

# The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee 2017-2018

## by Nick Mrvelj

*Editor's Note: This year, the OBRC is breaking away from the tradition of having the Secretary write this annual summary, and beginning a rotation of Committee members as the author. Committee member Nick Mrvelj is the first to take the plunge.*

### 2018 OBRC Members (with term expiration dates)

Tom Crabtree – 2018	Craig Miller – 2019
Tim Janzen - 2018	Jeff Gilligan – 2020
Stefan Schlick – 2018	Wayne Hoffman – 2020
Wink Gross – 2019	Nick Mrvelj – 2020
Hendrik Herlyn - 2019	

#### Alternates

Shawneen Finnegan  
Owen Schmidt  
Tim Shelmerdine  
Jay Withgott

#### Secretary

Treesa Hertzell

The Oregon Bird Records Committee, or OBRC, recently celebrated its 40th birthday. Founded in 1978, the committee stays true to its original aim of collecting, reviewing, and maintaining records on rare birds found in Oregon, in an ever-changing landscape.

#### New Species for Oregon: Eurasian Skylark

One new species was added to the Oregon state list this year: Eurasian Skylark. This brings the total species list to 537. Oregon's first Eurasian Skylark was seen and photographed in Lincoln County at Newport's south jetty, November 16, 2017, by Russ Namitz and soon thereafter identified by Adrian Hinkle. The subspecies of this bird remains unidentified, as documentation after the discovery date consisted primarily of fuzzy flight shots and a sound recording. It didn't help that the bird only stuck around for one additional day and was rather skittish. One explanation as to the bird's provenance is that it originated from somewhere in eastern Asia before making the heroic journey to Oregon. Another possible explanation is that it was a stray from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, where there exists an established population of Eurasian Skylarks.

#### Mystery "Hegrets"

Two mystery birds, nicknamed "hegrets" (heron/egret), discovered at the Narrows, Malheur NWR, Harney Co., had everyone guessing. Hundreds of photos and videos were taken, and many experts were consulted. In the end, the general consensus was that these birds were hybrids, possibly even nest mates. Two possible hybrid combinations include Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret and Cattle Egret X Snowy Egret (records 200-17-15 and 200-17-16, both submitted as Little Blue Heron and Not Accepted as such). It is not often that one, let alone two birds, can be so well documented and studied, and yet not be definitively identified. This prompted the Committee to open a discussion at the Annual Meeting on how best to review hybrids. It was decided that hybrids will be reviewed if both putative parent species are themselves Review List species, or in the rare exception (as these two birds were), the hybrid is particularly confounding and potentially involves a review species.

#### OBRC Annual Meeting - March 10, 2018

This year's Annual Meeting was held at Heron Hall, located inside the Audubon Society of Portland. Member participation was high, with only one member and one alternate absent. In between the sounds of workers remodeling the exterior of the

The Oregon Bird Records Committee reviews and votes on a batch of records every 60 days.

During first-round voting, Committee members act independently and do not consult one another. If a record is Accepted at this stage by all nine Committee members, it is added to the state records. If, however, there is at least one "Not Accepted" vote, the record is opened up to discussion. After discussion, the Committee votes again.

If, in second-round voting, a record receives no more than one Not Accepted votes, it is accepted and added to the state records. If it receives two or more Not Accepted votes, it is then held until the next Annual Meeting for more review and a final decision.

This process means that some records can be completed within two months of submission, but others may take several months.

building, the Committee deliberated for 5 hours. Following are some of the highlights from the meeting.

#### OBRC Records into eBird

Committee members agreed that historical records should be logged into eBird, in order to improve the accuracy and scope of Oregon records available in the eBird database. For those of you who use eBird, be on the lookout for many great Oregon historical records appearing soon.



*Eurasian Skylark. Newport, Lincoln County. 17 November 2017.  
Photographer: Russ Namitz  
OBRC Record # 473-17-01*

### Third Round Records

Per the rules of the Committee, submitted records that are neither accepted nor declined after two rounds of voting move on to a third round of voting, done in person at the Annual Meeting. As all of the voting on first- and second-round records takes place online, it is a distinct change of pace to have the debate conducted in person and in the span of several minutes instead of two months. Each of these records was discussed at length before the Committee voted the old-fashioned way: by raising hands in the air.

The 2018 third-round records were as follows:

#### ACCEPTED

Red-legged Kittiwake 041-16-12  
Iceland Gull (*glaucooides*) 043-16-19  
Iceland Gull (*kumlieni*) 043-17-20  
Cook's Petrel 098.3-17-07 (accepted as "species unresolved")

#### NOT ACCEPTED

Hudsonian Godwit 251-17-29  
Chimney Swift 423-17-05  
Phainopepla 620-17-12

### Revisiting Prior Records

It was brought to the Committee's attention that, with new information on bird movements available through sources such as eBird, several state records committees, including Washington's, have been re-reviewing many "sight only" historical records. The Committee discussed the logic, need, and protocol behind revisiting and re-voting on existing records. Most members were in agreement that some "sight only" records, especially ones dealing with first state records and/or those that have yet to be properly documented in the state of Oregon, were candidates for review. The Committee determined that there was time to revisit only two historical records during the meeting, both of which dealt with the same species, Painted Redstart, but that other records should be re-reviewed at a later date. Records 688-90-02 and 688-91-03 were re-voted on, with the former record receiving a vote of NOT ACCEPTED, and the latter remaining ACCEPTED.

### Least Bittern and Upland Sandpiper

The Review List for OBRC was increased this year, but not for the expected reason. The Committee is now requesting that records of Least Bittern and Upland Sandpiper, both species that have had a sharp decline in the number of documented field reports over the past several years, be submitted to the OBRC. Least Bitterns may still be lurking in hard-to-access traditional haunts, but Upland Sandpipers seem to be all but extirpated in the state.

### Records

From March 2017 until March 2018, the committee reviewed 56 records, of which, 46 records were accepted and 10 were not. These records are presented in 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 that have been submitted to the OBRC.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO 2017 RECORDS

AA (Audrey Addison)	LWa (Lisa Wallace)
AdH (Adrian Hinkle)	MaB (Marty Bray)
AFr (Andy Frank)	NeN (Nels Nelson)
AG (Anne Goff)	NM (Nick Mrvelj)
BR (Bruce Rideout)	OCA (OR Coast Aquarium)
CCh (Christopher Christie)	OD (Olaf Danielson)
CE (Colleen Emery)	OS (Owen Schmidt)
CG (Callie Gesmundo)	PaG (Paul Glasser)
CM (Craig Miller)	PaO (Pam Otley)
CoS (Cody Smith)	PL (Paul Lehman)
CW (Charlie Wright)	PLo (Peter Low)
DE (Deanna Emig)	RB (Range Bayer)
DHa (Dave Haupt)	RBu (Robert Burley)
DI (Dave Irons)	RRo (Roger Robb)
DiB (Diana Byrne)	RuN (Russ Namitz)
DV (Dennis Vroman)	SF (Shawneen Finnegan)
DvH (David Hewitt)	SS (Stefan Schlick)
DVP (David Vander Pluym)	ST (Sharon Toochin)
EHa (Evan Hayduk)	TBe (Thomas Benson)
HH (Hendrik Herlyn)	TBr (Trent Bray)
ID (Isaac Denzer)	TR (Tim Rodenkirk)
JB (Jason Brown)	VB (Vickie Buck)
JVM (Julie VanMoorhem)	WG (Wink Gross)
JW (John Woodhouse)	WH (Wayne Hoffman)
KFr (Kai Frueh)	WW (Will Wright)
LeeR (Lee Remmers)	



Prothonotary Warbler. Multnomah County. September 7, 2017.  
Photographer: Owen Schmidt  
OBRC Record #637-17-08



One-legged Laughing Gull. South Beach. Lincoln County.  
April 13, 2017. Photographer: Owen Schmidt  
OBRC Record #058-17-10



## RECORDS MARCH 2017 THROUGH MARCH 2018

### ACCEPTED RECORDS

#### "BEWICK'S" SWAN 180.1-17-06

Halsey, Linn Co., 1 bird on 5 Jan 2017. Photos and details DE.

#### BAIKAL TEAL 139.1-16-04

Sauvie Island, Multnomah Co., 1 shot male on 31 Dec 2017. Details and photos LeeR and CoS.

#### KING EIDER 162-16-15

Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 male 18 Dec 2016 through 1 Mar 2017. Photos PaO, OS, RuN, KFr.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-23

Driftwood Beach, Seal Rock, Lincoln Co., up to 4 birds, 5-9 May 2017. Details and photos HH.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-24

Near Yachats and Sandpiper Village, Lincoln Co., 5-7 May 2017. Details and photos WH.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-25

Sandpiper Village and Driftwood Beach, Lincoln Co., 6 May 2017. Details and photos DiB.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-26

Near Yachats, Lincoln Co., 7 May 2017. Details and photos DI.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-27

So. jetty Columbia River, Clatsop Co., 11 May 2017. Details and photo DI.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-28

Lost Creek State Park, Lincoln Co., 8 May 2017. Details and photos NeN.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-29

Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., 3 June 2017. Details and photos OS.

#### BAR-TAILED GODWIT 250-17-30

Sandpiper Village, Waldport, Lincoln Co., 7 May 2017. Details and photos TBr.

#### HUDSONIAN GODWIT 251-17-28

Wickiup River Campground, Wickiup Reservoir, Deschutes Co., 12 Aug 2017. Details CM and PL0; photos CM.

#### RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE 041-16-12

Nye South Beach near Newport, Lincoln Co., 10 Dec 2016. Found dead on beach by COASST volunteers JB, CE, and ID verified by CW.

#### LITTLE GULL 060.1-17-16

Sauvie Island, Columbia Co., 2 Sept 2017. Report NM; photos Phillip Kline and Sarah Swanson.

#### LAUGHING GULL 058-17-10

South Beach State Park, Lincoln Co., 1 adult 13 April through 3 May 2017. Details and photos HH, WH, TBr, OS, RR0, VB.

#### ICELAND GULL 043-16-19

SW Fern Hill Rd., Washington Co., 18 Nov 2016. Accepted as *glaucoides*. Details and photos SS.

#### ICELAND GULL 043-17-20

So. Jetty Rd., Yaquina Bay, Newport, Lincoln Co., 11 Jan 2017. Accepted as *kumlieni*. Details and photos WH.

#### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL 050-16-08

Geiger Rd., Tillamook, Tillamook Co., 1 bird 26 Nov 2016. Report and photos WG.

#### SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS 082-17-17

42 km off so. Curry Co., 17 May 2017. Photo BR, details PL.

#### SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS 082-17-18

33 mi. west of Douglas Co., seen and photographed from cruise ship 1 Dec 2017. Report and photos DVP and TBe.

#### SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS 082-17-19

15 mi. west of Cape Blanco, Curry Co., seen and photographed from cruise ship 1 Dec 2017. Report and photos DVP.

#### SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS 082-17-20

37 mi west of Yachats, Lane Co., seen from cruise ship 1 Dec 2017 (DVP).

#### HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-14-11

14 km wsw of so. Curry Co. 7 July 2014 (PL).

#### HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-14-12

145 km w of so. Curry Co. 7 July 2014 (PL).

#### HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-14-13

167 km w of Cape Blanco, Curry Co., 7 July 2014 (PL).

#### HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-14-14

85 km offshore just so. of Yachats, Lincoln Co. 16 July 2014 (PL).

#### HAWAIIAN PETREL 098.5-14-15

62 km w of Cape Arago, Coos Co., 16 July 2014. Details (PL).

#### COOK'S PETREL 098.3-17-07

Northern Clatsop Co., just south of Washington, bird seen and photographed from cruise ship, April 2017. Photos blurry; accepted as "species unresolved." (ST, PL)

#### COOK'S PETREL 098.3-17-08

61 km west of Siltcoos River mouth on cruise ship 1 Dec 2017. Report and photos TBe.

#### BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER 093-15-10

Bandon, Coos Co., 8 Oct 2015. Eight birds. (TR, RuN)

#### BROWN BOOBY 115-17-15

Depoe Bay, Lincoln Co., 1 bird 4 Feb 2017 rescued from a residence by Oregon Coast Aquarium (RB). Photos OCA.

#### GLOSSY IBIS 186-17-09

So. side of Diamond Lane, east of Hwy 2015, Harney Co., 31 May 2017. Details, photo and video DiB.

#### EASTERN PHOEBE 456-17-26

Mingus Park, Coos Bay, Coos Co., 13-15 May 2017. Details TR.

#### PLUMBEOUS VIREO 629.1-17-12

Page Springs Campground, Harney Co., 3 Aug and 5 Aug 2017. Details and photos CG.

EURASIAN SKYLARK 473-17-01

So. jetty Newport, Lincoln Co., 1 bird 17 Nov 2017. Reports and photos RuN, ID, AdH, WH, MaB. First Oregon state record.

BRAMBLING 514.1-16-14

Florence, Lane Co., 1 bird 18 Dec 2016 through 29 March 2017. Photos LWa, NeN, ID, OD.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH 531-17-16

Private residence, Jacksonville, Jackson Co., 1 male 9 April 2017. Report AG, photos AG and CoS.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH 531-17-17

Private residence in Sherwood, Washington Co., 3-11 June 2017. Details PaG, SE, and TBr. Photos PaG.

LECONTE'S SPARROW 548-17-04

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area, Lane Co., 20 May 2017, 1 bird. Details RRo.

ORCHARD ORIOLE 506-17-14

Malheur Hdq., Harney Co., 28 June 2017. Details and photos WW.

COMMON GRACKLE 511-17-42

Baker City, Baker Co., 16 May 2017, 1 bird at feeder. Details and photos CCh.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER 637-17-08

Private residence in Portland, Multnomah Co., 2 Sept through 7 Sept 2017. Details RBU; photos RBU, OS, and NeN.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER 644-17-20

Private residence in Portland, Multnomah Co., first reported 11 Nov 2017 (CaC), seen through Jan 2018. Reports and photos AA, DI, OS, NeN, NM, AFR, JW, AdH, ID. Video ID.

KENTUCKY WARBLER 677-17-05

West of Grants Pass, so. side Hwy 199, Josephine Co., 25 Sept 2017, 1 bird (DV).

HOODED WARBLER 684-17-21

Floras Lake, Curry Co., 14 June 2017. Details and video/audio TR; bird does not show in video but can be heard singing.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER 662-15-16

Wood River wetland, Klamath Co., 22 Nov 2015 (DHa, DvH, JvM).

BLUE GROSBEAK 597-17-14

Fields Oasis, Fields, Harney Co., 1 adult male May 31, 2017. (TBr).

DICKCISSEL 604-17-22

Waldport, private residence, Lincoln Co., 1 bird 19 Oct 2017. Report and photos EHa.

*Brambling. Florence. December 18, 2016.  
Photographer: Lisa Wallace  
OBRC Record #514.1-16-14*



RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK 133-02-05

Baskett Slough NWR, Polk Co., 1 bird observed 13-14 July 2002. 15-year-old record did not rule out other species or possible hybrids.

LITTLE BLUE HERON 200-17-15

Malheur NWR, The Narrows, Harney Co., Aug-Sept 2017. Many photos and videos of two puzzling birds (see record 200-17-16); unable to rule out hybrid, possibly Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron, or Cattle Egret parentage.

LITTLE BLUE HERON 200-17-16

Malheur NWR, The Narrows, Harney Co., Aug-Sept 2017. Many photos and videos of two puzzling birds (see record 200-17-16); unable to rule out hybrid, possibly Snowy Egret X Little Blue Heron, or Cattle Egret parentage.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT 251-02-29

Bird was observed 15 years ago, June 2002. Observers experienced, but details not recalled.

CHIMNEY SWIFT 423-15-04

Craig Lake, Linn Co., 24 July 2015. Insufficient description does not rule out Vaux's Swift.

CHIMNEY SWIFT 423-17-05

Corvallis, Benton Co., 6 August 2017. Seen briefly and without optics. Could not rule out Vaux's Swift.

PHAINOPEPLA 620-17-12

E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, Benton Co., 9 April 2017. Bird seen briefly and view obstructed.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER 662-17-17

Tualatin River, West Linn, Clackamas Co., 17 May 2017. Insufficient documentation; does not rule out other warbler species.

MOURNING WARBLER 679-16-09

Skinner's Butte, Lane Co., 1 bird on 29 April 2016. Insufficient description lacked key details and did not rule out other similar species.

CANYON TOWHEE 588-17-01

Malheur National Forest, Grant Co., 1 bird on 6 June 2017. Description brief and lacking in sufficient details for an out-of-range potential first state record.