Oregon Birds
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COVER PHOTO
Eastern Phoebe, 7 June 1992, Falls City, Yamhill
County. OBC 456-92-021. Photo/Bing Wong.
Oregon Birds is looking for material in these categories:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline for the next issue of Oregon Birds — OB 19(2), Summer 1993 — is 23 April 1993. The next issue should get to you by the first week of June 1993. Material can be submitted any time, and the sooner the better. Please send materials directly to the Editor, 3007 N.E. 32nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97212, (503)282-9403.

Oregon Birds Board of Editors:
On 5 June 1992, an Eastern Phoebe showed up at my in-laws' yard in Falls City, Polk County. This was my very last day of clinical training for an intensive 3-year course to become a Registered Nurse. Needless to say I was burned out — big time. Upon arriving home I wanted to melt into an easy chair and share my relief with my family. Not finding them home, I went up to my in-laws 250 feet away.

Upon entering the yard I heard an unfamiliar bird song. At first it reminded me of a Willow Flycatcher because of its 2-syllabled, buzzy notes. But after it was repeated a few times I could tell it was something different. When I reached the door I could see it on a wire about 50 feet away. It even looked different from the local flycatchers, its stance seeming to be more horizontal.

I was torn between going in to be with my family and checking out this bird. I debated this in my mind for about 30 seconds. I actually hoped (shame on me) that it would fly away so I wouldn't have to worry about "the one that got away." The birder in me won out, finally, and I walked back down to my house to get my binoculars.

I then approached to within 25 feet and beheld a bird with a dark, unpatterned head, white chin, throat, and belly with dark smudges at the upper sides. The view I had was mostly head on so I could not see its wings or back well at all, but I noticed it was pumping its tail quite rhythmically. Pumping its tail! "Phoebe" flashed through my mind. In a few seconds it dropped to the ground for some insect prey and then landed on a fence post. Ah! No wing bars!

If you don't believe the dead come back to life I hope you have occasion to watch a birder who believes he has found a first state record. The trek to my house found me at warp speed which would have left the "Roadrunner" in the dust. I speed-read the voice description in the National Geographic and Peterson's Field Guides as well as looked at the reassuring pictures. I then stuffed them into my pockets, grabbed camera and scope, and made a bee-line back to my in-laws. I got one good look at it in the scope before it flew off and vanished in the forest about 200 feet away.

I next went into my in-laws house and was greeted with "congratulations dear," and "you must be glad it's all over", which went in one ear and out the other as I went straight for the phone.

"I've got a rare bird and I need to make a phone call," was my unexpected reply.

I dialed Roy Gerig, who lives just 3 miles away. No answer! That figures. Every time Roy goes to Malheur a great bird shows up in Polk County. I went back outside and found myself in that old dilemma, "identify with certainty, reflect with doubt," while suffering the withdrawal symptoms of not having obtained any photos.

After waiting around for about 10 minutes, the bird reappeared on the wire where I first saw it. Now my camera comes to life and sounds like a typewriter. "Evidence! They'll believe me now," I say to myself. After a few more looks I return to the house and call Barb Bellin, who after putting me through the wringer of explaining its descriptions, is not hard to convince to fly over and have a look for herself.

For the next 3 hours, and over the next number of days, I take more photos and zero in on finer details of its plumage and behavior. The bird has bristles at the base of its all-dark mandibles. It seems to have a "big-headed" appearance (and by now so do I). Its dark-blackish head...
contrasts with its brownish-gray back. Its wings and tail are slightly darker than its back and it has an obvious lack of wing bars, although the pattern of them is visibly outlined by the feather edges of its greater and secondary wing coverts. Its chin and throat are white and extend back to just above the shoulder, giving the appearance of the beginnings of a collar. In proper light it has a faint breast band extending out from dark smudging on its upper sides. Its belly is white although in some light it shows a yellowish tinge. Undertail coverts white. No eye ring or facial pattern. The beak is about 1/3 the length of its head. Its primary wing extension is short giving its tail a long or full look. It holds its tail in a long oval shape usually, thus giving its tail a rounded appearance, but occasionally it holds its tail in such a way that it shows a slight fork. Legs are black. I estimate its length to be about 6 inches.

The bird can be counted on to pump its tail downward in a slow, rhythmical fashion every few seconds or so. It spends a lot of time low to the ground hunting for large insects as on a fence post, fence, or low limb, but occasionally will catch them out of the air. It can also be found often on the wires about the place and seems to have a favorite perch on one of them where it sings incessantly in the early morning. I have seen it enter the old buildings a number of times. It chases away the Western Wood-Pewees whenever they come into its "territory," which seems to be about 250 feet by 150 feet. Occasionally it will perch on top of the old fir tree here or on the roof of the old buildings and sing. Its flight is straight and direct with an occasional shaft or roll, reminding me of the flight style of a bluebird. It also has squirmishes with the resident Barn and Violet-green Swallows.

Its voice does sound somewhat like its name, a buzzy, or scratchy "phee-bee" accented on the first syllable. Yet often it alternates this with what sounds like "phee-blee" accented on the second syllable, with the "blee" part of it "watered down." In the morning it sings abundantly and tapers off during the day so that by evening it is essentially silent.

My in-laws' property is a grassy hillside, most of which is used for sheep pasture. There are a few scattered large oaks, a large fir, a large apple, and a few scattered plum trees, plus 4 small old buildings with many fences and fence posts, and 1 small water hole — Eastern Phoebe country!

This bird stayed until 23 June 1992, giving plenty of opportunity for all who wanted to come and check it off on their state list. And yes, it did stay until Roy got back to see it as well. In all, 74 people came to see the bird and most have gone away satisfied.

This constitutes the first verified record in Oregon, coming after 3 sight records that I have heard of. For me this was indeed my best yard bird and a welcome surprise. I am glad it stayed so that many could see it. Most of all, this was a great way to terminate college and the best graduation gift the good Lord sent by.

Eastern Phoebe, 6 June 1992, Falls City, Yamhill County. Photo/Karen Kearney.

Eastern Phoebe

456-76-01 Hqtrs. Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 5-14-76. NOT ACCEPTED.
456-92-02 Falls City, Yamhill Co., 6-5-92.

The Eastern Phoebe is an eastern flycatcher that ranges northwesterly in North America to Northeastern British Columbia. It occasionally winters in California. There were no verified records for Oregon or Washington until one was found at Bay City, Washington, 16-23 December 1989. A second verified Washington record was near Okanogen 22 June - 3 July 1991.

There have been 3 unverified Oregon reports prior to this Falls City record. One was in the juniper grove 1 mile west of Brothers, Deschutes Co., 11 May 1966. There were several reports of Eastern Phoebes during the springs of 1962 to 1972 in the Rogue River Valley, Jackson Co. These were probably misidentifications. On 14 May 1976 one was reported from the trees at Malheur NWR Headquarters, Harney Co. The record was not accepted by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

There have been a few unverified Oregon mid-winter Western Wood-Pewee reports that may have been based on mis-identified Eastern Phoebes.

Harry Nehls, Secretary, Oregon Bird Records Committee, 2736 S.E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.
My Month with Marbled Murrelets

Greg Gillson, 1210 S.E. Maple Street #15, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Introduction

In March 1992 an employment advertisement appeared in the Portland Oregonian classified:

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 4/6/92 until 9/25/92, $1523 per month. BA or BS required, preferably in Wildlife or related field, good observation and listening skills required. Familiarity with avian biology and calls of common forest birds is preferred. Work with Marbled Murrelet in the Oregon Coast Range. To S. Kim Nelson, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Nash 104, Corvallis, OR 97331-3803.

Well, I don't have a college degree; and I'm sorry to say, can't begin to support a family on $18K per year. But I have been watching birds actively for 20 years; and I do have 2 weeks of vacation each year. So I wrote Kim to volunteer my support a family on $18K per year. But I'm sorry to say, can't begin to support a family on $18K per year. But I have been watching birds actively for 20 years; and I do have 2 weeks of vacation each year. So I wrote Kim to volunteer my support a family on $18K per year. But I'm sorry to say, can't begin to support a family on $18K per year. But I have been watching birds actively for 20 years; and I do have 2 weeks of vacation each year. So I wrote Kim to volunteer my support a family on $18K per year.

I knew the field work would include walking and calling at dawn and dusk as the adults fly to and from their nests in the forest. I knew the object would be to census the murrelets. This survey is especially used early in the nesting season.

If murrelets are detected on one of the general survey stations, then an intensive survey is conducted. Now the 2 hours of observation are conducted from a stationary point. All murrelets seen or heard are recorded.

If a murrelet lands in a tree, it is likely a nest tree. An intensive survey may be conducted in the evening to make sure. Murrelets are quiet near their nest and quiet in the evenings, so unless there is a nest nearby, there won't be any murrelets detected.

The survey forms record weather, time of each detection, the compass direction in which the bird was first detected, the flight direction and height, the number and type of calls or wing noise, and the behavior (i.e., circling above the canopy, flying through the canopy, etc.).

The following text is from the personal journal I kept while working on this project. I wrote many of the entries at the time the events happened, the others soon afterward.

Valley of the Giants, Polk County

Location: At Marbled Murrelet nest tree. Near the confluence of Boulder Creek with North Fork of the Siletz River. Remnant fragment of old-growth forest.

Background: This is the 2nd nest found this year, and only the 9th Oregon nest found by the Marbled Murrelet Research Team.

02 July 1992

Survey #1

Evening Survey: With Kim Nelson and 3 other members of the research team at nest site. Two others of the team surveyed near our campsite across the river.

7:15 p.m.- Arrived and set up spotting scopes, camcorder, and tape recorder with parabolic dish. A tan fluff shows above the moss-covered branch on the southwestern-most tree — a large Douglas-fir over 200 feet high. The chick is on the branch in a slight depression in the moss. The limb and gnarled branches are about 25 feet down from the top. The bird moves or shakes itself occasionally — perhaps irritated by mosquitoes. Other birds in the area are: Swainson's Thrush, Varied Thrush, Band-tailed Pigeon, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Common Night-hawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, Hairy Woodpecker, Red Crossbill, and Rufous Hummingbird.

8:20 p.m.- Tree finally in shadow, although a golden light from the setting sun is still on the upper portion of the hill to the south. To the south skies are mostly clear, to the north cloudy. To the whine of mosquitoes can be heard the knocking of a Pileated Woodpecker on the hill above. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher has just started calling. A Black-headed Grosbeak is singing. Fewer Swainson's Thrushes are calling. A Pine Siskin flew over. Chipmunks rattle in the brush. The logging road slopes about 5% to the

Biology

Kim supplied me with information on Marbled Murrelets, including a tape recording of their calls and wing noise. Murrelets give 2 different vocalizations, a primary 'keer' call, and an 'alternate' quack-like call. Murrelets can fly silently, or they may choose to fly making a whistling noise with their wings.

Murrelets use the forest to some degree year-round. They may fly 50 miles inland to nest. Starting in April they become very active in the forest during courtship and nest searching. In May and June they are quiet as they incubate their egg for a month. In July they are more active again as they feed their young. Individuals may nest into September.

They nest on protected moss-covered branches of large old-growth trees. Moss doesn't get thick enough until the trees are about 150 years old. There is very little old-growth left in the Coast Range. But fortunately the murrelets may require very little of the proper habitat.

Murrelets incubate about 30 days. One parent incubates for 24 hours, then its mate relieves it the next morning. It then stays on the ocean feeding until the following morning. When the egg hatches the nestling gets less attention. The parents come separately, once in the morning and once in the evening, with a single fish in its bill to feed the young. Sometimes they come in the middle of the day. As the chick gets to be about 4 weeks old it plucks off its down, revealing juvenile feathers, and within a day or 2, flies alone to the ocean.

Survey Techniques

There are two types of surveys to census Marbled Murrelets. Both are dawn surveys which start 45 minutes before "official" sunrise, and end 75 minutes after sunrise, for a total of 2 hours.

A general survey is done simply to detect presence. Ten-minute stops are made at 0.3-mile intervals to detect murrelets. This survey is especially used early in the nesting season.

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south. Twenty-foot tall alders line the road on the west, while small Douglas-firs and hemlocks line the steep eastern bank up to the base of the old-growth trees.

8:35 p.m. - Twice we have heard a muffled barking — like a distant dog. It could be a raven. I did hear a couple of crows a few minutes ago.

8:40 p.m. - A kingfisher flew up the river drainage below us to the west, calling as it went. Now I remember. The nighthawks dove, making that muffled whining sound we have been hearing.

9:00 p.m. - The sun has set. Clouds in the west hurry the dusk. A small plane flies over — the only engine besides our own we have heard all day. We closed and locked the gate 20 miles back towards Falls City. We have been standing, still and quiet, for almost 2 hours now. I have a dozen wets on my face from mosquito bites. Swainson’s Thrushes are now the only birds calling.

9:40 p.m. - An adult murrelet flew into the nest tree at 9:05 p.m. Even though I was looking I didn’t see it. But I did see it bullet out of the tree 11 minutes later. During the time the adult was at the nest the chick was very active. It streaked the neck of the adult. I saw no fish in the bill, but Kim noted that regurgitation is not the normal feeding method. No sounds were heard. Actually, the adult landed behind the chick and only the head was visible. But it was really quite dark. The adult remained motionless while the chick fusses about in front of it.

The bird appeared tiny flying from the massive tree. It reminded me of a fat Evening Grosbeak the wings were longer, but just a whir, the flight fast and direct. I watched the bird fly from the tree and cover perhaps 150 feet in less than 2 seconds — and it was gone. By this time it was too dark to see the chick on the branch. A second adult was never seen up to about 9:30 p.m.

03 July 1992

Survey #2 Dawn Survey: With Kim Nelson and other members of the research team.

Up at 4:00 a.m. with just a faint lightness in the eastern sky. We arrived at the nest site at 4:30 a.m.

A Pacific-slope Flycatcher was the first bird heard. It called “spear-wit!” The song it sang was a slow, spaced “sureep, tip, seet.” The first note variously sounded like “susleep” or the sound that I find diagnostic “seslip.” The song was so slow with pauses of 2 seconds between notes that the “seslip” call could actually be the final of the three phrases.

Other birds included the nesting Bald Eagles south a half mile. Birds not detected last evening were Hutton’s Vireo, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Townsend’s Solitaire, and Gray Jay. A small owl flew 6 feet over my head — the 7-inch long Northern Pygmy-Owl. The wingspan was only about 16 inches from tip to tip.

Murrelets first called about 5:30 a.m. to the west and northwest. We had several sightings of single birds flying straight lines above the canopy. And a pair of birds flying and circling at canopy level (75 meters). I estimate that we saw a single pair (Kim suspects that it is this nesting pair), plus at least 3 other individuals. We heard perhaps another nesting pair to the north.

An adult finally arrived at the nest at 6:35 a.m. as the sun began shining on the tree. It remained until 6:56 a.m. The adult landed on the branch next to the chick. It was holding a 3-1/2 inch fish in its bill (Kim thinks it a sand lance). The bird held the fish in its middle with its head facing us — a white staring eye with black pupil.

As the adult murrelet sat motionless, the excited chick poked at the fish and base of its parent’s bill. Several times the adult gave the “alternate” call, described as a quack. I heard it as a kind of moaning “waa . . . waa.” The main vocalization in flight is a gull-like “keeer,” given singly or repeated. Three Gray Jays flew by the nest tree while the adult was there. One landed in a group of branches above the nest for 30 seconds. The murrelet was watching. A Steller’s Jay evidently killed a nestling last year — pecking a hole in the skull and eating the brain.

03 July 1992

10:00 a.m. — Location: Parked on the hill north of the Bald Eagle nest

Two large eaglets on the nest. While we watched an adult flew northeast up Boulder Creek. A Warbling Vireo called from the alders as we walked up to observe the murrelet chick again before leaving. A Black-headed Grosbeak was singing.

Walked to Marbled Murrelet nest. We stayed only 10 minutes, the chick was visible. It would twitch every few seconds — otherwise no movement.

03 July 1992

Survey #3

Location: Near campsite

Evening survey: On my own for the first time!

When I arrived home early Thursday afternoon and related to the family how beautiful the forest was, they wanted to go — right then. Four hours later found us setting up our tent in the old-growth. On our drive in, 2 small coyote pups ran ahead of us down the road, before jumping off into the brush. At the Siletz River bridge we spotted an American Dipper bobbing on the rocks.

Since 2 of the survey team remained to watch the nest, a mile away across the valley formed by the Siletz River, I surveyed near camp. The previous night there were no detections by the group that surveyed here. But in the morning they had many detections.

I started my survey at 7:20 p.m. I was in the middle of a stand of large trees. The road, which I had walked up from camp, turned from the north to the west. So I had a narrow view of the sky both west and south, but mostly straight up.

Swainson’s Thrush, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, and a single Hutton’s Vireo were calling as I arrived. I quickly add Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Nighthawk, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Rufous Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, and Hairy Woodpecker.

A pair of Pacific-slope Flycatchers chased each other in the alders. One called “seslip”, the other “sebridt” — perhaps a sexual difference.

A pair of inquisitive Northern Pygmy-Owls were very interested in what I was doing. Throughout the evening one of the other of them kept flying near me. One flew to the top of a small tree above me. When I put my binoculars on it at 7:47 p.m. a murrelet flew past behind it, very high. It was flying in a northeasterly direction which would take it near the nest site.

On our drive in, 2 small coyote pups ran ahead of us down the road, before jumping off into the brush. At the Siletz River bridge we spotted an American Dipper bobbing on the rocks.

An hour and half went by, and it was getting dark. Suddenly, rapid murrelet wingbeats crossed above me in the canopy. My eyes followed the sound, but to no avail. It sounded like the bird slowed and maybe landed in one of the trees above me. I stayed another 25 minutes closely watching the trees, but saw and heard nothing further.

04 July 1992

Preparing for dawn survey:

3:30 a.m. - Thunderstorm!

4:30 a.m. - Lightning and thunder several times a minute. The thunder followed the lightning by 15-20 seconds, so that means 3-5 miles. Then it echoes
Another fern grows only from moss-tops of the trees are obscured in fog and mist. Water drips from the trees. A flock of Red Crossbills fly over.

Noon- Location: Valley of the Giants trail:

Not only are there large trees 300 feet tall and 8 feet through at breast height, but the vegetation is abundant and twice normal size. Lady Ferns reach 5 feet; a Bracken Fern reaches for light growing up through a salmonberry bush to an incredible 7 foot height and 6 foot width. Salmonberries, huckleberries, and thimbleberries are abundant. Besides the Bracken Fern and Lady Fern, Sword, Deer, and Maidenhair ferns are common. Another fern grows only from moss-covered fallen logs. Its leaves resemble Solomon's Seal, berries, ferns, alders, and becomes lighter, but it wouldn't be until an hour later, when the sun was in the tree tops that I would actually see the birds for the first time that day flying above the canopy. Every 2 minutes these birds would come in from the west, fly over, and circle around to the south. I wouldn't hear them again for a minute, then here they would come again.

Under most circumstances it would be impossible to determine that it was the same birds. But I felt that these were probably the nesting birds, who now had no nestling. Several times a third bird joined them. At 6:01 a.m. I saw the 3 birds fly over to the south. I remained another hour without a further detection. No chick, and no adult landing with a fish to feed one. I believe the chick too young to have fledged and fear it fell prey to a predator such as a Steller's Jay. It may also have fallen out of the mossy depression on the limb which was its nest. I doubt it grew pinions and flew the 16 miles to the ocean. I saw no evidence of feather sheaths a week ago — but it happens fast with these birds, and is a slim possibility.

While still quite dark I heard a bluebird-like “kew”, followed by a short warbled phrase. It was given by a Chestnut-backed Chickadee. He came and circled, calling “keeer, keeer…” The sky was getting lighter, but it wouldn't be until an hour later, when the sun was in the tree tops that I would actually see the birds for the first time that day flying above the canopy. Under most circumstances it would be impossible to determine that it was the same birds. But I felt that these were probably the nesting birds, who now had no nestling. Several times a third bird joined them. At 6:01 a.m. I saw the 3 birds fly over to the south. I remained another hour without a further detection. No chick, and no adult landing with a fish to feed one. I believe the chick too young to have fledged and fear it fell prey to a predator such as a Steller's Jay. It may also have fallen out of the mossy depression on the limb which was its nest. I doubt it grew pinions and flew the 16 miles to the ocean. I saw no evidence of feather sheaths a week ago — but it happens fast with these birds, and is a slim possibility.

While still quite dark I heard a bluebird-like “kew”, followed by a short warbled phrase. It was given by a Townsend’s Solitaire “skylarking” far overhead. On one other occasion in the early morning I observed a high-flying solitaire over the Coast Range in Washington County.

Boulder Creek with North Fork Siletz River.

I found a quiet stretch of river just downstream from where Boulder Creek joins the Siletz River. From here, I look north up the river and see the river split — to the right Boulder Creek, to the left the Siletz River. Both are small. Groves of old-growth forest grow on the flanks of several nearby hills. A pair of Belted Kingfishers patrol the river here. Several American Dipper come and go. Farther downstream the river goes through a cut in the bedrock and becomes 6 feet deep and slow. Steelhead, 18 inches long, slide upstream along a dark shelf. A crow flies upstream. A Black-headed Grosbeak is singing.

Dawn Survey:

My morning nest watch started in the dark at 4:37 a.m. It was quite cool (9°C which is about 50°F), and the longer I stood there, the cooler it felt. My neck was stiff from looking skyward to the south. My legs likewise felt stiff, and my back ached fiercely. After a little more than half an hour, I had my first detection. Two murrelets came in from the west and circled, calling “keeer, keeer…” The sky was getting lighter, but it wouldn't be until an hour later, when the sun was in the tree tops that I would actually see the birds for the first time that day flying above the canopy. Every 2 minutes these birds would come in from the west, fly over, and circle around to the south. I wouldn't hear them again for a minute, then here they would come again.

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God's Valley, Tillamook County

Location: About 8 miles east of Nehalem Bay. Hwy 53 to God's Valley.

Background: With the Valley of the Giants nesting gone, Kim sent me to inspect a possible "occupied" tree (meaning a nest tree).

18 July 1992

Survey #6

Dawn Survey:

The written instructions to this site were so complete, and the gravel roads only about 4 miles long, that I decided to find this area and do a survey on Saturday morning.

I rose at 2:30 a.m. and left home (in Hillsboro) before 3:00 a.m. There was 3/4 of a moon still showing through high thin overcast. It was warm and muggy. As I turned off God's Valley Road onto Hansen Road, a large bull elk ran ahead of me up the gravel road. It had a large rack, but appeared to be covered in velvet yet. The alder road edge was so thick that it ran, on spindly, unsure legs, around 3 bends before leaving the road.

I found the trailhead and started down the hillside. I was carrying a tote bag on one shoulder, the spotting scope on the other, and a bright lantern-type flashlight in my right hand. My left hand balanced the scope.

The trail led down, not gently, to the west. Plastic ribbons tied to brush every 15 feet guided my way. There was no middle layer of vegetation in this forest, so the flashlight beam pierced quite a ways. But the forest floor had lots of small hemlock. It was hard to see below waist level because of the brush. There were lots of fallen branches and smaller logs hidden under the brush. Rotting needles and branches made the floor spongy, and made the forest floor dark, shadowy and quiet.

The canopy was mostly closed, and the trees were all even in height — 40 to 50 meters. There were no 70 to 80 meter Douglas-firs towering above the rest. This was a climax Western Hemlock forest. No Douglas-fir would germinate in the understory. But it was a climax Western Hemlock forest. No Douglas-fir would germinate in the understory. It was hard to see below waist level because of the brush. There were lots of fallen branches and smaller logs hidden under the brush. Rotting needles and branches made the floor spongy, and made the forest floor dark, shadowy and quiet.

The approach of the murrelet in flight. So I thought the murrelet had landed in that tree rather than the split tree to the southeast.

Three minutes later a bird flew from the northwest tree into the tree directly above me. The branches and fog made identification impossible. Two minutes later I glimpsed a bird flying into the split tree. Immediately a bird flew out of the split tree, and through the canopy to the east. It nearly landed, or nearly missed crashing into, several trees on its way. I now noticed a Hairy Woodpecker in the split tree.

What I think happened is this: At 5:22 A.M. a murrelet flew into the split tree, presumably to feed a nestling (as yet undetected). At 6:01 A.M., after the ravens left, this bird flew out.

At 6:22 A.M. its mate flies into the split tree. On its way, it flies past the tree on the northwest, startling a Hairy Woodpecker into giving an alarmed repeated "kee" call. At 6:25 A.M. the woodpecker flies from the tree on the northwest to the tree directly above me. Two minutes later it flies into the split tree, and in a reversal of the earlier encounter, the woodpecker frightens off the murrelet, who goes crashing through the trees to the east.

Four minutes later, at 6:31 A.M., 2 murrelets circle the area, calling continuously. They are the last detections up to when I leave at 7:10 A.M.

18 July 1992

Location: Tillamook Bay's Barview Jetty

After leaving God's Valley, I headed to Barview Jetty. There I set up the scope to look over the ocean between the jetties.

Many Common Murres, Rhinoceros Auklets, Cassin's Auklets, and Pigeon Guillemots were present. These birds and the Marbled Murrelet are all in the Alcidae family, and are built the same: at first look similar to penguins, but able to fly. Three times I noted a pair of murrelets fly by just beyond the jetties. I couldn't tell whether they were the same pair, or a different each time.

22 July 1992

Survey #7

Location: God's Valley

Evening Survey:

Arrived for evening survey. Very misty. Under the trees it is mostly dry, but in the open the mist becomes wet drizzle.

It was a very quiet watch. I saw, and heard the wingbeats of 2 murrelets flying high overhead. Later, about sunset, 1
heared the whistling wingbeats go past above — a single bird. The songbirds were quieter as well. I heard robins, Swainson’s and Varied Thrushes, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Pileated Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, and a Purple Finch.

24 July 1992
Dawn Survey:
Survey canceled due to heavy drizzle and showers.

Saddle Mtn, Clatsop County
Location: Northwest side of Saddle Mtn. on edge of clearcut next to old-growth forest on Saddle Mtn. Park boundary.

Background: Very few birds are ever found here. No one had done a recent survey. Kim wanted me to check it out.

23 July 1992
Survey #8
Evening Survey:
The map for this site left much to be desired. None of these logging roads are marked in any way. After an hour, and 20 miles of increasing apprehension, I started over again to reach my present position after about 6 miles. It has been drizzling all day. But rather than cancel the survey, I have decided to get whatever information I can because I probably will not be back.

I have parked at the end of a logging spur on the north face of Saddle Mtn. A deep ravine is the headwaters for a small creek which flows northwest. This ravine contains the remaining old-growth forest. The edge of the forest is on the south. The clearcut knifes across the front of it. They may harvest even more often than the last 5 years.

I have been watching a flat-topped tree, shorter than most, but with several heavy clumps of branches. It reminds me of a tall mushroom. Suddenly, whistling wings come over from behind. Two murrelets drop from the sky, and in a shallow arc turn into the trees I have been watching.

The murrelets set their wings, short legs spread, webbed feet showing, no tail observable. Side by side they dived low into the forest behind and to the right of the “mushroom” tree. Then, quiet. I keep my eyes scanning the trees but don’t see landed on my glasses. A few minutes later the droplets evaporated with the heat from my face. A few Varied Thrushes picked up the evening chorus. Their warbling, flute-like, minor whistled notes matched perfectly the mood of the moss-covered branches and broken, snaggy tops of the misty, darkening forest.

Three nighthawks winged high overhead chasing larger insects as dusk fell. A coyote howled in the valley to the north. Finally it was dark. No murrelets were heard.

24 July 1992
Survey #9
Dawn Survey:
Cold and dark, but no drizzle. A few peeps come from the waking forest birds. Then, from the west, a gull-like “keer” announces the first murrelet.

I have been watching a flat-topped tree, shorter than most, but with several heavy clumps of branches. It reminds me of a tall mushroom. Suddenly, whistling wings come over from behind. Two murrelets drop from the sky, and in a shallow arc turn into the trees I have been watching.

The murrelets set their wings, short legs spread, webbed feet showing, no tail observable. Side by side they dived low into the forest behind and to the right of the “mushroom” tree. Then, quiet. I keep my eyes scanning the trees but don’t see

Thanks, Oregon Birders
S. Kim Nelson, Oregon State University, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-3803

In the Fall of 1989 I wrote to Oregon Birds and many of Oregon’s birders requesting information on inland and at-sea sightings of Marbled Murrelets (Brachyramphus marmoratus) for a manuscript I was writing. At long last the manuscript, entitled “The Marbled Murrelet in Oregon, 1899-1987,” has been published in a symposium by the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, along with 8 other papers on murrelets (see related announcement in this issue of OB). I would like to thank all of you who spent the energy and time to compile your records of Marbled Murrelets.

The objective of the project was to summarize historical information on distribution of the murrelet in Oregon. The information on at-sea and inland sightings birders provided was extremely valuable for summarizing the historical distribution of the murrelet in Oregon. I was able to determine hot spots for sighting murrelets from shore, including Cape Meares, Depoe and Boiler Bays, Yaquina Head to Heceta Head, Shoreacres State Park, Euchre Creek, and the Pistol and Chetco Rivers. A comparison between historical and current information revealed probable declines in murrelet numbers especially along Clatsop County and at the mouth of the Columbia River. I have a limited number of reprints available for those who are interested in reading the manuscript.

I continue to be interested in your murrelet sightings along the Oregon Coast and in inland forests. Send any records to me at the above address. Thank you.
Wilson's Warbler, Rufous Hummingbird, Song Sparrow.

All morning, from when the Great Horned Owl hooted at 5 a.m., I had been hearing heavy branches and brush snap. It was at the edge of the forest, in the clearcut. The noise was making its way up from the west.

I knew what it was. And as it got lighter, one of the light-colored "stumps" in front of me moved — the white rump of an elk! Two cow elk and 2 calves; the one nearly grown, the other very small; made their way along the forest edge.

Finally it was light enough for the cow elk to see me. She bellowed out a loud barking "barf!" then a lower "rumf!" frighteningly loud in the serene morning wilderness, the call resounded off all the hills and echoed back. She called out a couple more times as the group moved to the protection of the dark forest.

Conclusion

There are several ways in which you can help gather information on Marbled Murrelets. The most important is simply to detect them at an inland location. At this point all information is important. Send Kim your sightings — inland and coastal.

Murrelets can be found in mature and old-growth forests within 50 miles of the ocean. They are most active in April and July and are best heard from 15 minutes before sunrise to one-half hour after sunrise. Nesting birds are often SSB's (Single Silent Birds) seen flying overhead.

Murrelets even nest in counties which do not border the ocean. They occur in both Benton and Polk Counties, but have not been detected in Columbia or Washington Counties. There may not be any remaining suitable habitat in these counties.

I’ve been one of only a handful of persons ever to see a Marbled Murrelet on a nest. I’ve seen some of the last remaining old-growth in the Oregon Coast Range. It has been somewhat of a dream come true (wouldn’t it be great to watch birds for a living?); a taste of a path not taken. As time goes by I’m sure I will treasure more and more the opportunity I have had to work as a volunteer with the Marbled Murrelet Research Project.

Editors Note (see next page):

Dave Marshall is a distinguished wildlife biologist. Among his many publications is a monograph *Threatened and Sensitive Wildlife of Oregon's Forests and Woodlands* published recently by the Portland Audubon Society, today's Oregon Audubon Society. The following article was first published in substantially this form in 3 installments in the Portland Audubon *Warbler*: (1) *Warbler* 56(9): 1, 13, September 1992; (2) *Warbler* 56(10): 13, October 1992; and (3) *Warbler* 56(11): 13, November 1992.

Oregon Birds 19(1): 10, Spring 1993
At Malheur in 1939 With Stanley G. Jewett

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The year was 1939. I was 13 years old and about to spend a week participating in a trip that would have a profound influence on my life. Although I had an intense interest in birds, I did not until then realize I could make a living using that interest.

On 10 June of that year, 25 Portland Auduboners (members of the then Oregon Audubon Society) departed Portland by private cars to spend a week at what was then called the Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge. My Uncle Lou and Aunt Edna, otherwise Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Marshall, were the trip organizers. They were also the first editors of the *Audubon Warbler*. I rode in their car along with a great aunt, Arlie Seaman, who was secretary for the society, and Norma G. Seaman, a great-uncle, who built the first pond at Pittock Sanctuary. The car was a 1938 Chevrolet Carryall Suburban, an ancestor to today's popular utility vehicle carrying the Suburban name. It had a brown body with a cream trim to imitate the popular wooden-bodied station wagons of the day. The fenders and running boards were black. During that year I heard there were only 4 sold in the state.

I wish I could recall the names of all the other members of the party. I do remember the presence of 2 sisters named Wilds or Wild, and Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Crowell. Crowell was a prominent architect who designed the original Audubon House. He was the society's president at the time and a board member for many years. (He had no relation to John Crowell, who later served on the board.) Also on our trip was a man named S.S. Strachan. He manufactured a light fold-down tent-trailer unit called Kozy Kamp that could be pulled by a light car. One of these units was, by the way, in the kitchen exhibit featured last year at the Oregon Historical Society.

We left Portland about 9 o'clock on a Saturday morning, taking what is now Highway 26 through Government Camp. The route to Bend from there was via Maupin, as the present highway through Warm Springs was still many years away. The hill out of the Deschutes Canyon south from Maupin proved, as expected, too much for some of the cars, which suffered boiling radiators, but we made it to the Redmond Hotel for dinner.

At the hotel, we were joined by Stanley G. Jewett and his wife Edna. Jewett was Regional Biologist for the U.S. Biological Survey, the predecessor agency to today's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Biological Survey was then in the Department of Agriculture like the Forest Service. Jewett later became co-author of *Birds of Oregon* (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940) and senior author of *Birds of Washington State* (Jewett et al. 1953).

Like others in the Oregon Audubon Society at the time, Jewett was very outspoken. However, he was reluctant to appear before the public, and there was some question concerning his being able to give us a week of his time for this trip. Uncle Lou and Aunt Edna were relieved when he appeared at the hotel. Like others of his time, Jewett had no formal training in wildlife biology. He first went to work for the Biological Survey in 1910 and retired in 1949. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1940 and received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Oregon State College in 1953.

Jewett was not a new acquaintance to me. He presided over Portland Audubon Christmas bird count tabulations, which constituted an important social gathering at the time. He was the absolute authority who removed any thing that looked suspicious from the list. His most common statement in such circumstances was an emphatic and undiplomatic, “possible but not probable.” My father had earlier introduced me to Jewett and his basement, which housed a vast collection of bird and mammal skins. He was from the “old collectors school,” which would (rightfully at that time) not accept any bird rarity without its having been verified with a specimen. He could seemingly skin a bird in seconds, and produce a fine study skin in about 5 minutes. He tried but never succeeded in passing this talent down to Tom McAllister, Bill Telfer, and me, teenage birding pals.

Accompanied by the Jewetts, we made it no farther than Bend for the night. Participants were put up in a motel along what is now Highway 97, only motels then were called “auto courts,” and they usually consisted of individual cabins that had kitchens. There were Mountain Bluebirds in the junipers outside the kitchen window. Bend was a small fraction of its present size.

From Bend our party became a 7-car caravan with Jewett leading the way in a black 1937 Pontiac sedan that carried USDA license plates and Biological Survey logos on the front doors. As a youngster, I thought that was really prestigious. Little did I know of the public abuse one takes in driving a government car. The first stop out of Bend was to see the Indian artwork at Horse Ridge just west of Millican. (The site was eventually marked with a Highway Department sign, which unfortunately led to its being vandalized.)

At Horse Ridge, Jewett pointed out a Brewer's Sparrow, a bird I had never heard of. This is not surprising, considering there were no Peterson field guides for the West at that time, although I did later manage to acquire a copy of Ralph Hoffman’s *Birds of the Pacific States* (1927). The main bird book on the trip was *Birds of America* (1967), a mammoth volume weighing about 6 pounds. It was edited by T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the then National Association of Audubon Societies. One of the writers for this book was William L. Finley, the first President of the Oregon Audubon Society, and one of the artists was R. Bruce Horsfall, who was also active in the society.

*Birds of America* made a poor field guide. While it had some color reproductions of Louis Agassiz Fuertes' paintings, most birds were illustrated in black and white or not at all. The Brewer's Sparrow was barely mentioned under the Chipping Sparrow account. Yet it could well be the most abundant bird of sagebrush areas of the West.

The absence of field guides was not the only handicap. I recall Jewett was the only member of the party who had binoculars, his were a government issue 7 x 35 Bausch & Lomb. The rest of us had to get along with 4-power field glasses, which I found to be of little help. While this lack of equipment may surprise today's readers, consider the fact we were coming out of the Great Depression, and binoculars cost over $200 at a time when that Chevrolet Suburban was purchased new for about $1000.

Somewhere near the halfway point between Bend and Burns, Jewett pulled over to show us an occupied Buteo nest in a juniper. My memory says he called the bird a Swainson's Hawk, but in
We reached Burns in time to lunch on the expansive lawn surrounding the home of Dr. E.L. Hibbard, a retired dentist. Hibbard was known not only for his traveling dentistry work with a foot-powered drill, but also because he was a great naturalist and sportsman. He had taken one of the last remaining bighorn sheep in Oregon from Steens Mountain in 1906, and later gave the remains to Vernon Bailey of the Biological Survey for museum purposes (Bailey 1936). One member of the Hibbard family, Claud Hibbard, was hired in about 1909 as a warden for the Malheur Bird Reservation before there was active management. Oregon Audubon board minutes show the Society provided the funds for his salary.

It was obvious that the Jewetts and Dr. Hibbard were close friends. Jewett asked Dr. Hibbard if he wanted to join us on the trip, and he answered in the affirmative. All he needed was time to get his toothbrush and fishing gear. He was in and out of the house in about 5 minutes.

Birds (and Mosquitoes)

The caravan headed for Wright’s Point looking at ducks and shorebirds enroute, just as we do today. On Wright's Point I remember my first Rock Wren. It was also a first for most of the others who had not previously visited southeastern Oregon. We traveled south along the route of what is now Highway 205, then a dusty road gouged out like a ditch through the greasewood and rabbitbrush. We spent an hour or so at the Buena Vista Point looking at ducks and shorebirds while Stanley Jewett and his toothbrush and fishing gear. He was acquired on a trip to Venezuela. There was, of course, no commercial power, and the hotel had its own vegetable garden and source of milk. What was different was the prices. The announcement for this trip in the Warbler reported that Frenchglen Hotel prices were 50 cents for meals and $1-1.50 per night for rooms. A Mrs. Mac-Donald (McDonald?) ran the hotel; she put out tremendous meals.

There were vast numbers of Cliff Swallows — as was the case where ever there were rimrocks or buildings.

As late afternoon approached, the question of where to stay arose. Some of the party went to stay at the Frenchglen Hotel, but others planned to camp. We piled into what was probably the site of today's Page Springs Campground, southeast of the P Ranch. Jewett jumped out of his car and kicked a clump of grass. A cloud of mosquitoes arose; he announced there would be no camping here.

We went on to Frenchglen. Someone spotted the schoolyard as a potential camping place. We would have to ask a man named Bob Braden who was referred to as the “mayor,” and, sure enough, permission was granted. The schoolyard had a hand pump for a source of well water and another important facility along the back fence: About a mile to the southeast was a community-maintained public bathhouse, which stranded a fine pool fed by a hot spring. It was a welcome facility.

The schoolyard campsites were close to those who elected to avoid the mosquitoes and take beds at the hotel. Mosquitoes were a serious hindrance then, as there were no repellents. Uncle Norm had a tent made of mosquito netting that he acquired on a trip to Venezuela. There was just room in it for the 2 of us. I do not recall how the other campers slept except for Mr. Strachan, who made a point to let all know his Kozy Kamp trailer was mosquito proof.

For the rest of the week, each day’s tour started at Frenchglen. We were awakened in the morning with the arrival of a military-style truck that came to fill 10-gallon milk cans with water from the schoolhouse pump. This constituted the only water supply for Camp Five-Mile, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was on the west side of the road, 5 miles north of Frenchglen. This camp and one at refuge headquarters had been created to provide labor to erect or rebuild the fences that are still present on the refuge and build and reconstruct roads, dikes, water control structures, and buildings. Much of this work had been initiated by former owners of the Blitzen Valley, starting with homesteaders who preceded Peter French. Although Malheur and Harney Lakes became a bird reservation by Presidential Proclamation in 1909, homesteaders that occupied lands surrounding Malheur Lake remained in possession of their lands. The Blitzen Valley portion of the refuge, where most birding took place then as now, was not acquired until 1935, just 4 years before our visit.

At that time Frenchglen didn’t look so different from how it appears today. There was, of course, no commercial power, and the hotel had its own vegetable garden and source of milk. What was different were the prices. The announcement for this trip in the Warbler reported that Frenchglen Hotel prices were 50 cents for meals and $1-1.50 per night for rooms. A Mrs. Mac-Donald (McDonald?) ran the hotel; she put out tremendous meals.

There were vast numbers of Cliff Swallows in town, their nests plastered all along the schoolhouse walls. The store owner continually hosed off his walls to discourage them. There was a pet buck mule deer that had the run of the town. The school had only 1 room, and a single gasoline pump constituted the station operated by Mayor Bradeen.

Each day’s field trip was to a different location. One day the party split up to accommodate those who wanted to hunt for Indian arrowheads, a popular outdoor pursuit of that time. Besides Jewett, we were led by George M. Benson, who showed up each morning wearing his traditional pith helmet driving a Ford pickup marked like Jewett’s car. (Benson, who homesteaded on Malheur Lake, was employed during the 1930s as a warden for the refuge and was the Biological Survey’s chief representative in the area until Jewett was appointed Refuge Superintendent for a short time in 1935; Jewett, however, never resided at the refuge.) At that time Benson lived on the east shore of what is now called Benson Pond, located about 10 miles north of the P Ranch. Benson, like Jewett, was eager to show us the refuge and its wildlife. He was also a student of the mail-order Northwest School of Taxidermy. The Benson house was adorned with mounted birds, many of which are now housed at the refuge headquarters’ museum bearing his name. In the kitchen was a row of what appeared to be mounted owls. While looking them over, I saw that one of them blinked an eye. The Benson’s captive Flammulated Owl had been discovered.

Benson showed us a well known (at that time) Peregrine Falcon aerie. It was in the rimrocks along the narrow section of the Blitzen Valley in the Krumbo Creek area. Unfortunately the presence of a nesting Peregrine at Malheur never got into C.D. Littlefield’s (1990) book Birds of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

At least one occasion we stopped at refuge headquarters. Two residences, an office, and service building had been built 2 years earlier. Trees and lawns had just been planted. What has since become a bird oasis famous for its rare vagrants did not exist then for lack of large trees.

At headquarters, I talked with a thin man, who seemed very young even to me for his 37 years at that time. This man’s name was John Scharff. He was the first resident superintendent (a title that was later changed to Refuge Manager). Little did I know that someday he would be my boss.
A Young Man's Future

Near the end of the week, Stanley Jewett announced we were going to Fish Lake for a picnic lunch. That did not turn out to be an easy drive. The road to the lake was no more than 2 ruts full of football-size rocks. It took 3 to 4 hours to reach the lake, a distance of about 25 miles. The road was much improved by the labors of our party, whose members removed most of the largest of the rocks to provide road clearance for the group's late-model passenger cars then about as high as today's full-sized pickups. The transmission on Jewett's car went out on the way up. With his wife, he climbed in with someone else, saying how happy he was this happened where it did instead of when he was alone miles from help.

The trip to Fish Lake was worth the effort. For many of us, this was our first view of aspen groves and associated birds. Fish Lake had many more large aspens surrounding it than today, and there were the usual nesting Tree Swallows, Mountain Bluebirds, House Wrens, and a Red-naped Sapsucker, a first for most of the party. Even then this was a popular local fishing lake. There was an A-frame cabin beside the lake, which was occupied by a man who rented row-boats. Few people could afford boats in the 1930s, and even fewer towed them behind cars. The boat owner had just arrived for the season and provided us with trout to fry for lunch. It was a beautiful day with blue sky and scattered clouds that matched the snow patches surrounding the lake. We made no attempt to proceed up the mountain past Fish Lake; we were told the road was worse than what we had been over, and the snow would have stopped us anyway.

I wish I could remember each day's route on the refuge. I was not yet trained to take field notes. All I have is a list of birds seen during the week with numerous misspellings. I suspect Cole Island Dike was completed at that time, in which case we would have gone out on it. This dike was subsequently not maintained; the last section washed out with the floods of the 1980s. An extensive dike and canal system in the Blitzen Valley was in place then, and I know it was in much better shape for driving then than it is today. There were no restrictions on where we could go, and road conditions were dry. The Double O Ranch Unit of the refuge west of Harney Lake had not yet been acquired.

My impressions of the refuge was just one mass of birds — far more than can be seen there today in total numbers. Particularly conspicuous were Eared Grebes, Canada Geese, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwalls, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ruddy Ducks, Swainson's Hawks, American Coots, Killdeers, Willets, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Forster's and Black Terns, Cliff Swallows, Common Ravens, Yellow Warblers, and Red-winged, Yellow-Headed, and Brewer's Blackbirds. Western kingbirds were always present around places of human habitation. There is no way of knowing what the populations of various birds were, as inventory methods, access, and other factors have varied over the years. Duck and tern numbers were particularly impressive. Sandhill Cranes were in far fewer numbers than today. No White-faced Ibises were seen, and Franklin's Gulls had not yet invaded Oregon.

Why were there so many more birds then than now? Perhaps my memory has failed me, but actually it was due to several real factors. The area had just emerged from the drought of the early 1930s. Marshes of the Great Basin exhibit highest productivity following droughts. Aquatic plant growth flourishes and insect populations explode following a period of aeration of wetland soils. Introduced carp that have since become so destructive had not yet taken hold. The presence of large numbers of gulls and grebes indicated healthy populations of small fish, probably chubs. The extensive stands of hardstem bulrush and cattail that now choke formerly productive areas of the Blitzen Valley had not yet become established. Drought and heavy livestock use that occurred when the valley was in private hands had a beneficial effect in that regard.

Several times in the 1930s and 1940s, I heard Jewett refer to the CCCs as having ruined Malheur. I wish I knew the rationale behind this statement. During the CCC period, Page Dam and other dams along with diversion canals were built or reconstructed, although I was told by John Scharff that Peter French and his followers were the ones who turned the Blitzen River from Bridge Creek downstream into a ditch. Knowing the way the Biological Survey and later Fish and Wildlife Service administrators placed confidence in their engineers rather than biologists, I can imagine that Jewett had little or nothing to say about what went on. The engineers had before them a great opportunity to build, utilizing an almost unlimited labor supply, restrained only by equipment and materials. The result was the very artificial irrigation system that plagues Malheur today.

The Malheur trip did help shape my life. That was in large part because Stanley C. Jewett was such an inspiration to me. He made sure I saw everything there was to see. He was a man who thoroughly enjoyed his work and possessed a mass of natural history knowledge that far exceeded that of anyone I had met up to that time. Furthermore, I respected the way he insisted on highest possible accuracy in reporting observations. I must have passed the test with him, as between my junior and senior years at the then Oregon State College, I got my first job with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Jewett saw to it that I was assigned to the new Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in Nevada and was the first to have the opportunity to document what was there. The Malheur trip demonstrated the role the Audubon Society played in my education, as it has for other youngsters.

Jewett died in 1955, the year I was assigned as Biologist for Malheur. My assignment there was not of his doing but was related to other circumstances. I will forever wonder what kind of fortune took me to my first love among all the refuges. I also wonder how I went from there to become Regional Refuge Biologist in Portland, a position which came the closest to what Jewett had in 1939.

LITERATURE CITED


Oregon Birds 19(1): 13, Spring 1983
I met Ike Eisenhart at the Klamath Falls airport a little after midnight on the morning of the 27th after a 7-hour drive from Yakima. Ike had a frequent-flier freebie from Horizon Airlines, so the plan was to meet him at the airport there and begin birding at dawn that same morning. Except for the rowdies at the Travelodge (an AAA-rated establishment), which prevented me from sleeping until 3 in the morning, things went okay.

Lower Klamath refuges on the 27th

Waterfowl were the spectacle on this early spring trip. Although the main passage of Canada and Snow Geese and probably Northern Pintails may have passed, other geese such as White-fronted and Ross' were abundant. Indeed, early morning at the Klamath Wildlife Management Area revealed thousands of Ross' Geese, seemingly in pure flocks. Close study did reveal a handful of larger Snow Geese. Although we didn't get a clear view here of most of these geese, it was impressive indeed to see these nervous or restless birds on distant fields.

The Klamath River here was sprinkled with diving ducks. Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup were common, but I believe Buffleheads were the most abundant species. This was to be true at other spots this weekend. Redheads were surprisingly scarce. Surely they are common later in the spring.

I now realize my thoughts on the Bald Eagle migration through the interior may have to be altered. I had assumed the decline of Bald Eagles in southeastern Washington by mid- to late-March meant the whole population had moved north, perhaps more or less following the northward retreat of the "ice line." This is simply not true! The Klamath Basin at the time of our visit? Ike found 5 individuals of the blue form Ross' Goose in this one pool.

Another scene of fantastic wildness was that of a shallow pool and wet meadow area fairly sprinkled with American White Pelicans (42), Great Blue Herons (25) and Great Egrets (115). Dabblers such as Mallards, Northern Pintails and Green-winged Teal were also present. You wonder whether diversion of canal waters containing swarms of fish might have contributed to this scene, reminiscent to me of a drying pool in East Africa or the llanos of Venezuela.

Another interesting scene was that of a drying pool with extensive mudflats. Here yellowlegs were abundant. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were present. Many I couldn't identify due to distance. A lone Long-billed Dowitcher was here and Avocets were noted also.

Fort Klamath that evening and a try for the Great Gray Owl

We birded the forest/meadow habitat here both this evening and at dawn on the 28th. To me, the habitat appeared beaten down and some of it extensively logged. We saw no sign of a Great Gray Owl. We did hear a pair of Great Horned Owls on both occasions.

Upper Klamath Refuge at mid-day on the 28th

The birding at Fort Klamath at dawn was much more productive. While only 7 species were noted on the late afternoon visit, 28 were tallied in the early morning hours. Several Red-breasted Sapsuckers were closely observed. We carefully ruled out Red-naped Sapsuckers, although we were clearly east of the Cascades. Pygmy Nuthatches were very common and conspicuous. We saw them picking about the upper branches of poplars, which seemed interesting.

Notably absent were any Yellow-rumped Warblers, which was to be the case for our entire trip. I found it difficult to believe this species hadn't invaded the Klamath Basin as migrants, given the extended mild weather.

Next we drove the "Westside" Road on the west side of the Klamath Basin south to the Upper Klamath Lake area. This road afforded a wonderful experience through miles of tall pines and nearby groves of drowned trees in swampy terrain, hosting many birds.

Memorable were Hairy and White-bearded Woodpeckers flying into my owllet tootling, as well as Clark's Nutcrackers in the lowlands, far from their breeding haunts in the upper subalpine. Klamath Falls lakeside brush was good for many birds, including passerines such as Cedar Waxwing, Fox and Golden-crowned Sparrows. We struck it rich with the grebes here. Hundreds of Eared Grebes clothed the shallows plus a pair of courted Horned Grebes and a lone Clark's Grebe, among a scattering of Westerns.

Yoss Creek Meadows that afternoon and evening

Advice from biologists in the Chiloquin District of the Winema National Forest led us to this lodgepole pine-fringed meadow near the Klamath Forest National Refuge. Our objective: the Great Gray Owl, which would be a new species for Ike. We did have some difficulty finding the meadow in a landscape otherwise appearing very unlikely for meadows. Pumice flats and slopes predominate in this area of Oregon. Well-drained soils derived from pumice favor the growth of ponderosa pine. Here, we noted many extensive forests of this magnificent species. Generally, I thought Oregon holds more remaining large pines than Washington. It was obvious intensive forest management is occurring, but, to date, large trees still survive in number. But where was the habitat for a Great Gray Owl?

Finally, we stumbled upon the spur track (Road 680) leading to the meadow,
**Oregon Field Ornithologists**

**Fourteenth Annual Meeting**

4-5-6 June 1993

Malheur Field Station

Harney County, Oregon

---

- Spring migration at Oregon's premier desert oasis
- Birding hot spot
- Banquet

---

There will be a social hour in "Greasewood" on Saturday 5 June 1993, at 5:00 pm, followed by a banquet in the dining room at 6:30. Dorms are half-price for children 12 and under, while meals are half-price for those 10 and under. Children 2 and under are free. Most annual meeting attendees will be housed in dormitories. There are 3 trailers and 4 RV hookups available. If you want one of these, call Don MacDonald (503-753-7172) as soon as possible. Trailers and some dorms have cooking facilities for those who wish to prepare their own meals.

---

### REGISTRATION FORM

Registration deadline Saturday, 30 April 1993 • Please list everyone registering • Include housing preference: (1) families and couples; (2) women; (3) men; (4) trailer; or (5) RV • For children, include age • Registrations after 30 April, please call Gerard Lillie (number below)

1. **Fill in for each participant; use additional sheets if needed:**

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5. **Grand Total:**

Make your check payable to OFO or Oregon Field Ornithologists and mail this form so that it arrives by 30 April 1993.

---

**Donald MacDonald**

805 N.W. Elizabeth Drive

Corvallis OR 97330

503-753-7172

---

After 30 April 1993, contact:

**Gerard Lillie**

329 S.E. Gilham Avenue

Portland, OR 97215

503-257-9344
Oregon Field Ornithologists
Fourteenth Annual Meeting
4-5-6 June 1993
Malheur Field Station
Harney County, Oregon

Spring migration at Oregon's premier desert oasis birding hot spot • Banquet

There will be a social hour in "Greasewood" on Saturday, 5 June 1993, at 5:00 pm, followed by a banquet in the dining room at 6:30. Dorms are half-price for children 12 and under, while meals are half-price for those 10 and under. Children 2 and under are free. Most annual meeting attendees will be housed in dormitories. There are 3 trailers and 4 RV hookups available. If you want one of these, call Don MacDonald (503-753-7172) as soon as possible. Trailers and some dorms have cooking facilities for those who wish to prepare their own meals.

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1. Fill in for each participant; use additional sheets if needed:
   Name
   Address
   City State Zip
   Phone
   Housing preference

2. Lodging:
   DORM
   Adult $12.00
   Child 6.00
   (Cooking extra $1/night)
   TRAILER
   Adult 13.00
   Child 6.50
   RV
   Per space 10.00

3. Meals: Check if vegetarian
   BREAKFAST
   Adult $5.75
   Child 2.90
   LUNCH (BOX)
   Adult 5.50
   Child 2.75
   LUNCH (HOT)
   Adult 6.00
   Child 3.00
   DINNER
   Adult 7.00
   Child 3.50
   SATURDAY BANQUET
   Adult 7.25
   Child 3.65
   SATURDAY BANQUET
   BREAKFAST Adult $5.75
   Child 2.90
   LUNCH (BOX) Adult 5.50
   Child 2.75
   LUNCH (HOT) Adult 6.00
   Child 3.00
   DINNER Adult 7.00
   Child 3.50
   SATURDAY BANQUET Adult 7.25
   Child 3.65

4. Registration:
   OFO member $12.00
   OFO family 20.00
   non-OFO member 15.00
   Student 7.00
   1-year OFO membership
   Individual 18.00
   Family 24.00
   Sustaining 35.00

5. Grand Total:
   Make your check payable to OFO or Oregon Field Ornithologists and mail this form so that it arrives by 30 April 1993:

   After 30 April 1993, contact:
   Gerard Lillie
   329 S.E. Gilham Avenue
   Portland, OR 97215
   503-257-9344
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- Special Publication No. 7 — Preliminary Draft: Oregon County Checklists and Maps. 1993, ISBN 1-877693-21-9, by Steve Summers & Craig Miller. $8.00...

- Checklist of Oregon Birds, 1989. [price reduced] $1.00...

- T-Shirt (specify M - L - XL) $14.00...

- OFO’s Checklist (field checking card fits into field guide) 1...$1.00...

- Oregon Birds back issues as available (write to the Treasurer) Volumes 5-18, price varies $...

- Birds of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, C.D. Littlefield. 1990, 296 pp. $16.00...

- The Birder’s Guide to Oregon, Joe Evanich. 1990, 288 pp. $13.00...

- Cumulative Index to Oregon Birds: Vols. 1-17 (1975-1991), Alan Contreras. 1992, 41 pp. $5.00...

- Natural Sound Cassettes by Eleanor Pugh — Write to the Treasurer for additional titles and further information

- Birds of Foothill Woodland Edges $9.00...

- An Almanac of Western Habitats; Vol. I (Northwest) $9.00...

- An Almanac of Western Habitats; Vol. II (Wetlands) $9.00...

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- Learn to Identify Birds by Ear - Eastern U.S. $9.00...

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**TOTAL $**

All items postage paid. Make check payable to Oregon Field Ornithologists or OFO, and mail to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440

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3. ___________________________

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   ☐ $35.00 Sustaining
   ☐ $____ Tax-deductible contribution
   ☐ $____ Oregon Fund for Ornithology

6. ☐ Do NOT put my name and phone number in OFO Directory

7. Make check payable to Oregon Field Ornithologists or OFO, and mail to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440

8. ___________________________________________
Describe your reasons for your identification: your familiarity with the species, field guides used, similar species that were eliminated, references that were consulted, etc.

Describe the circumstances of the observation: light conditions, position of the sun, distance to the bird, duration of observation, equipment used, time of day, time of tide, etc.

Add the names (and addresses and phone numbers if known) of other observers who may have identified the bird.

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

7. SIGNATURE, DATE. Sign this form, and date it for when it was filled out.
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Breakfast $5 extra per person
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located 13.5 miles from Hwy. 97 on Forest Road 43. As soon as I saw the extensive montane grassland, fringed by a dense forest of lodgepole pines, my excitement heightened. At last, we had found what appeared an extensive tract of suitable habitat for a Great Gray Owl.

We undertook repeated meadow marches in the late afternoon, noting only a few species of birds: Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird, American Robin, Cassin's Finch, and Red Crossbill. There were frequent cries from sapsuckers coming from the dense forest. Try as we did, we failed to visually identify what were probably Williamson's Sapsuckers.

Toward sunset, on a return walk to our tent, I noted a "probable" Great Gray Owl fly across the meadow, but viewed this large creature for only an instant before it disappeared into the forest. We searched the dense lodgepole pine grove for a while with no luck. I had a hunch I had observed an owl, but hoped for a better view.

Then came success—for both of us! As we had combed the meadow edge separately during our meadow circumnavigations, we weren't always in eye contact for communication. At the far end of the meadow and hidden from Ike I discovered a Great Gray perched at the meadow's edge. I retreated to alert him. Soon I began howling at the top of my lungs, but there was no response! I couldn't believe he couldn't hear me! I mean the meadow wasn't that large. In 5 minutes, we were close enough to converse. "Do you have an owl?" he asked in a controlled and very soft tone. I howled "Yes!" "Well, I do too.

I promptly returned to further view "my" discovery. The bird was moving north along the meadow's edge and was soon lost from view. When I returned to Ike, his bird had disappeared, too. We excitedly recounted our experiences with this "phantom of the north." Ike said his bird was only a moment's walk from our tent and that he had gone to get his scope on "my" discovery. He had been bedded down by the roadside and good spot to see it, too. We tried first at the Cabin Lake Campground north of Fort Rock State Park in an area reputedly reliable for this species. Quoting Evanich (p. 161):

"this is a transition area between the sagebrush flats and open pine-juniper woodlands ... during late summer and fall ... a great place to observe the elusive Pinyon Jay, a nomadic species that seldom occurs regularly at any other Oregon location."

Fort Rock Valley

Raptors such as Red-tails, Ferruginous, and Rough-legged Hawks were evident. The whole valley looked like a real raptor haven as irrigated fields lie adjacent to shrub-steppe where jackrabbit sign was abundant.

We censused the sagelands and finally found a few singing Sage Sparrows in real "jukey" habitat, with much rabbitbrush. I don't believe I have ever found Sage Sparrows in Washington in a habitat with significant cover of rabbitbrush. Grazing excess was certainly evident, perhaps accentuated by years of successive drought. For this reason, grass cover was virtually absent, or perhaps, grass cover is much reduced in Great Basin communities this far south in Oregon. While in Washington, I associate this sparrow with shrub stands where native grasses form a multistoried effect, here it was quite happily singing from impoverised looking sagelands. Sage Thrashers were in force, but no other shrub-steppe passerines such as Brewer's or Lark Sparrows.

Ike had the Pinyon Jay as another species on his wish list. I couldn't remember encountering this species more than once when I lived in Southern California as a beginning birder in the late 1960s, so I was anxious to see it, too. We tried first at the Cabin Lake Campground north of Fort Rock State Park in an area reputedly reliable for this species. Quoting Evanich (p. 161):

"this is a transition area between the sagebrush flats and open pine-juniper woodlands ... during late summer and fall ... a great place to observe the elusive Pinyon Jay, a nomadic species that seldom occurs regularly at any other Oregon location."

Oregon Birds 19(1): 15, Spring 1983
We found very few birds here save Pygmy Nuthatches and Mountain Chickadees in this area of almost pure ponderosa pine. Western juniper appeared very rare, so I searched through the guide for another locale, hopefully one with junipers as dominant, as I suspected they might be in stands of this tree rather than pine at this season.

Southern portion of the Crooked River Highway

I noted Hwy. 27 south of the Prineville Reservoir singled out as a Pinyon Jay locale (Evanich, p. 137), so we made off in that direction — which was, conveniently, homeward.

Before leaving Hwy. 20 to head north on 27, we determined we had better get some gas. A tiny dot on the map showed Brothers just seven miles east. Reaching this 1-store town after admiring Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks as well as a roadside Prairie Falcon, it seemed the place was abandoned. We were now close to desperate for gas. Bend seemed too far, as was Prineville and we couldn’t see any farm houses about. Finally, some moments later the proprietor emerged from the shanty-like station, bailing us out of our plight. We ended up pigging out on a bacon burger and good strong coffee, while Ike dove into some real creamy looking potato soup and a thick-sliced grilled cheese. “This place is worth it for the experience,” Ike commented. A bit of the old west.

Heading north from the shrub-steppe into the juniper-clad hills and canyons along dusty Hwy. 27, we had only 2 stops to make before we stumbled upon a roving flock of Pinyon Jays. Jays by the dozen, close to 50 total!

Soon, we noted a Prairie Falcon diving into the area of juniper where the jays were concentrated, hunting Accipiter-like. The cacophony from the jays that ensued filled the basalt-rimmed canyon! Restless, and true to their nomadic nature, the jays seemed to be moving across the hillsides in a broad swath, all the while conversing with their peculiar “baby” crow calls. Though the jays took first place in this avian drama, the wild gyrations and loud kakkng from the falcon, perhaps nesting only a few hundred meters away on the cliffs, was memorable also.

Robins and solitaires were also in the junipers, but we saw little else, save a few Red-tailed Hawks. Just to the south of Prineville, we spied several Turkey Vultures at a carcass of a small mammal, possibly that of a dog.

I dropped Ike off at the Bend/Redmond Airport at 4:45 pm. I headed north, reaching home in 3-1/2 hours, adding only Common Crows in Redmond to the trip list. Ike was home in Seattle by about 9 pm.

I learned that a lot of spectacular country and exceptional birding lies fairly close by in south-central Oregon. There appears to be much more wild country too, though excessive grazing has surely diminished habitat quality. Logging pressures seem intense too, though hopefully, some “New Forestry” will help protect ecosystem diversity for the future. I want to return!

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<td>Rudy Duck</td>
<td>Mountain Bluebird</td>
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<td>Townsend’s Solitaire</td>
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<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>Sage Thrasher</td>
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<td>Accipiter, sp.</td>
<td>Cedar Waxwing</td>
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<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>European Starling</td>
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<td>Ferruginous Hawk</td>
<td>Rufous-sided Towhee</td>
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<td>Rough-legged Hawk</td>
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<td>Savannah Sparrow</td>
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<td>Red Crossbill</td>
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<td>American Goldfinch</td>
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<td>Common Snipe</td>
<td>Evening Grosbeak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ring-billed Gull</td>
<td>House Sparrow</td>
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Oregon Birds 18(1): 16, Spring 1993
In 1986, an Environment Assessment was prepared to select alternatives to enhance production of the declining Sandhill Crane population on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. One result of the assessment was development of a predator control plan to enhance crane production. In 1989, the predator control plan was approved for a 5-year extension, based on the success achieved during the first 3 years of the pilot project.

Attached is an executive summary of the 1992 progress report on the project for your information. These progress reports have been prepared annually. We plan to reevaluate the project after the 5-year period, which ends in 1993.

During the 7 years of the predator control program, crane nest success has averaged 66 percent, compared to 47 percent before the control program. Unfortunately, colt survival has continued to be low and has ranged from 6 to 25 percent. The control program has generally been much more effective in increasing nest success than in improving brood survival. Because of the deficiency in meeting our brood survival goals, we initiated a radio telemetry study in 1991. This study was aimed at identifying causes of mortality of young cranes to allow us to improve our management program.

The study was conducted during the past 2 years, and is planned again in 1993.

Data from 1991 showed mink to be the most serious problem in brood mortality, accounting for 36 percent of the mortalities. In 1992, the study again showed mink to be the most important predator in colt mortality. Mink accounted for 35 percent of mortalities in 1992.

Another important factor identified in the 1992 study was losses due to parasitic nematodes (gapeworms). Gapeworms were determined to be the cause of death in 26 percent of the mortalities.

Using our 1992 crane data and assuming the telemetry data reflects losses of young in the Refuge population, we estimate that mink killed 96 young cranes and 72 additional cranes succumbed to gapeworm parasites in 1992.

The population of mink on the Refuge has been high in recent years. In 1992, we initiated a new predator survey based on observations of predators during daylight hours. The format of the survey was designed by researchers at the Service’s Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center at Jamestown, North Dakota.

They initiated this survey in 1983, and have used it on 33 study areas located in Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and in Minnesota, Montana and North and South Dakota. Their data show indices of mink abundance ranging from 0 to 4. Malheur Refuge data for 1992 showed mink abundance ranging from 10 in the Blitzen Valley, 13 in the Double-0, and 18 in the south Blitzen Valley. This suggests there are 4.5 times more mink in the south Blitzen Valley than in any of the 33 Northern Prairie study areas.

Based on our findings from the telemetry study and the new predator survey, we are proposing 2 modifications of our crane enhancement plan for 1993:

1. Add mink to our list of predators to be controlled. This would be an experimental program and would only include portions of the refuge. Qualified private trappers may be used to assist in reducing mink numbers, however the majority of the control would be conducted by [Federal] Animal Damage Control personnel. The intent of the control program would be not to eliminate mink, but rather to reduce the mink population to a level which is compatible with the Sandhill Crane objectives.

2. Initiate an experimental gapeworm dosing treatment on a sample of young cranes and monitor them with telemetry equipment. This trial would allow us to evaluate whether or not it would be feasible to treat young cranes for gapeworm to increase brood survival.

To be placed on the mailing list to receive information on Malheur NWR’s predator control project, write to Forrest W. Cameron, Refuge Manager, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, HC-72, Box 245, Princeton, OR 97721.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY—Malheur Predator Control Program, 1992

The nesting population of Greater Sandhill Cranes on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon, had declined from 236 pairs in 1971 to 181 pairs in 1986 when predator control began. The decline is primarily attributed to the low recruitment of young into the population during the years 1971 through 1985.

A total of 189 crane pairs on territory were tallied for the Refuge in 1992. This represents a decrease of 25 pairs from 1991 numbers. Because of the extreme drought conditions, many areas where cranes normally nest were dry, and it is likely that pairs abandoned these territories early, resulting in the lower count. Because of the poor count, 1991 pair numbers were used in production calculations.

In 1992, 228 coyotes were removed by the following methods: aerial gunning (43 percent), calling and shooting (22 percent), trapping and snares (29 percent). No dens were located and therefore denning was not used this year. An estimated 21 ravens were removed using 21 dozen eggs injected with DRC-1339 and an additional 2 ravens were shot. Five raccoons were taken by trapping plus seven by shooting, for a total of 12.

Sandhill Cranes experienced a fair production year in 1992. Overall Sandhill Crane hatching success was 67 percent. This is below our control program goal of 75 percent. Predators took 19 percent of the monitored nests this year (raven - 5 percent, raccoon - 2 percent, coyote - 7 percent, and unidentified predators - 5 percent). Infertile or rotten eggs accounted for losses of 9 percent of nests.

Crane colts were counted from the air on 10 September in the Double-0 and Blitzen Valley using ADC’s Husky aircraft. This aerial data was supplemented with ground counts in the Blitzen Valley. Unfortunately, the majority of the cranes left the refuge in late August because of poor food supplies due to the drought. Five marked colts which were known to have fledged were absent from the area when the counts were conducted. Therefore, this year’s count of young should be considered low.

Using a combination of ground and aerial count data, a total of 16 colts were tallied on the refuge in 1992.

The Sandhill Crane objectives of the 1992 effort were to have a nesting success of 75 percent, fledging success of 25 percent, and recruitment of 15 percent. The actual outcome was 67 percent nesting success and 5.8 percent fledging success, yielding a recruitment rate of 4.0 percent. A telemetry study of colt mortality this year indicated mixed predation and parasitic gapeworms to be the primary causes of loss of young.

Oregon Birds 18(1): 17, Spring 1993
Oregon Birds Crossword Puzzle No. 6

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

Across
1  Jetty at entrance of Tillamook Bay
4  Lusthoff and Anderson found this warbler, the only rarity of the 1991 Fall OFO weekend
8  Small sandpiper, colloquial term
10  This finch has the bill most uniquely adapted to its food gathering
11  The Rocky Mtn. race of the Orange-crowned Warbler is sometimes misidentified as this eastern warbler
12  West Coast guillemot
13  The only place in Oregon that begins with "T"
14  The Blue one visits Oregon some winters.
17  Sparrow that says "Oh dear me": ——- crowned
19  To fly high without wing flapping
20  The red one is gray when it visits us in late fall
23  The grayer race of the golden-plover
24  N.W.F. east of Hermiston: ____ Springs
26  Its nickname is Baldpate
30  Location closest to Portland to find mountain species: ____ Mtn.
32  Rare but regular fall coastal warbler
34  White-headed, black-chinned goose
35  Colin Dillingham found this oriole in a Brookings apple tree in 1990
36  Was white-tailed, now black-shouldered
37  1981's best bird: Spotted ——
39  How many albatross species have been recorded here?
42  The brown one became the California
44  Somewhere between a duck and a swan
45  Our only Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen here
48  Heron-like wader with a long, decurved bill
49  Beach north of Cascade Head
50  Mimic thrushes include the thrashers, mockingbird, and this Oregon breeder

Down
2  We used to see lots of these loons; now we only see Pacifics
3  Our only swallow that doesn't occur in the East
5  Sounds like a "tin horn"
6  The most pelagic jaeger
7  292-0661: Rare Bird ____
8  Town that boasts being in the very center of Oregon
9  What a Willow Flycatcher says
15  Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel invaded this bay in 1985
16  Wilson's Warbler has a small black one
18  Coastal pelican
19  Rock Wrens have been found on this mountain in the northern Coast Range
21  Rufous-sided Towhee's is red
22  Crested relative of the chickadee
25  National forest east of Prineville
27  Veneta's birding claim to fame: Common ____________
28  Where is Azalea State Park
29  Swamp and Grasshopper are no longer on the Review List
31  The only Oregon birder who has seen Worm-eating Warbler in Oregon
33  The only gadfly petrel seen alive in Oregon
38  Yellow-throated Yellow-rumped Warbler: ____'s
40  Grouse that "drums" by beating its wings
41  December's big event; the Christmas Bird ______
43  An accipiter is called a "Bird ____
46  Marsh near La Grande
47  Kidney fat

Crossword puzzle answer on page 22.
Please check your mailing label. The volume and issue number of your last issue of *Oregon Birds* is printed in the upper right hand corner. OB is now sent on a 1-year basis, not on a volume-year basis. In other words, your membership runs for 4 quarters — 4 issues of OB — from the quarter in which you joined or renewed. If the number 19(1) appears — this is your last issue. So it’s time to send in your membership dues! If the number 19(2) or 19(3) appears, feel free to send in your dues a little early. You’ll be guaranteed an extension of 4 issues at today’s rates, you won’t have to worry about your subscription for more than a year, and you’ll make the accounting at OFO a little easier. The entire OB team thanks you!

New fieldnotes editors for eastern Oregon have stepped forward: Tom Crabtree and Steve Summers will split the duties. Tom will take the winter and summer seasons, and Steve the spring and fall seasons. Oregon’s birders should forward their eastern Oregon field reports directly to Tom and Steve, and of course birders can always send their reports to OFO’s post office box in Eugene — where they are divided according to season and region and forwarded to the appropriate fieldnotes editor. Tom and Steve take over where Joe Evanich leaves off. The job of the fieldnotes editor is to assimilate the notes taken on Oregon’s birds in each season and present the information in a meaningful way. In time, the fieldnotes portion of *Oregon Birds* will provide some of the most meaningful and pertinent information on Oregon’s avifauna — what was where and when it happened. We are grateful to Joe for his years of reporting on eastern Oregon’s birds, and we wish Steve and Tom good birding as well as good reporting.

Papers on the Marbled Murrelet have been collected into a new publication by the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, titled *Status and Conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in North America*. The section titled *The Marbled Murrelet in Oregon, 1899-1987* is authored by Oregon birders S.K. Nelson, M.L.C. McAllister, M.A. Stern, D.H. Varoujean, and J.M. Scott. The publication is available now at $14 for members of the Pacific Seabird Group and $20 for non-members. Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93010.

Field research assistants are needed May-October 1993 for ongoing analyses of Great Basin riparian habitats. Work involves avian surveys and habitat inventories at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in southeastern Oregon and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northern Nevada. Experience in identification of western birds by song, call, and sight is a necessity, background in wildlife or ecological studies is desirable. Must be willing to work in remote areas, possess enthusiasm for field work, and work well in a team. Some camping in primitive conditions required. Stipend of $15/day, housing, transportation on the refuge, and equipment will be provided. These are volunteer positions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Send resume and letter of interest to Bill Pyle, Sheldon/Hart Mountain Refuges, P.O. Box 111, Lakeview, OR 97630, 503-947-3315 fax 503-947-4414.

I am seeking further sources of information on the Bush tit *Psaltriparus minimus* for inclusion in the Birds of North America account that I am writing. If you are aware of studies that remain unpublished or hidden in obscure references, please contact Sarah A. Sloane, Center for Evolutionary Ecology, T.H. Morgan School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40502, 606-257-8417.
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is working on a "comprehensive plan" to manage wildlife and associated habitats on the Double-O Unit. "We are scheduling the plan for completion in late summer 1993," according to refuge staff. "Waterfowl production at the Double-O Unit is higher than anywhere else on the refuge. Yet, potential exists to enhance habitat for not only waterfowl, cranes, and shorebirds, but also for other non-game birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals." The unit is to be used "as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife." "Water is the biggest problem in the Double-O Unit. During dry years, no irrigation water reaches the refuge from Silver Creek. Several springs in the area allow us to irrigate about half of the wetlands in the Unit, but by late summer, when water is critical for young birds, it is in very short supply." For more information, contact Forrest W. Cameron, Refuge Manager, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, HC 72 - Box 245, Princeton, OR 97721.

The Nestucca Bay area is known as an important wintering area for the Aleutian Canada Geese (a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act). Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons (also listed species) rely on the Nestucca Bay wetland and headland habitats for foraging and roosting. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "identified a project area comprising approximately 4700 acres which included habitats most important to wintering waterfowl and area Bald Eagles as well as buffer zones supporting other species such as shorebirds, neotropical migrants, reptiles, amphibians, and resident and migratory fish." FWS has proposed a new land protection plan for this area. "The centerpiece of this cooperative effort was a renewed emphasis upon cooperative resource management on pasturelands within a smaller project area." This new plan is the subject of a revised Environmental Assessment "to assess the impacts of this proposed alternate land protection program." For copies, contact Richard B. Moore, Regional Supervisor, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland Regional Office, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181, 503-231-2231.

Meetings, events & deadlines

- 6-10 March 1993, American Birding Association's Regional Conference in Grand Island, Nebraska. "We have decided to schedule this Conference to time with the phenomenon of Sandhill Crane migration in Nebraska. Each spring — beginning in late February — the world's largest concentration of cranes begins to gather in this region. Knowledgeable observers have called this 'the greatest wildlife spectacle in North America.' We also plan to witness large flocks of waterfowl and, with luck, some 'chickens' of the prairies.' Speakers include Paul Lehman, Arnold Small, William S. Clark, and Craig Faanes. Paul J. Baichet, Conference Manager, P.O. Box 404, Oxon Hill, MD 20750, 301-839-9736.

Add your event! Write to the OB Editor....
- 29 April - 1 May 1993, Wilson Ornithological Society, at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Alex Middleton, Zoology Department, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.

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

- 8-13 June 1993, American Ornithologists' Union, 111th stated meeting at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Edward C. Murphy, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-0180; Robert H. Day, Alaska Biological Research, Inc., P.O. Box 81934, Fairbanks, AK 99708.


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


American Woodcock, 29 April - 1 May 1993, Wilson Ornithological Society, at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario

SITE GUIDE: Obsidian Road, Glass Buttes, Lake Co.

David A. Anderson, 6203 S.E. 92nd, Portland, OR 97266, 503-775-5963

Usually when birders are crossing the high desert on Highway 20, they are thinking about the birds waiting at Malheur NWR and vicinity or they are thinking about the ones that were missed. Brief stops are sometimes made at Brothers or even Chickahominy Bird Count.

There is now another spot which can be added to the otherwise monotonous birdless drive — Glass Buttes, located in extreme northeastern Lake Co., famous for its obsidian but not yet for its birds. In De Lorme's Oregon Atlas & Gazetteer, this area can be found on pages 76-77 near coordinates B4.

Obsidian Road is a dirt road which heads south from Highway 20 several miles east of the Bear Creek-Fife Road, which is due north of Glass Buttes. The lower portion of the road is open grass and sage habitat in which Horned Lark and Brewers and Sage Sparrows have been found in spring.

After climbing slightly the road enters an open juniper and sage habitat — which is by no means an unusual habitat type in this area of the state! Almost due east of Glass Buttes is a small reservoir which usually has some water in it all year. Birds which have been noted here include Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, and Eastern Kingbird (once).

At the east end of the reservoir the road forks. The fork which continues due east leads to the best birding spot in the immediate vicinity. Over a mile east you will begin to notice some rim rock to the south. At the base of the rim rock, apparently where it is wettest, is a habitat type in short supply in the area. It almost looks like riparian. Near the east end of the rim rocks is a small gully which breaks the rim. Continuing below the gully is an extension of this almost riparian-type habitat. Park along the gravel road and walk south to this brush line — about 200 to 300 yards. Note that if you have reached a gate on the gravel road you have gone too far. Birds which have been seen here in spring include Black-chinned Hummingbird, Dusky & Gray Flycatchers, Bush tits, Orange-crowned, Nashville and MacGillivray's Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Northern Orioles. Not a bad list for a small spot.

Since this area is quite dry in the summer and fall, spring and early summer is the best time to visit. Even though there are probably rattlesnakes in the area I've not yet seen any. There are ticks however. Since this is BLM land, enjoy exploring here and be sure to report any unusual birds to the region's field notes editor!
A couple of weekends ago, I took a day to go down to Lincoln County, on the Oregon Coast. I took a fairly typical route: starting at Boiler Bay, I proceeded south past Depoe Bay to the south jetty of Yaquina Bay, birded Idaho Point, then drove part of the Yaquina Bay Road as I scoped the lower part of the bay. I was hoping for a couple of particular birds: an Emperor Goose had been seen on the Yaquina Bay CBC and I would like a Yellow-billed Loon for Lincoln County. In spite of not seeing these birds and a tough, icy drive, I had one of the most enjoyable days birding that I have had in a long time.

I began with marvelous views of Rough-legged Hawks as I drove through Yamhill and Polk Counties. At Boiler Bay, the sea was calm, and for once the Ancient Murrelets (10 of them) were just off the rocks, not the bobbing and diving specks that I usually struggle to identify through my mist-covered scope. I was doing a sweep with my scope and latched onto a grebe just off the rocks; a turn of its head and an eye, completely surrounded by white, ogled me momentarily before the bird dove. Clark’s Grebe! Depoe Bay’s rocks yielded flocks of resting turnstones and oystercatchers, as well as a lone Rock Sandpiper.

A drive out the south jetty produced little, but it’s still one of the best places I know to eat lunch as I bird, especially on a sunny day. On the way out to Idaho Point, I saw an interesting bird on a wire. I parked and walked back to confirm my guess; yes, it was indeed a Northern Mockingbird. A conversation with the property owner informed me that the bird had been present for a couple of months. Yaquina Bay had good numbers of Black Brant and some Redheads mixed with the loons, grebes, scoters and other ducks. All in all, it was the best of a typical day: agreeable weather, the expectation of possible good birds, some good views of some uncommon species, and a couple pleasant surprises.

As one might deduce from the above, I consider myself quite the average birder. Although I certainly enjoy chasing rarities, I still consider good views of the more common birds to be the most fascinating and pleasurable aspect of birding. I very much enjoy county listing, mainly for the interesting corners of Oregon that I have visited as a result. (In all fairness, I must admit that from this year on I intend to only bird Sherman County as I drive through it on my way to other places.) Sometime before the year 2000 I expect to have achieved my goal of seeing 100 or more different species of birds in each of Oregon’s 36 counties. Although I often bird alone, I consider birding to be a very social activity and enjoy meeting new and old acquaintances in the field.

On to OFO news. The OFO Board meeting, scheduled for early January, had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. Work on the Annual Meeting at Malheur continues to progress. We have started lining up field trip leaders and speakers and are confident that all who attend will have a good time. At that time we will announce the location of the 1994 Annual Meeting, which will take place somewhere on the west side of the Cascades. Rumor has it (dare I say a little bird told me?) that the southern part of our state might get the nod. The OFO T-shirt sales continue to be a success and the Board is looking at other ways to raise revenue and display the OFO logo.

OFO relies heavily on volunteer efforts from its members. For example, most Annual Meetings need field trip leaders. If you would like to lead a trip on Saturday or Sunday at Malheur during our Annual Meeting, please contact Colin Dillingham at 503-469-9624.

Another opportunity to serve is as an officer of OFO. The terms of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 Board members expire at the end of the upcoming Annual Meeting. If interested in running for or nominating someone else for any of these positions, please write Hendrik Herlyn at 204 N.W. 9th Apt. 6, Corvallis, OR 97330 or call him at 503-758-3138. Please check with those you would like to nominate to see if they are interested before putting their name in for consideration. Finally, as always, we hope to hear from any members who would like to communicate with us.

Good birding!
A Rare *Zonotrichia* Grand Slam

Mike Denny, 323 Scenic View Drive, College Place, WA 99324
Shirley Muse, 219 Newell, Walla Walla, WA 99362

On 3 May 1992, four of us from Blue Mountain Audubon Society in Walla Walla, Washington — the authors plus Priscilla Dauble and Merry Lynn Denny — were on our annual birdathon to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. We stopped at the headquarters on the Refuge, and in less than half an hour we had compiled an extremely rare record of the 4 species of *Zonotrichia* sparrows: Harris’ Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

When we first arrived at the headquarters, other birders alerted us to a White-throated Sparrow in the lilac hedge near the museum. A few minutes later Priscilla and Shirley found a breeding plumage Golden-crowned Sparrow along the south edge of the headquarters lawn. Meanwhile, Merry Lynn and Mike came upon an adult male Harris’ Sparrow, a first record for them in Harney County.

When we added these 2 to the White-throated Sparrow already seen, our excitement mounted as we realized we had a strong possibility for a Grand Slam record of the 4 *Zonotrichia* sparrows. We then searched the brushy area near the display pond and, as expected, we saw a White-Crowned Sparrow perched atop a creosote bush. We had them! All 4 in one location in a little over 15 minutes!

We made rounds again to make certain that all 4 of us saw all 4 of the birds, but we could hardly contain our excitement. This was a personal “first” for each of us. Our later research proved that this is indeed a very rare event, not only in Oregon and in the West — probably the only place this is likely occur — but it is a rare record for North America. There are no reported records for Washington or Oregon (Harry Nehls, personal communication). In the last 25 years, there have been only 2 or 3 reports for California, and these were all from Death Valley (Paul Lehman, personal communication). If there are other records that have not been reported, we would very much like to hear of them.

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Sketch/Mike Denny.
Grebes to Ibis

About 150 pairs of Eared Grebes nested in the south Blitzen Valley (Malheur NWR) this summer, but no Horned Grebes were noted during the season (fide RV). At least 2 pairs of Eared Grebes built nests on a pond at Juniper Butte Ranch, Wheeler, but the brief period of showers during mid-June flooded them out (DL, DA). A mixed colony of 440 Western and Clark's Grebes nested on Harney Lk. this season (RV), and a lone Clark's Grebe was reported from Klamath Forest NWR on 25 June (EP). There were no other grebe nesting results reported.

The 1500 White Pelicans that summered at Malheur NWR were concentrated on Harney Lk.; no nesting was noted there this year (RV). A large concentration of 100-200 White Pelicans remained at Cold Springs NWR, Umatilla during late July (CC, JS). The large colony of Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, and Great Egrets at Diamond Marsh was also abandoned (RV) — no reason was given for these nesting failures. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron at Smith Rocks SP, Crook on 19 July (SR) was a local rarity. Also out of range was the Great Egret observed at Cold Springs NWR on 25 July (CC, JS). A well-studied Green-backed Heron was found along Malheur NWR's Boca Lk. Canal on 1 July for an extremely rare record (RV). Up to 350 White-faced Ibises were still present at Lower Klamath NWR on 7 June (HN); this was the only report of the species outside its typical Harney stronghold.

Waterfowl to Gulls

Four breeding pairs of Trumpeter Swans raised 9 cygnets at Malheur NWR this summer; this was 5 fewer than last year (fide RV). Four Common Gold-eyes were noted on Clear Lk., Wasco on 19 July (DL, DP); this species is a very rare breeder in Oregon and is not known to nest in the northern Cascades.

The pair of Bald Eagles nesting on the Malheur NF in northern Harney produced 2 young this year as they did in 1991 (fide RV). An adult Bald Eagle at Fopiano Res. east of Mitchell, Wheeler on 11 July was far from any known nesting sites (DL, DA). Also of interest were 2 adult and 2 immature Bald Eagles noted in the Spanish Peak area of southeastern Wheeler on 12 July (PTS, TW). Most amazing was a large flock of 60+ Swainson’s Hawks observed in the Service Buttes area near Hermiston, Umatilla on 11 July (CC, JS). Although Swainson’s Hawks are well-known as gregarious migrants, such large concentrations are seldom noted in Oregon. Northern Goshawks were noted twice in the Mt. Hood-Clear Lk. area during the summer (ML, DL), and 3 times in the Ochoco Mts. of Wheeler (PTS, JE, et al.). A Peregrine observed on 22-23 June near Malheur NWR headquarters (RV) was the only one reported this summer. The south-bound shorebird migra-
tion was noted as early as late June. By the end of July, at least 18 species were reported, including the local summer residents. Two Long-billed Dowitchers at Malheur NWR headquarters on 3 June (HN, JE), and 9 Red-necked Phalaropes near Hines, Harney on 6 June (DFa) were most likely late spring migrants heading north. On the other hand, the Marbled Godwit on Mud Lk. (Malheur NWR) 17 June could have been heading either north or south. Lone Solitary Sandpipers were found at the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds NM, Wheeler on 11 July (DL, DA), and near Stanfield, Umaitilla on 26 July (CC, JS). A flock of 35 Marbled Godwits at Wallowa Lk. on 4 July was also noteworthy (ML). Very rare were 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers reports this summer; one at Wamic, Wasco on 4 July (DL); up to 2 birds at Cold Springs NWR from 12-25 July (CC, JS), and 1 at McKay Creek NWR, Umaitilla on 19 July (CC). No details were received regarding these birds’ ages or plumages. Two Short-billed Dowitchers were an excellent find near Wamic on 19 July (DL).

An immature Bonaparte’s Gull was found amid a concentration of feeding Franklin’s Gulls at Malheur NWR’s Buena Vista Pond on 3 June (HN). The first “fall” migrant Bonaparte’s Gull was noted 11 July near Wasco, Sherman (DL). The main nesting colony of Franklin’s Gulls at Malheur NWR was abandoned early this summer, but a smaller colony in the southern Blitzen Valley was successful (fide RV). A wandering Franklin’s Gull was at Cold Springs NWR on 29 July (CC, JS). The Jefferson Park “Pass” in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area is apparently a major migration corridor for California Gulls heading into Western Oregon during mid-summer; many groups were noted passing over this divide in late June and early July (MP, AC). A lone Common Tern was found at Cold Springs NWR on 25 July, and a migrant Black Tern appeared at McKay Creek NWR on 18 July (both CC, JS). Totally unprecedented was a meticulously-described Arctic Tern that surprised birders at the Mt. Vernon sewage ponds, Grant on 14 June (TW, et al.).

Cuckoos to Woodpeckers

A secretive YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was noted periodically at the Fields oasis from 1-6 June (DVB, HN, SJ, et al.). Common Nighthawk numbers were down throughout most areas in Eastern Oregon (fide HN); therefore, the 100+ observed feeding over Rock Creek Res., Wasco on 4 July was impressive (DL).

A Flammulated Owl was heard and seen about 10 mi. southeast of Ukiah, Umaitilla on 4 June, and another was calling about 20 mi. southeast of Ukiah on 20 June (CC, JS). At least 2 other Flams were also found in the Ochoco Mts. of southern Wheeler during June (DL, PTS). Single Long-eared Owls were noted in willows along Malheur NWR’s Center Patrol Rd. during June (2 birds; RV), near Mt. Pisgah in southwestern Wheeler on 11 June (PTS); and at Indian Rock Lookout, Grant on 18 July (BH).

On 30 June, over 30 Calliope Hummingbirds were found at a feeder south of Ukiah; also noted there were 1 or 2 female Broad-tailed Hummers (CC, JS). Far more unusual, however, was the female (or immature male) Anna’s Hummingbird reported at that same feeder on 22 June (CC, JS). This species is regularly encountered in Eastern Oregon only in the vicinity of Bend.

Single Black-backed Woodpeckers were noted southeast of Ukiah on 6 June (CC, JS) and at Bear Valley, Grant during June (CC). A female was observed feeding young at the Bear Springs Ranger Station, Wasco on 11 July (ML). There were many more reports of Three-toed Woodpeckers than usual this summer — singles were found at Mt. Pisgah on 11 July (PTS); at Target Meadows near Tollgate, Umaitilla on 27 June (CC, JS); at Clear Lk, Wasco on 5 July (DL); and at Indian Rock Lookout on 29 June (BH); and west of Moon Cr., Grant on 2 July (P & SSw). An active Three-toed nest was found at Little Cultus Lk., Deschutes on 16 July (BT).

Flycatchers to Vireos

Up to 3 Least Flycatchers continued to frequent Clyde Holliday SP throughout the summer (TW, m.ob.). Single Leasts were observed and heard at Rhinehart Bridge near Elgin, Union (HN) and near Tollgate (SR), both on 13 June. A territorial ALDER FLYCATCHER was studied along Malheur NWR’s Center Patrol Rd. about 5 mi. north of the ’P’ Ranch on 4 June (JE); the bird’s distinctive call notes and full song were noted in direct comparison with nearby calling Willow Flycatchers. It or another Alder Flycatcher was found in that same vicinity on 5 June (HN).

With the recent split of Cordilleran and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, more and more birders are listening closely to “Western-type” empids encountered in Eastern Oregon. The resulting finds aren’t making much sense on this side of the Cascades, and many observers — both birders and professional ornithologists — are beginning to question the validity of this split. Many experienced observers are even suggesting that these two species may not be separable by any of their vocalizations! On 14 June, an estimated 80 percent of vocal “Western” empids encountered in the Elgin area (Union) were identified as Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and 20 percent were giving Cordilleran-type calls (SR). A Pacific-slope Flycatcher was identified by voice near Mt. Pisgah near Mitchell on 12 June (PTS, TW). Two nesting pairs of Cordillerans were noted near Gibbon, Umaitilla during June (HN, SR). Perhaps Eastern Oregon birders are best advised to call all these birds, whether silent or vocal, just Western Flycatchers.

Six Pinyon Jays were noted in Wheeler on 7 June (DL, DA) — apparently a new location for the species. A good local find was a Chestnut-backed Chickadee found at Indian Rock Lookout on 17 July (BH), and 2 Black-capped Chickadees at Fossil, Wheeler on 14 June were also unusual (DA). Apparently there were 2 pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nesting at Cyrus Springs in the Crooked River National Grasslands (Cow), but the results of this record were not noted (HN, et al.). A Varied Thrush seemed very out-of-season at Malheur NWR headquarters on 4-6 June (fone RV). For the second year, a Gray Catbird was found well west of its normal range along Beaver Creek in the northern reaches of Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Wasco (DL). The Northern Mockingbird that flew across Hwy. 20 east of Hampton, Deschutes on 3 June (HN) was the only one reported. Lucky birders did not have a brief but diagnostic look at a BROWN THRASHER near Fossil on 13 June (PM, LW); unfortunately, it could not be relocated. A migrant Red-eyed Vireo was at Malheur NWR headquarters on 3 June (BS); others which may have been on breeding grounds were noted near Gibbon, Umatilla on 28 June (HN) and at Clyde Holliday SP on 5 June (JE).

**Warblers to Finches**

- An adult male CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER observed at Jordan Valley, Malheur on 20 June (JG) was the most unusual warbler reported. Other good finds included a migrant American Redstart at Malheur headquarters on 2 June (SJ), and a singing Northern Waterthrush at the Wallowa Fish Hatchery in Enterprise on 21 June (FC). The latter sighting is a long overdue first record for northeast Oregon. A singing adult male ROSE-BREASTED Grosbeak was an excellent find at the mouth of Lightning Creek near Immahla, Wallowa on 7 June (FC, et al.). Yet another “singing vagrant,” an adult male INDIGO BUNTING, was found along Trout Creek in southern Harney on 7 June (BTw, et al.).

- A territorial pair of Grasshopper Sparrows was discovered on Clear Lake Ridge, Wallowa on 21 June (PTS, FC, et al.; this 5000-foot site is far from any known colony of the species in Oregon. “Several” pairs of Fox Sparrows were believed to be nesting in the clearcut near Tollgate on 29 June (CC, JS), and another pair was noted along Eagle Creek, east of Medical Springs (Baker) on the suspicious date of 28 June (PTS). A new nesting site for Bobolinks was discovered early at Malheur headquarters on 2 June (BTw), a pair with 2+ downy young were noted near Wallowa on 14 June (DA). Still another colony of Tricolored Blackbirds was found in Central Oregon this season. A pair of Lesser Goldfinches, decidedly rare in northeast Oregon, was found nesting (!) east of Ukiah on 20 June (CC, JS).

**Observers**

- David A. Anderson (DA); Frank Conley (FC); Alan Contreras (AC); Craig Corder (CC); Joe Evanich (JE); Cecil Gagnon (CG); John Gatchett (JG); Bob Hudson (BH); Sheran Jones (SJ); Margaret LaFieve (ML); Donna Lusthoff (DL); Mike Nehls (HN); L. O’Connor (LO); Mike Patterson (MP); Dennis Paulson (DPa); Don Peterson (DP); Eleanor Pugh (EP); Skip Russell (SR); Judy Stevens (JS); Bill Storz (BS); Paul T. Sullivan (PTS); Pat & Sharon Sweezy (P & SS); Bill Tice (BT); Bill Tweit (BTw); Dan Van den Broek (DvB), Rick Vetter, Malheur NWR (RV); Linda Weiland (LW); Tom Winters (TW).

**Fieldnotes: Western Oregon, Summer 1992**

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**Abbreviations**

- Co. County
- L. Lake
- NWR National Wildlife Refuge
- Res. Reservoir
- SJCR South Jetty of the Columbia River

**Pacific Loon**

A report of 200+ at SJCR 7 July to the end of the period was a rather large summer concentration (MP); the usual smaller numbers were reported from other coastal localities.

**Eared Grebe**

Two at Hyatt L., Jackson Co., 3 July was unusual as this species is not known to breed west of the Cascades (PS).

**Western/Clark’s Grebe**

A pair with 2+ downy young were observed at Fern Ridge Res. 17 July (MH). One of the adults was visually identified as a Western, but the calls heard were clearly that of Clark’s. Either way this was the first confirmed breeding record from Fern Ridge Res. and one of few if any for western Oregon.

**Black-footed Albatross**

- One was found dead on the beach at SJCR 9 July (HN).

**Masked Booby**

Two separate reports were received without details. One “probable” off Cape Arago, 17 June (BK), and 1 seen flying past the mouth of Yaquina Bay, 26 July by an observer experienced with the species in Texas (SR). There are no accepted Oregon records of any booby species.

**American White Pelican**

Twenty-two at Hyatt L., Jackson Co., 3 July (PS) was an expected post-breeding congregation. This is the only area west of the Cascades where numbers of White Pelicans occur with regularity.

**Great Egret**

The first post-breeders where reported as follows: Alsea Bay, 14 July; Yaquina Bay, 25 July (fone RB); and Sauvie I., 31 July (HN).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

The only one reported was an immature on Sauvie I. 29-31 July (DB, JJ). This species is not known to breed in western Oregon.

**Brant**

Reports indicated that more summered on the Oregon coast than normal, but numbers were not provided apart from the usual small scattered groups (HN, RL).

**Northern Pintail**

One at Tillamook, 22 June (HN) may have been a late spring migrant. The first of the fall movement was noted at SJCR...
June (JE), and June (KM). This species is very rare.

Ring-necked Duck
One male was at Finley NWR 7-28 June (KM). This species is very rare during the breeding season in western Oregon, particularly in the Willamette Valley.

Black-shouldered Kite
A pair fledged 4 young at Fern Ridge Res. (fide MH). There are few breeding records in Oregon.

Peregrine Falcon
A pair of urban Peregrines fledged 1 young on Portland’s Fremont Bridge (fide HH). This is the first that this author has seen. Other records in Oregon.

Lesser Golden-Plover
One dominica was at Siletz Bay, 17 June (JE), and 3 of undetermined race were at Tillamook 14 July (HN).

Semipalmated Plover
First noted at Young’s Bay 6 July (MP). Seventy-five at Tillamook 29 July was the largest group reported (HN).

Greater Yellowlegs
First noted at Eckman L., Lincoln Co., 3 July (fide BB), and on Sauvie I. 10 July (DB). The first juvenile on Sauvie I. was noted 26 July (DB).

Lesser Yellowlegs
First noted at Seaside 9 July (MP), and on Sauvie I. 10 July (DB). The first juvenile on Sauvie I. was noted 31 July (DB).

Wandering Tattler
The last of the spring migration was at Yaquina Head 3 June (fide RB). The first of the fall migration was noted at SJCR 23 July (MP).

Long-billed Curlew
One was at Yaquina Bay, 22 June (HN).

Ruddy & Black Turnstone
First noted at SJCR 23 July (MP).

Surfbird
First noted at Barview Jetty, 3 July (JG, SJ).

Red Knot
First noted at Waldport, 14 July (PP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper
First noted on Sauvie I. 10 July (DB).

Western Sandpiper
First noted at Waldport, 29 June (fide RB).

Least Sandpiper
First noted at SJCR 6 July (MP), and Sauvie I. 10 July (DB). The first juveniles were noted at Tillamook 29 July (HN), and on Sauvie I. 31 July (DB).

Pectoral Sandpiper
First noted on Sauvie I. 26 July (DB).

Long-billed Dowitcher
First noted on Sauvie I. 10 July (DB).

Common Snipe
First noted on Sauvie I. 31 July (HN).

Red Phalarope
One on the Bay City sewage ponds 22 June may have been a lingering spring migrant (HN).

Sabine’s Gull
Two were seen flying past Boiler Bay, 2 June (RG).

Cassin’s Auklet
One in breeding plumage was at Cascade Head, 30 June, for a rather unusual mid-breeding season record (RL).

Ancient Murrelet
Small numbers of dead birds began washing up on beaches 9 July to the end of the period (HN).

Common Murre
A singing bird was discovered south of Blue River, Lane Co., 10 June and was relocated 12 June (RS, MH). Another 2 were found near the junction of roads 21 and 2154 far up the Middle Fork Willamette R. 13 June (MH).

Black Swift
At least 8-10 were at the well-known

Bufflehead
One female summered at the Bay City sewage ponds (HN). Buffleheads are not known to breed in western Oregon away from a few sites in the central Cascades.

Common Tern
The only report was of 3 at the SJCR, 9 July (HN).

Forster’s Tern
Two were on Sauvie I. 7 June (JG).

Black Tern
Breeding was verified at Fern Ridge Res. A nest with eggs was found by TM and a fledged juvenile was observed by MH on 11 July. The most adults seen at one time was 8 on 11 July (MH). Black Terns were once reported with some regularity during the breeding seasons along the Willamette R. in the southern and central parts of the Willamette Valley, but this is the first time that nesting has been confirmed.

Marbled Murrelet
Up to 6, including 1 not-yet-fledged chick in a nest tree were in the North Fork Siletz R. valley 2-9 July; 3 were in God’s Valley, Tillamook Co., 9 & 18 July; and 5 were observed on the north side of Saddle Mtn., Clatsop Co., 24 July. All of these observations were made by Greg Gillson during Marbled Murrelet Research Project surveys.

Cassin’s Auklet
Small numbers of dead birds began washing up on beaches 9 July to the end of the period (HN).

Common Poorwill
A singing bird was discovered south of Blue River, Lane Co., 10 June and was relocated 12 June (RS, MH). Another 2 were found near the junction of roads 21 and 2154 far up the Middle Fork Willamette R. 13 June (MH).

Black Swift
At least 8-10 were at the well-known


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Salt Cr. Falls site, Lane Co., 13 June (ML). This location is still the only site where Black Swifts are known to summer. I think the waterfall-rich Columbia R. Gorge is a good area to look for this elusive species.

**Calliope Hummingbird**
A female was at Marion Forks, Linn Co., 21 June (GG) for an interesting west side record.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird**
A female visited a feeder east of Ashland, 3 July (PS) where the species has been found with some regularity.

**Three-toed Woodpecker**
The only report was of a male at Waldo L, 13 July (ML).

**EASTERN PHOEBE**
A singing male spent 5-24 June in Bill Tice's backyard in Falls City, Polk Co., for Oregon's first acceptable record. This bird was seen and photographed by the masses.

**Eastern Kingbird**
Four birds (apparently 2 pairs on territory) were on Portland's Powell Butte, 17 June+ (MH, m.ob.). This was the first indication of any possible breeding of this species west of the Cascades.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**
An adult was seen along the Cape Blanco road 26 June (DH). Why can't one of these birds just stick around somewhere for a couple weeks?

**Bank Swallow**
Three were observed along the Chetco R. 4 July (PS). There has been no word about the breeding colony that was discovered at the Chetco R. a few years ago. Is it still active?

**Mountain Chickadee**
A report of 1 in Neskowin, Tillamook Co., 19 July+ (fide RB) was unusual for its location and the time of year.

**Northern Mockingbird**
One was found singing at South Beach, Lincoln Co., 29 June (fide RB).

**Ovenbird**
A second bird discovered up the McKenzie R. drainage for the spring/summer period was found near the Foley Seed Orchard, 4-1/2 miles south of McKenzie Bridge on 11 June (MH). On this day the observer relocated the Mill Cr. bird which was found during the spring period.

**Brewer's Sparrow**
At least 5 pairs were found at Jefferson Park, Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area, 26 June (MP). Five were mist-netted including 2 hatching-year birds on 18 July. This species has been found in clearcuts in the Cascades during the breeding season, but not in numbers like this.

**Tricolored Blackbird**
One was at Baskett Slough NWR 2 July (GG).

**Northern Oriole**
An adult was seen feeding a fledgling near the Newport Res., 12 July (fide RB), for one of few nesting records for Lincoln Co.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE**
A male visited a Toledo yard in Lincoln Co., 22 July (CP). No details were provided. If accepted, this would be the fifth Oregon record.

**Observers**
David Bailey, Range Bayer, Barb Bellin, Alan Contreras, Char Corkran, Colin Dillingham, Joe Evanich, Darrel Faxon, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Barbara Griffin, Don Hall, Mike Houck, Matt Hunter, Harry Nehls, Jim Johnson, Sheran Jones, Brian Kruse, Margaret LaFaive, Roy Lowe, Donna Lusthoff, Kathy Merrifield, Tom Mickel, Mike Patterson, Chuck Philo, Phil Pickering, Scott Rea, Robyn Spencer, Paul Sullivan, Bill Tice. 

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- 23 April 1993, deadline for the next issue of Oregon Birds
- 30 April 1993, deadline for OFO's annual meeting registration
- 10 June 1993, Spring (March-May) field notes due to field notes editors
- 4-6 June 1993, Oregon Field Ornithologists annual meeting at Malheur Field Station
- 10 August 1993, Summer (June-July) field notes due to field notes editors

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