of LaPine DES from Jan 8 to the end of period (DeH, JM, et al.).

Three-toed Woodpecker
1 at the burn west of LaPine DES Jan 9 (JM).

Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker
1 wintered in Bend, DES (DeH, PM).

Pileated Woodpecker
1 at Wallowa Lake WAL Dec 31 (M&MLD).

Say’s Phoebe
The first report was from Fields HAR Feb 25 (M).

Northern Shrike
2 near Enterprise WAL Dec 31 (M&MLD); several seen while traveling from The Dalles to Bend and back to Biggs in mid-January (RK); 3 in Sherman Co. Feb 20 (PSu).

Blue Jay
1 in Union Co Dec 4 (DLw); 2 over wintered in the Bend area (DH et al.); 3 were near LaGrande UNI Feb 12 (Rav-on).

Western Scrub-Jay
The movement of birds from the Gorge down towards Bend continues. 24 were found on the Bend CBC, DES (TC), and 5 were at Moro SHE on Feb 20 (PSu).

Clark’s Nutcracker
16 along the North Fork of the John Day River, UMA Jan 7 (MD)

Tree Swallow
1, Klamath Falls KLA, Feb 13 (KS).

Mountain Chickadee
1 bird was in a mixed flock of the expected chickadee species on Feb 15 along Baldwin Creek south of Hood River HOOD (PSu).

White-breasted Nuthatch
1, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (PSu) for rare county record.

Brown Creeper
1, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (PSu).

Winter Wren
Very unexpected was a single bird between mileposts 5 and 6 on Hwy 74 in Gilliam County (M&MLD); 2, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (PSu).

Marsh Wren
1 near Odell HOOD Feb 15; 1, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (both PSu).

American Dipper
2 were at the Minam River, WAL Dec 31 (M&MLD).

Mountain Bluebird
Unexpected were 2 on the LaGrande CBC (Rav-On).

Hermit Thrush
1 in Bend was noted as unusual Jan 23 (DeH, PM); 4, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (PSu).

Varied Thrush
4, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (PSu).

Northern Mockingbird
1, Lakeview LAKE Dec 21 (Fl).

American Pipit
20, Paisley, LAKE Feb 27 (JGr).

Bohemian Waxwing
Several observers in Union and Wallowa Counties reported flocks of between 100 and 500 birds in December and January. Sightings elsewhere included 45 at Silver Lake LAKE Dec 17 (CM); 500 on the John Day CBC, GRA Dec 19 (UpSand); 90 at Hart Mountain LAKE Dec 31 (JS); and 4 at Summer Lake LAKE Jan 10 (CM).

Cedar Waxwing
50, Enterprise WAL Dec 12 (OFO).

American Tree Sparrow
1, Frenchglen HAR Dec 5 (AE); 26, Enterprise WAL Dec 12 (OFO); 6, Summer Lake, LAKE Jan 10; and 1, Ladd Marsh UNI Jan 23 (OFO).

Sage Sparrow
First bird at Fields HAR was on Feb 27 (M)

Fox Sparrow
3, Deschutes River St. Park, SHE Feb 20 (PSu).

Swamp Sparrow
A single bird was at the Corps of Engineers wildlife area below McNary Dam on Jan 19 and Feb 2 (MD et al.).

White-throated Sparrow
1 was a second count record for the John Day CBC, GRA Dec 19 (UpSand).

Harris’ Sparrow
1 reported in Mt Vernon GRA in February (UpSand).

Lapland Longspur
20 near Wagontire Feb 27 (JGr).

Snow Bunting
20, Enterprise WAL, Dec 28 (ML).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
3, Umatilla NWR, Jan 13 (DW).

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
6, east of Joseph on Zumwalt Rd. Dec 13 (OFO); 500, Enterprise, both WAL, Dec 30.

Lesser Goldfinch
5 at the John Day Dam SHE Jan 23 (DB)

Evening Grosbeak
65-70, Summer Lake, LAKE Feb 27 (JGr).

Names of observers for both regions appears on page 90
The weather was extremely wet in the first half of December and then a cold front from the north after the third week caused temperatures to drop into the low teens. There were impressive numbers of gulls inland for a short time. There were 3 new CBCs: Airlie (Polk, Marion, & Benton Cos.), Wahkiacum (Clatsop), and Illinois Valley (Josephine). Many of these sightings were gleaned from OBOL (Oregon Birders On Line), The Chat, The Kestrel, The Sandpiper, The Quail, and The Storm Petrel.

**Abbreviations**

- ANWR  Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
- BSNWR Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge
- CBC Christmas Bird Count
- EEW E.E. Wilson Game Management Area
- FNWR Finley National Wildlife Refuge
- FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir
- MSC Hatfield Marine Science Center
- m. ob. Many Observers
- SI Sauvie Island
- WV Willamette Valley

**FORMAT**

**Format**

Bird Names in *italics*  Records significant for county or region

Bird Names in CAPS OBRC Review Species

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**Red-throated Loon**

One was at Staat's Pond MAR 4 Dec (SD) and stayed for a few days thereafter; 2 were on the Portland CBC, MUL 2 Jan (fide RK).

**Pacific Loon**

Up to 3 birds were at Staat's Pond MAR by 3 Dec (SD) and stayed for a few days thereafter; 1 was found on the Roseburg CBC, DOU 21 Dec (fide RM).

**ARCTIC LOON**

One was reported from Brownsmead CLAT 26 Dec-16 Jan (fide MP, et al.).

**Common Loon**

Up to 2 birds were at Staat's Pond in Keiser MAR on 3 Dec (SD); 1 was at Leaburd Lake LANE 24 Dec (KC); 1 was found on the Silverton CBC, MAR 2 Jan (fide RoF).

**Eared Grebe**

1 was on the Port Orford CBC, CUR 27 Dec (fide JR); 4 were on the Florence CBC, LANE 28 Dec (fide PSh); 1 was at Coos Bay 14 Dec (TR); 1 was on the Philomath Sewage Ponds BEN 12 Dec (TS); 1 was at Netarts Bay TIL 14 Feb (WG).

**Horned Grebe**

2 were at Foster Reservoir LINN 18 Dec (RG).

**Red-necked Grebe**

One was on Staat’s Pond MAR 1-8 Dec (SD, et al.); one was at FNWR, BEN 9 Dec (TB).

**Pelagics**

Aboard the NOAA ship *McArthur* on 13 & 14 Dec traveling the entire length of the Oregon coast from south to north, Michael Force tallied the following:

- Black-footed Albatross 44
- Laysan Albatross 43
- Fork-tailed Storm Petrel 1
- Northern Fulmar 86
- Short-tailed Shearwater 10
- Pomarine Jaeger 2
- Parasitic Jaeger 1
- Tufted puffin 2
- Ancient Murrelet 6
- Cassin’s Auklet 37
- Rhinoceros Auklet 143

**American White Pelican**

2 were reported near Milwaukie 2 Dec on the Willamette River (PMcG fide HN); these or another 2 were seen 2 miles south of Hillsboro WASH 3 Jan (CH fide HN); 2 showed up at FRR, LAN again this winter by 21 Dec (TB) and were seen on and off for the rest of the period (m. ob.).

**Brown Pelican**

Rare inland 2 were reported from Oaks Bottoms MUL 3 Dec (fide HN); 3 were Bandon, COOS 7 Dec (DL); 2 were at the mouth of the Chetco River CUR 7 Dec (DM); 1 was at Charleston COOS 14 Dec (TR); 2 were at Charleston COOS 17 Dec (TR); 7 were on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR); 1 was on the Columbia Estuary CBC, CLAT 20 Dec (fide MP); 2 were at Coos Bay 24 Dec (MH); 4 were the last reported this winter on
American Bittern
1 was at Millacoma Marsh COOS 4 Dec (TR); 1 was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS); 1 was at FRR, LANE 30 Jan (DI).

Great Egret
Presence this winter in good numbers but not equaling last year's influx. Up to 40 were present at Scappoose Bottoms COL for the winter (HN, et al.); 21 were at FRR, LANE for the winter (BC et al.); 78 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 19 were seen at FRR, LANE 10 Jan (BC); 43 were counted at Myrtle Point COOS 28 Feb (TR).

Snowy Egret
3-4 overwintered in the Coos Bay COOS area (TR).

Green Heron
1 was at Stewart Park DOU 18 Dec (MH); 1 was wintering near Grande Ronde YAM until at least 1 Jan (F); 1 was found on the Silverton CBC, MAR 2 Jan (fide RoF); 5 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 2 were found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CBr); 1 was wintering near Dayton YAM along the Yamhill River 15 Jan (DA); 1 was upstream from Yaquina Bay LINC 4 Jan (CPh).

Black-crowned Night Heron
5 were found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CBr); 1 was at the Wahl Ranch CUR 11 Jan (TW); 6 were in the Eugene area for the winter LANE (BC et al.); 4 were at a roost along the Applegate River JOS 14 Feb (fide DV); 5 were found on the Medford CBC, JAC; 10 were at Myrtle Point 6 Jan & 15 Feb and 8 were at North Bend COOS 11 Jan (TR); up to 13 were in the Portland area MUL for the winter (RK et al.).

Turkey Vulture
Appears to be more regular in winter in recent winters. 2-3 were at FRR, LANE 8-14 Dec (SM, AP); 1 was near Eugene LANE 30 Dec (AP); 1 was found on the Dallas CBC, POLK 29 Dec (fide JG); 3 were near Creswell LANE 1 Jan (D&HL); 1 was near FRR, LANE 2 Jan (RR); 1 was on the Yaquina Bay CBC, LINC 2 Jan (fide PW); 7 were found on the Eugene CBC, LANE 3 Jan (fide HW); 2 were near the town of Rogue River JAC 9 Jan (DV); 1 was in Brownmsmead CLAT 18 Jan (MP); 1 was in Eugene LANE 23 Jan (DH); 1 was in S. Clackamas Co 29 Jan (JT); 1 was near Sublimity MAR 30 Jan (SD); 1 was in S. Polk County 7 Feb (JG); 3 were in Eugene LANE 14 Feb (RR); 1 was in Brownmsmead CLAT 11 Feb (HN); 1 was in Creswell LANE 11 Feb (HL); 1 was N of Corvallis BEN 5 Feb (MH); 3 were S. of Bandon CUR 20 Feb (TR); 1 was in S. Linn Co. 20 Feb (RG).

Emperor Goose
The Sandy River bird was present for the period (m. ob.). 1 was along Fenk Rd. TIL 15 Feb (MT, CR).

Snow Goose
1 was at FNWR BEN 2 Dec (TB); 1 was on Millacoma Marsh COOS 2 Dec (TR); 1 was found on the Salem CBC, MAR 19 Dec (fide SD); 1 was at ANWR MAR during the Airlie CBC 19 Dec (MC, PV); 1 was found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was in N. Linn Co. 20 Feb (RG); Up to 500 were on SI this winter (HN et al.).

Ross’s Goose
1 was found at FNWR, BEN 3 Jan (EK); 1 was along Hammel Rd. JAC 5 Feb (GS); 1 was on SI 11 Feb (HN).

Brant
1 was found on the Corvallis CBC, BEN 22 Dec (fide JP); 1

wintered in N. Portland MUL (JF, HN, BCh).

Gadwall
39 were found at the Monmouth Sewage Ponds during the Dallas CBC, POLK 29 Dec (fide RG); 300 were on Kirk Pond LANE 30 Jan (DI); a total of 100 or so were between Agate Lake and Whetson Pond JAC 5 Feb (GS); 30 were at FNWR, BEN 21 Feb (CPa); These and many other small flocks were reported and some (JG, MP, DI) thought that numbers were higher than usual for this species in the WV.

Eurasian Wigeon
Curry County saw their 3rd record when a male was found along the Pistol River (CD).

Blue-winged Teal
One was west of Perrydale POLK 18 Dec (BT).

Cinnamon Teal
One was at Millacoma Marsh COOS 17 Dec (TR); 1 was on Jackson Bottoms WASH 25 Dec (GG); 1 was found on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC 22 Dec (fide JP); 1 was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS); 4 were along Jackson Rd. Brownsmead CLAT 18 Jan (JG); 1 was at Millacoma Marsh COOS 11 Feb (TR); 1 was at the Fernhill Marsh WASH 15 Feb (GG); a pair were in Central Linn LINN Co 15 Feb (CB); 6 were in Brownsmead CLAT 20 Feb (DH); 1 was north of Halsey LINC 26 Feb (DH); 1 was on Beaver Creek LINC 29 Feb (LO fide RB); a pair were along Fenk Rd TIL 18 Dec (CR); a male was near Eugene LANE 6 Jan (MN).

Eurasian Green-winged Teal
1 was in Brownsmead CLAT 18 Jan to end of period (MP, JG); 1 was on SI, MUL 3 Feb to end of period (GL).

Canvasback
150 was a nice sized flock at Lake Labish MAR 18 Dec (SD); 49 were at a large gravel pit east of Albany LINN 10 Jan (RG).

Redhead
100 were on Agate Lake JAC which was a rather large congregation on 5 Feb (GS).

Ring-necked Duck
About 150 wintered on Fernhill Lake WASH (HN et al.).

TUFTED DUCK
A female was on Garrison Lake CUR 2-15 Feb (NW fide TR).

Oldsquaw
1 was on Yaquina Bay LINC 1 Dec (WH, KM); 1 was at Empire COOS 13 Dec (TR); 2 were at Charleston COOS 17 Dec (TR); 8 were on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR); 5 were on the Columbia Estuary CBC, CLAT 20 Dec (fide MP); 4 were around Coos Bay 24 Dec (MH); 3 were in Port Orford CUR 28 Dec (ReF); 3 were at Trestle Bay CLAT 3 Jan (MP); 6 were on Coos Bay COOS 8 Jan (TR); 1 was on Alsea Bay LINC 11 Jan (DF fide RB); 12 were at Charleston COOS 15 Feb (TR); 5 were on Yaquina Bay LINC (EH).

Surf Scoter
1 was found dead near Burnt Woods LINC 31 Jan (JGe) for the only inland record this winter.

White-winged Scoter
1 was shot by a hunter near Jefferson MAR 11 Dec (fide TB).

Black Scoter
722 seemed rather high for the Yaquina Bay CBC, LINC 2 Jan (fide RB).

Barrow’s Goldeneye
1 was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS); 2 were
found on the Silverton CBC, MAR 2 Jan (fide RoF); 1 was found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (fide CB); 11 were on Foster Reservoir LINN 6 Jan (fide SD); 1 was found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CB); 2 pairs were at their usual wintering place at Alsea Bay LINC for the period (fide RB); a female was on Siletz Bay LINC 15 Feb (PSu); a male was in Garibaldi TIL 13 Feb (CR).

Common Goldeneye

About 100 were on Yaquina Bay LINC 14 Feb (AC) for a fairly large concentration for the coast.

Red-breasted Merganser

1 was found on the Salem CBC, MAR 19 Dec (fide SD); 1 was at the mouth of the Hood River 5 Dec (DB); 1 was on Detroit Reservoir MAR 22 Jan (SS).

Osprey

2 were at Alsea Bay LINC for the period (fide RB); a female was on Siletz Reservoir LINN 6 Jan (fide SD); 1 was found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (fide CBr); 1 was at the mouth of the Hood River 5 Dec (DB); 1 was on Detroit Reservoir MAR 22 Jan (SS).

White-tailed Kite

13 were found in Polk Co. 2 Dec (BT); 1-2 were near the Astoria Airport CLAT 1 Dec-3 Jan, and 2 were on the Columbia Estuary CBC 20 Dec (MP); the pair near Grand Ronde YAM were seen 2 Dec (LF); 4 were seen 10 Dec near Oakland DOU where they are regular (KW); 2 were at FWR, BEN 9 Dec (TB); 2 were at Millacoma Marsh COOS 10 Dec (TR); 4 were at FRR, LANE 26 Dec (AP); 5 were found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CB); 1 was farther from Yaquina Bay LINC 2 Jan (MC); 1 was on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was at the Coquille CBC, LINC 2 Jan (fide PW); 8 were found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CB); 1 was at the Philomath Sewage Ponds BEN 23 Jan (TB); 1 was along the MSC nature trail LINC 26 Dec-19 Jan (fide RB); 2 were in Sutherlin DOU 4 Feb (KW); 1 was near Brownsville CLAT 13 Feb (TT); 5 were along the Applegate River JOS 14 Feb (DV).

Red-shouldered Hawk

Numbers were less than last year's winter invasion. One was near Brownsville LINN 4 Dec and again 9 Feb (RG); an imm. bird was near Sutherlin DOU 10 Dec (KW); 1 was on the SI CBC 27 Dec (fide HN); 8 were found on the Illinois Valley CBC, JOS 30 Dec where they are regular. 26 was a state high count for the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was on Sutherlin DOU 4 Feb (KW); 1 was at FRR, LANE 14 Feb (RR); 1 was in Eugene LANE 14 Feb (DI); They continue to be seen regularly from FRR where 2 were seen flying in circles with their legs down on 24 Jan (TM).

Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk

1 was reported north of McMinnville YAM 29 Dec (TL); another was reported SE of Corvallis BEN 10 Jan (MAS, RK); 1 was near Tillasuck TIL 14 Feb (DPo); another (same bird?) was along Peacock Rd TIL 13-19 Feb (CR).

Rough-legged Hawk

1 was on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR) and 1 was on the Port Orford CBC, CUR 27 Dec (fide JR), both in counties where they are rather uncommon.

Golden Eagle

An imm. bird was on SI, COL 21 Dec (RK); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC 22 Dec (fide JP); 1 was south of Corvallis BEN 4 Feb (JS); 1 was on S of Monroe BEN 13 Feb (MP).

Peregrine Falcon

4 seemed high for the Airlie CBC (fide PA); 3 was a new high for the Portland CBC (fide RK); there were scattered reports of individuals from the coast and valleys.

Wild Turkey

78 were a new high on the Eugene CBC, LANE 3 Jan (fide HW) giving evidence that they are well established in the area. 34 were along Two Mile Creek, Bandon COOS 2 Jan (TR).

Virginia Rail

14 were found on the Medford CBC, JAC 2 Jan (fide CBr).

Sora

1 was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS); 3 were found on the Illinois Valley CBC, JOS 30 Dec (fide RC); 1 was found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was on the Yaquina Bay CBC, LINC 2 Jan (fide PW); 1 was found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CB); 1 was flushed into the water and swam like a phalarope along Kentuck Inlet COOS 5 Dec (TR).

Snowy Plover

14 were near Bandon COOS 8 Dec (DL).

Semipalmated Plover

4 were found on the Tillamook CBC, TIL 19 Dec (fide DB).

Black-bellied Plover

40 were found on the Salem CBC, MAR 19 Dec which increased to 100 by 8 Jan (SD); 106 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 3 were in western Linn Co. 25 Jan (TB); 22 were at FRR, LANE 7 Feb (DD); 7 were in Brownsville CLAT 13 Feb (TT).

Golden Plover sp.

1 was found at the Wahl ranch near Langlois CUR 28 Dec (TW) which could not be identified to species.

Killdeer

Some observers thought numbers were high this winter. 730 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 75 were found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CB).

Sandhill Crane

At least 300 wintered on SI (HN).

Snowy Plover

16 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC).

Semipalmated Plover

8 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC).

American Avocet

1 overwintered in the Coos Bay area (TR).

Marbled Godwit

1 was at Pony Slough COOS 6 Jan (DP); 2 were there 14 Jan (TR); 1 was in Florence LANE 20 Feb (PB).

Long-billed Curlew

1 was at Pony Slough COOS 6 Jan (DP); 2 were there 14 Jan (TR); 5 were at the Bandon Marsh COOS 31 Jan (DH); 1 SW of Brownsville LINN 29 Jan was soon joined by another for a rare winter WV record; both birds stayed through the end of the period (RG, m. ob.).

Whimbrel

1 was found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 6 were at Bandon Marsh COOS 17 Jan (TB).

Greater Yellowlegs

One was near Brownsville LINN 3 Dec (RG); 4 were near Tan-
gently Linn 5 Dec (Mc, PV); a flock of 104 was at Willamette Bay
Coos 5 Dec (TR) and 72 were at FRR, Lane 8 Dec (SM).
were certainly large flocks for winter; 6 were north of Albany
Ben 9 Dec (JF); 21 were found on the Airlie CBC (fide PA).
1 was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS).
9 were at FRR, Lane 30 Jan (DI); 26 were in Brownsmead Clat 13 Feb
and 40 were there the next day (Dave Eshbaugh DE); 11 were
north of Brownsville Linn 9 Feb (RG); 60 were at Kentuck Inlet.
COOS 24 Feb (TR).
A flock of 104 was at Willanch Bay
was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS); 9 were
Coos 5 Dec (TR) and 72 were at FRR, LANE 8 Dec (SM).
Lesser Yellowlegs
1 was found on the Salem CBC, Mar 19 Dec (fide SD); 1 was
on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR); 1 was at Kentuck Inlet
COOS 24 Feb (TR).
Willet
2 overwintered in the Coos Bay area (TR, TB).
Spotted Sandpiper
3 were at Staats Pond Mar 14 Dec (Tsh); 1 was along the Santiam
River Mar 19 Dec (MC, PV); 10 were found on the Coquille
CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 2 were found on the Rogue Valley
CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CBr); 1 was along the Willamette River in
Springfield Lane 14 Jan (VA).
Black Turnstone
A high of 270 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan
(fide AC).
Ruddy Turnstone
1 was on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR); 1 was found on
the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was in Charleston
COOS 13 Feb (TR).
Rock Sandpiper
5 were at Depoe Bay Linc 1 Jan (fide RB).
Short-billed Dowitcher
1 was identified by voice by an experienced birder on the Coos
Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR).
Western Sandpiper
7 were found on the Tillamook CBC, TIL 19 Dec (fide DB); 11
were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was
on SI 25 Jan (HN).
Gulls
There were larger than average numbers of gulls in the Willamette
Valley and Umpqua Valleys this winter.
Franklin's Gull
An adult was on SI 15 Feb (RL).
Heermann's Gull
Numbers were obviously lower than last year's wintering phe-
omenon. 2 were at the mouth of the Chetco River CUR 7 Dec
(DM); 1 was on the Coos Bay CBC 20 Dec (fide TR).
Mew Gull
A first-winter bird was at Stewart Park may be the first record for
the Umpqua Valley (MH).
Herring Gull
Umpqua Valley's first was seen 9 Dec (KW).
Glauco Gull
TR also tallied 22 in the region during the period, in which no
adult birds were reported. A first-winter bird was at the mouth of
the Chetco River CUR 7 Dec (DM); another first-winter bird was
near Bandon COOS 8 Dec (DL); another first-winter bird was in
Salem Mar 12 Dec-30 Jan (SD); one was at Sunset Beach Clat
13 Dec (MP); a first-winter bird was SE of Halsey; Linn 19 Jan
(RG); 1 first-winter bird was in Newport LinC 8 Feb (WH); 1 was
at Garibaldi TIL 14 Feb (Dpo); a first-winter bird was NW of Forest
Grove WASH 11 Feb (MAS); 1 was at Sand Lake TIL 15 Feb (WG);
a first or second-year bird was in Garibaldi TIL 13 Feb (CR); a total
of 5 were in Coos County (fide TR) for the winter.
Western Gull
A first-winter bird was near Brownsville Linn Dec 4 (RG); 1
was found on the Forest Grove CBC 26 Dec (fide MAS); 3 were
near Monmouth POLK 2 Feb (BT).
Ancient Murrelet
39 were on the Port Orford CBC, CUR 27 Dec (fide JR); 1 was
on Meares Lake TIL 19 Feb (CR).
Band-tailed Pigeon
1 was at a feeder in Eugene Lane 26 Dec (DD fide AC); 1 was
at a feeder in Portland MUL 13 Feb (WD).
Mourning Dove
61 were found on the Coquille CBC (Coos) 2 Jan (fide AC); 150
wintered on S.I. (HN, ML). On the upper coast they are not
often encountered in winter so 14 at Newport LINC 17 Feb
(Wh) and 1 at Cape Meares TIL 28 Feb (MT) were notable.
Burrowing Owl
One was found east of Salem 3 Dec to end of period for a Marion
County's second record (SD, et al.); one was just north of Albany
Linn 12-23 Dec (MxH, fide JP); 1 was along Sevenmile Rd
Linn 20 Feb (DD fide ref).
Great Gray Owl
1 was found on the Silverton CBC (Marion) 2 Jan (fide RoF).
Long-eared Owl
1 was at Minto Brown Park Mar 11 Feb (RG).
Short-eared Owl
Josephine County's “first” record was seen well on a field trip
along the Applegate River on 14 Feb (fide DV).
Anna's Hummingbird
31 on the Portland CBC, MUL was a new high (fide RK); a
grand total of 177 were tallied via an OBOL questionnaire (PSu)
for all of western Oregon.
COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD
A bird was reported from Portland MUL 8-13 Dec (DeBu fide
HN, then MN); the Grant's Pass bird was on territory for the
entire period for the third year in a row (fide DV).
Rufous Hummingbird
The first spring migrant was at New River COOS 20 Feb (TR).
Allen's Hummingbird
2 males were south of Bandon COOS 15 Feb (TR).
YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKER
One was at Colin Dillingham's in Gold Beach CUR 20-24 Dec.
Lewis Woodpecker
1 was found on the Salem CBC, Mar 19 Dec (fide SD); 17 were
found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CBr); 1 was in
Dillard DOUG 10 Jan (TR).
Empidonax Sp.
A bird thought to be a Dusky Flycatcher was at Millacoma Marsh
COOS 4-18 Dec (TR, EH).
Black Phoebe
1 was near Sutherlin DOUG 17 Dec (KW) where they are rare.
Eastern Phoebe
1 was found near Bandon COOS 30 Dec and remained through the end of the period (DL, KC, SB, TR). This will be the 5th state record when if accepted.

Say's Phoebe
1 was found on the Roseburg CBC, DOU 21 Dec (fide RM); 1 was in Phoenix JAC 24 Jan (DC); 1 was at Bill Thackberry's farm LINN 28 Jan (fide JH); 1 was on SI MUL 26 Feb (OS, JG).

Northern Shrike
7 on the Airlie CBC was encouraging (fide PA); there were many reports of individuals scattered throughout the lowlands of the region and many though numbers were higher than average.

Horned Lark
300 SE of Corvallis BEN 1 Jan was a nice sized flock (MC et al.).

Black-billed Magpie
3 were on the Eugene CBC, LANE 3 Jan (fide FIW) which was a new high for the count.

Scrub Jay
1 was on the Yaquina Bay CBC, LINC 2 Jan (fide PW); 1 was in Bandon COOS 2 Jan (TR).

Tree Swallow
1 was found at ANWR MAR as part on Airlie CBC 19 Dec (MC, PV); 6 were on the Roseburg CBC, DOU 21 Dec (fide RM); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC 22 Dec (fide JP); 1-4 were found at the effluent ponds North Coos Bay COOS 29 Dec-8 Jan (TR); 2 were found on the Eugene CBC, LANE 3 Jan (fide HW); 1 was along Kirtland Rd. JAC 5 Feb (GS); 2 were at FRR, BEN 7 Feb (TB); they were regular after that.

Violet-green Swallow
One was at Fernhill Lake WASH 8 Dec (HN); 1 was at Myrtle Point Marsh COOS 15 Feb (TR).

Barn Swallow
2 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 2 were at FRR, LANE 30 Jan (DD); 1 was near Brownsmead CLAT 3 Feb (DVB); 1 was along Kirtland Rd. JAC 5 Feb (GS); 1 was in Garibaldi TIL 19 Feb (CR).

Mountain Chickadee
1 was apparently wintering at the Tualatin River NWR, WASH (fide TL). 1 was on the west slope of the Cascades in Glide DOU 12 Dec (RM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
42 were found on the Florence CBC, LANE 28 Dec (fide PSh). 104 was a new high for the Portland CBC, a count where new highs or near highs were set for several of the species (Chickadees, Townsend's Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets) that typically flock in the winter (fide RK).

Western Bluebird
530 were found on the Medford CBC, JAC 2 Jan (fide CBr); 154 were found on the Eugene CBC, LANE 3 Jan (fide HW) which was a new and encouraging high for the count.

Mountain Bluebird
A male was at Portland International Airport, MUL 15 Dec-2 Jan (EmeV, GB, et al.).

Townsend's Solitaire
1 was found on the Salem CBC, MAR 19 Dec (fide SD).

Northern Mockingbird
1 was in North Corvallis 26 Dec-10 Jan (DHa, et al.); 1 was found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CBr); 1 was at EEW 30 Jan-15 Feb (DaBu fide AMcG); 1 was in Roseburg DOU 3 Feb (BK).

Orange-crowned Warbler
One was at Millacoma Marsh COOS 4 Dec (TR); one was at Smiths/Baybye Lakes in N. Portland MUL 9 Dec (DHe); 1 was on the Airlie CBC (fide PA); 2 were on the Columbia Estuary CBC 20 Dec (fide MP); 1 was on the Corvallis CBC 22 Dec (fide Jp); 2 were on the Roseburg CBC, DOU 21 Dec (fide RM); 3 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC); 1 was in Albany LINN 4 Jan (fide AC); 1 was found on the Rogue Valley CBC, JAC 2 Jan (CBr).

Nashville Warbler
One was near a log pond near Brookings CUR Dec 4 (DM); 1 was on the Columbia Estuary CBC, CLAT 20 Dec (fide MP).

Palm Warbler
Not recorded every year in Curry County, 1 was at Elks Bottoms CUR 5 Dec (TW), 2-3 were on Cape Blanco CUR 5 Dec (TW), and 1 was on the Port Orford CBC, CUR 27 Dec (fide JR). 1 was at Millacoma Marsh COOS 4 Dec (TR); rare anywhere inland one was found in NE Portland MUL 10-12 Jan (MC, DB).

Yellow Warbler
One or two were at Millacoma Marsh COOS 6-14 Dec (TR); another was at Pony Slough COOS 10 Dec (TR).

Black-throated Gray Warbler
1 wintered near Lake Oswego (KH fide HN); another was in NE Portland MUL 6 Jan (JF fide HN).

Townsend's Warbler
There were many reports from the lowlands of individuals or small flocks. An amazing 42 were found on the Salem CBC, MAR 19 Dec (fide SD), and a new high of 50 was found on the Portland CBC 2 Jan (fide RK).

Hermit Warbler
1 was near Lake Oswego CLAC 10 Feb until the end of the period (KH fide HN).

Common Yellowthroat
2 were at Millacoma Marsh COOS 14 Dec (TR); 1 was found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC).

Northern Waterthrush
1 was found at the Warrenton Sewage Ponds CLAT 2 Jan (MP) for a rare west side winter find.

Lark Sparrow
32 were found on the Medford CBC, JAC 2 Jan (fide CBr).

American Tree Sparrow
One was near FRR, LANE 6 Dec through end of period (ReF, DH, SM).

Chipping Sparrow
3 were on the Roseburg CBC, DOU 21 Dec (fide RM); 3 were in S. Polk Co 25 Jan (TB).

Vesper Sparrow
Rare in winter one was at FRR, LANE 17 Dec (MNi).

Clay-colored Sparrow
One was at Elks Bottoms CUR 1-6 Dec (CD); One was at Darryl Faxon's place LINC 3 Dec 1 was on Cape Blanco CUR 6 Dec (TW); another was at the Wahls' ranch in Langlois CUR 21 Feb (TW).

White-throated Sparrow
Once again for another winter there were many reported throughout the lowlands of the region. 14 were found on the Eugene CBC, LANE 3 Jan (fide HW) which was a new high for the count. 8-12
in one flock were along Reeder Rd. on SI 15 Feb (TS).

**Harris’s Sparrow**
One was at the Wahls’ feeder 5 Dec in Langlois CUR; it or another was there 11 Jan (TW); 1 was in Eugene LANE 21 Dec (MC); 1 was in NE Portland MUL 29 Jan to end of period (JC fide HN).

**Fox Sparrow**
A bright red bird of an eastern subspecies was in SW Corvallis BEN 17 Jan (NH).

**Swamp Sparrow**
Up to 6 were at Millacoma Marsh COOS 10 Dec-17 Jan (TR, EH, et al.); 1 was near Langlois CUR 14 Dec (TW); 2 were found on the Tillamook CBC (fide DB); a few were on the Port Orford CBC, CUR 27 Dec (fide JR); 1 was at EEW, BEN 25 Jan (AMcG).

**Lapland Longspur**
10 were at New River COOS 26 Dec (TW); 14 were near Langlois CUR 14 Dec (TW); 10 were found on the Port Orford CBC, CUR 27 Dec (fide TR).

**Snow Bunting**
1 was east of Lebanon for Linn County’s 4th record 6-14 Feb (JH).

**Bullock’s Oriole**
A rare wintering female bird was found in Cape Meares TIL on the Tillamook CBC (fide OS); another female was near Sporthaven Beach near Brookings CUR 22 Dec (DM); it or another was in Colin Dillingham’s yard CUR 24 Dec; 2 more females were found along the Smith River CUR 27 Dec (CD).

**Lesser Goldfinch**
1 was at Millacoma Marsh COOS 14 Dec (TR).

**BRAMBLING**
A well-publicized bird reported as a female on 13 Dec-16 Jan from Portland MUL (EMcV, DeBu, ME, m. ob.). Another probable female was in Sweet Home LINN 26-27 Dec (NMcV). A good description was submitted to the ORBC.

**Red Crossbill**
25+ were near Lincoln City LINC 21 Dec (DB); 28 were found on the Florence CBC, LANE 28 Dec (PSh); 61 were found on the Coquille CBC, COOS 2 Jan (fide AC).

**Gray-crowned Rosy Finch**
3 were found on Mary’s Peak BEN 8 Jan (TS) where they have been irregular visitors the past few winters.

**Observers for both regions**:
Paul Adamus, Don Albright, Vjeta Arnold, David Bailey (DB), Range Bayer, Dave Budeau (DaBu), Gerrt Bernstein, Peg Boulais, Craig Brown (CB), Steve Brown, Clint Brunnett (CBr), Debbie Bush (DeBu), Wilson Cadby, Mike Calvin, Kathy Castlstein, Ben Chan (BCh), Barb Comb (BC), Alan Contreras, Romain Cooper, Craig Corder, Jan Cornelius, Tom Crabtree, Dick Cronbrug, Curt Cox, Marcia Cudler, Wolfgang Dempke, Don DeWitt, Mike Denny, Merry Lynn Denny (MLD), Colin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Marge Edgington, Alice Elshoff, Joe Engler, Dave Esbaugh, Darryl Faxon (DF), Linda Fink, Dave Fleming (DFl), Jeff Fleischer (JFl), Reid Freeman (ReF), Roger Freeman (RoF), Julie Fukuda (JF), Joel Geier (JGe), Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Joel Geier (JGr), Wink Gross, Dean Hale (DeH), Don Hall (DHa), Carol Hallen, Jeff Harding, Dave Helzer (DFHe), Dan Heyerly (DH), Max Hoefler (MH), Wayne Hoffman, Niel Holcomb, Konnie Hoover, Eric Horvath, Matt Hunter (MH), Dave Irons, Frank Isaacs, Tim Janzen, Erik Knight, Diane Kook, Ray Korki, Brian Kruze, Margaret LaFaive, Dave Lauten, Dave Lawrence (DLw), Gerard Lillie, Robert Lockett, Tom Love, Hydie Lown, Mairreya, Ron Maertz, Sylvia Maudling, Alen McGee, Pat McGinnis, Ed McVicker, Nancy McVicker, Patty Meehan (PM), Judy Meredith, Tom Mickel, Craig Miller, Don Munson, Harry Nehls, Jim Nestler, Mark Nikas (MNi), Mike Nomina (MN), Laimons Oris, Mike Patterson, Carolyn Paynter (CPa), Diane Pettry, Chuck Philo (CPH), Jon Plissner, Don Powers (D Po), Al Prigge, Roger Robb, Craig Roberts, Tim Rodenkirk, Jim Rogers, Brian Sharp, Owen Schmidt, Gary Shaffer, Tim Shelmardine (TSh), Jamie Simmons, Paul Sherrill (PSh), Steve Shunk, Tom Snetsinger, Mary Anne Solstrom, Kevin Spencer, Paul Sullivan (PSu), Todd Thornton, Bill Tice, Margaret Tweelinckx, Aaron Utz, Jeanie Valdivik, Dan Van den Broek (DVB), Paula Vanderheul, Rick Vetter, Dennis Vroman (DV), Terry Wahl, Nate Wander, Paul Weaver, Davey Wendt; Kathy Wilson, Herb Wisner.

**Announcements... continued from page 81**

**Formation of Malheur Wildlife Associates**
Malheur Wildlife Associates is a newly formed non-profit group whose mission is to support the goals and purposes of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Our goals are to:

- Enhance and restore habitat for the diversity of fish and wildlife in the Harney Basin and environs through support of Malheur Wildlife Refuge staff and programs.
- Improve the educational experience of visitors and enhance appreciation and knowledge of natural resources of the Refuge and related systems.
- Advocate for greater responsibility on the part of the public and elected officials toward the natural world in general and Harney Basin in particular.
- In light of these goals we will soon be initiating projects to:
  - Plant native cottonwoods and other native riparian vegetation along the Blitzen River.
  - Build trail and wildlife observation blind at Swan Pond (at Krumbo Road turn-off).
  - Produce a cassette auto guide tour for the Center Patrol Road.
  - Remove old wire fencing that poses a danger to wildlife.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, we invite your membership. In return for your dues, we will inform you of all our work projects and how you can be involved via regular or electronic mail. Hoping to hear from you.

Board: Alice Elshoff, Larry Hammond, Gary Ivey, Phil LePelch, Guy Sheeter

Annual dues: $10 Individual; $20 Family; $50 Donor; $200 Corporate

Mail to Malheur Wildlife Associates, HC 72 Box 244, Princeton OR 97721.
OFO Birding Weekends

13-14 November Klamath Basin
We will check out the fall gathering of waterfowl and raptors in the Klamath Basin.
Base: Klamath Falls, Oregon

11-12 December Wallowa County
We will look for winter species: waxwings, finches, raptors, and gallinaceous birds, and enjoy the beauty of the Wallowas.
Base: Enterprise, Oregon

Send your registration, including the $15 fee, to:
Paul T. Sullivan
4470 SW Murray Blvd. #26, Beaverton OR 97005

Questions? Call (503) 646-7889
In the next *Oregon Birds*:

- The report of the Oregon Birds Record Committee
- OFO Weekends 2000
- 1999-2000 Christmas Bird Counts
- Field Notes from Eastern and Western Oregon

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