

SWOC TALK

July - Aug., 1975

Newsletter of the Southern Willamette Ornithological Club Volume 1, Number 4

MEETINGS

The twelfth meeting of SWOC will be held at 7:30 PM, October 6, 1975. We will meet at the conference room on the third floor of Science III, University of Oregon campus, Eugene. Because of recent construction near Science III, several parking spaces have been destroyed; a map on the next page locates the most convenient parking lots.

PAST MEETINGS

The eleventh meeting of SWOC was held on June 2, 1975. Discussion concerned the organization of this year's Eugene Christmas Bird Count. It was decided at this meeting not to hold summer meetings in 1975. Twenty-two people attended.

AN APOLOGY

Although the date for this issue of SWOC TALK reads July - August, 1975, it was not prepared and printed until early September. This does not effect the bi-monthly status of SWOC TALK - two more issues will come out before the end of the year. We are sorry for the delay.

BUSINESS

As of September 5, 1975, membership in SWOC stands at thirty-five people. Joining this summer have been Bob Bender, Sayre Greenfield, and Allen Rodgers. At \$5.00 per member, \$175.00 has been taken in as dues.

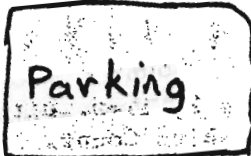
The current balance of our checking account is \$129.64. Printing costs for volume 1, number 3 of SWOC TALK was \$6.44 and mailing costs were \$2.80, making total cost for that issue \$9.24.

Dues are \$5.00 yearly. Please make checks out to SWOC. Mail should be addressed to "SWOC, c/o Chip Jobanek, 10600 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon, 97477."

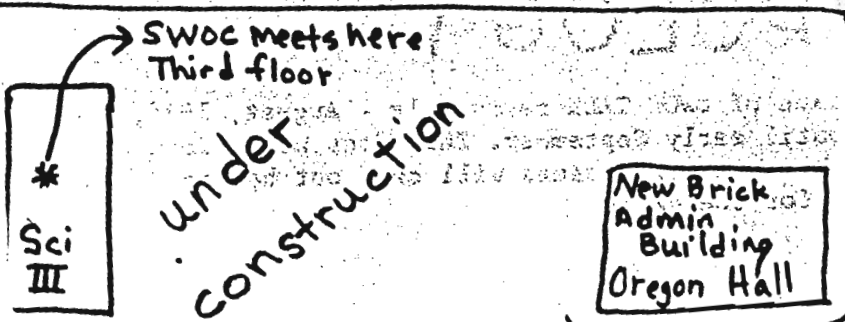
A PLEA

In the last issue of SWOC TALK a plea was made for contributions of material suitable for publication in SWOC TALK; it is urgently necessary to repeat that plea now. SWOC TALK cannot exist if it is not supported by SWOC members, not only monetarily but also materially. Please submit all items to Chip Jobanek, 10600 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon, 97477

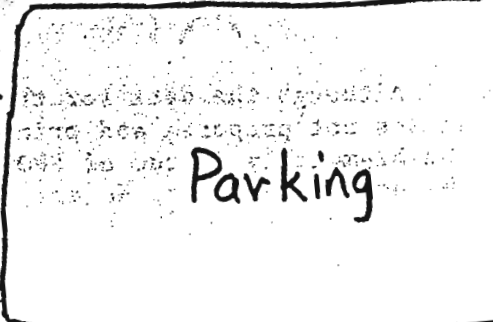
☐ canoe shack



Franklin Boulevard



Agate Street



13th Street

2

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Several projects underway in the southern Willamette Valley are dependent upon observations of many people. Listed below are some of those projects, detailing what information is required.

WRENTIT DISTRIBUTION PROJECT:

Sightings of Wrentits are being plotted on a state map. While only selected sightings on the immediate coastline are being plotted, all sightings of Wrentits away from the coastline are needed, particularly records from the Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River Valleys. Records accompanied with a description of habitat would be especially appreciated. Please send all sightings to Chip Jobanek.

VAUX'S SWIFT CLUTCH SIZE PROJECT:

Recent observations indicate that the clutch size of the Vaux's Swift in the Willamette Valley might be 6-7 eggs, larger than the clutch size elsewhere in its range. Swift nests will be checked in the summer of 1976. Anyone knowing of the location of a Vaux's Swift nest or has clutch size data should contact Chip Jobanek.

BREEDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW IN THE CASCADES PROJECT:

Breeding records of White-crowned Sparrows in the Cascades are sketchy. Anyone who has seen White-crowned Sparrows in the Cascades in the summer, particularly on the east slope and north of Sisters, should send that information to Dan Gleason.

ACORN WOODPECKER DISTRIBUTION IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY:

As part of the mapping project described in volume 1, number 2 of SWOC TALK, Acorn Woodpecker distribution is being plotted. Please send records to Chip Jobanek.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE DISTRIBUTION IN LANE COUNTY PROJECT:

Although the Black-capped Chickadee is a common bird in parts of Lane County, it is not found in every situation. It would be interesting to recognize where it does and doesn't occur. If anyone is willing to assist with this project, that would be appreciated. Please send records to Chip Jobanek

Preliminary List of the Birds of the Southern Willamette Valley
Chip Jobanek

-27-

This list has been compiled in preparation of a manuscript on the birds of the southern Willamette Valley. The following classification of the acceptability of records applies only to this list.

No mark - Specimen exists, there is an identifying photograph, or there is no question because of the number of records.

() - Single party sight records, questionable or not.

(()) - Questionable records from the literature.

[] - Extirpated from the southern Willamette Valley.

While every effort has been made to make this list as complete as possible, there must certainly be errors. If you have corrections or additions to this list, please send them to Chip Jobanek or Larry McQueen, care of SWOC.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Common Loon | Northern Shoveler | Ruffed Grouse |
| Arctic Loon | Wood Duck | Bobwhite |
| Red-throated Loon | Redhead | California Quail |
| Red-necked Grebe | Ring-necked Duck | Mountain Quail |
| Horned Grebe | Canvasback | Ring-necked Pheasant |
| Eared Grebe | Greater Scaup | Chukar |
| Western Grebe | Lesser Scaup | Gray Partridge |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Common Goldeneye | Turkey |
| White Pelican | Barrow's Goldeneye | Sandhill Crane |
| (Brown Pelican) | Bufflehead | Virginia Rail |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Harlequin Duck | Sora |
| Great Blue Heron | White-winged Scoter | Yellow Rail |
| Green Heron | Surf Scoter | American Coot |
| Great Egret | Ruddy Duck | Semipalmated Plover |
| Snowy Egret | Hooded Merganser | {Snowy Plover} |
| (Louisiana Heron) | Common Merganser | Killdeer |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | {Red-breasted Merganser} | Mountain Plover |
| (Least Bittern) | [California Condor] | {American Golden Plover} |
| American Bittern | Turkey Vulture | Black-bellied Plover |
| Whistling Swan | White-tailed Kite | (Black Turnstone) |
| Canada Goose | Goshawk | Common Snipe |
| Black Brant ¹ | Sharp-shinned Hawk | Long-billed Curlew |
| Emperor Goose | Cooper's Hawk | Whimbrel |
| White-fronted Goose | Red-tailed Hawk | Spotted Sandpiper |
| Snow Goose ² | Swainson's Hawk | Solitary Sandpiper |
| (Ross' Goose) | Rough-legged Hawk | (Wandering Tattler) |
| Mallard | Ferruginous Hawk | Greater Yellowlegs |
| Gadwall | Golden Eagle | Lesser Yellowlegs |
| Pintail | Bald Eagle | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper ³ |
| Green-winged Teal | Marsh Hawk | Pectoral Sandpiper |
| "American" | Osprey | Baird's Sandpiper |
| "Eurasian" | Gyrfalcon | Least Sandpiper |
| Baikal Teal | Prairie Falcon | Dunlin |
| Blue-winged Teal | Peregrine Falcon | {Short-billed Dowitcher} |
| Cinnamon Teal | Merlin | Long-billed Dowitcher |
| European Wigeon | American Kestrel | Semipalmated Sandpiper |
| American Wigeon | Blue Grouse | Western Sandpiper |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sanderling | Belted Kingfisher | Bewick's Wren |
| American Avocet | Common Flicker | Long-billed Marsh Wren |
| Black-necked Stilt | "Yellow-shafted" | (Canyon Wren) |
| Red Phalarope | "Red-shafted" | Rock Wren |
| Wilson's Phalarope | Pileated Woodpecker | Mockingbird |
| Northern Phalarope | Acorn Woodpecker | Sage Thrasher |
| (Parasitic Jaeger) | Lewis' Woodpecker | American Robin |
| (Long-tailed Jaeger) | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Varied Thrush |
| ((Glaucous Gull)) | "Red-breasted" | Hermit Thrush |
| Glaucous-winged Gull | ☿ "Red-naped" ☿ | Swainson's Thrush |
| Western Gull | (Williamson's Sapsucker) | Western Bluebird |
| Herring Gull | Hairy Woodpecker | Mountain Bluebird |
| Thayer's Gull | Downy Woodpecker | Townsend's Solitaire |
| California Gull | Eastern Kingbird | (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher) |
| Ring-billed Gull | (Tropical Kingbird) | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Mew Gull | Western Kingbird | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Franklin's Gull | Ash-throated Flycatcher | White Wagtail |
| Bonaparte's Gull | Black Phoebe | Water Pipit |
| (Heermann's Gull) | Say's Phoebe | Bohemian Waxwing |
| (Black-legged Kittiwake) | Willow Flycatcher | Cedar Waxwing |
| ☿ Sabine's Gull ☿ | Hammond's Flycatcher ⁸ | Northern Shrike |
| Forster's Tern ⁴ | Dusky Flycatcher | Loggerhead Shrike |
| (Common Tern) ⁴ | (Gray Flycatcher) | Starling |
| (Arctic Tern) ⁴ | Western Flycatcher | (Crested Myna) |
| Caspian Tern | Western Wood Pewee | (Bell's Vireo) |
| Black Tern | Olive-sided Flycatcher | Hutton's Vireo |
| Ancient Murrelet ⁵ | Horned Lark | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Tufted Puffin | Violet-green Swallow | Solitary Vireo |
| Band-tailed Pigeon | Tree Swallow | Warbling Vireo |
| Rock Dove | Bank Swallow | (Black and White Warbler) |
| Mourning Dove | Rough-winged Swallow | (Tennessee Warbler) |
| [Yellow-billed Cuckoo] ⁶ | Barn Swallow | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| ((Roadrunner)) | Cliff Swallow | Nashville Warbler |
| Barn Owl | Purple Martin | Yellow Warbler |
| Screech Owl | Gray Jay | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Great Horned Owl | Steller's Jay | "Myrtle" |
| Snowy Owl | Scrub Jay | "Audubon's" |
| Bygmy Owl | Black-billed Magpie | Black-throated Gray Warbler |
| Burrowing Owl | Common Raven | Townsend's Warbler |
| Spotted Owl | Common Crow | Hermit Warbler |
| ((Great Gray Owl)) | Northwestern Crow ⁹ | Palm Warbler |
| Long-eared Owl | Clark's Nutcracker | MacGillivray's Warbler |
| Short-eared Owl | Black-capped Chickadee | Common Yellowthroat |
| Swa-whet Owl | Mountain Chickadee | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| Poor-will | Chestnut-backed Chickadee | Hooded Warbler |
| Common Nighthawk | Bushtit | Wilson's Warbler |
| Black Swift | White-breasted Nuthatch | (Canada Warbler) |
| Vaux's Swift | Red-breasted Nuthatch | House Sparrow |
| (Black-chinned Hummingbird) | Pygmy Nuthatch | (Bobolink) |
| Costa's Hummingbird | Brown Creeper | Western Meadowlark |
| Anna's Hummingbird | Wrentit | Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Dipper | Red-winged Blackbird |
| (Allen's Hummingbird) ⁷ | House Wren | Northern Oriole |
| Calliope Hummingbird | Winter Wren | "Bullock's" |

Brewer's Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Western Tanager
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Indigo Bunting
 Evening Grosbeak
 Purple Finch
 Cassin's Finch
 House Finch
 (Pine Grosbeak)
 (Gray-crowned Rosy Finch)
 Common Redpoll
 Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch
 Lesser Goldfinch
 Red Crossbill
 Green-tailed Towhee
 Rufous-sided Towhee
 (Brown Towhee)
 Lark Bunting
 Savannah Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 ((Baird's Sparrow))
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Black-throated Sparrow
 (Sage Sparrow)
 Dark-eyed Junco
 "Slate-colored"

Dark-eyed Junco
 "Oregon"
 Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 (Brewer's Sparrow)
 (Field Sparrow)
 Harris' Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 (Lapland Longspur)
 (Snow Bunting)

1. The Emperor Goose collected in Jasper in 1923 was to be given to the University of Oregon but cannot be found in the collection there.
2. A Ross' Goose in the Oregon State University Museum of Natural History's collection was collected in Lane County. No more specific location is indicated and thus this specimen cannot be placed for sure in the southern Willamette Valley.
3. Although photographs of the birds which constitute our only record for this species in the valley are inadequate, recent correspondence with a taxonomist at the U.S. National Museum suggests the record is valid.
4. Records of Sterna terns in the southern valley should be reviewed. Both Common and Arctic are probably present but we are unsure of their respective abundances.
5. An Ancient Murrelet was picked up from a Springfield parking lot in 1961. The specimen is being tracked down in order to be certain of the validity of the record.
6. Efforts are continuing to find Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the southern Willamette Valley. Presently, they should be considered extirpated.
7. Allen's Hummingbird records are being reviewed. The variable amount of green on the back of Rufous Hummingbirds makes distinction between Rufous and Allen's difficult.
8. The difficulty in distinguishing between Empidonax flycatchers is well-known. There is an overwhelming need for an intensive study of these two species in the southern valley, either collecting or capturing birds to be certain of identifications.
9. Although several specimens labeled Northwestern Crow exist in local collections, they should be re-examined.
10. Specimens collected by Woodcock in Corvallis cannot be found.

Don Payne

This close relative of the American Goldfinch is irregularly common throughout the year at this latitude. It flocks frequently with goldfinches, in winter especially. From a distance a flock may appear to be homogeneous, but close observation will probably confirm a mixture of both kinds of birds.

Siskins are a dark olive-green, heavily streaked bird, with a sharp, slender, almost warbler-type beak. The tail is deeply notched when folded. There are touches of contrasting yellow areas at the base of the tail and below the wing bars. Males are usually darker than females. House Finches and Purple Finches are larger birds and have the typically heavy, seed-cracking finch beak.

Their perching and flight songs are unique. The metallic tit-tit and the zzzhreeee with an upward inflection at the end are diagnostic. Flight is erratic, jerky, and undulating, giving the idea that they are not really certain where they are going.

Habitat is conifers, mixed woods, stream bottoms, meadows, weed patches, and fence rows. Being seed eaters, water is a real attraction for them in the summertime.

They feed on seeds, conifer buds, thistles, dandelions, and may be approached quite closely with caution. It is interesting to watch a flock feed, some of them upside-down, on willows and birches.

Often the bird in the hand may have a very dirty beak with a blob or two of pitch or other dried plant juice plastered halfway from the gape to the point on the other side.

The nest is a neat cup in conifer or other bush or tree, usually elevated five to twelve or more feet above the ground. Eggs are 4-5, white.

From my experience, the length of siskins ranges from 11 - 13 centimeters. They weigh 10 - 14 grams and have a wing length of 70 to 78 centimeters.

In mapping the occurrence of this interesting bird in Lane County, I find it everywhere on the valley floor. It is in the river valleys up to 2000 ft. in summer, and on the eastern slope of the Cascades it is frequently met at 3500 ft. in the pine belt.

This issue of SWOC TALK was prepared by Chip Jobanek and was printed by the Quick Copy Center of the University of Oregon, Eugene.

Eugene, OR 97403



SWOC
10600 McKenzie Highway
Springfield, OR 97477

The Southern Willamette Ornithological Club, or SWOC, is an organization representing the interests of bird students in the southern Willamette Valley. The goals of SWOC include:

- Conduct monthly meetings of ornithological interest
- Act as the coordinating body for local projects
- Participate actively in local governmental planning
- Act as a "sounding board" for new ideas and information pertinent to the study of Willamette Valley birdlife
- Distribute this information through the form of a newsletter and papers

Quite simply, SWOC is an informal discussion group which deals with the problems of Willamette Valley birds. We need your participation. Please consider joining SWOC and playing an active role in any of these stated goals. Address all letters to "SWOC, c/o Chip Jobanek, 10600 McKenzie Highway, Springfield, Oregon, 97477."