

SWOC TALK

PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE
ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

P.O. Box 3082, Eugene Or. 97403

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Count	Date	Compilers
EUGENE	Dec. 26	Dan Gleason, UOreogon Biology Dept, Eugene 686-4535 Chip Jobanek, 38713 McKenzie Hwy, Springfield 97477 747-7598
ALMA (no official count this year)		
ANTELOPE	Dec. 23	Stewart Jones, 4700 SE Alsercrest Rd., Milwaukie, Or. 97222 654-9846
BAKER	Jan. 2	Larry Roumpf, 2815 7th. St, Baker 97814 523-5216
BAKER COUNTY	Dec. 19	Larry Roumpf
CENTRAL OREGON	Dec. 18	Bambi Hargreaves, PO Box 565, Bend 97701
COOS BAY	Dec. 19	Ben J. Fawver, 793 Johnson Av, Coos Bay 97420 267-6485
CORVALLIS	Dec. 28	Alan Contreras, 693 E. 16th, Eugene 97401 485-8783 Fred Ramsey, 2504 Mulkey, Corvallis 97330 753-3677
COTTAGE GROVE	Jan. 1	Al Winter, 76932 Mosby Cr. Rd, Cottage Grove 97424 942-3714
DALLAS	Dec. 30	Jerry Smith, 4058 Beverly NE, Salem 97303
GOLD BEACH	Dec. 18	Fred Bowen, PO Box 174, Gold Beach 97444
HART MOUNTAIN	Dec. 21	Dick Mewaldt, Avian Biolab, San Jose St Univ, San Jose, CA 95192 1-408----277-2355 or 258-7491
MALHEUR	Dec. 18	Larry Napier, Malheur NWR, PO Box 113, Burns 97720 493-2323
MEDFORD	Dec. 18	Otis Swisher, 1002 S. Oakdale, Medford 97501
OAKRIDGE	Dec. 29	Chip Jobanek Joanne Ralston, 77095 Westridge Ave, Westfir OR 97492 782-2609 or 687-0430
PORTLAND	Jan. 1	James Olson, 3723 SW Hillside Dr., Portland 97221
ROSEBURG	Jan. 1	Donna Mecum, 1729 SE Giles St, Roseburg 97470
RUGGS-HARDMAN	Dec. 22	Steve Brownfield, 315 S. Gilmore, Heppner 97836 676-9696 or 676-9138
SALEM	Dec. 18	Harold Scheyer, 590 Justice Ct., Salem 97302
SAUVIES ISLAND	Dec. 19	Jeff Gilligan,, 5333 NE 27, Portland 97211
YAQUINA BAY	Jan. 2	Robert Olson, OSU Marine Science Center, Newport 9736
TILLAMOOK	Dec. 18	Bill Thackaberry Rt 3, Box 314, Lebanon 97355

NOTE: Since typing this original copy I have talked with Dick Mewaldt (Hart Mtn. compiler last 3 years). He informed me that there is a new Hart Mtn. compiler: Eldon McLaury, asst. refuge mgr., Hart Mtn. National Antelope Refuge, P.O. Box 111, Lakeview, OR 97630 947-2366. While making the phone calls to find out count dates I talked to Denzel Fergusonson (apologies for guesses spelling) who informed me that Carroll Littlefield (winner of first Albert Cooper Shelton Award) noted first record of red-breasted merganser at Malheur, in late November. Littlefield is also working on book on The Birds of the Malheur NWR. Also, L. Roumpf informed me that a bird club is starting in LaGrande, headed by Ron Rowedher, Ore. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife non-game biologist in LaGrande. Several compilers made tentative agreement to send SWOC TALK a site guide to their area.E.G. White-Swift

OPINION

Chip Jobanek's comments in the last issue of SWOC TALK concerning the statewide organization were very much along my line of thinking. I feel that it should be set up on the order of a symposium with a different local organization, e.g. SWOC, Bend Audubon Society etc. sponsoring it each time, and held at a six month to a year intervals.

Prior to the meeting date, the sponsoring group would send out invitations and requests for presentations. Anyone who felt they had a worthwhile presentation on an ornithological subject would then write up the presentation and mail it in. The sponsors would then select the best ones (as many as there was time for) and notify the donor of his selection.

All day Saturday could be spent on presentations. The first hour or two could be used for a representative of each area to present a brief summary of events (sightings, research findings, etc.) that happened during the preceding six months or year in their area.

Lunch hour and Saturday evening could be well spent circulating amongst and chatting with those attending. Sunday morning would be set aside for field trips and Sunday afternoon for the trip home.

A proceedings of the symposium could be published and sold at cost. The papers not presented because of lack of time could be included in the proceedings.

.....AL WINTER.....

The Oregon Ornithological Organization (Association) is a splendid idea, but to date that is all that it has been: an idea. I believe that SWOC should decide very soon whether or not it is determined (through proposals and actions) to promote the OOA.

Since the initial meeting last May absolutely nothing has been done to continue the exchange of ideas statewide. An executive advisory committee (of which I am a member) was appointed to work out planning and organizational problems. To date, that committee has not met.

In my opinion, Eugene birder's have attempted to "SWOC it to the state". Perhaps we need to contact non-Eugene birder's first to see what type of organization would best suit their needs. A more representative organization would include one member from each local chapter of Audubon, one from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and one at large.

CHECKLIST AVAILABLE

Medford...(BLM)...A free checklist of birds to be seen in its Medford District has been issued by the B.L.M.

Prepared for the convenience of bird watchers, the list includes 213 species, arranged in 37 families. Opposite each species are spaces to check sightings on five successive outings. The booklet is of a size designed to slip inside the cover of popular bird books.

Copies are available from the BLM, 310 W. 6th St., Medford, Oregon 97501.



ABOUT THIS ISSUE

While Chip's away the anarchist's play. At the last SWOC meeting the cooperative nature of SWOC was discussed. If we are indeed a community of birdwatchers, then this newsletter should be a community effort and help meet the various needs of all members. Hopefully, this issue reflects that.

Alan and I agreed to edit at least this issue of SWOC TALK, and if no one objects, issues for the next year. It is not meant to be a criticism of Chip's overwhelming efforts. A year from now, I hope it will be someone else's turn to take this task and provide fresh energy to SWOC TALK.

I feel that SWOC TALK should be a vehicle for communication of scientific exploration and, at the same time, offer a vehicle of community exchange.

To make it work, readers will have to participate. If nothing else, use the free classifieds to buy and sell. If possible, share your opinions, ideas, requests for articles or information, research, site guides or study papers.

TAXONOMIC NOTES -- A Regular Feature for SWOC TALK -- by L.B. McQueen

The A.O.U. axe strikes again and the Black Brant bites the thick dust of taxonomy: the "Thirty-Third Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds" is out. The changes in it are not so drastic for the species-lister as they were in the 32d Supplement, but, like the last supplement, they were inevitable and are generally welcomed, for they represent greater sophistication in the taxonomic system; i.e., better understanding of relationships between genera, species, and races. The changes are not new; to be sure, they had been anticipated. The A.O.U. explains that in almost all cases the changes in scientific names result from decisions "...generally adopted and proposed previously in the major literature" and have had usage in important current literature.

Many of the changes in the 33d Supplement are generic ones. The following is a summary:

- Butorides virescens (Green Heron) becomes B. striatus to be merged with the tropical form, the "Striated Heron".
- Branta nigricans is considered subspecific with B. bernicla and is changed to that species.
- The group name for all the species of Dendrocygna (Tree Ducks) becomes Whistling-Ducks and the common name "tree duck" is dropped (ex: Fulvous Whistling-Duck).
- The Sterna terns now include the genera, Thalasseus and Hydroprogne (Royal, Elegant, and Caspian Terns are now Sterna spp.)
- Speotyto (Burrowing Owl) is merged in the genus Athene (the Little Owls of Europe and Asia).
- Centurus (incl. the Red-bellied Woodpecker group) is dropped along with Asyndesmus (Lewis' Woodpecker) and merged with Melanerpes (the Red-headed and Acorn).
- Dendrocopos (Hairy, Downy, White-headed, etc.) join the Picoides (3-toed) and Dendrocopos villosus becomes Picoides villosus, for example.
- The Black-crested Titmouse (Parus atricristatus) is considered a race of Parus bicolor, the Tufted Titmouse.
- Telmatodytes is merged in the genus Cistothorus and the Long-billed Marsh Wren becomes Cistothorus palustris.
- The Painted Redstart splits from the genus Septophaga (Setophaga in other publications) and becomes Myrioborus pictus.
- Cassidix is merged in genus Quiscalus and the Great-tailed and Boat-tailed Grackles join the other grackles.
- Tangavius is merged in genus Molothrus to include the Bronzed Cowbird with the Brown-headed in the same genus.
- The Pyrrhuloxia is now a cardinal and called Cardinalis sinuatus.
- Acanthis (redpoles) and Spinus, are dropped (American goldfinch group) and merged with Carduelis (the European goldfinch genus). Our old friend Spinus pinus becomes Carduelis pinus.
- The Green-tailed Towhee is changed from Chlorura chlorura to Pipilo chlorurus.

For additional information see October 76 issue of AUK. A limited number of reprints with covers, of the 33d Suppl. is available for \$1.25 each from Glen E. Woolfenden, Assistant to the Treasurer of the A.O.U., Dept. of Biology, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa, Fla. 33620.

DAVIS LAKE

DAVIS LAKE MIGRATION DATES....
....Al Winter....

The following list shows what I have in my records for the earliest date of arrival and latest date of departure for migrating species at Davis Lake in the Deschutes National Forest.

In my studies of Davis Lake I am trying to establish the migration dates for these species. I would appreciate information from anyone having earlier or later sightings.

Also, any information on unusual sightings, behavioral observations, or nesting activity would be gladly accented. Send additional information to: Al Winter

76392 Mosby Creek Rd.
Cottage Grove, Ore 97424

Notes:

- **Where two dates are given, the first date is the first or last sighting of consequential numbers. The date parenthesis is the absolute first or last sighting and the number after it is the number of individuals seen.
- * Probably depends on when the lake freezes over.

Several species that have been recorded at Davis Lake have been omitted for lack of comprehensive records.



MIGRATION DATES

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date of Arrival</u>	<u>Date of Departure</u>
eared grebe	5/2	11/20
western grebe	5/2	9/13
pied-billed grebe	5/2	*11/20
mallard	5/2	*11/20
green-winged teal	5/22	*11/20
cinnamon teal	5/2	*9/13
wood duck	5/22	*10/23
ring-necked duck	5/2	*11/20
Barrow's goldeneye	5/2	*9/13
bufflehead	5/2	*11/20
ruddy duck	5/22	*11/20
turkey vulture	5/2	10/15
osprey	5/2	10/15
sandhill crane	5/2	9/4
American coot	5/2	11/20 (12/15.9)
spotted sandpiper	5/22	9/4
Wilson's phalarope	5/22	9/4
Forster's tern	5/22 (5/2,4)	8/13 (9/4.10)
Mourning dove	5/2	7/18
common nighthawk	6/2	8/16
Vaux's swift	5/24	9/4
Hammond's flycatcher		
dusky flycatcher		
western wood peewee	5/22	8/16
olive-sided flycatcher	5/22	8/17
tree swallow	5/2	8/17
barn swallow	5/22	8/17
robin	5/2	10/24
hermit thrush	6/20	9/14
mountain bluebird	5/22	7/18
solitary vireo	7/3	8/17
warbling vireo	5/24	9/14
Nashville warbler	5/24	8/17
yellow warbler		
Audubon's warbler	5/2	9/14
Townsend's warblers	6/2	?
MacGillivray's warbler	5/22	8/17
Wilson's warbler	5/22	9/4
American redstart	6/19	8/16
yellow-headed blackbird	5/22(5/2,1)	8/17
red-winged blackbird	5/22(5/2,12)	10/23
Brewer's blackbird	5/2	9/14(10/15,1)
brown-headed cowbird	6/5	7/20
western tanager	5/22	9/4
Cassin's finch	5/2	7/20
savannah sparrow	5/2	10/23
Oregon junco	5/2	10/23
chipping sparrow	5/2	9/4
fox sparrow	5/22	10/23
Lincoln's sparrow	?	?
song sparrow (resident or migrant)	5/2	9/14

FIELD NOTES

by Fred Ramsey; from the Corvallis Audubon Chat, Nov. 1976

What is the first thing you do when you see a very unusual bird? Mark it on your list? Shoot it? Run to a phone to call your field notes compiler? Nothing? All the above are wrong. If you have a camera, photograph it, as many times as the bird and your budget will allow. And then, describe it; i.e., write out a thorough, careful description of everything you see, including actions and habitat. Then call your compiler.

Fortunately, Darrel Faxon knew what to do when he found a non-descript bird in the grass atop Yaquina Head on 10/17. He wrote: "Length 6½ inches. Belly, breast, and throat ochre, the breast with a very small amount of streaking on the upper flanks, just below the bend of wing. This streaking would likely not have been visible at any distance, as it was rather faint, but at 10 feet, with binoculars, it was noticeable. Back: brown; striped with black, with a small streak of reddish on the upper side of each of the scapulars, thus forming sort of a V on the upper back, with the point towards the tail. The brown of the back and the striping faded out somewhat on the rump, and the rump and upper tail coverts were also sort of an ochre color, though not nearly as dark or as solid color as the belly. Crown: brown, striped, but not broadly so. Cheek area: basically brown, of several varying degrees, but all of a different color than the surrounding color of the throat and eyebrow line, which also was ochre, though of a somewhat lighter shade than most of the plumage of that color. The back of the cheek patch, from the ear to the bottom was well defined in dark brown. The center of the cheek patch was dull whitish-brown, and this was outlined horizontally both top and bottom by darker brown, not so dark as the vertical outlining on the back of the patch. Nape: dull ochre, making a separation between the striping of the crown and the striping of the back, which faded from quite bold striping on the back to a few small streaks of smaller size just before the nape line. Bill: dull pink. Legs: dark. Wings: general color brown, primaries tipped with blackish, the inner primaries and secondaries being of a darker brown than the rest of the wings or back. Two wing bars were noticeable, but only one, the front one, was of much notice. There was no white patch on the shoulder. Tail: central tail feathers, blackish; outer tail feathers, white, extending to the end of the tail. This was not seen in flight, but as the bird was crouched in the grass so close by, it was visible even as it was in a stationary position." The bird, a SMITH'S LONGSPUR, remained in the same place for several days, being observed by RO, RB, and photographed by PR.

Smith's Longspur is somewhat of a mystery species. It is "nowhere plentiful, and its elusiveness makes it hard to find in the field, even where it is known to be present", says A.C. Bent. It nests along a strip from the NE tip of Alaska to the SE corner of Hudson's Bay and in an isolated piece of NW British Columbia, N of Haines, Alaska. Its winter range is generally the midwestern U.S. from Iowa to Texas. The discovery of the Yaquina Head bird is particularly satisfying to your compiler, as it adds to his sighting of an alleged Smith's Longspur atop the grassy headland at Seal Rock State Park, back on 9/11/66.

BLUEJAYS IN PORTLAND AREA

The highlight of fall birding in the Portland area has been the discovery of at least four Blue Jays. Yes, real Blue Jays. But much to the chagrin of a flock of Portland birders, the jays are on the Washington side of the river, only a tantalizing mile from their Oregon lists.

The birds were discovered by Art Arp of the Vancouver Audubon Society on November 1. The news spread quickly, as dozens of birders have been able to closely observe the Blue Jays. They have usually been accompanied by a platoon of Scrub Jays, and several times with out-of-habitat Stellar's Jays. The jays have been gathering acorns and flying into a nearby woodlot, apparently to store them for winter use.

The occurrence of Blue Jays in southwestern Washington is not totally unexpected because of their occurrence elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest in recent winters. Speculation that they may soon wage an ecological war with Scrub Jays for dominance of the non-coniferous habitats may be premature, but Oregon listers can only have their hopes heightened that in the not distant future they will be able to add this species.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT LITERATURE

In this section we will try to present the contents of current ornithological journals or other related publications that are available to us, such as the following: THE AUK, THE CONDOR, THE WILSON BULLETIN, THE MURRELET, AMERICAN BIRDS, WESTERN BIRDS, and BIRDING. Not all of these will be covered in one issue of SWOC TALK, but hopefully, eventually, within several issues. Any reader having access to additional periodicals of related coverage is invited to contribute their contents to CONTENTS, by mailing copies of them to: L.B. McQueen, 2175 Agate St., Eugene, Or. 97403.

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THE CONDOR

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ORNITHOSIS

EXCHANGE

INFORMATION

Anyone taking or planning a trip out of the state may wish to study the check-lists, maps, and general information brochures for the National Wildlife Refuges in the area to be visited. Steve Gordon information for most of 42 states. You may arrange to borrow them by calling him at 344-9591. He will be attempting to add to the list in the next few months and should soon have a complete set.

REQUESTS

Some articles I'd like to see in coming issues of SWOC TALK.:

"Subspecies identification without taking the bird"--is it possible, when and how

"Availability and reliability of different source materials/publications on Oregon Birds"

"Nests: identification & how to preserve, nests not to collect"

"Injured birds: what to do, who's willing to help, how to soothe the bird, oil slick aids, feeding, etc."

Anyone who would like to do these or one of your own liking, or would like to request an article, contact E.G.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Jackman, Siri M. and Scott, Dr. J Michael; LITERATURE REVIEW OF TWENTY-THREE SELECTED FOREST BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST; Forest Service, Region 6, Portland, Or 1975 382 pps. includes GBH, rarest raptors, grouse, sandhill crane, purple

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

Alan Contreras (485-8783) is looking for a copy of Richard Pough's AUDUBON WESTERN BIRD GUIDE. Anyone with a copy for sale, exchange, or gratis should contact him.

BIRDING EQUIPMENT

E.G. White-Swift (485-1797) is looking for a used spotting scope to aid in my field observations. Also any back issues of any bird magazine.

FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION

ASSISTANCE

The editors of SWOC TALK are looking for typing help so we can get each issue of the TALK out on time. If a pool of six people could agree to help on one issue per person per year it would really help.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

To continue receiving SWOC TALK the \$5.00 annual dues need to be paid. It would also make a good Christmas present for someone outside of the Eugene area. The more members, the bigger and more useful the newsletter will become.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ ZIP _____

2-5
CALENDAR

December

- 9 Thurs Lane County Audubon Society meeting, with Wayne Orr, Oakridge R.D. head, with most of the discussion centered on the proposed sheep grazing on the Willamette National Forest. 7:33 p.m., Greenwaters Park Bldg, Oakridge
- 10 Fri Eugene Natural History Society meeting. Dave DeSante of the Reed College Biology Dept. presenting "Unusual Bird Migrations". DeSante's doctoral research was concerned with 'reverse migrations' and much of his work, reflected in slides, was conducted with vagrant eastern warblers on the Farallon Islands off San Francisco Bay. He has been a regional editor in California for AMERICAN BIRDS and wrote the "Changing Seasons" section for the June, 1976, issue. Dave was a principal architect of the California rare bird Records Committee and may remain in Eugene to attend Monday's SWOC meeting and discuss the Oregon Rare Bird Committee and OOO (OOA). 8pm Room 123 Science, UO
- 13 Mon SWOC monthly meeting. see above for possible topics. 7:30 pm in the third floor conference room of Science III on Univ Oregon campus
- 19 Sun Coos Bay Christmas Bird Count; see pg 1 for details
- 23 Thurs Deadline for next issue of SWOC TALK
- 26 Sun Eugene Christmas Bird Count
- 29 Wed Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

JANUARY

- 1 Sat Cottage Grove Christmas Bird Count
- 10 Mon January SWOC meeting; tentative guest is Chuck Bruce, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife non-game biologist speaking about exchanging information and working together in understanding the unknown Oregon non-game species.