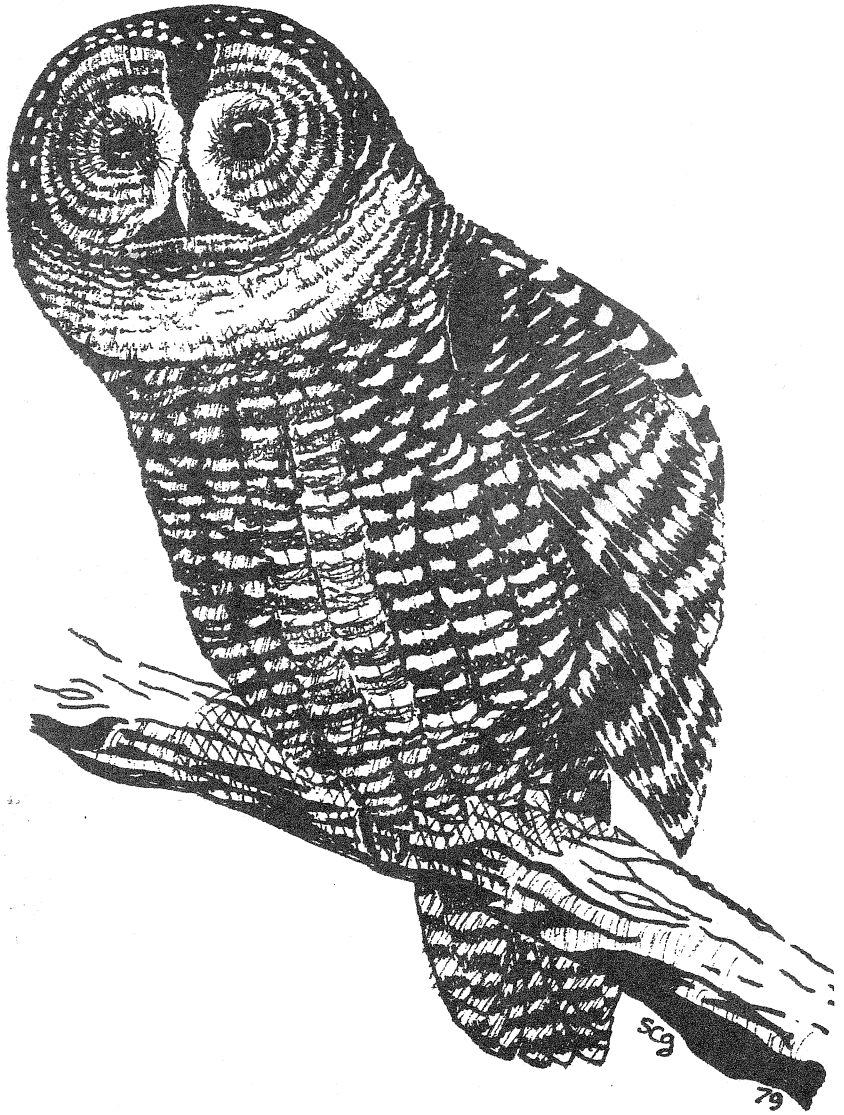


Oregon Birds

Vol. 5, No. 6 — 1979



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Oregon's 1979 Christmas Bird Counts

Jim Carlson and Steve Gordon

The information on this season's Oregon Christmas Bird Counts was provided to Oregon Birds by the count compilers. By having this information in early December, you may plan to participate in one or more CBC's. Two new counts are planned this year, Port Orford and Astoria, raising the state total to 29 counts. At the time of this writing no indication of a revival of the Gold Beach count had been given, and no response for requests for information was received from the Tillamook, Portland, Oakridge, and Corvallis counts.

The 29 probable counts provide a good accounting of Oregon's winter bird distribution with coverage well scattered within the four corners of the state (see map). Twelve count circles are located in eastern Oregon and 17 counts are located in western Oregon with counts planned in five of Oregon's seven coastal counties. The calendar accompanying the map provides a quick glance at the count dates to aid your planning.

The list provides some basic information for the responding counts. The contact person and date are accompanied by meeting place information, the record number of species recorded for the count, and the number of years the count has been conducted. It is interesting to note that 9 of 24 counts listed have been conducted for five years or less and only 9 counts have been conducted for ten years or more. The number of new counts attests to the growing popularity of birding and the value placed on Christmas Bird Counts as a mechanism for obtaining information on the birdlife in a particular area.

Almost every year, exciting new species seem to turn up somewhere in the state. Last year 2 American Avocets (Klamath Falls) 1 Sabine's Gull (Coos Bay), 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, and 1 Hooded Oriole (both Eugene), were new species added to the Oregon CBC list. On individual counts, unusual or unexpected species are frequently observed. Trumpeter Swan (1) and Common Redpoll (1) at Sauvie Island, Oldsquaw (1) at Klamath Falls, Say's Phoebe (1) at Medford, Swainson's Thrush (1) at Oakridge, American Tree Sparrow (1) at Portland, Sage Sparrow (6) at Ruggs-Hardman, and Mockingbird (1 each) at Salem and Tillamook are examples of the surprises which were carefully studied and documented during last year's counts.

One of the most unusual counts in Oregon last year was the Hart Mountain count which recorded 303 Sage Grouse. This new state and national record for Sage Grouse represented about 75% of the 434 total individuals reported on the count! Oakridge's 110 Mountain Quail was the national high for that species (Oakridge has had the national high count for Mountain Quail every year since 1972).

In addition to the 4 new species added to the Oregon list last year, new record numbers for 34 species were established and 7 more were tied. The worth of such records are exemplified in the 15 White-tailed Kites reported in Eugene--a hopeful sign that the Kites are undergoing a healthy expansion of their range into Oregon.

Elsewhere in this issue, articles provide insights into four Oregon counts. Whether it is Spotted Owls at Alma, Harlequin Ducks at Port Orford, Bald Eagles at Upper Nestucca, or American Tree Sparrows at Union County, good birding awaits participants in each of Oregon's counts.

The individual count circles have been carefully planned to cover a particular habitat or to include a wide range of habitats within a particular area. Increased participation can help provide coverage of each and every count in Oregon. Not only does increased coverage increase chances of finding unusual species or a rarity, it helps achieve a greater goal of the Christmas Bird Count; to provide an accurate accounting of the total number of bird species and individuals within the count circle. Professionals and amateurs alike can benefit from the information gathered on the CBC's. End 1979 with a bang or start the new decade on the Cottage Grove count on New Year's Day.

References

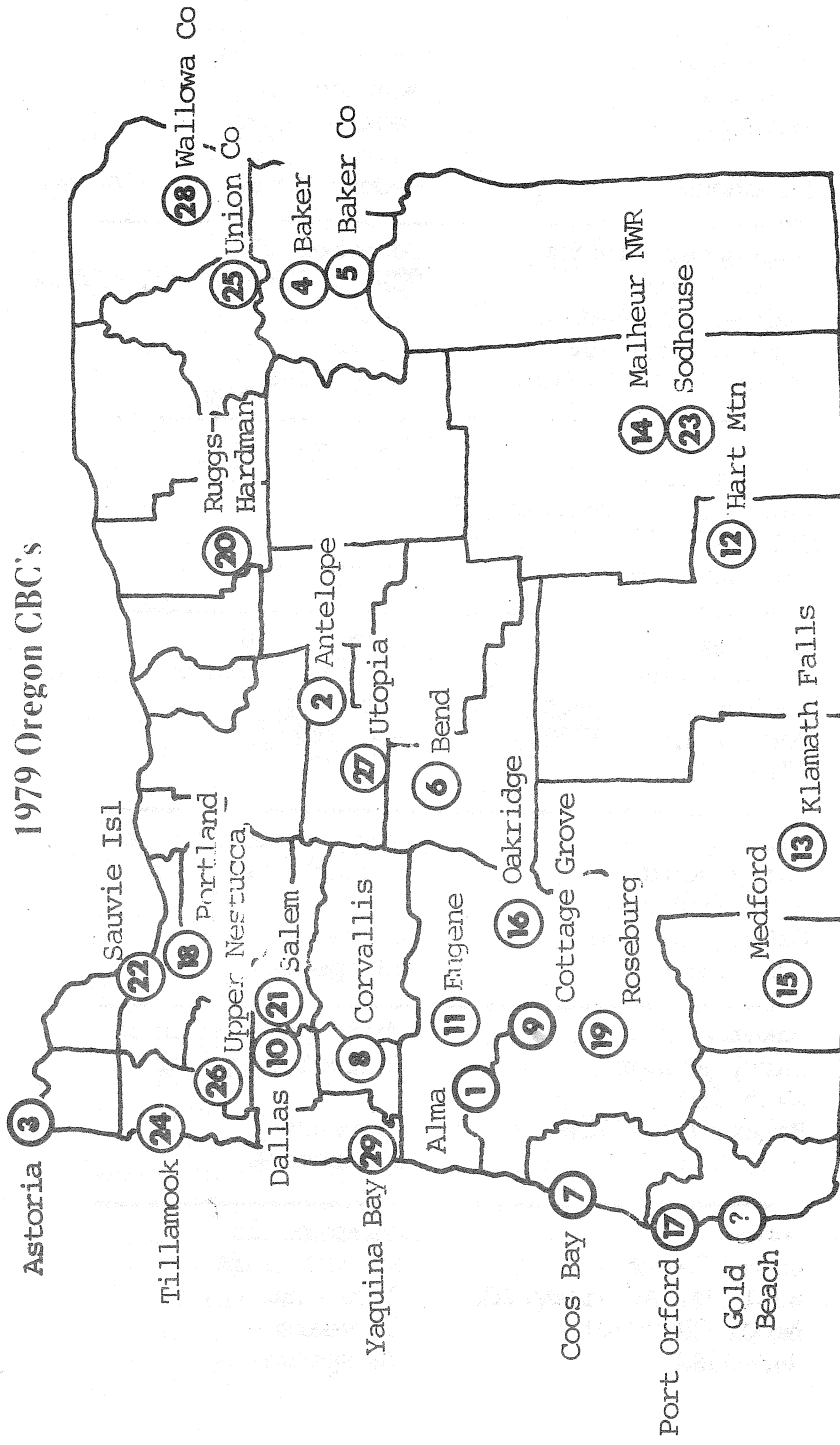
1. Highlights of the 1978 Oregon Christmas Bird Count Results, Oregon Birds Vol. 4, No. 6, December 1978, pg. 1-4.
2. American Birds, Vol. 33, No. 4, July 1979,
 - a. "The Seventy-ninth Audubon Christmas Bird Count", Larry McQueen pg. 348-349.
 - b. The Oregon individual count results pg. 635-642, and
 - c. "Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals for Canada and the U.S.", Burt L. Monroe, Jr. pg. 703-707.

1979 CBC Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
16 3 Astoria 7 Coos Bay 26 Upper Nestucca 27 Utopia 28 Wallowa Co.	17	18 8 Corvallis 23 Sodhouse	19	20 20 Ruggs-Hardman	21 16 Oak-ridge 20 Salem	22 17 Port Orford 20 Salem
23 1 Alma <i>22 Sauvie Island</i>	24	25 Christmas	26	27 10 Dallas	28	29 12 Hart Mtn. 15 Medford 19 Roseburg 29 Yaquina Bay 18 Portland
30 11 Eugene	31 New Year 9 Cottage Grove	1 New Year 9 Cottage Grove				

4 Baker--last weekend in Dec. (29th or 30th)
5 Baker Co. 3rd weekend in Dec. (15th or 16th)

The count numbers correspond to those in the accompanying list.



The count numbers correspond to those in the accompanying list.

Count Name Compiler Address Telephone	1979 Count Date Meeting Place Meeting Time Years Conducted Record Number of Species		
1 Alma-Upper Siuslaw Frank Wagner 1425 W. 8th Avenue Eugene, OR 97402 484-5126 (687-6812)	December 23 VIP's, 12th & Oak, Eugene 6:00 a.m. 2 years 56 species		
2 Antelope Stewart Janes 4700 S.E. Aldercrest Rd. Milwaukie, OR 97222 292-0293	December 15 Willowdale Cafe 4 years 80 species		
3 Astoria David Irons 4005 S.E. Lambert Portland, OR 97202 771-7170	December 16 Astoria Library parking lot 7:30 a.m. New count		
4 Baker Larry Roupf 2815 7th Baker, OR 97814 523-5216	Last weekend in Dec. Contact Compiler 23 years 53 species		
5 Baker County Larry Roupf 2815 7th Baker, OR 97814 523-5216	Third weekend in Dec. Contact Compiler 19 years 31 species		
6 Bend Larry Baker 63011 O. B. Riley Rd. Bend, OR 97701 382-0382	December 15 Pioneer Park 8:00 a.m. 11 years 78 species		
7 Coos Bay Ben J. Fawver 793 Johnson Avenue Coos Bay, OR 97420 267-6485		December 16 Contact Compiler 6 years 151 species	
8 Corvallis Fred Ramsey 2504 N.W. Mulkey Corvallis, OR 97330 753-3677		December 18 Contact compiler or Elzy Eltzroth (752-0666)	
9 Cottage Grove Al Winter 35097 Perkins Cr. Rd. Cottage Grove, OR 97424 942-3714		January 1 Contact Compiler 8 years 86 species	
10 Dallas Herbert L. Hamann 1705 Fair Oaks Way N.W. Salem, OR 97304 363-2778		December 27 HQ Baskett Slough NWR 7:00 a.m. 7 years 92 species	
11 Eugene Steve Gordon 1140 W. 24th Avenue Eugene, OR 97405 344-9591		December 30 Contact Compiler 38 years 130 species	
12 Hart Mountain Ken Voget P. O. Box 111 Lakeview, OR 97630 947-3315 (947-4846)		December 29 CCC Camp (Rae's Cabin), Hart Mt. 7:00 a.m. 6 years 31 species	
13 Klamath Falls Steve Summers 1009 Merryman Drive Klamath Falls, OR 97601 884-1938		December 15 Contact Compiler 9 years 90 species	

- 14 Malheur NWR
Steve Thompson
P. O. Box 113
Burns, OR 97720
December 15
Headquarters
39 years
66 species
-
- 15 Medford
Lois Smith
9906 Table Rock Road
Central Point, OR 97502
826-2819
December 29
Zion Lutheran Church
5:30 p.m. (compilation)
24 years
119 species
-
- 16 Oakridge
Elizabeth Sanders
76542 Davis Street
Oakridge, OR 97463
782-2067
December 28
Greenwaters Park
7:30 p.m., Dec. 27
-
- 17 Port Orford
Dennis Rogers
Star Route Box 151A
Port Orford, OR 97465
332-2555
December 22
Port Orford Elem. Sch.
7:00 p.m., Dec. 21
New count
-
- 18 Portland
James Olson
Contact David Irons
(see Astoria count)
771-7170
December 29
Contact David Irons
-
- 19 Roseburg
Jim Collins
2020 S.W. Burdette
Roseburg, OR 97470
679-9739 (440-3353)
December 29
Contact Fred Parker
(672-1549) or Pete
Vogel (672-2453)
5 years
104 species

- 20 Ruggs-Hardman
Stephen Brownfield
Heppner High School
Heppner, OR 97836
676-9696
December 20
Heppner High School
7:00 a.m.
10 years
65 species
-
- 21 Salem
Gerald B. Smith
4463 Lance Ct. N.E.
Salem, OR 97303
393-3863
December 22
Contact Compiler
11 years
107 species
-
- 22 Sauvie Island
Jeff Gilligan
5333 N.E. 27th Ave.
Portland, OR 97211
287-5305 (221-3057)
December 23
Sauvie Island Bridge
7:15 a.m.
11 years
-
- 23 Sodhouse
Steve Thompson
P. O. Box 113
Burns, OR 97720
December 18
Contact Compiler
1 year
45 species
-
- 24 Tillamook
William Thackaberry
38969 Griggs Drive
Lebanon, OR 97355
258-5422
December 15
Big Cheese Restaurant
6:30 a.m.
15 years
131 species
-
- 25 Union County
Ron Rohweder
1710 2nd Street
La Grande, OR 97850
963-9656 (963-2138)
December 15
USFS Range & Wildlife Lab
7:00 a.m.
3 years
62 species

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| 26 | Upper Nestucca
Larry Scofield, BLM
3550 Liberty Rd. S.
Salem, OR 97302
399-5630 (787-3833) | December 16
High Spot Rest., Willamina
7:30 am (day)/5:00 pm (nt.)
3 years
38 species |
| <hr/> | | |
| 27 | Utopia
Stewart Janes
4700 S.E. Aldercrest Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97222
292-0293 | December 16
USFS Cmpg. Haystack Res.

2 years
90 species |
| <hr/> | | |
| 28 | Wallowa County
Frank Conley
Box 6
Joseph, OR 97846
432-5702 (evenings) | December 16
Circle T Ranch Cafe,
Enterprise 7:00 a.m.
3 years
81 species. |
| <hr/> | | |
| 29 | Yaquina Bay
Paul Reed
326 N.E. 11th
Newport, OR 97365
265-7386 | December 29
Sambo's
6:30 a.m.
6 years
118 species |

Preview: Alma – Upper Siuslaw CBC

Frank Wagner

Centered on the historical community of Alma and located approximately 35 kilometers southwest of Eugene, the Alma-Upper Siuslaw CBC enters its third year.

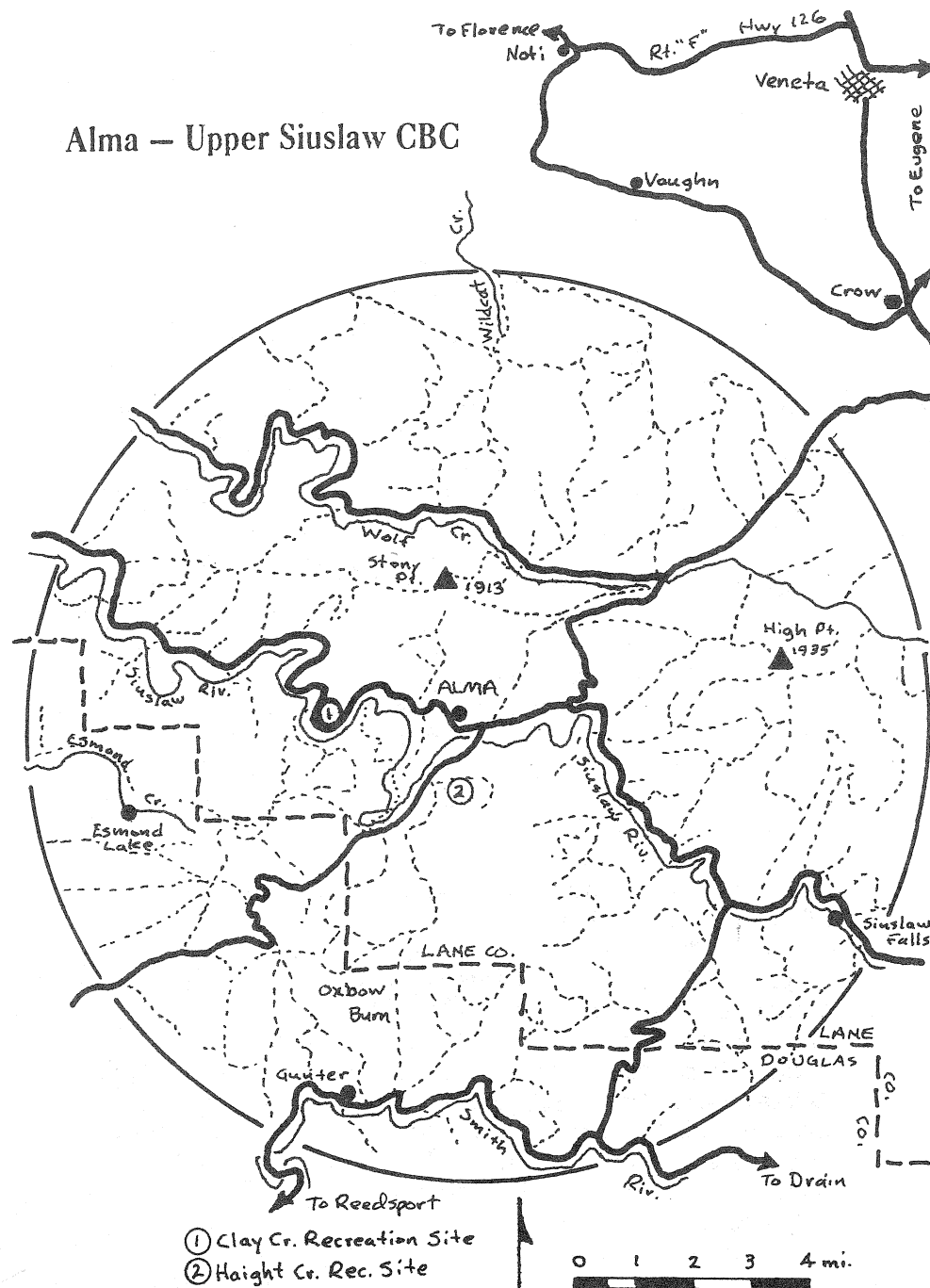
A full range of successional stages of Douglas Fir - Western Hemlock forest in a coast range setting provides a diversity of avian habitats for forest, thicket, brush and edge oriented species. Habitats include open areas of low vegetation, shrub and brush dominated habitats, and stands of conifers which vary widely in structural characteristics according to age and the interaction of vegetation and site. Conifer stands range from dense thickets to simple, even-aged, single canopied second growth to snag-rich, multilayered old growth. The presence of deciduous trees and understory conditions are similarly varied. Extensive riparian areas are a feature of the count area and are represented in all forms including alder thickets, tangles of vine maple and salmon berry, mixed forest, and mesic old growth. The Oxbow burn (1966) occupies a substantial wedge of the count circle.

Count results for the two years have reflected the habitat with Oregon records established for Northern Spotted Owl, Gray Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Winter Wren. Other species recorded in good numbers relative to observer-hours include Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hutton's Vireo, Pygmy Owl and Screech Owl. Other characteristic species include Ruffed Grouse, a variety of resident cavity nesters, Steller's Jay, Bewick's Wren, Varied Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Rufous-sided Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, and Fox and Song Sparrows. Red Phalarope observed during the count week in 1977 and 2 Pine Grosbeak in 1978 were unexpected surprises.

The Alma-Upper Siuslaw CBC offers an opportunity to measure population trends over time as habitat is altered in an area being converted from mature and old growth forest to intensively managed second growth. The capacity of the area to offer high quality habitat for birders is virtually unlimited and we hope you will join us on December 23rd.



Alma - Upper Siuslaw CBC



Preview: Port Orford CBC

Dennis and Jim Rogers

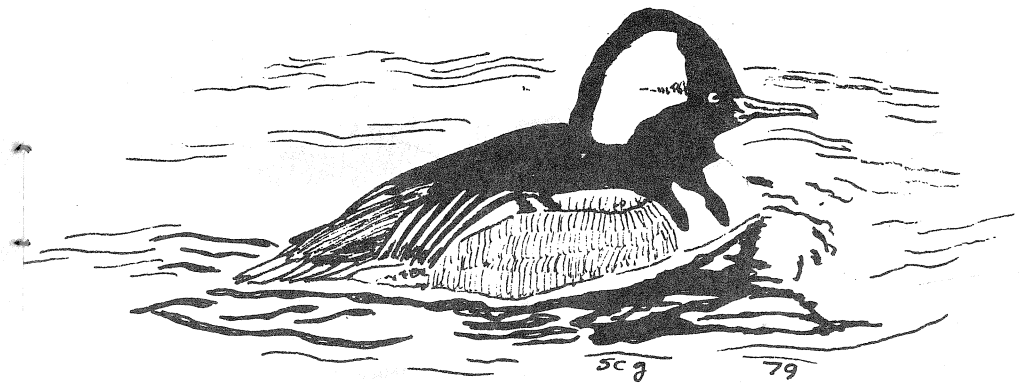
A new count will be held on Saturday, December 22, in the Port Orford vicinity on the southern Oregon coast. The center will be about 500 meters north of Sixes on Highway 101, east of Cape Blanco. The Cape often provides interesting birding, being the westernmost point in Oregon, and almost as far west as one can go in the coterminous United States. An excellent ocean view can be obtained from the 200 foot high tip. A small stand of spruce at the tip is a haven for rare vagrants. This rocky headland, as well as Blackrock Point, The Heads at Port Orford, and Rocky Point are frequented by sizeable numbers of Harlequin Duck, rock pipers, loons, cormorants, scoters, oystercatcher, etc. The Orford Reef and Blanco Reef and open ocean around them should add some good pelagic species, especially if we can persuade a commercial fisherman to spend a day birding rather than crabbing. Oldsquaw, shearwaters, fulmars, auklets, petrels and murrelets are possibilities. A few sea otters inhabit the reefs.

Elk River and Sixes River are home for lots of Dipper and mergansers. Large gull flocks rest at the estuaries. The dozen or so miles of beach might give us Snowy Plover, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin and who knows what rarity that might straggle ashore along this uninhabited coastline. Two freshwater lakes, Garrison and Floras, in the count circle provide wintering habitat for quite a few Hooded Merganser, Green Heron, and all the freshwater ducks found in western Oregon. Much of the surrounding country is mixed pasture and conifer stands as well as very dense evergreen brush and bog. With enough observers, an impressive number of Wrentit is a certainty, plus of course kinglets, chickadees,

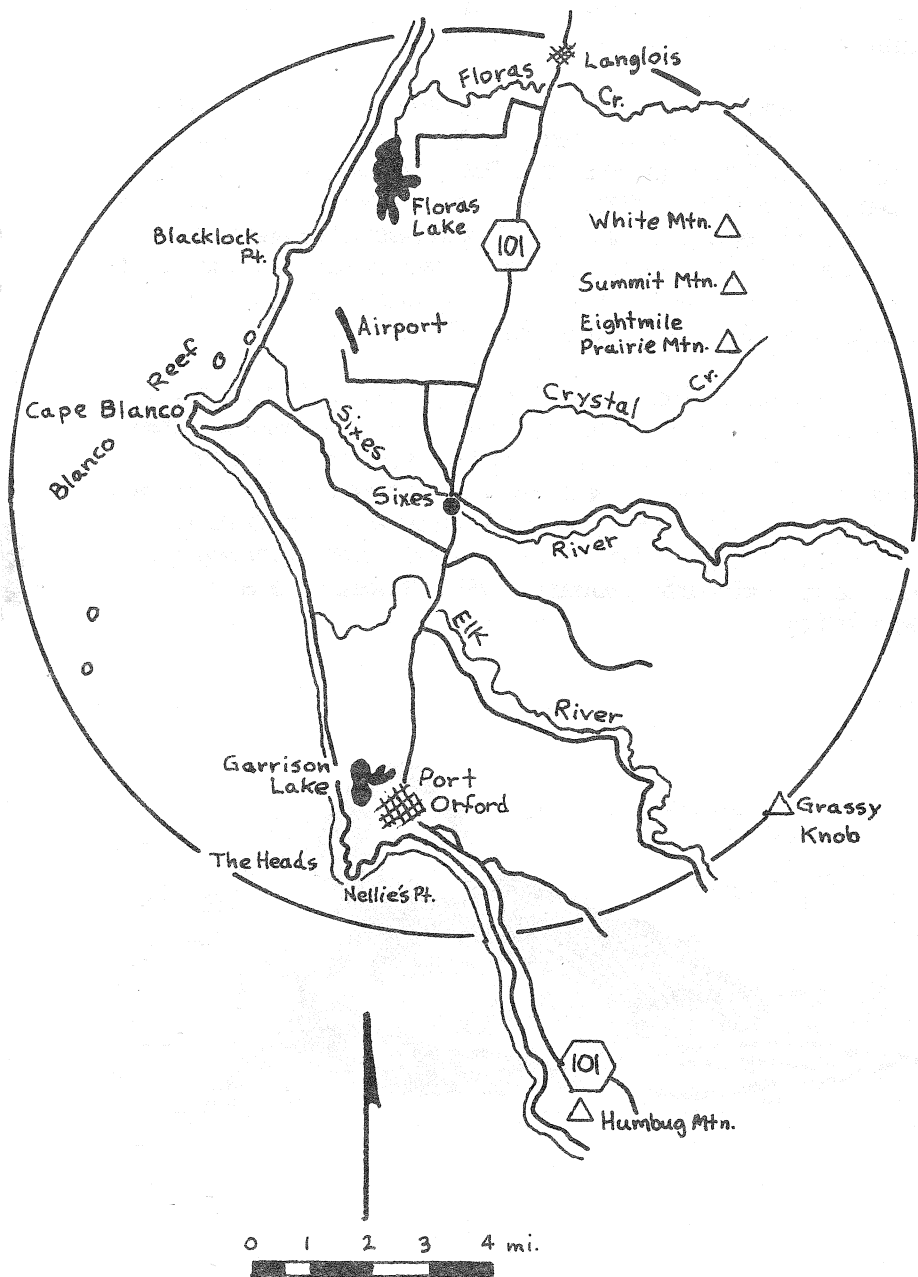
Bushtit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, wrens, and other brush lovers. Feeders in Port Orford have attracted Northern (Bullock's) Oriole and White-throated Sparrow in the winter; Anna's Hummingbirds are common.

A portion of the count circle is in the proposed Grassy Knob Wilderness Area and contains old growth Douglas Fir and Port Orford Cedar, and hopefully a Spotted Owl or two, as well as Great Horned, Screech, Pygmy, and perhaps Saw-whet and Long-eared. Goshawk and Bald Eagle are occasionally seen in this area. Interesting mammals such as Cougar and Ringtail are also found here.

We would very much appreciate the help of as many birders as possible to accurately census the winter bird population in this wild and remote part of the state. Motels and space on the floors of the friendly local inhabitants are available for those of you who might travel long distances. Raingear and warm clothing will likely be a necessity.



Port Orford CBC



Preview: Union County CBC

Joe Fizanich

Contrary to popular belief, the cold, snowy, winter wastes of northeastern Oregon do have birds and probably the best way to become acquainted with them is to participate in one of the north-eastern Christmas Bird Counts. The Wallowa County CBC has many unusual species, but for the long-distance traveler who can only participate in one CBC in this corner of Oregon, the Union County count is the most profitable.

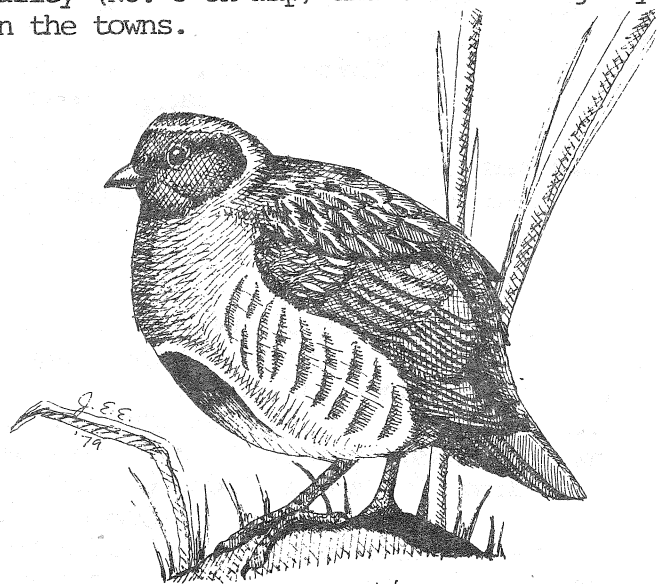
Although the species totals of the Union County count are seldom as high as those of western Oregon (not many White-headed Woodpeckers, Pine Grosbeaks, Gray Partridge, or Clark's Nutcrackers turn up on the Coos Bay or Sauvie Island Counts); a good year (such as the past two) can yield more than 60 species.

When the counts are held, the weather is usually fairly cold (25°- 40°F.), and a few inches of snow are often present. For the past few counts most fresh water was frozen over, but geothermally heated pools and sewage ponds usually harbor concentrations of waterbirds. The effort of counting under sometimes harsh conditions seems to provide one with a real appreciation for the birds found on the count.

The center of the count circle is located about 1.5 miles northwest of the town of Union. Union is best reached by taking Highway 203 southeast from LaGrande for 14 miles. The circle was positioned to include such diverse habitats as freshwater lakes, creeks, thick coniferous forest including, Ponderosa, Lodgepole and Douglas-Fir, brushy hillsides, residential areas, vast open grain fields, deciduous creek bottoms, and marsh. This variety of habitats accommodates a wide variety of bird species.

Although many Oregon birders come on the CBC for the "Big Five" (Gray Partridge, American Tree Sparrow, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll), there are many other species of note: Pygmy Owl and Prairie Falcon are relatively common, Chukar abound, outrageous numbers of Rough-legged Hawk are recorded, and Bohemian Waxwing is practically guaranteed.

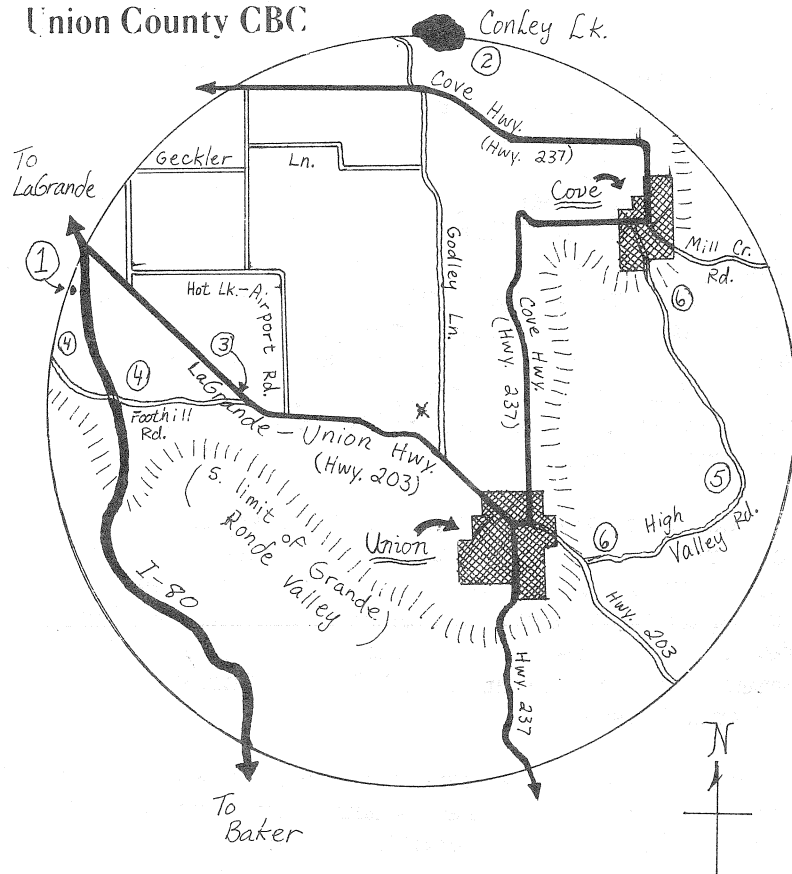
The general habitats and areas within the count circle most likely to yield the five specialities listed above are as follows: Gray Partridge--drive along roads bordering open fields or brushy hillsides; they are common and may show up almost anywhere. American Tree Sparrow--check hedges and willow thickets, especially those away from the towns. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch--strictly open fields and brushy hillsides, especially those along High Valley Road (No. 5 on the map) and lower Highway 203. Pine Grosbeak--hard to generalize, but usually found on the edge of coniferous forests; a flock spent all winter in Union during 1977-78. Common Redpoll--very hard; open fields, especially High Valley (No. 5 on map) and the Cove Highway between the towns.



--Gray Partridge--

The relatively high number of species recorded on the Union County CBC is a result of good coverage of the major habitats as briefly described below. Among the most important are the LaGrande sewage ponds (No. 1), which along with the Conley Lake (No. 2), Hot Lake (No. 3), and sometimes Ladd Marsh (No. 4), provide the only unfrozen bodies of water suitable for water-fowl. The more unusual species found here include Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, and Redhead. The coniferous forest birds such as Pygmy Nuthatch, White-headed Woodpecker, Goshawk, Blue Grouse, and the small owls are best represented in the hills of High Valley (No. 5) and Mill Creek Rd. southeast of Cove. Dippers are fairly common along the swifter, unfrozen streams.

Union County CBC



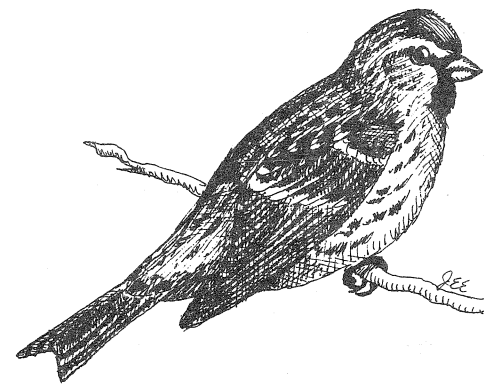
The farmland and fields, which are so prevalent in the Grande Ronde Valley, are best checked via Hot Lake--Airport Rd., Geckler Ln., and the other grid system roads west of Cove. Birds usually recorded here include Snow Bunting, American Tree Sparrow, Gray Partridge, Horned Lark, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, and Short-eared Owl. A habitat found between the fields and the coniferous forest are brushy hillsides which are well represented along Foothill Rd., the lower High Valley Rd. (No. 6), and the Cove Highway between the towns. The Cove Highway is one of the most popular areas with its rolling landscape dotted with stands of trees, homesteads, and rimrock. The list of species found in the farmlands, fields and brushy hillsides is lengthy--Golden Eagle, Rosy Finch (mostly Gray-crowned, but Black is possible), Chukar, Common Redpoll, Gray Partridge, Goshawk, and Pygmy Owl to name a few.

The residential areas in Union and Cove provide opportunities for adding a few House Sparrows, American Robins, Rock Doves, and some unusual species in the past few years; as mentioned earlier, a flock of Pine Grosbeaks wintered in downtown Union in 1977-78, and this winter it looks as though a pair of Blue Jays may do the same. Bohemian Waxwings abound in the towns during the winter.

The last major habitat is the marshes of Ladd Marsh (No. 4). Since most of the water is either frozen or simply absent during winter, Ladd Marsh is generally unproductive except for a few brave ducks, geese, and Marsh Hawks. However, in the winter of 1978-79 a Snowy Owl was found here.

The roads on the map are almost always open during winter, and there is ample gas, food, and lodging in Union, Cove and LaGrande.

The count is sponsored by the Grande Ronde Bird Club, located in LaGrande. An average of about 15 people take part in the count which was first held 4 years ago. Anyone interested in participating should contact the count compiler, Ron Rohweder. We hope you will join us in the northeastern corner on Saturday, December 15th for the Union County CBC!



--Common Redpoll--

Preview: Upper Nestucca CBC

Larry Scofield

The Upper Nestucca Christmas Bird Count was developed three years ago by the Salem, Oregon, chapter of the Audubon Society and the Salem District of the Bureau of Land Management, to obtain information on owls and other nocturnal birds in the Coast Range Mountains. The original purpose was to develop a coordinated and regulated winter schedule for scientific determinations of owl behavior at a season in which little is known about owl biology, especially Northern Spotted Owl behavior. An area in the Coast Range Mountains fifteen miles west of McMinnville was chosen for the count because of the known concentration of Spotted Owl families.

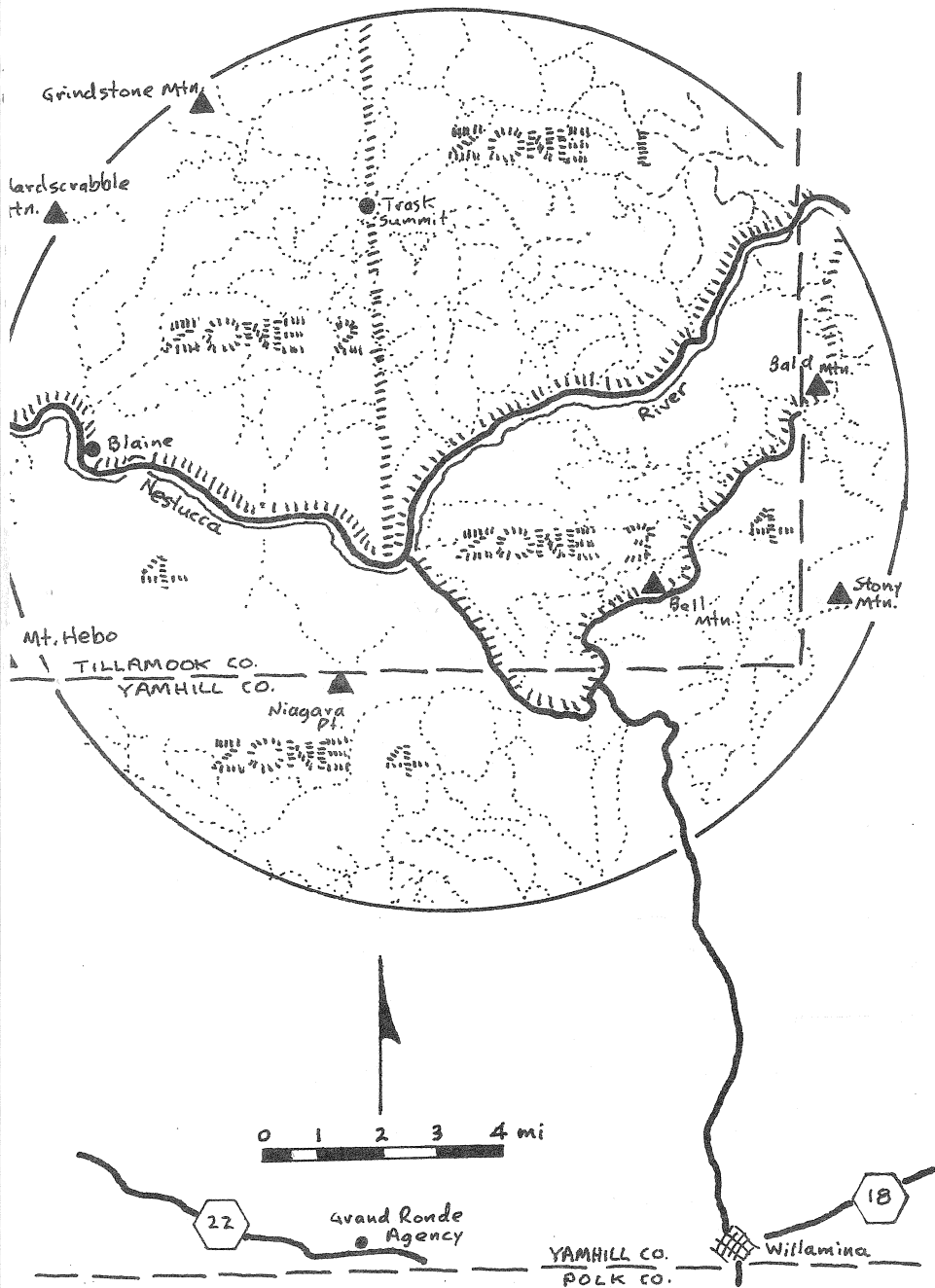
The territory indigenous to this count extends from upland farms, fields, pastures, and woodlots to wild and rugged mountain areas (elevation 300 to 2,603 ft.). The count is unusual in that the four zones in the count circle are in different types of elevational plant communities (some zones contain this change within their own boundaries). Zone 1 contains mid-montane coniferous forest and mountain rivers and streams; Zone 2 contains lowland farm units and makes a transition from lowlands to high coast range mountain peaks; Zone 3 is made up of rugged (high elevation) coast range mountain wilderness-type coniferous habitat (including high mountain streams and wet areas); Zone 4 is made up mostly of upland (back country) farms, pastures, fields, and mixed forest, but the zone does make a transition into the upper foothills. Naturally, more birds are found in the lowlands than are found in the highlands because of thermal distribution requirements among birds in the winter. The type of terrain, vegetative cover,

weather patterns, and remoteness of the area are also characteristics that influence the types of birds found here. The habitat in winter is mostly typical for upland game birds, woodland small birds, Spotted Owl old-growth habitat, woodland stream (water) birds, and Bald Eagle habitat. Bald Eagles over-wintered on Elk Creek in Zone 1 during the winter of 1978-79, and these were readily observed before and during the count in December, 1978. Spotted Owl habitat is found in all of the zones, but mostly in Zone 3. The Nestucca River and tributaries hold many surprises in the way of water birds, such as upland ducks, or mergansers, and the Dipper (or Water Ouzel). Zone 2 has western limits not too far from the coast and weather patterns sometimes drive birds (normally seen in the coastal influence) upriver to within the Upper Nestucca count circle.

Weather patterns are also sometimes quite rugged within the count circle. The weather is less severe at the lower elevations and becomes more rugged (at least normally) as one moves to the higher areas. Snow conditions have been encountered during the second and third year for this count at higher elevations, but with lesser difficulty in the lowlands. No snow conditions were encountered on the first year of the count at any elevation. So, the weather can be variable.

Eight observers turned out for the count in 1976 and 1977. The number of observers increased to ten in 1978. Observers have an option to attend the day survey or the night survey, and some observers attend both. The High Spot Restaurant in Willamina, Oregon, has always been the gathering place for the count crews (7:30 a.m. day crew; 5:00 p.m. night crew). Count day is December 16, 1979. We would like to increase our participation in this count. If you are a rugged, pioneering type, looking for adventure, please turn out for this count.

Upper Nestucca CBC



1979 Coastal Birding Weekend

Alan Contreras

The fourth annual Oregon Coast Birding Weekend (CBW) was held on August 25 and 26, 1979, and produced the highest turnout and most thorough coverage yet of Oregon's coastal birding areas.

Fifteen areas were censused, from the South Jetty of the Columbia to Gold Beach. Thirty-three observers participated in this year's census, although no pelagic trip was included this year. Observers covered the following areas:

A CLATSOP COUNTY:

1. SJCR. Harry Nehls, Joe Evanich, Dave Irons, Tom Crabtree, Owen Schmidt

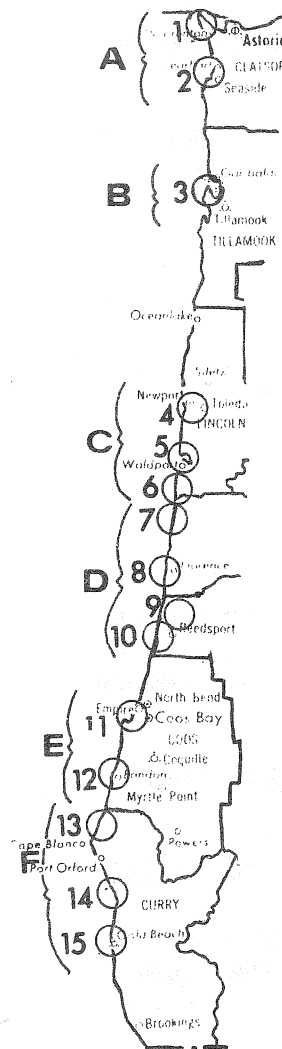
2. Seaside Area. S. E. Denny, Angela Corelis

B TILLAMOOK COUNTY:

3. Tillamook Bay, Cape Meares, Netarts Bay. R. W. Loehning, Jaylen Jones, Bob Lucas, Louise Lucas, Jim Carlson, Judy Carlson

C LINCOLN COUNTY:

4. Yaquina Bay. Bob Olson, Paul Reed, Steve Gordon, Mark Egger, Jim Carlson, Judy Carlson, Elzy Eltzroth, Elsie Eltzroth, Arnie Martin, Debbie Martin



5. Alsea Bay. Mark Egger
6. Yachats Area. Doug Lorain, Margaret Markley

D LANE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES:

7. Heceta Head Area. Doug Lorain, Margaret Markley, Mary Forrester
8. Florence Area. Margaret Markley, Mary Forrester
9. Smith River Flats. Nancy Brown, Sarah Thurman
10. Reedsport Area. Nancy Brown, Sarah Thurman, Mike Patterson

E COOS COUNTY:

11. Coos Bay Area. Alan Contreras, Eva Schultz, Mike Patterson
12. Bandon Area. Ben Fawver

F CURRY COUNTY:

13. Sixes River. Dennis Rogers, Jim Rogers
14. Euchre Creek. Dennis Rogers, Jim Rogers, Alice Parker, Fred Parker
15. Gold Beach. Dennis Rogers, Jim Rogers, Alice Parker, Fred Parker

Noteworthy records from the 1979 CBW include:

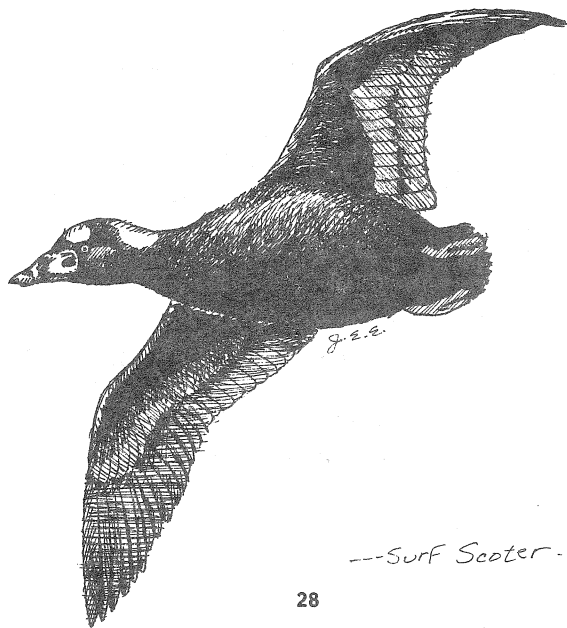
- * An increase in Sooty Shearwater numbers off the northern coast, from 350 in 1978 to over 3/4 million in 1979.

- * A substantial increase in Brown Pelicans on the northern coast, from 69 to 151.
- * An increase in Semipalmated Plovers counted on the northern coast, from 268 to 572.
- * An increase in both species of turnstone.
- * The occurrence of Long-billed Curlews at Newport and Coos Bay. The species has been very unusual on the Oregon coast; recent years have seen a slight increase in their frequency of appearance.
- * A substantial increase in the numbers of Whimbrels seen, on the coast north of Coos County, from 10 to 49.
- * A substantial increase in Least and Western Sandpipers, and both dowitchers.
- * Fewer Marbled Godwits, from 41 on the north coast to 19.
- * Far fewer phalaropes, probably due to the lack of a pelagic trip.
- * An increase in Sanderlings, from 1978's ridiculous 6 to well over a thousand.
- * The occurrence of Oregon's first photo-documented Little Gull. The bird was first found August 11 by Lars Norgren, and remained at least through September. Photos on file with the Oregon Bird Records Committee.
- * Gulls. It is clear that most Oregon observers, myself included, need a course in gull identification. It is unlikely that more than a few Herring or Thayer's Gulls are in Oregon in August, yet hundreds, even thousands, are reported on the CBW. To avoid providing

researchers with inconsistent data, I have refused to include any reports of those species.

- * Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were quite low, a trend which has continued into the fall at some traditional locations.
- * Numbers of Heermann's Gulls were similar on the northern coast, showing a slight increase.
- * A huge flock of *sterna* terns was in lower Coos Bay, and it proved on close examination to be mostly Arctic Terns, with very few Common. This is the reverse of the normal Coos Bay pattern.
- * Of note among the list of non-shorebirds were a Mockingbird found at Nesika Beach, Curry County, by the Rogers and an Ash-throated Flycatcher found at South Beach, Lincoln County, by Mark Egger.

The comparisons of 1978 and 1979 data are for the "northern coast" because the 1978 CBW included no reports from Coos or Curry Counties.



---Surf Scoter---

	A	B	C	D	E	F	TOTALS
Common Loon	3	8		15		1	27
Arctic Loon	31	15		2		9	57
Red-throated Loon	5	1	1	1		2	10
Horned Grebe	6	1					7
Western Grebe	106		20	40	6		166
Pied-billed Grebe	5	6					17
Sooty Shearwater	755,300	20,000					775,300
Brown Pelican	4	109	38	0	9	217	362
Adult		(39)	(12)			(53)	(104)
Innate	(4)	(70)	(11)		(9)	(164)	(258)
Double-crested Cormorant	54	200	10	98	40	201	603
Brandt's Cormorant	210	180	100	512	33	120	1,155
Pelagic Cormorant	15	25	10	84	369	607	1,110
Great Blue Heron	16	93	200	28	49	8	197
Green Heron	3	2	2	7		1	15
Great Egret			3	43	19	1	66
American Bittern	2						2
American Coot		14	2				16
Black Oystercatcher			6	1	7	7	21
Semipalmated Plover	165	400	7	40	7	7	619
Snowy Plover					2		2
Killdeer	30	2	10	6	16	32	96
American Golden Plover	3						3
Black-bellied Plover	1	5	30	3	45	1	85

The Grasshopper Sparrows of The Willamette Valley

Larry McQueen

The Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum) has a meager history in Oregon (see Gabrielson and Jewett, Birds of the Pacific Northwest, Dover Publications, Inc., 1970, page 561*). Its discovery as a nesting species in the Willamette Valley in 1972, has no precedent. Even recent sight records elsewhere in the state are scanty. With the possible exception of the Medford area, the only breeding evidence comes from two sites in grassy fields near Fern Ridge Reservoir.

The following chronicle, taken from my field notes, reveals their discovery at those sites.

- 5/21/72 Discovered on the Eugene May Bird Count near the mouth of the Amazon channel at Fern Ridge. Bird was singing from a fence post. Return visit 5/30 found it in the same place.
- 6/ 2/72 Found female in same area. Found nest with 4 eggs, well concealed at base of grass clump.
- 6/ 4/72 Nest still with eggs. Another pair found on Cantrell Road, just a few miles to the south and east of the Amazon site. Male singing; both adults perched on fence posts along road.
- 6/ 7/72 Amazon nest destroyed by predator (musky odor indicated fox). Collected remains of nest and egg shells. Parent birds excited, male singing. A pair was found in July in the same territory, feeding young.

6/18/72 Chip Jobanek located a singing bird near Walterville, about 5 miles from eastern limits of Springfield, next to EWEB storage pond.

To my knowledge, the Grasshopper Sparrow was never found at the Amazon site again, but several pair were in evidence at Cantrell Road nearly every year. Here males sang from fields on both sides of the road. In spring of 1974, the field south of the road was plowed and most of the prime habitat was thereby destroyed. A singing male remained on the north side of the road, but the sparrow could not be found in 1975. However, April 16, 1975, Jon Janosik found one (dead) near Buena Vista (just south of Salem), and later in the month he found many more in rye grass and wheat fields. This was perhaps a migrating group, as I have no further records from that area. The remaining habitat on Cantrell Road had not been checked by me until this year. In May and June, 1979, a pair was established in a small patch of uncultivated land, a remnant of former habitat. It can be presumed that the pair nested here.

Grasshopper Sparrow nesting habitat, as noted for this area, is extremely consistent. Open fields of short grass with scattered bushes from which the male sings, is the chosen situation. Sometimes tall grass is mixed in, and often the terrain is sloped or slightly irregular. In this area, rose bush is predominant, but ash tree saplings are often present, as are fence posts and occasional brush piles, which also provide singing perches. Similar habitat in flat areas has been searched locally, and without success, so it appears that irregular terrain is important.

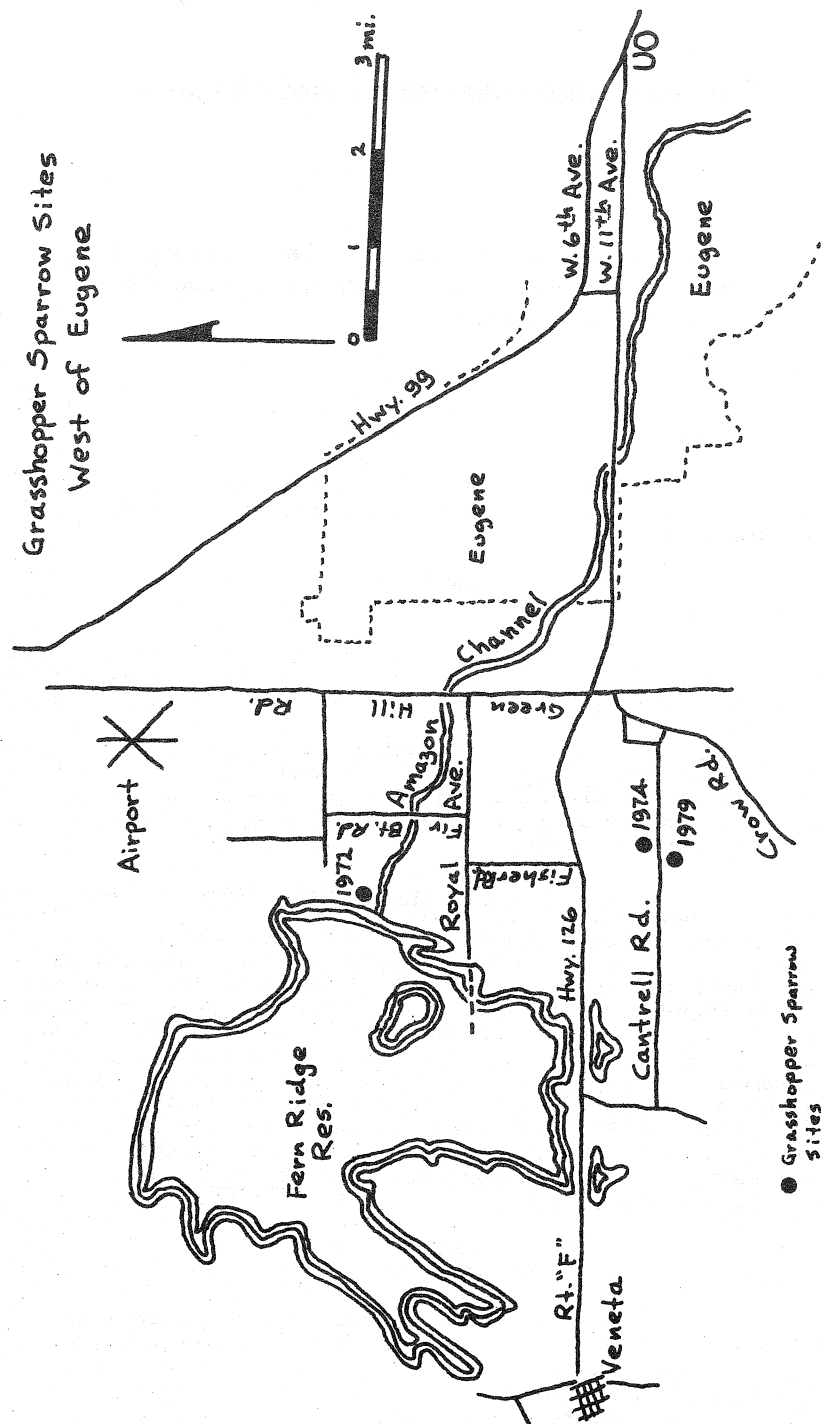
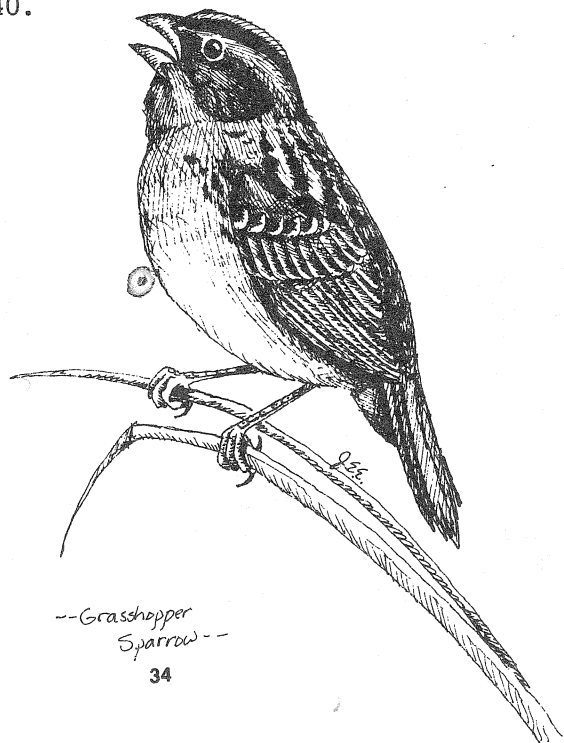
Commonly associated bird species in the same habitat, include, in descending order of abundance: Savannah Sparrow, Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Western Meadowlark, Yellowthroat,

and Western Kingbird. No interspecific aggression had been observed, except on one occasion, when a male Yellowthroat chased the "Amazon" female and kept her from perching in the rose bushes.

A map is here provided, showing the sites near Fern Ridge. If present, the birds can usually be found by listening for the simple, buzzy, territorial song, which differs perceptively from the Savannah's divided song. One word of caution, at the Cantrell Road site, the birds could be observed from the road during the nesting season. The species is at a precarious existence in Western Oregon, at least. Please do not walk within the birds habitat, as it is not worth jeopardizing nesting success for another list record.

Please send additional records of Grasshopper Sparrow to: L. B. McQueen, 2175 Agate St., Eugene, Oregon 97403.

*Formerly, Birds of Oregon, Oregon State University, 1940.



Proposed Statewide Organization Bylaws

Jim Carlson

These draft bylaws will be considered for adoption by the statewide organization on February 2 in Eugene.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, hereinafter referred to as the "organization".

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

1. Requirements. Any person or other organization interested in the educational or scientific aspects of field ornithology may become a member upon payment of dues.

2. Rights. All members have the right to receive the publication Oregon Birds, to attend field trips and meetings of the organization, and to vote at the annual meeting. Each member shall be entitled to one vote, which must be cast in person.

3. Classes and Dues. The classes of membership in the organization and annual dues for each class shall be determined by the Board of Directors. All memberships expire at midnight, December 31, each year. Members who have not paid their annual dues by March 31 for a new year are delinquent. They shall lose their rights of membership at that date. Payment of dues at any time before October 1 will establish membership for the current year with rights of membership commencing on the date of payment. Back issues of Oregon Birds for the current year will be provided if available. Payment after October 1 will establish membership for the succeeding year, but all rights of membership including subscription to Oregon Birds will start on date of payment.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Powers. The control of the property and the conduct of the business and administrative affairs of the organization shall be vested in a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the "Board". The Board may delegate appropriate responsibility and authority to officers or committees to carry out specific duties.

2. Composition. The Board shall be composed of the elected officers and four directors elected at large. Only members of the organization in good standing shall be members of the Board. Broad geographic representation shall be sought in the Board.

3. Meetings. The Board shall meet at least once annually, preferably at a time and place conveniently close to the annual meeting of the organization, and at such other times as may seem necessary, on call of the President.

4. Notices. Notice of any special meeting of the Board shall be given to all Board members at least five days in advance.

5. Quorum. At any meeting of the Board, a quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board.

6. Vacancies. The Board shall appoint officers or directors to fill a vacancy which may arise. Such appointment shall be by simple majority of the remaining members of the Board, even though less than a quorum. An officer or director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of that position and until a successor is elected.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

1. Offices. The officers of the organization shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer.

2. Election and Term of Office. Officers shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting. They shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors are elected. They may be re-elected, but to no more than three consecutive terms in any one office. They take office at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they were elected.

3. President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the organization. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board, at which he is present.

4. Secretary. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the organization and of the Board and preside at meetings in the absence of the President. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of these meetings as well as the reports submitted by officers or committee chairmen and

other such records as the organization may have, and transmit them to the successor. The Secretary shall provide each member of the Board with the minutes of the last meeting and with the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep the organization's funds. The Treasurer shall disburse the organization's funds or its checks as the Board may direct or approve, taking proper vouchers therefor.

ARTICLE V DIRECTORS

1. Number, Election and Term. There shall be four directors elected on a staggered basis, each for a term of two years, so that two will be elected each year, except the first year. Directors may be re-elected to no more than two consecutive terms. They take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the members shall be held during each calendar year, at a time and place set by the Board, for the purpose of electing officers and directors, and for transacting such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given to members at least 60 days in advance.

2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called, as determined by the Board, with notice given to all members at least 15 days in advance.

3. Quorum. Twenty-five members in good standing, present in person, shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the general membership.

ARTICLE VII PUBLICATIONS

1. General. The official periodical of the organization is Oregon Birds. Special publications may also be issued.

2. Editor. The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint an Editor of Oregon Birds. Subject to Board approval, the Editor shall have the responsibility and authority necessary for the preparation and publication of Oregon Birds.

3. Publications Committee. The Editor shall appoint and direct members of the Publications Committee and any assistants, with the approval of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

1. Establishment. The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint chairmen of committees as seems appropriate for the activities of the organization.

2. Membership. The chairmen of the organization's committees shall be members in good standing, but need not be officers or directors. The chairmen will appoint the other members of their committees who shall be members of the organization unless approval for a non-member to serve is given by the Board. Because of the special nature of the responsibilities of the Oregon Bird Records Committee, the members of this committee shall be appointed by the Board.

3. Rules. Each committee, for its own government, may adopt rules and procedures not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board.

ARTICLE IX BYLAWS

1. Amendment. The Bylaws may be amended or added to by a majority vote of the members attending the annual meeting, at the annual meeting. New Bylaws and amendments shall be published in Oregon Birds.

2. Distribution. Every new officer and director shall receive a copy of the current Bylaws.

ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

1. Rules. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the organization.

Distribution of 1979 SWOC Membership

Steve Gordon

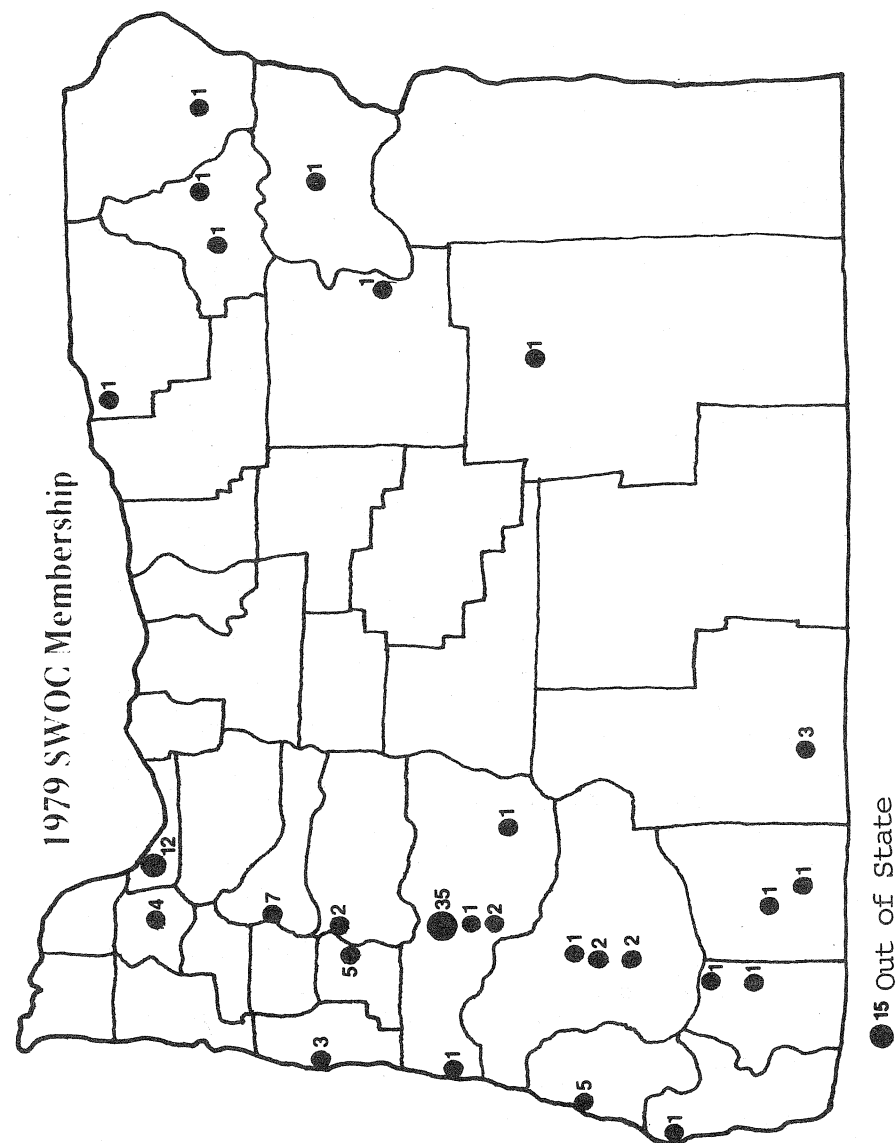
Membership in the Southern Willamette Ornithological Club (including subscription to SWOC's publication, Oregon Birds) totaled 113 for calendar year 1979. As is to be suspected, since SWOC serves a function as a local bird club, the Eugene area is still the center of membership with 35 members (31% of the total).

The distribution of membership (see map) closely parallels the distribution of population in Oregon with 90% of the Oregon members located west of and 10% located east of the Cascades. The following table summarizes the membership distribution.

	No.	% of Total	% of Oregon Total
Willamette Valley	69	61	71
Southern Oregon	9	8	9
Coastal Oregon	10	9	10
Eastern Oregon	10	9	10
Oregon Subtotal	98	87	100
Out of State	15	13	
Total Membership	113	100	

A lack of membership from the northwest corner and the central-eastern Oregon counties is somewhat discouraging since these regions are heavily birded and birders are located in these counties. The lack of members from the sparsely populated north-central region is not totally unexpected.

Broadening membership in the new statewide organization will be a challenge in 1980.



Editor's Note

This is the last 1979 issue of Oregon Birds. For a variety of reasons we fell behind in publication of the 1978 issues, and Vol.5, No. 6 is actually the ninth issue to be sent to our membership in the past 12 months. We have attempted to improve the quality of the publication during this past year, and we hope you have enjoyed the expanded use of illustrations, the introduction of photographs, the standardized format, the recent change in reporting field notes, and the continued variety and quality of articles submitted to us by authors interested in Oregon's birds. We have tried to achieve two of our goals; 1) to disseminate information concerning Oregon's birds and, 2) to improve communication among Oregon's birding community.

For the past few years, the sixth issue has been distributed in the early part of the following year in order to provide early reporting of Oregon Christmas Bird Count results. This year we have opted for completing 1979's obligations during the current calendar year so the Board of Directors of the proposed statewide organization will have a clean slate when they determine the direction and editorial policies for Oregon Birds in 1980.

We encourage each of you to consider coming to Eugene on February 2nd and 3rd, 1980 to participate in forming the statewide birding organization. The proposal for this meeting was presented in Vol 5, No. 5 and draft bylaws for Oregon Field Ornithologists (the proposed name) are contained elsewhere in this issue. We plan to combine the business portion of that weekend with several, exciting field trips in the Eugene area. Don Roberson and Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt have both

tentatively agreed to attend and make presentations. We plan to have Mr. Roberson present a workshop on gull and shorebird identification, and Dr. Mewaldt, a professor at San Jose State University, has offered to speak on his work at Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. These and other events will make your attendance worthwhile. In early January, you will receive a special packet containing more details concerning the meeting.

We have again attempted to obtain all the pre-CBC information for Oregon and provide it (elsewhere in this issue) to our membership in a timely fashion. We think you'll enjoy the special previews of four interesting Oregon CBC's and we encourage you to participate in your local CBC. Participation in a count outside your own area provides an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with other birders and the birds of another region.

Special thanks for help during 1979 go to Joe Evanich for providing pen and ink drawings—including four cover illustrations; to Kathy Blissenbach at the Oregon Daily Emerald for help above and beyond the normal call of duty in providing typesetting services; to the always friendly staff at the University of Oregon Press for their work in printing Oregon Birds; to the authors who took time to share with others their knowledge of Oregon's birds; to Alan Contreras who has a true love for Oregon's birds, Oregon's birders, and Oregon Birds and for his work as the first secretary for the Oregon Bird Records Committee; to Clarice Watson for her work on Oregon Field Notes and for volunteering to act as new secretary for the Records Committee; and to our members (a 1979 roster is inserted) who make our labor of love possible. If you have enjoyed Oregon Birds during 1979, we hope you'll someday meet and thank Judy Carlson. She has done the bulk of the 1979 typing and is largely responsible

for the improved appearance. She deserves a very special thanks for the many hours she devoted to the perfection of the publication.

As a last note, until the Board of Directors meets in February and establishes new policies, we won't know about dues. Please wait until you receive notice before sending 1980 dues.

Enjoy the Christmas Bird Counts and good birding in 1980!



Green Heron
(*Butorides virescens*)

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