

2019 Oregon Bird Records Committee Report

By Craig Miller

The Oregon birding community remains vibrant, as evidenced by as many as 68 records that the Committee made determinations on throughout 2019. During the year, 58 records were accepted and 10 not accepted. Of those, six new State records were accepted, bringing the Official State Checklist to 543 species. Note that two of the new species added to the Checklist were found in 2018, but accepted in 2019.

Only one of the new Oregon species was available for public viewing. A pair of male Eastern Bluebirds was discovered on 25 November 2018 by Eric Carlson in a field adjacent to the Dharma Rain Zen Center in Portland and remained at least through mid-February 2019, allowing ample time for birders from around the state to enjoy the spectacle. Less satisfying, a Zone-tailed Hawk was photographed near Medford on 25 October 2018, but not identified until days later after it had long departed. Likewise, on 16 May 2019 a Red-footed Booby landed on a fishing boat off Newport, allowing crew person Don Bok to get a photograph before it left. Frustrating for many twitchers, a Dusky Thrush showed up in a Tigard back yard on 26 February 2019, but was not reported until 10 days after it was last seen on March 8. Most unfortunate, Oregon's first accepted Nazca Booby was found dead on South Beach, Lincoln County. Finally, looking back to ancient history, two birds collected on the east side of Steens Mountain in August, 1921 by Stanley Jewett (and now specimens in the Smithsonian) became Oregon's first (and only) accepted Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay record.

The Oregon Birds Records Committee (OBRC) met in Portland on July 27 to discuss and vote on records that were too problematic to resolve remotely. It also discussed and approved an overhaul to its Rules of Operation. The Rules now clarify that OBRC has two main purposes: 1) Maintenance of the Official Checklist of Oregon Birds, and 2) Maintenance of the Permanent Archive of Records of rare birds in Oregon. The Rules also clarified that records can fall into one of three categories: 1) Accepted; 2) Species Unresolved; and 3) Not Accepted. The "Species Unresolved" category recognizes that the reported species is one of two or more similar appearing species, both or all of which are review species.

If you are interested in learning more about the OBRC, accessing the Official Checklist, or how to report a rare bird, you can find it at following link: <https://oregonbirding.org/oregon-bird-records-committee/> or do a web search for "Oregon Bird Records Committee."

Records Accepted:

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2014-25

1 bird coming to feeder at private residence on Lawson Rd, Crook Co., 19 June 2014.
Details and photos Sharon Peters.

Broad-billed Hummingbird BBIH 2019-04

Malheur NWR headquarters, Harney Co., 14-23 September 2019. Details Trent Bray, Judy Meredith, Craig Miller, Diana Byrne, Owen Schmidt, Tim Rodenkirk.
Photos Craig Miller, Owen Schmidt, Renee Tressler, Alan Woods.

Broad-billed Hummingbird BBIH-2019-05

Private residence 2 miles east of John Day, Grant Co., one adult male 22-23 September 2019. Details and photos Tom Winters, Clarence O'Leary.

Bay-breasted Warbler BBWA-2018-14

Bayocean Spit, Tillamook Co., one bird on 29 September 2018. Details and photo Kai Frueh.

Blue-footed Booby BFBO-2018-05

Open ocean, south of Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., 1 bird 27 September 2018. Details Paul Sullivan.

Black Storm-Petrel BLSP-2015-06
One bird seen from cruise ship off Curry Co., 1 August 2015. Details Paul Lehman, Bruce Rideout.

Brown Booby BRBO-2015-17
Cape Cove, Lane Co., 27 October 2015. One bird perched on rock. Details and photo MerryLynn Denny.

Brown Booby BRBO-2016-18
Boiler Bay Wayside, Lincoln Co., 30 April 2016. One bird in flight. Details Christopher Hinkle, Adrian Hinkle.

Brown Booby BRBO-2016-20
One bird found dead at Empire Sewage Treatment Plant, Coos Co., 17 September 2016. Details and photos Adrian Hinkle.

Brown Booby BRBO-2019-19
Schooner So. (Mile 220), Newport, Lincoln Co., 10 April 2019. One bird found dead on beach by COASST volunteer. Details and photos Jill Marks.

Black-vented Shearwater BVSH-2015-11
Seaside Cove, Seaside, Clatsop Co., 11 October 2015. Details Mike Patterson.

Black-vented Shearwater BVSH-2015-12
Boiler Bay, Lincoln Co., 21 October 2015. Details Hendrik Herlyn.

California Thrasher CATH-2019-06
Just south of Talent, Jackson Co., first reported 9 April 2019, seen through July 2019, at private residence. Details and photos Judy Meredith, Shawneen Finnegan, Sylvia Maulding, Nels Nelson, Trent Bray, John Sullivan.

Common Grackle COGR-2003-44
Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 24-25 May 2003. One bird at feeder. Details Hendrik Herlyn, Greg Gillson, Sylvia Maulding.

Cook's Petrel COPE-2012-09
Observed from cruise ship west of Curry Co., 25 September 2012. Accepted as *Cookilaria* (species unresolved) Jay Withgott, Judy Meredith.

Dickcissel DICK-2019-26
Boquist Rd. No, Tillamook Co., 14 January 2019. One bird in brambles. Details and photo Nels Nelson. (Note: *eBird reports indicate bird was present 5 January to 8 February 2019*)

Dusky Thrush DUTH-2019-01
Metzger area of Tigard, Washington Co. One bird in residential backyard with robins 26 February - 8 March 2019. Details and photos Steve deMoulin. **First Oregon state record.**

Eastern Bluebird EABL-2018-01
Dharma Rain Zen Center field, NE Portland, Multnomah County; two male birds first found 25 November 2018 by Eric Carlson, last seen 16 March 2019. Details and photos Eric Carlson, Isaac Denzer, Jacob Bourque, Nels Nelson. Details Jack Williamson. Photos Owen Schmidt, Adrian Hinkle, Nick Mrvelj, Craig Tumer, Trent Bray. **First Oregon state record.**

Eastern Phoebe EAPH-2005-29

- Oak Creek Dr., Corvallis, Benton Co., 24 April 2005. One bird on private property. Details Hendrik Herlyn and James Simmons.
- Eastern Phoebe EAPH-2007-28
Malheur HQ, Harney Co., 15 September 2007. Details and photo Alan Contreras.
- Eastern Phoebe EAPH-2017-30
No. of Fort Klamath, Klamath Co., 27 June 2017. Details and photo Will Wright.
- Eastern Phoebe EAPH-2019-31
Oak Island Rd., Sauvie Island, Multnomah Co., 7-8 May 2019. Report and photos Andy Frank, Nels Nelson.
(*Note: eBird reports indicate bird was present 6 May to 23 May 2019.*)
- Dark-eyed Junco "Gray-headed" GHJU-2011-13
LaGrande, Union Co., private residence, 1 bird 30 December 2010 through 2 January 2011. Details Trent Bray, photos Dave Felley.
- Hooded Warbler HOWA-2015-22
Malheur NWR HQ, 20 September 2015. Details Trent Bray.
- Hooded Warbler HOWA-2019-24
Northern edge of Crystal Lake, Willamette Park, Corvallis, Benton Co., 13 May 2019. Details and photos Kai Frueh.
- Hudsonian Godwit HUGO-2018-32
Trestle Bay, Fort Stevens State Park, 1 bird, 14 September and 22 September 2018. Details and photos Mike Patterson, Bob Archer, Evan Cain, Lee Cain.
- Hudsonian Godwit HUGO-2019-33
Trestle Bay, Clatsop Co., 1 bird 24 June 2019. Details and photos Owen Schmidt.
- Hudsonian Godwit HUGO-2019-34
Fern Ridge WMA, Lane Co., 17-30 September 2019. One juvenile bird. Details and photos Sally Hill, Gerry Meenaghan; photos Audrey Addison.
- Lawrence's Goldfinch LAGO-1998-20
Near Ashland, coming to feeder; Jackson Co., 2-5 February 1998. Details Sylvia Maulding, Dennis Vroman.
- Laughing Gull LAGU-2007-11
Seaside Cove, Clatsop Co., 30 August 2007. Details and photos Mike Patterson.
- Laughing Gull LAGU-2019-12
Nye Beach, Lincoln Co., 11 May 2019. Details and photos Norm and Laura Donelson.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2013-11
McMinnville, Yamhill Co., 26 January 2013. Details Dave Irons, Shawneen Finnegan.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2018-10
Siuslaw River north jetty mudflats, Lane Co., 22 October 2018; one bird. Report and photos Daniel Farrar.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2019-12
Columbia River between Wasco and Sherman counties, 10 March 2019. Details and photos Nick Mrvelj.

LeConte's Sparrow LCSP-2018-05

Wood River wetlands, Klamath Co., 15 September 2018; one bird. Details Dave Haupt, Wayne Hoffman, Kevin Spencer, Frank Lospalluto. Photos Frank Lospalluto, Richard Rusnak.

Mountain Plover MOPL-2012-14

Bullard's Beach State Park, Bandon, Coos Co., 6 December 2012. Details and photos Dave Lauten.

Nazca Booby NABO-2018-01

South of Yaquina Bay south jetty, Lincoln Co., one bird dead on beach, 14 September 2018. Details and photos Wayne Hoffman; photos Jim Danzenbaker, Robert Lockett. **First Oregon state record.**

Phainopepla PHAI-2019-13

Page Springs Campground, Harney Co., 7-12 September 2019. Details and photos Mark Nikas, Chuck Gates; details Judy Meredith; photos David Sowards-Emmerd.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-2019-18

Page Springs Campground, Harney Co., one, possibly two adults, and one immature; 1 September 2019 and 7 September 2019. Details and photos Mark Nikas; details Nick Mrvelj, Peyton Cook.

Prairie Warbler PRAW-2019-17

Newport, Lincoln Co., 5 and 12 October 2019. Details Alan Contreras; photos Alan Contreras and Stefan Schlick.

Red-footed Booby RFBO-2019-01

One bird landed on fishing vessel 20 mi NW of Newport, Lincoln Co., photographed resting on railing 16 May 2019. Report and photo Don Bok; report Albert Munnerlynn. **First Oregon state record.**

Red-headed Woodpecker RHWO-2019-03

Hwy. 101 north of Reedsport, Douglas Co., bird foraging in cleacut 5-6 July 2019. Report and photos Kayla McCurry; Sylvia Maulding; Sally Hill; photos Owen Schmidt.

Red-headed Woodpecker RHWO-2016-04

Plush Rd., Lake Co., one bird 17 June 2016. Report and photo Jefferson Brooks.

Red-legged Kittiwake RLKI-1999-13

North spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 5 March 1999; one bird found dead on beach, collected by Turnstone Environmental Consultants. Details and photos of specimen submitted by Theodore Buerger in 2019.

Slaty-backed Gull SBGU-2017-12

Wireless Rd. near Astoria, Clatsop Co., 7 and 9 April 2017. Details and photos Mike Patterson.

Sedge Wren SEWR-2018-05

Waite Ranch, 3 mi east of Florence, Lane Co., first found 13 December 2018, later determined to be two individual birds. Details Roger Robb; details and photos Nick Mrvelj, Adrian Hinkle; photos Craig Tumer, Nels Nelson.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2001-27

Benson Pond, Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 27 May 2001. Details Sylvia Maulding, Hendrik Herlyn, Tim Shelmerdine.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2018-25

No. Powder Pond, Baker Co., one female bird on 5 November 2018. Details and photos Russ Morgan.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2018-26

NE Portland residence, Multnomah Co., 7 November 2018, one female. Details Chad Crouch, Jay Withgott; photos Chad Crouch.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2019-28

SE Roseburg, Douglas Co., private residence, 2 July 2019; one male bird. Report and photos Kenneth Phifer.

Tundra Bean-Goose TUBG-2018-02

McFadden Marsh, Finley NWR, Benton Co., 25 November 2018. Details and photos Sylvia Maulding, Isaac Denzer.

Upland Sandpiper UPSA-2019-01

(Note: In light of increasing paucity of reports, this species was added to the OBRC Review List in 2019.)
Smith & Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Multnomah Co., 26 August 2019. One bird seen in flight and vocalizing. Details Nick Mrvelj.

Virginia's Warbler VIWA-2018-21

Brookings, Curry Co., 19 December 2018. Details and photos Adrian Hinkle.

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay WOSJ-1921-01

Two birds collected by Stanley Jewett 8-9 August 1921 at Wild Horse Creek near Andrews on the SE slope of Steens Mtns. And currently in the Smithsonian. Report and photos of specimens submitted by Tom Crabtree.

White-rumped Sandpiper WRSA-2017-07

Del Ray Beach, Clatsop Co., 8-13 August 2017. Details Bob Archer, Diana Byrne, Mike Patterson, Dave Irons; photos Bob Archer, Diana Byrne, Mike Patterson.

White-rumped Sandpiper WRSA-2019-08

Coos Bay north spit, Coos Co., 28 August 2019. Details and photo Dave Lauten and Kathy Castelein.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo YBCU-2019-28

Grand Island Greenway State Park, south end of Grand Island, Yamhill Co., 25 June 2019. Details Robert Lockett and Ed McVicker.

Zone-tailed Hawk ZTHA-2018-01

Roxy Ann Peak, Medford, Jackson Co., one bird flying overhead 25 October 2018. Details and photo Sarah Brandenburg. **First Oregon state record.**

Records Not Accepted:

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2000-26

Fields Oasis, Harney Co., 29 May 2000. Older record gleaned from eBird; not enough details.

Blackburnian Warbler BLBW-1994-19

Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 1 bird on 23 May 1994. Older record gleaned from eBird; not enough details.

Cape May Warbler CMWA-2001-18

Malheur NWR, Harney Co., 29 September 2001. Older record gleaned from eBird; not enough details.

Dickcissel DICK-2016-25

Fields Oasis, Harney Co., 31 May 2016. Description too brief to rule out other species.

McKay's Bunting MKBU-2018-04

Gearhart ocean beach, Clatsop Co., 27 November 2017 through 4 December 2018. Seen and photographed by many, but uncertainty remained that this may be a hybrid or pale Snow Bunting. Outside experts were consulted and were also not confident that this was McKay's Bunting.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-1994-17

Fields Oasis, Harney Co., 28 May 1994. Details from eBird report insufficient to confirm identity.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-2000-16

Cottonwood Creek, Harney Co., 30 May 2000. Details from eBird report insufficient.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-2018-15

Chandler Wayside SP, Lake Co., 15 September 2018. Details insufficient; did not rule out Cassin's Vireo.

Thick-billed Murre TBMU-2017-19

Oceanside, Tillamook Co., 29 April 2017. Bird scoped from a distance and not enough details were able to be gathered to confirm identity.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel WISP-2015-07

Pelagic trip to Perpetua Bank, about 35 mi WSW of Newport, Lincoln Co., 3 October 2015. Brief sighting; could not rule out other petrels, including Leach's Storm-Petrel.