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President's Message
Matt Hunter

Oregon Field Ornithologists, as an organization, has the potential to be a primary source of information on the birds of Oregon, as well as an active cooperator with Federal, State, and private agencies involved with wildlife. At present, our own organization is not prepared to deal with these agencies and we have nothing readily available to offer them. The next board meeting will deal with these problems, and I will let you know of the improvements made in your organization.

Very little will get accomplished in the long run without a method of communication and publication of information. Oregon Birds magazine is this method. My priority for OFO is to get OB back on its feet. New faces will be helping with the production of OB and David Irons as editor will be putting a lot of effort into improving the publication. Dave and I will be soliciting articles from you, hoping to share some unpublished knowledge of the birds of Oregon. I think Oregon Birds, the magazine, is the most valuable asset OFO has. It should be given special attention.

Birders and amateur ornithologists of Oregon have a wealth of information presently unavailable to their peers and to professional biologists. Once published, this information can contribute greatly to the knowledge of Oregon birds. It will be used by readers for their own interests and pleasure, and by wildlife agencies in decision making processes. Oregon Birds can also be a place for biologists to communicate information not generally suitable for publication in technical journals.

In conclusion, I would like to stress again how valuable you members are. Ernst Mayr, in the introduction to Perspectives in Ornithology, said "It is a pity that so few bird watchers realize how much of a lasting contribution to ornithological science they could make if they would just take up some project . . . ." I hope all of the bird enthusiasts of Oregon will keep this in mind. I encourage everyone to share your knowledge of Oregon birds by submitting articles to the magazine named for that purpose, Oregon Birds.

Highlights from the Field Notes:

Western Oregon
David Irons and Steve Heinl

LOONS-HERONS

Many observers noted the unusually high numbers of loons along the coast and elsewhere during the season. RED-THROATED and ARCTIC LOONS were in unprecedented abundance in several areas. The Tillamook and Columbia Estuary CBC’s recorded all-time high totals for both species (BT and D1). Perhaps water temperatures associated with the "El Nino" current adversely affected food supplies to the south forcing these birds to winter further north than normal.

RED-THROATED LOONS visited several inland locations following a series of late November and early December storms. Eight on Hagg Lake (Washington County) December 19 were the largest single group (MH, D1). Two or three remained at this location through most of the period (m.ob.). ARCTIC LOON is much more unusual inland, yet two were on a Philomath log pond December 3 (MH) and another was at Hagg Lake December 19 (MH, D1).

EARED GREBES wintered on the coast in normal small numbers. They were consistently reported from Meares Lake (Tillamook County) and Yaquina Bay (fide HN and RB). Reports of singles inland came from the Monmouth sewage ponds December 21 (RG), and from the Cottage Grove and Medford CBC’s (fide OB CBC results). RED-NECKED GREBES were found wintering in virtually every coastal estuary. Seven at Yaquina Bay February 27 was the largest concentration (VT). WESTERN GREBES made an impressive showing during the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) period. The Columbia Estuary CBC found 1,303 doubling the previous state CBC record (D1). The 245 recorded inland at Eugene (CBC) were equally noteworthy.

Dead NORTHERN FULMARS were found along Sunset Beach (Clatsop County) during the period (HN). SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS washed up dead on beaches in Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln and Lane counties (m.ob. fide HN). Three coastal CBC’s found live shearwaters, with those identified to species all SHORT-TAILED. Six SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS were noted from SJCR on December 18 (MH). It should be noted that SHORT-TAILED is the most likely shearwater to occur in Oregon waters after mid-November.

Individual immature BROWN PELICANS were found at the mouth of the Columbia River December 18 (D1) and at Yaquina Bay January 30 (RS). Considering the magnitude of last fall’s invasion, it is surprising that more pelicans were not reported. Like most fish-eating species, the cormorants wintered in abundance along the...
WOOD DUCK populations continue to increase in the Portland area. They normally winter only occasionally along the Willamette River away from the Portland area.

Seventy GREAT EGrets at Fern Ridge Reservoir December 9 was a large concentration there, considering the late date (JG). Others inland included one at Portland’s Oaks Bottoms December 3 (JJ), seven in Scappoose Bottoms December 10 (DH), and three on the Corvallis CBC (fide OB CBC results). Normal numbers of GREAT EGrets wintered on the southern half of the coast. SNOWY EGrets are well established as a wintering bird at Pony Slough (Coos County). At least six were there again this year (AM, et al.). CATTLE EGrets made their normal December showing. Numbers in most areas were typical, though a surprising 17 were tallied on the Tillamook CBC (BT). One found on the Salem CBC was quite unusual (fide HN). At least five wintered in the Coquille River valley, where they remained at the end of the period (AM).

SWANS-MERGANSERS

Several observers reported individual or small flocks of TRUMPETER SWANS among the thousands of TSUDA SWANS wintering in the Willamette Valley. Six on Meares Lake December 17 constituted one of only a few recent coastal sightings (HN). The EMPEROR GOOSE found in November at Yachats, wintered there (RR, m.ob.). An immature appeared in Portland’s Westmoreland Park about February 15, and remained through the season (DL, fide HN). BRANT returned to Coos Bay by February 29 (PR fide AM). Small flocks wintered elsewhere along the coast. The 146 still at Tillamook December 17 (CBC, BT) were no doubt late migrants. Scattered individual SNOW GEESE wintered among the thousands of CANADA GEESE in the Willamette Valley. Forty on Sauvie Island February 27 were easily the largest group reported.

A period of very cold weather in late December froze over most small ponds and flooded fields in the Willamette Valley. Dabbling and diving ducks alike were concentrated in unusually large numbers on the remaining open water. Three hundred NORTHERN SHOVELERS wintered on the Sheridan sewage ponds (DL, et al.), while they were found in much smaller numbers elsewhere. The 11 CINNAMON TEAL on the Tillamook CBC were unusually late and a new species for the count (BT). Singles lingered for the Columbia Estuary and Eugene CBC’s, and another was in Jackson Bottoms (Washington County) December 19 (VT). Average numbers of GREEN-WINGED TEAL were in most areas, with “Eurasian” race birds at Pony Slough January 25 (ER) and Stewart Pond in Eugene through the season (TM, et al.).

Small numbers of EURASIAN WIGEON could be found among the large flocks of coastally wintering AMERICAN WIGEON (m.ob.). Inland, the Portland area continues to be the only region where EURASIAN WIGEON are reported in any numbers. Individuals wintered in several Willamette Valley locations (m.ob.) and one was found on the Medford CBC (fide OB CBC results). Wintering WOOD DUCK populations continue to increase in the Portland area (fide CBC summary). Elsewhere this species has been poorly reported.

A flock of 130 REDHEADS wintered on the Columbia River near Hood River. Apparently this is a normal concentration for the area (DA). With the exception of Coos Bay, where they winter by the hundreds annually, this species is very uncommon in western Oregon. Two REDHEADS wintered on Wapato Lake (Washington County) (VT, et al.) and one was on the Yaquina Bay CBC. A flock of 2,000 RING-NECKED DUCKS on Hagg Lake December 19 is almost certainly the largest flock ever reported in Oregon (MH, DI). Most of these birds wintered. A female TUFTED DUCK found at Wapato Lake December 21 was the fourth record for Oregon and the second in Washington County (JGa). The bird was relocated the following day then disappeared on December 23 when the lake froze completely (JE, et al.). COMMON GOLDENEYES were reported in above average numbers from most coastal CBC’s with the normal numbers found wintering inland (m.ob.).

About five OLDSQUAWS wintered at the mouth of Yaquina Bay, with individuals well scattered over the remainder of the coast (fide HN). Wintering scoter numbers were about normal for the coast. An adult male SURF SCOTER remained on Hagg Lake for about three weeks after its discovery December 13 (DI, MK). A female or immature RED-BREASTED MERGANSER wintered on the Forest Grove sewage ponds (DL, et al.). Another was on the Columbia River near Portland January 2 (JG).

VULTURES-BUTEOS

An injured immature TURKEY VULTURE remained at Troutdale until December 28 when it apparently failed to survive a second ice storm (HQ fide HN). One at Salem January 14 (TB) and two at Canby January 28 (RF) may have drifted north during this period of mild weather. Singles at Pistol River February 18 (BS fide HB) and Canby February 26 (JGa) were almost certainly early migrants. This species regularly winters north to Humboldt Bay in California and early spring movements seem to closely correspond with improving weather.

The Fern Ridge BLACK-SHOULDERED Kite roost was closely monitored during the season (DF, SH). Fourteen birds used the roost throughout the period, with a peak of 18 kites there January 30 (DF). By the end of February, fewer than five birds were still gathering each evening. Normal numbers of kites wintered in Tillamook, Coos, and Jackson counties. A small roost site near the mouth of the Wilson River (Tillamook County) had four kites on December 17 (DI, MH). Single kites found on the Dallas and Florence CBC’s were somewhat unusual. No reports were received for Douglas County where at least a few kites have wintered the past couple years.

Immature and adult BALD EAGLES were well reported from numerous locations. The usual dozen or so on Sauvie Island provided the largest reported concentration. Single GOLDEN EAGLES at Newberg December 4 (RF), Salem January 2 (JB), and Baskett Slough NWR February 4 (RG) were normal for the Willamette Valley. Reports of about 12 MERLINS and four PEREGRINE FALCONS do not accurately reflect the numbers wintering in the region. All sightings of both these species should be reported. As usual, small numbers of PRAIRIE FALCONS wintered in the Willamette Valley and the Medford area.
COOPER’S and SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were reported in normal numbers from CBC’s, but poorly documented otherwise. Again, all sightings of these birds should be reported. NO NORTHERN GOSHAWK reports were received. Many observers felt that ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were well below normal numbers and CBC totals and limited reports otherwise supported this perception. SINGLE RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS were reported from Coburg December 3 (DF, DI, SH), from New River (Curry County) January 21 (JR), and from the Short Mountain dump in Lane County (no date, RR fide SH). The immature at Coburg was seen repeatedly through the season (m.ob.). The Short Mountain bird was also an immature, while no age was provided for the New River individual.

CRANES-SANDPIPERS

Twelve SANDHILL CRANES wintering on Sauvie Island were considered normal (HN). Ten cranes flying over Camas Swale (Lane County) January 26 (DF, SH) and 50 over Lane Community College January 27 (BH) were noted very early migrants. By February 27, 140 were on Sauvie Island (SJ) and during the same period large flocks were noted passing north over Salem (TB and JA). VIRGINIA RAILS were well reported throughout the region, with 40 on the Florence CBC breaking the state CBC record.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS wintered coastal in numbers. A flock of 102 on Sauvie Island December 14 was an unusually large number in the Willamette Valley (AL). Twenty-two SNOWY PLOVER were counted along the Sutton Beach north of Florence on December 11 (BSh fide HN). Ten on Bayocean Beach (Tillamook County) January 6 was well below normal wintering numbers there (HN). Two SEMIPALMATED PLOVER found on the Tillamook CBC and one at Fogarty Creek sewage ponds (Lincoln County) February 11 (VT) were the only reports. WHIMBRELS and WILLETS wintered coastal from Yaquina Bay south in normal abundance, while a MARBLED GODWIT at Pony Slough January 29 was unusual (AM).

Coastally, GLAUCOUS-WINGED and WESTERS were predominant. Several observers felt that perhaps 40 percent of the large pink-legged gulls on the coast were WESTERN X GLAUCOUS-WINGED hybrids or “intergrades” (DF, DI, HN). These birds are often misidentified as HERRING or THAYER’S GULLS. These intergrades also make up a healthy portion of the gull populations wintering inland, creating headaches for most CBC compilers. At least 10 WESTERN GULLS wintered in the Portland area (m.ob.). Five spent the winter in Eugene (DF) and one was found on the Salem CBC.

Reports of GLAUCOUS GULLS were numerous from the north coast, with multiple sightings and individuals in Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln counties (m.ob.). Most reports involved first year birds. At least two first year birds wintered on Sauvie Island (JG, DI, et al.). Singles were found in Eugene (DF) and on the Salem CBC (fide OB CBC results). Small numbers of BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were consistently noted along the coast. They were found on several coastal CBC’s, with the 54 on the Florence CBC establishing a new state record (fide OB CBC results). MEW GULLS were along the coast in normal numbers, with some observers noting an unusual abundance inland.

Above average numbers of alcids were reported. ANCIENT MURRELETS were in small numbers all along the coast, with 18 at SJCR December 18 the largest concentration (MH). Mid-winter reports of this species continue to increase along with observer awareness to their presence. More unusual were the MARBLED MURRELETS found on the Lincoln City and Yaquina Bay CBC’s and the five at Boiler Bay Viewpoint (Lincoln County) in early February (HN). Single RHINOCEROS AUKLETS were reported from the Florence and Yaquina Bay CBC’s, and two were at Yachats February 23 (BR, RG). COMMON MURRES were noted in small numbers along the coast through the period, and had returned to Yaquina Head in relative abundance by February 26 (SH).
OWLS-CORVIDS

An injured LONG-EARED OWL brought to Dan Deuei February 27 provided a first Curry County record (DB fide JR). GREAT HORNED OWLS were incubating eggs in Milwaukee February 23 (CK), on schedule for the species. The Alma-Upper Siuslaw and Upper Nestucca CBC's again found SPOTTED OWLS with two and three respectively. The Alma count also had nine NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS. Two BURROWING OWLS wintered in the vicinity of the Eugene Airport (DF).

The 12 ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS recorded on the Portland CBC was about half the number reported coming to feeders prior to the December freeze. Eighteen at Medford and 12 at Tillamook were excellent counts for those areas. Individuals were widely reported elsewhere. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS had returned to the Coos Bay area by February 2, but did not show up anywhere away from the coast until the last week of February (BSm and SH).

Flocks of HORNED LARKS wintered in the Rivergate area of north Portland (MK) and just north of Forest Grove (DI, et al.). This species, though very uncommon in the northern Willamette Valley at any season. Typical numbers of BLACK PHOEBES wintered in the Rogue Valley and along the south coast. Seven were counted on the Medford CBC and they were regular north to at least Pistol River on the coast (VS). A SAY'S PHOEBE on the Medford CBC was the only report of that species.

The first TREE SWALLOWS appeared when about 100 were at Fern Ridge Reservoir February 2 (DF, SH). By the end of the period, they were in good numbers throughout the region. A VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW at Coos Bay February 4 was nearly a month early (BG). Three at Forest Grove February 19 were the first for the valley and about two weeks early (Dl). A very late BARN SWALLOW was found on the Salem CBC, December 17.

The BLUE JAY that first visited a McMinnville feeder in mid-November was seen sporadically until it left the area on about January 27 (Mrs. Clay Brown fide HN).

PARIDS-WARBLERS

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES remained in dozens of Willamette Valley locations after the fall invasion (m.ob.). Most continued visiting feeders, though some departure was noted about mid-January (HN). On the coast, the Tillamook, Lincoln City, and Yaquina Bay CBC's found MOUNTAIN CHICKADEES, and at least three visited the Coos Bay area. One was at Bastendorff Beach County Park, January 29, (AM) and two spent the winter coming to a feeder (BG).

Both CHESTNUT-BACKED and BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were reported in above average numbers (m.ob.). Totals for both species were double previous highs on the Columbia Estuary CBC (Dl), while Tillamook established a new high for BLACK-CAPPED and was near the previous high for CHESTNUT-BACKED (BT).

Mid-winter TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE reports continue to increase. Their presence almost certainly related to a recent range expansion as a breeding species in higher elevation clearcuts of the coast range. Individuals were reported from several coastal and Willamette Valley locations (m.ob.).

During the later portion of the period AMERICAN ROBINS were noted in increased abundance in the Willamette Valley (HN, et al.). VARIED THRUSHES were reported in low numbers from several CBC's. That was certainly not the case in Florence where a total of 1,073 was a new state CBC record (fide OB CBC results). A MOCKINGBIRD that spent most of December in a yard adjacent to Faubion School in northeast Portland was not seen after the first of the year (fide HN).

On December 2 a BROWN THRASHER began daily visits to the yard of Keith Cooper near Colton (Clackamas County). It continued to be observed and photographed by numerous birders through the end of the period.

The usual small numbers of HUTTON'S VIREOS wintered in mixed woodlands at the edges of interior western Oregon valleys and along the coast (m.ob.). This is probably the most under reported and poorly understood species in our region, especially in winter. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were well scattered providing a normal winter showing. At least 75 TOWNSEND'S WARBLERS wintered in Eugene (DF) and a flock of 25 was in Portland's Sellwood Park through most of the period (DI). Smaller flocks were reported from numerous other locations. A single COMMON YELLOWTHROAT found on the Lincoln City CBC was very unusual.
Normal numbers of BROWN TOWHEES wintered in the Rogue Valley. Twenty-seven were reported from the CBC there (fide OB CBC results). Most sparrow species and juncos were present in higher than normal numbers during the season. WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were nearly commonplace in the Willamette Valley. They could be found in almost any decent sized flock of *Zonotrichia* and juncos. At least four were among a huge flock that wintered at a small truck farm south of Forest Grove. The same flock contained three HARRIS' SPARROWS through the period (MH, DA, et al.). Single HARRIS' were at Parkdale (Hood River County) January 22 (DA) and feeders in Coos Bay (wintered IQ) and Portland February 28 (IS). The abundance of DARK-EYED (Oregon) JUNCOS was particularly noteworthy. They were everywhere in the Willamette Valley after mid-December. Flocks of 400 to 500 birds were not unusual. Scattered among these flocks were the expected small numbers of "SLATE-COLORED" JUNCOS. No less than six SWAMP SPARROWS were found. Two were at Cottage Grove (CBC) and another two were at Fern Ridge Reservoir (DF, SH). Individuals were at Finley NWR (REJK) and in Oaks Bottoms (DA, RF).

LINCOLN SPARROW reports continue to increase, probably due to improved understanding of their habitat needs on the part of observers. A flock of 40 on Sauvie Island and 20 in the large flock south of Forest Grove were present through the season (m.ob.). Above average numbers of SAVALNAH SPARROWS were found wintering in Multnomah and Washington counties (m.ob.). A single AMERICAN TREE SPARROW on the Medford CBC was a very unusual find west of the Cascades.
Almost as if making up for last year's mild weather, winter 1983-84 struck Eastern Oregon good and hard. Record amounts of snowfall and low temperatures were recorded throughout the region, and the conditions of severe ice and snow were particularly rough on wildlife. Big game of Northeastern Oregon were being fed truckloads of hay, and innumerable birds also benefited from these feeding programs. Both government agencies and private individuals are to be commended for the valuable aid they gave wildlife this winter!

An ARCTIC LOON was reported at the Narrows near Malheur NWR during the first week of December (MS). Wintering EARED GREBES are always a good find in Eastern Oregon; one was on Hatfield Lake near Bend December 1-8 (TC, CM). There were some interesting waterfowl reports that didn't fit any particular pattern of occurrence. A WHITE-WINGED SCOTER on the December 17 Bend CBC was a real surprise (fide TC), and a male and female OLDSQUAW at the La Grande Sewage Ponds December 9-13 provided a first record for Northeast Oregon away from the Columbia Basin (RP, JE, BB, MH). A HOODED MERGANSER was also at the La Grande Sewage Ponds December 9 (RP, JE, BB). Five TUNDRA SWANS were noted along Highway 26 north of Madras on January 6 (fide IH)—migrants or winterers? The first northward bound TUNDRA SWANS were noted January 26 near Cove, Union County (JE, et al.), and small numbers have been reported from the Bend area since then.

Raptors appeared to have fared well throughout the icy area. Accipiters of all three species were quite conspicuous as they moved into residential areas for easier picking—even GOSHAWKS! BALD EAGLES were very well reported this winter from many areas. An immature FERRUGINOUS HAWK was noted at Sunriver, Deschutes County on January 8 (TC), and an adult was found on the Fort Rock Ranger District also during that month. Another very rare winter sighting was the SWAINSON'S HAWK in Joseph on February 15 (MHu). A PEREGRINE FALCON near Enterprise on the December 18 CBC was noteworthy (fide FC), and a GYRFALCON report came from Bend on December 31 (TC).

Aside from a few wintering KILLDEER which were unusual local finds, the only surprising shorebird report involved two LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS at the La Grande Sewage Ponds December 9 (JE, RP, BB). A VIRGINIA RAIL at Bend on December 1 was really pushing its luck (fide TC)! A few overwintering gulls were found: a very late BONAPARTE'S at the La Grande Sewage Ponds on December 9 (JE, RP, BB); CALIFORNIA'S on the Bend CBC (TC); various RING-BILLED which kept appearing during December and January in Bend (TC) and La Grande (JE); and a second year GLAUCOUS GULL at McNary Dam, Umatilla County, on February 25 (CC, MC, JC).
NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS were conspicuous in Union County but seldom reported elsewhere this winter. A GREAT GRAY OWL was injured when it struck a ski rack atop a moving car on Highway 97 in Deschutes County during January (fide TC); the bird is now recovering at the Sunriver Nature Center.

Among the woodpecker reports was WILLIAMSON’S SAPSUCKER visiting a feeder in Madras on December 13 (D & HH) -- just what is the winter status of this species in Oregon? “YELLOW-SHAFTED” FLICKERS were noted this winter in Madras, Tumalo, and La Grande. The first SAY’S PHOEBE of 1984 was reported near Imnaha, Wallowa County on February 25 (RL, BK).

Due to the severe weather conditions, feeder activity was very busy this winter. In Northeast Oregon things were so rough that such unusual species as AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, PINE GROSBEAK, and even ROSY FINCHES were observed at feeders in La Grande (GS, MH, et al.). A WHITE-THROATED SPARROW visiting a La Grande feeder during December-February was only the second county record (AC, m.ob.). A very exciting feeder bird was the BLUE JAY found February 26 in Pendleton for the second Eastern Oregon report this winter (JC).

The birding event of the season for Oregon, though, was the adult male BRAMBLING (Fringilla montifringilla) that appeared at a La Grande feeder on December 9 and was last reported January 24 (DE, JE, m.ob., photos). This handsome Eurasian finch (only the second record for Oregon, about the twentieth for the lower 48 states) visited about eight different feeders in town, making attempts to view it rather risky. Most observers who did see it, though, say it was well worth the trip!

Two COMMON REDPOLLS were found outside La Grande on December 4 (JE). ROSY FINCHES were noted in huge numbers just outside Union and Enterprise all winter (JE, FC, m.ob.). A HARRIS’ SPARROW was found at a Madras feeder December 19 (fide IH), and four others were at CC’s feeder in Hermiston throughout the report period. Last, but not least, are two PURPLE FINCH sightings, a very rare species in Eastern Oregon; a female was visiting many feeders in La Grande during December (DE, JE, m.ob.), and a male bird was seen at McNary Park on February 8-28 (MC, CC).

Observers are reminded to send reports (and photos, if available) of rare or unusual birds found in Oregon to:

OREGON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 10373
Eugene, OR 97401

These field notes were taken from the following Oregon publications:

The Rav-on (Grande Ronde Bird Club)
The Eagle Eye (Central Oregon Audubon Society)

Also, the following observers’ personal communications:

Marty St. Louis
Craig Corder
Frank Conley

OBSERVERS
Barb Bellin (BB) Jim Carlson (JC)
Anita Clarridge (AC) Frank Conley (FC)
Craig Corder (CC) Marion Corder (MC)
Tom Crabtree (TC) Doug Eustace (DE)
Joe Evanchich (JE) Mark Henjum (MH)
Dorothy & Howard Hillis (D & HH) Ivy Hilty (IH)
Mac Huff (MHu) Bob Knutson (BK)
Ralph Lewis (RL) Craig Miller (CM)
Richard Palmer (RP) Marty St. Louis (MS)
Fifth Annual OFO Meeting

Jan Krabbe, Pam Neumann and Otis Swisher

The Fifth Annual OFO meeting at La Grande was thoroughly enjoyed by about 100 people from throughout our state as well as Washington and Idaho. We had good weather, good birds, and good fellowship. What could be better?

The Friday evening social provided ample time for visiting and looking at the art display. Everyone enjoyed the slides of some of the rare and unusual birds accepted as state records by the Oregon Bird Records Committee. Harry Nehls narrated the presentation, pointing out field marks on the birds and giving some history of the records. Clair Watson reported that she had been contacted by Roger T. Peterson regarding the status of birds in Oregon. Maybe the range maps in his new western guide will show that birds do indeed cross the state line from California.

On Saturday, the all-day field trip to Thief Valley Reservoir and the Grande Ronde Valley was led by Cilla and Kent Coe. The two half day trips to the Upper Grande Ronde River were led by Craig Corder. The field trips provided an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the area. The Saturday night birdcount indicated that the birders present had identified about 150 species, including such goodies as a GREAT GRAY OWL family, CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD, BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER, BOBOLINK, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, GRAY CATBIRD, AMERICAN REDSTART, VEERY, and RED-EYED VIREO. A show of hands revealed that many of the nearly 100 birders attending had never birded this area before, and many had found several "lifers" during the day. At the countdown everyone had an opportunity to ask the location of any bird they wanted to see, and many spent Sunday morning locating particular birds.

The evening banquet was quite a feast, and our most capable president, Otis Swisher, entertained us with jokes prior to the short business meeting where new officers were elected. Our new president is Matt Hunter, secretary is Pam Neumann, and treasurer is Allison Mickel, all running unopposed. Roger Robb and Bob Olson have continuing terms on the board. In announcing the two new members elected to the Board, a mix-up occurred. After a double check of the votes, it was affirmed that the two Board members elected for the 1984-1986 term were Martha Sawyer and Floyd Schrock.

The final event for Saturday night was a most interesting talk and slide presentation by Evelyn Bull, staff biologist with the U.S. Forest Service. She not only spoke of small owls, she gave us an update on her studies of the GREAT GRAY OWL.
Sunday, Mike Walter led a trip to Moss Springs and Craig Corder led a trip to Rhinehart Bridge. Most people spent Sunday morning in the field again, either on a field trip or searching for species missed the prior day. Some people stayed an extra night to bird this interesting area further.

After serving on the board for four years, I'd like to add a final comment about the annual meetings. We have tried several formats through the years, and now it's time for members to let the board know which they like best. This year's emphasis on field trips was well received, but I missed the workshops and I.D. sessions of the past. It has been suggested that we could have two meetings during the year: a field trip meeting in the spring and a workshop/paper session in the winter. The winter meeting could be at a more central location, since birding sites will not be a factor in selection. I am sure that many of you have other ideas regarding topics or meeting sites. Get in touch with a board member--they need to know your ideas.

This is a summary of the records reviewed by the Oregon Bird Records Committee from June 1, 1983 to July 1, 1984. The first group of records are those for which the written report and/or photographs, tape recordings, or specimens supported the stated identification and are accepted records. If photo or tape recording is indicated for a record, it was accepted as verified; others were accepted as sight records.

Information given for each record includes the location of the sighting: number of birds, sex if known, special conditions (such as mist-netting) and date(s); initials of observer(s) submitting written or other evidence for accepted records--underlining indicates discovery of the bird(s); the record file number (includes the American Ornithological Union number for the species, the last two digits of the year of the sighting, and consecutive number within each species); and a notation for first verified Oregon record. Many observers are indicated by "m.ob."; several by "et al."

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (no longer on the review list)
20 miles more or less west of Newport, Lincoln County, one adult on August 27, 1983 (R & JK, et al.) #095.1-83-07.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD
Newport, Lincoln County, and Florence, Lane County, one immature on July 29, 1983 (photos by JH and AP, DF) #128-83-02. These sightings were felt to most probably be of one bird, seen within a few hours about 42 miles apart.

LEAST BITTERN (no longer on the review list)
Wocus Bay, Klamath Forest NWR, Klamath County, one on May 29, 1983 (P & SS) #191-83-04.

TUFTED DUCK

BROAD-WINGED HAWK
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one immature on October 2, 1983 (DI, m.ob.) #343-83-02.

YELLOW RAIL
SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (no longer on the review list)
Coos Bay, Coos County, one juvenile on October 2, 1983 (AM, et al.) #238-83-14.
Nehalem sewage lagoon, Tillamook County, one juvenile on September 25, 1983 (photos by OS, m.ob.) #238-83-15.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
South jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop County, one juvenile on September 4, 1983 (photos by OS, m.ob.) #262-83-16.

RUSS
Umpqua River estuary, Douglas County, one juvenile male on September 6, 1983 (SH, et al.) #260-83-10.

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
15 nautical miles west of Tillamook Head, Clatsop County, one adult on ship railing on August 7, 1983 (photo by SM) #041-83-02.

ELEGANT TERN
Coos Bay, Coos County, three adults in basic plumage on August 8, 1983 (DF, AM, m.ob.) #066-83-01.
Nehalem Bay, Tillamook County, 16 birds in basic plumage on August 22, 1983 (DI, et al.) #066-83-02.
Bayocean Spit, Tillamook County, 14 in winter plumage on August 20, 1983 (photos by RP, et al.) #066-83-03. First verified Oregon record.

Mouths of the Rogue River, Pistol River and Euchre Creek, Curry County, a total of 390 adults and immatures on September 15, 1983 (photos by SS) #066-83-05.
Mouth of Necanicum River, Seaside, Clatsop County, two adults in winter plumage on August 17, 1983 (JE, et al.) #066-83-06.
Mouth of Necanicum River, Seaside, Clatsop County; Garibaldi, Tillamook County; and Sunset Beach, Gearhart, Clatsop County, undetermined numbers from August 20 to September 4, 1983 (photos by OS, m.ob.) #066-83-07.
Seaside to South Jetty of the Columbia River, Clatsop County, 325 on September 7, 1983 (photos by JG) #066-83-08.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL

ALDER FLYCATCHER
"P" Ranch, Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one singing adult June 13-16, 1982, (JG, DI, tape recording by OS, m.ob.) #446.1-82-02. First verified Oregon record. Reconsidered and accepted 3-10-84.
"P" Ranch, Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one singing June 3-4, 1983 (tape recording by OS, m.ob.) #466.1-83-06.

LEAST FLYCATCHER
Fields, Harney County, one on May 31, 1983 (photos by OS, m.ob.) #467-83-07.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD
Winchester Bay, Douglas County, one adult on October 23, 1983 (photos by DH, and MS) #446-83-10.
BROWN THRASHER
Milepost 15.2, Highway 205 south of Burns, Harney County, one on June 19, 1983 (DM, photos by RP) #705-83-05.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER
Malheur N.W.R., Harney county, one singing male on June 3-4, 1983 (photos and tape recording by OS, m.ob.) #642-82-02. First verified Oregon record.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one immature on September 28, 1983 (DI, photos by OS, m.ob.) #661-83-09.
Malheur N.W.R., Harney County, one immature on October 2, 1983 (DI, photos by OS, m.ob.) #661-83-10.

OVENBIRD
Wolfe Creek, Josephine County, one singing male June 20-22, 1983 (tape recording by EP) #674-83-03.
Malheur N.W.R., one mist-netted on May 19, 1973 (photo by CDL) #674-73-09.

HOODED WARBLER
Wildhorse Creek, 4 1/2 miles north of Pendleton, Umatilla County, one adult male on October 21, 1983 (JE, et al.) #684-83-06.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK
Indian Ford Campground, Deschutes County, one male in June 1979 (photos by SG, m.ob.) #595-79-06.
Cottonwood Creek, Harney County, one male on June 4, 1983 (photo by OS, m.ob.) #595-83-07.

INDIGO BUNTING
Page Springs Canyon, Harney County, one male on May 29, 1983 (SS) #598-83-03.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

LARK BUNTING
Bob Creek, Lane County, adult male and female on June 17, 1983 (J & RK, AMi, photos by TM) #605-83-04.

SWAMP SPARROW
Cottage Grove, Lane County, one on January 2, 1984 (DF) #584-84-11.
Portland, Multnomah County, one adult January 2-February 15, 1984 (DI, et al.) #584-84-12.

BRAMBLING
LaGrande, Union County, one male in winter plumage, December 9†, 1983 (JE, photos by OS, TC, m.ob.) #514.1-83-02.

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

FIELD SPARROW
Malheur N.W.R., one on October 2, 1983, #563-83-01.

CONTRIBUTORS
Tom Crabtree
David Fix
Joe Evanich
Jeff Gilligan
Steve Gordon
Jamie Hannum
Steve Heinl
David Herr
David Irons
Rick and Jan Krabbe
C. D. Littlefield
Al McGie
Dave Markley
Scott McMullen
Allison Mickel (AMi)
Tom Mickel
Richard Palmer
Al Prigge
Eleanor Pugh
Michael Robbins
Martha Sawyer
Owen Schmidt
Steve Summers
Pat and Sharon Sweeney
New Field Guides: Round 4

Tom Crabtree

The latest entry in the field guide wars is the three volume Master Guide to Birding published by Alfred A. Knopf and the Chanticleer Press. The "Master Guide" is bound to be somewhat of an enigma. There will be those who love it and those who hate it.

Like the previous Chanticleer Press field guides [the two volume Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, hereafter referred to as the "photo guides"] this trilogy is a photographic field guide. That alone ensures that the Master Guide will be considered controversial. Conventional wisdom indicates that a field guild should have drawings illustrating many plumages of a species and depict flight patterns as well as a stationary pose. With a photograph a bird is only shown in one pose, often at a strange angle and in but one plumage. Photographs can be out of focus. Unusual lighting conditions can give a misleading impression as to the bird's coloration. Drawings, on the other hand, can depict birds out of proportion, or inaccurately portray field marks.

Roger Tory Peterson wrote in the introduction of Seabirds: An Identification Guide: "Whereas a photograph is a record of a split second in the life of a bird, subject to all the vagaries of light angle and chance, a drawing can be more informative because it is a composite of the artist's field knowledge of the bird." This is an advantage if the artist has as much field knowledge as a Roger Tory Peterson, but a bad illustration can mislead every bit as much as a bad photograph can. So the debate on the relative merits of photographic and conventional guides will continue.

Unlike the earlier photo guides, the Master Guide is organized in philogenetic order. Chanticleer obviously learned its lesson following the almost uniformly bad reviews the photo guides received. No longer are pictures arranged by color and the text by habitat. As a result this book is considerably more usable.

The Master Guide has set an extremely high goal for itself. From the preface comes the following:

"For years the birding community has been waiting for an advanced field guide, one that would include the increasingly sophisticated and subtle clues to bird identification discovered in recent decades ***.

"[W]e have tried to prepare the most complete, up-to-date and useful field identification guide ever devised."

It is against this lofty standard that the book must be measured. Whether it accomplishes its goal is questionable. But there is no doubt that this is the most expensive field guide ever produced. It lists for $13.95 per volume or a total of $41.85. That compares with $13.95 for the National Geographic Guide, $7.95 for the Golden Guide, and $15.00 for each volume of Peterson (hardcover).

The book boasts that it covers "all 835 species of birds recorded on the continent." Although that was a true statement as of the time the book was published, it is somewhat misleading. One hundred sixteen species, all accidentals, are given cursory treatment. Instead of being discussed in the main part of the text, they are treated in a small section in the back of the book. None of these species is illustrated. The species accounts for these accidentals average only about eight lines. This is particularly aggravating because most advanced birders would like more detail for accidentals and less for the most common species.

In all only 719 species are illustrated. This compares to 809 in the Geographic Guide and 738 in the Golden Guide. Each of the 719 species in the main text have between one and six illustrations. The average number per species in the series is two. Only the RED-TAILED HAWK has six illustrations. Few have more than three, and many species have just one photograph or drawing.

The three volumes contain a total of 1,245 photographs and 193 paintings. The photographs range from poor to excellent. There are more poor photographs in this series than in the earlier photo guides. There are two reasons for this. First, more species are depicted in the Master Guide. Second, the photographs selected for the Master Guide are more useful than in the earlier guides. For example, all pelagic species are pictured in flight rather than at the nest hole. There is a small amount of duplication in photographs from the photo guides. Only 45 of the 1,245 photographs in the Master Guide were used in the photo guides. An even smaller number were used in Terre's Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds, also published by Alfred A. Knopf. It seems that the publishers could have come up with better photographs of such common species as the AMERICAN BITTERN in flight, female CINNAMON TEAL, BALD EAGLE, immature BLACK OYSTERCATCHER, WHIMBREL, many of the gulls, terns, alcids and flycatchers, BROWN THRASHER, TENNESSEE WARBLER, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE, COMMON RAVEN, BUSHTIT, PYGMY NUTHATCH and BROWN CREEPER, to name a few.
The 1,245 photographs in the book are an invaluable reference tool. No matter how good a painting is in some other guides, it cannot compare with an excellent photograph to clinch an identification. Some photographs are of ages or plumages that cannot be found elsewhere (for example, juvenile BAIRD'S SPARROW, some sponges, juvenile shorebirds).

No acceptable photograph could be found for about 15 percent of the species. For these the publishers commissioned 13 artists to produce 193 paintings, usually one per species. These drawings range from poor to very good. Overall, however, the art work is inferior to that in the Geographic Guide.

The illustrations are a good size (about 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches). To the left of each plate is a smaller (3/4 by 1 inch) black and white reproduction of the plate. Red arrows and numbers pointing to the main field marks are superimposed on the black and white photo. Below this a brief description of the relevant field mark is given. This is a nice touch as field marks are pointed out, but the main illustration is not cluttered up with the arrows.

In addition to the photographs and color plates, there are many black and white line drawings which depict birds in flight; wing, tail or bill patterns; flight displays; and other useful features. These are almost always helpful.

Range maps are included for 650 species. Unfortunately they are probably the worst range maps yet included in a North American field guide. They measure about 1 1/4 inches square. They are all done in blue ink with diagonal striping going in opposite directions for winter and summer range which can be extremely confusing. Only three map types are given: one showing all of North America north of the Mexican border, one of the southwest (Arizona, Baja California, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma) and one of the southeast (Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina). On the North American map, no state boundaries are drawn in. (On the other two types those boundaries are included.) As a result much of the information on the North American maps is unreadable.

All too often the range maps do not match the accompanying written range description. Another defect in the maps is that for species whose range borders Mexico, the portion of the range map south of the border is not drawn in. As a result, a species such as the VARIED BUNTING is shown as occurring in three discontinuous areas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, rather than throughout Mexico with the range just spilling across the border in three places as is accurately shown in the Geographic Guide.

There are over 70 range map errors involving Oregon birds. Among the most glaring are: TUNDRA SWANS do not occur in Oregon east of the Cascades; CANADA GEESE do not occur west of the Cascades; SPRUCE GROUSE are permanent residents in northwestern Oregon; MOUNTAIN QUAIL are introduced in the Pacific Northwest; the BLACK-BACKED STILT breeds on the Oregon Coast; BLACK SWIFTS breed throughout western Oregon; BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS, LARK SPARROWS, and CASSIN'S FINCHES occur statewide except for the coast; VARIED THRUSH and HERMIT WARBLERS only occur west of the Cascades; LAZULI BUNTINGS do not occur in the Willamette Valley; TREE SPARROWS winter throughout the state except along the southern coast; and LINCOLN'S SPARROWS don't occur along the coast at all.

The species accounts are generally excellent. In most cases the text is more extensive than that contained in any other field guide. These vary from author to author. Although the list of contributing authors is every bit as impressive as that in the Geographic Guide, the species accounts vary in quantity and quality considerably more than in the Geographic Guide. One interesting feature is that in the Master Guide all the species accounts are signed. Frequently not all the species in the same genus were written by the same person. Taking one example, the Spizella sparrow, were authored by Dave DeSante and Peter Vickery. Excluding the introductory paragraph and the range description, DeSante's accounts average 32 lines, while Vickery's average exactly half of that. This detracts from the overall quality of the Guide.

Each species account (except for the rarities in the back of the book) is broken down into five parts, an introductory paragraph, sections on description, voice, similar species, and range. The similar species section can be somewhat of a disappointment in many instances. Instead of comparing similar species in each account, the book economizes on words and refers the reader to other species. This can be quite frustrating if all the species aren't in the same section. For example, the RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET account says "see Hutton's Vireo." The PHILADELPHIA VIREO account refers readers to WARBLING and RED-EYED VIREOS, TENNESSEE and BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS. More disturbing is when the similar species are not even in the book. Examples of this are the NORTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET which says "see immature verdin, Empidonax flycatchers and vireos," and from the GRAY JAY'S account it says "see Clark's Nutcracker and Northern Shrike."

At times the similar species accounts are circular. For example, under POMARINE JAEGERS it says "see Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers," under Parasitic it says "see Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers," and under Long-tailed it says, "see Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers." To top that off, the skuas aren't even compare to the jaegers.

Sometimes the descriptions are ambiguous. This occurs because the wording is kept to a minimum. For example, under RED-THROATED PIPIT it says: "Fall Water Pipit may be confused with juvenile Red-throated, but has dark brown ground color on more darkly streaked upperparts; legs usually darker; call different." It would have been clearer to have said "Compared with Juvenile Red-throated, fall Water Pipit has dark brown ground color on more darkly streaked upperparts, darker legs and a different call." Generally, the species accounts for the more difficult to identify species are generally excellent (e.g., shrikes, emdps, dowitchers). However, the rarer the bird, the shorter the species account. This is unfortunate as most people would probably appreciate shorter accounts of abundant species and more treatment of the less common birds.
There are some nice special features in each volume. All three have sections on "How to Identify Birds" and "How to Find Birds." Volume One has a section on "Classification and Nomenclature." Volume Two has chapters on "Birding Equipment," "Reporting a Rarity," and "Rare Bird Alerts" from around the country. While Portland's RBA was included, that for Seattle, for some reason, was not. Volume Three has a section on "Beyond Bird Identification" as well as a comprehensive index for all three volumes. Each volume contains an index for the species included within it.

The idea behind the Master Guide is a good one. The defects in the series a bit more expensive, but probably not significantly. If birders weren't scared off by the $41.85 price tag, they probably would not have balked at $45 or even $50 for a set that pictured all species and had an adequate text for each species as well.

The Master Guide to Birding is not the ultimate field guide it set out to be. There are, as described above, many defects to it. Nevertheless, it is a series that no serious birder should be without. A lot of information is contained in those three volumes. The price is almost worth it just for the pictures alone. The series is too cumbersome to be of much use as an actual field guide. But the Master Guide is invaluable as a reference work. I have found in the months that I have had the books, that I now will reach for the Master Guide first when I am looking up some identification point. Few advanced birders will want to be without this series.

The written range descriptions are a welcome addition to the generally poor maps. They add detail that the maps can't show. For example it correctly describes the range of the ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD as "along coast from Sw. Oregon to S. California."

Distribution: Calliope Hummingbird

M.S. (Elzy) Eltzroth

Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) referred to the CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD (Stellula CALLIOPE) as a regular summer resident of the Blue Mountains and isolated high ranges of eastern Oregon, and called it the most abundant hummer in the state next to the RUFOUS (Selasphorus rufus). They added: "It is found only in eastern Oregon except for a few scattered records from the Siskiyou Mountains of Jackson County and one from Glendale in (southern) Douglas County."

Not many records have been published of its presence east of the Cascades in the past 44 years, but Stellula CALLIOPE apparently is seen there with such regularity that it is simply not reported.

EAST OF CASCADES

The listing as uncommon in the forested regions east of the Cascades by Bertrand and Scott (1979) and by the Grande Ronde Bird Club/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (1981) is supported by most observers today. However, distribution of this species seems somewhat spotty. For example, Pederson et al. (1975) noted only one CALLIOPE in the Umatilla National Forest in a two year period, 1973-74, but "several" were seen in the Blue Mountains north of Burns in June 1977 (Oregon Birds 3(5)34).

One arrived at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in May 1975, "the first since 1970" (American Birds 29:884). Another was there in May 1976 (AB 30:867) and in May 1983 (AB 37:893). One was seen around the Indian Ford loop in May 1982 (personal observation) and along the Silves River north of Burns in July 1982 (AB 36:999). An active nest was observed near Bend in May 1983. A bird was near Baker in the summer of 1982 (OB 8:100), while a riparian area along the Grande Ronde River southwest of Hilgard State Park, Union County, had six to eight male CALLIOPEs in mid-June 1984 for an OFO field trip.

Two interesting anecdotes were related by McAllister and Marshall (1945) who saw at least four or five in the Fremont National Forest in the summer of 1943: "One once flew inside the lookout station (Coleman Point?) through an open window, hovered in the middle of the room, and then darted out the only other open window on the opposite side of the room." Also: "At Hager Spring, one was observed taking a bath. It would gently lower itself and hit the surface of the pool like a tiny helicopter, and repeat this performance until sufficiently wet."
The only other Cascade listings I could find were of one bird each from Mount Hood in 1966 (Audubon Field Notes 20:594) and 1981 (Audubon Warbler July 1981), although they are known to frequent feeders at Camp Sherman on the Metolius River (personal observation).

WEST OF CASCADES

Data now available indicate that the range of our smallest hummingbird is somewhat greater than was believed in 1940. For example, they were reported in Jackson County in 1961 (AFN 15:434) and were seen there nearly every year until 1973. There is an unexplained gap in the reports from 1974 to 1979 but at least one CALLIOPE HUMMER has been noted in that area every year since 1979. In April 1985, a small invasion of 10 to 25 CALLIOPEs was reported in Medford by Ralph Browning, Joseph Hicks, and Frank Sturges (AFN 19:506). Successful nesting was witnessed west of Medford in 1967 by Otis Swisher (AFN 21:598). From 1968 until 1974 these little birds repeatedly visited the McGraw feeders at Shady Cove. The latest reports were of one bird at Ashland and two in Jacksonville in 1983 (The Chat May 1983).

The first known CALLIOPE west of the mountains except in extreme southern Oregon was an adult male found dead in southeast Portland by Mary Lou and Mary Jo Moore of the original Oregon Audubon Society in April 1944 (Jewett 1945). Another appeared in Portland in April 1950 (AFN 4:258) and three males were found in Forest Park, Portland during April 1969 (AFN 23:617). Still another died after striking a window in Tualatin in May 1983 (AB 37:905).

Bill Thackaberry saw one at his farm near Lebanon in 1968 (AFN 23:99) and another in May 1971 (AB 25:792). One was also sighted east of Sweet Home in 1972 (AB 26:896).

Benton County’s only record—an adult male (photos enclosed)—was found dead under a window in Corvallis by H. H. (Bud) Crowell on May 2, 1983. This specimen is retained by the Audubon Society of Corvallis.

Just over a decade ago these little hummers began to appear in the Eugene area. One was at Thurston, east of Springfield on April 4, 1972 (AB, 26:799). This is the earliest arrival date for the entire state, although one was said to have wintered in Eugene in 1980-81 (OB 7:72). Two appeared in Eugene in 1975, two in 1977, one in 1980, two in 1981, two again in 1982 and one in 1983.

Further south in Douglas and Josephine counties a CALLIOPE was seen on King Mountain at the 5,300 foot level, east of Wolf Creek in 1976 (AB 30:995) and one was seen near Wolf Creek the following year (AB 31:1040); in Grants Pass in 1980 (OB 6:126); in Roseburg on September 22, 1981 (OB 7:147); and two near Merlin in 1983 (AB 37:905).

To my knowledge, there have been no sightings from the coast and the only reports from or near the Coast Range were those at Wolf Creek, Merlin and Roseburg cited above. The apparent phenomenon of CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS following Interstate-5 from the southern to the northern borders of western Oregon is probably more the result of a concentration of human population, including birders, along the freeway, than it is of any greater abundance of birds along this particular corridor.

SUMMARY

Since publication of the Birds of Oregon in 1940, CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS have been reported approximately 15 times east of the Cascades, but this low number is likely due to the fact that most observers do not consider them to be rare birds. In the Cascade Mountains, these birds have been noted approximately 13 times; in Jackson and Josephine counties around 62 times. From Roseburg to Portland the reports number 32. Three of the above records used the term “several.” “Several” and other general terms (few, some, flock, many) are not helpful words in deriving statistics. Compilers would have more accurate data if specific numbers or reasonable estimates were used in all bird reporting.

West of the Cascades, Jackson is the leading county for CALLIOPE, with Lane and Douglas about equal in the number two spot. The earliest date noted was April 4 in Thurston and the latest was September 22 in Roseburg, not counting the bird that wintered in Eugene in 1980-81. Nesting was mentioned only from Medford.

CONCLUSIONS

Has the CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD expanded its range since the days of Gabrielson and Jewett, or is it merely being observed by more people who know what they are viewing and who report their sightings? The answer, probably, is some of both. Whether or not the CALLIOPE was actually present west of the Cascades and north of Glendale prior to 1940 will undoubtedly never be known. However, recent sightings suggest a gradual range expansion northward from Jackson to Lane County or farther. These birds should be looked for in the Willamette Valley and its bordering hills.

In preparing this article I found the bibliographies of Scott et al. (1972) and Egger (1980), plus the index by Watson (1932) to be most helpful.
Distribution: Northern Pintail

Jon Anderson

On January 20, 1984, while banding MALLARD ducks at the swim-in trap on Morgan Lake, Baskett Slough NWR in Polk County, I encountered a previously banded NORTHERN PINTAIL. This adult female was wearing a band that was slightly smaller than the usual size U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) band, and was labeled:

KANKYOCHO, TOKYO, JAPAN 092-12751

The band number was noted and the bird was released.

I reported the encounter to the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology in Tokyo, which is the Japanese counterpart to the USF&WS Bird Banding Laboratory. The band recovery report stated that the bird was originally banded on January 14, 1982 at the Shinhama Duck Refuge near Ichikawa, Chiba Pref., approximately 10 km northwest of downtown Tokyo. This refuge, along the Edo River and near the sprawling metropolis' new international airport, is analogous to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge near New York City's J. F. Kennedy International.

The age of the duck was unknown at the time of banding. It is likely that this bird summered in the Soviet or Alaskan northland, and could easily migrate south along either coast.

Although MALLARDS are the only species banded at Baskett Slough during the post-hunting season banding operations, approximately 40 percent of the birds handled are other species of dabbling ducks. AMERICAN WIGEON, NORTHERN PINTAIL, and GREEN-WINGED TEAL comprise the bulk of non-target waterfowl trapped, although an occasional CANADA GOOSE or EURASIAN WIGEON is attracted to the bait.

The USF&WS establishes a quota on certain species of waterfowl to be banded in each flyway and region annually, both pre- and post-hunting season. Band returns are used to calculate hunting mortality, population sizes, and other facts necessary for the proper management of the species. It has been a policy of the USF&WS to discourage the banding of species at the Willamette Valley Refuge complex for which a quota has not been set, presumably due to cost and record-keeping considerations.

Because the "non-quota" species are not being banded, researchers, managers, and bird students are not as easily able to monitor the dynamic movements of the wintering waterfowl populations. Some questions are left unanswered. How many of "our" wintering PINTAILS commonly winter in Asia? Do the WIGEON on Finley Refuge come south along the coast or from the interior through the Columbia Basin? Just how "occasional" are the EURASIAN WIGEON in this state? One banded several years ago at Malheur NWR was shot several seasons later in the Willamette Valley.
Perhaps the policy of the USFWS Office of Migratory Bird Management could be altered. We could learn some interesting information about the local waterfowl, and the state and federal workers would have a better tool with which to manage the various species.

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Field Checklist of the Birds of Oregon -- Steven C. Gordon, 16 pages, April 1981. Special Publication #2. $0.50


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2. Barb Bellin, 4730 Elizabeth N., Salem 97303
3. M.S. "Elzy" Eltzroth, 3595 N.W. Roosevelt, Corvallis 97330
4. Mark & Mari Dembrow, 1059 Tyler St., Eugene 97402
5. Fred Parker, 313 W. Hickory, Roseburg 97470
6. Alan McGie, 3503 Edgewood Dr., North Bend 97459
7. Jim Rogers, Star Rt. Box 151-A, Port Orford 97465
8. Mike Paczolt, 911 Murray, Apt. 1, Medford 97501
9. Steve Summers, 1009 Merryman, Klamath Falls 97603
10. Tom Crabtree, 1667 NW Iowa, Bend 97701
11. Frank Conley, R.O. Box 6, Joseph 97846
12. Merle Archie, 629 W Madison, Burns 97720