



Eagle Eye

Volume 31, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Central Oregon Audubon Society

December 2001

President's Message

Chris Carey

Season's Greetings from your friends on the Board of COAS. It's been quite a year to say the least. The terrorist attacks this past September have made the world seem smaller; life and our environment all that more precious. This Holiday season enjoy time with family, friends and loved ones. Spend some time outside, participate in a Christmas bird count, do a cross-country ski or take a walk along the river trail. Resolve to do your part to protect our natural world. Keep informed, take action, and donate your time or money to those causes you believe in. I'll make you feel good. And that's what the Holidays are all about.



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The Eagle Eye is printed on recycled paper.

Web: www.audubon.org/chapter/or/centraloregon

Conservation News

Bend Riparian Protection, Landowner Incentives

The city of Bend is updating ordinances for the protection of riparian areas as part of its periodic review of state land-use regulations. The new state mandated "safe harbor" standards would establish a 50 foot set back for dwellings and other non-complying uses. State regulations allow cities to establish their own regulations so long as the goal of protecting riparian resources is achieved. Bend is proposing set backs ranging from 40 feet for the developed residential areas and up to 70 feet for undeveloped lots on the north and south end of the city limits. As expected some landowners along the river are supportive of riparian protections and some landowners feel this is an infringement on their property rights. To help address the property right concerns, this past legislative session the governor signed HB 3051 which allow cities to participate in a program that exempts landowners with approved riparian management plans from paying property taxes on those properties. COAS urges all its members to contact the city council and ask them to approve the new higher protection standard for riparian areas and the landowner incentive program. This is the single most important local land use action that will protect habitat for birds and other fish and wildlife.

Exotic Wild Turkey Update

COAS has again asked the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to suspend the additional release of the exotic wild turkey in central Oregon until biological studies and assessments can be conducted. Last year ODFW told us they would be preparing a management plan for turkeys in early 2001. A management plan would address potential biological issues and environmental consequences to native wildlife and habitats. ODFW has chosen to continue with the trapping and transplanting while ignoring

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development of a plan. In 1996 the Fish and Wildlife Commission passed the Wildlife Integrity Rules that are designed to regulate the introduction and spread of non-native wildlife in the state. We believe ODFW should follow the same rules and regulations that are required of the public. The recovery of wild turkeys is certainly a great success for modern wildlife management, but releasing turkeys into areas where they were not native is a bad biological practice.

FALL GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

National Audubon is offering a great incentive to sign up new members and help your local chapter in the process. Through December a gift membership is specially priced at only \$15.00 no matter where the recipient lives, and our local chapter will receive the \$15.00. If there is someone in your family or a friend that you would like to sign up for this special gift and a chance to get to know Audubon, let me know and I will get you the information. You can reach me at cdledder@bendnet.com or call me at 383-7646. So if you have a cousin in Mississippi or a sister in California, send them the gift of Audubon this Christmas and do a good thing for your local chapter while you're at it.

**Thanks very much,
Dave Ledder
Membership Chair**

HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

A big thanks to all the folks from HawkWatch who came down from the mountain and helped with the first Evenings with Nature presentation. Also I would like to thank the staff of The High Desert Museum for bringing the live raptors and sharing their knowledge and beautiful birds. This year we also took a field trip up to Bonnie Butte and were fortunate enough to be there on one of the most productive days they had on the mountain. We were there to see the Coopers hawk that was the 311th raptor caught for banding at the site and a record breaker. To celebrate this event, Audubon adopted the hawk and took lots of pictures to capture the moment. Also I would like to thank the folks who went on the field trip and their support of the local chapter. They all had a great time and also adopted two other raptors that day, thank you all. If anyone would like more information about HawkWatch you can reach them at www.hawkwatch.org.

Winter Birdfeeding Tips

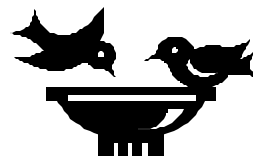
By Jen Lair

As winter's harsher weather approaches, it is a great time to enjoy feeding your wild birds. Here are some tips to get the widest variety of winter birds.

- ◆ Sunflower seeds are still the number one choice for most birds, but make sure you have a little millet out too for the juncos, towhees, doves, quail, and any late migrating white-crowned sparrows.
- ◆ Now more than ever, birds need access to liquid water. Place a heater in your bath, or at least put out some hot water everyday. Birds don't eat snow, and need to bathe to keep their feather clean and insulating.



- ◆ Suet is very popular with you insect eating birds like woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches and finches. Place some on a flat tray and robins, Townsend's solitaires and cedar waxwings might flock in too. These three birds also like fruit, so when they take a break from your juniper trees, attract them closer by putting out raisins in a tray.
- ◆ Shelled peanuts are loved not only by jays and squirrels, but also by chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and many finches. These nuts are chock full of fat and protein – just make sure that you use roasted but UNSALTED.
- ◆ Decorate a holiday tree for the animals. String popcorn and cranberries into a garland and hang pinecones smeared with natural, unsalted peanut butter and rolled in seeds and nuts. Enjoy!



CENTRAL OREGON BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS OF 2001

By Gayle H. Parlato, Audubon Board Member

E-mail: kobah@bendnet.com

I have compiled this list from the e-mails sent to me. Special thanks to all those avid birders who reported their sightings throughout the year! There are too many of you to list, but kudos to Kim Owen for finding several incredible "county" birds! Here are just a few of the highlights of **rare to accidentals** that have been reported. Birds are listed here only in the first month observed at a specific site – some of them were seen in subsequent months after first sightings. If bird species was seen elsewhere, it is mentioned again.

January: **Northern Saw Whet Owl** along the Deschutes River Trail by the Armory off Colorado Street; an adult "**white morph**" **White-throated Sparrow** along First Street river trail; **Northern Spotted Owl**, somewhere on the eastern flank of the Cascades (in Jefferson County).

March: **Snowy Owl** at Madras Airport, near drag strip; also **Tri-colored Blackbirds**; **Tufted Duck**, at Hatfield's large back pond; **Eurasian Wigeon** on third pond at Hatfield Lakes; Adult, non-breeding plumaged **Harris's Sparrow** along First Street Deschutes River Trail.

April: **Breeding plumage Dunlin** at Hatfield Lakes; **Lesser Goldfinch** at Sawyer Park; **Thayer's Gull**, **Herring Gulls**, and **Sandhill Cranes**, all at Wickiup Reservoir; pair of **American Dippers** at Camp Polk Meadow hatched its first brood of the season; **Costa's Hummingbird** at Sawyer Park; three **Williamson's Sapsuckers**, one **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, **Northern Pygmy Owl**, and **Pileated Woodpecker** on the Skyliners Trail, behind OMSI; **McCowan's Longspur** at Wickiup Reservoir; 204 **Common Loons** seen near the main dam area at Wickiup Reservoir.

May: **Black-necked Stilts** at Tumalo reservoir; **Barn Owl** on a power pole near Tumalo Reservoir; **American Restart** found at Squaw Back Woods near Sisters; **Franklin's Gulls** at Wickiup Reservoir; **Black Terns** and **Black-necked Stilts** at Hatfield Ponds; **Flammulated Owl** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** near Whispering Pines Campground and Trout Creek Swamp areas; **Phainopepla** seen near 17th Green at Brokentop in some Quaking Aspen trees. This is only the 4th recording for this bird in Oregon! **Willetts** were seen at Hatfield Ponds.

June: A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported at Water Wonderland, south of Sunriver; **Great Gray Owl** continues to be seen in the Sunriver area, this time behind the stables near the rope course; an **American Golden Plover** was reported out on Gosney Road; an **albino hummingbird**, on Aubrey Butte's Hillside Drive; **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Tumalo Reservoir.

September: **Semipalmated sandpiper** and **Sabine's Gull** on the Redmond sewage ponds (Currently, there are less than ten Deschutes county records for this species); **Solitary Sandpiper** in Big Meadow, Black Butte Ranch; **Swainson's Hawks**; **Red-throated Loon** seen at Wickiup Reservoir; **Mountain Quail** in Squaw Creek Canyon, Sisters; **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and **Common Tern**; **Gray Catbird** at Tumalo State Park; two **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Sparks Lake; **Western Scrub Jays** in downtown Sisters; **Northern Waterthrush** and **Black Phoebe** at Redmond Sewage Ponds (This is only the second Deschutes County record for BP species!); **Snow Goose** at the Hatfield Sewage Ponds; a **Black and White Warbler** was spotted at Mirror Pond in downtown Bend.

October and November Migrants: Among the many usual species, **Ross' Goose** was seen; as was a **Great Egret** on the Deschutes in the Old Mill District; a **Pacific Loon** at Tumalo Reservoir; and last but not least **Common Redpolls** and a **Summer Tanager** have been spotted along the First Street Deschutes River Trail.

Of course, there may have been others that I missed. I hope that this list is fairly accurate and comprehensive. Happy Birding!

Species of the Month – by Larry Pecenka

SNOW GOOSE (*Chen caerulescens*)



Order:

Anseriformes

Family: Anatidae

State Status: None

Length: 28 in (71 cm)

Wing Span: 53"

Identification, Global Range, and Habitat: Locally abundant in large flocks. The adult white phase is pure white with black wing tips, and a black "grin patch" on bill. Both the adult and the pale gray immature are very similar to the rare Ross' Goose, from which they may be told by the larger size and heavier bill. Breeds colonially on high Arctic tundra. Seen in winter in grasslands, grainfields, coastal wetlands south to northeast coastal Mexico.

Food Habits: Consumes shoots and roots of sedges, grass, bulbs, aquatic vegetation; insects and aquatic inverts. In autumn, berries, cultivated grains, aquatic plants.

Reproduction: Usually near water on open tundra or on ridge. Lays 3 to 5 (1-6) white eggs, 1 brood per season. Nest is often on tussock built up with mud and grass, depression lined with down and grass.

Ecology: Colonial, to tens of thousands; females usually return to natal colony to breed, often choosing old site (if previously successful). Females first breed at 2-4 years. Long-term pair bond.

Comments: The dark morph, which has increased in occurrence, was formally considered a separate species, Blue Goose.

Information from: [The Birder's Handbook. A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds](#) by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye

COAS Calendar

December 2001

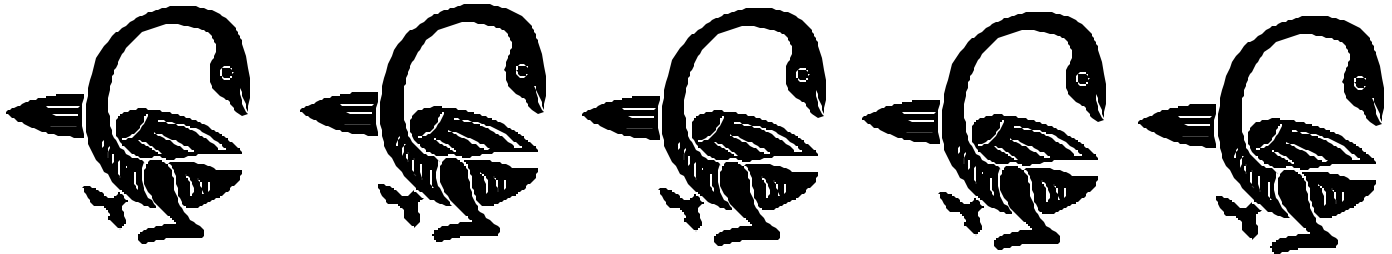
14 Antone CBC info Steve Shunk, 549-8826
16 Sisters CBC 7am, info Steve Shunk 549-8826
18 Summer Lake CBC, 8am, info Marty St Louis
541-430-3152
19 Evenings With Nature, Environmental Center,
6:30am social, 7pm program
23 Redmond CBC, info Kimdel Owens
30 Bend CBC, info Craig Miller 389-9115
31 Prineville CBC, info Chuck Gates 923-1320
?? Santiam Pass CBC, call Tim Shelmerdine 503-
678-6326

January 2002

6-19 Mid Winter Bald Eagle Count, call Sun River
Nature Center
16 Evenings With Nature, Environmental Center,
6:30pm social, 7pm program
17 Birder's Night, Environmental Center, 7 pm

February 2002

16-18 Bald Eagle Conference Klamath Basin, info
Ken Johnson 541 889-7671
20 Evenings With Nature, Environmental Center,
6:30pm social, 7pm program
21 Birder's Night, Environmental Center, 7 pm.
23-24 Eagle Watch at Lake Billy Chinook, info
Oregon State Parks 388-6211



Central Oregon Audubon Society
P.O. Box 565
Bend, Oregon 97709

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