

SWOC TALK

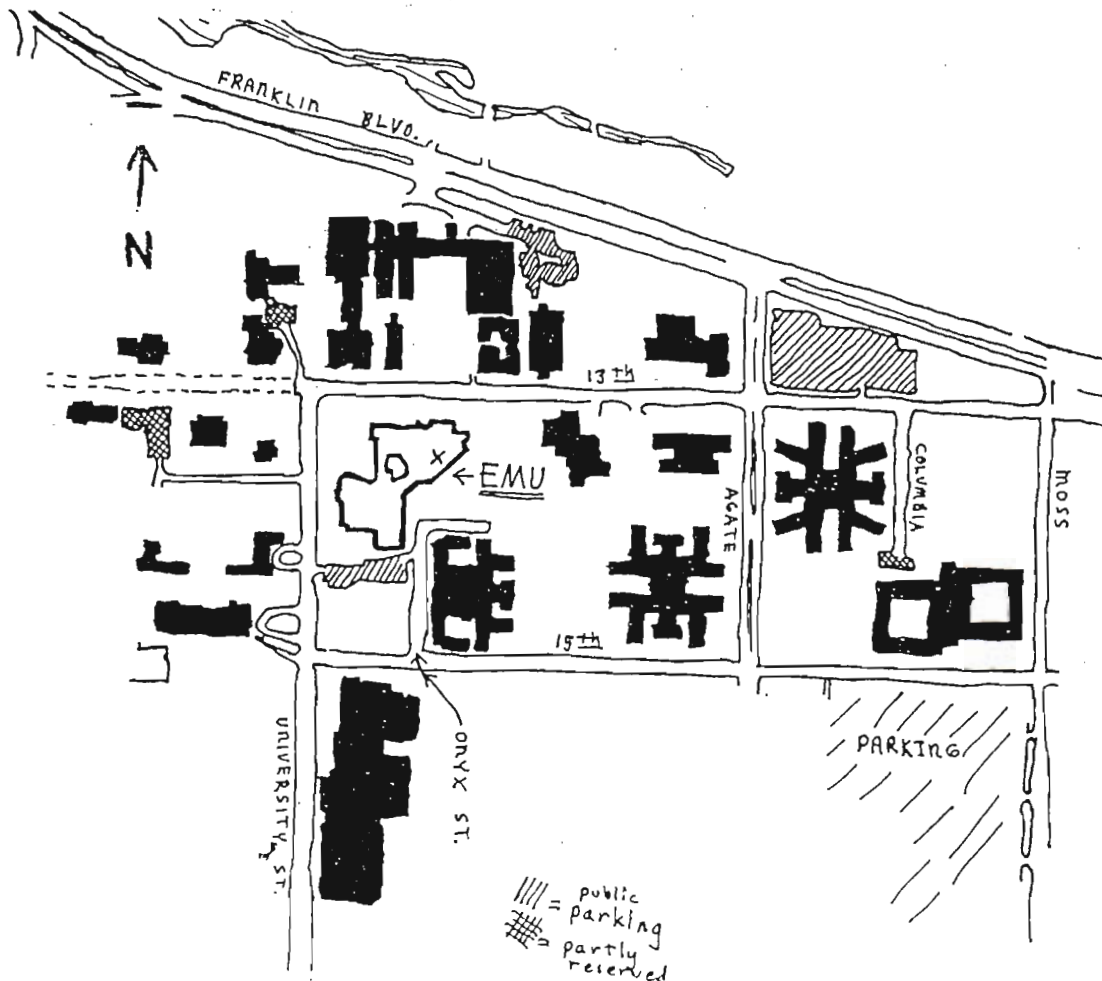
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Newsletter of the Southern Willamette Ornithological Club

Volume 2, Number 2

MEETINGS

The next meeting of SWOC will be Saturday, May 1, 1976 (note - not the usual Monday night) at Room 167 of the Erb Memorial Union (in the new addition). This will be an afternoon meeting, beginning at 1:00 P.M. and ending about 4:00 or 5:00. This meeting will be an organizing conference for a statewide ornithological organization. For more complete details see elsewhere in this issue.



In a review of my paper, "The distribution and occurrence of the birds of Jackson County, Oregon, and surrounding areas" (North American Fauna No. 70, 1975) by L.B. McQueen (SWOC TALK, Nov.-Dec. 1975) several incorrect remarks were made concerning the value of the Jackson County publication. Chip Jobanek (in litt.) suggested that any comments that I might have would be welcome. I accepted the offer since I believe that the review of my paper unfortunately contains several unqualified remarks that may be misconstrued by some readers. My remarks are brief, however, since I am sure that most of the readers of SWOC TALK are well informed and should not be belabored by discourse on an unadvised review.

McQueen seems troubled by my choice of using plant communities instead of habitat. Very briefly, most habitat names are based upon plant community names. An examination of most field guides that give habitat descriptions use terms that include the names of plant communities. Furthermore, the relationships of bird distribution to that of plant communities are well known to almost everyone. Related to this matter is my list of certain species that I restricted to certain avian communities. McQueen apparently failed to read that these lists are of breeding species restricted to plant communities only in Jackson County. Also, I included riparian areas in the Chaparral-Oak Community, a point overlooked by the reviewer. The examples that McQueen stated to be contradictions in species being restricted to a plant community in the lists in the vegetation section of the paper vs. the species accounts borders on chicanery.

Omission of certain species were both deliberate and by oversight. As McQueen correctly points out, there is a nesting record of the Spotted Owl from Jackson County. The omission of the Swainson's Thrush was a surprise to me since that species account was in the galley proof but was somehow lost during printing. Also, McQueen is correct in my contradiction of the plant community designations concerning the Winter Wren.

Other species and certain "records" of them were deliberately excluded. One of the primary reasons for these exclusions contradicts McQueen's "conviction" that it is an author's responsibility to acknowledge all references whether these are acceptable or not. The so-called hypothetical lists of avifaunal publications would be ridiculously long if every unsubstantiated sight records were included. I elected to exclude several records from Jackson County and other localities since I believed them to be unacceptable. Many of these were published records that have appeared in Aud. Field Notes and Amer. Birds and by their very nature such records are often times unreliable. This opinion is one that is shared by others and should be considered by anyone using such data.

To gain an understanding of bird distribution one needs to have some insight of the data upon which conclusions are based. Any reliable review of such conclusions should be by someone in a similar field or at least someone who understands that field. I am sure that among the readers of SWOC TALK there are many persons who are familiar with avian distribution and are quite capable in making sound decisions on the worthiness of my publication on the birds of Jackson County.

M. Ralph Browning

THE 1975 OREGON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Oregon birdwatchers conducted twenty-one Christmas Bird Counts during the count period extending from 20 December 1975 to 3 January 1976. Of these twenty-one counts, the details of twenty are listed in this issue of SWOC TALK. A new count at Antelope could not be included because of insufficient time to contact the compiler.

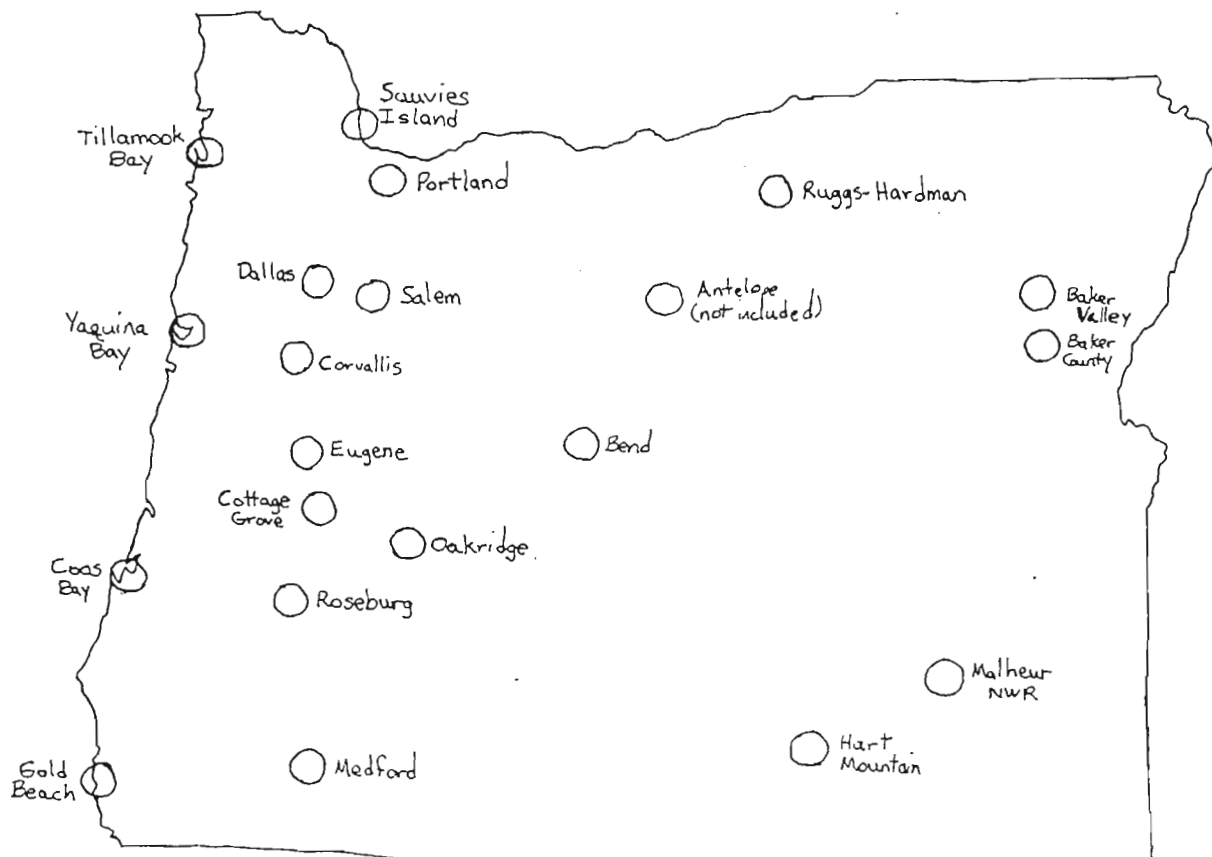
The material in the tables was provided by the count compilers. In some cases, this material is not exactly as what will later appear in the Christmas Count issue of American Birds. One compiler expressed sentiments probably shared by all of us when he complained that an editor of American Birds seemed to be more concerned with count fees than with count totals; in this particular case, the count submitted to SWOC TALK includes feeder totals which will not be included in the American Birds printing. Also, it was not possible to properly review questionable species. One compiler supplied with the count results a copy of a letter from the regional editor indicating which species were to be dropped; these were dropped as well from this list. For the final fate of such species, see American Birds. Finally, at least one compiler made some addition errors which might result in differences between the SWOC TALK and American Birds versions of the count.

It was not possible to indicate in the tables unusual species or numbers. For these, consult American Birds. In the following tables, an "X" indicates that the species was found in count week but not on count day.

Several compilers sent with their count results a short comment on their count. These are included after the tables. Following these, are Larry McQueen's remarks on Washington and Oregon bird counts. This article will appear with the remarks of other regional editors in the April Christmas Bird Count issue of American Birds. It is printed here by permission of the author.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all compilers who responded to my request for count results.

Chip Jobanek



	Baker County	Baker Valley	Bend	Cook's Bay	Corvallis	Cottage Grove	Dallas	Eugene	Gold Beach	Mountain	Hart.	Malheur N.W.R.
Common Loon				38								
Arctic Loon				3								
Red-throated Loon loon sp.				3				X	1			
Red-necked Grebe				2					1			
Horned Grebe				26					3			
Eared Grebe			1	3	1				11			
Western Grebe				197		7		96	15			
Pied-billed Grebe				5		5	1	27	105			
Dou-cr. Cormorant				64		2			2			3
Brandt's Cormorant				5					17			
Pelagic Cormorant cormorant sp.				9					2			
Great Blue Heron		1	1	77	28	16	11	80	59	X		41
Green Heron				1		1		3				
Great Egret				30		1	1	4	4			
Blk-cr. Night Heron				5								
American Bittern				1				1				
Mute Swan			2									
Whistling Swan				50	53			654				594
Trumpeter Swan												5
Canada Goose		119	54		7886		8050	60		6		1726
Black Brant				11								
Emperor Goose												
White-fronted Goose					X							
Snow Goose												
Mallard	2	2328	335	158	4090	61	6065	1265	21			493
Gadwall				2016	13			61	2			99
Pintail		7		9382	10774		5066	3010	2			31
Green-winged Teal		11		157	2552	24	10100	1005	4			50
Blue-winged Teal								2				
European Wigeon												
American Wigeon		13	118	1934	5684	46	1034	271	2			103
Northern Shoveler							25	31	2			
Wood Duck				5	16	6	24	12	1			
Redhead			20	10				X	2			23
Ring-necked Duck			31	9	X	10	25	72				93
Canvasback				529		2		27	2			108
Greater Scaup				123	X			3	2			
Lesser Scaup				22		45	22	141	118			36
Com. Goldeneye			24	21								495
Bar. Goldeneye			3									
Bufflehead			11	98	X	18	1	27	43			12
Oldsquaw									8			
Harlequin Duck												
White-winged Scoter				35					7			
Surf Scoter				90					24			
Black Scoter				10					7			
Ruddy Duck				161	X		139	21	61			70
Hooded Merganser			26	4	X	18	12	13				29
Com. Merganser			1	14		12	1	44	35	17		29
Red-br. Merganser duck sp.				63					31			
Turkey Vulture				75								
White-tailed Kite				1	1				2			

	Medford	Oakridge	Portland	Roseburg	Hardman	Ruggs-	Salem	Island	Sauvie	Tillamook	Yacquina	Total	No. of Counts
Common Loon				1					4	106	41	191	6
Arctic Loon									1	10	4	18	4(+1)
Red-throated Loon									1	14	32	52	6
loon sp.		X										-	(1)
Red-necked Grebe				2					8	6	6	21	5
Horned Grebe	1	11			4		4	2	73	45	173	173	8
Eared Grebe					4				11		35	35	6
Western Grebe		3	42		1		11	6	107	147	722	722	11
Pied-billed Grebe	21		23		9		52	8	171	12	349	349	13
Dou-cr. Cormorant		1	51		1			77	64	229	506	506	9
Brandt's Cormorant									41	13	61	61	4
Pelagic Cormorant									44	199	269	269	4
cormorant sp.											17	17	1
Great Blue Heron	32	15	73	36	2	42	84	147	66	811	18(+1)	811	18(+1)
Green Heron	2		3			2	1			13	7	13	7
Great Egret	1		1	10		5	6	2	1	66	12	66	12
Blk-cr. Night Heron	10		3	4						22	4	22	4
American Bittern									2	4	3	4	3
Mute Swan										2	1	2	1
Whistling Swan						867	1000			3218	6	3218	6
Trumpeter Swan							5			10	2	10	2
Banada Goose	17		213	3		3994	13000	2		35130	13	35130	13
Black Brant							3	80	143	237	4	237	4
Emperor Goose							1			1	1	1	1
White-fronted Goose				17		2	16			35	3(+1)	35	3(+1)
Snow Goose							38			38	1	38	1
Mallard	466	18	1331	160	107	1045	9000	2732	89	29766	19	29766	19
Gadwall	10		35	X	12		55		25	2328	10(+1)	2328	10(+1)
Pintail	64	1	446	26		2929	18000	1971	132	51841	15	51841	15
Green-winged Teal	130	4	776	X	8	160	2000	10	59	17050	16(+1)	17050	16(+1)
Blue-winged Teal							1			3	2	3	2
European Wigeon			7				11	1		19	3	19	3
American Wigeon	243		4537	319	8	1928	30000	14875	747	61862	17	61862	17
Northern Shoveler	10		43	X		23	1400	7	1	1542	9(+1)	1542	9(+1)
Wood Duck	160		5	2		44	7			282	11	282	11
Redhead	43			3		15				116	7(+1)	116	7(+1)
Ring-necked Duck	73		63	19		420	19	9	22	865	13(+1)	865	13(+1)
Canvasback	29		58	47		7	4	223	239	1275	12	1275	12
Greater Scaup	1		3				8	65	12	217	8(+1)	217	8(+1)
Lesser Scaup	93		48	95		24	34	61	166	905	13	905	13
Com. Goldeneye	11	11	9	18			1	77	26	693	10	693	10
Bar. Goldeneye				6						9	2	9	2
Bufflehead	10	12	93	137		2	20	707	155	1346	15(+1)	1346	15(+1)
Oldsquaw				X				1		9	2(+1)	9	2(+1)
Harlequin Duck		1						28	8	37	3	37	3
White-winged Scoter								1622	176	1840	4	1840	4
Surf Scoter		1						107	151	373	5	373	5
Black Scoter								26	12	55	4	55	4
Ruddy Duck	271		308	9	1	52	37	588	81	1799	13(+1)	1799	13(+1)
Hooded Merganser	7	13	12	X		38		19	28	219	12(+2)	219	12(+2)
Com. Merganser	26	40	202	18			108	59	13	619	15	619	15
Red-br. Merganser			1					50	64	209	5	209	5
duck sp.	20									95	2	95	2
Turkey Vulture										2	1	2	1
White-tailed Kite										2	2	2	2

	Baker County	Baker Valley	Baker	Bend	Coos Bay	Corvallis	Cottage Grove	Dallas	Eugene	Goos Beach	Mountain	Hart N.M.W.	Malheur
Goshawk				1		X	1						
Sharp-shinned Hawk						10		6	10	14			
Cooper's Hawk			1	1	1	3	5	7	5	1		1	
Red-tailed Hawk			14	18	12	90	19	58	79	14		X	8
Swainson's Hawk								1					
Rough-legged Hawk			79	2		13		42	2	1		7	32
Ferruginous Hawk													2
Golden Eagle	2	2	2									2	5
Bald Eagle		1			1	1			1			1	
Marsh Hawk	1	19			2	72		41	43			3	23
Prairie Falcon			1									X	1
Peregrine Falcon										1			1
Merlin		4			1		1		3	2			
American Kestrel	1	9	6	5	121	17	53	71	5	3		3	3
Blue Grouse					1								
Ruffed Grouse						6	1	2	2	1			
Sage Grouse		4										X	
California Quail	39	107	393			177	58	68	62	66		2	44
Mountain Quail							63		16	4			9
Ring-nkd. Pheasant	8	83		1	82	6	22	86				1	24
Chukar												X	
Gray Partridge													
Turkey													
Sandhill Crane													
Virginia Rail						X		5		1			
American Coot			37	608	51	40	19	254	85				77
Black Oystercatcher				13					10				
Semipalmated Plover													
Killdeer													
Am. Golden Plover		12		163	1074	176	312	2501	82				5
Black-bellied Plover													
Surfbird					228					25			
Ruddy Turnstone					36					11			
Black Turnstone					1					63			
Common Snipe					107					1		X	8
Whimbrel					55	30		26	64				
Spotted Sandpiper					5				1	3			
Wandering Tattler													
Willet					13								
Greater Yellowlegs													
Lesser Yellowlegs					26				1				
Rock Sandpiper					1								
Baird's Sandpiper					2								
Least Sandpiper					7								
Dunlin					77					43			
Lg-bld. Dowitcher					765	127			275				
Western Sandpiper					9	10			11				
Marbled Godwit					1001								
Sanderling					26								
peep sp.					309					256			
Northern Phalarope									1				
phalarope sp.													
Glaucous Gull													
Glauc-wngd. Gull					90				155	22			
Western Gull					485				3	55			

	Medford	Oakridge	Portland	Roseburg	Hardman	Ruggs-	Salem	Sauvie Island	Tillamook Bay	Yaquina Bay	Total	No. of Counts
Goshawk		2						1	1		6	5(+1)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	3	6	X	1	6	4	1	1		67	12(+1)
Cooper's Hawk	14	2	5	2	1	4	6	2		1	61	17
Red-tailed Hawk	108	11	39	44	1	93	78	31		7	724	18(+1)
Swainson's Hawk											1	1
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1		15	1	14	7			217	14
Ferruginous Hawk				1							3	2
Golden Eagle	1				14		2				30	8
Bald Eagle		2	1	2			6	1		2	19	11
Marsh Hawk	5		3			6	52	27			297	13
Prairie Falcon	3						1				6	4(+1)
Peregrine Falcon											2	2
Merlin		3	3	X		1	2				20	9(+1)
American Kestrel	112	4	43	68	9	69	96	10			695	19
Blue Grouse							2				3	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	X	5				2				20	8(+1)
Sage Grouse											4	1(+1)
California Quail	420		148	113	350	431	41				2519	16
Mountain Quail	44	178									314	6
Ring-nkd. Pheasant	133	14	95	12	125	79					771	15
Chukar					86						86	1(+1)
Gray Partridge					33						33	1
Turkey				49							49	1
Sandhill Crane								215			215	1
Virginia Rail	5		2				1				14	5(+1)
American Coot	742		881	1172	1	301	3000	1728	497	9493	15	15
Black Oystercatcher								30	24	77	84	84
Semipalmated Plover												
Killdeer	355	53	50	240	19	492	1600	344	64	7542	17	17
Am. Golden Plover												
Black-bellied Plover							19	228	32	507	4	4
Surfbird								154	156	371	4	4
Ruddy Turnstone								3		15	3	3
Black Turnstone								279	241	690	4	4
Common Snipe	197	5	109	19	33	118	219	215	23	1122	15	15(+1)
Whimbrel									5	10	2	2
Spotted Sandpiper		2	4	1			3	3	15	32	8	8
Wandering Tattler										13	1	1
Willet									4	4	1	1
Greater Yellowlegs				3				2	8	40	5	5
Lesser Yellowlegs										1	1	1
Rock Sandpiper								13	24	39	3	3
Baird's Sandpiper										7	1	1
Least Sandpiper							60	67	26	273	5	5
Dunlin			20			75	2000	7446	520	11228	8	8
Lg-bld. Dowitcher								70	53	153	5	5
Western Sandpiper				2		77	26	124	241	1471	6	6
Marbled Godwit										26	1	1
Sanderling								485	314	1364	4	4
peep sp.										1	1	1
Northern Phalarope									1	1	1	1
phalarope sp.	1									1	1	1
Glaucous Gull			1			1		1	1	4	4	4
Glauc-wngd. Gull			3298			25	2000	213	137	5940	8	8
Western Gull			1					452	307	1303	6	6

	County	Baker Valley	Baker Bend	Coos Bay	Cornwallis	Cottage Grove	Dallas	Eugene	Beach	Gold Mountain	Hart	Malheur N.W.R.
Herring Gull				637				23	87			
Thayer's Gull				6				33	1			
California Gull				125				458	23			
Ring-billed Gull				97	5			4007	16			
Mew Gull				208				10	516			
Bonaparte's Gull				1					26			
Blk-lgd. Kittiwake gull sp.				334								
Common Murre									760			
Band-tailed Pigeon								3				
Rock Dove		77	33	19	12	18	49	63	8			
Mourning Dove			1		496	36	121	259				
Barn Owl					3		3	5				
Screech Owl					2	3		16				
Great Horned Owl			1	1	9	2	1	9	2	4	6	
Pygmy Owl						3		2				
Burrowing Owl								1	1			
Long-eared Owl												
Short-eared Owl		1		1	15		3	11				8
Saw-whet Owl					1			3				
Anna's Hummingbird				3	4			7	3			
Rufous Hummingbird					1							
Belted Kingfisher	2	3	2	25	16	9	4	18	18			13
"Yel-sftd." Flicker	4	24	34	65	352	68	191	541	63	6	42	
"Red-sftd." Flicker												
Pileated Woodpecker				X	4	5	3	9	2			
Acorn Woodpecker					40	1	9	76	2			
Lewis' Woodpecker		1			14		26		1			
Yel-bld. Sapsucker				1	10	4	7	15	4			
Hairy Woodpecker		2	5	6	7	3	1	15	5			2
Downy Woodpecker		2	4	2	45	6	12	61	4	2		
Wht-hdd. Woodpecker		2										
Black Phoebe									1			
Say's Phoebe												
Horned Lark					113		57			X		
Vlt-græn Swallow							1	5				
Gray Jay						1	5					
Steller's Jay	1	27	23	41	90	59	151	314	43	2		
Scrub Jay					324	34	279	599	2			
Blk-billed Magpie	30	202	103							8	71	
Common Raven	14	60	40	3	21	37	6	16	69	3	46	
Common Crow	2	53	6	261	531	441	1085	2626	24			
Northwestern Crow												
Pinyon Jay			50									
Clark's Nutcracker		1	1					1				
Blk-cpd. Chickadee		10	4	21	557	127	110	743	1			1
Mt. Chickadee	11	4	133	X		3				50		
Ch-bkd. Chickadee				123	9	74	27	53	192			
Plain Titmouse												
Bushtit			45	58	151	71	161	538	40	5	55	
Wh-brstd. Nuthatch		1	4	1	79	3	27	36		X		
Red-brstd. Nuthatch		3	2	1	31	21	14	20		28		
Pygmy Nuthatch			107							10		
Brown Creeper		1	3	2	26	17	17	19	1	1		
Wrentit				60				4	42			

	Medford	Oakridge	Portland	Roseburg	Hardman	Ruggs-	Salmon	Island	Sauvie	Hillemoek	Yaquina	Total	No. of
Herring Gull			596				579	320	16	6		2264	8
Thayer's Gull			16					75	4	2		137	7
California Gull	1		609				416	30	6	71		1739	9
Ring-billed Gull			80				92	219	51	206		4773	9
Mew Gull			1922				74	3100	445	137		6412	8
Bonaparte's Gull									1			28	3
Blk-lgd. Kittiwake gull sp.									1			1	1
Common Murre							1575					1909	2
Band-tailed Pigeon		1	86					1		752	1254	2766	3
Rock Dove	117	65	2148	235	22		470	246	21	2		91	4
Mourning Dove	733	38	236	22	100		739	219		1		3605	17
Barn Owl	7		2				2	3				3001	13
Screech Owl	2		7		1		2					25	7
Great Horned Owl	6	1	2	1	3		25	12	2	1		33	7
Pygmy Owl	1	2		1								88	18
Burrowing Owl												9	5
Long-eared Owl					1							2	2
Short-eared Owl	3				1		2	29	9			83	1
Saw-whet Owl	1		1					1				8	11
Anna's Hummingbird	6	2	16	2			12	4	hum. sp. 1			59	6
Rufous Hummingbird				1								2	10
Belted Kingfisher	16	3	14	6	6		12	5	40	19		231	2
"Yel-sftd." Flicker				1								2	19
"Red-sftd." Flicker	394	68	227	235	62		358	179	86	37		3036	2
Pileated Woodpecker		1	4	1			2	2	1			34	20
Acorn Woodpecker	111			32			51					322	11(+1)
Lewis' Woodpecker	88		1	2			1	2				136	8
Yel-bld. Sapsucker	14	6	3	4			2	3	2	1		76	9
Hairy Woodpecker	3	4	12	1	3		5	2	7	2		85	14
Downy Woodpecker	14	10	41	10	11		52	63	6	1		346	18
Wht-hdd. Woodpecker												2	1
Black Phoebe										1		2	2
Say's Phoebe	1											1	1
Horned Lark	95		3		395			4				667	6(+1)
Vlt-green Swallow												1	1
Gray Jay								3	5			14	4
Steller's Jay	52	149	86	92	7		73	26	22	22		1280	19
Scrub Jay	217		298	149			660	169	20			2751	11
Blk-billed Magpie	2				192							608	7
Common Raven		212	1	4	15					1		2726	16
Common Crow	84	33	962	430	2		691	1380	793	456		9860	18
Northwestern Crow									4			4	1
Pinyon Jay												50	1
Clark's Nutcracker							1					4	4
Blk-cpd. Chickadee	60	145	476	138	26		491	277	16	4		3207	18
Mt. Chickadee	9	4		22	50		2					288	10(+1)
Ch-bkd. Chickadee	4	138	62				96	28	126	24		956	13
Plain Titmouse	27											27	1
Bushtit	57	57	692	102	20		503	159	60	45		2819	18
Wh-brstd. Nuthatch	29		9	13	2		49	37				290	13(+1)
Red-brstd. Nuthatch		2	30		16		67	8	3			246	14
Pygmy Nuthatch				2								129	3
Brown Creeper	3	4	19	7	1		17	6	2	1		147	18
Wrentit									18	8		132	5

	Nespelem	Oakridge	Portland	Roseburg	Hardman	Ruggs-	Salem	Island	Sauvie	Bay	Tillamook	Yaloria	Total	No. of Counts
Dipper	1	24	1	1						7			71	11
House Wren				6									7	2
Winter Wren	4	48	44	7	2	41	27	112	23	598	16(+1)			
Bewick's Wren	12		98	5		124	82	19	6	685	13			
Long-bld. Marsh Wren	11	2	3	1		7	7	20	17	134	12			
Canyon Wren					9					13	2			
Rock Wren										1	1			
Mockingbird										2	2			
American Robin	2206	46	2910	4503	8	1646	340	483	282	20223	19(+1)			
Varied Thrush	144	33	154	27		210	107	70	50	1718	14			
Hermit Thrush	14	4	12	39		2	4	4	8	131	14			
Swainson's Thrush						1	1			2	2			
Western Bluebird	101			48		91				364	8			
Mountain Bluebird						1				11	2			
Townsend's Solitaire	1	2	1		8	1			1	201	12(+1)			
Gold-crnd. Kinglet	105	992	136	33	5	227	146	397	128	4245	17			
Ruby-crnd. Kinglet	70	53	65	17	64	64	69	71	21	1240	17			
Water Pipit	44	2	13			214	131	3		547	8			
Bohemian Waxwing		1			87					1621	4			
Cedar Waxwing	17	10	208		50	73				559	10			
Northern Shrike	3		1	X	6	5	5	2		58	14(+1)			
Loggerhead Shrike										6	2			
Starling	9527	105	4768	3782	413	4571	6000	2826	183	53574	20			
Hutton's Vireo	X		2				4			13	5(+1)			
Orange-crnd. Warbler							2			8	4			
Nashville Warbler										1	1			
"Myrtle" Warbler	3			33		242				381	7			
"Audubon's" Warbler	12		43	4		36	45	119	3	1082	12			
Townsend's Warbler			6	4			9	2	2	47	9			
Hermit Warbler										1	1			
MacG's. Warbler				1						1	1			
Com. Yellowthroat										1	1(+1)			
Wilson's Warbler									X	2	1(+1)			
House Sparrow	563	78	368	49	255	742	306	65	6	4928	18			
West. Meadowlark	572	8	12	76	100	89	39	25	10	1403	17			
Red-wgd. Blackbird	1259	10	317	99	1	1115	1130	59	4	23193	16(+1)			
"Bullock's" Oriole										1	1			
Brewer's Blackbird	1107	75	3148	2570	41	3675	1830	200	70	20723	17			
Br-hdd. Cowbird	33		40			3	71	59		288	9			
Evening Grosbeak	1	86	172	30	10	12	114			857	15			
Purple Finch	1	48	61	41		55	66	3	1	522	14			
Cassin's Finch	13	31								84	3			
House Finch	236	26	1155	91		1702	871	55	50	7071	17(+1)			
Pine Grosbeak		30								30	1			
Gr-crnd. Rosy Finch				88						142	3			
Common Redpoll										101	2			
Pine Siskin	226	216	583	107	18	318	163	1391	100	4847	15			
Am. Goldfinch	997		114	288	67	115	19	2		2019	14			
Lesser Goldfinch	726			31		23				881	6			
Red Crossbill									226	265	5			
Ruf-sdd. Towhee	137	101	175	120	4	348	68	18	7	2930	16			
Brown Towhee	29			2						31	2			
Savannah Sparrow	180		6	3		4	33	5	1	315	12			
Vesper Sparrow				6						11	2			
Lark Sparrow	12			8						20	2			

	Baker County	Baker Valley	Bend	Coos Bay	Corvallis	Cottage Grove	Dallas	Eugene	Gold Beach	Hart Mountain	H.M.R.	M.H.M.R.
"Sl-clrd." Junco			2	1	X							
"Oregon" Junco	31	122	395	119	3000	1226	2351	3735	277			59
Tree Sparrow		4										
Chipping Sparrow					9			2	3			
Harris' Sparrow					1			2				
Wh-crnd. Sparrow		3		63	177	24	77	166	106			
Gld-crnd. Sparrow				55	486	143	418	758	102			
Wht-thrtd. Sparrow				X	3	1		2	2			
Fox Sparrow				37	107	62	8	198	28			
Lincoln's Sparrow				3	15	2		42	11			
Swamp Sparrow								1				
Song Sparrow	5		10	115	683	193	134	667	112	X		72
Lapland Longspur					2							
Snow Bunting												
sparrow sp.												1

OREGON BIRD COUNTS IN SUMMARY

Count	Date	Species	Individuals	Participants	Compiler(s)
Antelope	-----	NO DETAILS	-----		
Baker County	12/21/75	22	597	11	Larry Roumpf
Baker Valley	12/27/75	53	7916	11	Larry Roumpf
Bend	12/20/75	62	3321	33	Bambi Hargreaves
Coos Bay	12/21/75	127	25220	31	Ben Fawver
Corvallis	12/22/75	97	51000	49	Fred Ramsey
Cottage Grove	12/27/75	82	7488	15	Mike Patterson
Dallas	01/02/76	87	42875	22	Gerald Smith
Eugene	12/28/75	123	68896	74	Chip Jobanek Dan Gleason
Gold Beach	12/20/75	119	6765	32	Fred Bowen
Hart Mountain	12/29/75	28	224	8	L. Richard Mwaldt

	Malheur	Oakridge	Portland	Roseburg	Ruggs-Hardman	Salem	Sauvie Island	Tillamook Bay	Yaquina Bay	Total	No. of Counts
"Sl-crld." Junco		16	3		1					23	5(+1)
"Oregon" Junco	1763	1830	2643	1360	1019	3048	748	338	266	24330	19
Tree Sparrow							4			4	1
Chipping Sparrow										18	4
Harris' Sparrow					1					4	3
Wh-crnd. Sparrow	633	4	20	28	180	118	61	23	25	1708	16
Gld-crnd. Sparrow	1140	74	361	380		406	630	33	6	4992	14
Wht-thrtd. Sparrow	3			4		1	2			18	8(+1)
Fox Sparrow	40	32	102	44	4	56	31	77	58	884	15
Lincoln's Sparrow	17					5	2	1		98	9
Swamp Sparrow										1	1
Song Sparrow	95	85	670	73	130	353	349	622	159	4527	18(+1)
Lapland Longspur	2			2						6	3
Snow Bunting			2						1	4	3
sparrow sp.				20						20	1

OREGON BIRD COUNTS IN SUMMARY

Count	Date	Species	Individuals	Participants	Compiler(s)
Malheur NWR	12/20/75	59	4817	19	Larry Napier
Medford	01/03/76	110	28080	90	Otis Swisher
Oakridge	12/30/75	76	5428	31	Chip Jobanek Joanne Ralston
Portland	12/27/75	114	40192	??	James Olson
Roseburg	12/27/75	98	18212	??	Donna Mecum
Ruggs-Hardman	12/22/75	65	4333	??	Steve Brownfield
Salem	12/27/75	105	40320	76	Harold Scheyer
Sauvie Island	12/21/75	128	109488	43	Jeff Gilligan
Tillamook Bay	12/20/75	127	45894	??	Bill Thackaberry
Yaquina Bay	01/03/76	107	9603	??	????

Baker and Baker County: We had an unusually large number of Bohemian Waxwings this year. Mallards were up considerably. Steller's Jays were way up. We had lots of hawks, probably because we had an unusually large number of mice in the fields this year. There was a dearth of Robins; however, a week later down on the Snake River there were thousands.

Larry Roumpf

Eugene: In recent years, with increased participation and advanced equipment, the Eugene Christmas Bird Count has established a long string of counts recording over one hundred species of birds - in fact, any count failing to exceed one hundred species would have to be judged a major disappointment. This year's Eugene bird count maintained that string easily with 123 species.

In almost all regards the 1975 Eugene Christmas Bird Count was the second best Eugene count ever. 123 species is second only to 1973's 130 and this year's 68,896 individuals again second to 1973's 78,521 individual birds (of which 43,239 were Starlings). Only in the number of human participants did this year's bird count fail to exceed most recent counts. For this, the compilers must accept all blame, having failed to complete organization of the count until the night before (though we did suffer from some vacations unfortunately planned for the count period).

Several unusual species were recorded on this year's bird count, including a Red-throated Loon, An Arctic Loon (count week), two Blue-winged Teal drakes, one immature Bald Eagle at Fern Ridge (an Osprey was seen attacking an adult Bald Eagle four days after the count), one Burrowing Owl (at least two still in the area, three at one time), one Clark's Nutcracker at the Eugene airport, one House Wren, a Common Yellowthroat (count week), two Chipping Sparrows, two Harris' Sparrows, two White-throated Sparrows, and an incredible Swamp Sparrow found by Larry McQueen and party on Gibson Island, Fern Ridge Reservoir. The Swamp Sparrow sighting is only the second record for the area, the first bird also appearing on a Eugene Christmas Bird Count.

More importantly, record highs were established for several species, despite the fact that there were fewer counters in the field this year. Record highs were set for Whistling Swan, Glaucous-winged Gull, Anna's Hummingbird, Steller's Jay, Bushtit, Winter and Bewick's Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, and Song Sparrows.

Few species were obviously low in numbers. Only 275 Dunlin, one Greater Yellowlegs, and one peep-type sandpiper are all low counts. Ten Water Pipits are but a small fraction of what we should have counted. The low numbers, however, probably do not carry ominous connotations but merely result from missing large flocks, something especially easy to do with pipits.

Its mentioned every year but worth repeating again that almost all of the totals recorded on a bird count are underestimates. I wrote in the newsletter of the Oakridge Audubon Society in discussing their bird count that both Eugene and Oakridge should be recording 5000 Golden-crowned Kinglets yet this year we counted but 764. Perhaps next year we should have someone concentrating on these tiny birds, just to see how many can be counted on a bird count. (Oakridge came closer to reality with 992 kinglets.)

Chip Jobanek

Bend: Thirty-three counters participated in our 1975 Count. It was down from the previous year (72 species, 1 additional race) but was our second-best record with 62 species and 1 additional race.

Some of the highlights were: California Quail, 393 (high--1973--207, low--1969--19); Mourning Dove, 1--tied with last year and only second year seen on Count; only 1 Great Horned Owl this year; Steller's Jay, 23 (high--1970--9, low--1974--2); Common Crow, 6 (seen only once before in 1973, 4); Pinyon Jay, 50 (LOW!--and seen only by one team, at feeder; high--1974--335, low--1969--43); Pygmy Nuthatch, 107 highest ever! (low-- 1969&71--1); American Robin, 93 (LOW!; high--1972--2916, low--1969--49); Western Meadowlark, 15 (only seen once before, 1970--2); House Finch, 107 (high--1973&74--57, low--1970--2); Rufous-sided Towhee, 47 (high--1974--6, low--2, on four different counts).

Bambi Hargreaves

Gold Beach: With perfect weather for our count day, the 1975 count proved to be the best ever recorded for Gold Beach. This year marked the eighth year for Gold Beach to participate in the national bird census which was started in 1900.

On the cool morning of December 20, thirty-two birders set about their work and before the day had ended a number of new records were established. Results show that 119 species were observed and a total of 6765 individuals were counted. Nine species which had never been seen on the local census were added this year. With these additions, a total of 173 different species have been observed on the Christmas Bird Counts since starting in 1967.

Fred Bowen

Hart Mountain: Our third Hart Mountain Bird Count effort included three full and two partial days of field work 26-30 December 1975 by from two to eight observers. Numbers of birds were noticeably down from 1974. Perhaps unusually cold weather in November and early December was responsible. With efforts on three different days we failed to find the flock of Sage Sparrows which was present daily in the Warner Valley portion of the count area in 1974. Diligent study on three days of a very dark Buteo hawk by R.E. Gill and L.R. Mewaldt convinced us it was a Rough-legged Hawk and not a Harlan's Hawk. Because of its persistent presence in one part of the Warner Valley, we think it may be the same bird we saw in the same place in the count period in 1974 when we called it a Harlan's Hawk. The number of Rough-legged Hawks was down somewhat from 1974.

L. Richard Mewaldt

Oakridge: While only the second best Oakridge count in terms of species, the 1975 count recorded many more individual birds than any other count. 5428 individuals is 2025 or 60% over the four year average of 3403 individuals. While we can only speculate on the causes of this, it is possible that snow in the mountains forced birds down into the lower areas; an indication of this is the Pine Grosbeaks seen on LaDuke Road during the count, a species that normally winters at higher elevations.

Several Oakridge count records were established for the number of individuals of certain species. Species showing the biggest increases include Killdeer, Steller's Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, "Oregon" Junco, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Special mention should be made of two species: the Mountain Quail and the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Oakridge should once again be high in the country with its count of 178 Mountain Quail; in fact, I believe 178 Mountain Quail establishes a new all-time national record. As is true with most counts of individuals, 178 is probably an underestimate.

992 Golden-crowned Kinglets should also give Oakridge the national high for that species as well; Eugene claiming the national high last year with 919 but only counting 764 this year. In my opinion, however, Eugene should be counting 5000 kinglets each year and Oakridge at least that many.

Chip Jobanek

Ruggs-Hardman: The Ruggs-Hardman Christmas Bird Count might be unique in that it is planned and run by a specialized Biology class at Heppner High School. This class, which is called Field Biology, is actively involved in birding during the school year. About 90% of the participants on the count are high school students.

This year's count was the best count we have had in the five years that I have been working with it. The weather was excellent, and the bird populations were high. We saw more species and more individuals by far than on any previous count.

Particularly interesting was the sighting of a Harris' Sparrow by Butch Taylor (LaGrande). Butch observed this sparrow for about five minutes with ten power binoculars at from 15 to 30 feet. We haven't seen a Harris' Sparrow around this area for about three years.

Steve Brownfield

Salem: December 27, 1975. Total of 105 species and one additional race; approximately 40,320 individual birds. Count period species, none. Forty-four field counters in 18 parties. An additional 32 feeder reports. Weather was excellent all day, mild and sunny, with good light and no wind. All water open and food crops excellent. This was a record year for number of species (best previous year, 98 in 1973). We counted five new count species and an additional 32 record highs. New count species were Redhead, Glaucous Gull, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire, and Mountain Bluebird. The excellent field conditions were certainly a factor, aided by the largest number of field counters we have ever had. All things considered, a very satisfying year.

Harold Scheyer

The following article was written by Larry McQueen and will be printed in the Christmas Bird Count issue of American Birds. It is printed here by permission of the author.

The Pacific Northwest experienced another mild winter, resulting in some of the highest counts for Washington and Oregon. Grays Harbor, Wash. took the lead over both states with an amazing 142 species, while Oregon's top count of 128 at Sauvie Island leads the count of individuals with 109,488. A new count for Oregon at Antelope brought the total to 21 counts, which tallied 225 species for the state. Thirteen counts in Washington totalled 189 species, making a grand total of 239 species for the two states.

In Oregon, Arctic Loons were found inland at Sauvie Island and Eugene (count week), with a Red-throated at Eugene. Two Red-necked Grebes at Roseburg were an inland surprise, as were the Surf Scoter and Harlequin Duck at Oakridge. Oldsquaw even appeared up river at Gold Beach and at Roseburg (count week), and over 300 miles from the coast at Tri-Cities, Wash. Tri-Cities also had a Red-breasted Merganser. European Wigeon wintered in good numbers in the Puget Sound area and at Sauvie Island, Ore. Sauvie Island, near the western end of the Columbia River, also had five Trumpeter Swans and an Emperor Goose. A Barrow's Goldeneye was collected there by a hunter during count week. Seattle showed high numbers of Barrow's Goldeneye and Harlequin Duck, plus one well described Black Duck. Ruddy Ducks achieved record numbers on many counts. Several counts in both states reported Blue-winged Teal.

Among raptors, the most outstanding were the reports of Swainson's Hawks. (Yakima Valley, Wash.; Baker, and Dallas, Ore.). Unfortunately, no descriptions were submitted for the sightings and two counts gave no indication that they were considered unusual. A few Osprey were sighted in western Washington (Grays Harbor and Kitsap County), where individuals have wintered fairly regularly. Two Turkey Vultures were sighted at Gold Beach, Ore. Recent expansion of the White-tailed Kite has made it a regular visitor to Finley Refuge of west-central Oregon, where it was counted for Corvallis. Another was found at Coos Bay. Raptors west of their breeding range include, for Oregon, a Ferruginous Hawk at Roseburg, 2 Prairie Falcons at Corvallis and one at Sauvie Island; and for Washington, a Golden Eagle at Bellingham. Peregrines were encountered on three counts for Washington and two for Oregon.

Over 200 Sandhill Cranes stayed on Sauvie Island for the count. These birds usually depart by late November, but they were feeding on corn planted for geese by the Oregon Wildlife Commission. Rails were well represented, with Virginias in western Oregon and Soras in western Washington.

With few exceptions shorebird numbers were high. It is interesting that again this year Dunlin were at their all time high at Grays Harbor, Wash. (70,000) and at another low in Oregon's Willamette Valley, where they are expected in good numbers (Corvallis and Eugene). A good showing at Grays Harbor includes three Semipalmated Plover and a record number of Greater Yellowlegs. A Lesser Yellowlegs was identified at Tacoma. A Northern Phalarope was also found at Tacoma and one at Tillamook Bay, Oregon. Another phalarope, probably a Red, was found inland at Medford, Ore. Coos Bay had their share of species not expected to winter in Oregon, and turned up 5 Whimbrels, 7 Baird's Sandpipers, and 13 Wandering Tattlers; however, better details were wanting on the tattlers. At Leadbetter Point, Wash., a Red Knot tops the shorebird list.

Heermann's Gulls were a surprise again this year, with one far to the north at Bellingham, Wash., and one at Grays Harbor. Also from Grays Harbor, excellent notes describe an immature Ivory Gull in every detail. As if that was not enough, a Caspian Tern was encountered there during count week. Several Glaucous Gulls were reported in western Oregon, but the most surprising was one inland, at Salem.

Alcids were well represented in the Puget Sound area, and only Common Murres were found along the Oregon coast.

Band-tailed Pigeons, rather irregular in winter in the Northwest, were recorded on many counts in western Oregon and Washington. Rufous Hummingbirds were reported by three counts. Anna's Hummingbirds are quite regular now west of the Cascades, and because feeders are left out for them, other species of hummingbirds should be anticipated.

A Black Phoebe at Gold Beach and one at Yaquina Bay may indicate a change of status for this bird in Oregon. A Violet-green Swallow at Dallas, Ore. was met with a Barn Swallow (count week) at Seattle, Wash. Clark's Nutcrackers, unusual for the lowlands west of the Cascades, were found at Eugene and Salem, Ore., and at Bellingham, Wash. Three Gray Jays were coming to a feeder at Sauvie Island, Ore., and one was found at Cottage Grove. Incredibly, a Gray Catbird was found at Leadbetter Point, Wash. Hermit Thrushes were reported in good numbers, with a peak of 39 at Roseburg, Ore. A Swainson's Thrush (without details) was marked for Salem, and one for Sauvie Island. Salem also had one Mountain Bluebird. Bohemian Waxwings achieved record number on many counts east of the Cascades in both states, but only one was found in western Oregon, at Oakridge.

Coos Bay, Ore. leads the warbler list, with a Nashville, a Hermit, and two Wilson's. Another Wilson's was found at Yaquina Bay, Ore. on count week. Five Palm Warblers were at Grays Harbor. Common Yellowthroats turned up in the Willamette Valley, Ore. at Corvallis and Eugene (count week). A bright Northern Oriole at Gold Beach, Ore. is added to the list of species not expected to winter.

Finches were well represented throughout. East of the Cascades, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were high in numbers. Spokane, Wash. found a White-winged Crossbill during count week but could not locate it for their count. On the west side, large flocks of siskins were noted, especially in Wash., while House Finches broke records in Oregon (Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene). 30 Pine Grosbeaks were a surprise at Oakridge. All sparrows were high in numbers. Eugene, Ore. marked an unprecedented 42 Lincoln's Sparrows. Chipping Sparrows, found on many western Oregon counts, numbered 9 at Corvallis. Vesper Sparrows were found at Dallas and Roseburg, but identification is subject to question. Eugene had a second record of Swamp Sparrow. Lapland Longspur, more expected on coastal counts, occurred at Seattle, Wash., and inland in Oregon at Corvallis and Roseburg. Two Snow Buntings wintered at Portland.

L.B. McQueen

"Oregon Ornithological Club"

Organizing Conference

EMUGS 015

The conference will be held on Saturday, May 1, at the Erb Memorial Union on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. It will begin at 1:00 P.M. and last until about 4:00 or 5:00, depending on attendance and the amount of discussion. The purpose of this conference is to organize a statewide organization for the study and enjoyment of the birds of Oregon; by allowing all attendees an opportunity to express their opinions on such topics as the newsletter, field notes, officers, meetings, field trips, etc. When this, the major portion of the afternoon's work, is completed to the satisfaction of the attendees, an opportunity will be available for discussion of other topics, such as Christmas Counts, the Rare Bird Committee, and a new, updated Checklist of the Birds of Oregon. Refreshments will be provided, as will overnight housing for those coming any distance. If housing is desired, contact the conference coordinators in advance if possible. No visitor's permits will be needed to use the U of O visitor parking areas. The EMU Building is a maze, even for those of us who should know our way around it by now, so conference assistants will act as guides to supplement posted directions.

All who wish to attend are welcome, and those with a little time on their hands may wish to try the birdwatching at Fern Ridge Reservoir, eight miles west of Eugene.

ARRIVING FROM THE:

NORTH on I-5: Eugene-University Exit onto I-105, follow UofO signs across Ferry St. Bridge onto Franklin Blvd. east.

NORTHWEST on 99: Come clear through Eugene on 7th which will empty onto Franklin at the base of the Ferry St. Bridge complex.

WEST on 126/11th Ave.: Turn right (south) where the traffic dividers leave no option (Arthur/Garfield St.) and continue to 18th. Turn left (east) on 18th for about four miles, then turn left (north) on University St., which is just over the crest of the hill, 5 blocks past Hilyard St.

SOUTH on I-5: Eugene/UofO/DMV-PUC Exit onto Franklin Blvd. west.

EAST on 126 (through Springfield): Straight onto Franklin Blvd. west.

Conference Coordinators:

Alan Contreras
693 E. 16th
Eugene, OR 97401
485-8783

Chip Jobanek
38713 McKenzie Highway
Springfield, OR 97477
747-7598

Also, remember the Alfred Cooper Shelton award. See last issue of SWOC TALK for details. or write to SWOC address prior to 15 May 1976 for details.

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