

The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee 2016-2017

by Treesa Hertz, Secretary

The Oregon Bird Records Committee reviews and votes on a batch of records every 60 days. If a record is accepted on first-round voting by all nine Committee members, it is added to the state records; if, however, there are one or more “no” votes at this stage, the record is put in line for a second round of consideration.

During second-round, Committee members read one another’s first-round comments, and share and discuss their thoughts and observations before voting. If a record at this stage receives two or more Not Accepted votes, it is then held until the next Annual Meeting for more discussion. Thus, some records can be completed within two months of submission, but others may take several months.

ANNUAL MEETING — APRIL 1, 2017

Common Scoter

One new species was added to the Oregon state list this year: Common Scoter, seen and photographed in Siletz Bay by many observers in November and December 2016. This was only the second North American record for this sea duck of northern Europe and Russia; the first was observed at Crescent City, California, in February 2015 (not the same bird as the Siletz Bay bird). The Official Checklist for Oregon now stands at 536 species.

Hawaiian Petrel

The Hawaiian Petrel was removed from the Review List; sightings off the coast have become more regular in recent years.

Two Dickcissels

An interesting situation that was discussed at length at this year’s Annual Meeting involved two reports of Dickcissels. The first was from a backyard in Westfir (Lane County), where the bird in question stayed from March 29 until April 3 (2016) and then disappeared; a second Dickcissel was reported nine days later across the mountains at Camp Sherman (Jefferson County). Thanks to the many great photos of both these birds taken and submitted by sharp observers, the Committee was able to determine that these two were actually the same bird, because of a particular bill malformation, unique crown feathers, and other characteristics (see photo of bird, page 36). The two records were combined into one (604-16-21), which will go down in OBRC history as an amazing occurrence of Oregon birders finding the same bird 120 miles apart and across a mountain range.

Term Limits

The Committee adopted term limits for the first time. Members will henceforth be elected to no more than two 3-year terms, and then must take a mandatory year off.

Committee members who will see their second terms expire on New Year’s Eve 2017 and be rotated off are Shawneen Finnegan, Jay Withgott, and Owen Schmidt. The Committee will therefore have three positions to fill. If you know someone you would like to nominate for the Committee (yourself included), first make sure he or she is willing to run, and then email their name(s) to me at obrcsecretary@orbirds.org.

From March 2016 through March 2017, the Committee reviewed 42 records, and accepted 32; 10 were not accepted. These records



2017 Oregon Bird Records Committee

Back row: CRAIG MILLER, TIM JANZEN, WINK GROSS, STEFAN SCHLICK, OWEN SCHMIDT, AND WAYNE HOFFMAN (ALTERNATE).

Front row: TREESA HERTZEL (secretary), SHAWNEEN FINNEGAN, TOM CRABTREE, HENDRIK HERLYN, AND JAY WITHGOTT.

Not pictured: Alternates JEFF GILLIGAN AND CRAIG TUMER.

are presented on the next two pages. Following each species name is the OBRC file number, which can be read as follows: The first three digits are the AOU number for that species; the second two digits are the year in which the bird(s) was observed; and the last two digits represent the consecutive number of records of that species which have been submitted to OBRC.



Lesser Black-backed Gull. Photo by Tye Jeske

ACCEPTED RECORDS
March 2016 through March 2017

COMMON SCOTER 163.1-16-01. FIRST STATE RECORD.

Siletz River, Lincoln County, November 14-December 4, 2016.
 (reports by ID, NeN, RRi, HH, WH) photos by HH, ID, OS,
 NeN, RRi, JkW)

BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER 093-15-08.

Cape Arago, Coos County, October 25, 2016. 14 birds. (TR)

BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER 093-15-09.

Off Chetco Point, Brookings area, Curry County. (TR)

HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-16-09.

Off coast of Lincoln County, April 30, 2016 (RuN, TS (photos
 by StR)

HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-16-10.

Off Winchester Bay, Douglas County, May 20, 2016 (PL)
 (photos by BR)

ASHY STORM-PETREL 108-14-09.

50 miles out at sea, Lincoln County, May 1, 2014 (CM)

ASHY STORM-PETREL 108-16-10.

Boiler Bay state wayside, Lincoln County, October 18, 2017 (DI,
 OS) (photos by OS)

ASHY STORM-PETREL 108-16-11.

Boiler Bay state wayside, Lincoln County, October 17, 2016.
 (AdH, CHi, PP)

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD 113-15-02.

South jetty of Coquille River, Bandon, Coos County, October
 10, 2015 (WW, AdH, CHi)

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD 128-16-10.

Mosier, Wasco County, May 7, 2016 (report by CP)

LITTLE STINT 242.3-16-09.

Kirkland Rd. ponds, White City, Jackson County, May 14, 2016.
 (SF) (photos by RuN, GaS, OS, SF)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL 050-16-07.

Stonefield Beach, Lane County, October 22, 2016. (AC, TJ)
 (photos by TJ)

COMMON GROUND-DOVE 329-10-06.

Sauvie Island, Multnomah County, November 28, 2010 (DI, SF).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO 387-16-26.

Fields, Harney County, June 2, 2016. (JeH) (photos by JeH, TB)

EURASIAN WHIMBREL 267-85-01. FIRST STATE RECORD.

Clatsop Beach, Clatsop County, September 25, 1985 (HN, JE).

EURASIAN WHIMBREL 267-16-02.

Coastal Coos County, July 27, 2016 (DLA, KC, OS) (photos by OS)

EASTERN PHOEBE 456-16-24.

Winchester Bay, Douglas County, November 19-20, 2016. (TR,
 ErC, TFu) (photo by TFu)



*Eastern Phoebe. Winchester Bay. Douglas County.
 Photo by Terry Fuller, November 18, 2016.*



*Eurasian Whimbrel (record 267-16-02).
 Coastal Coos County, photos by Owen Schmidt, July 27, 2016.
 Bird originally found by Dave Lauten and Kathy Castelein
 on 25 July 2016..*

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO 628-16-04.

Salishan Nature Trail, Siletz Bay, Lincoln County, September 12, 2016 (OS, DI) (photos by OS, DI, TB, TJ)

WHITE WAGTAIL 694-16-09.

Hatfield Lake, Bend, Deschutes County, April 24, 2016 (TK, JMe) (photos by ChG, OS)

PHAINOPEPLA 620-16-11.

Klamath River Canyon, Klamath County, June 29, 2016 (photo by RuN)

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER 644-16-19.

Pistol River, Curry County, September 11, 2016. (TR)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER 657-98-26.

Malheur Headquarters, Harney County, June 3, 1998. (Report and video by TJ)

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER 660-16-13.

Eastern Oregon University campus in La Grande, Union County, December 6-7, 2016. (DaT, TrB, KnC, CN, TJ) (photos by DaT, CN, TJ)

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO 569-15-10.

Ten Cent Meadows, Pueblo Range, Harney County, June 14, 2015, 1 bird. (CHi, AdH, EmS)

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO 569-15-11.

6700 ft. elevation in Pueblo Range, Harney County, June 14, 2015, several birds. (CHi, AdH, EmS)

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO 569-15-12.

7000 ft. elevation in Pueblo Range, Harney County, June 14, 2015. 1 bird. (CHi, AdH, EmS)

SUMMER TANAGER 610-16-23.

Prineville, Crook County, April 12, 2016. (report and photos by KMa)

SUMMER TANAGER 610-16-24.

McNary Wildlife Nature Area, Umatilla County, November 18-20, 2016. (report and photos by ML, TBr) (*Photo, left*)

SCARLET TANAGER 608-16-08.

Depoe Bay, Lincoln County, October 29, 2016. (CHi, AdH, WW, HH, OS) (photos by AdH, WW, OS)

DICKCISSEL 604-16-21.

Westfir, Lane County, March 29-April 3, 2016 (RaS, MLS) (photos by RaS)
Same bird seen again April 12, 2016, at Camp Sherman, Jefferson County (report and photos by ChG). Originally thought to be a second Dickcissel and voted on (and accepted) as record 604-16-22; later determined to be the same bird as 604-16-21.

COMMON GRACKLE 511-09-41.

Malheur Headquarters, Harney County, May 26, 2009. (report and photo by AC)

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER 093-15-10.

Bandon, Coos County, October 8, 2015. Insufficient documentation.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO 387-15-24.

Columbia Slough, north Portland, Multnomah County, July 26, 2015. Heard-only report did not rule out other possible species.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO 387-15-25

Ross Island, Portland, Multnomah County, September 4, 2015. Heard-only report; insufficient documentation.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO 387-16-27.

Bend, September 6, 2016. Insufficient details, description did not rule out other species.

COMMON GALLINULE 219-12-14

Hart Lake, Lake County, July 24, 2012. Inadequate documentation, submitted four years after bird was seen.

LITTLE BLUE HERON 200-16-14.

Finley NWR, Benton County, May 15, 2016. Incomplete description; lacking details; observer not familiar with species.

EASTERN PHOEBE 456-16-25.

Along Klamath River in Klamath County, one bird August 27, 2016. Description did not rule out other possible species.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER 662-15-16.

Wood River Wetland, Klamath County, November 22, 2015. Insufficient documentation; does not rule out other species.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER 678-15-04.

Lincoln City, Lincoln County, September 18, 2015. Insufficient description; behavior not noted; does not rule out other species; need more detailed documentation for a first state record.

SCARLET TANAGER 608-16-07.

Indian Creek north of Andrews, Harney County, May 31, 2016. Photos blurry, not detailed enough for solid identification.

AC (Alan Contreras)
AdH (Adrian Hinkle)
BR (Bruce Rideout)
ChG (Chuck Gates)
Chi (Christopher Hinkle)
CM (Craig Miller)
CN (Cathy Nowak)
CP (Claire Puchy)
DaT (Dave Trochlell)
DI (Dave Irons)
DLA (Dave Lauten)
EmS (Em Scatteregia)
ErC (Eric Clough)
GaS (Gary Shaffer)
HH (Hendrik Herlyn)
HN (Harry Nehls)
ID (Isaac Denzer)
JE (Joe Evanich)
JeH (Jeff Harding)
JkW (Jack Williamson)
JMe (Judy Meredith)
KC (Kathy Castelein)

KMa (Karen Maulding)
KnC (Kent Coe)
MLS (Mary Lee Sayre)
NeN (Nels Nelson)
OS (Owen Schmidt)
PL (Paul Lehman)
PP (Phil Pickering)
RaS (Randy Simons)
RRi (Rich Rieger)
RuN (Russ Namitz)
SF (Shawneen Finnegan)
StR (Stephen Rossiter)
TB (Tim Blount)
TFu (Terry Fuller)
TJ (Tim Janzen)
TK (Tony Kutzen)
TR (Tom Rodenkirk)
TrB (Trent Bray)
TS (Tim Shelmerdine)
WH (Wayne Hoffman)
WW (Will Wright)