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Other Illustrations: Joe Evanich, Steve Gordon, Steve Heini,
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President's Message
Richard Palmer

The fourth annual OFO convention held on April 30 is now history. I hope all of you who attended gained some knowledge and enjoyment from the proceedings. The three pelagic trips held that weekend found only a few birds of the normally occurring species. Was the lack of birds due to the higher ocean water temperatures measured this year? No one probably knows for sure. Hopefully OFO will establish year-round pelagic trips to answer many of the perplexing questions involving the pelagic birds off the coast of Oregon. Much knowledge was gained from the identification panel so aptly chaired by Tom Crabtree and assisted by Dave Markley, Harry Nehls and Steve Summers. A highly technical discussion, delving into the fine points of pelagic bird identification, was presented in association with several fine color slides. The OFO board would like your opinion of this type of presentation for future program consideration.

Planning for the fifth annual meeting begins this October at the next board meeting. Requests to host this coming year's convention should be submitted in writing to me prior to October 1st. Do you have any other ideas for program content? Let me know.

By now the Lane County Breeding Bird Survey is well underway. My own personal commitment to survey one cell (approximately 3 square miles) per year is proceeding quite well. Over 16 hours of survey time in the cell have been completed with 55 species identified to date. Surprising enough, no HOUSE SPARRBWS, HOUSE FINCHS, STARLINGS, or ROCK DOVES have been found in the cell. Where could you go today and duplicate these results? This is one of the many questions the breeding bird survey will answer. Why not give Steve Gordon a call (344-959)1 and receive a cell assignment? Should you wish to achieve the fantastic results defined for my area ask for a cell south of Sweet Home with about 100 percent Douglas Fir cover.

Another project which merits consideration by the membership is the establishment of several Bluebird trails statewide. If enough interest is shown by the membership, the OFO board could proceed to develop a package for distribution to area coordinators. Details would include nest box construction, placement of nest boxes and maintenance of the trails. Send me a postcard if interested.

Why don't you become involved in at least one of these fine projects this year? We could sure use the help.

Highlights from the Field Notes: Spring 1983
Joe Evanich

Spring 1983 was quite wet, especially east of the Cascades. Especially interesting were the high water levels of Malheur N.W.R. where flooding was so severe that Harney County was declared a disaster area. Normally around 50,000 acres in size, Malheur Lake sprawled over an amazing 94,000 acres by June 1.

Aside from the usual recording of arrival dates, most of the birding activity was focused on Eastern Oregon this spring, and as usual some truly amazing species were recorded from the inland half of the state. Among the scores of vagrants were two new species to the Oregon list with adequate verification; both were from Malheur N.W.R. (where else?).

EAST OF THE CASCADES

The usual number of migrant COMMON LOONS were reported throughout Eastern Oregon during April. A pair of light-phased WESTERN GREBES were observed in courtship display near Princeton, Harney County, on June 13 (HN, JE). There were a number of LEAST BITTERNs reported from the Klamath Basin including three birds heard near Odessa C.G. on Upper Klamath Lake May 22-23 (MA, AA, FL), and a single bird at Klamath Forest N.W.R. during May (fide SG). During the week of April 23, an adult LITTLE BLUE HERON, as yet unreported in Oregon, hung around Stateline Road just over the California border at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (SS); alas, it could not be coaxed over to the Oregon side. The extremely high water levels on Malheur Lake forced most of the egret-heron-ibis colonies to nest in the flooded fields north of the lake and even in flooded greasewood flats.

Waterfowl migration peaked in early April through most of Eastern Oregon, and some interesting finds were reported. Union County's second ROSS' GOOSE appeared April 10 at the Mount of Ladd Creek near La Grande (JE, RL, G & RS, et al), and a single adult at the Joseph Sewage Ponds during March was a first for Wallowa County (FC). A flock of 2,500 ROSS' GEESE south of Burns, Harney County, held six of the rare blue phase on April 16 (MStL). Another blue ROSS' was seen in "the Klamath Basin" on March 19 (RR). Among the more notable duck reports was a male EUROPEAN WIGEON seen near Lawen, Harney County, April 19 (MA) and a female HOODED MERGANSER at La Grande Sewage Ponds on April 27 (JE, GS). A pair of GREATER SCAUP appeared at Miller Island W.M.A., Klamath County, on May 16 (MA).
A real puzzle was the COOPER'S HAWK found on the east flank of Steens Mountain, Harney County, June 14 (HN, JE). Two NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were reported at nearby Cottonwood Creek on June 3 (JGa). A new Oregon species was the subadult BROAD-WINGED HAWK seen and photographed at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters on May 29 (JG, HN, et al.). Being the most highly migratory North American buteo, and judging by all the recent California records, many birders knew it was only a matter of time before a BROAD-WING wandered into Oregon. Most other raptor reports were encouraging in numbers but not unexpected; a well-observed GYRFALCON reported twice from Fox Valley, Grant County, during early June was a real surprise, though (DV, fide HN).

A puzzling report was a pair of GRAY PARTRIDGE at Riverside W.M.A. near Juntura, Malheur County, on April 11 (MStL); if not recently released, where did these birds originate? The nearest well established GRAY PARTRIDGE population is to the northeast near the City of Ontario. The SAGE GROUSE lek at Millican, Deschutes County, had 33 birds on March 15 (DM, BR, A & MP), and the lek at Virtue Flats, Baker County, peaked at 37 birds on April 9 (JE, RL). A most surprising event was the confirmation of a YELLOW RAIL colony near Ft. Klamath, Klamath County, during mid-April (fide JG, HN, m.ob.), with nesting suspected. Although the birds (at least five, possibly as many as a dozen) have continued extremely vocal up to mid-June, nobody has seen any yet in the wet meadow they occupy. There is only one previous verified record of YELLOW RAIL in Oregon—an old specimen taken at Scio, Linn County. But, then again, who goes listening for rails in wet meadows after dark...?

Shorebirds were well reported in the Bend area and the Harney Basin with all the standing water. Hatfield Lake near Bend, Deschutes County, held the first county records of RED KNOT (May 10; TC, CM) and DUNLIN (May 1-7 and 30-31; TC) among the more usual spring migrants this year. BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were reported more frequently than usual in many parts of Eastern Oregon. Malheur N.W.R. had its own RED KNOT, as well as a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, DUNLIN, and even a RUDDY TURNSTONE during May (fide refuge personnel). A late REDNECKED PHALAROPE was found at La Grande on June 4 (JE, CC, B & JB). Summer Lake W.M.A., Lake County, staged its own shorebird show with a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, DUNLIN, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, and other species during May (MStL). Among the more unusual larid reports was an adult LAUGHING GULL first found in California on the Lower Klamath N.W.R. April 23 (SS); unlike the LITTLE BLUE HERON, the gull was also seen on the Oregon side of the border. A YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO at Fields, Harney County, on May 30-31 was the only report received (RP, B & JB, m.ob.).

An encouraging discovery was new habitat for BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS on Stukel Mountain, Klamath County, where a number of the birds were found in early June (SS, JC). A GRAY CATBIRD appeared briefly at Malheur N.W.R. on May 29 (TC, et al.), and another was found at Fields on May 30 (RSm, et al.). A NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD hung around Malheur Field Station during late May (m.ob.).

Flycatchers really made the news this spring. Vagrant (?) LEAST FLYCATCHERS were found at Fields on May 31 (two birds; JC, m.ob.) and another at the P Ranch on Malheur N.W.R. June 3 (JG, RSm, m.ob.). The Clyde Holliday Wayside, Grant County, LEAST FLYCATCHERS are back again this year with at least three singing birds (m.ob.). This distinctive species is a likely candidate for removal from the Records Committee review list if this trend continues. An ALDER FLYCATCHER was found singing at the P Ranch in early June for the second consecutive year (fide HN). Better yet was the pair of ALDERS seen and heard June 4 near La Grande, Union County (JE, CC, B & JB). Although they are unphotographed and unrecorded to date, the pair's nest was located and is being watched (JE, HN). Nest structure and location is an important difference in distinguishing ALDER from WILLOW FLYCATCHERS.

An interesting report was two calling COMMON POORWILLS heard at Virtue Flats on April 9 (JE, RL)—early migrants or local hibernators just waking up? WHITE-THROATED SWIFTS were reported from their usual colonies during May: Fort Rock, Lake County; Steens Mountain; and Picture Gorge, Grant County (m.ob.). A female BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD at Malheur headquarters May 28 was the only report of the species so far this year (HN). BLACK-CHINNED HUMMERS appeared at Malheur May 19 (refuge personnel), and the species was reported in Union and Wallowa counties a number of times through June 1 (FC, JE, et al.).

The Starr C.G. FLAMMULATED OWL (Grant County) reappeared in late May this year (m.ob.) and another was heard calling at Spring Creek, Union County, on June 4 (JE, B & JB). Five FLAMMULATED nests have been located so far this year in Starkey Experimental Forest, Union County (fide JE). At least four GREAT GRAY OWL nests are under observation in Wallowa County alone (fide FC). An interesting report were two calling...
Once again, vagrant warblers were reported mostly from the Harney and Alvord Basins of Harney County, but a TENNESSEE WARBLER was found in Bend on May 6 (TC). Other TENNESSEES include at least one at Malheur headquarters on May 21 (fide HN) and one at Fields on May 31 (JC). A female BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER at Malheur headquarters on May 27 was the only one reported (Ju and JC). A singing male GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was recorded and photographed for a first verified Oregon record at Malheur headquarters on June 3 (JG, OS, m.ob.); there is only one previous sighting of this handsome species for Oregon. An OVENBIRD was mist-netted at Malheur headquarters on May 25 (JA). Migrant AMERICAN REDSTARTS were found at Benson Pond, Malheur N.W.R. (May 21; JR), at Malheur headquarters (June 3; JC, m.ob.), and at Fields (June Malheur headquarters; June 3; JC, m.ob.). At least five territorial male and two female REDSTARTS have set up house along the Grande Ronde River near La Grande for the summer (JE, m.ob.). About five singing NORTHERN WATERTHRUSHES have been reported so far from the Gilchrist area, Klamath County (m.ob.).

A male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was reported from the Fields area on June 3 (fide HN), and a GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE at Morgan Lake, Union County, on June 4 was only the third county record in ten years (JE, CC, B & JB). A male INDIGO BUNTING was seen at Page Springs C.G., Harney County, on May 29 (SS). GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS appeared in the Alkali Canyon area of Umatilla County for the third consecutive year (CC). The first SWAMP SPARROW report for Eastern Oregon was a single bird at McNary Wildlife Park, Umatilla County, during March (JC, CC, et al.).

WEST OF THE CASCADES

With the annual OFO Convention held at Coos Bay this year, there were three pelagic trips out of that harbor on April 29 and 30 and May 1. Although no unusual species were found, many observers had great looks at BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS, NORTHERN FULMAR, the typical shearwaters, and a number of offshore alidids (fide SG). A much more unusual pelagic sighting, however, was the adult LAYSAN ALBATROSS reported 20 miles off Garibaldi, Tillamook County, on March 6 (MS). A dead SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER was beached at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, on May 11 (HN), and another specimen of this rather scarce species was found at South Beach, Lincoln County, on May 14 (BL). The first northward bound BROWN PELICAN was seen at Cape Arago, Coos County, on April 30 (fide HN), and a lost AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was reported during April at Vancouver Lake, just north of Portland in Washington State (HN). The SNOWY EGRET reported at Finley N.W.R., Benton County, on April 16 was an exciting find (Corvallis Audubon). Washington and Yamhill counties both had their first WHITE-FACED IBIS (breeding-plumaged) when a single appeared at Wapato Lake on the county line May 2 (JGa, VT). Another IBIS (the same bird?) appeared on Sauvie Island, Multnomah County a few days later (fide HN).

Among the more unusual migrant waterfowl this spring were single EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL at Finley N.W.R. (April 8; JK); at Devil's Lake, Lincoln County (March 13; PP); and at Stewart Pond in Eugene, Lane County (February 27; BN). An OLDSDAUL lingered at the mouth of Yaquina Bay, Lincoln County, during March and April (m.ob.). Just south of the border at Crescent City, California, a female STELLER'S EIDER appeared late last year and wintered in the harbor well into March; I find it hard to believe this bird reached California without passing through Oregon first. A MERLIN was seen at Cascade Head, Tillamook County, as late as May 20 (PP), and a rather late PEREGRINE was reported from Yaquina Bay on May 15 (J & RK).

Although shorebird migration was relatively well monitored, there were few surprises. By far the best find in this category was the breeding plumaged HUDSONIAN GODWIT studied at the South Jetty of the Columbia River (SJCR), Clatsop County, on May 31 (VD). A breeding plumaged SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER also at the SJCR on May 14 was another excellent find (HN). A probable breeding plumaged SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER was glimpsed among thousands of migrant shorebirds at Gray's Harbor, Washington State (JK); although a regular fall migrant, there are no spring records for this species along the West Coast south of Alaska—verification is almost a necessity. SOLITARY
SANDPIPERS were reported during late April and May from Eugene, Coos Bay, and Washington County. Two SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS inland at Forest Grove, Washington County, on May 21 was a notable find (JGa). An early HEERMANN'S GULL on the April 30 pelagic trip off Coos Bay was reported from the OFO Convention (fide SG). An immature BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was found south of Newport, Lincoln County, on May 11 for a rare spring record (RB), and even more surprising was the adult SABINE'S GULL seen in the mouth of Yaquina Bay on May 21 (RB).

Exciting owl reports included a SPOTTED OWL at Lobster Valley, Lane County, on April 10 (D & EM) and another on Eagle Creek Trail, Hood River County, on May 8 (M & ESE). A LONG-EARED OWL found at Hagg Lake in late February remained in the vicinity until at least May 2 for a first Washington County record (VT, JGa, m.ob.). The only BLACK SWIFT report this season involved two birds in Eugene on April 22 (DG). The tiny CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD appeared not only in Eugene this spring (May 2; CW), but also in Corvallis for a first Benton county record on May 2 (HC). Another kamikazi CALLIOPE was found dead in early May beneath a Tualatin window for a Washington County first (VDo). This season's award for the "most out-of-range and over-reported" species goes to the ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD (last season was the TRUMPETER SWAN). ALLEN'S were reported three times during May in the Newport area, about 120 miles north of their normal range. As mentioned in previous highlights, field I.D. of ALLEN'S HUMMER outside the species' normal range is highly suspect except under ideal conditions. Of course, Oregon Birds would welcome any written reports on these birds as a Short Note article. A misplaced YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER at Salem, Marion County, on April 24 was a good find (BL).

Adding to the increasing reports of the mysterious ALDER FLYCATCHER was an Empidonax singing the "fee-BEE-o" song near Mohler, Tillamook County, during late May (DI). A DUSKY FLYCATCHER was reported at Hagg Lake on May 30 for a new Washington County species (VT). Two coastal WESTERN KINGBIRDS were reported, one at the Salmon River Estuary, Lincoln County, on April 20 (PP), and the other at South Beach on May 4 (AR). A singing ROCK WREN was heard in late May in a clearcut above Hagg Lake for yet another new Washington County record (VT). An extremely rare find for Western Oregon was the VEERY reported at Lithia Park in Ashland, Jackson County, on May 17 (BS). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were reported from Medford, Talent, North Bend, Phoenix, and Eugene throughout the report period.

Vagrant warblers were scarce in this half of Oregon this spring, but a TENNESSEE studied at Whitehorse Park in Grants Pass, Josephine County, on May 21 was exciting (AC). And a pair of NORTHERN PARULAS reported from Independence, Polk County, April 25 is not to be ignored (VS, fide RP). A PALM WARBLER at Newport on April 6 was a rare spring find (BL). The ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK that visited an Oakridge, Lane County, feeder during late April was a local first (CCr). HARRIS' SPARROWS put in a good showing this spring with three reports:

An adult at Fisher Butte, Lane County, May 4 (JC, RZ); one at Corvallis during April and May (BH); and one that wintered at North Bend, Coos County (CK, et al.). CASSIN'S FINCHES, very rare west of the Cascades, were found at McMinnville, Yamhill County, on April 16 (TL) and at Corvallis on May 4 (ACr). And a LESSER GOLDFINCH at Toledo, Lincoln County, on May 16 is one of only a few coastal slope records (RA).

Observers are encouraged to send reports and photographs (if available) of rare or unusual birds seen in Oregon to:

OREGON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 10373
Eugene, Oregon 97440
Oregon Bird Records Committee
Report: June 1982-June 1983
Clarice Watson

Following is a summary of the records reviewed by the Oregon Bird Records Committee from June 1, 1982 to June 1, 1983. The first group of records are those for which the written report and/or photographs or tape recordings supported the stated identification and are "accepted" records. If "photo," "specimen," or "tape recording" is indicated for a record, the record was accepted as "verified" or "confirmed," others were accepted as "sight" records. Information given for each record includes the location of the sighting; the number of birds and plumage if available; and the date(s); observer(s) and photographers(s) indicated by initials, with the person(s), if known, first finding the bird underlined; the assigned record number and a notation for "first verified Oregon record." Those persons listed following a semi-colon (;) observed the bird(s), but did not submit a report or photograph. Contributors and observers are listed at the end of the report. Two asterisks (**) indicate a new addition to the Oregon state list of birds, one (*) indicates a change in status of a previously published record. Many observers are noted by "m.ob."

YELLOW-BILLED LOON
Netarts Bay, Tillamook County, one bird in winter plumage on April 24, 1982 (photo by OS; JG, JN) #1982-66.

LEAST BITTERN
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one bird on May 29 and June 5, 1982 (AM, tape recording by OS; TC, JG, RS, EP, HN, DH) #1982-34.

GYRFALCON
Nehalem Meadows, Tillamook County, one dark phase bird on September 29, 1982 (HN; RS) #1982-34.

COMMON MOORHEN
Ken Denman W.M.A., Jackson County, one adult on April 24, 1982 (CN) #1982-31.

Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one adult on May 16, 1982 (photo by TC; ST) #1982-55.
MOUNTAIN PLOVER
Siletz Bay, Lincoln County, one bird February 3 and 21-26, 1983 (photo by PP, BB, RP; m.ob.) #1983-3.

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW**
Bandon, Coos County, two birds on September 16, 1981 (JG, DI) #1981-84.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER (no longer on the review list)
Miller Island, Klamath Wildlife Area, Klamath County, one juvenile on September 3, 1982 (SS) #1982-60.
Forest Grove, Washington County, one adult on July 25, 1982 (JG; RS, OS) #1982-87.
Forest Grove, Washington County, four juveniles on August 7, 1982 (JG; DI, OS) #1982-88.

RUFOS-NECKED STINT
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one bird in breeding plumage on June 20, 1982 (DI, photos by JG and OS) #1982-71. First verified Oregon record.
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one bird in breeding plumage on July 3, 1982 (DI, photos by OS; JG) #1982-72.
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one bird on August 19-22, 1982 (HN; JG) #1982-44.
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one bird in mostly breeding plumage on August 21, 22 and 26, 1982 (photos by OS, HN, and JG; m.ob.) #1982-45.

LONG-TOED STINT
South jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop County, one bird in winter plumage on September 11 and 13, 1982 (JE, photos by HN) #1982-47.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER
Siletz Bay, Lincoln County, one immature on October 17, 1982 (JE) #1982-93.
South jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop County, one immature on October 5, 1982 (RS) #1982-100.

CURLEW SANDPIPER
South jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop County, one immature on September 16, 1982 (HN) #1982-48.

STILT SANDPIPER
Pony Slough, Coos County, eight birds in basic plumage on September 1-2, 1982 (AM; LT, BF, BG, JT, LTo) #1982-42.
Coquille River estuary, Coos County, one bird on July 18, 1982 (T&AM) #1982-63.
Smith River, Douglas County, one juvenile on August 26-27, 1982 (photos by MS and MH) #1982-64.
Nehalem sewage ponds, Tillamook County, one juvenile on August 22, 1982 (MH, photo by MS) #1982-65.
Nehalem meadows, Tillamook County, up to three juveniles on September 6 and 10, 1982 (OS, BC; JG, RS) #1982-80.
Nehalem meadows, Tillamook County, one adult in winter plumage on September 18, 1982 (RS&JK) #1982-96.
NOTE: The last three reports may include some of the same birds.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
Highway 26 just east of Tillamook, Tillamook County, three juveniles on September 19, 1982 (OS; JG, DI, RS, EP, m.ob.) #1982-73.
Mohler, Tillamook County, one juvenile on September 19, 1982 (JG; DI) #1982-85.
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one juvenile on September 1, 1982 (photo by JG; TB) #1982-86.
South jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop County, one bird on September 16, 1982 (photo by HN) #1982-90.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL**
Near Astoria, Clatsop County, one adult in winter plumage on December 20, 1981 (OS; JG, DB) #1982-4.

PARAKEET AUKLET
Wandamere Beach, Lincoln County, one dead bird on the beach on April 18, 1982 (RB; BL, RO) #1982-26.
HORNED PUFFIN
Henderson Creek mouth, Lincoln County, one dead bird on the beach on January 27, 1981 (RB; BL), specimen at the Marine Science Center, Newport, #1982-25.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO**
Powder River along Highway 7, Baker County, one bird on June 17, 1982 (JE) #1982-35.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO
East side of Eagle Ridge on western side of Upper Klamath Lake, Klamath County, remains of a bird found August 31, 1980 (photos of tail feather by SS; ROp, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel) #1982-37.

BARRED OWL
Cottage Grove Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, Lane County, one bird on July 17 and 23, 1981 (AD) #1982-24.

LEAST FLYCATCHER
Clyde Holliday SP, Grant County, up to three May 29+, 1982 (TM, tape recording by OS; JD, RS, JG, TB, m.ob.) #1982-30.
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one bird on May 17, 1980 (photos by OS; OH, JKI) #1982-68.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD
Newport, Lincoln County, one adult on November 6-15, 1982 (EH, G&DB, BC, RS, JK, photos by OS and RK; RSt, JG, RB, DI, TM, RLu, m.ob.) #1982-94.
Roaring Springs Ranch, Harney County, one bird November 4-7, 1982 (AM, photos by BG; KJ, JM, LT, JT) #1982-106.

BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL*
Eugene, Lane County, one adult in winter plumage from February 3 to March 31, 1974 (photo by LM; TL, m.ob.) #1978-9. First verified Oregon record. Formerly listed as WHITE WAGTAIL; changed, after review, to conform to new AOU Checklist.

TENNESSEE WARBLER (no longer on the review list)
Hendricks Park, Eugene, Lane County, one adult in breeding plumage on May 1, 1982 (LM) #1982-23.
Near Lane Community College, Lane County, one male in breeding plumage on May 20, 1982 (SH) #1982-27.
Roseburg, Douglas County, one male in breeding plumage on April 27, 1982 (AP) #1982-32.
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER
Ashland, Jackson County, one immature on September 30, 1982 (DS) #1982-62.
Fields, Harney County, one immature on September 24-25, 1982 (RS, photos by OS and JG) #1982-75.
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one male on June 6, 1982 (JG) #1982-84.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER
Cape Meares SP, Tillamook County, one male in worn breeding plumage on October 10 and 15, 1982 (G&LB, RS) #1982-89.
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one male in October 1982 (photos by DB) #1982-98.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER**
Pike Creek, Harney County, one bird on May 21, 1982 (photo by MSa) #1982-104. First verified Oregon record.
Cape Blanco, Curry County, one male in breeding plumage on June 19, 1982 (RS) #1982-102.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (no longer on the review list)
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one male in breeding plumage on May 29-31, 1982 (photos by TC, OS, and SG; HN, MP, J&JC, JG, OS, RS, m.ob.) #1982-53.
Fields, Harney County, two adult males in breeding plumage on May 29, 1982 (photos by TC and OS; JG, HN, RS, DR, EP, m.ob.) #1982-57.

Ovenbird

CONNECTICUT WARBLER
Bend, Deschutes County, one male in breeding plumage on May 20, 1982 (TC) #1982-56.

MOURNING WARBLER**
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one immature on September 26, 1982 (JG, OS, RS) #1982-77.

HOODED WARBLER
Washburn Wayside, Lane County, one male on July 20, 1974 (photo by LM, tape recording by AC; AS) #1979-68. Tape recording accepted for previously accepted photo record.
Rest area, Highway 395, 11 miles south of John Day, one male in breeding plumage on July 11, 1982 (photo by AC, tape recording by DR) #1982-36.

CANADA WARBLER**
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one immature male on September 25-26, 1982 (RS, photos by JG and OS; mistnetted by CDL) #1982-76. First verified Oregon record.

SUMMER TANAGER

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (records again being accepted)
Indian Ford Campground, Deschutes County, one adult male in June 1979 (photo by SG) #1983-5.

INDIGO BUNTING
Eugene, Lane County, one male from July 28 to August 3, 1982 (JC, photos by TC, HN; M&MD, m.ob.) #1982-51.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW
Roseburg, Douglas County, one immature or fall plumaged bird on November 21-22, 1982 (MS, MJ, MH) #1983-4.

SWAMP SPARROW
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one adult on October 16, 1972 (photo by HN) #1982-39.
Finley N.W.R., Benton County, two birds, one adult in winter plumage and one in first winter plumage from February 4 to 14, 1983 (DF, photos by MH; m.ob.) #1983-2.
McNary Wildlife Park along the Columbia River, Umatilla County, one adult on March 27, 1983 (JC) #1983-6.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONSPUR
Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath County, one bird in winter plumage on November 14, 1981 (SS; JG) #1982-38.
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE*

Fields, Harney County, one male on May 16, 1981 (photo by CS, TM) #1981-64. (Previously accepted as a COMMON GRACKLE).

COMMON GRACKLE

One mile north of Haines on Highway 30, Baker County, one bird on September 20 and 23, 1982 (JE; RF) #1982-61.

HOODED ORIOLE

Coos Bay, Coos County, two immature males, one bird on December 24, 1982 and later two to February 19, 1983 (AM, photos by OS and BG; CJS, m.ob.) #1983-1.

The following records were reviewed following the publication of the Thirty-Fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds which split several species into two separate species. The specific species of these records of closely related birds could not be determined and have now been accepted as to "genus only." In the future, such records will not be published but only maintained in the OBRC files for reference.

MANX/BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER* (formerly listed as MANX SHEARWATER)

Coos Bay pelagic trip, Coos County, one bird on September 10, 1977, #1978-41.

Boiler Bay, Lincoln County, one bird on November 3, 1979, #1979-112.

Gearhart, Clatsop County, one bird on September 12, 1979, #1980-28.

Oceanside, Tillamook County, one bird on September 17, 1977, #1980-31.

BLACK-BACKED/WHITE WAGTAIL* (formerly listed as WHITE WAGTAIL)

Umatilla N.W.R., Morrow County, one bird on February 9, 1975, #1980-83.

Harris Beach SP, Curry County, one adult on June 4, 1980, #1980-87.

The following record should be deleted from the Review list--the BEWICK'S SWAN is now considered to be conspecific with the WHISTLING SWAN and the species has been renamed TUNDRA SWAN by the AOU.

BEWICK'S SWAN*

Sauvies Island, Multnomah County, one bird on February 2, 1982, #1982-5.

The following records were not accepted because the documentation supplied was too brief or did not completely support the identity of the bird as determined by the contributor. Names of contributors have been omitted.

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER

Charleston pelagic, Coos County, one bird on October 17, 1982, #1982-105.

LITTLE BLUE HERON

Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one immature on September 8, 1982, #1982-43.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER (Polynesian)

Siletz Bay, Lincoln County, one bird on September 27, 1976, photograph, #1981-85.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER

Ladd Creek, LaGrande, Union County, one bird on August 14, 1982, #1982-92.

LONG-TOED STINT

Florence, Lane County, one bird on September 15, 1982, #1982-79.

STILT SANDPIPER

Siletz Bay, Lincoln County, one bird on August 16, 1981, #1981-98.

SPOONBILL SANDPIPER

Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, one juvenile on August 21-22, 1982, photographs, #1982-82.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL

Shore Acres SP, Coos County, two adult birds in winter plumage on November 11, 1982, #1982-103.

ICELAND GULL

Cannon Beach sewage ponds, Clatsop County, one bird on April 18, 1982, photographs, #1982-99.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane County, one bird on October 23, 1982, #1982-91.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL
Cape Blanco, Curry County, one bird on December 26, 1982, #1983-7.

ALDER FLYCATCHER
Tumalo SP, Deschutes County, one bird on October 2, 1982, #1982-58.
Tiller, Douglas County, one bird on July 9, 1982, photographs, tape recording, #1982-95.

LEAST FLYCATCHER
Wickiup Campground, Grant County, one bird on July 23, 1982, #1982-41.

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER
Smith Rocks SP, Deschutes County, one bird on June 30, 1981, #1982-21.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD
Elk River, Curry County, one bird on June 11, 1982, #1982-33.

VERDIN
Painted Hills SP, Wheeler County, a flock on February 2, 1982, #1982-20.

NORTHERN PARULA
Smith Rocks SP, Deschutes County, one bird on July 25, 1979, #1982-22.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER
Humbug Mountain, Curry County, an immature on September 2, 1982, #1982-101.

PINE WARBLER
Fields, Harney County, one bird on September 24, 1982, #1982-74.

HOODED WARBLER
Wickiup Campground, Grant County, one bird on July 23, 1982, #1982-40.
Winchuck Campground, Curry County, one bird on August 14, 1982, #1982-78.

DICKCISSEL
Eugene, Lane County, one immature on November 24, 1979, #1982-3.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE
Bend, Deschutes County, one adult and four immature or females on September 12, 1981, #1982-29.
The questionnaire on the reverse side of this sheet is part of a special project I've been working on—to write a book about Oregon, my native state. The book will deal with the byways, mores, and folkways of Oregon, and also the people: their attitudes, their ideas, their experiences. Most of my readers will want to learn of Oregon's interesting places to visit and to learn more about how we Oregonians view our state.

I conceived the idea of sending out questionnaires to find out how Oregonians look at Oregon—at least so far as favorite outdoor locales are concerned. Would you be willing to share your ideas? Just jot down the names and locations of five specific spots in outdoor Oregon that are truly your favorites. The more unusual or out of the way the better. (I realize you may have a private spot so precious that you really don't want to share it. If so, that's okay. Just list the ones you are willing to have others know about.) Please tell how to find them if they're not on the map.

In preparing this book, I plan to tabulate the results and put them into the book. The Best of Outdoor Oregon will also include things like Oregon's hottest, coldest, windiest, wettest, driest, and lonesomest places, as well as my own choices of interesting areas to visit. (If you have a candidate for Oregon's "lonesomest" community—i.e., isolated—please tell me.) I'm also planning to include a chapter on "Fifty Great Things to Do on a Rainy Day in Oregon," but am having a little trouble—still have 47 to go. Any suggestions? If so please note them in the questionnaire. (Indoor activities, like snuggling up to a fireplace with a good book don't count. I'm looking for outdoor ideas.)
FAVORITE SPOT IN OREGON QUESTIONNAIRE
(See reverse side for explanation)

Name ____________________________________ Telephone __________________________
Address __________________________________

Please list below five of your favorite outdoor recreation spots in Oregon, specific places that you have enjoyed or that hold special meaning for you (maybe a place where something interesting happened or where you've especially enjoyed a favorite hobby or activity). Please tell why the place has special meaning. Tabulated results will be published in my forthcoming book, The Best of Outdoor Oregon. Many thanks. (K.M.)

1. ___________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________

4. ___________________________________________

5. ___________________________________________

6. A favorite rainy day activity (see reverse side)________________________________________

7. Your choice for "lonesomest" community____________________________________________
Gull-watching is becoming a popular pursuit among Oregon birders. It is a sideline that truly puts to the test one's perception, judgment, and patience. As more observers study these birds, our knowledge of identification techniques increases. Unfortunately, the present level of expertise is not reflected in the pages of popular field guides, with one or two exceptions.

Of several complex identification problems that are not covered in most handbooks, one is particularly important to Oregon birders. This is the field separation of GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL X WESTERN GULL intergrades, as a group, from similar large Larus gulls which are likely to occur. In this article, I will describe these birds and indicate how one may distinguish them from WESTERN, HERRING, and THAYER'S GULLS. The discussion is based chiefly upon my personal field experience with these forms in Oregon and Washington. Some of the elements of the morphological analysis are based on information in Hoffman et al. (1978). This review pertains to adult birds, with emphasis on their appearance in winter, when the chance of confusion between forms is greatest.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL (L. glaucescens) and WESTERN GULL (L. occidentalis) interbreed in the outer coast zone of the Pacific Northwest. Their hybrids and backcrosses are abundant, and variable in appearance. Examination of a flock of pink-footed gulls in winter in Western Oregon will often reveal a wide array of GLAUCOUS-WINGED X WESTERN intergrade forms, displaying many intermediate plumages. This spectrum of intergrades has been the result of at least 70 years of hybridization between the two species (Dawson, 1909).

Some Thoughts on Large Gull Identification

A less profound, secondary result of the widespread hybridization has been to complicate large gull identification in the Northwest. These intergrade gulls present one of the trickiest identification situations the average Oregon birder faces--or chooses not to face. There are good reasons for this.

Most birders do not make identifications unless they feel confident that they know enough to do so. The knowledge that counts most in gull-watching is that gained through diligent observation. Relatively few birders watch gulls seriously. This is neither good nor bad in itself; it is the situation that exists. It would seem, therefore, that many birders do not possess the experience necessary to call upon to make the judgments used in separating these confusing birds. Another point is that the information...
provided by field guides is insufficient to enable an observer to learn the subtleties of gull plumages and species differences. This is something that may be improved by watching gulls with birders who know the differences and can advise an interested observer what to look for in each situation. Much of the current technique is spread among the birding fraternity by means of good periodicals; however, this new information means more when it is demonstrated in the field. For these reasons, it would help those who wantwish to become proficient to study these birds in the company of persons who are willing to teach the fine points.

Additionally, it should be stressed that, while the majority of large gulls are identifiable, many individuals cannot be positively assigned to a species or form regardless of time spent observing such birds. The effects of hybridization, moults, simple aberration, the circumstances of observation can confuse the situation to a hopeless degree. One of the lessons learned painstakingly in gull-watching is to recognize when one has reached the point at which the identity of an odd gull simply cannot be ascertained.

Characteristics of Intergrade Gulls

Identifiable GLAUCOUS-WINGED X WESTERN intergrades will exhibit characteristics of both species. All color-related characters (except possibly the eye-ring, which is very hard to view) show a range of intermediate variation which is essentially a continuum from the darker, WESTERN-like phenotypes to the paler, GLAUCOUS-WINGED-like extremes. These include the following:

Mantle

WESTERN GULLS have dark gray mantles, darker than any other regularly-occurring large gull in the Northwest. GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULLS have medium-pale gray mantles. Intergrade mantle color may fall anywhere between the two extremes. Birds with medium-gray mantles approaching the color of adult CALIFORNIA GULL (L. californicus) are frequently encountered; they may be more easily noted than paler-backed individuals. Also, due to the scarcity of WESTERN GULL away from the coast, it seems likely that a greater percentage of dark-mantled, WESTERN-like intergrades are detected inland than on the outer coast, where they may be harder to pick out and identify among the common WESTERN GULLS.

Wing-tips

Study of intergrades has indicated that there is a correlation between wing-tip and mantle shades within the intergrade continuum. Thus, paler-mantled birds tend to have paler gray wing-tips, while darker-mantled individuals show correspondingly darker gray wing-tips. The outermost primaries of intergrades may show from one to three subapical white spots ("mirrors") or none at all, and either strong, weak, or no apical tipping. This range of variation in the wing-tip pattern is greater than in either parent species. The underwing pattern of intergrades is described below in discussion of similar species.

Irides

The apparent iris color in intergrades varies continually from dark brown to dull yellowish. Birds with dark-looking eyes are much more numerous than paler-eyed types (pers. obs.).

Eye-ring

The range of variation in eye-ring color in intergrades is somewhat less than that noted for other colorimetric characters. It may be purple or magenta (as in GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL); yellow or orange (as in WESTERN GULL); white; white with either pink or yellow highlights, or yellow with pink highlights, according to one mid-1970s study in Oregon and Washington (Hoffman, et al., 1978). This set of combinations is the result of two separate pigment systems expressed together in the eye-ring. This character is hardly of practical value as a field mark in winter since other more easily observed points will usually serve to identify.

Separation From Similar Species

One problem posed by intermediate, light-mantled hybrids is their misidentification as THAYER'S GULL (L. thayeri). I have noticed that this error seems to occur frequently. Such intergrades may be distinguished by the following points. Compared with THAYER'S GULL, even a slightly-built intergrade gull is a perceptibly more massive bird. THAYER'S GULL is not much larger than CALIFORNIA GULL, and appears comparatively short-legged and longish-winged at rest. It has a relatively short, slim, shallowly-angled, pale yellowish bill which is often mottiled at the base and has a small red spot or smudge near the tip of the lower mandible. At least one published source states that THAYER'S seldom shows a red spot, but this has not been my experience. At any rate, bills of intergrades are heavier, may have a more acute or noticeable gonydeal angle, and (in my experience) are generally brighter yellowish and more boldly marked. The darkish wing-tips of those intergrades likely to be confused with THAYER'S seem to blend into the balance of the mantle. In THAYER'S, however, the black tips of the outer primaries are set off from the mantle by white subterminal areas. This produces an arresting contrast in flight, especially as the bird takes wing. Intergrades always lack this flashy contrast of medium-gray mantle and attractive black-and-white wing-tip markings which so characterizes THAYER'S GULL.

Additionally, THAYER'S GULL possesses pale underwing-tips with a narrow, short black trailing edge, when viewed from beneath against bright light. Paler-mantled, GLAUCOUS-WINGED-like intergrades may have similar pale underwing-tips, but do not show this distinct thin black trailing edge.

The separation of intergrade gulls from HERRING GULL (L. argentatus) is a related situation, bearing again upon observing the degree of contrast, and pattern, of mantle and wing-tips. The typical HERRING GULL found in our area approaches most intergrades in bulk and proportions, and in having a fairly
heavy, often well-angled bill with similar color and markings. The bird will usually appear sligher about the head and bill than intergrade gulls (E. Hunn, pers. comm.). This species has black underwing-tips with a few subapical white spots within the black, set sharply against a very pale mantle. The mantle is usually about the same shade of gray as in adult RING-BILLED GULL (L. delawarensis)—paler than the palest intergrade individual. Thus, like THAYER’S GULL, HERRING shows a highly contrasting pattern in the upper surface of the wing, but unlike THAYER’S GULL or intergrades, it also possesses sharply-defined black or blackish underwing-tips, which conform more or less to the pattern of black in the upper wing. Another clue is the heavy, often streaky clouding on head and breast shown by many, though not all, winter HERRING GULLS. Although other species show this, in HERRING it helps set off the whitish-yellow eye, giving the winter HERRING’S GULL “stare,” a somewhat malignant facial aspect not shared by intergrades.

A problem I feel occurs often in Oregon, particularly in the Willamette Valley, is the misidentification of darker-mantled, WESTERN-like intergrades as bona fide WESTERN GULLS. This is an especially tricky situation. The possibility of a mistake is certainly understandable. It is probably committed most frequently by birders who are not entirely familiar with those characters that make a WESTERN GULL a WESTERN, and who are also unfamiliar with the intergrade forms.

Adult WESTERN GULLS are distinctive in winter partly because they lack almost entirely the dusky, grayish clouding or streaking on the foreparts possessed in variable amount and intensity by related species found in the Northwest. I have not found this to be mentioned in any of the field guides, but I consider it to be a highly reliable clue to “pure” WESTERN GULLS. Most intergrades show considerable clouding, most conspicuously upon the upper breast. Those birds which tend toward the paler end of the spectrum seem to be most heavily marked—often with smudgy, scallopy markings which describe a smearable “bib” on mid-breast. WESTERN-like intergrades usually have slight, speckly clouding on much of the foreparts, being perhaps most noticeable on the nape and sides of the breast. A minority of WESTERN-like intergrades can be quite clean-looking. Other points of distinction, especially the degree of dark on the underside of the flight feathers will serve to separate them. Darkish intergrade gulls often have dingy grayish underwing-tips with a silvery sheen; in WESTERN GULL, much of the underwing, except the linings, is extensively deep, leaden gray, easily noted in flight.

Compounding the separation difficulties is the misleading representation of adult WESTERN GULL in popular field guides. Oregon birders should realize that many books illustrate and discuss only the southern form of WESTERN GULL, which is accidental in Oregon. WYMAN’S GULL has a darker mantle and less mantle/wing-tip contrast than the nominate race L. o. occidentalis. Northern WESTERN GULLS do show a very apparent contrast between the dark gray mantle and black wing-tips. The assertion in one popular field guide that “in adult plumage there is no contrast between the wing-tips and the rest of the upperside of the wing” is incorrect.

Immature intergrades are ordinarily difficult to positively identify. A fair guess may certainly be made on birds which are obviously intermediate between the immature forms of the parent species. The chances of being mistaken, or of simply not being able to tell, are greater when dealing with immature gull plumages.

As a final word, those gull-watchers who would submit to the urge to name every bird they see should be aware that other hybrids do occur in Oregon. GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL has hybridized not only with northern WESTERN GULL, but also with HERRING GULL and GLAUCOUS GULL (L. hyperboreus). Such crosses are said to be produced regularly in Alaskan gull colonies where ranges and habitats overlap. Although examples of these hybrids have been identified only a very few times at this writing, they are probably more numerous in the state than we are currently aware.

It is hoped that this review of field marks will aid observers in becoming more skilled at recognizing intergrade gulls, and may inspire those who watch gulls to add to our knowledge of these birds in Oregon.

I wish to thank Alan Contreras, Jeff Gilligan, Eugene Hunn, Matthew Hunter, Tom Lund, Harry Nehls, and Avery Taylor for reading the drafts, and also give special thanks to Dave Irons, who helped to conceptualize this article, and with whom I have long communicated thoughts on gulls. Robert Linder kindly allowed access to the gull collection at the University of Oregon.

REFERENCES


Distribution: Gray Catbird
Alan Contreras

The GRAY CATBIRD (Dumetella carolinensis) has bred in the northeastern part of Oregon at least since the earliest surveys of the state’s avifauna, and today occupies much of the same range as it did then. CATBIRDS are locally common breeders in riparian growth at low elevations in Union and Wallowa counties. They are known to occur in the Grande Ronde, Wallowa and Imnaha drainages, and likely occur in most available habitat in these two counties. CATBIRDS also summer along the Umatilla River and Meacham Creek east of Pendleton in Umatilla County, and have also been found on Pine Creek near Weston. Several recent records elsewhere in Umatilla County may indicate that the species is expanding along the fringes of its range. CATBIRDS also breed in northern Baker County along the Powder River and Pine Creek, and in southwestern Baker County along the Burnt River below Unity Reservoir. The status of Catbird along the Burnt River in southeastern Baker County is unknown, as is its present status in the historical breeding drainage of Willow Creek in northern Malheur County.

Unlike the VEERY, which occurs in similar habitat in the four northeastern Oregon counties (see OB, 6:60 for a summary of its status), the GRAY CATBIRD has not extended its breeding range into the John Day River drainage. Recent records near Mt. Vernon on the John Day River (June 15, 1971, Bob Hudson and Merle Archie) and near John Day on Dog Creek (August 1979, fide Greg Hatton) may indicate eventual expansion into the John Day Valley.

Sooter (1943) reported three pair of CATBIRDS nesting in the vicinity of the "P" Ranch at the southern end of Malheur NWR, Harney County, but today the species is a rare migrant in the Blitzen Valley and does not breed. "Vagrant" CATBIRDS appear almost annually at Malheur Refuge from late May through mid-June, and have also appeared near Burns (C. D. Littlefield) and Van (fide Merle Archie) in Harney County. Vagrant CATBIRDS have also appeared at Hart Mountain, Lake County (L. R. Mewaldt); Crescent Lake, Klamath County (June 7, 1980, Terry Morgan); Madras, Jefferson County (June 9, 1980, Ivy Hilty); and at Tumalo, Deschutes County (Ramsey, Birthing Oregon, page 73).
Birders in Grant, Umatilla, Baker and Malheur counties should be especially alert for sightings indicating range expansions, and should report these to their field notes editors. The following people not previously cited contributed information to this report: Jeff Gilligan, Ann Ward, Bob Lucas, John Kurtz (USFWS), Craig Corder, Frank Conley, Bill Olson (ODFW), Ron Rohweder, Ralph Denney (ODFW), Ralph Anderson (USFS), Rod Miller (USFS), Grant Gunderson (USFS), Earl Fishburn (USFS), George Constantino (USFWS), and Joe Evanich.

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Fourth Annual OFO Meeting
Otis Swisher

The FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS was held April 29 - May 1, 1983 in Coos Bay, Oregon at the Pony Village Motel, and Southwestern Oregon Community College.

Three pelagic trips were scheduled. Land based field trips were held at some of the better birding spots in the area, including Simpson's Reef, north shore of the river, Bandon marshes, and a productive marsh in town which held Coos County's first verified HARRIS' SPARROW. Trips were led by Barbara Griffin, Al McGie, Joy McDowell, and Larry Thornburgh. At a compilation session on Saturday night, 149 species were tallied, including pelagics.

The Business Meeting was presided over by President Richard Palmer. Announcements included a report by Jeff Gilligan that the updating of the book of Birds of Oregon is progressing, that it will be put on a word processor and sent to contributors for comment. Publication date not mentioned.

Steve Gordon reported on the progress of the Lane County Breeding Bird Atlas sponsored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Richard Palmer gave a publication date for the work on migrants in Oregon as 1985. He requested that first spring sightings and last fall sightings be sent to him for this work.

An Election of Officers and Board Members was held. Candidate profiles were studied. Candidates present were introduced. The following were elected:

- President: Richard Palmer
- Secretary: Otis Swisher
- Treasurer: Allison Mickel
- Board Members: Robert Olson, Roger Robb

The Change/Amendment to the By-Laws was approved. Item now reads: "The Board of Directors of Oregon Field Ornithologists shall consist of the following: a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and four additional Directors; and, the OFO President of the previous year."

The Treasurer's Report was made and received.

Announcement of the meeting of the North American Bluebird Society at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, June 17-20, 1983 was made by Elsie Eltzroth. People will come from all parts of the U.S. Portland Audubon Society is a sponsor. The public is welcome.

There being no old or new business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 1:50 p.m.

PAPER SESSIONS

1. Dr. Dan Varoujean of Oregon Marine Biology Institute, Charleston, in studying the food habits of the 12,000 COMMON MURRE trips per day off Coos Bay, 13,000 MURRE trips per day off Newport, and about 19,500 MURRE trips per day off Columbia River has estimated the consumption of salmon smolts for the three areas at about 18 percent (Coos Bay), to less than 2 percent of their diet (Columbia River). The effect of the cold or warm upwelling of water at smolt release time is being considered. This year (1983) will be an important study year since it is a year of warm water upwelling, and smolts disburse less rapidly during such years.

2. Dan Boone of Finley National Wildlife Refuge, who put in and monitored 40 nest boxes for TUFTED PUFFIN at Goat Island was studying the life history of the PUFFIN, especially the birds' sensitivity to human disturbance. He was interested in length of incubation, length of nesting period, food, along with the correlation of food consumption with their growth.
A Panel Discussion on Pelagic Birds with Tom Crabtree, Chairman; Harry Nehls; Steve Summers; and Dave Markley. By use of some excellent slides, the panel was able to point out field marks, and from their own experience the panel was able to tell of specific details of plumage and habits which the field guides sometimes omit or overlook. Species studied included both SOOTY and PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER; FULMAR; BLACK-FOOTED, SHORT-TAILED and LAYSAN ALBATROSS; LONG-TAILED, PARASITIC, and POMARINE JAEGER; SOUTH POLAR SKUA; and BLACK STORM PETREL.

The Community College provided us with a delicious banquet at a reasonable price. Our appreciation to them.

Following the banquet, Dr. David DeSante, Staff Biologist in charge of land bird work at Point Reyes Bird Observatory, gave a slide presentation about the Observatory's work with special emphasis on his work on vagrant species which appear on the Farallons. His explanations and theories lend credence to why the Farallons are so often visited by these wanderers, and why the California coast receives a large number of the eastern birds. Land mammals have had a resurgence of numbers since the Farallons have become a place of study by PRBO with encouragement of less human disturbance. A further encouraging note was given by Dr. DeSante, that the breeding birds on the Farallons have made considerable progress towards recovery of historic numbers in the past few years. The presentation was the high point of an unusually good day.

Commentary: Distribution and County Listing

Terry Morgan

As a member of the OFO Board of Directors since its inception, I have helped to promote listing as a form of recreation for our members. Listing has come into its own, as can be seen from the attention given to county listing in recent issues of Oregon Birds. This form of pasttime has its limits. Birders frequently come under criticism that they do not contribute to the educational and scientific purposes for which the organization is supposed to stand. By focusing attention on county listing (and now, even annual county listing), we are perhaps avoiding our responsibilities.

I believe that county listing can be compatible with the other purposes of the organization. With a few modifications in approach, listing can actually become a tool which contributes to knowledge of bird distribution and habitat in the state.

Let's face it, the checklist approach to county listing is inane. Birds don't observe political boundaries. They observe habitat boundaries. County listing can be made productive by relating it to habitat and seasonal activity.

One question that might be asked is whether counties should be combined into listing regions. The number of birds recorded in a county is generally a function of the variety and density of habitats contained in the county. Some counties contain virtually identical habitats. For example, there is little difference in the habitat composition for Union and Wallowa counties, as reflected in the northeast Oregon checklist prepared by Joe Evanich. Birders might better spend their time concentrating on developing a northeast Oregon checklist than developing individual lists for the constituent counties. In principle, the entire state could be organized by biological areas. For example, Ferguson's book on the "Great Basin Country" of southeast Oregon is a fairly good initial description of birding expectations for that area. Similarly, the publication "Wildlife Habitats in the Blue Mountains of Oregon" describes another biological region. If birders want to maintain individual county checklists, then they should at least be aware of where county boundaries intersect with different biological areas. Once an appropriate listing area is selected, birders can contribute to scientific and educational purposes by concentrating efforts on listing resident species and those birds which are regular summer or winter visitors. Much of the attention to listing goes to the recording of vagrant or migrant species at coastal or inland oases. Residents or breeding species are often ignored in the process.
Of course, in order to pursue listing in this fashion it is necessary to have a good idea of which species are residents or regular seasonal visitors. Development of county or at least biological checklists for Oregon should continue to be encouraged.

By concentrating county listing on resident birds and seasonal visitors, birders can really concentrate on learning habitat. As a group, we are pretty ignorant. We should encourage each other to learn the relationships between bird distribution, habitat availability and seasonal variation.

Along these lines, if county listing is to be pursued, each county should be divided into types of habitats. Among the more productive habitat types for birding are: estuaries, rocky headlands and jetties, marshlands, standing bodies of water, riparian areas, coniferous woodlands and sagebrush/juniper lands. It would be very useful to solicit a standardized classification of habitat types from professional wildlife biologists who may be among our membership. Once predominant habitat types are determined for each county, groupings of expected species which occur in such habitats can be developed. The system can be further refined by including information on seasonal fluctuation in the use of habitats by species.

Using this format, the birder can enrich his or her knowledge and experience at the same time as listing. The depth rather than simply the length of county lists might take on priority. "Depth" listers will know, for example, how to find shier resident species in their counties.

The result of this kind of listing can be input into ongoing efforts to study bird distribution. Members of OFO might interface, for example, with professionals who are inventorying various habitats. Birders personal notes might also be used to update distribution studies of Oregon birds. (As it stands, birders' notes have little utility for anything but memories.) The knowledge that birders acquire can also be used to conserve prime habitats.

These thoughts are not intended to put down the popularity of county listing. I think it is time, as an organization, to expand our horizons while we are recreating. I think the editors of Oregon Birds should solicit articles that would contribute to our knowledge of bird distribution, habitat identification and seasonal variation.

(Ed. note: For an example see Distribution: Lane County Breeding Bird Atlas by Steve Gordon in Oregon Birds Volume 9 No. 1, p. 11.)

Commentary: Birding and Conservation

Terry Morgan

The OFO Board of Directors has generally assumed that our organization should not actively participate in conservation movements. Such efforts are necessarily political in nature. Nevertheless, most, if not all of our members are at least indirectly concerned with conservation. The loss of wildlife habitat will ultimately limit the form of our recreation and avocation.

As birders, we can contribute to conservation efforts by learning the relationship between bird distribution and habitat. Elsewhere, I have suggested that this endeavor can be combined with county listings.

Our information can then be brought to bear on important conservation programs. The diversity and richness of birdlife in a given habitat is something that we are capable of knowing. This knowledge can then be related to preservation efforts or management practices for optimizing wildlife productivity.

To see that this makes sense, it is only necessary to have one of your favorite habitats threatened. I happen to like the mixed coniferous forests of central and northeastern Oregon. Those of you who have birded these areas have experienced marked differences in bird diversity and density on different forest units. This is largely a function of forest management practices.

As many of us have, I have spent a lot of time birding the areas around Indian Ford Creek and Cold Springs Campground near Sisters. That area is the subject of a timber sale by the Deschutes National Forest. I guess I was shocked to see the trees designated for a partial cut in one of my favorite birding areas. In some cases trees abutting Indian Ford Creek had been designated for removal. I was initially indignant. Then I realized how little I understood about the relationship between timber production and wildlife management.

One thing I do know is that the avian productivity of a coniferous forest tract is related to the number of snags which can be effectively utilized for breeding by cavity nesting species. (There are about 35 such species in central and eastern Oregon.) If you have traversed vast expanses of our national forests in silence, it may be related to snag retention policies by the Forest Service. In the past, it has been the policy to remove snags in many sections of the forest in order to prevent the spread of pests. More recently, efforts have been undertaken to identify and preserve wildlife trees.
This is not an invitation to start lobbying the Forest Service for more snags. It is a plea for increased awareness by birders and the OFO as an organization. We need to educate ourselves. The relationship between snag management and wildlife productivity and diversity is complex, for example, (See Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests by Jack Ward Thomas.)

An an organization, I think we should begin to schedule presentations by willing wildlife biologists for birders to begin understanding the relationship between productivity and habitat.

This can come quickly to bear on our field activities. We should be able to predict what areas will be productive for birding when we understand these relationships. The new information can be used to locate new birding areas as well.

I would welcome any other thoughts on these subjects.

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Short Notes

Results of 1983 Winter Coastal Snowy Plover Survey

Charlie Bruce

Below are listed the results of the first Winter SNOWY PLOVER Coastal Survey for Oregon. No banded birds were reported but not all birds were checked. Survey methods included both foot and vehicle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>OBSERVERS</th>
<th>NO. OBS.</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clatsop Beaches</td>
<td>D. Anderson, et al.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01/21/83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nehalem Bay N. Spit</td>
<td>J. Pesek</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>01/19/83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tillamook Bay Spit</td>
<td>C. Kunkel</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01/19/83</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tillamook Bay Spit</td>
<td>Christmas Bird Count</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12/18/82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tillamook Bay Spit</td>
<td>H. Nohl's</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>02/19/83</td>
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<td>Netarts Spit</td>
<td>J. Pesek</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01/20/83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Kiwanda Beach</td>
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<td>01/18/83</td>
</tr>
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<td>01/18/83</td>
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<td>Yaquina Bay</td>
<td>Christmas Bird Count</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01/02/83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutton Beach</td>
<td>K. Meilen</td>
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<td>02/04/83</td>
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<td>Umpqua R. to Tenmile Cr.</td>
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<td>Tenmile Cr. to Coos R.</td>
<td>J. Goold, J. Collins</td>
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<td>02/03/83</td>
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<td>North Spit Coos Bay</td>
<td>S. &amp; R. Jacobs</td>
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<td>(S. dredge spoil site)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whiskey Cr. to Bandon</td>
<td>J. Collins</td>
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<td>01/20/83</td>
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<td>Bandon to New River</td>
<td>J. Collins</td>
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<td>New River to Floras Lake</td>
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<td>Pistol River</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL*</td>
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*Total includes the 02/19/83 Tillamook Bay count.
Conservation  
Sayre Greenfield

I did run into one strange creature in the botanical garden this morning—a Russian architecture student who talked just like the cartoon character out of Bullwinkle and who simply could not conceive of bird watching.

"What you doing?"
"I'm watching birds."
"Why?"
"Because I like to."
(This was getting rather existential, I thought.)

He went on:
"Is it your religion?"
(Dismissing the temptation to answer yes, I explained it wasn't at all uncommon and that there are over a million bird watchers in the country. He didn't quite believe this and I had to explain about Christmas Bird Counts and how it's a sport, like golf, but he still seemed skeptical.)

"You have any work?"
"Yes, I'm a graduate student in English here, working on my dissertation."
"This is not part of research for dissertation?"
"No, it isn't."
"Is waste of time?"
"Yes."
"Well, it is better than shoot people."

And he ended up with:
"I, I am watching buildings," and walked away.

Millican Morning  
David Fix

False dawn, the still steppe air taut with chill;  
At clearing's edge vague forms stir,  
Shake off the torpor of deeper night  
And shuffle forth, ancient act to wage anew.

As paleness' promise spreads the scene  
We seem to see wild honor held to test.  
A bevy of mottled lava-tone sage-maids cluck,  
Hunched, staying ever near to curtain-of-cover  
And witness war of air sacs, pomp, and vigor.

Too timid, too wan, too dull of plumage  
Drift in company of none to edge of lek,  
Nipping sage-bud, noticing not the spoils-of-show  
While most ardent strutting sage-cock  
Hops, mounts, quivers, giving fleetingly of self  
The very fittest germ-of-bird, the essence of  
Ideal Grouse.
Other Notes

If our organization is to improve the services we give our membership, we must grow. We need members throughout the state to help keep records, help on surveys, report unusual sightings, and just generally keep us posted on what is going on in their area. I am, therefore, calling for volunteers who will recruit fellow birders in their own area. If you would like to help OFO grow and improve, please contact Alice Parker, Membership Chairman, 313 W. Hickory Street, Roseburg, Oregon 97470 and volunteer your services.

Revision of the Birds of Lincoln County

We still need field notes of common as well as unusual birds seen in Lincoln County. Your field notes would be greatly appreciated. Completion date for the Birds of Lincoln County is now tentatively set for mid-1984. Please send your observations (including date and location) or any inquiries to:

Range Bayer
P.O. Box 1467
Newport, OR 97365

OFO Bookcase

Oregon Field Ornithologists is attempting to provide a service to its membership by making publications dealing with the birdlife of Oregon available by mail. To this end, we maintain a "bookcase" of current volumes produced by OFO and by other groups and individuals in Oregon. These publications are available by mail or at the book table at the annual meetings. If you know of other publications which might be of interest to our members please let us know.

Oregon Field Ornithologists

Special Publication #3.........................................................$3.00

Special Publication #2.........................................................$ .50

Special Publication #3..............................................................$3.00

OREGON BIRDS: Volumes 6 & 7, Issues 1-4--per issue...........$2.00
OREGON BIRDS/ Volume 5, Issues 1-6 -- per issue..............$1.00
SWOC TALK Volume 4, Issues 3 and 5 -- per issue.............$1.00
Volume 3, Issue 2 (without cover).................................$1.00
Volume 2, Issue 6..............................................................$1.00

Audubon Society of Corvallis

Birding Oregon -- Fred Ramsey..............................................$4.75
Checklist of the Birds of Oregon--Bertrand & Scott (rev) $1.25
Field Checking Card..............................................................$ .10

Portland Audubon Society

Birds of Northwest Forests and Fields -- David Marshall...$2.50
Birds of Northwest Shores and Waters -- Harry Nehls....$2.50
Oaks Bottom Checklist..........................................................$1.25
Sauvie Island Checklist.........................................................$1.00

Lane County Audubon Society

Eugene-Springfield Checklist.............................................$ .15

Grande Ronde Bird Club

Union-Wallowa County Checklist.........................................$ .50
Another issue of Oregon Birds and a mercifully short editor's note. We again have an issue with a broad range of articles from the standard features like the Oregon Bird Record Committee report to the excellent article by David Fix on Intergrade Gulls. We know that there is a wide variety of birders who belong to OFO and we try to provide material that will have something of interest for everyone.

The next issue will have at least two Big Day reports. We are interested in receiving reports from anyone who did a Big Day in Oregon in 1983. Write a short article or at least a short note about your efforts. The activity seems to be popular enough that we may try to make it a regular feature of the fall issue. With the tremendous response to county listing, we may keep records of Big Days for individual counties.

It is also not too early to begin thinking about Christmas Bird Counts. If you are a compiler or knowledgable about a particular count that OB has not previously profiled, we would be interested in featuring it in the December issue of OB. We already have one for that issue.

Finally a plea for the feature that seems to be of interest to many birders: Site Guides. These site guides do not have to be long or have a list of fantastic birds. They can be merely good birding spots in out of the way places. There must be good birding spots in every county that would assist birders working on their county lists. Think about your favorite area and let OB know about it. We can help with maps or other artwork.

Have a good Fall on your favorite shorebird flats and keep your eyes open for those El Nino birds (e.g. MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD, ELEGANT TERN, BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER).

When afield in Oregon, please share your unusual or exciting finds with others. Cooperative communication with the individuals listed below will help promote a better understanding of Oregon's birds. Many of the twelve reporting areas are represented by Audubon groups or other bird clubs who regularly publish field notes and are interested in observations "close to home."

1. Harry Nehls, 2736 S.E. 20th, Portland 97202
2. Richard Palmer, 1990 Engel Ct., NW, Salem 97304
3. M.S. "Elzy" Eltzroth, 3595 N.W. Roosevelt, Corvallis 97330
4. Steve Gordon, 1140 W. 24th Ave, Eugene 97405
5. Fred Parker, 313 W. Hickory, Roseburg 97470
6. Alan McGie, 3603 Edgewood Dr., North Bend 97459
7. Jim Rogers, Star Rte. Box 151-A, Port Orford 97465
8. Mike Paczolt, 911 Murray, Apt. 1, Medford 97501
9. Steve Summers, 1009 Merryman, Klamath Falls 97601
10. Tom Crabtree, 1667 NW Iowa, Bend 97701
11. Frank Conley, P.O. Box 6, Joseph 97846
12. Merle Archie, P.O. Box 341, Hines 97738