

Oregon Bird Records Committee: 2025 Report

By Tim Janzen,
Chairman of the Oregon Bird Records Committee

The Oregon Bird Records Committee finalized review of a total of 69 records in 2025. All were first-time submissions, except for a Vega Gull record, which was accepted upon reconsideration. Of these 69 records, 52 records were accepted and 17 were not accepted.

Most submissions (49, or 71.0%) were supported either by photos (45), video (7), or sound recordings (4), and 43 of these 49 records (87.8%) were accepted. Of the 20 sight-only records reviewed, 9 (45.0%) were accepted. The 17 records not accepted included 5 accompanied by photos, 1 accompanied by an audio file, and 11 sight-only submissions. One of the accepted records was a museum specimen: Oregon's third Tricolored Heron record. The bird had been collected in 1943 and stored in the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History, but the record had not previously been reviewed by the OBRC.

The county breakdown of accepted records shows that the most records were from Curry and Harney counties with nine accepted records each, followed by Coos County with eight, Lane County with seven, Lincoln County with five, Clatsop County with three, and Douglas and Multnomah counties with two each. Baker, Columbia, Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Tillamook, and Umatilla counties each had one.

Highlights for the year included Oregon's second Red-flanked Bluetail record, its second Field Sparrow record, its third Vega Gull record, and its third Red-footed Booby record. The Red-footed Booby rode a sailboat from Lane County to Curry County! The appearance of Oregon's fourth and fifth Baikal Teal within one week of each other in January 2025 was a special event for many birders. Tim Rodenkirk personally found 10 review species that were accepted by the OBRC in 2025.

The Committee added two species to the Oregon state list in 2025: White-tailed Tropicbird and Grace's Warbler. The White-tailed Tropicbird record is one of only two accepted records of this species on the West Coast. A record of a White-tailed Tropicbird seen July 9, 2025, in Santa Cruz, California is under review by the California Bird Records Committee. There is also one White-tailed Tropicbird record from Arizona in 1980. See *Oregon Birds* 51(2): 71-73 for articles fully detailing the discoveries of the warbler and the tropicbird.

Through the end of 2025, Oregon's state total stood at 550 species, behind only California (693), Texas (677), Arizona (570), and New Mexico (559).



Tim Janzen

The Committee members in 2025, with the year their terms expire, were:

Bob Archer (2025)
Daniel Farrar (2025)
Rachael Friese (2025)
Hendrik Herlyn (2026)
Tim Janzen (2026)
Ryan Terrill (2026)
Nolan Clements (2027)
Nick Mrvelj (2027)
Russ Namitz, served Jan to Nov 2025
Lin Stern, served Dec 2025 (2027)

The alternates, who serve one-year terms, were Elijah Hayes, Philip Kline, John Rakestraw, Miles Scheuering, and Lin Stern (served Jan to Nov 2025).

The Chairman in 2025 was Tim Janzen.



Grace's Warbler (left) and White-tailed Tropicbird (right) were the two species added to the Oregon state list in 2025. See *Oregon Birds* 51(2): 71-73 for coverage of these finds. Photos by Otto Mayer (L) and Chuck Philo (R).

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Tundra Bean-Goose TUBG-2024-04

Memorial Pond, Bob's Lake, and surrounding area, Baker County; 1 bird Dec 6-28, 2024. Details, photos, and videos by Aaron Beerman. Details and photos by Dave Trochlell, Russ Morgan, and Nolan Clements. *Seen through Jan 3, 2025 per eBird.*

Baikal Teal BATE-2025-05

Sauvie Island, Multnomah County; 1 male Jan 18, 2025. Details by Shawneen Finnegan. Details and photos by Skip Russell, Tim Janzen, Jesse Pline, and Jeff Schwilk. Details, photos, and video by Jay Withgott.



Oregon's first two living Baikal Teal were found just one week apart in January — the first on Sauvie Island near Portland (L) and the second near Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene. Oregon's previous three records had all been birds shot by hunters. *Photos by Skip Russell (L) and Rachael Friese (R).*

Baikal Teal BATE-2025-06

Bond Road, Lane County; 1 male Jan 25-26, 2025. Details by Tanya Bray and Roger Robb. Details and photos by Rachel Friese and John Sullivan. Photos by Dean Walton.



Garganey GARG-2025-07
Weyerhaeuser settling pond, North Spit, Coos Bay, Coos County; 1 female Oct 22, 2025. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk and Elijah Hayes.

This female Garganey was a one-day wonder in Coos County. *Photo by Elijah Hayes.*

King Eider KIEI-2024-17
Yaquina Bay, Newport, Lincoln County; 1 female Oct 27–Nov 9, 2024. Details and photos by Lin Stern and Phil Pickering. Photos by Roy Lowe. *Seen through 25 November 2024 per eBird.*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird RTHU-2024-06

About 3 miles SE of Dexter, Lane County; 1 female Sep 12, 2024. Photo by Ritch Pope.



This lovely female King Eider graced Yaquina Bay in late fall 2024. *Photo by Roy Lowe.*

Broad-billed Hummingbird BBIH-2025-06

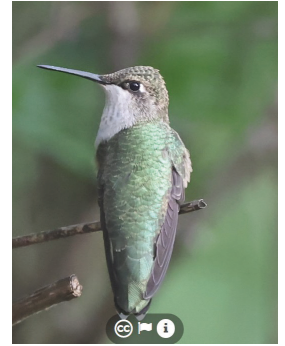
Private residence along Bingham Road near Gibbon, Umatilla County; 1 adult male Aug 21-24, 2025. Details by Jim Setzer. Photos by William Aney.

Common Gallinule COGA-2025-18

North Spit, Coos Bay, Coos County; 1 adult May 15, 2025. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk. *Seen through May 16, 2025 per eBird.*

Common Gallinule COGA-2005-19

Along Greenhouse Road south of Hines, Harney County; 2 adults May 27-28, 2005. Details by Tim Rodenkirk. *Seen through 29 May 2005 per Oregon Birds.*



This female Ruby-throated Hummingbird was nicely photographed in September near Dexter. *Photo by Ritch Pope.*



Never underestimate the value of taking a blurry photo when it comes to documenting a potential rarity. This image was good enough to confirm the state's fifth Broad-billed Hummingbird. *Photo submitted by observer.*

Mountain Plover MOPL-2024-18

Umpqua Day Use Area #3, Douglas County; 1 bird Dec 9-12, 2024. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk and Donna Nordstrom. *Seen through Dec 13, 2024 per eBird.*

Laughing Gull LAGU-2025-18

Skipanon Spit, Clatsop County; 1 adult bird May 25, 2025. Details and photos by David Bailey and Tina Toth.

Vega Gull VEGU-2023-08

Beach north of Gearhart, Clatsop County; 1 second-cycle bird Feb 2, 2023. Details and photos by David Irons. Photo by Shawneen Finnegan. Rejected by vote at the 2023 annual meeting because the Committee felt the identity of this subspecies was not conclusively established and that the possibility that the bird was *Larus smithsonianus* was not eliminated. Accepted on reconsideration after it was noted that Amar Ayyash had published a photo of this bird as an example of a second-cycle Vega Gull in his book, *The Gull Guide: North America*.



This Least Tern at Fern Ridge fit into this species' pattern of occurrence in late spring and early-to-mid-summer. *Photo by Anne Heyerly.*



Short-tailed Albatross sightings are becoming more frequent as pelagic coverage increases and as the species' population rebounds. Thirteen of Oregon's 22 records have occurred since 2010. *Photo by Robert Lockett.*

Least Tern LETE-2025-17

Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane County; 1 adult Jun 29, 2025. Details and photos by Roger Robb, Sylvia Maulding, Lalla Pudewell, Vjera Thompson, Sally Hill, and Anne Heyerly.

White-tailed Tropicbird WTTR-2025-01

Yaquina Head, Newport, Lincoln County; 1 adult Jul 19, 2025. Details and photo by Chuck Philo.

Arctic Loon ARLO-2025-10

Hammond Boat Basin, Warrenton, Clatsop County; 1 bird Jan 7, 2025. Details and photos by Diana Byrne. *First seen Jan 5, 2025 per eBird.*

Short-tailed Albatross STAL-2024-24

At 44.667, -124.615, 20 miles due west of Newport, Lincoln County; 1 juvenile Dec 7, 2024. Details and photos by Lin Stern and Robert Lockett.

Nazca Booby NABO-2022-11

About 6 miles west of Bandon, Coos County; 1 adult that landed on a fishing boat in Aug 2022. Photos by Dustin Leonnig.



Oregon's third Red-footed Booby hitched a ride on a sailboat 50 miles offshore. *Photo by Rhys Balmer.*

Masked Booby/Nazca Booby MABO/NABO-2024-02

40 miles off the Oregon coast, precise county unknown; 1 bird seen on or about Aug 18, 2024. Details and photo by Curtis D. This record was accepted as *Species Unresolved*, with candidate species being Masked Booby and Nazca Booby.

Red-footed Booby RFBO-2025-03

One immature bird landed on a sailboat about 50 miles off Lane County at 43.948778, -125.465806 and left the boat near the Oregon/California border off Curry County at

42.001694, -125.175000. Photographed resting on railing Sep 20, 2025. Details and photos by Chelsea Heniges. Photos by Rhys Balmer.

Tricolored Heron TRHE-1943-03

Along the Blitzen River near the Witzel Patrol Station (apparently near Benson Pond), Malheur NWR, Harney County; 1 juvenile Oct 31, 1943. Collected by George Benson. Photos of specimen from the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History (formerly the Slater Museum) at the University of Puget Sound by Sarah Galpern.

Glossy Ibis GLIB-2018-10

Between milepost 24 and milepost 25 along Highway 95 in Jordan Valley, Malheur County; 1 bird Apr 26, 2018. Details by Clayton Crofton.



This Tricolored Heron specimen at the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History, collected in 1943 at Malheur NWR, provides one of only three records for Oregon. *Photo by Sarah Galpern.*

Glossy Ibis GLIB-2024-11
Malheur NWR
Headquarters, Harney
County; 1 bird Jun 3, 2024.
Details and photos by
André Turcot.

Glossy Ibis GLIB-2025-12
Hotchkiss Lane, south of
Burns, Harney County; 1
bird Apr 27, 2025. Details
and photos by Clayton
Crofton.



This Wood Thrush skulked through the underbrush at Heceta Head for nearly all of January and February. Photo by Michael Krall.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher STFL-2025-27
Wahl Ranch near Sixes, Curry County; 1 adult bird Jun 24-26, 2025. Details and video by Terry Wahl.

Vermilion Flycatcher VEFL-2024-09
Wahl Ranch near Sixes, Curry County; 1 immature female Dec 14, 2024 through Mar 21, 2025. Details by Terry Wahl. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk and Russ Namitz.



Oregon's second Red-flanked Bluetail was a fantastic find in coastal Lane County. The photos proved crucial in confirming this Asian wanderer, which initially went unidentified. Photo by Joe Roemer.

Red-flanked Bluetail RFBL-2025-02
Westlake County Park, Lane County; 1 bird Jan 13, 2025. Details by Bonnie Roemer and Lalla Pudewell. Photos by Joe Roemer.

Northern Wheatear NOWH-2025-08
Rooster Rock State Park, Multnomah County; 1 bird Oct 11-13, 2025. Details and video by Trent Bray. Details and photos by Tim Janzen. Photos by Ed McVicker.

White Wagtail WHWA-2024-12
Kilchis Point and Garibaldi Marina, Tillamook County; 1 first-cycle bird, Dec 14, 2024 through Feb 21, 2025. Details and photos by Cliff Cordy, Lin Stern, Jen Sanford, John Sullivan, and Jim Johnson. Details, photos, and video by Jay Withgott. Photos by Mark Miller. *Seen through Mar 1, 2025 per eBird.*

Sprague's Pipit SPPI-2024-07
Wahl Ranch near Sixes, Curry County; 1 bird Sep 24, 2024. Details and video by Terry Wahl.

Lawrence's Goldfinch LAGO-2024-23
Bandon, Coos County; 1 adult male Nov 29-Dec 1, 2024. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk and Karen Saxton.

Lawrence's Goldfinch LAGO-2025-24
Upper Table Rock, Jackson County; 1 adult male May 15, 2025. Details by Adam Clayton.

Field Sparrow FISP-2024-03
Rentenaar Road, Sauvie Island, Columbia County; 1 bird Nov 30-Dec 8, 2024. Details and photos by Lin Stern, Skip Russell, and Craig Tumer. *Seen through Apr 15, 2025 per eBird.*

Orchard Oriole OROR-2024-29
Fields, Harney County; 1 female Sep 3, 2024. Details, photos, and audio file by Philip Kline.

Orchard Oriole OROR-2025-30
Harbor, Curry County; 1 adult male Jan 21, 2025. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk.

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2022-33
Bandon, Coos County; 1 bird Nov 28-29, 2022. Details and photos by Aaron Beerman.

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2025-34
Malheur NWR Headquarters, Harney County; 1 immature male May 16, 2025. Details and photo by Peter Olsoy.

Prothonotary Warbler PROW-2025-16
Summer Lake Lodge, Lake County; 1 first-year bird Sep 26-Oct 5, 2025. Details and photos by Elijah Hayes, Noah Strycker, and Lin Stern.

Prothonotary Warbler PROW-2025-17
The Narrows, Malheur NWR, Harney County; 1 adult Sep 27, 2025. Details and photos by Tom McNamara. Details by Peter Olsoy. Photos by Katie Sorenson.



This Northern Wheatear was a crowd-pleaser amid cold rain and wind along the Columbia River east of Portland. Photo by Tim Janzen.



This Prothonotary Warbler at the Summer Lake Lodge was one of two found in Oregon in 2025 and one of 8 to appear in the state just since 2022. Photo by Noah Strycker.



Oregon's second Field Sparrow stayed all winter on Sauvie Island but required of most birders a great deal of persistence to find. Photo by Skip Russell.

Cape May Warbler CMWA-2025-19

Brookings, Curry County; 1 bird Jan 13, 2025. Details by Tim Rodenkirk.

Cape May Warbler CMWA-2025-20

Fields, Harney County; 1 male May 24-25, 2025. Details and photos by Tom Myers, Kyle Landstra, Eric Pratt, and Peter Olsoy.

Bay-breasted Warbler BBWA-2025-17

Wood River Day Use Area, Klamath County; 1 male Jun 10, 2025. Details and audio files by Elijah Hayes and Kevin Spencer. Details and photos by Martin Aguilar.

Blackburnian Warbler BLBW-2024-23

North Fork of the Chetco River 4.4 miles up North Bank Road, Curry County; 1 bird Sep 19, 2024. Details by Tim Rodenkirk.

Blackburnian Warbler BLBW-2025-24

Millicoma Marsh, Coos Bay, Coos County; 1 first-fall female Sep 11, 2025. Details by Tim Rodenkirk.

Lucy's Warbler LUWA-2023-05

Waldport, Lincoln County; 1 adult Dec 29, 2023. Details and photos by Bob Ferris.

Virginia's Warbler VIWA-2024-23

Chetco Point, Brookings, Curry County; 1 bird Oct 2, 2024. Details by Tim Rodenkirk.

Virginia's Warbler VIWA-2024-25

Brookings, Curry County; 1 bird Dec 6, 2024. Details by Tim Rodenkirk.

Grace's Warbler GRWA-2025-01

Malheur NWR Headquarters, Harney County; 1 bird May 30, 2025. Found by Otto Mayer. Details by Jonathan Reimer-Berg. Details and photos by Lin Stern, Peter Olsoy, Margi Finch, and Tye Jeske.



Oregon's fifth Lucy's Warbler appeared in Waldport at the very end of 2023. Photo by Bob Ferris.

Black-throated Green Warbler BTNW-2024-19

Coos Bay, Coos County; 1 adult female Dec 29-31, 2024. Details and photos by Tim Rodenkirk, Russ Namitz, Aaron Beerman, and Jen Sanford. Seen through Jan 17, 2025 per eBird.

Scarlet Tanager SCTA-2024-09

Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site, Newport, Lincoln County; 1 male Dec 8-9 2024. Details and photos by Sylvia Maulding, Margi Finch, Lin Stern, Steve Kornfeld, Skip Russell, Robert Lockett, Aaron Beerman, and Donna Nordstrom. Seen Dec 7-10, 2024 per eBird.

Painted Bunting PABU-2025-12

Residence north of Eugene, Lane County; 1 adult male Feb 21, 2025 until roughly Feb 28, 2025. Details and photos by Dennis Arendt.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Fulvous Whistling-Duck FUWD-2025-03

Miller Island, Klamath County; 1 bird Jun 22, 2025. The Committee agreed that the bird described in the report and photographed near a Cinnamon Teal was an American Avocet and not a Fulvous Whistling-Duck.

American Black Duck ABDU-1971-06

Sauvie Island, Multnomah or Columbia County; 1 bird Dec 26, 1971, fide Harry Nehls. The Committee chose not to accept this report due to the fact that there was not a formal written description of the bird.

King Eider KIEI-2019-16

Seen off The Hook in the Columbia River, Hood River, Hood River County; 1 female or hatch-year bird Oct 20, 2019. The Committee was concerned that because the bird was seen at such a considerable distance that other species of eiders and other duck species could not be adequately eliminated.

Common Ground-Dove CGDO-2024-09

Brownsville, Lane County; 1 bird Dec 4, 2024. The Committee felt that the description was lacking in detail and that key field marks were not described in the report.

Greater Roadrunner GRRO-2025-04

Near Diamond, Malheur NWR, Harney County; 1 bird May 7, 2025. The Committee believed that the descriptions did not completely eliminate the possibility that the bird was a female Ring-necked Pheasant.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo YBCU-2020-30

Cold Springs Campground, Deschutes County; 1 bird Sep 9, 2020. The Committee believed that the fact that this bird was only heard made it difficult to eliminate all other similar sounding species.

Common Gull (Kamchatka Gull) COGU-2024-01

Columbia River beach near the South Jetty, Clatsop County; 1 bird Nov 18, 2024. The Committee felt that the plumage and structural features of this gull did not convincingly eliminate Short-billed Gull. The bill size seemed consistent with Short-billed Gull. The white spot on the tip of P8 was also consistent with Short-billed Gull.

Common Gull (Kamchatka Gull) COGU-2025-02

Columbia River beach near the South Jetty, Clatsop County; 1 bird Mar 14, 2025. The Committee felt that the bird was likely a Short-billed Gull and that there was not clear and convincing evidence that it was a Common Gull (Kamchatka Gull).

Slaty-backed Gull SBAG-2024-17

Jetty Fishery, Nehalem Bay, Tillamook County; 1 juvenile Nov 30, 2024 through Mar 3, 2025. The Committee felt that the photos and the video did not eliminate the possibility that the bird was a hybrid or possibly even a Western Gull.

Cook's Petrel COPE-2024-11

At 41.86306, -125.22182 with the closest point of land being approximately Brookings, Curry County; 1 bird Apr 25, 2024. The Committee felt that the descriptions of the bird were lacking in detail and did not sufficiently eliminate other *Pterodroma* species and small shearwaters.

Cook's Petrel COPE-2024-12

At 42.37177, -125.26349, about 45 miles west of Gold Beach, Curry County; 1 bird Apr 25, 2024. The Committee felt that the descriptions of the bird were lacking in detail and did not sufficiently eliminate other *Pterodroma* species and small shearwaters.

Black Vulture BLVU-2025-02

Elgin, Union County; 1 bird flying overhead May 9, 2025. It was discovered that the metadata for the photo that was submitted indicated that the bird was photographed on May 1, 2025, not May 9, 2025. It was discovered that the observer was in Alabama on May 1, 2025 because the observer had contributed a report to eBird there on that date. Due to concerns that the bird was not photographed in Oregon, the Committee felt compelled to reject the report.

Red-headed Woodpecker RHWO-2024-07

Silver Peak Hobson Horn Trailhead, 10 miles WSW of Galice,



Two Cape May Warblers also appeared in Oregon in 2025, at opposite ends of the state; one was in Brookings and this one was in Fields. Photo by Tom Myers.

Josephine County; 2 birds Aug 25, 2024. The Committee felt that the description was lacking in detail and did not eliminate Red-breasted Sapsucker.

California Thrasher CATH-2024-09

At 42.0441, -122.5824, along the Pacific Crest Trail near Ashland, Jackson County; 1 bird heard only Jul 7, 2024. The Committee felt that the audio recording was relatively faint and did not convincingly rule out a mimic such as a Steller's Jay. One member of the OBRC also expressed concern that there were quite a few trees in the area where the bird was reported from and California Thrashers have a strong preference for chaparral with few, if any, trees.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail EYWA-2025-06

Forest Service Road 2334 in eastern Marion County; 1 bird Aug 26, 2025. The Committee felt that the description was lacking in detail and that other species of wagtail and other species such as American Pipit and Horned Lark could not be eliminated by the description.

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2024-32

North of Benson Pond, Malheur NWR, Harney County; 1 adult male Jun 2, 2024. The Committee believed that because the bird was seen only briefly flying by that the bird could possibly have been a different oriole species or possibly a Baltimore Oriole x Bullock's Oriole hybrid.

Baltimore Oriole BAOR-2025-35

Page Springs Campground, Malheur NWR, Harney County; 1 adult male Jun 20, 2025. The Committee felt that the description was lacking in detail and that other species of oriole, and Black-headed Grosbeak, could not be eliminated by the description.

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.

