

Oregon Bird Records Committee: 2023 Report

*By Tim Janzen, Chairman of the
Oregon Bird Records Committee*

The Oregon Bird Records Committee finalized review of a total of 45 records in 2023, all of which were first-time submissions. Of these, 35 records were accepted and 10 were not accepted. Most submissions (34, or 75.6%) were supported either by photos (32) or sound records (2), and 32 of these 34 records (94.1%) were accepted. Of the 11 sight-only or heard-only records reviewed, 3 (27.3%) were accepted. The 10 records not accepted included one accompanied by photos, one accompanied by a sound recording, six sight-only submissions and two heard-only submissions.



Tim Janzen

The county breakdown of accepted records shows that most were from Coos County and Harney County with five each, followed by Lane and Multnomah counties with three each. Curry, Jackson, Lake, and Polk counties had two each, while Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Deschutes, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Marion, Sherman, and Tillamook counties each had one.

The Committee added one species to the Oregon state list in 2023: Field Sparrow. Details of the discovery of the Field Sparrow at the Monmouth Sewage Ponds can be found in *Oregon Birds* 49(1): 10-11.

One species was removed from the state list in 2023: Cordilleran Flycatcher was lumped with Pacific-slope Flycatcher by the American Ornithological Society in 2023, returning these taxa to their former taxonomic species identity of Western Flycatcher.

Through the end of 2023, Oregon's state total stood at 547 species, behind only California (685), Texas (666), Arizona (571), and New Mexico (555).

The Committee members in 2023, with the year their terms expire, were:

Hendrik Herlyn (2023)
Tim Janzen (2023)
Nick Mrvelj (2023)
Nolan Clements (2024)

Philip Kline (2024)
Russ Namitz (2024)
Bob Archer (2025)
Daniel Farrar (2025)
Rachael Frieze (2025)

The alternates, who serve one-year terms, were:

Tom Crabtree
Craig Miller

The Secretary in 2023 was Teresa Hertzell.



This Field Sparrow at Monmouth Sewage Pond, found by Brandon Wagner, was the only species to be added to the Oregon state list in 2023. *Photo by Jack Williamson.*

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Common Eider COEI-2023-05

Bandon, Coos County, Jan 1–Feb 18, 2023. Details and photos by Dave Irons, Shawneen Finnegan, Eric Pratt, Andrew Pratt, Sylvia Maulding, and Tim Rodenkirk. Details by Nels Nelson, Kaplan Yalcin, and Coleen Pidgeon.

Hudsonian Godwit HUGO-2023-39

Ankeny NWR, Marion County, Sep 1, 2023. Details and photos by Roger Robb.

Little Stint LIST-23-11

Broughton Beach, Multnomah County, Aug 7-8, 2023. Details and photos by Andy Frank and Kyle Landstra. Details by Shawneen Finnegan and Trent Bray.

Laughing Gull LAGU-2023-13

Cannon Beach, Clatsop County, May 25-26, 2023. Reports and photos by Diana Byrne and Dave Irons.



This Pine Warbler at Klamath Falls was only the third record accepted for the state of Oregon. Previous records were in 1986 in Curry County and 2008 in Union County. *Photo by Kyle Landstra.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2022-29

Harbor View Park, Portland, Multnomah County, Oct 17, 2022. Details and photos by Nick Mrvelj.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2022-30

Clackamette Park, Oregon City, Clackamas County, Dec 23, 2022. Details and photos by Lorin Wilkerson.

Lesser Black-backed Gull LBBG-2023-31

Deschutes River State Recreation Area, Sherman County, Mar 31, 2023. Details and photos by Joshua Meyers and Linnaea Basden.

Slaty-backed Gull SBAG-2022-15

Bastendorff Beach, Coos County, Nov 5, 2022. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk.

Least Tern LETE-2023-14

Baskett Slough NWR, Polk County, Jun 5, 2023. Details and photos by Dave Irons, Susan Kirkbride, and Jonathan Reimer-Berg. Video by Jonathan Reimer-Berg.

Least Tern LETE-2023-15

Whetstone Pond, Denman WMA, Jackson County, May 29, 2023. Details and Photo by Gloria Beerman.

Nazca Booby NABO-2023-05

Bandon, Coos County, Feb 6, 2023. Ill bird found by Karen Saxton. Details and photos by Dulce Havill, Tim Rodenkirk, Dave Lauten, and Kathy Castelein.

Booby, species unresolved BOOBY-2022-26 and BRBO-2022-26

Beach south of Floras Lake, Curry County, Apr 27, 2022. Dead bird with only head and one wing present. Candidate species include Brown (now Cocos) Booby, Blue-footed Booby, and Red-footed Booby. Details and photos by Stacey Skrivanek and Dulce Havill.

Brown (now Cocos) Booby BRBO-2022-27

Cape Meares Lighthouse State Park, Tillamook County, Oct 22, 2022. Details by Kevin Scaldeferri.

Brown (now Cocos) Booby BRBO-2022-28

Kelley Point Park, Portland, Multnomah County, Oct 24-25, 2022. Details and photos by Kyle Landstra.

Brown (now Cocos) Booby BRBO-2022-29

Agate Beach, Port Orford, Curry County, Dec 11, 2022. Dead bird found on the beach. Details and photos by Tina Lanier.

Brown (now Cocos) Booby BRBO-2022-30

Cape Arago State Park, Coos County, Dec 24, 2022–Apr 8, 2023. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk.

Yellow-throated Vireo YTVI-2023-08

Goose Lake State Recreation Area, Lake County, Jun 2, 2023. Details and audio file by Tim Rodenkirk.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-2022-22

Page Springs Campground, Harney County, Sep 5, 2022. Details and photos by Diana Byrne.

Plumbeous Vireo PLVI-2023-23

Page Springs Campground, Harney County, Aug 26–Sep 19, 2023. Details by Peter Olsoy. Details and photos by Nolan Clements and Pam Otley.

Winter Wren WIWR-2022-02

Skinner Butte Park, Eugene, Lane County, Dec 11, 2022–Jan 22, 2023. Details by Vjera Thompson. Details and photos by Coleen Pidgeon.

Siberian Pipit SIPI-2022-01

Wickiup Reservoir, Deschutes County, Oct 23, 2022. Details and photos by Peter Low.



This Lucy's Warbler at Bandon was just the third record accepted for the state of Oregon. Previous records were in 1986 in Lane County and 2004 in Curry County. *Photo by Carl Lundblad.*

Lawrence's Goldfinch LAGO-2023-22

Medford, Jackson County, Jan 14–Apr 10, 2023. Details and photo by Kyle Landstra.

Field Sparrow FISP-2023-02

Monmouth Sewage Ponds, Polk County, Jan 17–May 2, 2023. Details and photos by Brandon Wagner, Hendrik Herlyn, Kyle Landstra, Jack Williamson, and John Rakestraw. Details by Trent Bray. Photos by Nels Nelson and Russ Namitz. **First state record.**

Orchard Oriole OROR-2022-20

Florence, Lane County, Dec 7, 2022–Feb 18, 2023. Details and photos by Ellen Cantor and Sylvia Maulding. Details by Russ Namitz and Vjera Thompson.



This Nazca Booby at Bandon was Oregon's fifth record, all of which have come since 2018. The bird was ailing but was not taken to a rehabilitation center because of concerns over avian influenza. *Photo by Dave Lauten.*

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2023-30

Summer Lake, Lake County, May 9, 2023. Details and photos by Jason Journey and Jennifer Braley.

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2023-31

Benson Pond, Malheur NWR, Harney County, Jun 3-7, 2023. Details and photos by Tara Lemezis, Thomas Meinzen, Pam Otley, and Donald Sutherland.

Common Grackle COGR-2023-48

Malheur NWR Headquarters, Harney County, May 17, 2023. Details and photos by Teri Martine and Lin Stern.

Prothonotary Warbler PROW-2022-11

Bandon, Coos County, Nov 20-21, 2022. Details by Russ Namitz, Tim Rodenkirk, Dave Lauten, and Kathy Castelein.

Lucy's Warbler LUWA-2022-03

Bandon, Coos County, Nov 22-24, 2022. Details by Tim Rodenkirk and Russ Namitz. Photos by Carl Lundblad.

Blackburnian Warbler BLBW-2022-21

Corvallis, Benton County, Dec 14-21, 2022. Details and photos by Hendrik Herlyn and Carl Lundblad.

Pine Warbler PIWA-2023-06

Veterans Park, Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Jan 9–Feb 28, 2023. Details and photos by Dave Haupt. Photos by Russ Namitz and Kyle Landstra. Details by Kevin Spencer and Elijah Hayes.

Yellow-throated Warbler YTTA-2023-12

Page Springs Campground, Harney County, Jun 6, 2023. Details and photos by Lin Stern and Thomas Meinzen. Details by Elijah Hayes.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2023-35

Portland, Multnomah County, Jan 5–Feb 5, 2023. Details and photos by Gary Hoen. Photos by Owen Schmidt.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2023-36

Intersection of Gosner Road and Muddy Creek Road in Jefferson County, Jun 21, 2023. Details by Joel Geier.

Summer Tanager SUTA-2023-37

Amazon canal riparian area, Eugene, Lane County, Jul 9, 2023. Details and photos by Nancy Clogston and Noah Strycker.



This Laughing Gull at Cannon Beach was Oregon's seventh record of the species. *Photo by Diana Byrne.*

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Yellow-billed Cuckoo YBCU-2022-29

Highway 30 near Rocky Point Road, Multnomah County, Jun 29, 2022. This bird flew across the highway towards Columbia Slough and was seen while the observer was driving. The Committee felt the habitat was not correct for this species and because the observer did not see the bird with binoculars there was some question as to the identification of the bird.



This Little Stint at Broughton Beach in Portland was Oregon's ninth accepted record. It did not stay long but was enjoyed by many in Portland's active birding scene. *Photo by Kyle Landstra.*

Lesser Nighthawk LENI-2022-06

Hatfield Ponds, Bend, Deschutes Co., Aug 9, 2022. The Committee felt that the description did not adequately eliminate Common Nighthawk and believed that given the difficulty of separating these two species that photographs would have been required for confirmation.

Mountain Plover MOPL-1995-17

Lake Abert, Lake County, Sep 1, 1995. The Committee decided that there was not enough evidence to support the identification of the three birds that were reported because there were no photographs or written field notes taken at the time of the sighting and because there is not an established pattern of vagrancy in Eastern Oregon for this species.

"Vega" Herring Gull HERG-2023-08

Beach north of Gearhart, Clatsop County, Feb 2, 2023. The Committee felt the description did not conclusively identify this bird as a Vega Gull, as the various subspecies of Herring Gull, combined with wear and bleaching, contribute to the complexity of the identification.



This Yellow-throated Warbler at Page Springs Campground was Oregon's 11th record of the species. *Photo by Lin Stern.*

Northern Gannet NOGA-2022-01

Tierra del Mar, Tillamook County, May 31, 2022. The bird was seen at quite some distance through a scope by the observer. The Committee believed that the identification could not be adequately established because not enough field marks were observed.

California Condor CACO-2022-01

Caves Highway, halfway between Cave Junction and the Oregon Caves, Josephine County, Aug or Sep 2022. The Committee felt that the description was not detailed enough to eliminate other species.



This drop-dead-gorgeous Slaty-backed Gull at Bastendorff Beach was Oregon's 12th record of the species. *Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.*

Red-headed Woodpecker RHWO-2022-05

Hayden Island, Portland, Sep 27, 2022. The Committee felt the habitat was more conducive to a Red-breasted Sapsucker. Indeed, a Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen repeatedly by observers who went to look for the purported Red-headed Woodpecker.

Red-throated Pipit RTPI-2022-08

Diamond Lake, Douglas County, Oct 15, 2022. This bird was heard-only. The Committee felt uncomfortable accepting a record with no photos or audio files.

Red-throated Pipit RTPI-2022-09

Whitaker Ponds Nature Pond, Northeast Portland, Oct 11, 2022. This bird was heard-only. The Committee felt uncomfortable accepting a record with no photos or audio files.

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2022-29

Heceta Beach, Lane County, Aug 5, 2022. This bird was heard-only. The Committee believed that the recording of the bird's call did not eliminate all other bird species.

Details on these records, and all other records and activities of the Oregon Bird Records Committee, can be found at the OBRC's webpage: www.oregonbirding.org/oregon-bird-records-committee.