
2021 Summary

Oregon Bird Records Committee

By Hendrik Herlyn

For the Oregon Bird Records Committee

During its 44th year of operation, the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OBRC) continued to pursue its mission of collecting and reviewing reports of rare birds in Oregon, curating the formal archive of records, and maintaining the official list of species confirmed for our state.

The Review Process

Every 60 days, the Committee votes online on a new batch of rare bird records. If all nine members accept a record in the first round, it becomes part of the confirmed sightings for Oregon. If at least one member votes to “Not Accept,” the record goes into a second round of online voting.

Second-round records with no more than one dissenting vote will be accepted and entered into the state records list. However, if a record receives at least two “Not Accepted” votes, it will be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting. Ultimately, records receiving at least six “Accepted” votes will become part of the Oregon rare bird archives.

It is important to point out that a “Not Accepted” vote does not necessarily imply that the Committee does not believe the identification to be correct. It simply means that the documentation presented was not convincing enough to establish the identification beyond a reasonable doubt.

The OBRC applies a high standard of evidence, especially for extremely rare sightings (such as first or second state records). We encourage anyone who submits a rare bird sighting to present the best documentation possible (including a detailed description, information on how similar species were ruled out, and ideally good photos, videos, or sound recordings).

In 2021, the OBRC reviewed and voted on 48 records. The Committee accepted 35 of these and voted not to accept 13 records. Twelve of these records were discussed at the annual meeting. Details of all records can be found at the end of this article.

New Oregon birds - 2021

Three species were accepted as new additions to the all-time Oregon state bird list in 2021, bringing the total to 546 species.

A mind-blowing **Oriental Greenfinch** was found by Torrey Gage-Tomlinson and Nolan Clements on Oct 17, 2020, at

the Port of Siuslaw in Florence, Lane County during a Big Day. Several lucky birders were able to see this amazing rarity in the following days.

On Feb 28, 2021, a **Winter Wren** was discovered in McDonald Forest near Corvallis, Benton County, by Caleb Centanni and Courtney Kelly Jett. Giving its distinctive call next to the resident Pacific Wrens, this little gem was photographed and recorded by scores of birders over more than a month.

The third new species, a long-overdue **Black Vulture**, was less accommodating. It was photographed by Mick Bressler in Gold Beach, Curry County, on May 17, 2021, but the photo didn't surface until days later, and the bird could not be relocated.

OBRC Annual Meeting - Jul 17, 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was again held remotely via ZOOM, with eight members, one alternate, and the secretary in attendance. In addition to discussing and voting on 12 third-round records, the Committee discussed several business items.

First, all of the old paper records dating back to the Committee's inception in 1978 have been scanned, and most are now available online, thanks to the tireless commitment of Tim Janzen. The storage of duplicate files was discussed. A subcommittee was formed to evaluate the list of subspecies for which the OBRC solicits reports.

Following the subcommittee's suggestions, the list was eventually reduced from 11 to 7 subspecies (“Atlantic” Brant, “Bewick's” Tundra Swan, “Eurasian” Whimbrel, “Vega” Herring Gull, “Siberian” American Pipit, “Timberline” Brewer's Sparrow, “White-winged” Dark-eyed Junco).

Jay Withgott agreed to give a presentation about the OBRC's recent accomplishments at the Western Field Ornithologists' conference in the fall of 2021. For greater transparency, the Committee decided to make votes and voting comments public for accepted and ‘species unresolved’ records while keeping members' names anonymous.

Finally, the Committee owes a debt of gratitude to Bob Lockett, who volunteered to help with the ongoing process of entering all OBRC records into eBird, and who finished the project before the end of the year. While a few minor issues still need to be ironed out, all OBRC records are now part of the eBird database and accessible online. Thank you, Bob!

For additional information about the OBRC and its work, you can visit the Committee's website at: <https://www.oregonbirding.org/oregon-bird-records-committee>.

In addition, you can find the official state checklist, the complete list of species and subspecies for which reports are requested, and a PDF document summarizing all records ever reviewed by the OBRC, with active links to supporting documentation (photographs, videos, and audio files).

Also available are past annual reports published in *Oregon Birds* and the link to an online form for submitting reports to the OBRC.

Records Reviewed in 2021

The species name is followed by the OBRC number, which consists of the four-letter banding code for the species followed by the year the species was observed and the cumulative number of records submitted to the OBRC.

Accepted Records

"Bewick's" Tundra Swan BESW-2021-09

One bird at Miller Island, Klamath Falls, Klamath Co., Feb 28, 2021. Details and photos Elijah Hayes.

Garganey GARG-2021-06

Baskett Slough NWR, Polk Co., May 16, 2021. Details and photos Trent Bray, Andy Frank. Reported on eBird 15-16 May 2021.

Lesser Nighthawk LENI-2021-04

Goose Point, Bay City, Tillamook Co., Apr 6, 2021. Details and photos Aaron Beerman.

Mountain Plover MOPL-2021-16

Siltcoos River estuary, Lane Co., Jan 16, 2021. Details and photos Daniel Farrar. Reported on eBird from Jan 16 — Feb 9, 2021.

Bar-tailed Godwit BTGO-2021-32

On the beach near 56th St. access, Newport, Lincoln Co., May 18, 2021. Details and photos Jon Dachenhaus, Kim Nelson.

Hudsonian Godwit HUGO-2021-36

Fern Ridge WMA, Royal Unit (west end), Lane Co., Aug 8, 2021. Details and photos Vjera Thompson. Reported on eBird 8-11 August 2021.

Red-necked Stint RNST-2021-24

DeLaura Beach access, Clatsop Co., 9 August 2021.
Video by Owen Schmidt.

White-rumped Sandpiper WRSA-2021-09

Eastside of the auto tour route, Summer Lake WMA, Lake Co., Jun 4, 2021. Details and photos Aaron Skirvin.

Wood Sandpiper WOSA 2020-02

Eagle Marsh, Ankeny NWR, Marion Co., 15-17 October 2020. Details and photos Trent Bray, Nels Nelson, Roger Robb, Jack Williamson. Reported on eBird from Oct 14 — Oct 24, 2020.

Ross's Gull ROGU-2021-06

South Jetty Way, Newport, Lincoln Co., Jan 30, 2021. Details Nolan Clements, Carter Strope; photos Nolan Clements.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2020-17

Mouth of Deschutes River from Heritage Landing, Wasco Co., Feb 10, 2021. Details Jay Withgott, Susan Masta; photos Jay Withgott.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2017-18

McNary Dam at Spillway Park, Umatilla Co., Dec 2, 2017. Details and photos Christopher Lindsey.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2021-19

Veterans Park boat launch, Klamath Co., Feb 28 – Mar 1, 2021. Details and photos Dave Haupt, Kevin Spencer, Elijah Hayes.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2020-20

South of Stanfield Meadow Rd., Umatilla Co., Feb 20, 2020. Details and photos Dave Trochlell.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2021-21

Wireless Rd., Clatsop Co., Feb 6, 2021. Details and photos Molly Sultany.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2020-22

D River beach wayside, Lincoln Co., Oct 8, 2020. Details and photos Phil Pickering.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2020-23

D River beach wayside, Lincoln Co., Oct 26, 2020. Details and photos Phil Pickering.

Arctic Loon ARLO-2021-09

One bird flying with 3 Pacific Loons approximately 400 yards offshore, north of Pirate Cove in Depoe Bay, Lincoln Co., May 18, 2021. Details and photos Jerry Ting.

Brown Booby BRBO-2017-23

Six miles off Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., Sep 14, 2017. Bird came out of heavy fog to rest on mast of a commercial fishing boat. Details and photos John Alto.

Brown Booby BRBO-2021-24

Bird perched on a navigation marker, north spit BLM boat launch, Coos Bay, Coos Co., Aug 24 — Dec 11 2021. Details and photos Sabine Berzins, Tim Rodenkirk, Vjera Thompson.

Black Vulture BLVU-2021-01

East harbor, Gold Beach, Curry Co., one flying overhead with Turkey Vultures, May 17, 2021. Details and photos Mick Bressler. First Oregon state record.

Red-bellied Woodpecker RBWO-2020-02

Row River Trail, Lane Co., Jul 18, 2020. Details and photo Wendy Marsigli.

Eastern Phoebe EAPH-2021-36

Off Happy Valley Rd. east of Diamond, Harney Co., May 24, 2021. Details and photos Gerry Meenaghan.

Vermilion Flycatcher VEFL-2021-07

Gerig Rd. at Laura Lane, rural Linn Co., Jan 23, 2021. Details and photos Hendrik Herlyn. Reported on eBird from Jan 20—Feb 1, 2021.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-2020-19

Steens Mtn., Harney Co., Jun 5, 2020. Details, photos, and audio recording Adrian Hinkle.

Philadelphia Vireo PHVI-2020-10

One adult bird at Doris Hassler Davis Memorial Park and Wetland in Manzanita, Tillamook Co., Sep 27, 2020. Details and photos Diana Byrne.

Arctic Warbler ARWA-2020-02

Accepted as Species Unresolved; candidate species Arctic Warbler / Kamchatka Leaf-Warbler / Japanese Leaf-Warbler. One bird was photographed on Salishan Nature Trail, Siletz Bay, Lincoln Co., Sept 26, 2020.

Details and photos Phil Pickering.

Winter Wren WIWR-2021-01

McDonald Forest, Corvallis, Benton Co., Feb 28 – Mar 21, 2021. Details Courtney Kelly Jett, Caleb Centanni, Trent Bray, Jack Maynard; audio recordings Caleb Centanni, Trent Bray, Jack Maynard; photos Jack Maynard). Reported on eBird from 2/28/21 — 4/4/2021. First Oregon state record.

Phainopepla PHAI-2021-14

Bird photographed in a mistletoe-laden oak tree north of Central Point, Denman WMA, Jackson Co., May 23, 2021. Details and photos Tim Johnston.

Oriental Greenfinch OFGR-2020-01

Port of Siuslaw Campground, Lane Co., 17-20 October 2020. Probably female or young male. Details Torrey Gage-Tomlinson, Trent Bray; details and photos Nolan Clements; Tye Jeske. First Oregon state record.

Cassin's Sparrow CASP-2020-02

One bird observed along Bond Rd, West Eugene, Lane Co., 20-22 October 2020. Details Sally Hill, Ramiro Aragon, Tom Crabtree; photos Sally Hill, Tom Crabtree, Tye Jeske, Ramiro Aragon. Reported on eBird from Oct 20 — Oct 26, 2020.

Orchard Oriole OROR-2020-18

Female bird in a residential backyard, often visiting hummingbird feeder. Portland, Multnomah Co., 16-30 December 2020. Details Chris Hinkle, Bob Lockett, Jack Williamson, Trent Bray, Andy Frank, Owen Schmidt; photos Andy Frank, Jack Williamson, Owen Schmidt, Trent Bray. Reported on eBird from Dec 16, 2020 — Feb 6, 2021.

Common Grackle COGR-2021-45

Sunriver Resort, Deschutes Co., 3-10 March 2021, one bird on a golf cart path. Details and photos Milton Vine, Trent Bray; audio recording Trent Bray. Reported on eBird from 3/3/2021 — 3/12/2021.

Canada Warbler CAWA-2021-14

Malheur NWR HQ, Harney Co., 2 September 2021. Details and photos Trent Bray, Don Sutherland.

Painted Bunting PABU-2021-10

One male bird at a residential feeder in Salem, Marion Co., Feb 5, 2021. Details and photos Kristen Eisenman, Donna Hendricks, Nels Nelson. Reported on eBird from Jan 31 – Feb 11, 2021.

Not Accepted

Red-breasted Goose RBGO-2008-01

South of Newberg, Marion Co., Feb 6, 2008. Identity not in question, but origin unknown; could have been an escaped bird.

“Bewick’s” Tundra Swan BESW-2020-08

Pond off Meda Loop Rd, Hwy 101, Tillamook Co., Nov 4, 2020. The Committee felt the bird did not have enough yellow to rule out natural variation within “Whistling” Tundra Swan.

Common Gallinule COGA-2020-16

One bird at Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Burns, Harney Co., Aug 14, 2020. The poor-quality photo did not prove that this was a gallinule and not a juvenile coot.

“Vega” Herring Gull HERG-1987-02

South Jetty Columbia River, Clatsop Co., Apr 22, 1987. The observer submitted four photos of this bird and no report. Committee felt the photos could be of two different birds. The vote was unanimous to not accept photos 1, 2, or 4, but divided on photo 3; the final decision was to not accept, as even that photo was not clear, was over 30 years old, and there were too many unknowns.

“Vega” Herring Gull HERG-2020-07

Netarts Bay, Tillamook Co., Oct 21, 2020. Excellent photos and detailed report; however, the Committee felt this bird’s plumage probably falls well within the broad spectrum of Herring Gull variability.

“Kumlien’s” Iceland Gull ICGU-2020-21

La Grande Wastewater Treatment Ponds, La Grande, Union Co., Dec 20, 2020. The photos were inconclusive, and some committee members felt they did not rule out a small Glaucous Gull.

Black Storm-Petrel BLSP-2020-07

One flying bird at Siltcoos Dunes overlook, Lane Co., Jul 10, 2020. Despite good reports, the Committee felt other similar species just could not be ruled out.

Black-vented Shearwater BVSH-2017-13

Oregon Island NWR, Table Rock overlook, Lincoln Co., Dec 30, 2017. The report was brief and did not provide enough details to rule out other similar species.

Magnificent Frigatebird MAFR-2021-11

Observed flying overhead, Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area east of Reedsport, Douglas Co., Jul 11, 2021. Without photos, information was insufficient to rule out other species.

Blue-footed Booby BFBO-2013-04

Partial carcass retrieved from beach 3 mi, south of

2021 Voting Members

Bob Archer	Adrian Hinkle	Craig Miller
Hendrik Herlyn	Tim Janzen	Nick Mrvelj
Sally Hill	Philip Kline	Jay Withgott

2021 Alternates

Tom Crabtree	Wayne Hoffmann
Jeff Gilligan	Tom McNamara

Secretary	Teresa Hertzell
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Author Biography

Hendrik Herlyn came to Oregon from his native Germany as an exchange student in 1988, fell in love with the Pacific Northwest, and is still living in Corvallis today.

An avid birder since the age of 13, he has birded on five continents, but most of his ornithological focus in the past couple of decades has been on Oregon. He is on his third stint on the OBRC since 1993, having served on the Committee for a total of 13 years now.

In addition, he has held positions on the board of the OBA (then the OFO) and the Audubon Society of Corvallis, is the co-author of the *Handbook of Oregon Birds* (with Alan Contreras) and is a former editor of the *Oregon Birds* journal (together with his husband, Oscar Harper), and one of the current Lincoln County eBird reviewers.

When he is not out birding for fun, he earns his living as a seasonal field ornithologist and freelance technical translator/editor/writer.