

BIRDS OF COOS COUNTY, OREGON STATUS & DISTRIBUTION

**PDF EDITION, VERSION 4
BY TIM RODENKIRK**



**In Conjunction with
Cape Arago Audubon Society**

To Hollyhocks the love of my life.

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Monthly Status Graphs and Checklist-
has been included as a separate PDF.

Front Cover design and photos
compliments of David Hargreaves.

Introduction

"Birds of Coos County, Oregon- Status and Distribution" was published in 1998 by Alan Contreras. It was the first comprehensive effort to gather and publish data for Coos County, although many smaller lists and summaries had been produced prior to that over the years. That book is now long out of print and much of the information has become out-of-date. The author of the updated PDF version began birding in the county right around the time the original book was published. Using that original work as a guide, the author continued collecting data on early and late dates, additional information on status and distribution of many species, added sightings of rarities, as well as species new to the county. The author tried without success to publish a second edition of the book before realizing that a PDF version would be almost a more useful and relevant means to share the almost 100 years of Coos birding data that has been collected in the newest PDF version of the original book. Also, using the PDF format does come with a very important advantage, it makes it possible to update and share the unpublished "new book" quite easily.

Updates

Since the original PDF version was available in April of 2024, there have now been three updates. The second version was updated through 9 October 2024 at which time there had been four additional species added to the county list and quite a few updates to the bar graphs. The third revision was updated through 31 March 2025 and, although only five months had passed since the second revision, three new species were added to the county list and quite a few accounts were updated. This latest fourth edition has been updated through 19 January 2026 and actually has four less total species than in the third version. There are also four potentially new species with records that have been recently submitted to OBRC (Garganey, Zone-tailed Hawk, Yellow-green Vireo, and Blackburnian Warbler). In order to match the species number in this PDF with the eBird total for the county, several "unconfirmed" species were moved to the hypothetical and errata lists after the main account section. The new species total of 418 thus gives with the total in eBird, and all species in the accounts section have confirmed records on eBird (other than the four mentioned above that have short accounts but have not been reviewed yet by OBRC, these four are not part of the 418 species total). During this process, many of the historic records not already on eBird were submitted to eBird where the location, date, and observer information was available which is necessary for inclusion on that database. Many of these older historic records still need to be confirmed (or not confirmed) by an eBird reviewer. Only confirmed records show up on the "explore" search in eBird.

Another addition to this fourth revision, is a short section on Pelagic Birding which includes an explanation of the "closest point of land" concept that resulted in several records being removed from the book and two species subtracted from the county species total since they are actually closest to land in Curry County. The bar graphs have also been updated and there have been a few new bird species added to the county list as well as several new photos. The total species number for the county in this PDF now gives with the eBird total and is now the second highest on eBird for an Oregon county.

As with similar ornithological publications, there may be data that was inadvertently not included or corrections that need to be made. The author currently resides in Coos Bay where he can be contacted with updates for future versions of this PDF.

Basic facts about Coos County

Coos County, Oregon, lies on the southern Oregon coast. It is bordered by Douglas County on the north and east, Curry County on the south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. It lies roughly between 42°57' and 43°36' north latitude and 123°42' and 124°30' west longitude, not including offshore waters.

The county includes 1,629 square miles, and most of its 64,326 residents (March 2025 estimate; U.S. Census Bureau) live in the Coos Bay-North Bend area. It stretches 44 miles along the coast and 37 miles inland at the widest point. The coastal climate is mild with an average January high temperature of 54°F and an average low of 40°F while the average high in July is 66°F and the average low is 53°F. The average annual precipitation is 62.1 inches, almost all of which falls as rain (these averages are based on weather information gathered from North Bend NOAA data from 1902-2024).

The highest point in the county is Mt. Bolivar at 4,319 feet (1,316 meters) in the southeast corner of the county at the northern fringe of the Siskiyou Mountains. The lowest point is sea level along the coast.

The county offers an attractive variety of bird habitats including wet and dry woodlands and forests, pastures, parks, beaches, estuaries, rocky headlands, and the open sea. It represents the northern breeding limit on the Oregon coast for species that prefer the drier "California" plant associations (Lazuli Bunting, Lesser Goldfinch, Yellow-breasted Chat) and the northern limit on the coast of annual winter occurrence of such semi-hardy species as Western Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Marbled Godwit, and Long-billed Curlew.

Recommended additional bird references including a few websites

In addition to this book, the following publications and websites are recommended for observers and researchers interested in additional information about birds in this region:

A Birdfinding Guide to Del Norte County, California. 2001. Barron, Alan D. Redwood Economic Development Institute. Dated but a classic for its area.

Birding Northern California (Falcon Guide). 1999. Kemper, J. An extremely useful site guide and reference to birds of this region.

Birding Oregon: 44 Prime Birding Areas with more than 200 Specific Sites (Falcon Guide). 2007. Rakestraw, J. The best general reference book for Oregon, it only has the more well-known Coos County locations and has become a bit dated.

Birding the Southern Oregon Coast. Cape Arago Audubon Society, 1996. A guide to the best birding locations from coastal Lane County to California. Includes several Coos County locations although, in some

cases (e.g., Pony Slough), the site information has become dated; however, this is still an excellent local guide. A few copies may still be in circulation.

Birds of Northern California. Fix, D. and A. Bezener. 2000. Another useful bird reference for this region and a fun read.

Birds of Oregon: a general reference. 2003. Marshall, D. B., M. G. Hunter, and A. L. Contreras, Eds. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR. 768 p. This is THE authoritative published reference for bird status and distribution in Oregon. Many of the observations in this reference guide are not on eBird and, for this reason, it is still used by researchers when looking for general information on a particular bird species.

Birds of the World, Cornell Lab of Ornithology Website. <https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/home>. This is a fee website, about \$50/year, but has some of the most complete information available for many species of birds and is particularly good for trying to discern subspecies such as Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

A Checklist of the Birds of Curry County, Oregon. Revised 2018. D. Cavaness, Munson, D., K. Munson, T. Rodenkirk, J. Rogers, T. Wahl. Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. A great free guide that includes monthly bar graphs and a short site guide to the most productive birding spots in the county. Information on obtaining this booklet can be obtained by contacting the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society at kalmiopsisaudubon.org.

Field Guide to Birds of Oregon. 2018. Irons, Dave and Brian Small (photographs). American Birding Association. This guide covers the most common bird species for the entire state. The author's extensive knowledge of all things birds in Oregon makes it a must particularly for birders new to Oregon or new to birding.

Handbook of Oregon Birds, A Field Companion to *Birds of Oregon*. Herlyn, H. and A. Contreras. 2009. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR. 287 p. A wonderful field guide for Oregon birders.

The Oregon Birding Trail website has additional information on birding locations in Coos County as well as throughout Oregon. The website address is: www.oregonbirdingtrails.org.

Oregon Birds magazines back to 1975 can be viewed online at the Oregon Birding Association website, oregonbirding.org. This is also an excellent site for general information on Oregon Birding and has a link to accepted records by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

The East Cascades Bird Alliance has a birding site guide by county which is an excellent resource for Coos County as well as the entire state. Their web address is: ecbirds.org.

Bioregions of Coos County

Northern Coos County lies primarily in the Coast Range physiographic province of the Northwest (Franklin and Dyrness, 1973).

The Coquille Valley serves as a rough dividing line between this generally moister, cooler province and the drier, somewhat warmer Klamath Mountain province, which encompasses the Siskiyou Mountains.

The high species total for the county is due to its diversity as well as its more southerly coastal location. The open coast offers breeding grounds for many species of seabirds, the moist inland valleys and hills have their own inhabitants, and the higher elevation ridges of the Siskiyou Mountains that enter the southeastern corner of the county bring a few of their own unique breeders.

Outer Coast

The outer coast from the Umpqua jetties in Douglas County to the north jetty at the mouth of Coos Bay is dominated by sandy beaches and dunes. Many of these former dunes have been colonized by an invasive non-native grass species, European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*), which has resulted in these dunes becoming stabilized. Pockets of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), shore pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*), and Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) occur behind the outer beaches in many areas (Franklin and Dyrness, 1973) and have increased with the establishment of European beachgrass. Underneath this coastal forest is a dense understory of shrub and small tree species including: salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) and wax myrtle (*Morella californica*).



Figure 1- Looking north at the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay, photo by Bruce Casler.

The outer beaches and dunes support few birds, though Snowy Plovers breed at a few sites of open, dry sand. In migration and winter large flocks of Sanderlings use these areas, and on rare

occasions such visitors as Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, and Lapland Longspurs can be found.

The rocky outer coast that is found intermittently from Coos Head southward is home to a variety of breeding seabirds, including Double-crested (locally), Brandt's, and Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oystercatcher, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, and Western Gull. On points and islands with loose soil conducive to burrowing, Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, and Leach's Storm-Petrels breed, the latter two very locally.

White-crowned Sparrows, Rufous Hummingbirds, and Barn Swallows are common and visible around coastal towns and headlands.



Figure 2- Bandon Beach, photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Estuaries

Coos County has two major estuaries, the Coos and the Coquille. Coos Bay is Oregon's largest (excepting the Columbia, shared with Washington) at 12,380 acres, of which 6,200 acres are tideland, that is, subject to exposure at low tides. The Coquille estuary is 771 acres of which 301 are tidelands (Hamilton et al., 1973).

Both estuaries have small but ecologically important areas of marsh, which support such species as rails, Marsh Wrens, certain herons, some shorebirds, yellowthroats, and other birds.



Figure 3- Bandon Marsh NWR, photo by Lois Miller.

The Coos and Coquille estuaries harbor thousands of birds, especially in migration and winter, with principal migrants including Western and Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Marbled Godwits, Red-necked Phalaropes, yellowlegs, and dowitchers.

The bulk of wintering birds are waterfowl, with American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, and Mallard the most abundant. Dunlin and Least Sandpipers are the most abundant wintering shorebird in the estuaries, with other species present in much smaller numbers. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcon, White-tailed Kite, and Red-shouldered Hawk are especially noticeable around the estuaries and nearby pastures in winter.

In the very southwestern corner of the county, New River flows into the sea. Although it does not have a large estuary, it also supports migrant shorebirds and waterfowl due to its unique location and composition paralleling the ocean with only a narrow sand spit between the river and ocean.



Figure 4- The Storm Ranch portion of the New River ACEC, summer 2006. Photo compliments of Coos Bay BLM.

Lakes and Rivers

Coos County has several natural lakes and includes all of the Coquille River drainage and almost all of the Coos/Millicoma River drainage. The Coos River drains most of the northern part of the county and empties into the southeast corner of Coos Bay near the Eastside district. The Coquille River drains the southern interior part of the county and enters the sea at Bandon. Both rivers, especially the Coquille, are subject to winter flooding that may inundate adjacent pastures.

Tenmile Lake is the largest lake in the county with a surface area of 1,627 acres (658.4 hectares) and a maximum depth of 22 feet. Adjacent North Tenmile Lake is slightly smaller and lies within Coos County except for the northernmost arms, which are in Douglas County. Other sizable natural lakes in the county include Eel (northern arms in Douglas County), Beale, Saunders, Horsfall, Bluebill, Croft, New Lake, and Bradley. Many of these are shallow and provide habitat for breeding and especially migrant and wintering waterfowl.

All lake data is from Johnson et al. (1985), *Atlas of Oregon Lakes*.

Interior Hills and Valleys

Away from the outer coast breeding birds are for the most part typical of those throughout the Oregon Coast Range and valleys. The main plant association in the forested Coast Range is the western

hemlock series (USDA 1996). The dominant overstory tree species is generally Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with varying amounts of western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Port Orford cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and grand fir (*Abies grandis*) also present. Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and red alder (*Alnus rubra*) are common along watercourses and the latter often an obvious feature of regrowth on moister logged hillsides. Lowland riparian areas are also dominated by red alder but also contain myrtlewood (*Umbellularia californica*), two to three willow species (*Salix* spp.), and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) is restricted in range and is mainly found growing along the larger river bottoms in the Coquille Valley.

Most of the forests in the Coast Range are intensively managed for timber production and clearcutting is common. Stands older than 80 years old are now almost exclusively located on land managed by Coos Bay BLM. The checkboard pattern of ownership and the various stages of regrowth provide a variety of habitats for birds.



Figure 5- South End of the Coquille Valley near Norway, photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Throughout the county in wooded areas, the voice of the Swainson's Thrush speaks to its abundance. Conifer forests feature Steller's Jays, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Western Tanagers, and Hermit Warblers. In deciduous and riparian areas, Western Flycatchers, Wilson's and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Warbling Vireos, and Song Sparrows (in brushy areas) can be found.

In the higher interior forests, Canada Jays, Hermit Thrushes, and Hammond's Flycatchers occur.

In valley lands from Coos Bay southward, Red-shouldered Hawks, White-shouldered Kites, and Black Phoebes can be found regularly, with peak numbers visible in winter.



Figure 6- Coast Range north of the town of Bridge; clearcuts are a common site in the heavily forested Coos Coast Range, photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

In the southeastern corner of the county, the high ridges are more typical of the Siskiyou Mountains. This complex vegetative type retains some Douglas-fir in the overstory but also includes sugar (*Pinus lambertiana*) and knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*) with less red alder in the understory and more tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) and golden chinkapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*). South facing slopes in particular are less vegetated with more brushy species including ceanothus (*Ceanothus spp.*), hairy manzanita (*Arctostaphylos columbiana*), and other shrubs more typical of the Siskiyou. Mt. Bolivar and adjacent ridges are the best examples of the Siskiyou Forest type in the county. Breeding Townsend's Solitaire, Dusky Flycatcher, and Nashville Warbler are found almost exclusively in this habitat.

In the drier inland valleys, such species as Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lesser Goldfinch can be found locally, and reach the northern edge of their regular coastal occurrence in Coos County.



Figure 7- Open grassy ranchlands with stringers of forest next to Powers in southeast Coos County, photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Introduction to the Species Accounts

Nomenclature and Sequence

Nomenclature and arrangement of families and orders of birds follows the Seventh Edition of the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) Check-list of North American Birds (1998) up through the Sixty-sixth Supplement to the Check-list (R. Terry Chesser and others, *Sixty-sixth Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds*, Ornithology, ukaf015, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithology/ukaf015>, 14 August 2025).

Many changes have taken place since the first edition of the book; readers familiar with the layout of many older field guides could easily be confused by the newer names and rearranged placement of birds. Quite a few species have been switched to new orders and/or families and scientific names have also been changed with whole families reordered in certain instances. Recent advances in genetics have resulted in the splitting and renaming of a few species (e.g. Whimbrel to Hudsonian Whimbrel, Herring Gull to American Herring Gull, Warbling Vireo to Western Warbling Vireo, etc.) and some long-standing species have even been lumped into a single species (e.g., Thayer's Gull into Iceland Gull). More name changes are also imminent, with a whole host of birds named after people to be renamed by the American Ornithological Society sometime in the near future.

Abundance, Frequency, Seasonality and Status

The scales of abundance, frequency and status are condensed and adapted from Contreras (1998) and Kemper (1999) with my own additions.

ABUNDANCE

Abundant- found easily in obvious flocks or large numbers.

Common- found easily and sometimes in large numbers.

Fairly common- occurs regularly in small numbers but may not be seen on every trip.

Uncommon- occurs regularly but usually present only in small numbers, may be seen on less than half the trips into appropriate habitat.

Rare- irregular- not seen every year, or very small numbers occur on an annual basis.

STATUS

These definitions relate to when the species is in the county and what it does there. Note that some species breed, winter and migrate through the county, but these activities are carried out by entirely different populations, e.g. Hermit Thrush.

Resident A species in which essentially the same population breeds and winters in the county, e.g. Great Horned Owl.

Breeder A species that nests in the county but in which all or part of the population departs for the winter, e.g. American Robin (populations shift southward with some northern birds wintering in the county) or Swainson's Thrush (all birds depart).

Winterer A species that winters but in which the same population does not breed in the county, e.g. Northern Shrike.

Migrant A species that passes through the county on a regular seasonal cycle, e.g. Sooty Shearwater or Lapland Longspur.

Local A species that does not use all apparently suitable habitat or for which habitat is limited and localized and, as a consequence, it is found only in preferred spots. For example, breeding Canada Jays or migrant Solitary Sandpipers.

Overshoot The term "overshoot" is sometimes used to describe birds that occur in migration beyond the edge of their normal range, especially their breeding range. These birds may in some cases be pioneering range expansion and thus do not necessarily occur "by accident." However, this term is used for lack of a better brief descriptor for this situation.

Status symbols

[I] Introduced. Established but some restocking may occur.

- Breeds. Includes nests, recent young, or other evidence of breeding. There are 156 species that currently breed, or have bred, in the county (not including the one extirpated breeder).
- o Possible breeder, not confirmed.
- h Historical records or status.

PATTERNS OF OCCURRENCE

The modifiers below are often used with abundance and status terms above to clarify occurrence of a species, especially for less common species.

Regular A species that has a relatively "even" pattern of occurrence, that is, it does not have periods of presence and absence in the appropriate time and place. Most species fall into this category and it is not used as a modifier unless doing so helps clarify a specific situation.

Irregular A species that is subject to periods of absence, e.g. post-breeding visitant Elegant Terns or wintering Marbled Godwits.

Visitant A species of any abundance that does not breed but occurs as part of a seasonal pattern, e.g. Brown Pelican.

Vagrant A rare bird out of its normal range that does not appear as part of an annual or seasonal pattern (except insofar as that, e.g., vagrant warblers tend to appear in late spring or autumn) and for which there are very few records for the county.

OCEANIC TERMS

Nearshore The surf and adjacent waters to 1/2 mile offshore.

Offshore The ocean beyond 1/2 mile from shore.

Pelagic Generally found only on salt water, especially offshore.

Nautical mile About 1.15 statute miles. Equals a minute of arc of the Earth's surface; since 1959, the U.S. has used the international standard of 6,076.115 feet (1,852 meters). Prior to 1959 the U.S. used 6,080.2 feet (1,853.248 meters).

SEASONALITY

For purposes of this book the seasons are as follows. However, note that for example "fall migration" occurrence in the county for many species begins in July and some species, e.g., Rufous Hummingbird and Long-billed Curlew, are already moving by late June. Thus, the term "fall" is used in the ornithological sense.

Spring	March 1 to May 31.
Summer	June 1 to July 31.
Fall	August 1 to November 30.
Winter	December 1 to February 28 (29).

General Abbreviations

Am. Birds American Birds, its predecessor Audubon Field Notes and its successors National Audubon Society Field Notes and just plain Field Notes. This magazine has recently been transferred from the National Audubon Society to the American Birding Association. For readers' convenience the abbreviation Am. Birds is used to mean all of these titles - it is the same journal and most of the citations come from its incarnation as American Birds.

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern- special management area for Coos Bay BLM

AOS American Ornithological Society (AOU combined with Cooper's Ornithological Society in October 2016).

AOU American Ornithologists' Union (AOU combined with Cooper's Ornithological Society in 2016 to become AOS).

BBA Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas information

BBS Breeding Bird Survey

BLM Bureau of Land Management

CAAS Cape Arago Audubon Society

CBC Christmas Bird Count

Co. County

Hwy Highway

HRA habitat restoration area

km kilometer

m.o. multiple observers

Mt. Mount

N. Am. Birds American Birds was renamed North American Birds in 1999.

nm nautical mile

NERR National Estuarine Research Reserve (South Slough)

NF National Forest

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NWR National Wildlife Refuge

OBA Oregon Birding Association (formerly OFO, name changed in early 2013).

OBOL Oregon Birders On-Line (listserv discussion group).

OBRC Oregon Bird Records Committee

ODFW Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

OFO Oregon Field Ornithologists (now Oregon Birding Association, named changed in 2013)

OIMB Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston.

Or. Birds Oregon Birds, published by Oregon Field Ornithologists/Oregon Birding Association.

p.c. personal communication, e.g. from an observer to the author.

per. obs. personal observation

SNA State Natural Area

SP State Park

sp. or spp. Species undetermined, or multiple species

Tattler The Cape Arago Tattler, newsletter of the Cape Arago Audubon Society (this was first published in the 1970's and was discontinued in the 1990's but was resurrected again from 2006 through 2012).

USFS United States Forest Service

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Data Sources

PUBLISHED INFORMATION

The field notes sections of Oregon Birds were searched for published records from the county. These records appear as "*Or. Birds* 5(4): 101" and so on in the text, referring to the volume, issue and page of Oregon Birds from which the field notes were taken. A similar search of field notes in North American Birds, American Birds, and Audubon Field Notes was also done, covering all issues from the years 1955 through spring of 2022. Starting in 2016, these field notes have been online. Most of the notes from these latter issues were also in Oregon Birds magazine since the author was responsible for the annual south coast report, thus most of the references are to Oregon Birds rather than North American Birds.

In order to limit the proportion of citations relative to readable text, only one citation is used for records published in multiple places. Without a system like this, some records would have had three citations and a few even four, which is unwieldy and unnecessary. There are a few exceptions but in general this is how it worked.

I ranked historic citations (prior than about 2020) according to a rough sense of how easy they would be for a northwestern researcher to track down if needed. For reasons of space, I do not cite the regional editors for these field notes. Because of the widespread use of eBird especially since about 2020, I have included it also, although it is purely an electronic record at this point. With newer sightings, the only citation is often eBird, although similar records may also be included in *Oregon Birds* or less frequently in *North American Birds*. Citations are ranked as follows:

1. Records of the **Oregon Bird Records Committee**. If a record was accepted by the committee no other citation is included. Descriptive material is on file with the committee, which operates under the auspices of Oregon Birding Association. These records appear in the following format:

BLJA-77-02 North Bend, one on 2 April 1977 (AMc). First verified Oregon record.

The number BLJA-77-02 is the permanent record number maintained by the OBRC. Inquiries about a specific record may be made using this number. The initials "AMc" are those of the observer who provided a photo or description. A list of observer names matched to these initials is maintained by the OBRC.

2. **Free-standing journal articles.** If the record is from a journal article, e.g. on the breeding of Semipalmated Plovers at Coos Bay, no other citation is included in most cases.
3. **Oregon Birds field notes.** If a citation does not appear in *Oregon Birds*, either the *Am. Birds* or *N. Am. Birds* citation is used in most cases.
4. **American Birds or North American Birds field notes.** If a citation does not appear in *Oregon Birds*, either the *Am. Birds* or *N. Am. Birds* citation is used.
5. **Cape Arago Tattler field notes.** If a citation does not appear in any of the sources above, citation to the Tattler is used. Special thanks to Alan McGie for providing a set of the first nine years of this newsletter, which has had an excellent field notes section. Thanks also to Kirk Jones from the library of Southwestern Oregon Community College for providing access to many issues. Note that this newsletter has had a bizarre numbering system filled with repetitions, re-starts and incongruities, thus there is some variation in the citation form.
6. **OBOL.** Oregon Birders On-Line is a listserver that allows rapid distribution of information about Oregon bird sightings. A few records yet to be published have appeared only on OBOL and are cited as such. Some are treated as "personal communications" and labeled "p.c." Many of these are currently being added to eBird though; in such cases, the OBOL or p.c. reference will be followed by an eBird reference as eBird is probably a better repository for such sightings.
7. **eBird.** Online database. Although this database has been around for many years, its widespread use is a relatively new phenomenon. It is the database of choice now, with two *billion* records worldwide now in eBird as of late 2025. This fourth PDF version has been updated such that all historic records from past PDF versions not previously included on eBird have now been added to eBird if they contained sufficient information to do so (good location and observer data). Such records will have an eBird citation added to their original citation(s). Newer records may only have an eBird citation although in some cases of rarer species, these records may also be included in *Oregon Birds* and/or in *North American Birds* but may not be cited as such.

AGENCY DATA

Data from Jim Heaney of Coos Bay BLM was helpful in compiling the first edition of the hardcover book.

John Sauer from the Biological Resources Division, USGS was helpful in providing the Coos County data from breeding bird survey routes, and Kathy Klimkiewicz provided banding data from the Bird Banding Laboratory also for the first issue of this book.

Jim Brenden from Coos Bay BLM provided a few photos for the updated PDF version of this book.

INDIVIDUAL FIELD NOTES

Many observers were generous with their unpublished field notes and journal entries for the first edition of this book which of course are also included in the subsequent PDF versions. Among these are Range Bayer (some of Hilda Reiher's notes), Kathy Castelein, Ken Dazey, Ben Fawver, Mike Graybill, Barbara Griffin, Jim Heaney, Jan Hodder, Geoff Keller, Dave Lauten, Joy McDowell, Alan McGie, Dave Marshall, Don Munson, Dave Shea, Paul Sullivan, Jack Thomas, Lyn Topits, and Stan Wilson. I apologize if anyone who contributed has been inadvertently left off the list.

Some records collected by Larry Thornburgh have been used in the text. Many of these are unpublished and not available elsewhere.

As much as possible, many of these early sightings will be added to the eBird database where sufficient information is available to do so.

OREGON SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Many of the shorebird and pelagic records are from trips conducted as part of the Oregon Shorebird Festival, which was held each September initially under the auspices of the Cape Arago Audubon Society from 1986 through 2004, then by USFWS up through 2016, then again by Cape Arago Audubon through 2020. The festival was then discontinued in part because of COVID but also because shorebird numbers had declined precipitously at Bandon Marsh NWR for unknown reasons in the preceding decade. Although these records are not identified in the text, many September records are from festival trips which included an offshore pelagic boat trip most years. Bandon Marsh NWR continues to be one of the best shorebirding locations in the county, it just does not have the incredible diversity and numbers of shorebirds it once enjoyed.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY ROUTES

Some BBS data are used in the main text of the original book. The data are generated from only four routes and are thus not statistically useful in most cases.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Coos Bay Christmas Bird Count was started in 1972 and operated continuously through 2018 except for 1973, 2010, 2014, and 2017. The count was discontinued after 2018. The Coquille Valley CBC started in 1991 and operated until 2000, again in 2002, then was discontinued until 2008 when it was once again resurrected and has been done every year since. Data from these counts have been used in the text. A summary of results appears in Appendix A.

BIRD BANDING RECORDS

Records of birds banded in or recovered in Coos County have been used in the text of the original book. No attempt was made to analyze the large volume of waterfowl band records.

PHENOLOGY

Many arrival and departure dates for the first edition of the book were from the database maintained by Larry Thornburgh who lived in North Bend many years. His research made the task of finding those dates much easier. Alan McGie's migration data from Coos Head were also of considerable use. Dates not having another citation are from this information. Revisions in early and late dates for the revised PDF version were made by Tim Rodenkirk with data primarily gleaned from extensive birding from 1998 through the latest version of this PDF, supplemented with sighting data from OBOL, by personal communication with other birders, and increasingly by sighting data now available on eBird.

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Birding by Month in Coos County

JANUARY- Lower Coos Bay in the Charleston and Empire areas has peak numbers of overwintering waterfowl during this period and this area is a great location to find less common species such as Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Pacific Loon, and Eared and Clark's Grebe. In addition, the Empire area is a good location for overwintering shorebirds. The mudflats on the east side of the bay along the south end of East Bay Drive are another good winter shorebirding spot although turnoff locations are limited. There are often large shorebird flocks off Millicoma Marsh but a scope is necessary; at higher tides the flocks are sometimes pushed close to shore there. A Hudsonian Whimbrel or Ruddy Turnstone can sometime be found at Bandon Marsh NWR, often the only winter location for these species in the state. This is a great month to check through winter gull flocks; one or two Glaucous Gulls can normally be found in Bandon, Charleston, the Empire Area of Coos Bay, or at Bullards Beach. The first migrant Turkey Vultures show up away from the Coquille Valley (where they overwinter in small numbers) but become more common in February.

FEBRUARY- Waterfowl hunting season is over by the end of January and the abundant waterfowl in the Coquille Valley gradually become more approachable. A few Cinnamon Teal can usually be found in the flooded field at the Fairview turnoff near the high school in Coquille. The first north bound Tree Swallows show up by early to mid-February, generally at Johnson Mill Pond and Myrtle Point Marsh with a few Violet-green Swallows with these flocks towards months end. Male Rufous and hybrid Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds begin to appear this month at feeders and in the now flowering manzanita at New River. Band-tailed Pigeons, another early migrant, begin to arrive by mid-month. Hutton's Vireo, tedious to find in mixed winter flocks, begin singing and become much easier to locate on sunny mornings. Herring spawning happens around the full moon (the actual date varies year to year and sometimes can happen a second time in March) in lower Coos Bay, Fossil Point is a wonderful location to witness this event which attracts enormous numbers of gulls and waterfowl, which in turn can attract quite a few Bald Eagles.

MARCH- This is a transition month, with some winter species beginning to leave and not many new migrants in yet. Pigeon Guillemots are back in their breeding areas, Brant numbers begin to grow in the bay near Charleston, and Osprey numbers quickly increase with nest building activities becoming evident. Violet-green Swallows become common in the Coquille Valley with a few birds starting to show up in neighborhoods in Coos Bay and Bandon by mid-month. Barn and Cliff Swallows also appear but not until late in the month. The first male Purple Martin scouts normally show up at Tenmile Lake near Lakeside the last few days of the month. The Rufous Hummingbird migration peaks in coastal areas by mid- to late month. Singing Purple Finches become widespread by month's end. Migrant Orange-crowned Warbler are in by the last week and generally arrive already in full song, making them easy to find. The last few days of the month Common Yellowthroats appear, often in number, at Millicoma Marsh and at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Breeding plumaged Yellow-rumped Warblers begin to arrive and singing birds become more common by

month's end. A migrant Say's Phoebe can sometimes be found on the outer coast from about mid-month through the first week of April.

APRIL- Many northbound migrants arrive this month, but most of the warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, grosbeaks and vireos do not arrive until the last week of the month or first week of May. A good place to look for early Western Flycatchers, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Cassin's Vireos about mid-month is along the South Fork of the Coquille River between Myrtle Point and Powers and at the Powers Pond. Aleutian Cackling Geese can be seen in large flocks throughout the month flying to and fro in the pasturelands south of Bandon in the New River area where they stage before leaving by mid- to late month. The third and fourth week of April is THE time to find Calliope Hummingbirds in the Eden Valley/Mt. Bolivar area, weather permitting. The last week of the month is also a good time to see and hear many migrant and breeding passerines in the Mt. Bolivar area, including species only found in the southeast corner of the county such as Dusky Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire and Nashville Warbler. The nearshore Pacific Loon migration peaks the last half of the month and into the first part of May with thousands per hour pouring north; also watch for large numbers of other nearshore migrants including Bonaparte's Gulls, Red-necked Phalaropes, and Caspian Terns. The spring shorebird migration happens in a huge flush during just a few-day period sometime during the last week of April or the first few days of May. New River and Bandon Marsh NWR are good locations to see tens of thousands of shorebirds moving through during this peak event in years when the weather permits good viewing. The Coquille Valley Wildlife Area can also be good for shorebirds in late April and May and has hosted less common/rare species including Solitary Sandpiper, White-faced Ibis, and Wilson's Phalarope. This is the best month to hear owls hooting after dark if you can find an evening without windy or rainy weather!

MAY- The bulk of the passerine migration happens in the first two weeks of this month. Birds can be found singing throughout the county. Western Kingbird migration peaks at coastal locations during this period also. A few Bank Swallows can sometimes be found migrating through during this period along the immediate coast wherever swallows congregate. The old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay has hosted Yellow-headed Blackbirds during this month; it is worth checking this site frequently for this and other unusual species. The last two species to arrive are the Willow Flycatchers, which do not normally arrive until mid-month, and Common Nighthawks, which normally show up the last few days of the month or the first few days of June. From mid-month on, Black Swifts can sometimes be seen along the coast migrating north- clear, windless mornings around sunrise to a couple hours after sunrise are the best bet and the best locations are areas with ample open south-facing sky at the New River ACEC and on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Male Rufous and Rufous/Allen's hybrids begin migrating south by mid-month already having completed their breeding duties.

JUNE- The first week or so of June is the best time to look and listen for vagrant passerines along the coast. All the breeding neotrops are in and singing making it an excellent time to look for and see warblers, vireos, flycatchers, grosbeaks and other passerines. An early morning drive from Myrtle Point to Mt. Bolivar will yield many different singing passerine species. Mid-month into July is a great

time to start checking the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay for breeding duck species not found elsewhere in the county or anywhere on the south coast. Gadwall are the most common breeders here but a pair or three of Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, and Northern Shoveler can also be found most years. Blue-winged Teal occasionally breed here and Green-winged Teal have bred here two years. There is even one record of breeding Ruddy Duck. In addition, rare nonbreeding oversummering species, not present elsewhere in the county, can be found here some years including: Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Bufflehead, and Greater Scaup. This same old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site is also a great spot to look for vagrant passerines in June and is one of the two spots Northern Yellow Warblers breed in the county. The last few days of the month bring the first south bound shorebirds- Western and Least Sandpipers and Greater Yellowlegs.

JULY- The shorebird migration begins picking up, and by mid-month, the more freshly plumaged, bright juveniles quickly begin to outnumber the worn-plumaged adults. Mid-July to mid-August is the best time to try and pick out the lone Semipalmated Sandpiper in large peep flocks. This same period is also peak migration time for Baird's Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs. Many songbirds have stopped singing and have fledged their young, and the first migrant passerines (other than hummingbirds) are seen by month's end as are the first southbound waterfowl. Swallows will begin flocking this month and Tree Swallows will be the first to depart with most gone by month's end.

AUGUST- The shorebird migration kicks into high gear this month and increases until its peak at the end of the month and early September with Bandon Marsh NWR being the best shorebirding location. In most years blowing sand closes the breach along New River and turns it into a lake with very little shorebird habitat; however, in years where the breach stays open all summer there can be extensive exposed mud which makes for large fall shorebird numbers. Elegant Terns are best found this month in the Charleston and Empire areas but only occur a few times each decade. By month's end and into September, willow thickets at Millicoma Marsh, Lower Fourmile, and the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay begin to have migrant passerine flocks with an assortment of species and rarely contain early vagrant passerines such as Northern Parula, Black-and-White Warbler, and Chestnut-sided Warbler.

SEPTEMBER- The shorebird migration is at its peak the first two weeks of the month and now is the best time to look for uncommon shorebirds including Bar-tailed Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff at Bandon Marsh NWR. Walking out on the mudflats at low tide at Bandon Marsh enables one to find shorebirds hidden from view at the observation deck but requires high mud boots and a bit of tenacity! The Lower Fourmile Trail and Lost Lake Trails accesses New River in an area that some years has exposed mudflats and good shorebird habitat- the short walk out the Lower Fourmile Trail to the river is a quick way to assess whether or not the river is low enough for there to be good shorebird habitat. Many more waterfowl begin to show up this month and early on, before the Coquille Valley floods later in the fall, Coos Bay often has the bulk of the ducks in the county. Large numbers of ducks also stage on New River during this month including flocks of Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal- usually the only place to find these mixed teal flocks in the fall in the county. By mid-month, an alert ear can occasionally hear

calling Lapland Longspurs overhead on the outer coast, look for them on beaches and adjacent open grassy areas. The entire month is the best time to check migrant passerine flocks for vagrants, with the best locations being Millicoma Marsh, Lower Fourmile, and the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Late September is the peak time to look for a couple rare shorebirds, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, with multiple records from Bandon Marsh NWR.

OCTOBER- the shorebird migration has wound down and now the wintering waterfowl really begin to arrive; and the best place early on to observe waterfowl is in Coos Bay as the Coquille Valley is dry until fall rains begin to fill it up with water. The last remaining swallows, Violet-greens, can sometimes be seen migrating, often in enormous flocks, very high up at coastal locations and along ridgelines close to the coast in the last week of September and first week of October. Use binoculars to scan the sky on clear days to pick out these swallow flocks. Lapland Longspurs can be found all month in small numbers in open areas on the outer coast. This is the best month to scan powerlines and treetops on the outer coast for Tropical Kingbirds. The coastal passerine migration winds down quickly, with the last of the abundant Northern Yellow Warblers gone by the end of the first week. Fall trips to Mt. Bolivar before winter sets in have located some rare migrants usually not found elsewhere in the county including: Acorn Woodpecker, American Goshawk, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, and Cassin's Finch.

NOVEMBER- the rainy season is normally in full gear by early in the month, bringing windy, stormy weather, making this the best month to find Red Phalaropes that have been blown inland after big storms. These storms can also bring in other surprises so birding coastal promontories with a spotting scope, such as Cape Arago, can be quite productive particularly after storms followed by strong west winds. Other mostly pelagic species that can often be spied from Cape Arago and vicinity during this period include: Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, many gull species including Black-legged Kittiwake, and several species of alcids including Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets and Ancient Murrelets. As these winter rains begin to pick up, locations in the Coquille Valley such as Winter Lake start to fill up with water and ducks quickly become abundant. Palm Warbler migration peaks this month- look for them in coastal locations such as the North Spit of Coos Bay, Bullards Beach SP, and other semi-open coastal sites near water. Neighborhood birding starts to pick up as coastal willow thickets begin losing leaves- check neighborhoods with deciduous trees that still have leaves and have abundant shrub habitat close to river mouths such as the Bandon Jetty and downtown area and along the Empire area in Coos Bay where vagrants such as Magnolia, Lucy's, and Prothonotary Warblers have been found in recent Novembers.

DECEMBER- The Coquille Valley CBC happens late this month or sometimes the first few days of January; scouting for it beforehand as well as birding on the actual count day often results in unusual bird discoveries. Neighborhoods in Coos Bay, Coquille, and Bandon often harbor many of the more unusual overwintering passerines that are found. Check the pastures north of Myrtle Point for raptors including an occasional, rare overwintering Prairie Falcon. Northern Shrikes can sometimes be found along open areas on the outer coast such as the

North Spit of Coos Bay during both December and January. The Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh often has a Short-eared Owl or two this month and is a great spot for White-tailed Kites all winter. Check the open pastures along Coos River for geese flocks that sometime contain a Snow Goose or two. Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille can be stuffed with waterfowl during this period since it is closed to duck hunting (season is usually October through January) and is particularly attractive to ducks in years when the winter rains are delayed and the Coquille Valley is otherwise mostly dry. Johnson Mill Pond also often hosts overwintering, Orange-crowned Warblers and Swamp Sparrows. Mid-winter Barn Swallows regularly appear in small numbers in the latter half of December into January and February- coastal locations are the best place to find them as well as Myrtle Point Marsh and Johnson Mill Pond.

Species Accounts

Order ANSERIFORMES

Family ANATIDAE

Subfamily DENDROCYGNINAE

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Oregon's only accepted record of this vagrant came from Coos County in 1970 (E. Schwartz and E. Troyer, specimen collected, *Am. Birds* 24(3): 531). The *Am. Birds* regional editors noted in the next year that the birds were "thought probably to be escapees from the Portland Zoo" (*Am. Birds* 25(3): 616). However, the OBRC accepted the record and according to the committee, the Coos Bay birds are considered to be of wild origin (H. Nehls, p.c.).

FUWD-1970-01 Coos Bay, Coos County, a flock of 11 from 14-24 February 1970 (HR, photos by ES). First verified Oregon record.



Figure 8- Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, photo compliments of OBRC.

Subfamily ANSERINAE

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus*

Rare visitant, mainly in winter with at least a dozen records. It sometimes arrives as a fall migrant with other geese but often appears alone and remains so.

Fall and winter records include: one north of Cape Arago Lighthouse on 9-11 November 1980 (M. Graybill, J. Hodder; *Or. Birds* 7(1): 41, other sources; eBird); one at Pigeon Point on Coos Bay on 16 November 1983 (*Am. Birds* 38(2): 236; *American Birds* reports this as 19 November, but note that *Tattler* 8(1): 9 reports this as 16 November, as do the original observer's field notes, A. McGie, p.c.; eBird); two on

South Slough NERR near Charleston 28 December 1988 through 10 April 1989 (*Or. Birds* 15(3): 189; *Or. Birds* 15(4): 299; eBird); one to two at Charleston 20 January- 4 April 1990 (*Or. Birds* 16(3): 244; *Or. Birds* 16(4): 324; eBird); one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 12 December 1994 (J. Heaney, p.c.; eBird); one at the south jetty in Bandon from 25 December 2001 until at least 30 March 2002 (T. Wahl, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 95; eBird); up to four birds in the Empire/Charleston area from 4-14 January 2002 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 95; eBird); a single bird that frequented the pastures up Catching Slough from 6 March 2002 through 5 April 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 130; eBird); one at Fossil Point in Empire from 9-27 December 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 85; *Or. Birds* has typo on photo of bird by R. Namitz as 1 December 2005 which should be 20 December 2005; also it shows the date as 9-23 December 2005 but there are later records on eBird); one at Bandon found on the 3 January 2009 CBC that stayed through at least 9 April 2009 (G. Shaffer, A. Contreras, et al.; *Tattler*09(1): 5; *Tattler*09(2): 6; *N. Am. Birds* 63(2): 312; eBird); and a juvenile in Empire from 16-21 September 2016 (M. Resch et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird).

There is a single summer record, one that spent at least the late summer of 1995 at the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Kenefick et al.; *Or. Birds* 22(2): 66- August 6 was the date listed in *Or. Birds*; eBird).



Figure 9- Emperor Goose at Fossil Point in Empire on 20 December 2005. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

An uncommon migrant most often reported in fall, although a few spring records exist. Also, an uncommon, local overwinterer, with

records increasing in recent years. Found mainly with Canada Geese. In the fall, birds generally are not observed until October. Most overwintering birds leave in April with birds rarely lingering until early May.

The earliest published record for the county is Vernon Bailey's report in his National Biological Survey notes of "flocks" of Snow Geese passing over Sumner on 16 October 1909 (Bayer 1996).

Fall migrants tend to be few and mixed in with Canada or Cackling Geese flocks. The largest flock in recent years was 200 birds seen flying over Bandon Marsh NWR on 1 October 2011 (R. Lowe, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 12; eBird).

Prior to 2003 there were only seven modern winter records of this species with single birds the norm. Since 2003 this species has been found every winter with one to three birds typically reported. High winter counts include: four at Myrtle Point on 23 December 1994 (S. Wilson, *Tattler* June 1995; eBird); five birds in the pastures along Coos River on the 19 December 2004 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records); a flock of 15 over Bandon Marsh NWR on 25 January 2009 (G. Harkleroad, p.c.; eBird); up to five birds in the Coos River pastures on the east side of Coos Bay from 9 November 2009 through 12 March 2010 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7; eBird); 11 birds in Bandon on 4 October 2015 (J. Trent, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird); six in the Coquille Valley from 18 December 2021 through 16 April 2022 (K. Saxton et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); and up to 19 near Coquille from 5 January through 19 April 2023 (K. Saxton et al.; eBird).

Spring migrant records are much less common than fall migrants and are typically only a single bird or two, recent records include: one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 7-8 April 2007 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); a bird seen on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 22 April through at least 3 May 2009 (J. Metzler et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 63(3): 492); two at New River on the very late date of 24 May 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); three at Bandon Marsh NWR on 16 April 2020 (S. Dimock, eBird); one with a flock of Aleutian Cackling Geese at Bandon on 3 April 2021 (M. Nelson, eBird); one flying north with a flock of Double-crested Cormorants at Bandon on 7 April 2021 (C. Lundblad, eBird); five flying north off Cape Arago on 20 April 2021 (D. & R. Henise; eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek from 27-29 April 2021 (D. Farrar et al.; eBird); two at Bandon on 14 & 16 May 2021 (A. Moss, S. Peat; eBird); two flying north from the Coos Bay North Spit on 18 May 2022 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); one seen flying north over Bandon with a large flock of Aleutian Cackling Geese on 10 April 2024 (T. Yaukey, eBird); one in the Coquille Valley on 15 April 2024 (K. Saxton, eBird); and a flock of five at the North Spit of Coos Bay on the late date of 10 May 2024 (K. Saxton, eBird).

The Catching Slough pastures along Coos River on the east side of Coos Bay and various locations in the Coquille Valley are the locations where this species is most often reported in fall and winter.

Earliest Arrival: 10 September 2012 in the Catching Slough pastures (B. Fields, p.c.; eBird), the first birds are normally not reported until October most years.

Latest Date: two at New River on 24 May 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

There are nine records of this rare visitant. The first was a bird found at Bandon Marsh NWR with an injured leg on 28 June 1999 (R. Lowe, *Or. Birds* 26(1): 144; eBird) that stayed through September of

1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(2): 172). Subsequent records include: a juvenile on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 29 November- 12 December 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 85; eBird); one seen with a flock of Aleutian Cackling Geese at Bandon Beach SP on 27 April 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 33(3): 91; eBird); one in the Coos River pastures near Catching Slough from 26 November 2009 through 12 March 2010 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7; eBird); one in the same area on 15 April 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird); a juvenile bird in the same Catching Slough area from 10 December 2012 through at least 24 March 2013 (B. Fields et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5; eBird); one with a flock of Aleutian Cackling Geese at New River on 16 April 2020 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); one with three Snow Geese near Coquille from 11-13 March 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); and a flyover with a group of Canada Geese at Millicoma Marsh on 11 October 2025 (B. Cass Talbott et al.; eBird).



Figure 10- Ross's Goose (on right) with Snow Goose near Coquille on 12 March 2025. Photo compliments of Tim Yaukey.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

This goose occurs in the county as a regular migrant, mainly in fall migration where it is most obvious along the outer coast. Historically wintering birds were generally few or absent. Beginning about 2008, this species has become more regular as a winterer and is primarily found in the pasturelands along Catching Slough on the east side of Coos Bay and in the Coquille Valley.

Fall migrants usually occur from late September through late November. Small flocks are the norm during migration. However, large flocks are sometimes seen such as 200 over Bandon Marsh NWR on 30 September 2001 with 250 at the same location on 1 October 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 34; both in eBird) and 250 again at Bandon Marsh NWR on 4 October 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 42; eBird). In a few years the past couple of decades, large megaflights have occurred on the outer coast with continuous flocks of calling birds passing overhead for many hours, typically during the night but sometimes continuing the following day. Recent megaflights have occurred on the following dates: 29 September 2011 when large flocks were seen overhead at multiple coastal locations all day and into the night- tens of thousands may have passed (T. Rodenkirk, H. Schubothe, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. Lowe, et al.; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 12); the night of 20 September 2015 continuing into the following day with birds reported moving south in multiple locations on the central and south coast- total numbers were also likely in the tens of thousands (multiple observers; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14); and on the night of 26 September 2019 when an estimated 1,000 were heard overhead in Myrtle Point when a continuous stream moved overhead for at least thirty minutes (D. & R. Henise, eBird).

Spring migrants appear in smaller numbers with peak numbers from early April through mid-May. A recent high count was 600 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(4): 4; eBird).

This species rarely oversummers with three recent records: one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site and adjacent bay area from 8 June through early September 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 172; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 26; eBird); one photographed on 11 August 2015 (V. Buck, eBird) that was seen into September (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14); and one photographed with Canada Geese at Pigeon Point in Empire on 13 August 2020 (R. Robb, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 2 September 2017 at Bandon Marsh (K. Chamberlain et al.; eBird), not including oversummering reports.

Latest Date: 18 June 2008 at the North Spit of Coos Bay- not including the rare oversummering records (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 606; eBird).

• **Brant** *Branta bernicla*

The uncommon to fairly common "Black Brant" found locally are primarily spring and fall migrants with a few birds occasionally overwintering. Fall migration peaks in October and November then birds become increasingly hard to find with only a few birds if any around at CBC time in mid-December. The first northbound migrants begin to become apparent in early January and then rapidly increase in number by months end with peak spring migration numbers in April, when the species is abundant in the Barview and Empire areas of Coos Bay. Most birds depart by early May, with occasional stragglers into early June.

The only place in the county where this species occurs regularly is lower Coos Bay in the Charleston and Empire areas. Peak numbers in recent years include: 2,152 on a "big day" around Coos County on 25 April 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, G. Keller, C. Dillingham, T. Rodenkirk); 1,000 at Empire on 9 April 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 24(4): 130; eBird); 1,150 off Pigeon Point on 26 April 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 130; eBird); 800 to 1,000 off Pigeon Point in Empire on 13 May 2010 (D. and A. Heyerly; *Tattler*10(2): 6; eBird);

and 2,700+ in the Empire to Charleston area on 27 April 2013 (J. Withgott, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5; eBird).

A careful observer watching the ocean in late fall through mid-December, and again in April can sometimes see flocks of these geese in migration in the nearshore zone.

In 1958, and perhaps also in 1957, a pair of Brant raised a brood of young at Coos Bay for the only documented breeding record (Einarsen 1965).

In recent years, this species has become an almost regular oversummering nonbreeder with a few birds reported most years. These birds become heavily molted by late June and July. The first summer record of apparent nonbreeders was 13 at the south cove at Cape Arago on 2 July 1951 (Giesler, 1952). Approximately 1,500 in Charleston during July of 1976 was an unusual concentration for summer (S. McDonald) as was 40 at Bandon on 9 July 1988 (V. Teale, *Am. Birds* 43(1): 155; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 4 August 2004 at Pigeon Point in Empire if not an oversummering bird (E. Horvath, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 40; eBird); the first migrants appear as early as September some years but not until early October other years and become more numerous later in October.

Latest Date: hard to determine as nonbreeders occasionally are found oversummering in Coos Bay and Bandon; most birds have departed by mid-May though.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

A fairly common spring and fall migrant, and an uncommon wintering species. In 2004, the AOU split the large and small form Canada Geese into two species, Cackling Goose and Canada Goose. Cackling Goose includes five "small-bodied forms" previously treated as subspecies of Canada Goose: Richardson's (*B.h. hutchinsii*), Ridgway's (*B.h. minima*), Aleutian (*B.h. leucopareia*), Taverner's (*B. h. taverneri*), and the extinct Bering (*asiatica*). The Aleutian subspecies is the common one seen in the county with large flocks present in the New River bottoms area of northwest Curry and southwest Coos during staging and migration in April and October. Ridgway's are only occasionally reported and almost always in small numbers. The status of Taverner's is still a bit uncertain. Taverner's that breed in western Alaska winter primarily in the Willamette and Lower Columbia River Valleys of western Oregon and Washington with smaller numbers wintering in Washington's Columbia Basin and Puget Trough and in central California (Mlodinow et al. 2024). It is unclear how often Taverner's wintering in central California migrate through and/or stop over in Coos County.

The earliest spring migrants can be found in February and are almost solely the Aleutian subspecies, but the migration does not peak until March and April when thousands of birds feed in the open ranch pastures adjacent to New Lake in the very southwest corner of the county. In the early 2000's when most of the Aleutians wintered in Humboldt Bay, California many more birds staged in the New River bottoms area of Coos/Curry Counties in March and April before heading north on their epic non-stop flight to the Aleutian Islands. During this period up to 12,000 birds roosted on Haystack Rock off Bandon at night during the April congregation (D. Pitkin, p.c.). Up to 30,000 were seen feeding in the ranch fields near New Lake on 12-15 April 2003 (R. McKenzie *fide* D. Pitkin, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 148; eBird). The migration dynamics of this subspecies have changed over the past two decades and the population numbers have dramatically increased, but

thousands of birds still stop over and spend time in the New River lowlands. In recent springs Aleutians have also been reported in pasture lands outside of the New River lowlands where they could also be staging. On 12 April 2022, 3,100 were counted flying past Millicoma Marsh headed to the Catching Slough pastures in east Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird).

The Aleutian subspecies is also a regular fall migrant from mid-to late September through early November with the greatest numbers in October. A recent peak count was 20,000 on a private ranch in the New River bottomlands of Coos/Curry Counties on 19 October 2014 (R. McKenzie, p.c.; eBird). Most of the Aleutian population winter in the Central Valley of California, but double-digit numbers can now be found overwintering in New River bottoms area of Coos and Curry Counties (R. McKenzie, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8) and occasionally even in the Coos Bay area (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). As the number of Aleutians has rebounded, their wintering patterns have changed, and their future winter status is likely to also continue to change (R. Lowe, p.c.).

There are a few recent rare summer records of cacklers, several of which were reported as the Aleutian subspecies. The first report was from 6 July 2009 when two light-breasted birds with neck collars were observed flying north at the North Spit of Coos Bay (J. Bosler, *N. Am. Birds* 63(4): 646; eBird). In 2010 there were several reports of possible Aleutians in late spring/early summer (*Or. Birds* 37(1): 7), these records include: 200 in the New River bottoms area of Coos/Curry on 10 June (R. McKenzie, p.c.), 60 to 70 white-collared cacklers on 22 June near the mouth of Tenmile Creek (D. Farrar, OBOL), and 35 in Bandon on 16 July (H. Schuboth, p.c.). In 2012, a single bird was seen on Table Rock in Bandon on 19 June (R. Lowe, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8). In 2016, a single was seen from Bandon Beach on 8 July (B. White, eBird) and two Aleutians were reported and photographed at Bandon Marsh NWR on 23 & 30 August that could have been oversummering or early migrants (S. Hampton, M. Perrone, E. Heisey; eBird). In 2017, a single Cackler was at Bradley Lake in Bandon on 17 July (H. Schuboth, eBird). In 2022, a single Cackler was seen at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 5 July (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird) and a single Aleutian was at Millicoma Marsh on 26 July (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42 incorrectly reported as 25 July; eBird).

A few of the smaller bodied Ridgway's can sometimes be picked out in these large flocks of Aleutians, and singles have also been found overwintering, usually mixed in with larger flocks of Canada Geese. In Oregon, Ridgway's primarily winters in the Willamette Valley and on the north coast at Nestucca Bay. As previously mentioned, Taverner's subspecies may also occur but records of it have not yet been well documented.

- **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

These ubiquitous geese seem to be around at all seasons, and for the larger breeding maxima/moffitti subspecies that may be true. However, many of the county's geese are migrants arriving in fall from northern breeding grounds and remaining through April or early May.

There are currently seven subspecies: Atlantic (B.c. *canadensis*), Interior (B.c. *interior*), Giant (B.c. *maxima*), Moffitt's/Western (B.c. *moffitti*), Lesser (B.c. *parvipes*), Vancouver (B.c. *fulva*), and Dusky (B.c. *occidentalis*). Local breeders are introduced Western Canada Geese (B. c. *maxima/moffitti*), which have been present since at least 1976 (R. Lowe, B. Fawver; p.c.). Two other subspecies are thought to migrate through the county, Dusky and Lesser. Little is currently known

on the seasonal status of either subspecies except that they are not reported often (partly because of the taxonomic difficulties in IDing them to subspecies!). In the late 1980's and early 1990's there was a wintering population of 20-30 Dusky Canada Geese on Goat Island off Brookings (R. Lowe, p.c.). They would sometimes be seen on Prince Island off Crescent City, Del Norte County, California and were also observed near Lake Earl in Del Norte County, California (A. Barron *vide* R. Lowe). When Aleutian Cackling Geese started occurring in big numbers on Goat and Prince Islands the Dusksies seemed to disappear. They may be still hanging on but USFWS surveys are not done there anymore. A flock of about 10 Dusksies was observed at New River near the Coos/Curry border during this period (R. Low, p.c.). Quite a few Lesser Canada Geese winter at Nestucca Bay on the northern Oregon coast with Dusky Canada Geese but very few venture a little further south down into Lincoln County. Most winter in the Willamette Valley. They are often difficult to separate from Taverner's Cackling Goose so most official goose observers lump the two when doing survey work (R. Lowe, p.c.).

More demographic studies need to be done to better understand the full extent of diversity in Canada Geese to even confirm the current treatment of the taxonomy and distribution of the subspecies (Mowbray et al. 2020). Until this happens, we can only speculate on which of these groups are actually present in Coos County during migration and overwintering other than the introduced, resident maxima/moffitti group.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*

This species is a rare winter visitant in the county, with about nine records to date. Often found with Tundra Swans but some records have been singles or pairs by themselves. Records include: four at Myrtle Point Marsh on 26 December 1983 (M. Hunter, eBird); a single bird with a flock of Tundra Swans in the Coquille Valley on 24 February 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Fawver, J. Thomas; *Or. Birds* 24(3): 96; eBird); a pair with a small flock of Tundras on Winter Lake in the Coquille Valley on 8 March 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 130; eBird); 1-2 first winter birds on Winter Lake in Coquille with Tundra Swans from 13 February through at least 18 March 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 85; *Or. Birds* 32(3): 127; eBird); a single with a flock of Tundras in the Coquille Valley on 26 February 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); a lone immature in the Catching Slough pastures from 16 January-19 March 2013 (M. Nikas et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 67(2): 329; eBird); a pair at Myrtle Point Marsh on 30 November 2019 (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird); a single in the Coquille Valley in the vicinity of Johnson Mill Pond from 23 December 2019 through 12 January 2020 that may have been one of the two birds seen in November in Myrtle Point (R. & D. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); and two in Myrtle Point on 24 December 2020 (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird).

Two Trumpeters were incorrectly reported as being found east of Coos Bay on 5 December 2010 in *N. Am. Birds* 65(2): 330, these birds were actually Tundras.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Historically this species was more common, but in the 2000s the only reliable location for this species has been the Coquille Valley. Even in the Coquille Valley numbers have decreased significantly and since about 2010 this species has not even been regular on the Coquille Valley CBC (CBC records). They arrive in late October or early November

and winter in the county in small flocks. Occasionally a bird or two can be found on coastal lakes or ponds but these birds do not linger and quickly move on.

Hilda Reiher noted a flock of 300 birds at Pony Slough on 18 January 1932 (eBird) and another flock of 500 there on 30 December 1946 (eBird), the largest flocks known from the county (unpublished notes). The largest flock in recent decades was 117 near Myrtle Point on 15 February 1993 (B. Griffin, *Tattler*17(2): 11; eBird).

One "Bewick's Swan," the Asian subspecies, was found 10 March 1985 near Riverton (A. McGie, *Tattler*9(2): 4; eBird).

Most birds depart by late March.

Earliest Arrival: 20 October 1998 at the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Pettey, eBird).

Latest Date: 9 May 1998 at New River (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Subfamily ANATINAE

- **Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*

These fairly common ducks breed locally along still and slow-moving water. Some depart in fall but many remain, using flooded farmland, sloughs, and backwaters as winter quarters.

They are especially regular in winter in the complex of backwaters and sloughs southeast of Coos Bay and in the Coquille Valley. On the Coos Bay CBC, this species tends to be concentrated in flocks in localized areas such that an intense search may not yield any birds unless their "hiding spot" is uncovered.

- **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

Vagrant. There is one recent record of this species at the old Weyerhaeuser Settling Pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 October 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). A record has been submitted to OBRC.



Figure 11- Garganey at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 October 2025. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

• **Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors*

An uncommon but regular migrant in late spring. It is much less regular in the fall and, during years when they breed on the North Spit of Coos Bay, sometimes linger there into September. Records are sparse in October and November with a bird or two sometimes found overwintering.

This species is one of the latest ducks to migrate in the spring and is regularly seen in mid- to late June and even into early July. Historically these late birds have been migrants but could be mistaken for potential breeders such as: three females and one male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay that stayed through 13 July 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird); two at New River on 16 July 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 117; eBird); a single female and three males at Millicoma Marsh through 4 July 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and five to six at New River on 2 July 2003 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; eBird). These late birds either disappeared after a short while or there was no evidence of actual breeding discovered.

In 2004, the first definitive breeding birds were discovered on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site. Since then, a pair or two have bred every few years at this site but have not been found breeding (yet) elsewhere in the county. Breeding records from the Coos Bay North Spit include: two females with broods seen on 13 July 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird); a female with eight to nine chicks on 12 July 2007 with at least one bird lingering at the site into early October (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 125; the date listed in the article is incorrect; eBird); two different females with broods on 26 and 27 June 2009 (J. Bosler, T. Rodenkirk; *N. Am. Birds* 63(4) 646; eBird); a female with two half grown chicks on 12 July 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5; eBird); a female with five ducklings on 1 August 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird); a female with four ducklings on 10 July 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird); a female with five mostly grown ducklings on 15 July 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird); a female with seven partially grown ducklings on 7 July 2024 with up to 17 individuals visible on 22 July 2024 making it probable that there were at least two broods (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a male and female with four mostly full grown young on 20 July 2025 (K. Saxton et al.; eBird).

In the years when birds have bred at this site, family groups can sometimes linger into September. However, some years birds have been observed here in late summer (August and September) without evidence of breeding earlier in the summer- these could represent birds that bred locally but went unnoticed or that were migrants from elsewhere.

Late summer and fall migrants are uncommon to rare with most reports in September but range from late August through October. In the early 2020s, New River has been a good location to see large mixed flocks of 20+ Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals in September where they appear to stage for a week or more before migrating southward (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

There are several records of probable overwintering birds: two well-described females at the Coquille log pond 6 December 1997 (R. Hoyer et al.; *Or. Birds* 24(3): 97; eBird); a female at the same log pond on the Coquille Valley CBC on 2 January 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, H. Herlyn; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 186; eBird); a male at Millicoma Marsh on 1 January 2001 (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 27(2): 61; eBird); a female at the same location on 12 February 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 137;

eBird); a male in the Coquille Valley near Lampa Lane on 7 January 2007 (M. Wihler, *Or. Birds* 33(2): 54; eBird); a male on the Coquille log pond on 27 January 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(2): 54; eBird); a male found in Coquille on the 1 January 2017 Coquille Valley CBC (L. Norgren et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); four females and one immature male at Myrtle Point Marsh on 7 January 2020 with a single adult male on 22 January 2020 (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); and a male at a small pond just east of Coquille High School on 17 February 2020 which may have been an early spring arrival (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird).

Sightings of this species typically involve single birds or at most a few pairs, so a flock of 40 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4 June 2000 was an unusually large concentration (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird).

Earliest Spring Arrival: 9 March 2012 and 9 March 2013; both at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird), not including one February record at the same site (12 Feb 2003, eBird) that could have been a very early arrival or a wintering bird?

Latest Spring Date: two on 16 July 2001 at New River (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 117; eBird), not including breeding records.

• **Cinnamon Teal** *Spatula cyanoptera*

Uncommon migrant in spring, a rare local breeder and fall migrant, and an uncommon overwintering species. Spring migrants normally begin to show up by mid-March although this varies from year to year with birds appearing as early as mid-February some years and in later March other years. Fall migrants are much less common and appear mainly in September.

Breeding birds were only discovered recently and have primarily been found at a single location, the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. The first record is from Millicoma Marsh, a female first seen with seven young on 22 June 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 187; eBird). Breeding was discovered at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay in 2004 when a female with five chicks was observed on 13 July 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird). Since 2004, one to three pairs have bred at the North Spit site every year up through 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, multiple records in *Or. Birds*). Breeding birds often linger at the North Spit site into early September. No other breeding sites have been noted in the county in recent years although it is likely breeding could occur, but has not been documented, elsewhere from time to time at sites such as New Lake in southwest Coos (on private land), Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille, and Myrtle Point Marsh.

In the early 2020s, New River has been a good location to see large mixed flocks of 20+ Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals in September where they appear to stage for a week or more before migrating southward (m.o.).

It is uncommon and very local in winter, with birds typically reported from the Coquille Valley and less often from Coos Bay. The pond in the field just east the Coquille High School along the Fairview Road has been a regular winter location for a few birds for the past decade. The eBird hotspot for this location is called Calloway-Cunningham Creek Pond.

Earliest Spring Arrival: 2 February 2012 at the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird)- February is the typical arrival time for this species on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Latest Spring Date: five at Millicoma Marsh on 12 June 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), not including breeding records.

Earliest Fall Arrival: four on 12 July 2022 at Myrtle Point Marsh although these could have been breeders (V. Stoll, eBird); later July records of possible early migrants are six from 25 July 2003 at New River (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; eBird) and two at Johnson Mill Pond on 25 July 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Fall Date - rare but regular through December, with a few birds normally found overwintering primarily in the Coquille Valley.

• **Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

This is a common migrant in the county and winters in considerable numbers in shallow water. It is locally abundant in some winters around Coos Bay and in the Coquille Valley. It is also an uncommon, local breeder with several records to date, primarily at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

The first breeding record was a female with 12 downy young near Coquille on 2 May 1996 (B. Fawver, J. Thomas; p.c.). All but one subsequent breeding record have been from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay: a female with 11 chicks on 26 July 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 22; eBird); two females with broods on 13 July 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird); a female with four chicks on 15 July 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 172; eBird); a female with eight chicks on 8 July 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female with seven chicks on 1 July 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 126; eBird); a female with five young on 30 July 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two females with young on 10 July 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female with nine almost full grown young on 8 July 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); a female with young on 21 July 2019 with another brood on 26 July (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird); a female with six recently fledged chicks on 28 June 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a female with 10 chicks first seen on 20 July 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). The only other location they have been reported breeding in recent years is from Bradley Lake in Bandon where a female with four chicks was observed on 20 June 2010 (H. Schubothe, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7).

An unusual sighting was three reported 71 km offshore Coos from a cruise ship on 4 May 2016 (Lehman 2017; E. Fernandez, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 3 August 2003 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 40; eBird). There are also quite a few July records of birds that may or may not been attempting to breed, some of which could possibly be early migrants- thus determining an early migrant date is difficult.

Latest Date: hard to determine as a few birds are often seen into early and mid-June, some of which could be breeders and others that may just be late migrants or oversummering nonbreeders?

• **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

This is a fairly common and sometimes abundant migrant and wintering duck and an uncommon, local breeder. Historically, the greatest numbers were found on Pony Slough, with a record high of 2000 birds wintering there in 1975-76. Recent years have seen much lower numbers, but it is still common around Coos Bay and in the Coquille Valley.

Breeding was only recently discovered in the county at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. The first record was a female with chicks at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 3 July 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(4): 149; the date was incorrectly published as 3 June; eBird). In subsequent weeks five+ females with broods were observed at this same site. Three females with a total of 17 chicks were seen at the same Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 1 July 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 125; eBird). On 17 July 2007, a female with chicks was found in Bandon in the small pond along the south jetty road for the first record away from the North Spit site (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 125). Since 2008 20+ broods have bred annually at the same old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site with the first young usually seen in early to mid-June. The sheer number of Gadwall at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (usually over 100 by late June and July), unexpected by birders used to seeing only large numbers of Mallards breeding in the summer in the county, often results in observers assuming that the majority of ducks at the site are Mallards and not Gadwall. Mallards do breed at this same site but fledge young earlier, in April and May, and are usually gone or only present in low numbers at this site by June and July when the Gadwall are the most numerous duck species.

In recent years, a few breeding pairs have been found in Bandon too and could also now be breeding elsewhere in the county. The sheer number of Mallards in the summer in most wetlands around the county though makes overlooking a few Gadwall quite easy.

Earliest Arrival: 9 August 2005 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 26; eBird), not including the breeding birds listed above.

Latest Date: one 13 July 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 187; eBird), not including breeding birds.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Uncommon winter visitor. This species can be found in very small numbers in flocks of American Wigeon. A few birds are present every year from fall through spring wherever large flocks of American Wigeon gather. The highest total on a local CBC was 28 on the Coquille Valley count on 2 January 2010 although most years only a handful are found. A recent high count from a single location was 13 at Johnson Mill Pond, all males, on 30 November 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

CBC and other observer records almost always reflect only the presence of easy-to-identify male birds. Females are very similar to American Wigeon and most observers do not attempt to identify females. Since the species is not known to have separate wintering grounds for males and females (unlike, for example, some populations of Mallards) it seems likely that the number of birds reported in the county represents roughly half of those actually present where the observers noted male birds.

Of note, a single male has overwintered at Mingus Park in Coos Bay for 11 consecutive years and could conceivably be the same individual. The first record was a male found on 13 December 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) that spent the winter. Since then, there has been at least one male overwintering every winter up through the winter of 2025/2026 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird and per. obs.).

Earliest Arrival: 16 September 2007 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay- this male was still inconspicuous as it was retaining some of its eclipse plumage and had

not molted into its alternate plumage yet (R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 34(1): 29; eBird).

Latest Date: Two males on 22 May 2022 at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird).

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

This is an abundant migrant and wintering bird throughout the county wherever shallow, open fresh water or especially flooded pastureland permits. Thousands typically winter on Pony Slough and in the Coquille Valley. It is not known to breed in the county. Rarely, a nonbreeding bird or two will linger into early summer: one to two birds from 28 June through 11 July 1999 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(1): 144; eBird); a single male at the same location from 23 June 2011 through 30 July 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); five to six males and one female at a pond in Coquille from 22-30 June 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird); a single female at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 30 June- 6 July 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and two oversummering males at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site throughout June and July of 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: a female on 13 July 2025 at Mingus Park in Coos Bay that had not been there earlier in the summer (K. Saxton et al.; eBird); a few birds sometime appear in July and August but birds do not arrive in larger number (double digits) until September.

Latest Date: a female on 28 June 2014 at the old Weyerhaeuser aeration pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), not including the occasional oversummering nonbreeder. Most birds have departed by mid-May.

• **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

This common ubiquitous breeder can be found county-wide throughout the year. However, it is often one of the least common dabbling ducks in winter when large flocks of American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal arrive in the county.

An odd record of this species was a single bird seen 15 miles offshore on a 9 September 2001 pelagic trip (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 35; eBird). Unlike some dabblers, this species is not known for long overwater flights.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

This species does not breed in the county but can be abundant in winter, with hundreds and sometimes thousands of birds in the Coquille Valley and on Pony Slough, and smaller numbers elsewhere in the county.

Although this species has not yet been recorded breeding in southwestern Oregon, it has bred as near as coastal Lane County and may eventually be found breeding in Coos County. Small numbers of nonbreeders have been seen on several occasions in June and July including a flock of 12 headed south at Tenmile Creek estuary on 29 June 2012 (D. Farrar, *N. Am. Birds* 66(4): 722; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: four at Bandon Marsh NWR on 12 July 2024 if not oversummering nonbreeders (R. Robb; eBird), not including several early July records of nonbreeders that lingered from June into early July (m.o.; eBird). Migrants do not begin to become more regular until later in August and are common by September.

Latest Date: hard to determine as a bird or two occasionally oversummer or linger into late June and early July; most birds have departed by late May.

● **Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*

This is a locally abundant wintering bird in shallow water such as flooded pastureland. It can be found in almost any such habitat in the county.

This is also a very rare breeder with only three recent records all from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay: a female with seven young on 13 July 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird); a female with seven chicks at the same site on 2 July 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 126; eBird); and a pair with at least one mostly grown fledgling on 22 June 2025 with four mostly grown young on 13 July 2025 in the same small pond along the sand road at the southwest end of the site (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). A few apparent nonbreeders have also oversummered at this location in recent years.

The Eurasian form known as the "Common Teal" has been reported occasionally in the county. Records include: one at Pony Slough 25 January 1984 (E. Rees, *Tattler* 8(2): 6; eBird); another in the Coquille Valley 25 December 1994 (A. Contreras, R. Hoyer; eBird); one in Bandon on 3 December 2000 (A. Contreras, H. Herlyn; *Or. Birds* 27(2): 61; eBird); a male in a pond along the Myrtle Point/Sitkum County Road on 24 February 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(2): 86; eBird); one up Kentuck Inlet on 26 February 2006 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 85; eBird); a male off Graveyard Point on the east side of Coos Bay on 25 January 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another in the Coquille Valley on 19 April 2008- in this group of Green-winged Teal there was also a hybrid Eurasian X Green-winged Teal male (R. Namitz, *Tattler* 08(3): 5; eBird); a male at Millicoma Marsh from 2 March- 14 April 2013 (M. Nikas, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5; eBird); a male in a field just east of Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 21 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5; eBird); and a male east of Bandon on North Bank Lane on 23 December 2025 (M. Weber, eBird). The Eurasian subspecies is no longer a review species but there was one record accepted by OBRC during the short period reports were reviewed:

EGWT-2002-03 Pony Slough, Coos Co., 1 male on 4 March 2002 (TR).

Earliest Arrival: 1 July 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) although late June and early July birds could be nonbreeders oversummering. Late July is a more typical time for the first migrant flocks.

Latest Date: three males at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 27 June 2024 if not early arrivals (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); late June birds could be early southbound migrants or even oversummering nonbreeders. Most birds have departed by late May and by mid- to late July there are normally flocks of returning birds- one of the earliest southbound ducks to return.

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*

Fairly common but local from late fall through April, with most birds on Coos Bay particularly at Pony Slough, in the upper bay off Millicoma Marsh, and at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay with lower numbers in the Coquille Valley. Numbers have decreased in the 2000's with only a single bird found on the Coos Bay CBC in 2001, 2002, and 2012 (CBC records).

Recent high counts include: 192 on 13 January 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) and 180 on 27 November 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14;

eBird), both from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Earliest Arrival: 20 September 2016 at Johnson Mill Pond (A. Sidhu, P. White; eBird); the first birds are not normally detected until mid-October or later most years.

Latest Date: 15 July 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 23(4): 117; eBird) although most birds have departed by late April with birds only rarely reported by early May or later.

Redhead *Aythya americana*

Uncommon in migration and in winter, with small concentrations from time to time, mainly in Coos Bay. Numbers vary from year to year; peak counts on Coos Bay are 425 on 16 December 1979 (D. Fix, *Am. Birds* 34(3): 299; eBird) and 425 in the winter of 1978-79 (D. Fix, *Am. Birds* 33(3): 307). Although peak years have varied, winter numbers were consistently much greater in the 1970s and 1980s than they have been in the 1990s and 2000s. Recent Coos Bay CBC count totals were typically in the one to three bird range making this a "good find" on the count. Since 1998, peak numbers have been found during the spring migration from late April through the beginning of June. A few birds are also found from time to time in winter with the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay a favorite location.

There are two rare summer records: a bird seen at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 15 August 2005 (R. Robb, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 27; eBird) and a male and two females at the same site from 22 June through 16 July 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 20 September 2025 at the Old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (M. Finch, eBird with photo), this is unusually early though as most years the first birds are not seen until mid- to late October.

Latest Date: one at the Old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 22 July 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 23(4): 117; eBird).

• **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

Common to locally abundant from fall through spring, with concentrations of scores and even hundreds of birds found in winter at favored sites such as the Empire Lakes, Tenmile Lakes, Horsfall Lake, and in the Coquille Valley. Spring migrants can often be found on the North Spit of Coos Bay (A. McGie, p.c.).

One of the few coastal breeding locations for this species in Oregon is on the North Spit of Coos Bay. The first documented breeding record of this species was at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 16 July 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 22; eBird). Since this first record, this species has bred at the North Spit site most years. The maximum number of females with broods was five+ in 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird). This species has not yet been recorded breeding at any other sites in the county although late June records in the Coquille Valley indicate it could breed there also.

Earliest Arrival: two at Myrtle Point Marsh on 9 September 2019 (D. & R. Henise; eBird).

Latest Date: hard to determine as breeding birds are often present on the North Spit of Coos Bay into August and September; most birds have departed elsewhere in the county by late May with a few lingering into early June.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A vagrant that has occurred twice in the county. It has become more regular elsewhere in Oregon since the late 1980s and Coos County can expect more records. Elsewhere in the state it is often reported with Ring-necked Ducks and Scaup, usually in late winter or early spring. It tends to occur on small ponds, boat basins, and backwaters. The first record was accepted by OBRC:

TUDU-1984-05 Coquille, 1 male in adult plumage on 11 March 1984
 (G. Keller).

OBRC stopped reviewing this species in 2001.

There is only one additional record, a female seen on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site during stormy weather on 14 December 2006 that did not stick around (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(2): 55; eBird).

Identification of Scaup

Greater and Lesser Scaup are very similar and getting good looks at important identification features such as head shape, bill nail width, and the amount of white in the open wing is not always possible. In such cases it is best to not guess on species but rather just call them scaup sp.

There are some broad generalizations many birders have traditionally used to ID them which work well much of the time— inland on freshwater ponds scaup are usually Lessers and on salt water, such as on Coos Bay, large groups are usually all Greater. However, scaup can occur in mixed flocks or in locations they do not “normally” frequent, which is to say Greater Scaup occasionally occur inland on freshwater ponds and infrequently a Lesser Scaup can be found on Coos Bay. One popular birding location in the Coos Bay area, the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit, is a freshwater pond that can sometimes have both species, testing ones ID skills. At this site, birds should always be carefully scrutinized. Although it is a freshwater site, it appears that Greater Scaup are the more common species, particularly overwintering individuals, although Lesser Scaup can sometimes be found too and can even outnumber Greater on occasion! This is the site where mixed scaup flocks are most frequently encountered in the county. If time or light or distance does not allow close looks at some or all of the individuals, the scaup sp. moniker is always the best call. An excellent recent article on differentiating scaup is in *Or. Birds* 50(2): 118-120 (Fall 2024).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Common from late fall through spring on Coos Bay, especially the lower bay. Much less regular in the Coquille Valley, where a lack of deep water limits the presence of other diving ducks as well. Away from lower Coos Bay this species is very uncommon to rare and appears most often on lakes and large ponds, particularly at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay where it is often the most abundant scaup species. Nonbreeders sometimes overwinter at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site also but are absent elsewhere in the county (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 117; *Or.*

Birds 28(4): 188; *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13 as well as multiple eBird records).

Earliest Arrival: 21 August 1999 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay- no oversummering birds were present earlier in the summer (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: hard to determine as a few birds normally oversummer at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site although most birds have departed elsewhere in the county by mid-May.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Uncommon from late fall through spring, preferring freshwater sites such as large ponds and lakes (especially Tenmile Lakes), flooded pastures, and freshwater ponds such as Mingus Park in Coos Bay. This species can be hard to find in the Coquille Valley unless water is deep enough. It can rarely be found on Coos Bay but most of the wintering scaup on the bay are Greater.

Occasionally a few birds will linger into mid-summer on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site; however, Greater Scaup are more likely to be found oversummering there than Lesser Scaup and the Greater Scaup at this site are frequently misIDed as Lesser Scaup (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Earliest Arrival: 4 September 2021 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (C. Lundblad, eBird). Difficulty in ID of Greater vs Lesser Scaup make early and late arrival dates on eBird difficult to be confident of.

Latest Date: 27 July 1999 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), although there are a few August eBird records at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site some of which could well be misIDed Greater Scaup or Lessers that were oversummering nonbreeders (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*

Oregon's first record of this spectacular arctic vagrant was found off the north jetty of Coos Bay. See Griffith (1992) for details of this record.

STEI-1992-01 North Jetty Coos Bay, 10-18 February 1992 (photos by JGr, TC, HN, LF).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Vagrant. There are eight records, four of which have been accepted by the OBRC:

KIEI-1980-02 Cape Arago, one dead female on 18 November 1980 (MG, photo by LT) specimen at Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, No. A0122. First verified Oregon record.
KIEI-1991-05 Bandon, one female 17 October 1991 to 29 February 1992 (JoK, CD, AC, RHo, JE, photos by RM, CM, DVB).
KIEI-1999-09 South Jetty, Coos Bay. One female on 29 April 1999 (L. Stewart with prints by B. Pease). Latest spring record in Oregon.
KIEI-2016-15 Coos Bay, Coos County, one male 18 December 2016 - 1 March 2017 (photos by PaO, OS, RuN, KFr). This bird was last reported on 19 March.

Hilda Reiher's unpublished notes include a record of one "killed by Hugo Reiher on Haynes Inlet" on 6 December 1969. Given the quality

of her other records there seems no reason to doubt this report. There are two other generally accepted records that have not been reviewed by the OBRC: an immature male at Cape Arago 19 December 1985 for at least a week (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 12(4): 355) and a female at Cape Arago (or at Fossil Point on Coos Bay, published in *Tattler* 16(1): 5) on 6 November 1992 (J. Kaplan, *Or. Birds* 19(2): 56).

There is a rare summer record of a female Eider sp. seen flying south over the ocean from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 August 2005 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 27). The observer's description eliminated Steller's Eider but not other Eider species. I have included that sighting here as King Eider records are more numerous than Common Eider records in Oregon so one could speculate it was most likely a King Eider.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Vagrant. Oregon's first and second accepted records are from Coos County.

COEI-2013-04	Coos Bay, Coos County, one subadult male 15-17 March 2013 (detail TR, DI; photos OS, NSt, BaT, DI, LoM). This bird remained through 12 April 2013 and was the first documented record for Oregon.
COEI-2023-05	Subadult male found 1 January 2023 at Kronenberg County Park, Coquille Point, Bandon, Coos County which continued through 9 April 2023. Reports and photos DI, SF, EPr, AnP, SMa, TR. Reports only NeN, KYe, CPi.



Figure 12- Common Eider in the Barview area of Coos Bay on 17 March 2013. Photo compliments of Owen Schmidt.

• **Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus*

This colorful, uncommon to fairly common, and local duck can be found in the county every winter, but numbers are often small, and some effort is often required to locate them except at Cape Arago where they are usually present in good numbers. Favored locations besides the rocky coves at Cape Arago include the backwater and rocky areas around the mouth of the Coquille River and the rock cribs extending into Coos Bay behind the north jetty. No more than a few birds are found most years in these locations except the North Cove at Cape Arago where double-digit numbers are typically observed. The largest congregation reported in recent years was 44 at the North Cove with eight additional seen further north for a total of 52 on 21 January 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird) and 50 at the North Cove location on 14 November 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird).

This species is rare during summer except at Cape Arago area where a few birds are present during most summers. First year males may not leave to go to breeding sites and adult males leave their breeding sites fairly early and return to their offshore wintering sites during summer and immediately molt into eclipse plumage (W. Hoffman, p.c.).

This species is a very rare breeder, with one record to date, a female with half grown chicks that were barely able to fly on the South Fork of the Coquille River on 16 August 2007 (Lowe and Namitz, 2008- this article incorrectly states the date as 16 September; eBird). A female was seen on the South Fork of the Coquille River in early July of 2010 and may have been attempting to breed (J. Lowe, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7).

A note on scoters in migration...

In migration long strings of Surf or White-winged Scoters can often be seen just offshore flying steadily along, often with other species mixed in. Multiple scoter species can be seen in these flocks, as can scaup, Long-tailed Duck, teal and other species. This movement is most apparent from mid-September through late October.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

This is usually the most abundant scoter in the county year-round. A few nonbreeders are usually found all summer, but the main influx of birds begins in September and by late fall the wintering throngs have settled in, with scores to hundreds of birds often present. Most birds depart by early May.

Significant numbers are usually present in Coos Bay and smaller numbers in the Coquille River estuary, but the largest rafts can be found on the open ocean off Cape Arago and strung along in and just outside the surf in small groups all along the coast.

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi*

This species is sometimes the most common scoter seen in fall migration offshore but is usually not as common as Surf Scoters in the county in winter. However, scoter numbers, especially those of this species, vary considerably from year to year and sometimes this species is the most common in winter.

Most birds depart by early May; however, a few nonbreeders can often be found offshore even in mid-summer although this species is usually found in lower numbers than the nonbreeding summer resident Surf Scoters.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*

This is the least common and most local of the three scoters that winter in the county. Although this species is more regular and abundant on the central and north coast of Oregon, in Coos County they are always a "good" find. Unlike the other scoter species, flocks are rare with one or two birds the norm. In recent years, the only regular location to find more than singles or pairs of this species has been on the north end of Whiskey Run Beach at Five Mile Point where five to ten normally overwinter. Some of the more regular locations where one or two can be found by picking through the large Surf Scoter flocks are in lower Coos Bay off Fossil Point, off Cape Arago on the ocean (especially from Sunset Bay northward to Yoakum Point), or around the backwaters at the south jetty at Bandon.

This is the least likely scoter to spend the summer as a nonbreeding bird.

Birds are occasionally found elsewhere along the open coast, either alone or with other species. The closest location to Coos County where large numbers congregate in winter is the Blacklock Point area near Floras Lake, Curry County where up to 100 are regular during winter months.

Earliest Arrival: 4 August 1998 at the south jetty of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) if not a nonbreeding oversummering individual. Most years the first birds are not reported until September or October; rare oversummering individuals can make arrival dates difficult to ascertain.

Latest Date: 5 June 1998 at New River (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

This striking sea duck is uncommon in the county during winter and usually stays from late fall through early April. It is most often seen in lower Coos Bay, especially in the waters between the jetties, Charleston, and off Fossil and Pigeon Points in Empire. The coves off Cape Arago have also harbored this species in some years. No more than one to four birds are present in most years; a peak count of 13 was found off Point Adams in Charleston on 18 February 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

There is an unusual record of two found in the flooded Coquille Valley on the 1 January 2024 Coquille Valley CBC (A. Conteras, T. Jeske; eBird).

This species is rare anywhere in Oregon during the summer months with a single record from Shore Acres on 16 July 1982 (R. Robb, p.c.).

It is much rarer and usually absent at the mouth of the Coquille.

Earliest Arrival: 28 September 2025 in Charleston (D. Hargreaves, eBird); this was an unusually early report with the first bird(s) not reported until the end of October or November most years.

Latest Date: 15 May 1974, not including the rare summer record. Birds are rarely reported after April.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*

This is one of the most abundant water birds in the county in winter, and is sometimes the most common duck on Coos Bay, where counts of over 2,000 birds have been made in the lower bay on CBCs (CBC records) with a recent count of 1,700 on 20 February 2022 from Fossil Point (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). It generally begins arriving in September and leaves in April, although a few birds often linger into May and June. A few summer nonbreeders are present most years at the old

Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay, otherwise it is rarely encountered in summer.

This is also one of the most adaptable and ubiquitous ducks that winter in the county, using every habitat from the bay to ponds to sloughs and flooded pastures. It rarely uses the open ocean.

Earliest Arrival: 25 July 2003 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site- this bird was not present at this site earlier in the month (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; eBird); there are other July records of birds on eBird but since the locations they were reported from were not regularly monitored like the North Spit site it is hard to say whether these were oversummering birds or not- they do not become common in Coos Bay until later in September and October though.

Latest Date: hard to determine as birds occasionally oversummer making it difficult to distinguish them from early fall migrants; most birds have departed by early June though.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

This diving duck is uncommon but highly visible from later November through March, mainly in lower Coos Bay, where loose flocks of a few birds to a dozen or more sometime form. A few are also regular along the causeway out to the North Spit of Coos Bay and in the upper bay off Millicoma Marsh.

It is often hard to come by in the Coquille Valley and is found elsewhere in the county mainly as a transient on lakes and large ponds.

Earliest Arrival: 12 September 2018 at Bandon Marsh NWR (C. Gregory, eBird); September arrivals are rare as are October records with the first wintering birds typically not reported until mid-November.

Latest Date: 9 June 2024 at Haynes Inlet in upper Coos Bay (D. Hargreaves, eBird); however, most birds are gone much earlier with numbers noticeably dropping off by the end of March with only a few still around in April and birds only rarely reported in May or later.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*

Rare late fall/winter visitant. It is more regular in very small numbers along coastal Oregon from Alsea Bay in Lincoln County north.

There are several modern records. The first was one seen off the North Spit of Coos Bay on 24 March 1986 (L. Thornburgh). Subsequent records include: a very rare summer sighting of an immature male on the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 22-27 August 1998 (J. Gilligan, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 51; eBird); an overwintering male off Pigeon Point in Empire from 19 December 1999- 13 March 2000 (M. Wihler, N. Wander, et al.; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 186, 196; eBird); perhaps the same male seen off Pigeon Point in Empire for three consecutive winters- from 12 January 2002 through 4 March 2002 (J. Sullivan et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 96; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 132; eBird), from 26 November 2002 through 18 February 2003 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 43; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 137; eBird), and from 22 November through at least 27 December 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 40; *Or. Birds* 30(2): 89; eBird); an immature male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 3 November- 2 December 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 33(1): 21; eBird); an adult male in the Charleston area from 20 December 2009- 23 January 2010 when it was "harvested" by a hunter (H. Schuboth, B. Taylor, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7; eBird); an adult male on the east side of Coos Bay near Graveyard Point on 27 November 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7; eBird); an adult male off Pigeon Point in the Empire

area of Coos Bay from 6-9 March 2018 (R. Robb, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); an adult male in the Empire area of Coos Bay from 16 November 2019 through 10 March 2020 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird); possibly the same adult male for a second winter off Empire from 29 November 2020 through at least 23 February 2021 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird); an immature adult male at the same Pigeon Point location on 31 January 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another immature male at Conde McCullough State Wayside in North Bend on 29 March 2021 (J. Sanford, eBird with a photo); the adult male back in the Empire area of Coos Bay for its third winter from 13 January 2022 through at least 25 February 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; eBird); likely the same overwintering adult male off Empire for its fourth winter from 29 November 2022- 18 February 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42 incorrectly reported as its sixth winter; eBird); and probably the same adult male off Empire for its fifth winter from 20 January- 18 February 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43- incorrectly reported as its sixth winter; eBird).

Hybrid male Barrow's X Common Goldeneyes have been reported at least three times. The first was found off Pigeon Point in Empire on 30 January 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(2): 62; eBird). Subsequent reports include: one in the Haynes Inlet area of Coos Bay from 17-25 March 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird) and one off Fossil Point in Empire from at least 23-29 February 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

It is possible that this species occurred more often earlier in the century. James M. Thomas reported the species as rare at North Bend from 1914-1919, a period during which Common Goldeneye was reported as ranging from rare to common (Bayer 1986). It is not possible to determine the accuracy of these reports today.

● **Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Fairly common but local wintering species from mid-October to early May and an uncommon, local breeder. Pairs or small flocks are often seen in winter throughout the county where standing or slow-moving water permits. Larger numbers are occasionally found when conditions allow, e.g. over 100 birds in the central Coquille Valley during high water in December 1996.

This species is difficult to find after mid-May but a few birds remain although their local nature makes reports spotty. Some recent breeding locations include the Coquille Valley, Sitkum, and the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Earliest Arrival: 6 September 1998 at New River if not local breeders (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); breeders make early dates tough but numbers increase by later in September.

Latest Date: 23 May 1999 at Myrtle Point Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird), not including the occasional breeder which makes determining the late date difficult- most nonbreeders probably leave by mid-May.

● **Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser*

Resident, although some additional birds may come into the area to winter. Uncommon breeder along rivers and streams, mainly in the eastern half of the county. Uncommon to common in winter along fresh water, it avoids the lower part of estuaries and thus was hard to find on most Coos Bay CBCs and is usually only found further inland on the Coquille Valley CBC.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Uncommon to locally common from October through April, mainly on salt water. They are most apparent in the lower parts of estuaries and close inshore on the ocean.

Earliest Arrival: four on 27 Aug 1992 and a single on 27 Aug 1998 both at Bandon Marsh NWR (D. Stejskal, T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird), most birds do not arrive until later in September.

Latest Date: 15 July 2018 in Bandon (R. Batchelder, eBird), although this species is rarely reported after the beginning of June.

• **Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

This small duck is uncommon to common from October through late April, but flocks are normally very local. When these flocks are found it is not unusual to find tens to hundreds. One or two overwintering nonbreeders can occasionally be found at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay but not every year (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 117; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 148; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird).

There is a single breeding record of this species in the county, a female observed with three ducklings at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 14 July 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: two on 7 August 2021 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, no birds had been seen out here before this since early May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); this species does not show up in number until later in September.

Latest Date: hard to determine as a few nonbreeders can linger into July and August at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site some years although most birds are gone by mid-May.

Order GALLIFORMES

Family ODONTOPHORIDAE

A note on introductions. According to sources cited in Jobanek (1997), Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, California Quail, and Bobwhite were introduced to the county in the period 1914-1915. Gray Partridge bred near Coquille in 1914 (Jobanek, citing A. J. Sherwood in *Oregon Sportsman* 2(10): 19) but only the quail kept a permanent foothold in the region. Ring-necked Pheasant are still occasionally reported and in recent years have been stocked by ODFW at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area for youth hunts which occur in September. It is doubtful that the pheasant would survive long without periodic restocking.

• **Mountain Quail** *Oreortyx pictus*

Uncommon in most of the higher forested portions of the county, rare in the coastal plain and in the Coquille Valley lowlands.

This aptly named species is most regular in the hills and intermontane valleys of the eastern and southern part of the county, where its querulous notes can be heard in spring from the hillsides, making this the easiest time of the year to detect it. Birds have been heard calling as early as 19 February near the Mt. Bolivar trailhead (in 2010- T. Rodenkirk, eBird) but are more regularly heard from March through May (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

When found on the local CBCs it is normally encountered at higher elevations, such as the Beaver Hill area on the Coquille Valley count or at feeders on the east edge of the Coos Bay count. It is normally

absent on the outer coast but there are a few recent records of singing birds in spring suggesting rare attempts at breeding: one calling at New River on 3 May 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another calling bird at New River on 23 April 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 16 March 2020 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay east of the FAA Towers from 5-9 April 2020 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); and one at the Lost Lake section of the New River ACEC on 14 April 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

• **California Quail** (I?) *Callipepla californica*

Fairly common resident in the lowland parts of the county except around Coos Bay and along the outer coast, where it is local. This species is especially common in the Coquille Valley and in the other small valleys within the Coast Range and Siskiyou. It is generally absent in mountainous or heavily forested areas.

This species may not be native to the county, although this is not certain. Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) indicate that the species was native in Lake, Klamath, Jackson, and Josephine Counties but that they had no specimens from the southern coast. However, they speculated that the species could occur naturally there. Grinnell and Miller (1944) indicate that the species was native north at least to Del Norte County, California. Harry Nehls indicates that birds from the southern part of the county may be native.

Some introductions in Oregon occurred as far back as the 1870s but it is not clear whether Coos County was included. Major introductions including Coos County occurred in the period 1914-1915.

Family PHASIANIDAE

• **Wild Turkey**[I] *Meleagris gallopavo*

Local introduced resident. Flocks have been introduced by the ODFW at various locations. They are most common in the southeast portion of the county although they have recently spread to the west and can be found at locations such as Millicoma Marsh and even within the city limits of Coos Bay. The first record on the Coquille Valley CBC was in 1997. The first record on a Coos Bay CBC was not until 2004.

• **Ruffed Grouse** *Bonasa umbellus*

Uncommon resident throughout the county, found from scrubby regenerating coastal woods to the ridgetops of the Coast Range and the Siskiyou, often close to water. This species is easiest to detect when it is drumming in the spring; drumming birds have been heard as early as 19 February (2010- Tim Rodenkirk, eBird) near Eden Valley on the Rogue River/Siskiyou NF but more regularly are heard from March through early June. In late summer and early fall, adults with young can occasionally be encountered scurrying across back roads in the Coast Range.

• **Sooty Grouse** *Dendragapus fuliginosus*

Formerly called Blue Grouse; this species was split by the AOU in 2006. Fairly common resident, although difficult to locate. Breeds in the more heavily wooded eastern portions of the county at higher elevations, above approximately 2,000 feet. It is easiest to find in spring when it can frequently be heard calling in locations such as Eden Valley and Mt. Bolivar, but the ventriloquial nature of its call makes it very difficult to actually see.

● **Ring-necked Pheasant**[I] *Phasianus colchicus*

Rare to uncommon, local. This species probably would not persist without repeated introductions for sport hunting. The Asian species was introduced to the county beginning probably in 1914 (Jobanek, 1997, citing *Oregon Sportsman* 3: 10-13) and its distribution is patchy. In the early 2000s, the best spot to find this species was in open, grassy areas on the North Spit of Coos Bay where the population was supplemented from time to time by hunters who released birds (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Since then, much of the open grass habitat on the North Spit has transitioned into forest, so habitat and pheasant numbers have decreased, and sightings are now rare. It has also been reported occasionally from the Coquille Valley where birds are periodically released for hunting at locations such as the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area.

The easiest time to locate this species is when the males are crowing from March through June.

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES

Family PODICIPEDIDAE

● **Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*

Fairly common resident. It breeds locally in still and slow-moving water. Favorite breeding locations include Myrtle Point Marsh, Johnson Mill Pond, and the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

More birds enter the county (and the species can be locally common) in winter, occurring mainly on ponds, slow-moving parts of rivers, and the more freshwater dominated parts of estuaries. Of all Oregon grebes, this is the least likely to occur on salt water.

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

This small grebe is common to abundant on Coos Bay in winter especially on the lower bay, and is uncommon in the Coquille River estuary, on lakes, and on the ocean. Numbers vary somewhat from year to year.

Birds begin arriving in late August or early September and most depart by mid-May. Some birds have completely molted into their colorful breeding plumage by early April while others remain in their basic black and white. It is not clear whether this difference represents a migratory infusion of birds that wintered to the south moving through the county, a difference in distribution, movements, or molt timing of first-year birds, or some other factors.

There are two rare mid-summer records: a dead bird found on the beach along the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 July 2005 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 172; eBird) and a breeding-plumaged bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay first seen 20 June 2015 that lingered into late August (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: two birds on 16 August 2015 at Bandon (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); not including the rare mid-summer records.

Latest Date: 19 June 2007 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 07(3): 7; eBird); not including the rare mid-summer records.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

This grebe is uncommon in winter except in lower Coos Bay where it can be quite abundant. A few birds can usually be found on the ocean nearshore, especially at Cape Arago. This species is occasional on lakes and is generally not seen far upriver.

The first "fall" migrants do not normally return until mid- to late August and become more common in September but there are some unusually early arrivals the earliest of which were in 2024. One was discovered in the bay along the causeway out to the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14-15 July 2024 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; eBird). On 16 July 2024, another was observed offshore from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). These individuals were both in breeding plumage and were not observed in either area in late June or early July suggesting they were very early migrants.

In the spring most birds have departed by mid-May with a few stragglers some years into early June.

Earliest Arrival: 14 July 2024 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.).

Latest Date: 28 June 2015 near the BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird).

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

This is the least common small grebe in the county; it is uncommon except during unusual concentrations. It winters in small numbers, with two or three birds off Fossil Point in Empire and on the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay, the only real "concentrations" to be found most years. It is locally rare on the ocean, preferring shallow waters of estuaries, ponds, and lakes. However, mainly during late fall and early winter, large groups of 20+ appear to be regular at the Simpson Reef Overlook at Cape Arago SP, one of the few ocean locations they have been reported from.

High counts include: 34 on Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 3 January 1998 (Coquille Valley CBC records; eBird); 15 off the Simpson Reef Overlook on 18 February 2003 (C. Dillingham, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 136; eBird); 22 on the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 19 November 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 40; eBird); a total of 36 off Cape Arago on 27 April 2013 (J. Withgott, eBird); and about 50 off the Simpson Reef Overlook on 14 November 2015 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). Single birds are sometimes found in the Coquille River estuary.

There is no noticeable migratory movement of this species in the county. The few birds that winter arrive in September and October and depart in April and early May. The species does not summer or breed in the county.

There are two unusual early summer records that could pertain to failed breeders arriving back much earlier than normal: a breeding-plumage bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 5 June 2015 through at least 11 July 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird) and two breeding-plumaged birds at the same location on 6 July 2021 through at least 7 August 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 28 July 2007 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 126; eBird); this does not include the two unusually early July records. Most years though, the first wintering birds are not encountered until mid- to late September.

Latest Date: 9 June 2005 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 59(4): 644- incorrectly noted as until

10 June in *Or. Birds* 31(4): 172; eBird), not including the two summer records.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

This is usually the most common grebe in the county at any season and in most locations. In winter, these birds are common and obvious nearshore and in the lower estuaries of Coos Bay and the Coquille River. Flocks of 20 or more birds are often seen in lower Coos Bay and off Cape Arago in winter, and larger concentrations have occurred. A peak count is 200 birds seen off Pigeon Point on 7 March 1979 (J. McDowell, *Tattler* 3(1): 9). Smaller numbers can be found in the upper reaches of Coos Bay, locally where the Coquille Valley floods, and in lakes and deeper sloughs.

Wintering birds arrive in September and most depart in late April and early May although flocks regularly linger into June and even early July in Coos Bay with a few nonbreeders oversummering.

Earliest Arrival of wintering flocks: a flock off Shore Acres on 15 September 2016 (H. Rejzek, eBird); a few nonbreeders can be found off the coast and in Coos Bay most summers though.

Latest Date: most birds are gone by mid-May but some nonbreeders summer, mainly on the ocean but singles or small flocks can often be found in lower Coos Bay.

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii*

This close relative of the Western Grebe was declared a separate species by the American Ornithologists' Union in 1983. It is local and quite uncommon in winter, with only one or two birds in Coos Bay during winter the norm. The highest Coos Bay CBC total was seven on the 2008 count (CBC records- this may have included double counted birds but it is hard to know for sure). Overwintering birds appear to mostly have departed by mid-May and normally are not reported again until October or later. Some years, a few nonbreeders or very early migrants have been reported offshore during summer as well as in Coos Bay.

Identification of this species can be problematic. Numbers are low enough most winters in Coos Bay that finding even a single bird generally requires looking through many tens or even hundreds of Westerns. Observers should look for an obvious, orange-colored bill as well as white above the eye which bleeds into the lore area. Hybrids either lack the bright orange bill or do not have white above the eye and in the lore area. Adding to the confusion, hybrids appear to be somewhat regular in Oregon (eBird records) and could easily be mistaken for Clark's; a recent hybrid in Coos Bay was photographed off Fossil Point on 20 March 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, ebird.org/checklist/S219627256). Thus, care should be taken on ID of a potential Clark's to make sure it is not a hybrid which may be equally as common in the county (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Because of the ID difficulties described above, and the general scarcity of this species in the county, high counts (multiple individuals) require good documentation to be confirmed on eBird.

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family CLARAVINAE

Common Ground Dove *Columbina passerine*

Vagrant. There is one recent record which has been accepted by OBRC:

CGDO-2024-08

South Jetty of the Coquille River, Bandon, Coos Co., one bird, 21-28 October 2024 (reports TY, reports and photos KSa, TR, NC, and SKi).



Figure 13- Common Ground Dove in Bandon on 21 October 2024. Photo compliments of Karen Saxton.

Family COLUMBIDAE

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*

Vagrant with four records, one of which has been accepted by OBRC:

WWDO-2007-16

Bandon, Coos Co., 1 bird 1-4 September 2007 (GG, RRo). (Old number: 319-07-16) *Note: This bird was present at a Bandon feeder from 31 August 2007 through 4 September 2007(TR).*

The first record was one seen coming to a feeder near Charleston on 18 June 2004 and again on 22 June 2004 (J. Chatt, eBird). No report was filed with OBRC for this sighting.

This species was removed from the review list in 2013.

There are two additional records since this species was removed from the review list: one photographed coming to a feeder at a Charleston residence on 13 September 2017 (J. Chatt, eBird) and one in North Bend from 20-27 December 2018 (A. Hinkle et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird).



Figure 14- White-winged Dove in Bandon on 1 September 2007. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

• **Mourning Dove** *Zenaida macroura*

This is an uncommon to common breeding bird in the more open areas of the county, especially where grain is available. It is generally found more easily inland although it does breed in smaller numbers in open areas along the coast, including New River and the North Spit of Coos Bay. Some birds remain to winter, mainly in the Coquille Valley. One of the odder records in the area was a bird seen from a fishing boat ten miles off Bandon on 16 April 1990 (T. Thompson, *Am. Birds* 44(3): 489; eBird).

Numbers may have decreased since Eurasian Collared-doves became established in the county, at least in the coastal lowlands where both species occur; however, no effort has been made to substantiate this decrease with empirical data (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

• **Band-tailed Pigeon** *Patagioenas fasciata*

This is a fairly common breeder in most of the county where sizable trees are available. It arrives in mid- to late February and stays through November. A few birds remain for the winter in some years, sometimes in cities, but it is usually not found on either the Coos Bay or Coquille Valley CBCs. Occasionally they can be seen feeding on mudflats when large trees are nearby, such as at Bandon Marsh NWR.

Earliest Arrival of migrant birds: 13 February 2016 in Glasgow (B. Taylor, eBird); mid-February to early March is a typical arrival time for this species making it one of the earliest species to arrive in the "spring".

Latest Date: several overwintering records, normally singles coming to feeders.

- Eurasian Collared-Dove(I) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident. This exotic dove species reached Florida around 1980 and rapidly expanded its range across the U.S. making it all the way to Alaska by 2008. The first sighting in Oregon was in 1998. The first sighting in Coos County was in July of 2004 at a feeder in Lakeside (J. Randolph, eBird). Up to three birds oversummered and at least one was seen sporadically throughout the winter. Two birds were still frequenting this same Lakeside feeder through fall of 2006. There was also one at a feeder in North Bend in 2005 but the observer did not figure out what it was until the following year when more appeared (K. Oberrecht, p.c.). In late May of 2006 two birds were observed in an Airport Heights neighborhood of North Bend with three birds observed by several local birders on 3 June (J. Thomas, T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Tattler*06(4):7; eBird). This was the same neighborhood where a single bird had been seen in 2005. Another pair of birds was reported on 5 June 2006 coming to a feeder in Charleston and two birds were seen copulating there on 17 June 2006 for the first breeding evidence in the county (J. Chatt, *Tattler*06(4): 7; eBird). Three more birds were seen coming to a feeder in Bandon on 20 October 2006 with up to five there through the winter and seven in the spring (T. Loomis, eBird). The first Coos Bay CBC record was in 2006 and a flock of 15 birds was seen in North Bend on 8 January 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). By mid-2007, sightings of this species were widespread in urban portions of the county where they seem to have zeroed in on yards with feeders.

Currently, this species is restricted to the lowland areas of the county and has not been found in the forested coast range. Numbers are highest during the spring through fall breeding season although the species remains fairly easy to find during winter. Little is known about the status of the local population such as if breeding birds migrate out of the area in fall/winter or if the wintering population includes birds that have moved into the area from elsewhere. Migrants are noticeable on the North Spit of Coos Bay in the spring, so there may be some turnover of wintering birds migrating out and breeding birds migrating in. After their initial appearance, population numbers rapidly expanded for about a decade, and then shrank a bit for a few years, and finally leveled off to the numbers where they are now. The current population seems stable and thus this species now appears to be "naturalized."

Two of the earlier records were accepted by OBRC before they stopped accepting records in 2007:

EUCD-2006-14 North Bend, Coos County, three birds on 3 June 2006
(photo by RuN).

EUCD-2006-15 Charleston, Coos County, two copulating birds late May through June 2006 (TR, photos by JCh).

- **Rock Pigeon (I)** *Columba livia*

Formerly referred to as Rock Dove, it is also known as the domestic or city pigeon but can occur in "natural" settings. It is a common resident in urban areas and locally around farms where grain is available. Introduced from Europe. No seasonal movements.

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES
Family CAPRIMULGIDAE
Subfamily CHORDEILINAE

● **Common Nighthawk** *Chordeiles minor*

This is an uncommon and local breeder in the county. It is the latest neotropical breeder to arrive in spring, usually not appearing until the last few days of May or early June. They move south beginning in mid- to late August and quickly disappear with very few early September records.

Breeders are found mainly in open areas in the inland part of the county where recent clearcuts and old road landings provide open ground which they use for nest sites (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Breeding birds have been found in clearcuts up Kentuck Slough (K. Dazey, p.c.) and on old landings in recent clearcuts in the forested eastern portion of the county (T. Rodenkirk, J. Heaney, S. Hootman; per. obs.).

There are at least two suspiciously early reports of this species, one on 4 May 1989 and another from 25 April 2006 (S. Namitz, *Tattler*06(3): 6). There are no verified records of this species arriving so early anywhere in Oregon so these reports are likely incorrectly identified birds. This species has a very predictable arrival time and an "early" arrival would be the last week of May.

Earliest Arrival: two calling birds at dawn on 24 May 2000 in the Coast Range foothills west of New River (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: 7 September 2018 in a Bandon yard (T. Spencer, eBird with photo).

Subfamily CAPRIMULGINAE

? **Common Poorwill** *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*

Rare visitant and possible very rare breeder, with four or five records to date. The first record was a calling bird heard from Eden Valley on 21 May 1988 (G. Keller, *Or. Birds* 15(1): 44; eBird). Subsequent records include: one heard calling a single time along New River at sunrise on 26 May 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(4): 110-not confirmed by eBird reviewer); one seen flying and calling a couple evenings in a clearcut in the Coast Range north of Bridge from 6 September through at least 8 September 2016 (J. Metzler et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one reported on a road in the Coast Range up Frenchie Creek near Bridge on 1 June 2021 (M. Bressler, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird); and a single jumped in a one-year-old Douglas-fir plantation on 21 October 2024 (N. Winner, eBird).

In addition to the bird reported at New River in southwest Coos County, a dead bird was found near New River in northern Curry County on 21 November 1984 (J. Rogers, C. Osborne; *Or. Birds* 11(2): 105; eBird), further evidence this species is a rarely observed migrant on the south coast.

Order APODIFORMES
Family APODIDAE
Subfamily CYPSELOIDINAE

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger*

This is an uncommon spring migrant and very rare fall migrant most frequently seen flying north along or close to ocean beaches from

mid-May through mid-June with peak "big" day numbers of 100+ all observed in the 15-27 May period. Birds are mainly seen on windless, usually clear mornings from sunrise to about 0800 with virtual no birds after 0830. During this early AM window, peak numbers normally occur from about 0645-0745. Thus, observers hoping to see this spectacle later in the morning (after 0800) during the peak period will likely see few or no birds. There does not seem to be a good window to find this species migrating south in the fall when it is decidedly rarer with only a few records.

Records prior to 1998 include: 12 near Horsfall Beach on 3 June 1980 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127; eBird); one at Powers on 13 August 1980 (E. White-Swift, *Or. Birds* 6(4): 194; eBird); a remarkable 100 birds at the North Fork Coquille bridge on 26 September 1981 (J. Thomas, *Tattler* 5(4): 7; eBird); at an unknown site on 11 May 1982; and "two or three dozen" at Cox Creek up the Coos River on 11 May 1983 (J. Thomas, *Tattler* 7(4): 17; eBird); two were over New River on 15 May 1984 (J. Rogers, *Or. Birds* 10(3&4): 92; eBird).

Since 1998 there have been many additional records in the spring, probably because observers became aware of when and where to look for this species, with only a single new fall record. The bulk of these new records are from three coastal sites, the New River ACEC, Bandon, and the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Spring records at the Storm Ranch portion of the New River ACEC include: one on 18 May 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); in 1999- 12 on 9 May with eight more on 20 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); in 2000- one on 1 June and four more on 10 June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 220; eBird); in 2002- three on 16 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 134; eBird), one on 2 June, 60 on 7 June, and four more on 8 June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 190; eBird); in 2003- 15 on 18 May and a flock of 40 on 20 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 149; eBird); in 2004- six on 12 May, 14 on 20 May, 48 on 25 May, 17 on 2 June, and one on 11 June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 130; *Or. Birds* 30(4): 181; eBird); in 2005- two on 25 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); in 2006- one on 10 May, six on 13 May, one on 9 June, and 8-10 on 24 June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(4): 148; eBird); in 2007- 10 on 14 May, a whopping 248 on 16 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(3): 95; eBird), 211 on 22 May, 110 on 23 May, and two on 5 June (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 61(3): 502; eBird); in 2008- four on 9 May, 145 on 8 June, and eight on 11 June (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 609; eBird); in 2009- 103 on 25 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 14); in 2010- four on 24 May and 66 on 28 May (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 64(3): 490; eBird); in 2011- 40 on 23 May (R. Namitz, B. Taylor; eBird); and four on 21 May 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Spring records at the Lower Fourmile portion of the New River ACEC include: four on 24 May 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 20 on 8 June 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 15 on 15 May 2020 with 45 on 22 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an amazing 292 on 23 May 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32); 42 on 17 May 2022 with a stunning 297 on 20 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird) and 199 the next day (T. Rodenkirk, E. Clough, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); 45 on 22 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with 21 on 23 May (N. Strycker, B. Taylor, L. Paulson, R. McCreery, T. Rodenkirk; eBird) and 63 on 24 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 45 on 14 May 2024 with 11 on 15 May 2024, 87 on 19 May 2024, and 27 on 20 May 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); 314 on 21 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 69 on 23 May 2025 (J. & D. Nordstrom; eBird); and at least one on 28 May 2025 (N. Winner, eBird).

Spring records from the Bandon area include: one on 4 June 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 119; eBird); three on 29 June 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 119; eBird); one at Bandon Beach SP on 21 May 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); 30 at Bandon Beach on 27 May 2010 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Tattler* 10(2): 8); one at Bradley Lake on 10 May 2012 (H. Schuboth, eBird); two on 27 June 2012 at Bandon Beach (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 66(4): 725); four on 20 May 2013 (H. Schuboth, eBird); three at Bradley Lake on 16 May 2014 (H. Schuboth, eBird); 15 at Bandon Beach on 19 May 2016 (L. Paulson, eBird) with eight at Bradley Lake the same day (H. Schuboth, eBird); one at Bradley Lake on 25 May 2016 (H. Schuboth, eBird); 15 on 15 May 2017 at Bradley Lake (H. Schuboth, eBird); two on 21 May 2018 at Bradley Lake (H. Schuboth, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8); eBird); two on 22 May 2019 with one the next day at Bradley Lake (H. Schuboth, eBird); one at Bradley Lake on 10 June 2019 with another single there on 14 June (H. Schuboth, eBird); one at Bradley Lake on 18 May 2020 with singles there also on 23 and 24 May (H. Schuboth, eBird); a colossal 272 at Bullards Beach SP on 23 May 2020 with 119 the next day (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); one at Bradley Lake on 23 May 2021 with three there on 24 May, five there on 25 May, and one there on 28 May (H. Schuboth, eBird); 47 at the Bandon south jetty on 23 May 2021 (D. & R. Henise, eBird); 30 from Bradley Lake on 21 June 2024 (H. Schuboth, eBird); two on 25 June 2024 (I. Godwin, eBird); 31 from a yard in south Bandon on 23 May 2025 (T. Yaukey, eBird) with 21 from China Creek the same morning (L. Paulson, eBird).

Spring records from the North Spit of Coos Bay include: 25 on 2 June 2001 (P. Sullivan, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 119); 21 on 2 June 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 190); a flock of 50 seen flying over the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on 21 May 2003 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 149); at least four at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 12 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 144 on 22 May 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); 76 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4 June 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 609; eBird); six at the same location on 21 May 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 70 at the same old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 26 May 2010 (R. Namitz, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); one on 22 May 2011 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL); one on 23 May 2011 with another single the next day (R. Namitz, eBird); 13 on 30 May 2011 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, eBird); 36 on 18 May 2012 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Tattler* 12(2): 8); 10 from the Weyerhaeuser Overlook on 20 May 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 13 on 4 June 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); 14 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 19 May 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); 153 at the Weyerhaeuser Overlook on 17 May 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 24 May 2016 with six more on 27 May 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the same location on 12 May 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Gerig, J. Kopitzke; eBird); a titanic 294 on 15 May 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 21 May 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); six at the same site on 27 May 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 70 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 15 May 2020 (D. & R. Henise, eBird); eight at the same site on 20 May 2020 (D. & R. Henise, eBird); an unbelievable 460 on 23 May 2020 seen from the beach and also from the Weyerhaeuser Overlook (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the very early date of 7 May 2021 (C. Centanni, C. Jett, C. Neuman; eBird); 30 on 30 May 2022 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); four on 18 June 2022 (D. Lauten,

K. Castelein; p.c.); 10 on 21 May 2024 with a single on 7 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 66 on 23 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Other miscellaneous reports include: four at Spinreel Campground on 13 May 2007 (J. Metzler, *Tattler*07(3): 6; eBird); 10 at the Coos Bay BLM office across from the airport in North Bend on 25 May 2010 with 12 there on 26 May (J. Heaney, H. Witt; *Tattler*10(2): 7; both dates in eBird); two at the Bethel Mountain quarry on 13 May 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*12(2): 8; eBird); three at Bethel Mountain on 24 May 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); five at Bastendorff Beach on 21 May 2017 (M. Seedborg, eBird); five at Lost Lake south of Bandon on 22 May 2019 with a single there the next day (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); three from Millicoma Marsh on 8 June 2019 (M. Seedborg, eBird); two at Lost Lake south of Bandon on 19 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Bluebill Campground on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 27 May 2024 (H. Laimon, eBird); and two at Lost Lake on 19 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

The only fall record since 1981 was one at Bandon on 18 September 2010 (R. Namitz, Barb Taylor; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird).

All triple digit "big" days have been between 15-27 May. The highest two-day count total on record were back-to-back days with **558** on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 May 2024 (the highest total from one location in the county) with **451** at Lower Fourmile Creek on 27 May 2024 for a two-day total of **1,009** birds (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43, eBird)! On the 27 May 2024 "big day", 186 were also observed from a private residence in Bandon (T. Yaukey, eBird)- but that location was close enough to the Lower Fourmile site that they were likely the same flocks seen minutes apart and, in fact, the two observers were texting back and forth as flocks came over. The highest single count day was on the morning of 23 May 2020 when **270** were observed at Bullards Beach SP in Bandon and **460** were seen at the North Spit of Coos Bay during the same early morning time period- a combined total of **730** birds although it is possible that some of the birds seen in Bandon were the same individuals observed on the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. & R. Henise, T. Rodenkirk; eBird). Other "big days" include 15 May 2017 when 294 were observed from the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); 16 May 2007 when 248 were seen at New River (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(3): 95; eBird); 23 May 2021 when 292 were observed at Lower Fourmile Creek (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 297 at the same location on 20 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 314 again at Lower Fourmile Creek on 21 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Spring Migrant Date: a single on 7 May 2021 at North Spit of Coos Bay (C. Centanni, C. Jett; eBird); most years birds are not observed until mid-May or later.

Latest Spring Migrant Date: three at Bandon on 29 June 2001 (Dave Lauten, Kathy Castelein; eBird).

Subfamily CHAETURINAE

• **Vaux's Swift** *Chaetura vauxi*

This is a fairly common local breeder, mainly away from the open coast in areas of older trees, but also in towns. In much of western Oregon this species nests regularly in chimneys in towns, although bird books tend not to recognize this fact. Six young fledged from chimney nests in North Bend on 30 July 1979 (D. Matthews, *Tattler*3(3): 6).

Flocks are often seen feeding together in the sky even during breeding season, and the species often uses roost trees and sometimes chimneys, especially in migration. Migration flocks can be spectacular to watch right after sunset as they enter large chimneys in a tornado-

like whirlwind. Birds probably use old chimneys in most lowland towns in western Oregon where roosting habitat is available with the famous roost at Chapman School in Portland attracting over 10,000 individuals some nights. Roost numbers are generally much lower in the Coos Bay area although seeing 50-200 birds during migration is not uncommon. These birds tend to use the roosts for two or more weeks and then continue on with their migration. In recent years in Coos Bay, the large chimney at the old Tioga building in downtown was used for several years until it was torn down, now a smaller chimney nearby on the Emmanuel Episcopal Church has been used as a roosting site in spring and fall. In the spring birds have been seen coming to roosts in large numbers from late April through mid-May and again in the fall from late August through mid-September. There are undoubtedly other roosts in the county and checking prospective chimneys around towns can be a fun "treasure hunt" at sunset during the appropriate time in the spring or fall, not knowing where a new roost site could be found?

The first migrants usually arrive during the second week of April with numbers increasing later in the month. They depart rather abruptly in late September and are only rarely reported in early October.

Earliest Arrival: 5 March 1984 although this record is unusually early? The earliest report in recent years was on 8 April 2015 in Coos Bay (Team Sidhu-White, eBird) and 8 April 2021 at Johnson Mill Pond (S. Kirkbride, eBird).

Latest Date: 4 October 2007 at Millicoma Marsh (R. Namitz, Tattler07(5): 5); eBird).

Subfamily APODINAE

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis*

Vagrant. This is a common breeding species in open, high cliffs in eastern Oregon, but is a rare vagrant in western Oregon except in Jackson County where it breeds locally. The first record was a single bird seen migrating north with Black Swifts at New River on 13 May 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(3): 128; eBird). The second record was a bird seen at the Bethel Mountain quarry, also in the company of a few Black Swifts, on 13 May 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird). The latest record was a well described individual flying north over the Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint in Bandon on 6 June 2024 (L. Hovde, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43, eBird).

Family TROCHILIDAE

Subfamily TROCHILINAE

• **Anna's Hummingbird** *Calypte anna*

This is a common resident throughout the lowland parts of the county, where it is the only hummingbird present in winter. Although some question whether this species could survive winter without a diet supplemented by sugar water from feeders, individuals have been observed surviving entire winters away from feeders such as on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

This is one of the earliest breeding species in the county, with males on territories as early as February. A nest with young birds ready to fledge was found at New River on 7 March 2010 (*fide* T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird).

The earliest record from the county was one at Hilda Reiher's Glasgow feeder on 17 December 1944 (unpublished notes; eBird). This was

apparently the first record for Oregon, as Gilligan et al. (1994), and Browning (1975) list no records earlier than a Jackson County record in 1958 (*Audubon Field Notes* 14:335). Zimmerman (1973) does not list any records before the 1960s and apparently missed the 1958 record in his status summary.

Reiher also had birds at her feeder in 1962, 1964, and regularly in the early 1970s after the principal movement into the state was underway.

Costa's Hummingbird *Calypte costae*

Vagrant with 11 county records. Most records are of birds observed at feeders including a few that overwintered.

The first record is a bird that spent from 26 November 1988 to at least 18 February 1989 at a feeder in North Bend (N. Price, L. Thornburgh; *Or. Birds* 15(2): 129; eBird). Subsequent records include: a male that overwintered at a residence in North Bend from 21 November 2003 through 24 January 2004 (B. Griffin, T. Rodenkirk, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90); a "probable" immature/female seen at a feeder by an experienced birder at the New River ACEC on 13 June 2004 (W. Hoffman, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 181); an adult male overwintering at a North Bend residence, likely the same bird from the winter before, present from 23 November 2004 through 21 January 2005 (B. Griffin, et al.; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 25; *Or. Birds* 31(2): 88); a juvenile coming to a feeder in Bandon on 7 August 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 30); an adult male overwintering for a third consecutive winter at a North Bend residence from 26 October 2005 through 27 January 2006 (B. Griffin et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 30; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87); a male seen above the North Bend airport on 1 February 2014 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9); a male photographed at a feeder in Coquille on 31 May 2014 (K. Saxton, *N. Am. Birds* 68(3): 420); a displaying male in a clearcut in the county forest near Beaver Hill on 1 May 2019 (D. Rankin, C. Clark et al.; eBird); and another displaying male photographed at the Lower Fourmile portion of the New River ACEC on 23-24 May 2023 (N. Strycker, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird). Apparently, Costa's and Anna's Hummingbirds occasionally hybridize

Costa's and Anna's Hummingbird hybridize from time to time and hybrids have been found in Oregon including in Coos County where one was photographed at a feeder in North Bend on 24 January 2021 (K. Saxton, eBird).



Figure 15- Adult male Costa's Hummingbird at Barb Griffin's North Bend residence in early November 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz. This bird spent three consecutive winters at this same location.

Calliope Hummingbird *Selasphorus calliope*

This rare visitant is a recent addition to the local avifauna. Multiple records in the Mt. Bolivar/Eden Valley area suggest that this species is a rare but regular migrant during a short window in late April and early May in the higher elevations of the southeast portion of the county in meadows, young open clearcuts, and open burn areas with brush that contain flowering manzanita and/or red-flowering currant. Elsewhere in the county this species is a very rare spring migrant. There is only a single summer record and no fall or winter records.

The first record was a male seen displaying in a young Douglas-fir plantation/meadow area a half mile west of the Eden Valley campground on 6 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 198; eBird).

Almost all the additional records are from the same general location: four displaying males at the Eden Valley site on 27-28 April 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, M. Wihler; eBird); a male seen in the flowering manzanita at the beginning of the Mt. Bolivar trail on 11 May 2002 (T. Shelmerdine, p.c.; eBird); three+ males at the Eden Valley site on 17 April 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 131; eBird); three males in a young plantation near the Mt. Bolivar trailhead on 25 April 2004 with a female seen on the same date at the Eden Valley site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 131; both on eBird); a displaying male in the Eden Valley meadow on 2 May 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*06(4): 50; eBird); seven males and a female at the Eden Valley meadow/clearcut site on 4 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(3): 92; eBird); a single female at the base of the Mt. Bolivar trail on 21 April 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird); a male and female in Eden Valley on 9 May 2009 (R. Namitz, J. Metzler, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird); three displaying males on 24 April 2010 with at least seven displaying males in the Eden Valley meadow/clearcut area on 25 April 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); three displaying males at the same site on 8 May 2010 (R. Namitz, J. Metzler, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler*10(2): 6; eBird); a displaying male at the same site on 30 April 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14; eBird); a single displaying male at the same location on 11 May 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9); three displaying males at the same Eden Valley location on 25 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one female in Eden Valley on 29 April 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); one displaying male at the same location on 22 April 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); three males, two displaying, in Eden Valley on 21 April 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird); two males and a female in Eden Valley on 27 April 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Taylor, E. Clough, et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird); four males in Eden Valley on 18 April 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); three displaying males in Eden Valley in two different locations on 23 April 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird) with one to two there on 27 April (B. Tice, A. Beerman, eBird) with a single still around on 30 April (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two displaying males in an Eden Valley plantation on 23 April 2022 with five there on 1 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); and a female along the Mt. Bolivar trail on the "late" date of 16 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

There are also several records, all recent, away from the Eden Valley/Mt. Bolivar area: a female seen along the Powers Hwy near the Baker Creek turnoff on the late date of 23 June 2006 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(4): 152; eBird); a displaying male at New River on 6 May 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(2): 5; eBird); a female coming to a feeder in Coos Bay on 8 May 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 509; eBird); a male at a Coos Bay feeder on 17 May 2015 (F.J. Petock, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); a male at a North Bend feeder on 15 August 2015 (P. White, A. Sidhu; eBird); one in the Coos County Forest near Beaver Hill on 1 May 2019 (D. Rankin, C. Clarke et al.; eBird); and a male at New River on 11 April 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Access to the Eden Valley area is complicated by weather and road conditions in the spring. Although about three quarters of the spring records have occurred between 21 April and 4 May, lingering snow can block the road into early May. In years when the weather is favorable and roads are in good shape, checking for birds in the last 10 days or so of April is probably the best bet for finding birds. During years with extended spells of bad weather (looking for birds in cold, wet weather is not recommended) or lingering snow into late April, birds

could pass through undetected or could be found later in the first or second week of May. Always check on road conditions by contacting the Powers Ranger District before trying to drive up to Eden Valley in the spring.

The eBird hotspot for Eden Valley is in an older meadow with an adjacent clearcut. Much of the open habitat has become overgrown as the meadow fills in with trees and the planted trees in the adjacent clearcut have become larger and now have shaded out the manzanita understory. Elsewhere in the valley, to the east along the main Mt. Bolivar Road, there are some younger clearcuts/plantations which are more open than the hotspot location and contain plentiful manzanita. These are better sites to look for Calliopes now. Also, the roadside vegetation just below the trailhead parking area for Mt. Bolivar includes red-flowering currant as does the lower trail section, Calliopes have been found in these areas also although Rufous Hummingbirds are the much more commonly observed species here and everywhere in the Eden Valley/Mt. Bolivar area. Occasionally, migrant Anna's Hummingbirds have also been encountered in these areas, so females should be carefully examined.

Earliest Arrival for Eden Valley/Mt. Bolivar Spring Migrants: 17 April 2004.

Latest date for Eden Valley/Mt. Bolivar Spring Migrants: 16 May 2025.

• **Rufous Hummingbird** *Selasphorus rufus*

This is a fairly common breeder that arrives in late winter and departs by early summer although some confusion exists because many birders assume that any hummingbird with rufous on it is this species. Because hybrid Rufous/Allen's are so common in the southern end of the county, most females should likely just be IDed as Rufous/Allen's and only males with all reddish backs should be assumed to be Rufous, see the Allen's account for more details on hybridization of these two species in the county. Male Rufous normally begin arriving in mid-February with the peak of passage around mid- to late March. Females move about two weeks later than males, and breeding can commence early in the season. A female was found on a nest with one egg laid on 12 March 1978 (*Or. Birds* 4(2): 29; *Tattler* 2(1): 12).

Most males begin moving south in May and early June, with stragglers into late June. The bulk of migration following montane ridges (where flowers bloom later) rather than the coast. Females and immature males are often seen through the summer and move south in a more diffuse pattern with some birds in the lowlands but many in the mountains. As mentioned above, these immatures and females are best called Rufous/Allen's because the two species are inseparable in the field and hybrids of the two are widespread in the county particularly in the lowlands from Bandon south and east to Powers. Thus, after the males are gone in late May with some stragglers into early June, pure Rufous are essential gone from the county (see bar graphs) with the remaining females and immatures best reported as Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds until male Rufous appear the following spring again.

By early August, most Rufous/Allen's immature and females are gone with singles rarely seen as late as December. These late fall and winter birds are usually observed at feeders along the coast such as the male Rufous in Carlson Heights area of North Bend from 23-27 November 2007 (*J. Heaney, Or. Birds* 34(1): 34; eBird) or the immature Rufous/Allen's at a North Bend feeder from 18-20 December 2011 (*B. Griffin, N. Am. Birds* 66(2): 337; eBird). See Patterson (1988) and

Myers et al. (2019) for more information about Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds in Oregon.

Earliest Arrival: a male on 26 January 2006 in Coos Bay (R. McCreery, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); this does not include a male Rufous/Allen's hummingbird seen on 24 January 2006 in Bandon (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird). The average first arrival date for the county based on 23 years of earliest arrival data from 2000-2022 (this is for *Selasphorus* males) is 5 February (T. Rodenkirk, Coos County field note records).

Latest Date: several December records of female or immature Rufous/Allen's hummingbirds.

◦ **Allen's Hummingbird** *Selasphorus sasin*

This species was historically thought to be an uncommon breeder in the lowlands in the southwest corner of the county around Bandon with some breeders further east to Coquille, Myrtle Point, and the Powers area. Recent research has shown that the Bandon to Port Orford area is the center of a hybridization zone for the Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds (Myers et al.; 2019). The hybridization zone reportedly goes as far north as Florence, Oregon and as far south as Arcata, California. The study notes the following: "of the 183 breeding males sampled from the hybrid zone, most behavioral and morphological characters were clinal. There was no sharp boundary that would demarcate the limit between 2 sympatric species. Instead, birds showed continuous variation in several characters across the contact zone. Putatively highly admixed individuals expressed a suite of characters representative of each parent species. Thus, "pure" Allen's Hummingbirds are likely rare in Coos County which is basically entirely within the center of the hybrid zone where all birds sampled were considered hybrids (see Figure 2 in the 2019 article).

Historically, it was believed that the southern Oregon coast represented the northern edge of the Allen's breeding range. Allen's Hummingbirds were thought (by some) to be the most common breeding hummingbird in the lowlands of southern Curry with southwest Coos County being the north end of their breeding range. It was also believed that Rufous mainly bred further up in the mountains on the south coast and in the lowlands of Coos County from about Coos Bay north (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

From 1996 through 2010, the author did point counts in the center of the hybrid zone at the Coos Bay BLM's New River ACEC (before it was known there was a hybrid zone). The author noted that almost all of the green-backed *Selasphorus* Hummingbirds did Allen's type displays even though most of the males only had partially green backs and were not entirely green as Allen's Hummingbirds were displayed in field guides at that time. Other birders in the county noticed the same inconsistencies (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.). On 15 April 2012 an audio recording was made of a partially green-backed male *Selasphorus* hummingbird doing an Allen's type display at the Storm Ranch portion of the New River ACEC (A. McCallum, p.c.). Analysis of the audio recording indicated that it was likely a hybrid Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird. The study by Myers et al. a few years later (published in 2019) verified what had been previously noted, that there was indeed hybridization going on in Southwest Oregon and especially in the Port Orford to Bandon area with the New River area being in the center of the hybrid zone where most green-backed males were hybrids.

Based on this study, we now believe that "pure" Allen's Hummingbirds may be very rare (or nonexistent) in Coos County. In order

to determine if a green-backed male is more than just a hybrid, detailed field observations need to be done, the easiest which may include photographing the spread tail feathers to see if the r2 feather is notched (Rufous), unnotched (Allen's), or slightly notched (hybrids). In addition, all females and immatures *Selasphorus* hummingbirds would be best just left as Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird since there is no way to separate them to species, or to assess if they are hybrids, in the field. It is certainly possible that there are some "pure" Allen's Hummingbirds in the county; however, "very green-backed" males without clear photos of the unnotched r2s are best left in the probable Rufous/Allen's hybrid category. The notching is very slight, so it is difficult or impossible to see on a moving bird which is why photographs are essential to evaluate the r2s on a spread tail. The author notes that males on territories often come back to the same perch. Once a perch is located, photographing the tail feathers is possible; the author has used a spotting scope and iPhone to get nice close ups on several hybrids but no Allen's, yet.

The 2019 article (Myers et al.) also describes a difference in the sound made during the dive display on hybrids versus "pure" Allen's. Sonograms from recordings of the dive could thus also be helpful in determining whether a bird was a hybrid or "pure" Allen's. Reading the 2019 article is essential for anyone wanting to try and sort through the many hybrids and find a "pure" Allen's in Southwest Oregon. The article can be located here: [Behavioral and morphological evidence of an Allen's × Rufous hummingbird \(*Selasphorus sasin* × *S. rufus*\) hybrid zone in southern Oregon and northern California | Ornithology | Oxford Academic.](#)

See the Rufous account for timing and seasonal movement of Rufous/Allen's hummingbirds in the county.

Order GRUIFORMES

Family GRUIDAE

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*

This is primarily a rare spring migrant reported every few years with just a few observations during other times of year. There are at least 26 records to date.

The first record for the county was 7 February 1936 (H. Reiher, unpublished notes). It was not reported again until 30 August 1985 near Allegany (C. Matthews; eBird); a bird seen 3 September 1985 at Daniels Creek (N. Gething; eBird) may have been the same individual (both, *Tattler*9(4): 7).

Spring records include: a flock heard flying over Mingus Park in the spring of 1989 (S. Townsend, p.c.); one observed foraging at South Slough NERR on 6 May 2005 (T. Gaskill, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); one at an old cranberry bog near the intersection of Fahy Road and Hwy 101 in Bandon on 7 May 2005 (J. Rogers *fide* D. Pitkin, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); one on the McKenzie Ranch near New Lake on 9 May 2005 (R. McKenzie, D. Pitkin; *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); seven seen calling and flying above a marshy area near the South Slough NERR visitor center on 24 April 2008 (T. Gaskill; *Tattler*08(3): 5; eBird); one seen flying over Catching Slough on 25 May 2012 (F.J. Petock, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird); four flying north at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 May 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird); one that overwintered in the New River bottomlands of Coos/Curry from 22 June through at least early December

2013 (K. Andersson, R. McKenzie, et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 67(4): 642; eBird); one seen flying north at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 10 April 2014 and possibly a different bird at the same location on 11 April 2014 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird); one at China Creek in Bandon on 12 May 2014 (L. & S. Paulson, eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 13 May 2014 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird); one headed north at New River on 30 May 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); one in a wet field adjacent to Johnson Mill Pond County Park near Coquille on 17 April 2020 (D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 5; eBird); a flyover in Bandon on 24 April 2022 (K. Castelein, p.c.); one heard at Millicoma Marsh on 8 April 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with two reported flying east over the McCullough Bridge a couple hours later (N. & K. Shorts, p.c.; eBird).

There are three summer records: one at Coos Bay on 1 July 1986 (C. Matthews, *Tattler* 10(1): 16; eBird); one heard calling but never seen at Cape Arago on 15 July 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird); and a single seen flying south over the Catching Slough area of Coos Bay on 27 June 2007 (F.J. Petock, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 127; eBird).

Besides the 1985 observation and the oversummering bird that lingered into late fall in 2013, there are only two other fall records: a bird heard calling over Bandon Marsh NWR on 1 October 2011 (R. Lowe et al.; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird) and one seen and heard in North Bend on 14 September 2025 (K. Saxton, eBird).

There are also four winter records, half which stayed long enough to be called overwintering records and the other half ones that were just brief visits: one near Myrtle Point from 15 January through 12 March 1990 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 16(3): 245, note that *Or. Birds* 16(4): 329 gives first date as 16 January, *Am. Birds* 44(2): 319 gives the 15th; eBird); two near Coquille on the Coquille Valley CBC on 23 December 1995 (K. and J. Wilson; eBird); one near Myrtle Point from 3 January through at least 11 January 2009 (P. Low, J. Meredith, S. Kornfeld, S. Wright, T. Wahl, et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 13; eBird); and one in the New River bottoms area of Coos/Curry Counties from 22 December 2018 through at least 27 January 2019 (T. Wahl et al.; eBird).

Family RALLIDAE

• **Virginia Rail** *Rallus limicola*

This fairly common (but more often heard than seen) resident can be found in marshes as a breeder and in a variety of vegetated sumps, swamps, marshes, ditches, and holes in winter. Although it is most common in freshwater marshes it also occurs occasionally in brackish habitats.

It is likely that numbers increase in winter in some areas as migrants arrive for the season. The status of these movements is not well known.

One of the odder records from the county was a bird collected at the unlikely site of Sunset Bay on 18 August 1942 (Bayer 1989, p. 35; eBird).

• **Sora** *Porzana carolina*

This species is uncommon as a breeder in the county, using similar habitats as the Virginia Rail but displaying a marked preference for marshes and grassy sites over the brushy swamps sometimes inhabited by the former species. It breeds at Bandon Marsh

NWR as well as at fresh-water sites such as Myrtle Point Marsh, Millicoma Marsh, and at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

It appears that the species is rare but annual in winter with most records from the Coquille Valley, the North Spit of Coos Bay, and Millicoma Marsh.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Formerly Common Moorhen. This is a vagrant in western Oregon and a rare visitant to eastern Oregon with a possible breeding attempt in Harney County. There are two Coos records, both at the same location at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay and both of which have been accepted by OBRC:

COGA-2010-12	North Spit of Coos Bay, Coos County, one adult on 17 May 2010 (TR, DLa, KC).
COGA-2025-18	North Spit, Coos Bay, Coos Co., one adult bird on 15 May 2025 (report and photos TR). <i>One eBird report for 16 May 2025 also.</i>

• **American Coot** *Fulica americana*

During fall and winter this species is found throughout the county where still or slow-moving water habitats are available. Migrants arrive in September and often form flocks, even large rafts in shallow water.

Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) list Coos County as a location for breeding of the American Coot. This species is a very local breeder in the county today with recent records from the Coquille Valley, Mingus Park, Myrtle Point Marsh, the Powers sewage pond, and the North Spit of Coos Bay. Although less regular during the spring and summer breeding season, it is common to abundant at all other times of year.

A note on shorebirds

A number of studies have been conducted on shorebirds in the county. For a general overview of shorebird use of Coos Bay, see Varoujean (1985). This study showed that shorebirds tend to use the middle and lower bay in fall and the middle and upper bay and northern inlets in spring. It also showed that the mean density of shorebirds per hectare at Coos Bay was 2.6 compared to 7.1 at the Coquille Estuary.

Various studies are cited in the individual accounts.

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Rare visitant with eight records. This species normally occurs in shallow alkaline marshes of the Great Basin. Other rare shorebird overshoots that breed in similar habitats in eastern Oregon, such as American Avocet and White-faced Ibis, are much more frequently encountered on the coast in spring than this species, with only two Coos spring records: nine birds at multiple sites along Coos Bay from 26 April through 7 May 1987 (*Or. Birds* 13(4): 449) and four birds in Bandon on the Coquille Spit on 21 April 2000 (M. Nikas, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 197; eBird).

The six most recent records are all from the fall, and five of these six are from September: a single bird seen flying south from the boat ramp at New River on 6 August 2003 (J. Heaney, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 41; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 20-30 September 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); another bird, perhaps the same one as in 2012, at the same location from 4-6 September 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird); one at Redmon Pond on the south jetty of Bandon from 2-6 September 2020 (R. & D. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); a flyover that was photographed at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 12 September 2021 (T. Martin, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird); and another single at the same old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 11-15 September 2022 (G. Cooksey et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird).

The breeding range of this species began to expand in Oregon in the early 2000s and birds now regularly nest in several locations in the Willamette Valley (*Or. Birds* 27(4): 118; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 188). During this same expansion period, the first fall records were noted in Coos County. The proximity of these breeding localities may be the source of the recent records and fall has become the more expected season for this rare visitant to occasionally be found.



Figure 16- Black-necked Stilt at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 September 2012. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*

Rare visitant. This species normally occurs in marsh and wet playa locations in the Great Basin and elsewhere in the interior west. There are at least 32 records for the county, the majority of which are from fall movements.

Fall records include the first county record of one flying past Cape Arago in fall 1976 (*Or. Birds* 3(1): 9). Additional records include: one at Bandon on 15 September 1977 (C. Roberts, *Am. Birds* 32(2): 248; eBird); one at Bandon on 17 October 1978 (T. Morgan, *Am. Birds* 33(2): 207; eBird); four at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 28 August 1983 (T. Morgan, *Am. Birds* 38(2): 237; eBird); one at Bandon 4 September 1983 (M. Robbins, *Am. Birds* 38(2): 237; eBird); two at Bandon on 26 August 1990 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 59; eBird); two at Coos Bay from 30 September through at least 29 October 1995 (T. Kenefick, *Or. Birds* 22(2): 67; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 22-24 August 1998 (J. Gilligan, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 52; eBird); one at the same location on 28 September 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 41; eBird); one to two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 20-30 August 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 28; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 21 August-11 September 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 28; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 13 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); one along Coos Bay near the Empire sewage treatment plant on 3 September 2012 (P. Low, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); two on the beach at Bandon on 7 September 2014 (S. Dimock, p.c.; eBird); two on the beach at New River on 7 August 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 16-21 September 2020 (K. Stoner, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); one at the same location on 14 August 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird); one at the mouth of Johnson Creek in Bandon on 30 August 2023 (B. Hurlburt, T. Yaukey; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird); two at Bandon Marsh NWR on 8 September 2023 (K.E. Hale, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird); and one at the same location on 29 September 2023 (A. Conteras, T. Jeske; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

One was at New River near Croft Lake on 5 August 1989 (J. Simmons, eBird). This was published as being in Curry County (*Or. Birds* 16(2): 186) but Jamie Simmons (p.c.) notes that he was the observer and that the bird was near Croft Lake, Coos County, not in Curry County.

Spring records are few: four at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 1 May 1986 (C. Bruce, *Or. Birds* 12(4): 357; eBird); one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 May 1987 (T. Marchant, *Or. Birds* 13(4): 449; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on 21 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 197; eBird); two on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 May 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(3): 88; eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 14 May 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 148; eBird).

There are two summer records: one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 28 June 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 188; eBird) and one at New River on 12 July 2014 (K. Saylor, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

Winter records in Oregon are rare with Coos County having the only overwintering records: two birds at North Slough on Coos Bay on 12 December 1980 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 7(1): 42; eBird); a bird that overwintered at Pony Slough from 18 October 1998 through 28 February 1999 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 52; *Or. Birds* 25(3): 87; eBird); another bird that overwintered at the same location from 16

December 2001 through 5 March 2002 (M. Wihler et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 97; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 132; eBird); and a single at the same Pony Slough site from 9-16 December 2009 that appeared to be attempting to overwinter but was chased down and killed by two adult Peregrine Falcons, hunting in tandem, on 16 December (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.; *Tattler*09(5): 8; eBird).



Figure 17- American Avocet at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 August 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Family HAEMATOPODIDAE

- **Black Oystercatcher** *Haematopus bachmani*

This species can be found year-round in rocky coastal areas where it is an uncommon, local breeder. It probably breeds regularly only in the Cape Arago area and in the complex of rocks off Bandon, where summer surveys have found many pairs (Liebezeit et al.; 2020). However, at least one recently hatched, flightless chick was being attended by adults on the north jetty of Coos Bay on 11 July 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

The world population is estimated at only 8,900 to 11,000 birds (Andres and Falxa 1995; Tessler and others 2014). In 2015, Portland Audubon initiated a three-year shore-based population survey in Oregon building upon long-term monitoring previously conducted by the US Geological Survey and others. Population estimates range from 506 oystercatchers in 2016 to 629 in 2015, with Coos and Curry Counties hosting the majority of the population (Liebezeit et al., 2020).

Wintering birds present in the county, such as the flock at Bandon each year, are likely to reflect, in part, birds that bred elsewhere and move into the county in autumn. Peak counts in the 30s are common at Cape Arago and Bandon in fall and winter; 56 birds from Sunset Bay to Cape Arago on 19 November 1997 is an unusually high number (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird).

Family CHARADRIIDAE
Subfamily PLUVIALINAE

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

This is one of the most common and obvious migrant and wintering shorebirds in the county, with loose flocks of a few score birds often found feeding at locations such as Pony Slough, Bandon Marsh NWR, in the bay north of Millicoma Marsh, and in flooded fields in the Coquille Valley. They can be found on almost any mudflat in the county and in large, flooded pasture areas. They are occasional on ocean beaches, golf courses, and other open habitats.

Peak numbers in the hundreds occur occasionally in migration—recent high counts include: 330 at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 17 November 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); 350 on the North Bend airport runway during a very high tide on 15 November 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 52; eBird); 200 on the mudflats north of Millicoma Marsh on 2 October 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 36; eBird); and 230 on the mudflats across from the Coos Bay Boardwalk in downtown Coos Bay on 10 September 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Southbound migrants begin appearing in mid-July and in spring some birds are seen until late May, at which time they have usually molted into their "black-bellied" breeding plumage.

Birds can be found at any time of year. Most are absent in late May and June.

Notes on the Golden-Plovers

Until 1993 the AOU treated the Lesser Golden-Plover as a single species. In that year it was split into the American Golden-Plover and the Pacific Golden-Plover. Both breed in Alaska and both occur regularly in Oregon. Many older records from Coos County do not indicate which form was seen. Data on these species are somewhat cloudy.

Peak numbers of golden-plovers in the county are low. The largest recorded flocks are 15 birds found at Pony Slough on 10 September 1940 (H. Reiher, unpublished notes; eBird) and another flock of 15 found on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 September 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Observers are encouraged to distinguish between the two when possible which is not easy to do as good views of the primary extension and number of exposed primary tips are required for ID on molting adults and juveniles. An excellent article on identification of molting fall adults can be found in *Western Birds* 35:2 (Jaramillo 2004). This is one set of species where American/Pacific Golden-plover sp. should be the default ID unless one is able to get diagnostic looks at primary extension and/or number of primary tips.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Uncommon fall migrant, rare spring migrant. This species occurs mainly in fall from August through October when it is occasionally found at either Bandon Marsh NWR or in random locations on outer beaches in the county. It is found on beaches or mudflats, sometimes with Black-bellied Plovers or Pacific Golden-Plovers. In the fall most reports are of juveniles, adults are rarely observed. This species has been reported much less than Pacific Golden-plover along the immediate coast.

There is a single June record, a breeding-plumaged individual seen at New River on 16 June 2012 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird). It is difficult to say whether it was more likely a late northbound migrant or an early southbound migrant?

Fall Earliest Arrival: an adult at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 3 July 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 63(4): 647-incorrectly dated July 4; eBird), this does not include the one mid-June record.

Fall Latest Date: 4 November 1997 at Coos Bay (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 24(2): 63; eBird).

Spring Earliest Arrival: 30 April 1998 at Bandon (T. Bray, eBird); spring records of this species are pretty sparse.

Spring Latest Date: 23 May 1998 at Bandon (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 24(4): 131; eBird), not including the single mid-June record.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Common fall migrant, uncommon spring migrant. This is one of two species of golden-plover seen in the county and is found in habitat similar to American Golden-plover. This species is reported far more often than the American on the coast, while in interior valleys of western Oregon and in eastern Oregon, it appears to be the less common golden-plover (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

It occurs mainly in fall from early August through late October and historically was regularly seen at either Bandon Marsh NWR or the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. It is less common in recent years with the mudflats at Bandon Marsh NWR still a fairly good location although much less common than in the early 2000s. In years when New River is breached during the fall migration and there is a lot of exposed mudflats, this species can regularly be found. It is much less regular, uncommon to rare, in spring migration at the same sites.

There are at least six winter records: one near Coquille on 18 January 1980 (D. Fix, T. Lund; *Or. Birds* 6(2): 109; eBird) seen again 23 Jan (E. and E. Eltzroth, *Am. Birds* 34(3): 301; eBird); two at Pony Slough on 30 December 1981 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 8(1): 8; eBird); one at Coos Bay on 11 December 1982 (A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 9(1): 6; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 4 January 1997 (K. Graves, p.c.; eBird); and two at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 11 December 2021 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird) with perhaps one of the same birds that overwintered at the same location through 27 March 2022 (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird).

On the 16 December 1979 Coos Bay CBC, eight golden-plovers were found on a golf course; it is thought that they were of this species (eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: hard to determine as birds have been seen throughout June and could be nonbreeders, late migrants, or early

arrivals. Most years the very first fall migrants begin showing up by early to mid-July.

Fall Latest Date: a flyover calling at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 November 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird), not including the winter reports from December and January.

Spring Earliest Arrival: 31 March 2005 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); however, that was unusually early- the earliest birds normally show up is about mid-April, so the two on 11 April 2025 at New River is a more typical early date (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, p.c.; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: hard to determine as June records could be nonbreeding birds, late migrants, or early arrivals. Most migrants are gone by late May though with an occasional early June bird.

Unattributable records of Golden-Plovers

The following fall records cannot be certainly attributed as to species: two on 11 November 1981 (J. Thomas) and one at Bandon on 12 July 1986 (*Or. Birds* 13(1): 102).

The following spring records in the county cannot be certainly attributed to species: one at Coos Bay on 28 April 1974 (A. Contreras, S. Greenfield; *Am. Birds* 28(4): 842); one on 18 March 1980 (S. Gordon, *Am. Birds* 34(5): 808); two at Coos Bay 26 March 1983 (V. Teale, *Am. Birds* 37(5): 904); six at Coos Bay 30 April 1983 (T. Crabtree, H. Nehls; *Am. Birds* 37(5): 904); and one 31 May 1987 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 13(4): 449).

Subfamily CHARADRIINAE

• **Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*

This is a fairly common and obvious breeder in the county wherever open gravel pans, rocky stream banks, or other such habitat is available. In winter it can be locally common to abundant where flocks form in wet pastures. It is not common on mudflats but does use them, generally remaining close to shore.

There is a noticeable migration of birds into the county in winter. Killdeer numbers increase when snow or extended icy conditions affect the Willamette Valley. Western Oregon is one of this species primary wintering grounds on the continent.

• **Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus*

Common migrant, uncommon winterer. Has bred at least twice on the North Spit of Coos Bay (Hallett et al. 1995; eBird), one of the southernmost breeding attempts on the west coast (Nol and Blanken 2020) and one of only four nestings in Oregon (the other two were at Malheur NWR in Harney County). In recent years, an unsuccessful nesting attempt took place at the North Spit of Coos Bay in June of 2000 (Lauten et al. 2002; eBird). It is not a regular breeder south of Canada.

Birds begin arriving as early as late June, peak in August and early September, and can be found throughout the fall. They are found mainly on mudflats (even narrow mud margins) and sometimes on beaches. These birds can be found by the score in loose gatherings at many sites along Coos Bay with flocks in excess of 200 birds sometimes seen, especially at Bandon Marsh NWR and formerly at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Peak fall numbers include: 500 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 4 August 2002 (A. Contreras, N.

Strycker, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 44; eBird) and 225 at Bandon on 5-6 October 1996, a late date for such a high number (A. Contreras; eBird).

Small numbers winter in the county at Coos Bay and Bandon in most years, but the species is sometimes absent. Peak winter numbers include 224 on the Coos Bay CBC in 1992 (CBC records); 56 at the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 December 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 60 along Coos Bay near the end of Transpacific Road on 11 January 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 71 in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 15 February 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). These are unusually high numbers for winter with single digit numbers most often reported.

Most spring movement is from April through early May. Peak spring numbers include: 700 on the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 10 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 88; eBird); 600 at Bandon Marsh on 29 April 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 2,500 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 2 May 2013- perhaps the highest flock total ever reported in Oregon (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: hard to determine as mid-June birds have been observed multiple years and could be nonbreeders that did not migrate, early migrants, or even late migrants; southbound birds begin arriving in number by mid-July.

Latest Date: hard to determine as mid-June birds could be late migrants, early arrivals or oversummering birds- the majority of the northbound migrants are gone by the end of May.

Siberian Sand-plover *Anarhynchus mongolus*

Vagrant to Oregon. Formerly referred to as Lesser Sand-plover and earlier as Mongolian Plover. As of the September 2025 OBRC update, half of the accepted Oregon records were from Coos County:

LSAP-1986-03	Bandon, one adult in breeding plumage from 11 July-14 August 1986 (LT, CM, <i>Am. Birds</i> , JJo, photos by RBa, AMc).
LSAP-2010-05	Bandon, Coos County, one 19-20 September 2010 (RuN, photo by DaF).
LSAP-2010-06	One bird on the beach north of Tenmile Creek, Coos County, 6 July 2022. Photos and report DFa.

Wilson's Plover *Anarhynchus wilsonia*

Vagrant. Oregon's first record of Wilson's Plover was found by a visiting Canadian birder, Jerry Pilny, at Bullards Beach SP on 9 September 1998.

WIPL-1998-01	Bullards Beach SP, Coos County, one bird 9-17 September 1998 (BT, DLa, PSu, photos by JPi, TJ, HN, CM, CD, OS). First verified state record. <i>Note: This bird remained through mid-October 1998 (TR).</i>



Figure 18- Wilson's Plover at Bullards Beach SP on 30 September 1998. Photo by Steve Dowlan.

Mountain Plover *Anarhynchus montanus*

Vagrant. There are two accepted records from Coos County:

- MOPL-1989-05 On beach south of Bandon, two adults on 6 December 1989 (BS).
- MOPL-2012-14 Bullards Beach SP, Bandon, Coos County, 6 December 2012 (details and photos DLa). *Note: This bird was first observed on 5 December 2012 and last seen 26 January 2013 (TR).*

There are two additional unreviewed records: one at the south jetty of the Coquille on 8 September 1985 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*9(4): 6) and two in a grassy area next to the Empire boat ramp on 12 January 2008 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 34(2): 56; *Tattler*08(1): 6). Interestingly, shortly after the latter observation, two birds appeared at Floras Lake, Curry where they were documented overwintering (OBRC record #MOPL-2008-11).

• **Snowy Plover** *Anarhynchus nivosus*

Uncommon resident. Prior to 2000, this species had become fairly rare along the Oregon Coast but now occurs in every coastal county largely due to extensive recovery work done in Coos County. Snowy Plovers breed at four areas in the county: on the north and south spit of Tenmile Creek, on the North Spit of Coos Bay, on the beaches at the south end of Bandon State Natural Area (SNA), and south on the spit and beaches adjacent to New River. Although early nests are sometimes found the first week in April, the majority of nesting and brood rearing occurs in the May-July period. A few late season broods may fledge as late as early to mid-September. In 1979 and 1981, 45 and 47 plovers, respectively, were reported on ODFW's coordinated survey counts on the Coos Bay North Spit, including both the North and South Dredge Spoils, and the ocean beach from Horsfall to the north jetty. Counts decreased through the 1980s, then began to increase in late 1990's and have continued to increase in the 2000's with 40-60 individuals in recent years. At Bandon SNA and New River, recent counts indicate that approximately 50 plovers are breeding on these beaches and 20-30 plovers are breeding at Tenmile. The number of plovers in

Coos County accounts for a significant number of plovers along the entire coast although in recent years plover numbers and breeding areas have expanded such that they can be found in every coastal county.

Habitat improvement projects by the state and federal agencies at all Coos County breeding sites, the use of exclosures to minimize predation of eggs, and predator management activities have increased available habitat and boosted annual productivity, and recent trends are generally upward. The North Spit of Coos Bay's South Spoil, habitat restoration areas, and the adjacent ocean beach remain the largest and most productive breeding area for the species on the Oregon coast. The North Spoil site on the North Spit of Coos Bay supported a few nesting attempts in the early 1990s, but it has not had any reported activity since 1992. Nearly a third of all the nests found on the Oregon coast have been at Bandon SNA and New River; however, these sites have not been as productive as Coos Bay largely due to predation pressure. The population at Tenmile has not been as high as Coos Bay or Bandon/New River, but this site has been one of the most productive sites on the coast.

During winter months, Snowy Plovers are found at all three nesting areas. Numbers have been increasing in the last decade and then stabilized: on the North Spit of Coos Bay the six-year winter average (2019-2024) was 56 plovers; the five-year average (2019-2023) at Bandon SNA and the adjacent spit of New River was 74 plovers; and the five-year average at the mouth of Tenmile Creek (2019-2024, skipping 2023) is 44 plovers. These plovers will also use the beach north of Tenmile Creek as far as just south of the Umpqua River, Douglas County. Banding studies have shown that breeding plovers from Coos County winter primarily along the Oregon coast, at Bandon beaches, as well as at other sites to the north in Douglas and Lane Counties. Other banded individuals have been recorded in winter at various sites in California, including beaches in Humboldt County, Point Reyes National Seashore, Vandenberg Airforce Base, San Nicholas Island in the Channel Island, and as far south as beaches in San Diego and northern Baja California.

Plovers banded in eastern Oregon in 1988 and 1989 have periodically been reported during late July and August at sites along the Oregon Coast, including Coos County.

The species occurs occasionally on Bastendorff Beach near the mouth of Coos Bay, where it formerly bred, and has been seen occasionally elsewhere, including Pony Slough, Bullards Beach SP, and the beach adjacent to the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

The 2019-2023 five-year average window survey estimate of the number of breeding Snowy Plovers on the Oregon coast was 454 (range 381-532) individuals. The five-year average number of nests found in a well monitored area from Florence to Floras Lake was 602 (range 529-712). The five-year average apparent nest success was 33% (range 24-41%). Causes of nest failures by predators included corvid depredation (ravens and crows), northern harrier depredation, gull depredation, and mammalian depredation (coyotes, fox, skunk, raccoon, opossum), as well as environmental factors such as overwashing, buried by windblown sand, abandonment, and infertility. The five-year average fledging success rate in the monitored area was 47.6% (range 42-54%), the five-year average brood success was 77.2% (range 72-86%), and the five-year average number of fledglings produced was 257 (range 130-344).

Dave Lauten provided this updated Snowy Plover account.

Subfamily NUMENINAE

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

This is a vagrant to the county with three records to date. The first record was a bird seen on the McKenzie Ranch near New Lake on 16 September 2000 (this was erroneously reported as being on the Wahl ranch in Curry County in *Or. Birds* 27(1): 30; Terry Wahl, p.c.; eBird). The second record was a bird at the Snowy Plover HRA at the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 June 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 23(4): 118; eBird). The latest record was a single bird seen at the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 May 2012 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird).

Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis*

There are four records of this vagrant, three of which were from an unprecedented fallout along the Oregon coast in May of 1998. There is one additional record not accepted by OBRC, a bird on 30 July 1985 at Pony Slough (*Tattler* 9(4): 6; OBRC record #BTCU-1985-02). The four accepted records include:

BTCU-1981-01	Bandon, two on 16 September 1981 (JG, DI).
BTCU-1998-06	New River, Coos County, one bird on 19 May 1998 (DLA).
BTCU-1998-07	Bandon, one bird on 22 May (also there on 23 May) 1998 (DLA photos by KC).
BTCU-1998-09	Coos Bay (actually Pony Slough- North Bend), Coos County, two birds on 13 May 1998 (TR).

The 1998 fallout included birds found from Washington State all the way south into northern California with at least 10 birds reported in Oregon (Patterson 1998). The first bird of the incursion was found on the beach at Floras Lake in Curry County on 6 May 1998 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 24(4): 131; OBRC record #BTCU-1998-05).

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*

Whimbrel was split in 2025 by the AOS; the familiar one we see is now referred to as the Hudsonian Whimbrel. This is a common migrant along the coast and in estuaries throughout the county. It does not usually occur up rivers or in the Coquille Valley above the estuary. In southwest Coos and northwest Curry Counties large numbers often occur in the open, coastal pasturelands during the spring migration. Birds can also sometimes be seen flying along the coastline just beyond the beaches, often at a considerable altitude, above the gulls and small shorebirds flying by.

Migration peaks in spring from late April through late May and in fall from late July through September. Numbers in the dozens are sometimes seen in migration on the larger mudflats or sometimes along beaches with the largest numbers on the open ranch lands adjacent to the coast in the southwestern end of the county. High counts include: 100 birds at Bandon on 25 July 1987 (L. Thornburgh et al.; eBird) and 150 there on 8 July 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 24(1): 34; eBird); 245 at the Tenmile Estuary on 2 August 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 37; eBird); 870 at New River on 3 May 2003 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 148; eBird); and 2,500 in

the pasturelands up Bethel Mountain on 13 May 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird).

Winter birds have become a rarity. A bird or two were regular during winter at Bandon in the 1990s and early 2000s but none have been reported there since the winter of 2014/2015. A few times in the 1970s and 1980s a bird or two overwintered at Pony Slough but none have wintered there since.

Earliest Arrival: 28 June 2003 at Tenmile Estuary (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207; eBird), this was not a lingering nonbreeder.

Latest Date: hard to determine- nonbreeding birds occasionally remain through June and late northbound birds are regular into early June with mid-June records head scratchers as far as determining if they are north or southbound or just nonbreeders.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Whimbrel was split into two species in 2025 by the AOU, the Eurasian (Siberian) species is a vagrant to Oregon. It has been found once in the county, and the record was reviewed and accepted by the OBRC:

EUWH-2016-02 New River, coastal Coos County, one bird on 27 July 2016. (DLA, KC. Photos by OS). This bird was present 24-27 July 2016.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*

This is an uncommon migrant, and a rare winterer. Large flocks are very unusual, with single birds or groups of fewer than ten reported from time to time. The largest flock seen in recent years was 36 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 197; eBird). It is frequently found at Pony Slough, Empire, and at Bandon Marsh NWR. To the extent that there is a peak time for these migrants, it is mid-April through mid-May during spring migration and from mid-July through mid-August during fall migration.

This species breeds relatively early and post-breeding flocks can be found on the breeding grounds as early as June, thus it is hard to tell whether mid-June records represent late spring departures or early southbound arrivals, probably the latter.

Wintering birds were more regular in the 1990s, with the nine at Coos Bay on the 1995 CBC, a new state CBC record. Multiple birds were also present at Coos Bay in the winters of 1995-1996, 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-1999. The winter of 2012 was the last year any individuals were reported until the winter of 2023 when one was present at Pony Slough into January of 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). An immature was found and photographed on 22 December 2025 also at the unlikely location of Whiskey Run Beach (M. Weber, eBird).

Earliest Spring Date: 2 April 2024 at New River (J. Metzler, p.c.; eBird), this does not include lingering overwintering birds which are usually gone well before April.

Latest Spring Date: 16 June 1974 (assuming that these were not early fall arrivals). A true late date is hard to determine as mid-June birds could be nonbreeders, early southbound birds, or late northbound migrants.

Earliest Fall Arrival: 21 June 2002 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 189; eBird).

Latest Fall Date: several December records. In recent years these late birds seem to mostly disappear before the end of December but occasionally they will linger through January with some historic overwintering individuals present as late as March.

Subfamily LIMOSINAE

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

A rare vagrant to Oregon from northeast Asia with Bandon Marsh NWR being one of the best locations to find it pre-2000, with no records in Coos County since 2001. In addition to the records listed below, other reports include: 16 September 1979 (E. G. White-Swift, *Am. Birds* 34(2): 192); in fall of 1981 at Coos Bay and Bandon (*Am. Birds* 35(2): 217, no dates or observers available); and one "possible" seen on 26 September 2007 at Bandon Marsh NWR that was not reported until several days afterwards and not refound (R. Browning *fide* A. Contreras).

BTGO-1976-01	Bandon, one on 23 September 1976 (photos by TL). First verified Oregon record.
BTGO-1977-02	Bandon, one on 11 September 1977 with two were there 12 September (SS, DI).
BTGO-1980-07	Coos Bay, one on 25 and 29 August 1980 (TF).
BTGO-1980-08	Bandon, two in winter plumage on 4-5 October 1980 (MS, MH)
BTGO-1987-10	Bandon, one adult female from 27-30 August 1987 (SH, DI, DHw, photos by JJo).
BTGO-1988-11	Bandon, four in basic plumage on 14 May 1988 (DF et al.).
BTGO-1990-12	Bandon, one juvenile on 8 September 1990 (photos by JG, KKe).
BTGO-1997-15	Bandon, one from 25 August to 3 September 1997 (R. Hoyer, D. Lauten, photos by A. Contreras, T. Jantzen). Note, <i>Or. Birds</i> 24(2): 64 has the late date as 6 September.
BTGO-1999-16	Bandon Marsh, Coos County, one adult on 11 September 1999 (CD, DLa)
BTGO-2000-18	Coos Bay, Coos County, one juvenile 4-7 September 2000 (TR, DLa)
BTGO-2001-20	Coos Bay, Coos County, one juvenile bird 3 November- 7 December 2001 (TR).

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

This is a rare vagrant to Oregon with 37 accepted Oregon records by 2024 (when this species was removed from the review list), only two of which are from Coos County, both from Bandon:

HUGO-1978-01	Bandon, one on 19 September 1978 (photos by TC). First verified Oregon record.
HUGO-1985-07	Bandon, one juvenile from 6-27 October and again (presumably the same bird) on 5-6 November 1985 (LT, RE, AB, MS, AMi; photos by TMi; <i>Or. Birds</i> 12(3): 213).

In addition, there are two other older, unreviewed records: one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 8 September 2002 (A. Jaramillo et. al.; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 45; eBird) and another at Pony Slough on 24 August 2010 (E. Rees, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8).

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

This is a common fall migrant, mainly at Coos Bay and Bandon, with flocks of a few dozen birds seen often and smaller groups occurring regularly. It is less often reported in spring and numbers are generally smaller, although the largest flock from the county was in spring, see below.

Peak counts include: 70 at Coos Bay on 22 November 1975 (B.F. fide H. Reiher, *Am. Birds* 30(1): 114; eBird); 100+ from 10-23 September 1978 in Bandon (H. Nehls, ME; *Am. Birds* 33(2): 207; eBird); 109 on 15 September 1985 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* 9(4): 7; eBird); 250 (the largest single flock ever reported in the county) on 27 April 1988 at a marsh near the junction of Hwy 101 and Hwy 42, not at Bandon as noted in *American Birds* (L. Thornburg, *Am. Birds* 42(5): 1333; *Tattler* August 1988; eBird); 84 from 24-31 October 2004 in Empire (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(1): 24; eBird); 120 off Pigeon Point in Empire 20 September 2007 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 31; eBird); a total of 304 seen migrating north during the day at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 April 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); and 160 at the north jetty in Bandon after a storm on 29 September 2023 (A. Contreras, T. Jeske; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

Winter numbers appear to be cyclic, with extended periods of few to no birds then several winters with greater numbers. In the 1970s this was an uncommon but regular winter bird in small numbers on Coos Bay. In the 1980s and early 1990s, it was rare in winter and absent most years. In the latter 1990s through about 2010, winter numbers were up again with flocks in the double digits most of these years. From 2011 through 2021 numbers were lower with birds absent some winters. In 2022 numbers were up again with up to 43 birds present into January 2023 but none during the following winter (m.o.; eBird). Perhaps the highest winter count on record in Oregon (through winter of 2023) was 64 on the 19 December 2004 Coos Bay CBC (J. Sullivan, *Or. Birds* 31(2): 87; eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: 5 July 2018 at Bastendorff Beach (J. Kane, eBird), this is not including the one late June record.

Fall Latest Date: a small flock winters in some years, normally shrinking in size as the winter progresses.

Spring Earliest Arrival of migrant birds: seven on Bandon Beach on 30 March 2024 (N. Martens, M. Leong-Kee; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 18 June 1998 at Bandon Marsh NWR and Pony Slough (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 23; erroneously reported in *Or. Birds* as 19 June; eBird). Four were at Bandon Marsh NWR on 24 June 2021 but it is hard to determine if these were late northbound migrants or early southbound individuals (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Subfamily ARENARIINAE

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

This is an uncommon migrant, primarily observed in spring migration during late April through early May, with lesser numbers mostly earlier on during fall migration in July and August. Bandon is the best location to find birds and historically had the largest migrant flocks in Oregon. Numbers have markedly decreased in recent years though, but Bandon and Bandon Marsh NWR still remain the best locations to find them. The best location in the Coos Bay area has been the open beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay where finding a bird or two in mixed shorebird flocks is more miss than hit.

After the influx of adults in July, numbers taper off to a steady trickle and the species is uncommon through the fall, with a bird or two wintering some years. The peak counts at Bandon in fall include: 200 on 18-19 July 1981 (T. Crabtree, *Am. Birds* 35(6): 971; eBird); 179 on 23 July 1987 (*Am. Birds* 41(5): 1479); and 125 on 31 July 1989 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 16(1): 95; eBird).

This species is unusual among fall migrants in Oregon in that the passage of adult birds in late July is more obvious than the passage of young of the year, which occurs from late August through the fall, sometimes involving few birds and lacking notable peaks.

Spring migration is more variable but can still feature large flocks, e.g., the 175 at Bandon on 11 May 1992 (B. Tweit, *Or. Birds* 18(4): 129; eBird) or the smaller (but still impressive by Oregon standards) 30 birds on 14 May 1988 (D. Fix, *Am. Birds* 42(5): 1333; eBird). Dennis Paulson (1993) notes that most first-year Ruddy Turnstones spend their first summer on the wintering grounds.

This species rarely overwinters and/or can be found as late as December some years. Winter birds at Coos Bay prefer rocky shores and tidal flats along lower Coos Bay (A. McGie, p.c.). At Bandon they can be found on the mudflats but especially from the boat basin westward, joining flocks of Black Turnstones feeding in the rocks and below the processing plant.

Earliest Arrival: 8 July 1988.

Latest Date: 22 May 1988 (TattlerAugust 1988).

Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala*

This is a locally common rock-loving shorebird that can be found easily along any stretch of rocky coastline from mid-July through early May. It is also often found up the estuaries, where it uses log booms, boat ramps, woody debris, and occasionally mudflats. During extremely high tides or storms, this species sometimes forages in the grass or in parking areas along the open coast.

Birds are often highly concentrated, so a given set of rocks may have none while a hundred yards away there may be fifty birds, often feeding with Surfbirds and the occasional Rock Sandpiper.

Earliest Arrival: six in Bandon on 3 July 2008 (J. Kelly, eBird); the first birds usually do not reappear until after mid-July but become abundant by the month's end.

Latest Date: two in Bandon on 26 May 2021 (R. & D. Henise, eBird).

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Vagrant. Oregon's only confirmed record (and the first record for the lower 48 states) was at Bandon. See Lethaby and Johnson (1991) for details.

GRKN-1990-01 Bandon, one juvenile bird from 1-19 September 1990
 (NL, MS photos by JG, HN, BG).



Figure 19- Great Knot, photo compliments of Barbara Griffin.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

This species is not especially common on the Oregon coast, staging mainly out of Grays Harbor, Washington during its migration stops in the northwest. It is uncommon (usually) to fairly common in Coos County, with most reports in recent years from various Coos beaches, the Empire area of Coos Bay, and Bandon.

There is no real peak to the species' small movement along the Oregon coast in fall, but birds often appear somewhat later than other species that do not usually winter, with records through November. Adult birds sometimes appear much later than adults of other species, sometimes into September.

The first report of the species in the county is from 22 September 1962 at Coos Bay (J. Olson, *Am. Birds* 17(1): 60; eBird). Peak fall numbers include 10 on 28 August 1988 (N. Lethaby, eBird). In spring, when more birds are reported, they appear mainly from late April through mid-May, although with unimpressive peaks (for a regular migrant shorebird) including the following recent records: 23 at Pony Slough on 10 May 1981 (A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 7(3): 119; eBird); 27 at Bandon 3 May 1990 (D. Fix, *Am. Birds* 44(3): 488; eBird); 26 at Bandon on 4 May 2002 (T. Jantzen et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 133; eBird); 38 at Pony Slough on 8 May 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 30 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 3 May 2010 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 64(3): 489; eBird); 33 at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 8 May 2015 (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); and 31 at New River on 7 May 2016 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird).

In the spring of 2021, there was an unprecedented number found along Oregon's entire coast with at least 296 birds reported in Coos County alone (*Or. Birds* 48(1): 32). Peak numbers during this amazing incursion included: 16 at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 26 at New River on 10 May (D. Lauten, K. Castelein;

OBOL; eBird); 29 at Bandon Beach on 12 May (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); 38 at China Creek in Bandon on 15 May (C. & M. Miller, eBird) with 40 at Bandon Marsh NWR the same day (m.o.); up to 41 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 16 May (m.o.); and 24 at the same location on 17 May (T. Rodenkirk, R. & D. Henise; eBird). The largest flock noted in the county was 65 at Bandon on 25 April 1984 (M. Graybill, *Or. Birds* 10(3): 89; eBird although reported as May 25 in *Or. Birds*; note that *Tattler*8(3): 5 reported these birds on a much more likely 25 April).

This species is rare in winter in Oregon, but in the winter of 1977-78 an unusual flock of 22 birds spent the winter season at Pony Slough. Many of the Coos winter records are birds found in December that disappear by month's end or only linger into early January- thus not truly overwintering, more like very late migrants. Other winter records include: one at Bandon on 23 February 1987 (H. Nehls, *Or. Birds* 13(3): 314; eBird); another at Bandon on 3 January 1997 (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 23(3): 111; eBird); one near Pigeon Point in the Empire area of Coos Bay from 7 December 2008 through at least 8 February 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Gatchet; *N. Am. Birds* 63(2): 315; eBird); two in the same area from 24 November 2012 through at least 27 January 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Sullivan; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one to two once again in the same Pigeon Point area from 17 November through at least 26 December 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Metzler; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird); a single bird on the 14 December 2015 Coos Bay CBC at Pigeon Point that may have overwintered (J. Sullivan, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); a single in the upper portion of Coos Bay off Millicoma Marsh found via canoe on a 10 December 2017 Point Blue Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey that could have overwintered out of view in this area (E. Clough, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); and a single at Bandon Marsh NWR from 14 December 2022- 3 January 2023 (N. Clements, S. Webb, et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird).

A banded bird was found at Bandon Marsh NWR on 3 May 2010. This individual was banded at Guerrero Negro lagoons in Baja California Sur, Mexico in November 2006 by Roberto Carmona and his students- apparently these birds breed on Wrangel Island off east Siberia (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Tattler*10(2): 5; eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: 12 July 2024 at Bandon Marsh NWR (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Fall Latest Date: two on 6 December 2003 at Pigeon Point in Empire, not including the overwintering records listed above (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 30(2): 89; eBird). Most of these "overwintering" individuals go unreported after late January/early February.

Spring Earliest Arrival: four on 12 April 2004 at Bandon Marsh NWR (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 130; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 17 June 2023 at New River (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird). *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32 reports a bird at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 1 July 2021- this should have been 1 June 2021 (J. Metzler; eBird).

Surfbird *Calidris virgata*

This is a locally common "rockpiper" often found with Black Turnstones but also in pure flocks. It can be found in the same rocky habitats as the turnstone but does not usually wander onto such marginal habitats as log booms and mudflats, instead remaining resolutely along the coast and on the jetties.

When in mixed "rockpiper" flocks, they are generally far outnumbered by Black Turnstones. Rarely larger numbers are encountered.

Peak numbers include 250 in Bandon on 18 July 1981 (N. Lethaby, eBird) and 200 in the Bandon area on 26 July 1989 (R. Robb, eBird).

Birds generally arrive in mid-July and stay through late April.

Earliest Arrival: 7 July 1979 (*Tattler3*(3): 5).

Latest Date: 2 May 2015 at Bandon Beach (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

This is a rare but regular fall migrant along the Oregon coast. It has occurred at least 32 times in Coos County. Almost all records are from the last week of August and the first half of September.

The state only has a few winter records, two of which are from Coos County: one in the Coquille Valley on 18 January 1980 (D. Fix, T. Lund; *Or. Birds* 6(2): 109; eBird) and one on the southeast side of Coos Bay from 30 November 2008 through at least 13 December 2008 (R. Hoyer, A. Contreras, et al.; *Tattler09*(1): 4; *N. Am. Birds* 63(1): 146; *N. Am. Birds* 63(2): 315; eBird).

One of Oregon's few spring records (and the only spring record from the county) was at Pony Slough on 18 April 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

July records are also quite rare in Oregon with one from Coos, an adult observed at Bandon Marsh NWR on 18 July 2005 (K. Castelein, *N. Am. Birds* 59(4): 646; *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 18 July 2005 at Bandon Marsh NWR- the only summer record with no fall records occurring before the last week of August.

Latest Date: 23 November 1980 (*Tattler4*(4): 7), excepting the two winter records.



Figure 20- Ruff at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 1 October 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

This is a rare fall migrant to Oregon from Alaska or northeast Asia. It occurs almost every year in the state, sometimes with multiple birds recorded. There are at least 29 records from the county with Bandon Marsh NWR being one of the more reliable historic locations in the state to find this species. This is a late migrant, normally found from early September through October, with the peak time to locate birds normally not until late September.

Late August (one record) and September observations include: one at Bandon on 27 September 1987 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 14(4): 385; eBird); on 25 September 1988 (*Tattler* February 1989); six in fall, 1990 at Bandon from 22 September (D. van den Broek; eBird) to 28 October (L. Thornburgh; eBird)- *Am. Birds* 45(2): 310, which included these also- at Bandon Marsh NWR on 23 September 1990 (K. Brady, eBird) and at an unknown site on 29 September 1990 (perhaps Bandon Marsh?- L. Thornburgh; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 8-14 September 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; OBOL; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 3-5 September 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, G. Gillson; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 30; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 15-22 September 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 37; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 29 September- 6 October 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk, R. Robb; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 45; eBird); another at the same location on the early date of 31 August 2010 (K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 23 September 2010 (D. Pettey, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); yet another at Bandon Marsh NWR on 3 September 2012 (R. Namitz, E. Clough; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6-9 September 2012 (R. Robb, et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 16 September 2012 (K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); and one in the Empire area of Coos Bay on 2 September 2014 (R. Robb, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

October records include: one at Bandon on 4 October 1980 (M. Hunter, *Or. Birds* 6(4): 193); one at Coos Bay on 2 October 1983 (A. McGie, *Tattler* 7(5): 9); one at Bandon on 11 and 19 October 1985 (D. Lusthoff, P. Mueller, R. Smith; *Or. Birds* 12(3): 214); on 22 October 1989; one at Bandon on 5 October 1994 (D. Munson, *Or. Birds* 21(2): 65); another at Bandon Marsh NWR from 3-22 October 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 30); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 25 October 2003 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 42- note that *Or Birds* has the date on 26 October which is incorrect); two at the same site on 1 October 2005 (M. Marsh, R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 29; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 2 October 2006 (J. Fontaine, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 24; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 17 October 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 12; *Tattler* 08(6): 6; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 17-18 October 2009 (A. Contreras, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler* 09(5): 5; eBird); and one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 18-24 October 2023 (K. Saxton, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

There is one unprecedented spring record, a well described bird at New River on 24 May 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 197; eBird). At the time, it was the first Oregon spring record and only the fifth spring record on the west coast south of Alaska (Lauten, Castelein; 2000).



Figure 21- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 25 October 2003. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*

This is a rare but regular fall migrant, with at least 29 records to date beginning with the first record on 8-9 September 1979 at Coos Bay (JE & m.o.; *Or. Birds* 5(5): 21; eBird). Multiple birds sometimes appear together, with eight at Pony Slough on 1-2 September 1982 (A. McGie; eBird) the second highest count. The highest count ever recorded was an astounding 94 at Pony Slough on 30 August 1989 (M. and M. Denny, L. McKlosky, L. Thornburg; p.c.; eBird).

Adult birds are much rarer and usually appear in mid- to late July, while juveniles are more commonly seen and begin appearing in mid-August and peak in early September.

Earliest Arrival: an adult at New River on 30 June 1998 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 23; eBird).

Latest Date: one on 22 October 1989 at Bandon (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 16(2): 188; eBird).



Figure 22- Stilt Sandpiper at Bandon Marsh NWR on 31 August 2007.
Photo compliments of Gary Shaffer.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

This is a rare vagrant from northeast Asia. There are seven accepted records for Coos County, including the latest fall record for Oregon.

CUSA-1976-04	Seven Devils Wayside, one approaching basic plumage on 16 August 1976 (RLeV, photo by Mfo).
CUSA-1985-08	Bandon, Coos County, one in breeding plumage on 25+ July 1985 (photos by BS, JG, TC, OS). First verified Oregon record, as photo of 1976 bird was not in itself diagnostic.
CUSA-2000-16	Bandon Marsh, Coos County, one immature bird 25 September to 2 October 2000 (CD,DLa).
CUSA-2001-17	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one juvenile on 1 October 2001 (KC, TR, photos by DLa).
CUSA-2005-21	Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 18 December 2005 (photos by AC, DHe).
CUSA-2006-22	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 13-14 September 2006 (TR).
CUSA-2008-23	Bandon Marsh, Coos County, one bird on 24 October 2008 (TR).

Two additional records are unreviewed: one at Bandon 18 July 1981 (M. Hunter, *Or. Birds* 7(3): 119) and another at Bandon on 7 September 1987 (R. Smith, *Or. Birds* 14(3): 289).



Figure 23- Curlew Sandpiper at Bastendorff Beach on 18 December 2005, the latest fall record for Oregon and also the first CBC record. Found and photographed by Alan Contreras.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Asian vagrant with four accepted records from Coos County:

RNST-1984-10	Bandon, one in breeding plumage on 25 June 1984 (LT).
RNST-1999-17	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one adult in alternate plumage, 15 July 1999 (TR).
RNST-2009-21	Tenmile Creek, Coos County, one adult on 19 June 2009 (DaF, photos by HH).
RNST-2011-22	New River, Coos County, one bird in nonbreeding plumage 12 July to 29 August 2011 (DLA, KC, GG, photos by RuN, TJ, GG, DLa, Ahe, CHi, AdH). See Lauten et al., 2012; this bird remained through 15 September.

In addition, there are three unreviewed records of alternate-plumage adults: at Pony Slough on 13 August 1982 (L. Thornburgh et al.; *Or. Birds* 8(3): 96); another at Pony Slough on 13 August 1985 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* 9(4): 6); and one at Bandon on 5 August 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* February 1989).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

This abundant shorebird can be found in large and small flocks along the county's beaches from July through May, with a few nonbreeding birds around in June some years (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 148). Flocks rush agilely back and forth along the waterline as waves come up on the beaches, flushing just ahead of dogs and people.

Flocks of Sanderlings sometimes contain other species, especially Dunlin and sometimes Western or Least Sandpipers or even Snowy Plovers.

Although most of their activity is along the flat sand, a few birds pop up on mudflats or in odd locations, most noticeably in flocks of Black Turnstones feeding on rocks. A white bird in winter flying with turnstones is probably this species, not the dark gray Rock Sandpiper. Numbers vary considerably from year to year, with fifty birds on a beach one winter and a thousand the next year.

Earliest Arrival: hard to determine as birds seen in mid- to late June could be oversummering or early arrivals? Flocks begin to arrive by early to mid-July.

Latest Date: hard to determine as birds seen in early to mid-June could be oversummering or late migrants? Most have left by late May, but a few will sometimes linger into early June.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

This is the most abundant shorebird in the county in winter. Flocks of hundreds and sometimes thousands gather on the large mudflats of Coos Bay and in the Coquille River estuary. Large flocks also can be found in flooded pastures in the Coquille Valley, along the lower Coos River, and locally elsewhere. Small numbers of birds are sometimes found on the open beaches with flocks of Sanderlings.

This species is one of the latest shorebirds to arrive in numbers on the coast, with the first outriders not usually appearing until early September. Major flocks begin appearing in late September and early October and by mid- to late October this is the most common shorebird in the county. Birds remain until early May.

Rarely, a failed breeder or nonbreeder will show up in mid-summer, such records include: a bird at New River on 16 July 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 9 July 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 118; eBird); a single at the same location on 27 July 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 189; eBird); another single breeding-plumaged adult at the same location on 6 August 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 42; eBird); and one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 22 July 2014 (J. Metzler, OBOL; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 31 August 2013 at Bandon Marsh NWR (P. Low, OBOL), this does not include the rare July and early August records.

Latest Date: one with a missing leg at New River from 29 June- 2 July 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird).

Rock Sandpiper *Calidris ptilocnemis*

This is an uncommon and very local winter resident that usually arrives in the latter half of October or November and departs in April. When present, it is invariably found in flocks of Black Turnstones or Surfbirds. Numbers vary from year to year and are never high because southern Oregon is at the edge of the species normal winter range. The high count is 14 apparent migrants in alternate plumage on 16 April 1977 (A. McGie, *Tattler* 1(2): 9) and the same number on 14 January 1979 (A. McGie, *Tattler* 3(1): 9).

In the 2000s, this species has not been found consistently at any one location and is normally missed on the local CBCs. Previously it was somewhat regular in Bandon along the south jetty and on the old dock behind the Coast Guard station at high tide. Even there, only a bird or two were present in most years. The rocky area at Cape Arago sometimes hosts this species but the vast amount of habitat available, much of which is inaccessible, makes locating one a daunting task.

Earliest Arrival: 19 August 1988 (B. Fawver and J. Thomas, *Tattler* February, 1989)- this is a very unusual record and perhaps the

only August record ever in Oregon? Historically they may have arrived earlier, but in the last decade the earliest record is 17 October 2017 (A. & C. Hinkle, eBird).

Latest Date: 30 April 1983; in recent years birds have rarely been reported past mid-March.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

This is an uncommon migrant seen almost exclusively in fall migration. The first birds begin appearing in late July/early August and have a short peak from mid- to late August, trailing off to singles by September and hard to find after that month's end. There have been winter reports and CBC records prior to 2000, but the species has never been confirmed in Oregon in winter, in fact, even in California there are only two very rare verified winter records (eBird through 2024).

Fall peak counts include: 14 at the North Spit of Coos Bay 25 August 1980 (E. White-Swift, *Tattler* 4(3): 7; eBird); 17 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 August 2005 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 29; eBird); 14 on the beach at Seven Devil's Wayside on 13 August 2021 (G. Apte, eBird); 17 along New River on 14 August 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a total of 38 in several flocks along the beach between Winchester Bay in Douglas County and Tenmile Creek in Coos County on 17 August 2010 (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8).

Most years no birds are observed in spring, with those reported normally found from mid-April through mid-May.

This species is particularly fond of open sandy beaches which are normally where larger flocks of five to ten are located. It can also be found in drier areas on mudflats and in open grassy edges along mudflats such as those along New River and on the edges of Bandon Marsh NWR.

Fall Earliest Arrival: one 24 June 2014 at the mouth of Tenmile Creek that remained through at least 30 June (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird); the first birds normally do not arrive until the second week in July or later though.

Fall Latest Date: 20 November 1995 at Coos Bay (M. and M. Denny, *Or. Birds* 22(2): 67; eBird).

Spring Earliest Arrival: 6 April 2016 at New River (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 11 June 2013 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 67(4): 642; eBird).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Asian vagrant with three accepted records from Coos County:

LIST-1986-02	Bandon, Coos County, one juvenile on 12 September 1986 (photos by JG).
LIST-2002-06	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one adult on 13 July 2002 (video by DLa).
LIST-2015-07	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 18-19 May 2015 (DLa, KC, photos by RuN).



Figure 24- Little Stint on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 19 May 2015. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

This abundant migrant can be found on mudflats and locally in wet pastures, pond margins, muddy riverbanks, and similar habitats. It is much more likely than the Western Sandpiper to be found in grassy areas and prefers to forage on the drier parts of mudflats, wandering into the water less often than Westerns.

Fall migration of this species peaks later and continues longer than in the Western Sandpiper, with significant flocks generally not appearing until August and adult birds, although common in July, not in such numbers as Westerns. Peak fall counts include: 3000 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 2 September 1990 (fide HN, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 59); 2,500 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 4 October 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 45; eBird); and 3,000 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 16 October 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 29; eBird). Large numbers remain through late fall and hundreds remain in winter, mainly at Coos Bay and in the Coquille River estuary, with a few birds elsewhere.

Spring migration is most pronounced in April and early May, with most birds gone by late May. A recent peak count was 1,500 birds at the Bandon Marsh NWR on 1 May 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: The first birds probably begin arriving by the last week in June although an exact date is hard to determine as a few nonbreeding birds can be found through June in some years.

Latest Spring Date: Most birds are usually gone by the first week in June although a few nonbreeding birds can be found through June in some years.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Vagrant with two OBRC accepted records from Coos County:

- WRS-2003-04 New River, Coos County, one bird on 28 June 2003
 (video by DLa). First verified Oregon record.
WRS-2019-08 Coos Bay North Spit, Coos County, 28 August 2019
 (details DLa, KC; photo DLa).



Figure 25- Oregon's first White-rumped Sandpiper. Video clip by Dave Lauten.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*

This is a rare but regular fall migrant that occurs on the Oregon coast in most years with at least 45 Coos records to date. It has one of the narrowest windows of occurrence of any shorebird that moves through the state, with most records from the last week of August through the first week of September. Juveniles are the birds normally seen during fall migration with only three records of adults ever observed in Oregon. Two of the three adult records are from Coos County: one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 July 2003 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207; eBird) and another at Bandon Beach SP on 27 June 2008 the latter being the earliest record in Oregon at the time (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 608; eBird).

This species prefers relatively dry open sandy or muddy areas with some grass and often goes into the grass to feed. It is sometimes found on open beaches and is generally reported close to the open coast. In the early 2000s, one of the most reliable spots to locate this species was at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay which was mostly dried up during the migration

peak; however, the habitat has grown over at this site and it is no longer regular there. The New River Fourmile mudflat area has excellent habitat also and has hosted this species several times, most recently in 2021. Singles or small flocks of 2-4 birds are most often found. A flock of 15 birds, possibly the largest ever recorded in Oregon, was at the North Spit site on 28 August 2007 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *N. Am. Birds* 62(1): 140; eBird). Another large flock of 13 birds was at the same site on 28 August 2004 (D. DeWitt, *Or. Birds* 31(1): 24; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 13 August 2001 at Tenmile Creek; this does not include the two very rare summer records of adults (D. Lauten, K, Castelein, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 38; eBird- the *Or. Birds* citation incorrectly called this Douglas County).

Latest Date: 2 October 2006 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (J. Fontaine, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 33(1): 24; eBird).



Figure 26- Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 27 August 2004. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

This is an uncommon to common fall migrant and a rare spring migrant. A few adults are sometimes reported in July and early August, but the bulk of the migrants are juveniles that arrive relatively late in the fall, with a few birds in late August burgeoning into flocks of dozens or scores during September and early October. In some years, the peak of passage is in very late September or even the first few days of October, but in other years the movement seems to peak earlier, in mid-September. Numbers vary considerably from year to year. A recent high count was 32 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 12 September 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 37; eBird).

There are only seven spring records to date- all but one from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay: one 22 April 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); one 16 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 89; eBird); a different bird on 21-22 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 89; eBird); two to four birds from 15-20 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Hoyer, J. Simmons; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 133; eBird); one on 16 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(3): 470; eBird); an amazing 10 on 23-24 May 2009 with two still around on 27 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 13; *N. Am. Birds* 63(3): 494; eBird); and one videotaped along New River on 20 April 2012 (D. Orban, p.c.; eBird).

There are no winter records for the county.

Earliest Fall Arrival: two on 8 July 2005 over the open ocean off Coos Bay (P. Pyle, *N. Am. Birds* 59(4): 646). The earliest land record was on 15 July 2005 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; eBird).

Latest Fall Date: one at Millicoma Marsh on 2 November 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 45; eBird).

Earliest Spring Arrival: 20 April 2012.

Latest Spring Date: 27 May 2009.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

This is an uncommon fall migrant, and a rare spring migrant. It occurs annually but in very small numbers, and considerable skill is needed to extract one from a flock of Western Sandpipers, with which it usually appears.

There are two distinct peaks to the minuscule fall movement. First, in early to mid-July, adult birds pass through rather rapidly, with most gone by mid-August. Later, in late-July and August, immature birds pass through in a more diffuse wave. Birds become increasingly hard to find in September with only a couple records after mid-month. It is unusual to find more than one or two birds in a flock of Westerns, and most flocks have none at all. High counts in recent years include: 4-5 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 24 July 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 173; eBird); five juveniles at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 28 July 2006 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); five at Bandon Marsh NWR from 21-23 July 2007 (D. and A. Heyerly, P. Lowe; *Or. Birds* 33(4): 128; eBird); and six at Bandon Marsh NWR on 26 July 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Spring records are few and include the following: one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 April 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(3): 88; eBird); one late adult at the Tenmile Estuary on 9 June 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 18; eBird); a single bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 18 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 133; erroneously reported in *Or. Birds* as May 19; eBird); an adult at the same North Spit site on 18-19 May

2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 22 April 2006 (Maitreya, *Or. Birds* 32(3): 127; eBird); one to two at the mouth of Tenmile Creek from 2-12 June 2014 (D. Farrar, J. Metzler; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8, eBird); one at Bullards Beach SP on 29 June 2022 (J. Parris, eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 17 May 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with another the same spring on 26 May 2024 on the beach next to the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one on the beach with Snowy Plovers on the very south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 June 2025 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: 17 June 2013 at Tenmile Creek (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird), assuming that this was indeed a southbound bird. The first arrivals are normally not reported until mid-July with early individuals sometimes found during the first or second week of July.

Latest Fall Date: 27 September 2015 along the downtown waterfront in Coos Bay (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15)- this is an extremely late date for this species; they are very rare after mid-September.

Earliest Spring Arrival: 22 April 2006.

Latest Spring Date: 12 June 2014, this bird had been around for almost two weeks so was likely a nonbreeder or a very late northbound bird.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

This is an abundant migrant, mainly on mudflats, with a few birds found on beaches, muddy riverbanks, and pond fringes. Numbers in the hundreds are common and flocks in the thousands are sometimes encountered during peak movements, especially at Bandon Marsh NWR.

Spotty worn-plumage adult birds appear southbound in the last few days of June and by mid-July large numbers are passing through. Most are gone by the beginning of the extended passage of young birds in early August. Young birds peak from late August through September. Fall high counts include 14,000 at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 August 2000 (K. Castelein, D. Lauten; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 30; eBird); 8,000 on 1 and 4 September 2000 at Bandon Marsh NWR (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 29; eBird); and 8,000 there again on 11 August 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Spring migration happens in a much shorter period of time with numbers peaking the last ten days of April through the first week of May. Shorebird numbers are spectacular many years, with the huge flocks of peeps consisting primarily of this species. Spring high counts include: 35,000 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 29 April 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 133; eBird); 50,000 at New River and 60,000 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 4 May 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 133; eBird); 75,000 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 3 May 2006 (K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 32(3): 123; eBird); up to 36,000/hour migrating north along New River on the morning of 20 April 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); up to 57,000/hour passing Bandon Beach on 2 May 2006 with a total estimated that day of 400,000 shorebirds, probably >90% Western Sandpipers (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 60(3): 428; eBird); 54,000 counted flying north along New River at the Lower Fourmile Creek intersection during a two hour count on the morning of 3 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 42,100 counted at the same location during a two hour period on the morning of 22 April 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, F. Mayer; eBird).

Reports of large flocks of Western Sandpipers in winter are usually erroneous and refer to Dunlin or Least Sandpipers. Dunlin are

the most abundant species in winter and often occur in the thousands on upper Coos Bay. Least Sandpipers are the common smaller peep and can be found in the hundreds and are easily confused or assumed to be Westerns by those observers unaware that Westerns are sparse at best in winter. Coos Bay does support the highest numbers of Westerns in the state during winter though, with singles often on the beach at the North Spit with Dunlin flocks and with mixed shorebird flocks in the Empire area of Coos Bay. Large winter flocks can contain double-digit numbers but only rarely and usually in the Coos Bay area. They are even less regular at Bandon in winter, although careful checking through shorebird flocks there can sometimes uncover a few Westerns with a paltry 10 the long-time average for the Coquille Valley CBC (which includes Bandon Marsh) up through the 2024 CBC. In the Coquille Valley, smaller peeps are invariably almost always Least in the winter. A recent high winter count is 290 from the Empire area of Coos Bay (Pigeon Point) on 20 December 2024 on the Point Blue Winter Shorebird Count (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).

A bird spotted on 2 August 2013 at Bandon by Dave Lauten and Kathy Castelein was banded as a juvenile in Paracas National Reserve, Ica, Peru on 7 January 2012 (E. T. Fernandez, p.c.; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: The first fall migrants probably begin arriving in late June although an exact date is hard to determine as a few birds are often found in mid-June that could be early or late migrants or perhaps even nonbreeders?

Latest Spring Date: The last stragglers are normally gone by the first week in June although a true late date is hard to determine as a few late migrants, nonbreeders, or very early migrants can be found up through mid-June in some years.

Subfamily SCOLOPACINAE

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*

This is a common and sometimes locally abundant migrant. It is especially common in fall, when adults begin appearing around the first of July and the main wave of immatures comes through from late August through September. Flocks of dozens or scores of birds are common during these periods, with occasional flocks of more than a hundred birds reported. Peak counts observed at Bandon Marsh NWR include: 200 on 21-24 August 1989 (D. Fix, *Or. Birds* 16(2): 188; eBird); an amazing 2000 birds on 18 August 1990 (J. Gilligan, G. Lillie; *Or. Birds* 17(2): 59; eBird); and 200 on 21 August 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

Smaller numbers pass through in spring, mainly from early to mid-April through early May. The largest reported numbers include: 200 birds at Bandon 28 April 1989 (D. Fix, *Or. Birds* 15(4): 301; eBird) with 400 there on 26 April 1990 (D. Fix, *Am. Birds* 44(3): 488; eBird); and 286 in a little over two hours migrating north along New River at the end of the Lower Fourmile Trail on 22 April 2024 (F. Mayer, T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

There are sometimes reports of the species in winter, but it is extremely difficult to differentiate from the much more likely Long-billed Dowitcher, with call notes the best way to separate the two. A recent article in Birding magazine has some tips on separating dowitchers in winter (Lee 2006). The species is generally thought to winter regularly only as far north as the central California coast, with occasional outliers to Humboldt Bay. In recent years, winter reports by experienced observers with good vocal descriptions included

have come from as far north as Puget Sound so it is likely that a bird or two could occasionally be discovered in Coos County. Recent verified winter records are few and include: one heard calling at the Bandon Sewage Plant Cove on the 2 January 2000 Coquille Valley CBC (A. Contreras, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 187; eBird); a calling bird at Pony Slough on 11 December 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 63(2): 315; eBird); and one that overwintered in the Empire area of Coos Bay from 2 November 2023 through 28 March 2024- this bird was heard doing its diagnostic tu-tu-tu call in November and again in January and retained its tiger-striped tertials into late March for perhaps one of the first documented overwintering records in Oregon (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with photos).

Fall Earliest Arrival: The first southbound migrants normally begin arriving by the very end of June although an exact date is hard to determine some years as a few nonbreeding birds can be found through June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207).

Fall Latest Date: 27 November 2004 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 42; eBird) and 27 November 2012 at Pigeon Point in Empire (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird), both birds were heard as well as seen; these late dates do not include a few rare winter records.

Spring Earliest Arrival: 31 March 2025 in the Empire area of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), the earliest coastal dowitcher reports are typically this species often as early as the first week of May.

Spring Latest Date: Most birds are usually gone by the last week in May although an exact date is hard to determine as a few nonbreeders or very late migrants can be found into mid-June some years. (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

This is a common to locally abundant spring and fall migrant. The largest spring groups pass through in late April and early May and are noticeably later than Short-billed Dowitchers. In fall, the adult passage peaks in July and immatures in August and September with Short-billeds the much more common dowitcher species in early and mid-July. Flocks of scores of birds are usual with flocks in excess of 100 sometimes reported. The species remains on the Oregon coast in winter at favored sites.

This species is much more likely than the Short-billed to occur at inland and fresh-water sites. It can often be seen probing in flooded pastures around Coos Bay and in the Coquille Valley in winter.

Earliest Arrival: 22 June 2006 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay (R. Namitz, OBOL; eBird), although the first birds usually do not arrive until about mid-July and are way outnumbered by southbound Short-billed Dowitchers throughout much of July.

Latest Date: two on 22 June 2005 also at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), these birds had been seen around for a couple weeks before disappearing after 22 June. Most birds are gone by mid- to late May. These identical early and late dates illustrate the difficulty of determining the status of birds seen in mid-June.

? Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

Formerly Common Snipe. This is a fairly common to common but somewhat secretive species that is present in the county from late summer through late spring. There is no proof of breeding in the county

today although it may have bred in the past. One recent breeding season record was a bird present from 13 June through at least 22 June 2006 on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, no actual breeding evidence was noted though, such as aerial flight displays (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, OBOL; eBird). A bird heard and seen doing aerial displays was present at the Ni-les'tun unit of Bandon Marsh NWR from 30 April through at least 2 May 2016; no other evidence of breeding was reported (L. Sherman; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).

The species is usually found singly or in loose aggregations of a few birds, but dense flocks of dozens of birds sometimes occur in winter in prime lowland bogs.

Earliest Arrival: 2 July 2000 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: 5 June 2003 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207; eBird), not including the unusual mid-June record listed above.

Subfamily TRINGINAE

• **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius*

This is a fairly common breeding bird wherever seasonal gravel pans, mudflats, or narrow sandy edges are available along rivers, large streams, lakes, and locally in the upper part of estuaries. It is easy to find bobbing along the shoreline or gliding across a creek with its distinctive stiff-winged flight pattern, whistling sharply to make sure you see it.

A few birds winter in the county, mainly along larger rivers and locally along estuaries. Winter birds tend to settle in at favored locations such as the coves by the Bandon sewage treatment plant and at Fossil Point in the Empire area of Coos Bay.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*

This is a rare to uncommon migrant seen primarily during a short window in the spring which occurs from the last week in April through mid-May. Although this species is regularly reported in many locations in the Willamette Valley each spring, it is much less regular in Coos County where considerable effort is often necessary to locate one. It prefers small ponds, sloughs, and backwaters but is not regular at any one location from year to year. One of the best sites for them in recent years has been the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area. During the fall it is decidedly rarer with years between reports.

It does not breed or winter in the county.

Fall Earliest Arrival: 14 July 2004 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird).

Fall Latest Date: one 6 September 2013 at Bradley Lake in Bandon (H. Schuboth, eBird).

Spring Earliest Arrival: 24 March 1987 (*Tattler*10(2b): 11)- this is suspiciously early with no March reports anywhere in Oregon on eBird; the very first birds would not be expected until at least mid-to late April with 17 April 2004 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay one of the earliest recent records (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 14 May 1988 and 14 May 2021 at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area (D. & R. Henise; eBird).

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*

This is an uncommon migrant along the outer coast of the county, rarely straying from its preferred rocky areas. Although it is usually solitary, small groups of three or four birds are often seen at the peak of migration. Birds on passage are most apparent from late March through early May in spring and from late July through mid-September in fall.

High counts for single locations include 13 at Bandon on 27-28 August 1977 (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 3(5): 22; eBird) and 30 at Bandon on 18 August 1990 (J. Gilligan, G. Lillie; *Or. Birds* 17(2): 58; eBird).

This species has been reported in winter in the county, but most of the older records were not well documented. A single bird, well documented and likely the same returning individual, was recorded overwintering on the jetties in Bandon four consecutive winters- 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, and lastly in 2020/2021. The first overwintering report was on the 30 December 2017 Coquille Valley CBC and it remained through at least 31 January 2018 (G. Shaffer, P. McLaughlin; eBird). Perhaps the same returning bird was seen again on the north jetty on Bandon on 31 December 2018 (M. Seedborg, eBird) and was found on the 5 January 2019 Coquille Valley CBC (K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5; eBird) but there were no other reports that winter. The following winter was the third consecutive year one was observed. It was first detected on 29 November 2019 and stayed through at least 27 December 2019 (R. & D. Henise, D. Valenti, K. Chamberlain; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 5, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird). The fourth and final winter, likely the same individual was found again overwintering from 4 December 2020 through 8 March 2021 (S. & N. Viani et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32; eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: 8 July 1981 (*Tattler*5(4): 7).

Fall Latest Date: one in Bandon on 19 October 2021 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan; eBird), not including wintering birds- most migrants are gone by the end of September.

Spring Earliest Arrival: five birds at the Coquille jetties on 11 March 1979 (B. Fawver, *Tattler*3(1): 9) although this record is very unusual? The earliest recent date is 10 April 2008 in Bandon (A. Kling, eBird) although most years the first birds are not reported until the last week of April.

Spring Latest Date: one at the south jetty of Bandon on 12 June 2021 (D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 32 which incorrect states the late date as 2 June; eBird).

Note that the vagrant **Gray-tailed Tattler**, which has been reported on the Oregon coast, prefers mudflats, so any tattler found feeding on mudflats should be carefully scrutinized. See the **Hypothetical List** after the main species accounts.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

This species is less common than the Greater Yellowlegs at all seasons. It is uncommon to fairly common in fall migration with peak movement in August and early September, with some stragglers into late fall. It is also present in spring, but numbers are generally less than in fall and birds can be hard to find, with almost all of the passage occurring from mid-April through very early May. Whereas Greater Yellowlegs can often be found in large flocks, this species is usually found in small numbers with one or two per shorebird flock the norm, except during the mid- to late August migration peak when larger flocks are regular. The largest flocks in recent years have included: 18

birds at Bandon Marsh NWR from 21-26 August 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 29; eBird); 18 birds in Bandon at the sewage treatment plant outlet on 17 August 2008 (R. Namitz, E. Clough, F. Sanchez, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler*08(5): 5; eBird); 17 birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 15 August 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 30 at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 17 April 2021 including a pure flock of 16 and others scattered among the 140 Greater Yellowlegs there that day (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

It is rare in winter but there are a few generally accepted records by experienced observers for the county particularly in recent years and especially in the bay north of Millicoma Marsh. Ones or twos are the rule and older historic reports of flocks are almost certainly misIDed Greater Yellowlegs. Winter records include: one in lower Catching Slough on 20 December 1976 (A. Contreras, the Coos Bay CBC recorded several in this mild year; eBird); two near Coquille on 18 January 1980 (D. Fix and T. Lund, *Am. Birds* 34(3): 300; eBird); one at the northern end of North Slough on 19 January 1992 (H. Herlyn, *Or. Birds* 18(3): 94; eBird); one on the Coos Bay CBC on 20 December 1997 (*fide* H. Nehls, *Or. Birds* 24(3): 97; eBird); one on the Coos Bay CBC on 20 December 1998 (B. Fawver, J. Thomas; *Or. Birds* 25(3): 88; eBird); one up Kentuck Slough on 22 February 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(3): 88, note that the date was erroneously reported as 24 February; eBird); one bird found on 16 December 2000 at Kentuck Inlet that was seen through 13 January 2001 (A. Contreras, H. Herlyn, A. McGie; *Or. Birds* 27(2): 63; eBird); two birds on the 16 December 2001 Coos Bay CBC with a third bird discovered just outside the count circle- one of these birds lingered through 16 January 2002 up Kentuck Inlet (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 97; eBird); one bird off Millicoma Marsh on the 16 December 2007 Coos Bay CBC (R. Namitz, J. Fontaine; *Or. Birds* 34(2): 56; eBird); two on the 14 December 2008 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records; eBird); one in the bay off Millicoma Marsh from 7 January 2010 through at least 19 February 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 16; eBird); another single overwintering in the same area from 10 December 2010 through at least 24 January 2011 (T. Rodenkirk; *N. Am. Birds* 65(2): 332, *Tattler*10(1): 5-7; eBird); one to two in the same area from 12 November 2011 through at least 28 January 2012 (R. Foster, B. Taylor, T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird); one south of Coos Bay on the 16 December 2012 Coos Bay CBC (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one overwintering off Millicoma Marsh on 7 March 2013 for its third year (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); a calling bird heard near the Eastside boat ramp on 8 January 2014 (J. Gilligan, *N. Am. Birds* 68(2): 269; eBird); a single bird seen with Greater Yellowlegs in the Haynes Inlet portion of Coos Bay on 15 January 2014 (T. Bray, *N. Am. Birds* 68(2): 269; eBird); and one found on the east side of Coos Bay on the 18 December 2016 Coos Bay CBC (J. Metzler, eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: five on 6 July 1999 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

Fall Latest Date: 11 November 1981 (*Tattler*6(1): 8), not including several winter records.

Spring Earliest Arrival: 16 March 2008 near Sumner although this breeding-plumaged individual may have been an overwintering bird as most migrants do not arrive until mid- to late April (R. Namitz, *Tattler*08(2): 7; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 8 June 2008 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 607; eBird).

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

This is an uncommon migrant in the county. Spring movement begins rather early for this shorebird, in late March, and most birds have passed through by mid-May. Fall migration is more protracted, with birds appearing from July through October.

Historically it has always been local and was most easily found along the eastern shore of upper Coos Bay from Glasgow south to the Coos River, especially at Kentuck Inlet where most peak counts occurred and occasionally at Bandon Marsh NWR prior to 2000. In recent years, it has been reported almost solely from the beaches in Bandon, New River, and on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Historically, a few birds remained to winter in some years at Coos Bay and Bandon although none have since 2019. Besides a single bird in Empire during the winter of 2014/2015 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8), the only wintering location for this species in recent years was along the waterfront in Coos Bay near the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Office where birds overwintered from 2000 through 2019 (*Or. Birds* 45(1): 8). These overwintering birds arrived as early as the end of July and usually stayed around into April.

Peak fall numbers in recent years have been low, in the single digits with two or three the peak count most years. Historically, there were much larger numbers particularly at Coos Bay and include: 13 on 16 September 1975 (T. Lund, *Am. Birds* 30(1): 114; eBird); 27 on 26 September 1977 (J. McDowell, *Am. Birds* 32(2): 247; *Tattler*1(3): 7; eBird); and 21 on 13 October 1981 (J. McDowell, *Tattler*5(4): 6; eBird). A recent high peak count was 10 at New River on 3 August 2024 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

Peak winter and spring numbers include: 32 that wintered (J. McDowell, *Tattler*3(1): 9) and were still present in spring, 1979 (A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 33(5): 801); 28 on 18 March 1980 (J. McDowell, *Tattler*4(1): 9; eBird); 33 present from 17 March through at least 18 April 1982 at Kentuck Inlet (J. McDowell, *Tattler*6(3): 5; eBird); and 22 on 13 February 1983 (A. McGie, *Tattler*7(4): 15; eBird).

Peak counts at Bandon include: 35 on 23 September 1978 (H. Nehls, *Or. Birds* 33(2): 207; eBird) and 22 in the winter of 1982-83.

Earliest Arrival: 1 July 2009 at Bandon Marsh (K. Ross, eBird); most years the first southbound birds are not reported until after mid-July.

Latest Date: 18 June 1999 at Bandon (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(1): 145; eBird).

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

This is a fairly common to common and obvious migrant shorebird that winters in the county primarily around Coos Bay, with a few sometimes found in the Coquille Valley, and in small numbers locally elsewhere in flooded pastureland and on muddy lake and stream margins. It is especially obvious at Millicoma Marsh and at the mouths of small inlets such as Kentuck and Larson inlets off Coos Bay. Recent peak counts include: 100 at New River on 22 April 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 24(4): 131; eBird); 104 up Willanch Road on 5 December 1998 (S. Dowlan, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 25(3): 88; eBird); 60 up Kentuck Inlet on 22 February 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(3): 88; this was erroneously reported as 24 February in *Or. Birds*); and 80 at the same location on 16 December 2001 (T. Rodenkirk; eBird). It is generally not found on open beaches but is sometimes present around rain pools and mudholes on the spits.

Coos Bay typically has the largest number of this species wintering in Oregon, with CBC numbers near and sometimes in excess of 100 birds.

Earliest Arrival of migrant flocks: two on 21 June 1998 at New River and one at the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Lauten, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 25(1): 23; eBird).

Latest Date for departing birds: hard to determine as a bird or two are sometimes present throughout June although most are gone by mid- to late May.

• **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*

This is now a rare spring and fall visitant but was formerly a regular breeder at one site in the county for about a decade in the early 2000s when good nesting habitat existed.

Prior to 2003, this was a rare visitant to the county in spring, when birds had overshot their Great Basin breeding grounds. The peak time to look for them is in the latter half of May although records have occurred from early May through late June. Records to date of spring migrants other than at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay where they previously bred, or birds found there that were not thought to be breeders, include: four at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 June 1978 (*Tattler* 2(2): 14; eBird) with a female still there 18 June; a pair at Bandon on 22 May 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Am. Birds* 42(5): 1333; eBird); a pair at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 19-22 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird) and seven in the same area on 1 June 2000 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); three in the flooded field just east of Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille from 11-27 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); a pair at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 8 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 133; eBird) with a single female in the same vicinity on 23 June 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 189; eBird); three at Redmon pond along the south jetty at Bandon on 3 May 2008 (R. and N. Armstrong, p.c.; eBird); four at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 7 May 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one to two at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 14-15 May 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); two at the Lower Fourmile area of New River on 23 May 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); three adults, two females and a male, on New River where Fourmile Creek comes in on 27 June 2021 (T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); one at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 14 May 2022 with seven there on 22 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); and a female at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 22 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

Beginning in 2000, a few birds began showing up regularly at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay during spring migration. This site was a former mill settling pond that ceased being used to dispose of mill effluent in mid-1990s. The site was an open sandy area in the old deflation plain with no vegetation. It would fill up with winter rains and become lake like and then gradually dry out as the winter rains ended and the summer dry season ensued. The open sandy area retained enough water in late spring, summer, and fall to attract shorebirds, sometimes in great numbers. The site slowly began to naturally revegetate with various sedges and the first small Hooker's willows. In 2003, Wilson's Phalaropes were noted nesting at the site making this the only known coastal nesting location in Oregon. A few pairs bred at the site every year thereafter through 2009. High water and changes in the habitat (Hooker willow had begun to

become the dominant vegetation) at the site resulted in no breeding noted from 2010 through 2012, although migrants were noted in May each of these years. Scant rains during the winters of 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 produced low water levels and good breeding conditions and from 2013-2015 a few pair bred once again. Since 2015 natural plant succession has resulted in Hooker willows former a "forest" over much of the site except in the northwest corner making any future breeding very unlikely. Birds were detected at the site in 2016 but no breeding was noted. Since 2016, there have been no breeding records at the site, and it is unlikely that breeding will occur again there.

Breeding at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site began in 2003 with one to four birds observed at the site from 13-21 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 149; eBird) and a pair on 5 June (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). An adult male was seen doing distraction displays on 14 July (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). These displays continued for several days, and a downy young juvenile was observed with the adult male on 20 July (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207; eBird).

In 2004, a pair of birds was first observed at the site from 1-4 June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird). On 13 July, three adult males were seen at the same location two of which were doing distraction displays and one which was jumped off a nest (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). The first young were seen on 16 July (eBird) and up to 10 juveniles were present on 24 July (eBird). An eleventh downy young was seen on 31 July (eBird) and a few of these birds lingered through 17 August (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 24; eBird).

In 2005, several birds bred with the first birds observed on 14 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird) and the first juvenile noted on 14 July (eBird) with the last one seen on 3 August (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; eBird).

In 2006, birds were first noted on 30 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 06(4): 7; eBird). A nest with four eggs was found on 16 June although there was no evidence the birds fledged that year. (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

In 2007, there were probably up to three different breeding pairs with a total of about 12 chicks. A pair was first noted on 20 May (eBird) with seven recently fledged birds on 2 July (eBird), at least two broods with a total of 12 birds observed including adults on 9 July (eBird), with the last juvenile seen on 9 August (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 129; eBird).

In 2008, the first birds were seen on 11 May (three total, eBird) with a maximum of 14 on 16 May (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(3): 91; eBird). Males were seen doing distraction displays by late in the month and the first juveniles were noted on 8 July (eBird) with a high count of 18 juveniles on 16 July (eBird) and the last juvenile seen on 7 August (T. Rodenkirk; *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 608- erroneously published as 15 July; eBird).

In 2009, the first birds were seen on 9 May (eBird), the first juveniles were seen on 21 June (eBird), and the last juvenile was observed on 21 July (T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird).

In 2013, the first birds were noted on 14 May with up to seven birds present on 31 May (eBird). Breeding behavior did not commence until June and by late June three to four separate males were noted doing distraction displays. On 12 July three adult males and three recently fledged juveniles were observed (*N. Am. Birds* 67(4): 642; eBird).

In 2014, the first bird was observed at the site on 14 May (eBird). Up to three separate males were seen doing nesting type distraction displays on several occasions from mid-June through mid-July. One recently fledged bird was observed on 26 July (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

In 2015, no birds were noted at the site until 5 July, when two different adult males were observed doing distraction displays (eBird). On 1 August, an adult male with a fresh juvie and two other juvenes that had already molted into nonbreeding plumage were observed (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird).

In 2016, the first bird was observed on 6 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). A male was observed on 17 May (eBird). No nesting birds were looked for in June or July so it is uncertain if they bred or not? This was the last year any nesting was observed at the site.

Fall migrant records are rarer than spring records and are most often juvenes. These records normally occur in mid- to late July and early August and include the following records: a juvenile at Bandon Marsh NWR on 27-28 July 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 189; eBird); another juvenile at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6-7 August 2010 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); a juvenile at the same site on 20 August 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); another juvenile at the Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 24 July 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an adult male and female at the same site on 19 July 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another juvenile at the same site on 15 August 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); a single juvenile at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 2 August 2022 (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); and a molting adult male on New River on 12 August 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

This is a common migrant along the open coast and in nearby estuaries and ponds in both the spring and fall. A significant movement occurs offshore as well. Numbers vary from year to year, with early fall storms sometimes scattering hundreds into estuaries and almost any body of water. The majority of the fall passage is in August and September, with most birds gone by mid-October. After mid-October, most phalaropes reported are almost always Reds.

Recent high fall numbers include: 1,650 birds on the North Spit of Coos Bay, including the ponds, open coast and jetty area on 5 September 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); 800 off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 8 September 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 31; eBird); 1,200 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 July 2007 with the same number at Bandon Marsh NWR the following day (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 129; eBird); and up to 2,400 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 19-21 August 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 32).

Spring movements are also fairly obvious but somewhat weather dependent. Most movement happens in late April and early May, with migration often extending to the end of May. Some years huge numbers can be seen moving north nearshore such as the 4,000/hour off the North Spit of Coos Bay on 24 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird) and 1,300 off Cape Arago on 8 May 2008 (R. Namitz, *Tattler* 08(4): 5; eBird). Sometimes the strong northwest winds will blow these nearshore birds back inland and large numbers can be found at coastal

locations such as 800 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 2 June 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(4): 129; eBird).

The species has never been proven to occur in Oregon in winter, but it is possible that some sight records are correct. The relative similarity of this species to the Red Phalarope in winter renders some records of Red-necked suspect, especially because some older field guides did not adequately illustrate either species.

Fall Earliest Arrival: 24 June 1987. There are also records of single birds on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 18 and 20 June 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) that could be late migrants or early southbound birds?

Fall Latest Date: three well-described birds on 18 November 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird) although this species is quite rare after about mid-October.

Spring Earliest Arrival: 14 April 1982 and 14 April 2008, the latter were seen offshore from a boat (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 15 June 2008 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site; this bird had been around about a week, so it was probably not an early southbound migrant (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(4): 7; eBird).

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

This is a common to abundant species far offshore in migration, especially in fall. Fall movements are later than in most shorebirds, with birds just beginning to appear by mid-September and peaks often occurring in November and even December. Birds are not seen every winter, with nasty weather (very high winds) pretty much a prerequisite for birds to be blown onshore. The author's records from 2000 through 2024 show that they occurred on average about every other winter but mostly in small numbers (single digit and tens) with triple digit numbers only about one out of four years (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). The Coos Bay CBC tallied them 15 of 43 years with the big blow in December of 1995 depositing 1,350 in the count circle (CBC records). Most of the years they were tallied though numbers were much lower and averaged only 11 on years they were found.

It is likely that some birds winter off the southern Oregon coast or that fall and spring migrations are remarkably close together, as hundreds of birds were found 22 February 1991 at the Coos jetties (*Or. Birds* 18(3): 94) with 500 blown onshore at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 17 March 2012 and 70 more at the same location after another storm on 22 March 2012 with birds lingering through most of April (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird).

This species is rarely seen from shore during either spring or early fall migration when Red-necked Phalaropes are the common species seen. After about mid-October, Red-necked Phalaropes have almost completely migrated through and Reds become the most likely phalarope species on the outer coast. Late fall storms give us our best indication of the migration patterns of this species, with severe winds often causing a wreck of hundreds or on occasion thousands of these birds. Under extreme conditions, birds have been blown clear into the Cascades and could occur anywhere in Coos County.

An observer at Cape Arago after the storm of 25 November 1990 reported about 15,000 birds (N. Lethaby, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 59; eBird). The great windstorm of mid-December 1995 brought tens of thousands of these birds ashore in Oregon, with CBC numbers for counts held early in the period in the hundreds and in a couple of cases in the thousands on the Oregon coast. After the storm, tired phalaropes were prey for almost every kind of raptor in the coastal region, with falcons, White-

tailed Kites, Northern Harriers, and American Barn Owls most often reported as dining on phalaropes. Similar conditions, although not quite as severe as those in 1995, brought many birds inland after storms on the following dates since 1995: on 6-7 February 1998 (*Or. Birds* 24(3): 97); in late December of 2002 when this species was detected on some CBC's as far east as the Willamette Valley; and during the last week of December in 2005 when thousands were once again blown into the county, with 900+ at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 24 December (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird) with 2811 on the Port Orford, Curry CBC on 23 December (J. Rogers, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87) and small numbers making it all the way into Willamette Valley.

Spring weather conditions are typically much milder, and we have much less knowledge of passage dates. It appears that most birds move through in late April and early May, and very seldom come ashore in their bright red plumage with two at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 14 May 2020 being one of the few recent records of birds seen inland during spring (D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird). Rarely birds are seen offshore in large numbers such as the 1,000 seen off Cape Arago on 1 May 2011 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird) although almost all large flocks of phalaropes this time of year are Red-neckeds.

There are two rare July records: two from a cruise ship 80-95 km offshore on 18 July 2013 (P. Lehman, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13) and a molting adult at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 31 July 2014 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 8 August 2012 at the south jetty in Bandon (D. and J. Parker, eBird with photos); this does not include the rare July records which could be early southbound migrants or nonbreeders?

Latest Date: 23 May 2010 at New River, a bird in alternate plumage (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 64(3): 490; eBird).

Pelagic Birding

The American Birding Association standard for "counting" offshore birds runs out 200 miles from land. Most land based pelagic birding trips are well within this 200-mile range and seldom get more than about 50 miles offshore. In recent years, birding from repositioning cruise ships in the spring and fall has become very popular with tour groups (VENT, Wings, etc.), as these trips fall within the 200-mile range and spend more time in deep water, thus offering birders more time to find deep water specialty bird species such as petrels, storm-petrels, and certain alcids including Scripps's Murrelet and Parakeet Auklet. Although these deep-water species are occasionally encountered on traditional land-based pelagic trips, the repositioning cruise ships offer much more time in deep water and thus a greater chance of finding these deeper water species. Almost all the Murphy's, Cook's, Hawaiian, and Mottled Petrel reports off Oregon are now from these cruise ship trips.

Traditionally, pelagic bird records were attributed to the city or land feature closest to the east of the sighting as long as they were within the 200-mile limit. So, a report might state that a bird was about 75 miles west of Cape Arago, or 50 miles west of Bandon, and both sightings would have been assumed to be in Coos County. However, it turns out that the principle of equidistance (AKA "closest point of land") is the correct way to determine what the closest county is to a bird sighting that is within the 200-mile offshore zone. What this

means is that land masses that stick out further to the west than the main coastline, such as Cape Blanco in northern Curry County, can be the closest land to a bird sighting if the sighting is far enough offshore of Coos County. As it turns out, birds more than 73 miles west of Cape Arago are actually closest to Cape Blanco and not Cape Arago and thus are actually Curry County records. As one goes south in the County, Cape Blanco becomes closer and so bird sightings more than 30 miles west of Bandon are actually closer to Cape Blanco and thus although a sighting might state it is 50 miles west of Bandon, it would still be considered a Curry County sighting. Pelagic birders have become more in tune with this closest to land concept in recent years and now coordinates are often taken periodically for sightings so that birders can more accurately determine what county a sighting should be in. The eBird app will automatically figure out the closest point of land for points taken offshore and is the easiest method to assure a sighting is correctly attributed to the correct county.

As an example, this record of Flesh-footed Shearwater which was considered a Coos species in past versions of this book has been removed because it is actually closest to Cape Blanco and is now considered a Curry record:

"one 181 miles offshore of Coos County from a cruise ship on 12 July 2015 (J. Gilligan, O. Schmidt; Lehman 2017)."

Based on the closest point to land concept, several records of various pelagic bird species thought to be Coos records in earlier PDF versions of this book were removed, most of which were closest to Curry County (Cape Blanco). In cases where the record was the only one for Coos County, the species account has been moved to the hypothetical section, which was the case with two species- the lone Mottled Petrel and Guadalupe Murrelet sightings. Both of these sightings have Cape Blanco in Curry County as their closest point to land although both sightings were described as "west of Cape Arago", the Mottled Petrel reported as 150 nm west of Cape Arago and the Guadalupe Murrelet reported as 163.5 nm west of Cape Arago.

Family STERCORARIIDAE

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*

This is an uncommon offshore migrant in the fall with one or two seen on most pelagic trips out to deeper water in August and September. There are fewer spring and summer observations possibly because there have been fewer pelagic trips during these times of year although there have been quite a few repositioning cruise ships in spring in recent years. One found dead on a Coos County beach 9 July 1980 had been banded 22 February 1980 in Antarctica- interestingly, south of the Indian Ocean, not the Pacific (Banding Lab data).

High numbers from fall pelagic boat trips include: three on 10 September 2005 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 30; eBird); three from the cruise ship *Star Princess* on 22 September 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons, et al.; p.c.); and eight from an Oregon Birding Association pelagic trip out of Charleston on 26 September 2014 (R. Namitz et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

There are only two spring records: one off Coos Bay from a factory trawler on 16 May 2007 (B. Tweit, *N. Am. Birds* 61(3): 501; eBird) and two offshore Coos from a cruise ship on 15 May 2015 (T. Jantzen et al.; OBOL).

There are three summer records: one on a Charleston pelagic on 25 July 1996 (T. Bray, eBird); three from a NOAA research trip offshore on

20 July 2008 (T. Shelmerdine, R. Namitz; eBird); and sick bird that landed on the beach at New River on 19 June 2018 that was found dead a few days later (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird).

Onshore reports are rare and include: one found harassing gulls at Charleston on 15 September 1973 (A. Contreras, A. Prigge; *Am. Birds* 28(1): 96; eBird); one from Cape Arago on 15 September 1981 (R. Robb, B. Robb; *Or. Birds* 7(3): 118; eBird); one nearshore off Lighthouse Beach north of Cape Arago in September of 1996 (D. Matthews, p.c. *fide* K. Dazey; eBird); an old carcass found on the beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 July 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); three seen from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 October 2008 (J. Danzenbaker, *Tattler*08(6): 6; eBird); one seen from the same site on 2 October 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird); a sick bird that landed on the beach at New River on 19 July 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird) which was found dead along the beach further south in Curry County the next day (J. Metzler, OBOL); one off Cape Arago on 19 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); and one observed from the same location on 11 October 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

There are no winter records for the county.

Earliest Spring Arrival: 15 May 2015 (T. Jantzen et al.; OBOL).

Latest Spring Date: 19 June 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: three offshore from a NOAA research ship on 20 July 2008 (T. Shelmerdine, R. Namitz; eBird).

Latest Fall Date: 19 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

This jaeger species is fairly common in fall and is occasionally found in spring until about the end of May. Summer records are uncommon to rare and mostly come from cruise ship sightings.

The peak of passage is from late August through early October, with nine birds on a 26 August 2001 pelagic trip (M. Hunter et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 38; eBird) and 12 seen from a cruise ship on 28 September 2008 (D. Arendt et al.; *Tattler*08(6): 7; eBird) being typical "high" totals. The largest numbers reported in recent years include: 39 from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 October 2008 (J. Danzenbaker, *Tattler*08(6): 6; *N. Am. Birds* 63(1): 146- incorrectly reported as from Cape Arago; eBird); 35 from the cruise ship *Star Princess* on 22 September 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons, et al.; OBOL); and 33 from Bastendorff Beach during a nasty storm on 25 October 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 69(1): 145; eBird).

There are two winter records: three birds- one off Cape Arago and two off Shore Acres on the Coos Bay CBC on 15 December 2002 (N. Strycker, A. Contreras, D. Irons, D. and A. Heyerly; CBC records; eBird- two records) and two birds on offshore transect surveys on 16 December 2015 (M. Harrison, eBird). There are several other records of unidentified jaegers in December that may have been this species which is generally thought to be the most likely winter jaeger.

This is a highly pelagic species rarely seen from land in Coos County. Onshore records include: a bird chasing Common Terns at Bandon on 29 August 1997 (D. Heyerly, OBOL; eBird) and another one there 7 September 1997 (D. Schrouder, J. Gilligan, G. Lillie; OBOL; eBird), probably not the same bird; three from Cape Arago on 6 November 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 15(2): 128; *Tattler*February 1989; eBird); 15 passing Cape Arago after a storm on 25 November 1990 (N. Lethaby, *Or.*

Birds 17(2): 59) eBird; one from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 July 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird); one from Cape Arago on 9 September 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 31; eBird); two from Cape Arago on 21 October 2007 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*07(5): 6; eBird); three from Cape Arago on 10 October 2008 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*08(6): 6; eBird); one from the same location on 8 November 2009 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*09(5): 7; eBird); one from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 19 September 2010 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); an adult on 2 October 2011 from the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one from Cape Arago on 28 October 2011 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*December 2011: 6; eBird); another from Cape Arago on 3 September 2012 (P. Low, OBOL; eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 30 September 2013 (J. Metzler, p.c.); four from Cape Arago on 26 October 2014 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; OBOL; eBird); five just off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 23 November 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 19 September 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); singles from Cape Arago on 19 & 24 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two adults from the same location on 11 October 2023 with three at same location on 6 November 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 November 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Spring Arrival: 21 March 2015 from a cruise ship (D. King, eBird).

Latest Spring Date: 20 May 2016 from a cruise ship (B. Rideout et al.; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: 10 July 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird).

Latest Fall Date: 16 December 2015 (M. Harrison, eBird).

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

This offshore migrant is common on pelagic trips in late summer and fall but is much less frequently reported in spring, possibly because pelagic trips are also less regular. Summer records are rare and mostly come from cruise ship sightings.

This is the most likely jaeger to be seen flying along close inshore or even within estuaries, where it sometimes comes cruising to harass terns and gulls.

Peak numbers (and most onshore records) are from late August through October. Peak counts include: 10 birds passing Bandon on 1 June 1980 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127); 30 birds off Coos Bay from a factory trawler on 16-17 May 2007 (B. Tweit, eBird); and 12 birds off Bastendorff Beach during a nasty storm on 25 October 2014 with two other birds seen off Pigeon Point in Empire (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

There are a few December reports and one January record by experienced observers which include: one harassing a Brown Pelican at Cape Arago on 20 December 1981 (A. Contreras, *Or. Birds* 8(1): 6; eBird); one seen along the coast south of Bandon on 27 December 1993 (M. Patterson, *Or. Birds* 20(3): 106; eBird); a "probable" near Coos Bay on 7 December 1997 (D. Lauten, A. Contreras, R. Hoyer; *Or. Birds* 24(3): 97; eBird); four seen on the Coos Bay CBC on 15 December 2002 (A. Contreras, D. Irons, D. and A. Heyerly, N. Strycker; CBC records; eBird); a jaeger- probably a Parasitic, seen along the Coquille River near Bandon on 3 December 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Tattler*08(1): 5; eBird); and one off Bandon on the 3 January 2015 Coquille Valley CBC (H. Herlyn, O. Harper; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: one on 28 April 2012 on a Coos Bay pelagic trip (R. Namitz et al.; eBird).

Latest Spring Date: one on 2 June 2014 from a cruise ship (B. Rideout et al.; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: one from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 July 2009 (J. Bosler, eBird).

Latest Date: 3 January 2015 (H. Herlyn, O. Harper; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird).

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

This is the least common and most highly pelagic of the three jaegers. Most records are from fall, when it is common on water trips during August and early September with numbers quickly dropping off such that it is rarely reported in October or later. This species seems to be a regular migrant in late April and May also and has been frequently reported from repositioning cruise ships. Mid-summer records are rare and may pertain to failed breeders or nonbreeders already headed south. There are no winter reports.

The bulk of the fall records are in August and early September when this jaeger is often the most common species encountered. Peak numbers recorded during this period include: 15 on 26 August 2001 (M. Hunter, T. Rodenkirk, E. Horvath; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 38; eBird); 10 on 15 August 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, E. Horvath; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 25; eBird); 10 on a 1 September 2007 Shorebird Festival pelagic (G. Gillson et al.; *Tattler*07(4): 6; eBird); 16 from a tuna fishing trip on 7 August 2009 (C. Dillingham, M. Stevens; *Tattler*09(4): 5); 60 on the Shorebird Festival pelagic on 29 August 2009 (G. Gillson et al.; *Tattler*09(4): 7; eBird); an amazing 94 seen from the cruise ship *Star Princess* on 22 September 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons, et al.; OBOL); 20 from an offshore tuna trip on 10 August 2011 (R. Namitz, T. Shelmerdine, G. Gillson et al.; eBird); 15 from the Shorebird Festival pelagic on 27 August 2011 (G. Gillson et al.; *Tattler*Sep/Oct 2011: 8; eBird); 12 from a tuna fishing trip on 29 August 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 16 from an OBA pelagic trip out of Charleston on 26 September 2014 (R. Namitz et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

There are just a couple October and November records: one from Cape Arago on 6 November 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 15(2): 128; *Tattler*February 1989; eBird) and one on a MOSAIC offshore research survey on 6 October 2023 (K. Yakola, eBird) with four birds in three different locations on 7 October 2023 during the same MOSAIC research surveys (W. Kennerley, K. Yakola; eBird).

Spring reports are less numerous because historically there have been fewer pelagic trips this time of year until recently when birding from repositioning cruise ships became the rage. Spring high counts include: 30 offshore Coos and Curry Counties 42 to 68 miles offshore from a cruise ship on 3 May 2007 (J. Gilligan, R. and N. Armstrong, S. Wright, O. Schmidt; OBOL); seven from a cruise ship on 3 May 2018 (B. Shelmerdine; eBird); and a total of eight off Coos from a cruise ship on 25 April 2024 (S. Haas, E. Corey, et al.; eBird).

There are only a few July records: three off Coos County from a NOAA research vessel on 20 July 2008 (R. Namitz, T. Shelmerdine; eBird—they report that birds were seen earlier in July but not recorded on eBird); one on 30 July 2013 from a cruise ship (J. Ray et al.; eBird); and one on 16 July 2014 also from a cruise ship (M. Meyers; eBird).

Unlike the other two jaeger species, Long-taileds are very rarely observed from land, records from shore include: a bird seen from Cape Arago on 6 November 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*February 1989; eBird);

one at Bandon on 25 August 1996 (E. Dale, B. Kruse; *Or. Birds* 23(2): 81; eBird); and one off Cape Arago on 1 September 2013 (P. Low, OBOL; eBird).

Earliest Spring Arrival: three on 9 April 2017 from the Star Princess cruise ship (P. Lehman et al.; p.c.).

Latest Spring Date: one on 21 May 2006 on a Charleston pelagic trip (G. Gillson et al.; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: 16 July 2014 (M. Meyers, eBird)

Latest Fall Date: the one 6 November 1988, which is an unusually late date- this species is mostly unreported after September with only a few early October records on eBird.

Family ALCIDAE

A fossil auklet

Jobanek (1997) lists a fossil auklet related to the Cassin's Auklet identified from a leg bone found at Sunset Bay in 1929 (Miller 1931). It was named *Hydrotherikornis oregonus*.

● **Common Murre** *Uria aalge*

This is an abundant local breeder at Face Rock, Cat and Kittens Rocks, and North Coquille Point Rock off Bandon, where surveys in 1988, 1992, and 2004 found close to 63,000 birds (Naughton et al. 2007). Another 182 birds were found on Chief's Island and an adjacent unnamed colony near Cape Arago on a 2003 survey (Naughton et al. 2007). In years when oceanic conditions limit food supplies, these breeding colonies may not bring off many young.

In recent years, Bald Eagle predation at breeding colonies in Oregon has become a problem and has resulted in abandonment of entire nesting colonies. The predation started sometime in the early 2000s mainly along the central and north coast. The predation behavior appears to be spreading southward, and in the last few years, Bald Eagles have begun harassing the breeding colonies off Bandon also. Still, large numbers of birds continue during the late spring and summer breeding season on the offshore rocks at Bandon.

Birds can be seen on the ocean and in the lower estuaries of Coos Bay and the Coquille River at any season, although numbers are usually small in winter, with few birds in estuaries. In the winter of 1976, an estimated 20,000 birds were off Cape Arago in December during warm water conditions. The median number for the first 28 years (through 2024) of the Coquille Valley CBC is 758 but four of those counts had over 10,000 with a high of 20,500 on the 3 January 2015 Coquille Valley CBC (*Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

Migration of this species differs from that of most other Oregon breeders or coastal migrants. They do not uniformly move south along the shore but rather move out to sea and at least in some cases northward to winter in the Strait of Juan de Fuca off Vancouver Island (Gilligan et al. 1994).

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*

Vagrant. There are two records of this rare arctic visitor which have been accepted by OBRC:

TBMU-2007-14 Whiskey Run Beach, Coos County, one dead on the beach on 10 March 2007 (photo by RuN).

In addition, there are two records which were not accepted by OBRC: a bird on the 1976 Coos Bay CBC that was later withdrawn by the observer (OBRC record #TBMU-1976-02) and a bird reported off Bandon on 26 June 2002 (OBRC record #TBMU-2002-12).

• **Pigeon Guillemot** *Cepphus columba*

This is a widespread breeder in salt-water habitats in the county, using cliff faces but also nesting on structures such as old piers, the largest group of this type being the 114 birds that nest under the old Sitka Dock in Empire- see McLaren (1993) for an interesting discussion of this phenomenon. The largest colony at a natural site is at Gregory Point, where 150 birds were counted in 1988. Small clusters nest at many rocks and cliffs along the coast. The total estimated breeding population on the south-central coast is around 700 birds (Naughton et al. 2007).

It is common in late spring and summer and has been increasing as an overwintering bird, with a few now present in lower Coos Bay and nearshore Cape Arago most winters. It is not a regular overwintering species in the lower Coquille estuary although a single bird has been found a few years on the Coquille Valley CBC.

There is a significant increase in numbers in late March and early April and a noticeable drop after mid-October.

An unusually early breeding-plumaged individual was in the Empire area of Coos Bay on 22 January 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Arrival on nesting sites: a breeding-plumaged bird in Empire on 4 March 2006 (R. Namitz), not counting the unusual January record from 2017. Breeding plumaged birds are back in number most years by mid- to late March.

Latest Fall Date: one or two usually overwinter off of Fossil Point in the Empire area of Coos Bay; by October numbers have dropped way off and this species is rarely seen from November through February except in lower Coos Bay.

Long-billed Murrelet *Brachyramphus perdix*

Asian vagrant. This species was thought to be a subspecies of Marbled Murrelet until it was split into its own species in 1998. To date, the majority of the Oregon records have been from extensive Marbled Murrelet surveys offshore along the southern coast. There are four Coos records, two of which have been accepted by OBRC:

LBMU-1994-01	Near Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 13 August 1994. Published photo record: Birding 29: 461-475.
LBMU-2003-02	Cape Arago, Coos County, one bird on 7 September 2003 (PLo).

Three Coos County records are listed by Mlodinow (1997) as well as one for Curry County, one of the Coos records being the first accepted record by OBRC. The other two Coos records listed by Mlodinow are cited as "near Coos Bay" on 15 July 1996, and "near Bandon" on 14 August 1996 (C. Strong *fide* G. Gillson).

A photo of the 1994 bird and information on how to distinguish this species appears in the article cited above.

• **Marbled Murrelet** *Brachyramphus marmoratus*

Along the south Oregon coast, this is an uncommon but relatively easy to find species during the summer and early fall. It has been found breeding in older forests up to 31 miles from the ocean (and may breed farther inland) and, by late summer, small flocks and loose aggregations of fewer than 20 birds are easy to find along most of the coast. Ten nests have been found in the county in the Elliott State Forest (Nelson and Wilson, 1997). In addition, a flightless young bird was found 25 miles inland from Coos Bay on 22 July 1940 (Barber 1941), multiple birds with brood patches have been captured offshore (Varoujean and Williams, 1987), and a recently fledged bird was found on the road near Coal Creek on the Powers Ranger District in the early 1990s (D. Shea, p.c.). Nesting behavior has been observed at suitable inland locations on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF near Powers (C. Dillingham, p.c.) and on Coos Bay BLM lands in the Coast Range east of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Much of the older forests in the county this species uses to nest in have been cut; the best remaining habitat is primarily in old-growth forests on Coos Bay BLM lands and in similar older forest habitat that lies within about 30 miles of the ocean on the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF.

During the winter months, numbers drop off and this species is difficult to find. Historically, over the 43-year period of the Coos Bay CBC, the mean was two birds per count and it was only found on less than half of the counts. Ancient Murrelets were actually more common than Marbleds on that CBC (CBC records).

Large concentrations reported from the county include: 135 birds at Cape Arago on 23 August 1990 (B. Stotz, Z. Stotz; *Or. Birds* 14(2): 61; eBird) and 100+ at the same location on 16 August 2009 (R. Namitz, *Tattler* 09(4): 6; eBird).

S. Kim Nelson contributed portions of the Marbled Murrelet account.

Scripps's Murrelet *Synthliboramphus scrippsi*

Rare visitant, typically found 30+ miles offshore during the summer months from May through September. Formerly Xantus's Murrelet, this species was split by the AOU in 2012. Scripps's is the species most likely to occur off Oregon, but most older records lack the detail to identify it to species. There is a single accepted Coos record:

SCMU-1998-08 North Spit, Coos Bay, one found dead on the beach on 26 June 1998 (D. Lauten, photos by K. Castelein; specimen at Oregon State University).

This species was removed from the review list in 2012.

There are a number of additional, unreviewed records or records found after the species was removed from the review list: 30 off southern Oregon Coos/Curry Counties in late September 2001 (M. Force, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 40; it is not known how many of these were off Coos County and those identified to race were *scrippsi*, fide G. Gillson); one about 40 miles off Coos Bay on 20 September 2005 (J. Gilligan, T. Jantzen; OBOL); two or possibly four, about 30 miles off Charleston on 7 August 2009 (C. Dillingham, M. Stevens; *Or. Birds* 35: 15; eBird); four about 50 miles offshore on 10 August 2011 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird, incorrectly reported as 4 August); and three from the cruise ship Golden Princess on 22 September 2014 (T. Jantzen, O. Schmidt, T. Crabtree fide J. Meredith; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird).

Ancient Murrelet *Synthliboramphus antiquus*

Irregular migrant and winterer. This species arrives in the county from the north in fall and sometimes winters by the score (rarely by the hundred) at preferred sites.

Birds typically arrive in mid- to late November with peak numbers from late November through December. By mid- to late January birds become difficult to locate (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). This species tends to concentrate even in off years so that loose clusters form in some areas while birds cannot be found half a mile down the coast. Simpson Reef at Cape Arago is the most reliable site, with Shore Acres the best viewpoint because of the span of open water visible.

The two largest winter counts of this species in Oregon were made off Cape Arago on the 19 December 1976 Coos Bay CBC (800 birds, A. Contreras; eBird) and at the mouth of the Coquille River estuary at dawn on the 23 December 1995 Coquille Valley CBC (1,007 birds, B. Tweit et al.; eBird). Other concentrations include a flock of 130 noted at sea off Coos Bay on 7 December 1984 (M. Graybill, *Or. Birds* 11(2): 104; eBird) and 150 off Cape Arago on 22 November 1992 (G. Lillie, *Am. Birds* 47(1): 142; eBird). However, these numbers are exceptional, with flocks of ten to twenty birds more often the largest gatherings in winter.

This species is almost always observed on the open ocean but rarely a few can be found inside Coos Bay with the following recent records: one off Fossil Point in the Empire area on 7 January 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one off Point Adams in Charleston on 3 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, G. Keller; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 40; eBird); nine in the Empire area on 12 January 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); three in Empire on 13 January 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and four off Fossil Point on 4 January 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with perhaps one of these same birds in the Charleston area on 23 January 2024 (X. Gonsalves, eBird).

Numbers of this species fluctuate considerably from year to year. During the 1990s there was an extended period of relative abundance for this species not matched since the one-year peak of 1976.

There are two unusual summer records. The first was a single bird off Cape Arago from 19-21 August 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173; eBird), during this same period other birds were found further north along the coast. The second bird was found on an offshore NOAA research ship survey on 20 July 2008 (T. Shelmerdine, eBird).

Early Arrival: 15 September 1984 on a pelagic trip off Coos Bay (S. Summers, J. Carlson, B. Griffin et al.; *Or. Birds* 11(1): 11; eBird), not including the unusual summer records.

Latest Date: two on 28 April 2023 on a pelagic trip out of Bandon (B. Archer et al.; eBird).

Cassin's Auklet *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*

This species is a rare breeder at one colony in Lane County and six colonies in Curry County (Naughton et al. 2007). It is also a "probable" breeder at three sites in Clatsop County, two sites in Tillamook County, one site in Lane County, and at Elephant Rock off Bandon in Coos County (Naughton et al. 2007). It is uncommon to common well offshore in Coos County most of the year, although winter status data is scarce. The entire Oregon breeding population is estimated to be only around 362 (Naughton et al. 2007).

Pelagic trips find the species easily offshore throughout much of the year. Peak offshore movements appear to be from early to mid-summer through early fall. A recent high count on 3 July 1980 had "large flocks moving south" (Graybill 1980) and "thousands per hour" on 7 July 1982 at the 50-fathom line (M. Graybill, *Tattler* 6(4): 12).

These birds are sometimes seen from land, mainly through diligent scoping from observation points such as Cape Arago, but from time to time a bird might appear between jetties or near the surf line. The largest numbers reported from shore include: 400 off Cape Arago on 2 September 1990 (K. Brady, eBird) with 300 there on 9 September 1990 (H. Herlyn, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 61; eBird); 300 in water right off Cape Arago on a 22 September 2018 Shorebird Festival field trip (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); 250 from the Simpson Reef Overlook at Cape Arago on 15 November 2021 (A. Beerman, eBird); 750 from Cape Arago on 28 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 350 sitting on the water nearshore from the beach along New River, Coos on 27 August 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Six freshly moribund birds were found at the south cove at Cape Arago on 9 November 1990 with a few others swimming close offshore (D. Shea, p.c.).

There are only a few recent records from inside Coos Bay: one found near the base of the south jetty on 17 January 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 10(1): 7; eBird); a wounded bird near Charleston harbor on 1 December 2013 (W. Hoffman, OBOL; eBird); one on a Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey in upper Coos Bay on 8 January 2015 (F. Lospalluto, eBird); one in Charleston on a 5 September 2015 Shorebird Festival field trip (m.o.; eBird); and one in the Empire area on 27 August 2017 with perhaps the same bird in the Charleston area on 2 September 2017 (M. Cutler et al.; OBOL; eBird).

Parakeet Auklet *Aethia psittacula*

There are seven records of this rare arctic breeder, one of which has been accepted by OBRC:

PAAU-2010-20 about 52 miles west of Coos Bay, Coos County, one
bird on 12 May 2010 (JG).

In 2011 this species was removed from the review list.

Records since it was removed from the review list include: four birds from the Holland America cruise ship *MS Oosterdam* on 17 April 2012 (J. Withgott et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9); one from a cruise ship on 10 May 2012 (*fide* P. Lehman, p.c.); an amazing 509 seen within 8nm of shore from a NOAA research vessel on 2 March 2013 (R. Merrill, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); a dead bird found on the beach at New River on 18 May 2013 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one from a cruise ship on 4 May 2016 (P. Lehman et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14); and one seen off Cape Arago on 25 October 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

In addition, there is a record of this species that may have been off Coos County, but sufficient details are not available to know exactly where the birds were seen- eight reported on 13 April 2008 off Coos/Curry coast by a NOAA research vessel (S. Mills, T. Hunefeld *fide* T. Guy). There are also a couple of reports of "possibles": one from an ocean cruise ship on 8 May 2009 (R. Shaw *fide* J. Withgott, p.c.) and another from the cruise ship *MS Amsterdam* on 1 May 2010 (R. Merrill et al.; p.c.).

• **Rhinoceros Auklet** *Cerorhinca monocerata*

This species breeds in burrows at Chiefs Island on Cape Arago, probably breeds at Table Rock off Bandon (Naughton et al. 2007) and can be found off the Coos County shores year-round in small numbers, mainly off the rocky central coast. Thirty burrows were found in 1985 at Chiefs Island with 10 birds there in July of 1992 (Naughton et al.

2007). Giesler (1952) noted six birds on the water at the same site in June 1951 but noted that no other evidence of nesting was found. It seems likely that the site has been in at least intermittent use for some time. The total Oregon breeding population is estimated to be around 490, with 94% of the nesting off the Curry County coast (Naughton et al. 2007).

It is common from August through late fall and uncommon to fairly common at other times, with the fewest birds being found in mid-winter. Birds are usually seen beyond the surf line, but they sometimes come in between the jetties and even into lower estuaries. In the 2000s a few birds have often been present between the Coos Bay jetties during the spring and summer and could be birds nesting at nearby Chief Island or perhaps nesting somewhere on Coos Head which is adjacent to the jetty area (T. Rodenkirk per. obs.). During the fall migration from September through early November, southbound nearshore migrants can be abundant with hundreds seen flying south in a period of just a few hours from promontories like Cape Arago (T. Rodenkirk per. obs.). On 22 August 2024 during some unseasonably stormy weather, "gobs" were seen nearshore off New River, Coos with one group of 70-80 close to the beaches suggesting that the migration may begin as early as late August (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL).

A dead bird found on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 March 2006 was banded on Middleton Island, Alaska on 17 July 2005 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*06(2):5; eBird). Another dead bird found on Horsfall Beach on 1 September 2010 was banded on Triangle Island, B.C. on 28 July 1984 at about three years of age and was the oldest Rhinoceros Auklet recorded to date at approximately 28 years three months (Namitz 2010; eBird).

Horned Puffin *Fratercula corniculata*

This species is a very rare visitant to the county with the majority of the observations being dead birds found in the late winter and early spring on beaches.

Late winter and spring reports include: one found moribund on Horsfall Beach in 1968 or 1969 (B. Mullen); one dead bird on 24 February 1980 at Lighthouse Beach (J. Hodder, specimen No. A0026 in the OIMB collection, per Bayer, 1989, p. 187; eBird); another dead bird found 31 March 1980 on Horsfall Beach (M. Graybill and J. Hodder, skeleton No. B0034 in the OIMB collection, per Bayer, 1989 p. 186; eBird); one reported from the south jetty of the Coquille River in Bandon on 23 Sep 1990 (K. Brady, eBird); 30 observed on a transect 30 nm off Cape Blanco to Cape Arago on 4 May 1997 (M. Force, *Or. Birds* 23(4): 152); five dead birds discovered on beaches between the north jetty of Coos Bay and the Umpqua River, Douglas County during beach surveys for injured or dead birds after the New Carissa wreck in 1999 with dates ranging from 6 March- 2 April (ODFW 1999); a dead bird found on the beach at New River on 5 January 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 31(2): 88; eBird); a dead bird found near Whiskey Run beach on 9 March 2006 (A. Kocourek, *Or. Birds* 32(3): 127; eBird); four dead birds found along the same Whiskey Run beach area on 10 March 2007 (R. Namitz, OBOL; eBird); five dead birds found on the beach from two miles south of Tenmile Creek to the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 24 March 2007 (B. Poppe, p.c.; eBird); two dead birds found at Bandon Beach SP on 3 April 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); three dead birds at Tenmile Creek on 5 April 2007 which could have been the same birds found by B. Poppe on 24 March (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); two dead birds at New River on 6 April 2006 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one seen offshore Charleston on 31 March 2011 (R. Namitz,

N. Am. Birds 65(3): 509; eBird); a dead bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 March 2012 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); and two different birds 27 and 29 miles offshore on a CAAS Charleston pelagic on 28 April 2012 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird).

Summer and fall reports include: one seen from shore at Bandon on 23 September 1990 (M. Wihler, M. Price et al.; *Or. Birds* 17(2): 61; eBird); one off Bandon on 3 August 1999 (J. Lenhard, B. Foy; *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173; eBird); one near Cape Arago on 11 August 1999 (*fide* D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173; eBird); a single bird seen from Cape Arago on 19 July 2003 (D. Irons, N. Strycker; *Or. Birds* 29(4): 207; eBird); and one seen off Bandon on 12 July 2010 (S. and A. Liston; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird).

This species may have bred in Curry County and single birds have been seen elsewhere along the coast in Tufted Puffin colonies. Pitman and Graybill (1985) note that single birds were seen in July 1979 and August 1984 in Tufted Puffin colonies off southern Curry County. Two birds were seen close to shore off Harris Beach SP off Brookings in Curry County in July 1997 (T. Murray, A. Murray, C. Dillingham, et al.; eBird) and one was seen flying around Goat Island next to Harris Beach SP on 21 June 2023 (W. Kennerley et al.; eBird). It has also been seen in breeding season at Yaquina Head, Lincoln County and Cape Lookout, Tillamook County (Hoffman et al. 1975).



Figure 27- Horned Puffin off Charleston on a CAAS pelagic trip on 28 April 2012. Photos compliment of Bob Lockett.

• **Tufted Puffin** *Fratercula cirrhata*

Uncommon breeder. One of the South Coast's best-known breeding colonies of these birds are in the rocks off Bandon. Elephant Rock is the closest rock to shore and was a very popular location to observe breeders in the 1980s and 1990s. However, in the late 1990's and early 2000's, there was little or no nesting observed. During the 1990's

numbers first dropped off owing to erosion of appropriate breeding ground (J. Hodder, p.c.) and then to red fox predation which became a problem in the early 2000s (R. Lowe, p.c.). For several years after 2002, no birds were noted breeding at Elephant Rock. However, birds subsequently began to slowly repopulate this site as well as the adjacent Table Rock site, with a few pairs now breeding on these rocks. For reasons unknown, red fox predation no longer seems to be a problem (R. Lowe, p.c.). Birds also breed on Face Rock which is just south of Elephant Rock and further offshore in an area that would not likely be subject to red fox predation. Face Rock has been the most reliable site to see puffins in recent years with no more than two or three pairs normally reported. The rocks off Bandon are the only regular breeding site in Coos County, although birds formerly nested on the rocks by the Cape Arago Lighthouse (Giesler 1952; Naughton et al. 2007) and may still do so on occasion (J. Hodder, p.c.).

Birds typically arrive during the last half of April and remain through August, after which they move out to sea to winter. They have been seen on Face Rock as late as 29 August 2010 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan et al.; eBird).

There are very few records in winter within sight of land, with the 45 off Cape Arago during the unusual winter conditions of 1976 the only sizable flock ever reported in winter (19 December 1976-CBC records). Other winter records include a single bird that flew past Cape Arago on 11 January 1986 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*9(6): 15; eBird); four birds off Cape Arago on the 17 December 2006 Coos Bay CBC (A. and D. Heyerly; CBC records; eBird); and one seen from a research ship 76km off Coos on 16 December 2015 (M. Harrison, eBird). Dead birds are occasionally found on beaches during the winter months such as a single bird discovered on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 March 2012 (R. Namitz, OBOL; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 7 March 1987 (*Tattler*10(2b): 11) although birds do not arrive back at their breeding sites normally until later in April. Most years the earliest reports in Bandon are from around 20 April give or take several days with the earliest recent eBird report 15 April 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Fall Date: the latest date from land was two off Cape Arago on 21 September 2019 (J. Liebezeit et al; eBird) not including the few winter observations listed above. The latest offshore report was one on a 22 September 2019 Shorebird Festival Pelagic trip (T. Shelmerdine et al.; eBird). Most birds have departed from their Bandon breeding sites by the end of August.

Family LARIDAE

Subfamily Sterninae

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*

Vagrant. The endangered California subspecies breeds north to the San Francisco Bay area. There are two accepted records from Coos:

LETE-2005-09	Bandon State Natural Area, Coos County, one bird on 25 June 2005 (DLA).
LETE-2007-10	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 30 May 2007 (DLA).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

This common tern is one of the most obvious summer and fall migrants along the coast, with noisy birds cruising the estuaries and the outer coast from late June through September. Spring brings a quieter, more languid passage of birds up the coast beginning in late March and extending through May. The proximity of breeding colonies may be one reason why the species can be found almost any time during the breeding season. Some June birds may be nonbreeders that spend the summer locally.

This species does not breed in the county, although the sight of begging juveniles flying after adults is so ubiquitous from mid-summer through autumn that observers may be excused thinking that the young were produced locally. Historically the nearest breeding colonies have been in the Columbia River near Astoria and in eastern Oregon.

There are two rare winter records from the county: a bird seen in Bandon on 20 January 1998 (A. Parker, *Or. Birds* 24(3): 98; eBird) and two birds seen flying up bay near the North Bend airport on 17 December 2007 (J. Heaney, *Tattler* 08(1): 6; eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: hard to determine as nonbreeding birds sometime linger through the summer.

Fall Latest Date: 24 October 2015 at Cape Arago (M. & M. Denny; eBird), this does not include the rare winter records.

Spring Earliest Arrival: two at New River on 5 March 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); not including the rare January record.

Spring Latest Date: hard to determine as nonbreeding birds sometimes linger through the summer.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Vagrant. This species is a fairly common breeder east of the Cascades and in recent years has expanded its breeding range into the Willamette Valley; it is particularly common at Fern Ridge Reservoir near Eugene, Lane County. Although birds are regularly observed fairly close to Coos County, it remains a very rare coastal visitor with only four records to date. The first was seen on 10 September 1978 along the Coquille River (M. Egger, *Tattler* 2(3): 12; eBird). The next two records were at the same location, the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay: a single adult on 5 May 2013 during an unusual period of hot, easterly winds which brought temps up to the 80's on the beach (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 67(3): 510; eBird) and another adult on 14 May 2021 on a very foggy, rainy day (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird). The latest record was only two days after the third record, one adult at a small pond one half mile west of Coquille on Hwy 42S on 16 May 2021, also during foggy, windy, rainy weather (S. Peat, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

This is an uncommon migrant in both spring and fall in estuaries, near shore and further offshore up to several miles.

Spring movements are in April and especially early May, with stragglers into late May. Numbers vary somewhat from year to year, with birds hard to come by in some years and present in scores at other times. Very little spring data are available; the peak count is 200-300 birds northbound at Cape Arago on 8 May 1976 (A. McGie, p.c.; eBird).

The best time to see this species nearshore is in fall, during the late August through mid-September period using a spotting scope from a good promontory. Fall peak counts include: 100 in lower Coos Bay on 7 September 1979 (A. McGie, *Tattler* 3(3): 6; eBird); 65 at Bandon on

27 September 1986 (R. Smith, *Or. Birds* 13(2): 240; eBird); 100 at Coos Bay 4 September 1987 (D. Fix, *Am. Birds* 42(1): 124; eBird); 50 at Coos Bay on 4 September 1990 (J. Johnson, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 61; eBird); and about 100 per hour passing Bandon on 10 September 1993 (H. Nehls, *Am. Birds* 48(1): 146; eBird).

Care must be taken in distinguishing between this species and the rare Arctic Tern which on occasion has been reported nearshore.

An unusual inland sighting was 30 seen fishing at Powers Pond on 30 August 2008 (R. MacDonald *fide* J. Lowe).

Fall Earliest Arrival: 6 August at New River (J. Simmons, eBird).

Fall Latest Date: 13 November 1983; however, birds are rarely reported after September with the latest eBird record being 14 October 2014 (S. & M. Dennis, eBird).

Spring Earliest Arrival: 25 birds at Pony Slough 4 March 1995 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* June, 1995; eBird); when birds are seen in the spring it is usually not until May.

Spring Latest Date: two on 21 May 2022 off Bandon (K. Anderson, eBird).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

This is an uncommon offshore migrant and is rare along the coast and in lower estuaries, usually with Common Terns. The principal movement in fall is from late August through early October, although there are reports of later stragglers. In spring, birds move mainly from mid-April through mid-May. Peak counts include: 200 in lower Coos Bay on 25-26 August 1979, with fewer than 20 Common Terns (A. Contreras notes; eBird); 30 at Coos Bay on 19 September 1981 (A. Contreras notes; eBird); 80 offshore Coos Bay seen from a factory trawler on 16 May 2007 (B. Tweit, eBird); and 70 from a tuna fishing trip on 10 August 2011 (R. Namitz, OBOL; eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: on 20 July 2008 from a NOAA research survey (T. Shelmerdine, R. Namitz; eBird).

Fall Latest Date: 3 November 1984 at Bandon (B. Stotz, *Or. Birds* 11(1): 11; eBird).

Spring Earliest Arrival: 7 March 1983 (A. McGie, *Tattler* 7(4): 15); this is unusually early with no Oregon records for March in eBird (as of 1 Nov 2025)– the next earliest report is from an offshore pelagic trip on 20 April 2013 (R. Namitz et al.; eBird).

Spring Latest Date: one on a 21 May 2006 pelagic trip off Coos Bay (G. Gillson et al.; OBOL; eBird).

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*

There are nine records of this rare visitant to the county, the first being a flock following a farmer plowing a field on Haynes Inlet on 10 April 1933 (H. Reiher, unpublished notes). Additional records include: a specimen from Bastendorff Beach on 4 July 1975 (M. McCormack, skeleton in OIMB collection per Bayer, 1989, p. 186; eBird); one at Charleston on 20 August 1978 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* 2(3): 10); one at Bandon on 18 August 1990 (J. Gilligan, G. Lillie, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 61); another at Bandon after a severe windstorm from the southwest on 13 December 1995, the only winter record for Oregon to date (S. Brown, *Or. Birds* 22(3): 95); one in Charleston on 29 August 1999 (A. Contreras, *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173); one off Fossil Point in Empire on 21 September 2008 (R. Namitz, J. Bernt; *Or. Birds* 35: 12); four at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille on 1 September 2024 (K. Saxton, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43, eBird); and one nearshore off the old Weyerhaeuser

Settling Pond Site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*

Irregular visitant. Until 1983 this species had never been reported anywhere in Oregon. Changes in oceanic temperatures known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation pattern became pervasive in that year and Oregon's first record of the species came on 4 August 1983 when one bird was found at Coos Bay (A. McGie; eBird). On 7 August at the mouth of Coos Bay, 29 birds suddenly appeared (B. Pitman, M. Graybill; both reports *Am. Birds* 38(2): 238; eBird). In that year hundreds of birds eventually moved up the coast from California.

Since 1983 the species has occurred in 1984, 1987, 1990-1994, 1996-98, 2000, 2002-2004, 2008-2009, 2011-2018, 2020, and 2024 with significant movements in 1990, 1992, 1997, 2013-2016. During these peak years, dozens of birds have appeared in lower Coos Bay, with peak counts including: 200 on 25 July 1992 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 19(1): 27; eBird); 200 on 31 August 2014 (T. Gaskill, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 8; eBird); and 340 seen heading north just offshore from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 12 August 2015 with 100 more in the bay off the BLM boat ramp (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird). Birds enter Oregon after the breeding season and remain only a few months before returning south.

In recent years when this species has been detected in the county, birds are typically first observed in late July or early August with a few still being reported into early September. During peak years, birds can sometimes be found into October and rarely as late as early November.

This species is hardly ever seen in the state in the spring but there is one well documented Coos record, a single photographed with Bonaparte's Gulls at Whiskey Run Beach on 19 April 2024 (A. Mitchell, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: a single adult on 9 July 2012 on the beach just south of the Coos/Douglas County line (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird), not including the one spring record.

Latest Date: 13 November 1983; a more recent eBird late date was from Charleston on 10 November 2015 (B. Taylor, eBird).

Subfamily RYNCHOPINAE

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

This species breeds as close as San Francisco Bay but is a rare vagrant to Oregon with only two accepted records to date, the first of which was from Coos County:

BLSK-2002-02 Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 29 April 2002
(BCe).

Subfamily LARINAE

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

This is a fairly common and occasionally abundant offshore migrant and winter resident. It is sometimes seen from shore during migration and in winter. An observer spending two hours with a spotting scope on a headland such as Cape Arago from October through April is likely to see a kittiwake or two, albeit at a distance. There is a

significant spring migration off Oregon in March which sometimes happens very late, with scores of birds on passage into May. This movement is sometimes noticeable nearshore.

Single birds or small numbers are occasionally reported in lower estuaries or sitting on the rocks off jetties, even in good weather.

This is a fairly small gull and storms often blow birds in, at which time dozens can sometimes be seen. Onshore numbers are otherwise typically quite limited, although there are records of flights of hundreds of birds passing along coastal bluffs in fall, including 300 at Cape Arago in storm conditions on 25 November 1990 (N. Lethaby, *Or. Birds* 17(2):60; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 24 July 1969 (H. Nehls, *Am. Birds* 23(5): 687) which is a very unusual early date, the first birds are normally not reported until September but are not regular until October. The earliest eBird record is 1 September 2003 from a pelagic trip out of Charleston (R. Namitz).

Latest Date: 25 May 1999, a single bird sitting on beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird), most years this species is not reported after April though.

Red-legged Kittiwake *Rissa brevirostris*

There are two records of this arctic vagrant for the county, one of which has been accepted by OBRC:

RLKI-1999-13 North Spit of Coos Bay, Coos County, 5 March 1999.
One bird found dead on beach by Steve Holt. (details and photos sent in by ThB, USFWS).

The first was a well-described adult at the Coos jetties on 18 December 1988 (L. Thornburgh, description sent to the regional CBC editor but apparently never made it to OBRC). This species is known to winter in the central Pacific Ocean, so under the right conditions it could be seen in the county again.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

This is an uncommon to common offshore migrant only occasionally seen from land. It is most commonly reported in the fall from late August through early October and is also common offshore during the spring in late April and May.

During the late August to October period, birds are occasionally observed in estuaries and on the beaches. A recent high count was 56 off Cape Arago during stormy weather on 15 October 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with 50 birds seen the same day in the Bandon harbor area (photos K. & N. Shorts, OBOL; eBird). A rather early fall report is a first summer bird seen flying north from the overlook at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 August 2011 (R. Robb, eBird). Spring records from land are much rarer—the only recent record was a single bird on Bandon Beach on 16 May 2019 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, A. Partin; eBird).

Peak numbers include: 100 on a pelagic trip on 1 September 2002 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); 200 from a tuna fishing trip out of Charleston on 7 August 2009 (C. Dillingham, M. Stevens; *Tattler*09(4): 5); 119 from the cruise ship *Star Princess* off Coos County on 22 September 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons et al.; OBOL); 100 on the Shorebird Festival pelagic on 28 August 2010 (T. Shelmerdine et al., eBird); and an astounding 1,625 behind a fish processing ship observed

from a cruise ship on 21 September 2015 (J. Withgott, S. Russell, et al.; eBird).

There are several late fall (November) records, almost all of which are from ocean scoping: one at Pony Slough 6 November 1977 (A. McGie, p.c.; eBird); two at Shore Acres 11 November 1982 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 9(1): 6; eBird); one on 17 November 1984 (CAAS field trip, *Tattler* 9(1): 8; eBird); one at Cape Arago on 12 November 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 15(2):129; eBird); at Cape Arago after storms on 11 November and 30 November 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 24(2): 64; eBird); one juvenile off Bandon on 11 November 2019 (P. Low, p.c.; eBird); one juvenile off Cape Arago on 9 November 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two juveniles just off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 14 November 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one off Shore Acres SP on 15 November 2021 (A. Beerman, eBird); a juvenile off the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 November 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); and a juvenile off Cape Arago on 6 November 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Rarely a few remain into early winter. Records include: an immature at Cape Arago on 17 December 1978 (A. Contreras, *Am. Birds* 33(3): 307; eBird); one on 20 December 1981; and 4-6 birds at Cape Arago on 5 December 1987 (B. Fawver, *Tattler* 11(3): 21; eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: 19 seen from a cruise ship 80-95 km offshore on 18 July 2013 (P. Lehman, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird).

Fall Latest Date: 20 December 1981.

Spring Earliest Arrival: two birds at Bandon on 21 March 1998 (S. Johnson and eight others; OBOL; eBird) and at least one bird from a cruise ship on 21 March 2015 (D. King, eBird).

Spring Latest Date: 21 June 1982.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

This small tern-like gull is a common migrant in spring and fall, with peak numbers nearshore in late April and early May. It is often found in small numbers in winter. Two or three times a decade, a few nonbreeding immatures will spend the late spring and summer along the coast and in the coastal estuaries (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Peak movements in fall are spread out from August through November. The spring peak is much more concentrated and is typically only a week or less in duration during the last week of April and first week of May. When conditions are good for viewing thousands per hour can be seen nearshore. A recent high count was 13,400/hour off the North Spit of Coos Bay on the morning of 25 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird). During wet springs with no real sunny breaks during late April and early May, the movement may go unnoticed. Summer numbers range from none to a few birds.

Most birds are found along the outer coast and in estuaries, but small numbers can appear almost anywhere there is open water. They sometimes rest in flooded pastures, especially in fall and most often after windy storms.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Vagrant with only a single accepted Coos record:

LIGU-1999-09 North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one subadult on 7-8 September 1999 (D. Lauten).

There is one other unreviewed record of a bird at the south jetty of the Coquille River in Bandon on 8 December 2004 (S. Wilson, *Or. Birds* 31(2): 87).

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*

Vagrant with only one recent record which was accepted by OBRC:

LAGU-2024-15 Old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one immature on 21 May 2024 (report and photos TR).



Figure 28- First cycle Laughing Gull at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 May 2024, photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

This species breeds locally in southeastern Oregon and the Great Basin and is a rare visitant west of the Cascades. In Coos County there are at least 26 records to date, with almost half the records (12) from just two years, 2015 and 2021. Most reports are from late spring/summer with only four fall records and a single early winter record.

Late spring/summer records include: a first summer bird at New River on 16 June 1998 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 24; eBird); an immature at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 August 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 31; eBird); a first summer bird at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 July 2001 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 119; eBird); a single bird on the beach at Bandon on 6 August 2003 (D. Pettey, OBOL; eBird); an adult on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 June 2015 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); another adult at Bandon Marsh NWR on 12 June 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); an immature at Bandon Marsh NWR on 17 June 2015 (L. Sherman, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); another immature on the beach at New River on 19

July 2015 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); one on the beach at Bandon on 26 July 2015 (D. Bilderback with photo, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); one immature on the beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 August 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); and one at New River on 5 May 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird). In 2021, there was an unprecedented number of birds found in western Oregon, with large flocks found in many locations and numerous coastal records. There were seven Coos records of 12(!) individuals (*Or. Birds* 48(1): 33): two adults at Bandon Marsh NWR on 27 April (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two on Bandon Beach on 5 May (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); two adults at North Spit Coos Bay on 11 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with three at Cape Arago later that day (D. & R. Henise, eBird); one off Cape Arago on 15 May (A. Moss, eBird); one in Charleston on 16 May (M. Miller, C. Miller; eBird) with another single adult later in the day at Bandon Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Since the "big" spring in 2021 there has been the following records: one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 27 September 2023 (L. Hovde, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird); two on the beach at New River on 15 May 2024 (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird); one near the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 24 July 2024 (L. Hovde, M. Lee; eBird); and one at Whiskey Run Beach on 6 August 2024 (J. Bright, eBird).

Fall/early winter records include: one at an unknown location 11 November 1982; one on 9 November 1997 at Bandon (J. Gilligan, T. Wahl; *Or. Birds* 24(2): 64); one at Coos Bay on 28 November 1997 (J. Cornelius, *Or. Birds* 24(2): 64); one at Bandon on 30 December 2011 (D. Bilderback, *Tattler* 12(1): 6); and a first cycle bird at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 27 September 2023 (L. Hovde, eBird).

Spring Earliest Date: 27 April 2021.

Summer Latest Date: 11 August 2000.

Heermann's Gull *Larus heermanni*

This fairly common to common species does not breed in the county and rarely winters here but moves north in late spring and south in mid-autumn as an "escort" to movements of Brown Pelicans. The gulls accompany pelicans as they feed and gather what they may in the way of food located, discarded, stirred up, or mishandled by pelicans.

In recent years, Brown Pelicans have been moving north much earlier than they did in the 1970s, with some birds arriving in March. Heermann's Gulls are usually absent during this very early movement of pelicans, with birds not arriving in number until early to mid-June.

In some years, a few pelicans have stayed to winter, especially at Charleston, but Heermann's Gulls generally do not remain, with major southbound movements peaking in September and October. Every few years singles or small numbers can be found into December; birds were found 13 of 43 years on the Coos Bay CBC and most of these reports were singles.

In early 1998, there was an extraordinary mid-winter incursion, with birds present all along the southern Oregon coast from January through March, with numbers in the double digits at some sites (*Or. Birds* 24(3): 97). It is not clear why this unprecedented movement occurred, although this was an El Niño-Southern Oscillation year and there were a number of storms from the south.

Other than this mid-winter incursion, there is only one overwintering record, perhaps the first for Oregon, a first-year bird that remained at the Empire boat ramp from 28 December 2014 through at least 14 March 2015 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird).

Scores of birds appear in some years with hundreds in peak years, while slack years bring relatively few. A recent peak count for the county is 600 birds at the north jetty of Coos Bay on 8 September 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 31; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: three at Whiskey Run Beach on 19 April 2024 (A. Mitchell, eBird).

Latest Date: a bird or two occasionally linger into late December or early January, this does not include the unusual mid-winter 1998 incursion or the single overwintering record.

Short-billed Gull *Larus brachyrhynchus*

Formerly Mew Gull. This small gull is usually common to abundant in winter, using most water habitats including flooded pastures. Some birds appear in July on the northern Oregon coast, but August is the first noticeable movement in Coos County. The principal surge occurs in October, with significant numbers still in passage through November.

In spring a few birds remain into late April, but a significant exodus occurs in late March and early April.

Single birds (nonbreeders?) rarely show up during mid-summer such as one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 July 2001 (D. Lauten and K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 119; eBird) and another heavily bleached second cycle individual on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). However, care must be taken to separate summer juveniles from the look-like juvenile Ring-billed Gull, the latter being much more likely in summer.

Earliest Arrival: 25 July 2005 (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird), this does not include the two early summer records. Although outliers can sometimes show up in late July and August, the first birds are not usually reported until September and are not common until October.

Latest Date: 12 May 2025 at the BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay (J. & D. Nordstrom, eBird).

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

An uncommon and quite local gull in Coos County, not at all as common as on the central and north coast. They are easiest to find inland in flooded pastures and fields as well as in the upper bay and locally at locations such as Mingus Park in Coos Bay, on the mudflats at Pony Slough, or during the winter months on the athletic field at Millicoma Marsh. They are very uncommon to rare on outer beaches and immature birds can easily be confused with Short-billed Gulls which are common on the beach and nearshore during the winter. Short-billeds will also use flooded pastures particularly after storms, so one should never assume that the distant smaller gulls are "probably" Ring-billeds. Large concentrations of smaller looking gulls offshore are frequently California Gulls, a species that is also confused with Ring-billeds. Ring-billeds rarely, if ever (in recent years), appear in large numbers, so big concentrations of smaller looking gulls just off the beach are usually California Gulls- probably the most abundant species in the county during migration, often surpassing Western in total numbers.

A few nonbreeding birds summer with numbers building slowly in August and trickling out during May. In summer look for a few at Pony Slough and in the upper bay off Millicoma Marsh; however, a few nonbreeding California Gulls often oversummer in these same areas too so even then it is not safe to "assume" all the smaller gulls are Ring-billeds (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

• **Western Gull** *Larus occidentalis*

This is the only gull that breeds in Coos County and the most common, large, four-year gull during spring and summer. The largest colonies in a 1988 ODFW survey in Bandon were at Haystack Rock (610 birds) and Table Rock (494 birds). Near Cape Arago, 292 birds were at Gregory Point (Chief's Island) that same year (Naughton et al. 2007).

Numbers remain high in winter although some birds may not be the same as those breeding, since there is evidence from banding that Western Gulls move about considerably within their range from season to season (Gilligan et al. 1994). There are at least 15 records since 1967 of birds banded in California in the breeding season that were recovered the same fall and early winter in Coos County. All but one of these came from the Farallon Islands off San Francisco Bay; one was banded 13 June 1971 on the Channel Islands off Los Angeles and was recovered in Coos County on 22 October of the same year, a distance of about 900 miles if made over water.

The population breeding and wintering in Oregon is *L.o. occidentalis*, which has a dark gray mantle contrasting with black wing tips with few if any white spots. The subspecies *wymani* that breeds in California and Mexico is darker above and a bit smaller in size, leading to some confusion of its identity when it infrequently appears on the south coast. There are at least three reports of *wymani* from the county: one photographed 8-9 August 1985 (J. Gilligan); another seen on 20 November 1995 at Charleston (M. and M. Denny, *Or. Birds* 22(2): 67); and a third videotaped in Charleston on 19 April 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler* 08(3): 5).

Hybrids between this species and the Glaucous-winged Gull are abundant in Washington and northwest Oregon, especially in winter. In Coos County, numbers of hybrids drop off somewhat and "pure" Western Gulls are distinctly more common than at, for example, Yaquina Bay or Astoria. Some birds breeding at Gregory Point are hybrids (J. Hodder, p.c.). South coast gulls are also noticeably darker above than those nearer the Columbia River. From time to time, leucistic individuals have been noted which can confuse the unwary (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 30(4): 181).

This is mainly a "salt-water" gull, with a few birds venturing upriver to feed in dumps, pastures, at freshwater sites, or even fly inland as far as the Coquille Valley. During winter, the default larger four-year gulls in the Coquille Valley are Glaucous-winged Gulls, not Westerns (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

California Gull *Larus californicus*

This species is common to abundant in migration with a few nonbreeders around most summers with fewer but variable numbers present during winter.

Spring movements are rather long, with birds appearing in number mostly in late April and peaking in May with stragglers into June. A few immature, molting nonbreeders hang around the beaches and estuaries through the summer and are easy to pick out by their very scraggly appearance.

Fall migration is much more pronounced. The first fall movements can be very abrupt, with scores or hundreds of birds appearing suddenly in July along the coast and in the estuaries. The fall migration peaks from late September through early November when hundreds to thousands per hour can be seen streaming south from coastal promontories amassing in huge concentrations at river mouths all along the south coast. A

recent late fall high count was 20,000 off Cape Arago on 23 October 2011 (R. Namitz, *N. Am. Birds* 66(1): 159; eBird).

Winter numbers are decidedly lower, although variable from one winter to the next, with only a few tens on some December Coos Bay CBCs with hundreds other years.

Birds come to Coos County from throughout the west; banding data shows that birds banded as chicks in Utah, inland California, and even Colorado in June and July have been recovered in Coos County the same fall. The Colorado record involved a bird banded 4 June 1982 that was recovered 16 September 1982.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*

Formerly just Herring Gull but split by AOS in 2024. It occurs regularly in the county in small numbers, with noticeable movements in fall and spring. It does not breed in Oregon and is a fairly late fall arrival to Coos County, with a few birds seen in September and no significant movement until October. One bird banded as a chick in south-central Alaska on 25 June 1981 was recovered in Coos County on 5 February 1982.

This is a salt-water gull for the most part in Coos County occurring from well offshore to the estuaries and occasionally at dumps but not often venturing up into pasturelands. It is most abundant along beaches and mouths of rivers after large winter storms, but birds quickly depart back offshore once the weather improves.

Spring migration is not very obvious in most years and occurs in March and April, with a few stragglers into May.

Earliest Arrival: 9 August 1983 at Coos Bay (J. Gilligan, D. Irons; *Or. Birds* 10(1): 6; eBird) which is unusually early, most years the first birds are not reported until early to mid-September but are not observed in number until October.

Latest Date: 28 June 2001 an adult at the Tenmile Estuary on 28 June 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 119; eBird); however, most birds have usually departed by the end of April and are rarely reported after mid-May.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

In 2017, the AOS lumped Thayer's Gull with the Iceland Gull complex and Thayer's is now a subspecies of Iceland Gull- *Larus glaucooides thayeri*. This is the only subspecies that has been observed in Coos County. The Thayer's subspecies was lumped with Herring Gull before 1973, so early records are not available. It is one of the latest regular wintering gulls to arrive on the Oregon coast and does not usually appear in Coos County until later in October. Some of these birds are transients and a few remain to winter.

It remains occasional to uncommon through the winter and departs in early May, with peak spring movements from late March through mid-April.

This gull uses a variety of habitats, occurring on flooded pastures as well as in coastal settings. It is often found with American Herring Gulls on beaches after large winter storms and like Herrings, spends much of its time offshore. Single birds or groups of two or three are the norm and it is usually found in much smaller numbers than Herrings when the two occur together on beaches after large winter storms.

Earliest Arrival: 5 October 2019 at the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), birds do not become more regular until November though.

Latest Date: 24 May 2014 at Bastendorff Beach (B. Trunkey-Modugno, eBird); however, most birds have departed by the end of April.

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus*

Vagrant. There is a single, recent Coos record which was accepted by OBRC:

SBAG-2022-15 Bastendorff Beach, Coos County, one bird on 5 November 2022 (report and photos TR).



Figure 29- Immature Slaty-backed Gull at Bastendorff Beach on 5 November 2022. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

? Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*

This is a common large gull that arrives in fall and departs in spring. Some birds can be found in summer, but breeding is unproven, as the northern Oregon coast is the southern edge of this species' usual breeding range. In addition, hybrids with Western Gulls are common, and seem to be much more regular than "pure" Glaucous-winged Gulls during the late spring and summer breeding season (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Most birds begin arriving in the county in September but do not become more regular until October and are mostly gone by early May. During this period, the species is common at coastal locations as well inshore and is often found in towns scavenging food where it can. It is also common to abundant offshore. Data from birds banded as hatchlings show that most birds originate in Washington, but many come from British Columbia. There is one record of a bird banded on Kodiak

Island, Alaska on 14 August 1979 that was recovered on 21 April 1980, presumably after wintering in or to the south of Coos County.

By mid-winter, first cycle Glaucous-wingeds can become very bleached and almost white looking and are often confused with Glaucous Gull, the latter which has a distinct pink bill with a sharply demarcated black tip which is markedly different than the mostly dark bill of Glaucous-winged.

This species hybridizes with Western Gulls in Washington and northwestern Oregon and a significant portion of the large pink-legged gulls in the county in winter are hybrids. These hybrids are so common that they are referred to as "Olympic Gulls". Considerable variation among these suggests a vast array of multi-generational hybrids and back-crosses.

Glaucous-winged Gulls are notable as they not only frequently hybridize with Western Gulls, but also with several other species we encounter here on the south coast. While not as common as "Olympic Gulls," "Cook Inlet Gulls" are a cross between Glaucous-winged and American Herring Gull and have increasingly been reported in Oregon as well as here in Coos County. Another combination, albeit rarer here, is a hybrid with Glaucous Gull. Two Glaucous-Winged x Glaucous hybrids were observed on the 27 December 2003 Coos Bay CBC (M. Patterson, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

This is a rare but regular winter visitor, typically occurring as a single bird with local gull flocks on the coast or in pasturelands. Most reports are of first or second winter birds. It usually occurs rather late in fall, with late November or early December typically the earliest they appear.

An unusually large number were found in western Oregon during the winter of 1998/1999. A total of 22 were reported with five alone in Coos County (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 25(3): 88).

Birds often remain through April and sometimes early May. Some reports of this species in late spring and summer probably pertain to leucistic or heavily molted Glaucous-winged Gulls. The bird reported by Giesler (1952) in the summer of 1951 does not include a description sufficient to identify the species with certainty.

There is a recent rare record of a second-year bird that oversummered at Bandon. It was first observed on 25 August 2012 and remained at least through 13 October 2012. (A. Contreras, M. Wihler, et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9- incorrectly reported as being found on 5 August; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 23 November 2016 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).

Latest Date: 19 May 2009 at the mouth of Tenmile Creek (H. Herlyn, D. Farrar; eBird).



Figure 30- Glaucous Gull at Mingus Park in Coos Bay on 28 December 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Order PHAETHONTIFORMES
Family PHAETHONTIDAE

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaeothon aethereus*

Vagrant with two accepted Oregon records, one of which was observed just offshore Bandon shortly post storm from a system with remnants of a hurricane:

RBTR-2015-02 Coquille Point, Bandon, Coos County, one bird on 10
October 2015 (CHi, AdH, WW).

Order GAVIIFORMES
Family GAVIIDAE

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

These relatively small, slender loons are uncommon to fairly common in the county in fall, winter, and spring. They frequent estuaries and the nearshore ocean, sometimes occurring far upriver into shallow fresh water, and even (rarely) on flooded fields.

Numbers vary somewhat from year to year. A few birds remain offshore during the summer in most years.

Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*

This loon is usually uncommon as a winterer and migrant in estuaries, but it is often a common or abundant migrant nearshore.

Numbers of this species vary more from year to year than do numbers of other loons. Migrants nearshore often reach hundreds of birds per hour with thousands per hour during the peak in late April. A recent peak count was 12,000/hour on 24 April 2013 with greater numbers the next day (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Spring migration is often spread out over a considerable period of time, with major movements of birds still noticeable in early June. Fall migration usually extends from September through early December, but peak movements vary considerably from year to year.

Some nonbreeding birds summer locally. The peak number noted (an unusual high) was 200 birds in the summer of 1976 off Cape Arago (R. LeValley, *Am. Birds* 30(5): 992). A raft of 85 off Coos Bay on 27 July 1978 (*Tattler* 2(3): 12; eBird) were undoubtedly nonbreeders, but 200 at Cape Arago on 20 August 1970 (O. Swisher, *Am. Birds* 25(1): 95; eBird) are harder to classify and could have represented summering birds or early southbound migrants.

Common Loon *Gavia immer*

This aptly named loon is the most widespread and easy to find in the county from September through May. It is a fairly common nearshore and on estuaries and large lakes. It is more common than other loon species in most circumstances, although its numbers nearshore and close offshore are often eclipsed by Pacific Loons during migration. Large flocks are unusual, with single birds and loose assemblages of fewer than ten birds the norm at a given location. An unusually large number was recorded migrating nearshore during stormy weather from Shore Acres SP on 27 October 2021 when 1,910 were reported (D. & A. Heyerly, eBird).

A few nonbreeders remain during the summer.

Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii*

This arctic loon is a rare visitant to the county. Three records have been accepted by OBRC:

YBLO-1972-01	Coos Bay, one in breeding plumage on 15 July 1972 (photo by PB). First verified Oregon record.
YBLO-1973-03	Coos Bay, one in breeding plumage on 24 September 1973 (AMc, photo by GC).
YBLO-1989-24	Bullards Beach SP, one bird on 4 June 1989 (photos by DA).

There is an additional record that was rejected by OBRC as the description did not rule out an immature Common Loon- one near the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay on the 17 December 1995 Coos Bay CBC (OBRC record #YBLO-1995-34). In 2001, OBRC stopped requiring documentation for this species.

There are 11 other generally accepted reports that are unreviewed or were birds observed after the species was removed from the review list: from Charleston 28 August 1979 (*fide* EGW, *Or. Birds* 5(5): 20); at Bullards Beach SP 17 September- 4 October 1989 (not Coos Bay as published; M. Sawyer and P. Sullivan, *Am. Birds* 44(1): 149; *Or. Birds* 16(2): 180; eBird); one off Point Adams in Charleston on 2 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 31; eBird); a first summer bird seen near Jordan Cove on 18 July 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; eBird); a single bird off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 23 November 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 40; eBird); a fly-by in breeding plumage off Cape Arago on 13 May 2007 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds*

33(3): 91); a first winter bird off Empire from 17 March- 11 April 2013 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan, et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5; eBird); a juvenile in Charleston on 26 April 2015 (R. Ketchum et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird); an immature bird near Haynes Inlet on 10 May 2015 that may have been a different bird than the one reported in Charleston a couple weeks earlier (T. Rodenkirk, B. Fields; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird); one in Charleston on 31 December 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird); and an immature photographed off Fossil Point in Empire on 10 February 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, T. Yaukey; eBird).

Order PROCELLARIIFORMES

Family DIOMEDEIDAE

Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis*

Uncommon far offshore from September through May; there are records from every month. During the period when pelagic trips were offered during the Shorebird Festival from about 2000-2020, this species was only found about every fifth year. These trips were mostly in early September though, a bit too early for this species which has been more regular later in the fall on Newport pelagic trips.

Two were seen about 15 miles off Coos Bay on 19 December 1976 (A. Prigge, CBC boat team on extended trip outside the circle). These were the first reported from the county.

This species is not found on most pelagic trips and even when it is, single birds are the norm. High counts include: two from the cruise ship *Star Princess* on 8 May 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons, et al.; OBOL); three on a Charleston pelagic on 30 April 2011 (R. Namitz et al.; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 12; eBird); two from a cruise ship on 31 May 2014 (P. Lehman, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5); three from a cruise ship on 13 May 2015 (I. Povalyaev, P. Lehman et al.; eBird); three from a cruise ship on 9 April 2017 (P. Lehman et al.; p.c.); three on a 11 May 2018 pelagic trip (C. Bailey et al.; eBird); and two on a 14 October 2022 MOSAIC survey (W. Kennerly, eBird).

There are three rare summer records: one reported flying over Coos Head on 24 June 2007 (J. Randolph et al.; *Or. Birds* 33(4): 126); another seen from a cruise ship on 8 June 2013 (P. Lehman, *N. Am. Birds* 67(4): 642); and one seen from a fishing boat the first week of July of 2015 off Bandon (L. Standley, M. Graybill; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird).

There are at least two records of birds coming back to port aboard ships. On 20 December 1999 an immature bird hitched a ride on a ship all the way back to Charleston. This bird was captured and successfully released later in the day (D. Van Dyke *fide* D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 185, the date was erroneously reported as 21 December in *Or. Birds*). In February of 2002, a pair of banded birds road a barge back to Coos Bay and were captured and taken to Free Flight Bird Rehabilitation and Education Center in Bandon (M. Ware, p.c.; eBird). They remained at Free Flight a week and were then transported to International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC) in California. As it turns out both birds had been in IBRRC care in the past, the male 10 years previously and the female five years previously! The birds were successfully released off the Farallon Islands on 23 February 2002.



Figure 31- Millie Ware with one of the two Laysan Albatross that came ashore in Coos Bay on a barge in February of 2002.

Black-footed Albatross *Phoebastria nigripes*

This species occurs offshore, generally out of sight of land. Pelagic trips have found it common to abundant from April through October. Small numbers can be found at least through mid-December and occasionally through the winter. The peak counts have all been associated with finding large trawlers offshore which often attract thousands of seabirds: 500 birds on 21 May 2006 off Coos Bay near some factory trawlers (G. Gillson, *Or. Birds* 32(3): 127; eBird); 400 birds off Coos Bay near a factory trawler on 16-17 May 2007 (B. Tweit, eBird); 750 from a cruise ship associated with seven trawlers on 21 May 2015 (P. Lehman, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14); and 165 behind a trawler observed from a cruise ship on 21 September 2015 (S. Russell et al.; eBird). However, most trips find 50 or fewer. Other notable high numbers include: 50 off Coos Bay on 8 August 1965 (J. Anderson, *Am. Birds* 19(5): 571; eBird); 250 birds off Coos Bay on 9 October 1982 on an OFO pelagic trip (*Or. Birds* 8(3): 134); 50-100 off Coos Bay on 21 June 1982 (M. Graybill, *Tattler* 6(4): 12; eBird); 118 off Charleston on 7 August 2009 (C. Dillingham, M. Stevens; *Tattler* 09(4): 5; eBird); and 75 off Coos Bay on 30 April 2011 (R. Namitz et al.; OBOL; eBird).

The species is occasionally seen from shore. Records include: two on 16 January 1990 near the Coos jetties (D. Fix, *Or. Birds* 16(3): 243; eBird); one at the same location on 15 February 1992 (G. Lillie, *Or. Birds* 18(3): 91; eBird); five seen following a fishing boat about one mile off Sunset Bay on 18 December 1993 under clear skies with a slight

easterly wind (A. Contreras notes; eBird); one from Cape Arago on the 19 December 2004 Coos Bay CBC (D. and A. Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 31(2): 86; eBird); two seen following a boat off Cape Arago on 18 December 2006 (T. Shelmerdine, D. Smith; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 56; eBird); one seen from Cape Arago on 21 October 2007 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*07(5): 6; eBird); three seen from Cape Arago on 26 April 2010 (M. Wihler, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 7); one from Coquille Point in Bandon on 8 February 2015 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird); three from Cape Arago on 15 December 2018 (D. & H. Heyerly, J. Danzenbaker; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); and one from Cape Arago on 13 January 2019 (R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird).

Washups are found occasionally. Records include: two found dead in April of 1990 (*Am. Birds* 44(3): 487) and several birds banded in the Midway Island group from 1964 to 2004 recovered on Coos County beaches, all but two in summer, with the exception of ones recovered 6 May 1989 and 29 May 2004.



Figure 32- This Black-footed Albatross, Alice, was successfully rehabbed and released by Free Flight Bird Rehabilitation and Education Center in Bandon in the mid-1990s; the author helped rehab this bird. Photo courtesy of Millie Ware.

Short-tailed Albatross *Phoebastria albatrus*

Vagrant with four records to date, two which have been accepted by OBRC:

- STAL-2005-10 Seven Devils Wayside, Coos County, one juvenile dead on the beach on 3 September 2005 (details by DGr, photo by KeI).
- STAL-2015-16 38 mi WNW of Cape Arago, Coos County, one subadult on 21 September 2015 (SR, JMe, JG, OS).

The identity of first accepted record was confirmed by the Japanese biologist, Hiroshi Hasegawa, who banded the bird on the Japanese island of Torishima on 24 April 2005.

There are two unreviewed records: a hatch-year bird tracked by satellite that came within 20km of the south coast in November of 2003 (R. Suryan, p.c.) and another hatch-year bird that was tracked by satellite close to land along Coos County on 19-20 October 2006 (R. Suryan, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 22).

This rare albatross, once close to extinction, is making a strong comeback in the North Pacific where a pair nested successfully on Midway Island in 2011, the first U.S. breeding record in modern history.

Family PROCELLARIIDAE

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common (abundant at peak of passage) well offshore in fall, especially in October and November, with records from every month, although it is uncommon to rare from April through June. This species can sometimes be seen from shore, especially during the fall migration period, but they are usually reported from pelagic trips well offshore.

Typical numbers seen on pelagic trips range from a few to less than 100, but 1,000 were estimated on a trip 9 October 1982 at the peak of fall movement (*Or. Birds* 8(3): 134). Peak numbers from shore include: 240 from Cape Arago after a storm on 25 November 1990 (N. Lethaby, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 550; eBird); 200 off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 11 November 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 40; eBird); 500+ off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 22 November 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 7; eBird); 1,800 seen in a single hour off the north jetty of Coos Bay during stormy weather on 19 October 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird); and 2,250 off Cape Arago seen in a two-and-a-half-hour period after a storm on 9 November 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).



Figure 33- A beached Northern Fulmar in Bandon on 27 July 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Murphy's Petrel *Pterodroma ultima*

This deep-water pelagic species has proven to be regular off the Oregon Coast in spring, with all recent records from cruise ships far offshore. There are three older records that were accepted by OBRC:

MUPE-1987-02	Horsfall Beach, one female found alive on beach by P. Kollodge, 6 March 1987. Specimen number 103774, Los Angeles Natural History Museum.
MUPE-2005-05	44-173nm offshore, Lincoln-Curry Cos., 11 birds, 31 October to 2 November 2005 (photos by RiP, CoO). The total number off Coos County is unknown.
MUPE-2010-08	Off Curry to Tillamook Counties, 43 (12 off Coos) on 1 May 2010 (photos RyM).

There are two other older records from the same experienced observer that were never submitted to OBRC: 14 birds seen 110nm offshore between Cape Blanco and Cape Arago on 4 May 1997 and two birds seen 140 nm off the southern coast on 12 May 1997 (M. Force, *Or. Birds* 23(4): 150). The actual number of birds off Coos County for these records is unknown.

This species was removed from the OBRC review list in 2011.

Most land-based pelagic trips have not gone out at the right time of year and/or have not spent enough time in deep water to find this or other *Pterodroma* species. Cruise ships are often 20+ miles offshore and have become the best way for birders to locate *Pterodromas* in general.

The March through mid-May period appears to be the best time to find Murphy's with lesser numbers into early June and just a single summer record off Coos. Although there have been quite a few repositioning cruise trips in the fall, sightings seem to be very uncommon to rare.

Most spring cruise ships report just a few birds but sometimes more are found with the largest numbers typically found from late April through mid-May. Recent peak counts from cruise ships include: 12 birds off various locations in Coos County on 8 May 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons, et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 63(3): 493; eBird); 18 off Coos on 13 May 2015 (I. Povalyaev, eBird); 25 off Coos on 25 April 2022 (B. Shelmerdine, eBird); about 60 off Coos County on 27 April 2022 (T. Johnson, D. Gochfeld, et al.; eBird); about 45 off Coos on 26 April 2023 (V. Pierszalowski et al.; eBird); and 27 off Coos on 25 April 2024 (S. Haas, E. Corey, et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43, eBird).

The one summer record was two offshore from a cruise ship on 10 July 2013 (P. Lehman, *N. Am. Birds* 67(4): 642).

There is but a single record from a land based pelagic, two seen on a deep-water trip out of Bandon on 28 April 2023 (B. Archer et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

Besides the one accepted fall record, there is currently only one other record, a single from a cruise ship on 18 October 2014 (J. Meredith et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 7).

Hawaiian Petrel *Pterodroma sandwichensis*

In 2002, the AOU split the Dark-rumped Petrel complex into two species, the Hawaiian and Galapagos Petrel. It appears that most of the recent west coast reports are of Hawaiian Petrels. Satellite tracking has shown that the Hawaiian Petrel makes regular forays in a clockwise oval from Hawaii to waters far off the Pacific Northwest coast during at least the August to September period (P. Lehman, p.c.). Most spring records in the Pacific Northwest have been in the late April to early June period with fall records primarily from mid-July through early September (P. Lehman, p.c.). There was one accepted record before this species was removed from the review list in 2017:

HAPE-2014-15 62 km west of Cape Arago, Coos County (43.242,
125.140), on 16 July 2014 (P. Lehman).

There are at least five other unreviewed records, all from cruise ships: one on 30 July 2013 (J. Ray et al., eBird); a single 35 miles offshore Charleston on 15 May 2015 (S. Kornfeld, D. Kook; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 14; eBird); one 71 km off Cape Arago on 9 August 2015 (Lehman 2017); one 58km off Cape Arago on 20 May 2016 (Lehman 2017); and one 61km off Winchester Bay, Douglas from 20 May 2016 that is actually closest to Coos County (P. Lehman, eBird).

Reports since its removal from the review list include: one photographed on 11 May 2018 from a cruise ship (N. Christensen et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); one from a cruise ship on 2 May 2022 (J. Fidorra, RJ Baltierra; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 42; eBird); and one photographed from a research ship 25-30 miles off Cape Arago on 7 August 2023 (W. Kennerley, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).



Figure 34- Hawaiian Petrel 58km off Cape Arago on 20 May 2016. Photograph compliments of Bruce Rideout.

Cook's Petrel *Pterodroma cookii*

There are at least 10 records of this deep-water pelagic visitant, all from cruise ships. This species seems to be fairly regular off California but has not been observed as frequently or in such large numbers in Oregon with a majority of the Oregon sightings off the southern coast. The subgroup of petrels of which this species is included is referred to as the "Cookilaria" subgroup and includes several look alike species that can be difficult to ID out on the open ocean. Good photographs are often required to confirm an ID, so many birds seen from a distance without photos are just called Cookilaria Petrels. Currently there is just a single accepted Coos record:

COPE-2005-03 40 miles west of Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on
20 September 2005 (JG, OS).

There are nine other reports that were apparently never reviewed by OBRC, all from cruise ships: one off Coos County on 31 August 2009 (J. Gilligan, O. Schmidt; Lehman 2017); one about 60 miles west of Coos Bay on 22 September 2009 (J. Withgott, D. Irons, et al.; *Tattler*09(4): 9); one off Coos on 17 April 2012 (Lehman 2017); one off Coos on 3 May 2013 (Lehman 2017); one 45 miles off Coos on 9 May 2013 (T. Crabtree et al.; eBird); one 45 miles off Coos on 9 May 2013 (T. Crabtree, eBird); two off Coos/Curry on 18 October 2014 (J. Gilligan; *N. Am. Birds* 69(1): 143); one on 11 May 2018 (N. Christensen et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 8; eBird); and one on 25 April 2024 (S. Haas, E. Corey et al.; eBird).

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*

Uncommon well offshore from August through October, with peak numbers reported from mid-September through October. Numbers fluctuate from year to year; when numbers peak this species can be common.

Under certain conditions, such as strong west winds in early fall, this species can be seen from land. Records from land include: one off Bandon on 29 August 1997 (D. Heyerly, OBOL; eBird); 30 off Cape Arago on 14 September 1997 (D. Lauten and K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one off Cape Arago on 29 October 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 27; eBird); about 50 from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 October 2008 (J. Danzenbaker, *N. Am. Birds* 63(1): 144; eBird); three off Shore Acres on 24 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 10(4): 2; eBird); two off Cape Arago on 26 October 2010 (R. Namitz, *Tattler* 10(4): 3; eBird); 15 off Cape Arago on 3 September 2012 (P. Low, OBOL; eBird); one off Bandon on 21 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one off Cape Arago on 1 September 2013 (P. Low, OBOL; eBird); one off Cape Arago on 16 October 2022 (K. Yalcin, eBird); and one from the same location on 27 October 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 7 August 2013 from a cruise ship (P. Lehman et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 5).

Latest Date: 11 December 1982 from a Coos Bay pelagic trip (M. Graybill, *Or. Birds* 9(1): 5; eBird).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

Uncommon to abundant well offshore, mainly in November and early December, with some birds detected into January and rarely as late as March and April.

The difficulty of distinguishing this species from the Sooty Shearwater makes a clear delineation of occurrence difficult. A dead bird washed up at New River on 21 November 1997 was confirmed as this species (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird) as was one found dead on the beach near Haystack Rock in Bandon on 19 February 2011 (D. and D. Bilderback with photo; p.c.; eBird).

It is regularly seen from land in late fall/winter by experienced observers but typically in small numbers, generally ones or twos. High counts include: 100 visible from Bandon on 8 January 1989 (D. Fix, *Or. Birds* 15(3): 189; eBird); 50 off Gregory Point on 25 November 1990 (N. Lethaby, eBird); eight from Shore Acres SP on 23 December 1993 (G. Gillson, eBird); 10 off Cape Arago on the 17 December 2006 Coos Bay CBC (A. and D. Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 56; erroneously reported as 12; eBird); 15 off Cape Arago on 11 November 2007 (R. Namitz, *Tattler* 07(5): 7; eBird); 16 from Cape Arago on the 16 December 2018 Coos Bay CBC (D. & A. Heyerly, J. Danzenbaker; eBird); and seven from Cape Arago on 24 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

There are two rare late spring/summer records: a single seen off Coos Bay on 8 July 2005 (P. Pyle, *N. Am. Birds* 59(4): 644) and one off Coos Bay observed from a factory trawler on 16 May 2007 (B. Tweit, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: on a Charleston pelagic on 10 September 2000 (W. Hoffman, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 26; eBird); a few birds seem to be regular on pelagic trips out of Lincoln County in August and so should be expected in small number on any future Coos August pelagics.

Latest Date: a single off Coos Bay on 25 April 1982 (D. Matthews, *Or. Birds* 8(2): 50), not including the rare late spring and early summer records.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna griseus*

Abundant well offshore from July through October, with birds reported regularly into November and even December. They can be seen in any month of the year; least common from December through March.

The difficulty of distinguishing this species from the Short-tailed Shearwater makes an accurate statement of late fall and winter occurrences problematic.

Regularly seen from land, occasionally in large numbers. An estimated 20,000 were seen off the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 September 1997 (D. Lauten and K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird) and 14,000 were reported off the overlook at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 October 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Pink-footed Shearwater *Ardenna creatopus*

Fairly common to abundant well offshore from mid-May through mid-October, rare in November and December and again in February, and uncommon from March through mid-May.

Although this species is usually less common than the Sooty Shearwater with which it is often seen, on some August and September pelagic trips this species is as common or more abundant.

The most unusual report from the county is of a bird resting on the water inside Pony Slough on 14 June 1980 (D. and C. Matson, *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127). No further information about this record is available.

Although this species is not usually seen from shore, Giesler noted "several" with a flock of Sooties off the west tip of the lighthouse rocks south of Sunset Bay SP on 5 July 1951 (Giesler, 1952). In recent years, this species has been reported regularly in small numbers (ones and twos) offshore from land mainly during September and October. Peak numbers from shore include: half a dozen close inshore at Bandon on 15 July 1972 (P. Buckley, *Am. Birds* 26(5): 893); about 12 off Cape Arago on 14 September 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); "100s" seen from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 October 2008 (J. Danzenbaker, *Tattler*08(6): 5); and the following all from Cape Arago-300 on 10 October 2008 with five+ there the next day (R. Namitz, *Tattler*08(6): 6; eBird), 50 on 28 September 2009 (J. Danzenbaker, R. Namitz; *Tattler*09(4): 6; eBird), 16 on 22 September 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), 200 on 16 October 2015 (S. Russell, eBird), 13 on 26 September 2021 (E. Heisey, eBird), 17 on 24 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 50 on 16 October 2022 (K. Yalcin; eBird); and 56 on 11 September 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 2 April 2016 from a cruise ship (Lehman 2017; eBird); records from elsewhere in Oregon indicate this species can be expected in March and rarely in February.

Latest Date: two off Bandon on 31 December 2000 for the first ever Oregon CBC record (A. Contreras, *Or. Birds* 27(2): 60).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

Rare visitor offshore with records from every season of the year in Oregon. Pelagic trips hope for this species but never expect to see one.

The first record was rejected by OBRC, one off Coos Bay on 17 October 1982 (OBRC record FFSH-1982-06).

In 1983 this species was removed from the review list.

Subsequent records include: one found by boat on the 18 December 1983 Coos Bay CBC (M. Graybill, D. Matthews; *Tattler*8(1): 9; eBird); a

record without further information for 18 February 1988 (L. Thornburgh, p.c.); three off Coos Bay seen from a factory trawler on 16 May 2007 (B. Tweit, *N. Am. Birds* 61(3): 500; eBird); one about 13 miles offshore Coos Bay on 26 August 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, E. Horvath; *Or. Birds* 34(1): 30; *Tattler* 07(4): 6; eBird); one on the 26 September 2014 OBA pelagic trip out of Charleston (R. Namitz et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 7; eBird); another from a cruise ship on 6 October 2016 (A. Skei, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird); and two from a Shorebird Festival pelagic on 2 September 2017 (T. Shelmerdine, R. Namitz, et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Rare visitant. The status of this species in the Pacific Northwest is unknown, but in recent years there have been numerous sightings off both Oregon and Washington, suggesting it could be breeding somewhere in the northeast Pacific Ocean in British Columbia or Alaska. There are three OBRC records, all of which were accepted as "Manx-type" Shearwater recognizing the difficulty of ruling out Black-vented Shearwater without a good description of the undertail:

MASH-type-1977-01 Pelagic trip, Coos County, one on 10 September 1977 (DI, JG, MEg, DF).
MASH-type-2004-14 10 miles west of Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 15 August 2004 (TR).
MASH-type-2008-15 Cape Arago, Coos County, one bird on 19 April 2008 (RuN).

There is an additional record accepted by OBRC as a Manx/Black-vented Shearwater, *Puffinus* sp., on a pelagic trip off Coos Bay- See Egger (1977) for details of this record.

In 2012, OBRC removed this species from its review list.

There have been seven recent records since this species was removed from the review list: one about two miles offshore of Coos Bay on 24 August 2011 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird); one off Cape Arago on 3 September 2012 (P. Low, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird); one seen from the same location on 1 October 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird); two off Shore Acres on the 20 December 2015 Coos Bay CBC (J. Danzenbaker, A. & D. Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15); one off Cape Arago on 23 January 2016 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird); one from a cruise ship on 2 May 2022 (RJ Baltierra, S. Downes, et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and another single from a cruise ship on 26 April 2023 (C. Dean et al.; eBird).

Black-vented Shearwater *Puffinus opisthomelas*

There are several records of this vagrant seabird, three of which have been accepted by OBRC:

BVSH-1992-01 Bandon, one bird on 22 November 1992 (GL).
BVSH-2015-08 0.5 mi to 1 mi off Cape Arago, Coos County, 14 birds, 25 October 2015 (TR).
BVSH-2015-10 Bandon, Coos County, 8 October 2015. Eight birds (TR, RuN).

In early October of 2015 (*Or. Birds* 42(1): 15) there was a major incursion of this species north of its usual summer range off central California. Many birds were reportedly observed off Coos, the following is a list of these sightings many of which were never submitted to OBRC. The first birds reported were 250 off Brookings on 8 October (R.

Namitz et al.; eBird) with at least eight the same day off Bandon (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk, A. Contreras; eBird). On 10 October, one to two birds were reported at Bandon (A. & C. Hinkle; T. Crabtree; eBird). On 11 October, three were reported off Cape Arago (D. & A. Heyerly, OBOL). On 12 October, a distant bird was observed off Bandon that was likely this species (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL). On 24 October, one was observed off Shore Acres SP (M. & M. Denny, eBird) and one was reported off Cape Arago (D. Sutherland, eBird). On 25 October, 14 were seen off Cape Arago (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with up to seven observed there on 26 October by several individuals (C. Gates, T. Knutzen, D. Sutherland; eBird). In Bandon, on 25 October, 12 were reported (M. & M. Denny, eBird) with 92 reported there on 26 October (M. & M. Denny, eBird). The last report was two birds off Cape Arago on 12 November (S. Hill, eBird).

The most recent record was one off Bandon on the 30 December 2017 Coquille Valley CBC (A. Contreras, T. Hynes; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17); however, this record was not accepted by OBRC (BVSH-2017-13).

Family HYDROBATIDAE

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel *Hydrobatus furcatus*

Fairly common from April through October where it occurs well offshore. Survey data compiled by the USFWS in 1979 and 1988 estimated the Oregon breeding population in the hundreds, distributed variously on the north coast on Three Arches Rock and on the south coast (Curry County) on Hunter Island, Saddle Rock, Whaleshead Island, and Goat Island (Naughton et al. 2007). During these surveys, no breeding birds were documented off the Coos County coast.

Birds are occasionally seen from land and include the following records: six at the mouth of the Coquille River on 4 September 1983 (A. McGie, p.c.; eBird); one at the Coos jetties on 11 March 1990 (D. Matthews, *Or. Birds* 16(4): 324; eBird); three at Cape Arago after a storm on 25 November 1990 (N. Lethaby, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 55; eBird); eight at Shore Acres SP on 23 November 1995 (M. and M. Denny; *Or. Birds* 22(2): 66; eBird); one seen off the north jetty Of Coos Bay on 2 November 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 30 from Cape Arago on 13 October 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one seen off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 17 October 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 33; eBird); five seen off Point Adams in the Charleston harbor area on 11 March 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 06(2): 4; eBird); 16+ from Cape Arago on 18 November 2011 (R. Namitz, OBOL; eBird); three from the same location on 22 September 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one from Cape Arago on 18 October 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 100 seen off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 19 October 2019 in a one hour period during stormy weather- there were 1,200 Leach's Storm-petrels seen also during this same ocean watch with the exact break down on how many of each species being an estimate although Leach's appeared to predominate (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird); one from Cape Arago on 10 August 2021 (G. Apte, eBird); three from the same location on 18 September 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two from Cape Arago on 26 September 2021 (M. Cahill) with two the same day offshore from the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one from Cape Arago on 9 November 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

In 1999, small numbers were seen in Oregon from ocean beaches and promontories from late March through early June (*Or. Birds* 25(4): 108). Coos County records from shore during this period include: three birds off Cape Arago on 28 April (B. Pease, OBOL; eBird); one to two birds

seen on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 May (D. Lauten, Kathy Castelein; OBOL; eBird); a single bird seen flying around the Charleston harbor with 12 off Cape Arago all on 7 May (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a single bird near the mouth of Coos Bay on 6 June (D. Lauten, Kathy Castelein; OBOL; eBird). Also, during early 1999, following the wreck of the New Carissa and the subsequent search for beached birds, two dead birds were found on Coos beaches: one between Tenmile Creek and the Umpqua River (possibly in Douglas County?) on 7 March and one on the beach near the north jetty of Coos Bay on 26 March (ODFW 1999).

A recent high count for this species was 1,000+ seen from the cruise ship *Sapphire Princess* on 21 September 2010 (J. Gilligan, O. Schmidt, et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8).

● **Leach's Storm-Petrel** *Hydrobatus leucorhous*

Uncommon to rare breeder. This is one of the most abundant breeding seabirds in Oregon, with an estimated breeding population of over 481,000 (Naughton et al. 2007). However, they are rarely seen from land because they feed far offshore and return to their nesting colonies at night. An estimated 95% of the population breeds off Curry County (Naughton et al. 2007). In Coos County, breeders have been documented on the rock off Grave Point at Bandon, where a June 1988 survey found 32 birds (Naughton et al. 2007). In addition, it has bred at the Coquille Point rocks, also off Bandon, where a survey estimated 100 burrows in 1967 (Browning and English, 1972).

This species is rare on traditional pelagics as the boats do not typically get far enough offshore to find this species, in the limited amount of time they have allotted to be out. Even when birds are found, it is usually just one or two. Cruise ships are generally far enough offshore that this species is more often encountered, sometimes in large numbers. High offshore counts include: 125 in deep water off Coos County from a NOAA research boat on 21 July 2008 (R. Namitz, T. Shelmerdine; p.c.); 27 on 13 May 2011 (R. & M. Woodruff et al.; eBird); 33 on a research ship survey on 20 May 2011 (R. Namitz, T. Shelmerdine, G. Gillson et al.; eBird); 20 from a tuna fishing trip 50 miles offshore on 10 August 2011 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*Sep/Oct 2011: 6; eBird); 200 off Coos from a cruise ship on 14 May 2012 (T. Crabtree et al.; eBird); 70 off Coos from a cruise ship on 9 August 2015 (B. Rideout, P. Lehman; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); 75 off Coos from a cruise ship on 24 April 2017 (B. Rideout et al.; eBird); 42 from a cruise ship on 13 May 2022 (M. Dufort, eBird); and a total of 158 off Coos from a cruise ship on 25 April 2024 (S. Haas, E. Corey, et al.; eBird).

Records from land are rare and mostly in the late fall with October and November the months with the most records. Fall records include: one over the North Spit at Coos Bay during a storm on the 21 December 1974 CBC (M. Patterson, A. McGie; eBird); six from Cape Arago after a storm on 25 November 1990 (N. Lethaby, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 55; eBird); four from Cape Arago during a very stormy period on 26 October 2010 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*10(4): 3; eBird); 15 from Cape Arago on 18 November 2011 (R. Namitz, *N. Am. Birds* 66(1): 157; eBird); six from Cape Arago on 26 October 2014 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); two off Cape Arago on 13 December 2015 after a series of big storms (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); 200 off Coquille Point in Bandon after a storm on 19 October 2019 (D. & R. Henise, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird) with an amazing 1,700 off the north jetty of Coos Bay during a one-hour period on the same day (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird); 14 from the North Spit of Coos Bay on 13

November 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); five from Cape Arago on 9 November 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); two at the south jetty in Bandon on 29 September 2023 (A. Conteras, T. Jeske; eBird); three off Cape Arago during stormy weather on 10 October 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); three from the beach overlook at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 November 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and three from Cape Arago on 26 October 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Spring and summer records from land are much rarer and include: one from the North Spit of Coos Bay 5 July 1978 (R. Deering, *Tattler* 2(3): 12; eBird); one found dead on the beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 March 1999 (ODFW 1999; eBird); one flushed from a stump in Bandon Beach on 1 June 2001 (*fide* D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 116; eBird); one reported along the Coquille River near Bullards Beach SP on 16 June 2008 (D. Pettey, OBOL; eBird); and a dead bird found on Old MacDonald #2 at Bandon Dunes Golf Course Complex on 2 March 2024 (C. & H. Ellis, eBird).

Earliest Spring Date: 21 March 2015 from a cruise ship (D. King, eBird), not including the two reports of dead birds found on land earlier in March which indicate these birds are moving offshore pretty early in the year.

Latest Fall Date: 21 December 1974 over the North Spit at Coos Bay on the Coos Bay CBC (M. Patterson, A. McGie; eBird).

Ashy Storm-Petrel *Hydrobatus homochroa*

This seabird breeds off the north central coast of California south to northwestern Baja California, Mexico but is rarely seen as far north as Oregon. In recent years, pelagic birding from cruise ships in deep waters off the Oregon coast has led to a number of sightings, several of which were off Coos County, three of which have been accepted by OBRC:

ASSP-2007-02	45 miles west of Coos Bay, Coos County, six on 3 May 2007 (OS, JG, RiA, NaA).
ASSP-2014-07	50 miles west of Reedsport, Coos County (closest point of land being Coos County), one bird on 1 May 2014 (JG, OS, TC).
ASSP-2014-12	from one to possibly four birds seen on a pelagic trip off Coos County, 26 Sep 2014 (RuN, photos by TSh).

Other unreviewed records include: one seen from the cruise ship *Golden Princess* on 27 September 2010 (N. Armstrong, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8); one from a research ship off Coos on 21 August 2014 (D. Pereksta, eBird); and one from a cruise ship on 18 October 2014 (J. Gilligan, J. Meredith et al.; OBOL).

Black Storm-Petrel *Hydrobatus melania*

Vagrant. This seabird breeds off the southern California coast down into northern Mexico. Some birds winter off central California, but it is very rare in Oregon with only a few accepted records, one of which is from Coos:

BLSP-2010-03	40 miles west of Coos County, 27 September 2010 (JMe).

Order SULIFORMES
Family FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Vagrant. There are two records that have been accepted by the OBRC:

- MAFR-1987-04 Charleston, Coos County, one juvenile from 7-11 March 1987 (TC, photos by OS, JJo, SS).
MAFR-1992-08 Cape Arago, Coos County, one juvenile on 1 February 1992 (JoK).

In addition to the records accepted by the OBRC there are six other records, one of which was not accepted by OBRC: one off Coquille Point in Bandon on 26 July 1963 rejected by OBRC for lack of sufficient details (OBRC record #MAFR-1963-07). The other five records were never submitted for review: one at Bandon in March of 1979 (B. Griffin, *Tattler*10(2b): 10); another on 6 August 1979; a juvenile that flew over Charleston in June or July of 2001, with the exact date lost- fishermen reported seeing multiple birds offshore during this period also (D. Varoujean, p.c.); a probable frigatebird sp. seen briefly flying over North Bend towards east bay during a windy storm on 31 December 2009 (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 35: 16; *Tattler*09(5): 9); and another frigatebird sp. seen circling over Walmart in North Bend on 23 April 2011 (B. Griffin, *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 507).

Family SULIDAE

Nazca Booby *Sula granti*

Vagrant. Almost all the Oregon records of this species are dead or sick birds including both the accepted Coos records:

- NABO-2023-05 Apparently ailing bird was picked up by ODF&W on 6 February 2023 in parking lot at south jetty Coquille River, Coos Co. In consultation with Newport Aquarium, it was subsequently decided not to take the bird for rehabilitation due to concerns of avian influenza, and the bird was released. Report and photos DuH, DLa, KC, TR.
NABO-2024-09a Report at iNaturalist at <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/198820590> of a dead Nazca Booby found on the beach at Seven Devils State Recreation Site in Coos County on 6 February 2024 by Julie M. Knight.

Cocos Booby *Sula brewsteri*

Formerly known as Brown Booby but split by AOS in 2024. There are nine records of this rare vagrant, all rather recent, seven of which have been accepted by OBRC:

- COBO-2008-02 Cape Arago, Coos County, one adult dead on beach 26 October 2008 (photo by RuN). This bird was collected and sent to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland, Oregon. It was a female, subspecies unknown, and is specimen #NFWFL 5392.

COBO-2009-04	Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird 28 October to 8 December 2009 (JMe, photos by OS, RuN, LoM). This bird was found by Suzette Egger.
COBO-2015-12	36 miles west of Coos County, Coos County, one bird on 21 September 2015 (photo by OS).
COBO-2016-20	One bird found dead at Empire Sewage Treatment Plant, Coos County, 17 September 2016 (details and photos AdH).
COBO-2020-21	One bird found dead on Bandon Beach, Coos County, 4 May 2020 (details and photos DiB).
COBO-2021-24	Bird frequently perched on a navigation marker, north spit BLM boat launch, Coos Bay, Coos County, 24 August- 11 December 2021 (details and photos SBe, TR, and VTh).
COBO-2022-30	Cape Arago State Park, Coos County, 26 December 2022, one bird. Report and photos TR. This bird was initially found and photographed by Magill Weber on 24 December (eBird).

There are two recent records which were not submitted to OBRC: a subadult observed flying south near shore from Cape Arago on 26 October 2019 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6) and another subadult observed nearshore from Table Rock in Bandon on 23 March 2020 (D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6).

A booby sp. was reported flying south near Face Rock in Bandon on 17 September 2025, the report was put here because this is the most likely booby species it may have been (H. Sands, eBird).

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

Rare vagrant to Oregon with only two accepted records, one of which was in Coos County:

RFBO-2019-02	One bird found sick or injured at Bandon Beach, Coos County, 16 November 2019; two days later a specimen was found dead and was collected (report and photos WB). The specimen was donated to the Marine Life Center in Charleston.

There is an additional recent record, one photographed on a sailboat approximately 48 miles WNW of Cape Arago on 20 September 2025 (C. Heniges, eBird).



Figure 35- Red-footed Booby on the beach in Bandon on 16 November 2019. Photo by William Binnewies.

Family PHALACROCORACIDAE

- **Brandt's Cormorant** *Urile penicillatus*

This is a common coastal cormorant that is locally abundant at its breeding colonies. The largest colonies found during surveys in 2003 and 2004 were off Bandon with over 1650 breeding birds at North and Middle Coquille Rocks (Naughton et al. 2007). Also found during the 2003 surveys off Bandon were 496 breeding birds on Cat and Kittens Rock and another 220 breeding birds on Face Rock. In the Coos Bay area, the largest colonies during the 2003 surveys were at Gregory Point on Chief's Island and another unnamed rock which had 704 breeding birds. This species is essentially restricted to salt water, although it sometimes goes to the upper end of Coos Bay.

Numbers drop significantly in winter when this species is the least common cormorant in the county. Fall and winter movements are not clear, although there are nearly 20 records of birds banded as chicks in California in July and August that were recovered in Coos County the same fall, suggesting some northerly movement, perhaps into Puget Sound, where this species increases in number in winter.

- **Pelagic Cormorant** *Urile pelagicus*

These small, slender cormorants are common in summer along the coast and in lower estuaries, with a few birds seen as far as the upper end of Coos Bay. They breed along cliffs and islands and become less common in fall and winter. Offshore cormorants during the winter months are mostly this species, with a few in the coastal estuaries mixed in with the more abundant Double-crested Cormorants.

During surveys in 2003 and 2004, the largest colony (344 birds) was on a cliff in the Seven Devils area, but several sizable colonies were found elsewhere, including 13 sites between Shell Island and Coos Head where 568 breeding birds were counted and all of the rocks offshore at Bandon, where 430 breeding birds were found (Naughton et al. 2007).

The breeding season is extended, with activity commencing in March and continuing through August. Four hundred were still at the colonies off Bandon on 27-28 August 1977, and at least one pair was observed feeding young (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 3(5): 22).

• **Double-crested Cormorant** *Nannopterum auritum*

This is a common to abundant breeding and wintering species throughout the coastal parts of the county, with many birds foraging several miles upriver in the Coos and Coquille valleys and on lakes. This cormorant species is the most likely one to be seen on fresh water in the county.

The largest breeding colonies in the county are along Coos Bay in the Empire and North Bend areas where a total of 844 breeding birds were counted at three different locations during surveys in 2003 (Naughton et al. 2007).

Order PELECANIFORMES

Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Subfamily THRESKIORNITHINAE

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*

Rare visitant with at least 24 records, almost all from mid-May. This species breeds in fresh and saltwater marshes in eastern Oregon, with the greatest numbers at Malheur NWR. Once or twice a decade, overshoot years occur, and significant numbers stray into western Oregon. Most of the Coos records are from May, and all the May records have been found in a narrow window, 11 May through 25 May.

The first county record for which details are available was a flock of 29 on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 May 1987 (L. Thornburgh, B. Griffin; *Am. Birds* 41(3): 479; eBird). Other May records include: up to 100 birds on the Coquille Spit in Bandon on 21 May 2000 (*fide* D. Lauten and K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 196; eBird); 10 birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); 30 birds at the Myrtle Point Marsh on 13 May 2001 (M. Wihler *fide* T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 87; eBird); a single bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); 80 birds at Bandon Marsh NWR on 18 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, S. Brown; *Or. Birds* 27(3): 87; eBird); 18 at New River on 14 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(3): 92; eBird); a dozen birds at Saunders Lake during mid-May of 2007 (K. Johnson, p.c.; eBird); two birds in a flooded field near Broadbent on 20 May 2007 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler* 07(3): 7; eBird); 24 at Bandon Marsh NWR on 15 May 2008 (K. Andersson, *N. Am. Birds* 62(3): 469; eBird); 33 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 16 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 08(4): 5; eBird) with 50-80 at the same site the next day (R. Namitz, J. Sullivan, L. Johnson; *Or. Birds* 34(3): 89; eBird); one near the mouth of China Creek in Bandon on 13 May 2016 (L. Paulson et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird); five at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 14-15 May 2021 (D. & R. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); 26 at

Bandon on 17 May 2021 (D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird) with 13 the same day in Coos Bay (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird) with one in Coquille on 28 May that could have been one of the same birds from the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area (K. Saxton; eBird); three at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 22 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); one at Horsfall Lake on 24 May 2022 (B. Taylor, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and 30 flying east over the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 May 2022 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird). There is a report from 1996 for which details are unavailable.

There are only two summer records: a single bird at the marsh north of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 10 July 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird) and four at Bandon Marsh NWR from 4-6 June 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, K. Saxton; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

Fall records are also rare with three to date, all recent. The first was a dark-eyed juvenile seen at Johnson Mill Pond on 29-30 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird with photos). Because Glossy Ibis juveniles are indistinguishable in early fall from White-faced Ibis, the actual identity of this fall bird was not certain. There are no accepted records of Glossy Ibis in fall in Oregon but that could be because immature birds in fall cannot be IDed with certainty to species. Since any ibis species is rare in the fall on the outer coast and September is the time many vagrant species also occur along the outer coast, this bird was entered on eBird as White-faced/Glossy Ibis. The second and third records were both in August of the same year with birds identified as White-faced Ibis: one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 6 August 2023 (K. Saxton, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird) and seven at the North Jetty in Bandon on 28 August 2023 (RJ Ridley, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

Family PELECANIDAE

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

There are at least 26 records of this rare visitant from inland sites. Most records are from spring and early summer with a few fall records and just two winter records.

Spring and summer records include: eight at Horsfall Beach on 18 April 1982 (A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 36(5): 886; eBird); 14 at Pony Slough on 26 May 1983 (K. Jackson, *Tattler* 7(4): 16; eBird); 12 at New Lake on 2 June 2002 (R. McKenzie fide T. Wahl, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 187; eBird); eight on the east side of Coos Bay on 28 June 2003 (T. Gaskill, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 206; eBird); four up Haynes Inlet on 30 June 2005 (L. Mangan, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 173; eBird); one in upper Coos Bay near Eastside on 9 May 2009 (J. Heaney, *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird); six in upper Coos Bay on 17-18 May 2009 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird); five seen near Fossil Point in Empire on 5 May 2010 (T. Gaskill, G. Tinker; *Tattler* 10(2): 5; eBird) with one in Coos Bay from 6-9 May 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz et al.; eBird) and the same or possibly a different bird at Pony Slough on 27 May 2010 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); one in North Bend from 7-17 May 2015 (P. O'Neal et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); two in Coquille on 8-11 May 2017 (K. Saxton et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); one in Coos Bay from 30 June through at least 2 July 2021 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); two off Millicoma Marsh on 23 July 2021 (D. Cook, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); 16-19 in Coos Bay on 6-7 June 2023 (E. Clough, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds*

50(1): 43; eBird); three off the north end of Millicoma Marsh on 25 April 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and nine off Horsfall Beach on 23 April 2025 (N. Winner, eBird).

Fall records include: 65 over Charleston on 3 October 2001 (R. Burrows, eBird); 7-10 in the bay north of Millicoma Marsh from 31 July 2002 through 2 September 2002 (D. Albright, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 187; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 41; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 31 July 2008 through at least 3 August 2008 (K. Andersson et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 607; eBird); a single bird seen headed up Coos Bay near the airport on 8 November 2017 (A. Hoefs, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); one in Bandon on 10-11 August 2022 (G. Shaffer, et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); an apparently different bird in Coos Bay off the north end of Millicoma Marsh on 10-11 August 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and a very long staying juvenile at Johnson Mill Pond from 21 August- 4 November 2022 (Karen Saxton et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

The two winter records were also the earliest records from the county: six at North Bend on 1 February 1934 (H. Reiher, unpublished notes; eBird) and an unknown number of birds at North Bend on 18 January 1932.



Figure 36- American White Pelican at Bandon Marsh NWR on 2 August 2008. Photo compliments of Knute Andersson.

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

Common to abundant from late spring through fall, irregular in winter. These birds appear as northbound post-breeding visitants historically in late April and May, with most birds moving north in early summer. In recent years, a few birds have sometimes lingered into January and even February. In addition, the first northbound birds can now be seen as early as mid- to late March. Some years scores of birds can be seen moving along the coast and fishing in the estuaries

throughout the summer. Many birds roost on Gregory Point north of Sunset Bay.

Numbers of this species have increased dramatically in the last couple of decades and the species was removed from the Endangered Species List in November of 2009. Peak numbers in the 1990s included: 108 seen off the North Spit of Coos Bay north to the Tenmile Creek outfall 10 June 1997; 100 at New River 11 September 1997; and 82 at Coos Bay on 19 November 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.). By the early 2000s recovery efforts were proving quite successful and flocks numbering in the hundreds were common from July through October. Peak numbers in the early 2000s included: 865 off the north jetty of Coos Bay on 15 October 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 26; eBird); 610 in Coos Bay on 20 November 2001 (S. Moldinow, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 33); 1,300 in the Gregory Point/Cape Arago area in mid-July of 2004 (R. Lowe, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180; eBird); an amazing 2,717 on the 14 December 2008 Coos Bay CBC (*Or. Birds* 35: 12; eBird); and around 3,000 in Bandon on 30 November 2009 (K. Andersson, *Tattler* 09(5): 7; eBird) with 500 to 700 still around in Bandon on 11 January 2010 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird). After 2010, the remarkably high numbers dropped down to more "normal" levels with high counts mostly in the lower hundreds and birds not lingering past December as often and usually only in very small numbers. A recent high count was 500 at the south jetty in Bandon on 29 September 2023 (T. Jeske, A. Contreras, eBird).

Prior to the early 2000s, there was a significant southbound movement of these birds in late November, with most birds gone by early December and only rarely a few lingering around for CBC season. In recent years, the migration pattern has changed with birds lingering throughout December with a few into January and even February. Late winter records include: one from 20 January 1933 (Hilda Reiher's unpublished notes); birds seen through February in early 1998 (*Or. Birds* 24(3): 96); a single bird lingering in the Charleston area through February of 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(2): 60; eBird); three birds at Shore Acres on 21 February 2009 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); scores of birds present through early March of 2010 (multiple observers; eBird); three birds off Cape Arago on 5 February 2012 (L. Mountainspring, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird) and four there on 15 February (M. Bressler; eBird); one lingering in Empire and three at Bastendorff Beach on 7 February 2015 (R. Namitz, eBird) with singles off Cape Arago as late as 1 March (D. Overacker, J. Karlson; eBird); one still in Empire on 4 February 2017 (P. Otley, eBird); one off Sunset Bay on 27 February 2022 (A. Kindle; eBird); and one lingering in the Bandon through 4 February 2023 (N. Trimble, eBird) with a single in Charleston on the same day (K. McCurry, eBird).

An immature banded as a young bird in April 1982 at West Anacapa Island, California was found dead at Horsfall Beach on 19 December 1982 (A. McGie, p.c.).

Family ARDEIDAE

Subfamily BOTARINAE

• **American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus*

Fairly common but local breeders in the county, most often reported from the Coquille Valley in marshes at Myrtle Point and along Hwy 42N and Hwy 42S, at Millicoma Marsh, and at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Rare to uncommon in

winter in lowland marshes, willow swamps, and similar locales dominated by dense emergent vegetation. During recent winters it has been most frequently located at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site and Myrtle Point Marsh but is often missed on local CBCs owing to its secretive nature. Spring migrants are noticeable by April and fall migrants are evident throughout September into early October.

Subfamily ARDEINAE

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Uncommon to rare migrant and a fall visitant although it was previously a very local winter visitant. These visitants may well have been dispersing northward from breeding colonies in Del Norte County, California. The status of these visitants has changed quite a bit in the past few decades. The first record in the county was on 12 December 1976 in Coos Bay (B. Fawver, A. Contreras; *Am. Birds* 31(3): 364; eBird) with small numbers becoming regular in winter in the late 1970s through 2013. Since 2014, this species has not overwintered (except once in 2023) and has become an irregular visitant not reported every year. When birds are found, they have been singles usually present for a short period of time and not staying for extended periods (e.g. all winter) as they once did.

From 1976 through 2013 this species overwintered in Coos Bay, primarily in the Empire area, with up to 11 overwintering in 1988 (eBird). This wintering flock began to get smaller each year and by 2007 there was only a single bird left. This single bird returned every winter up through 2013. During the late 1970s up into the early 2000s, there were records for every month of the year with arrivals noted as early as 25 June 2007 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(4): 151; eBird) and one bird staying as late as 22 May 1988 in Bandon (L. Thornburg, *Or. Birds* 15(1): 41; eBird). Four birds spent the summer on Coos Bay in 1983 (J. Gilligan, *Or. Birds* 9(3): 95; eBird) but no evidence of breeding was found.

Although the wintering birds disappeared from the Empire area of Coos Bay after 2013, there has been one other almost regular location for single late summer and fall visitants, Bandon. Most of the Bandon records are from Bandon Marsh NWR and Redmon Pond and vicinity along the south jetty road, the latter being the location most often frequented by visitants. Since 2007 there have been the following records from Bandon with only a single spring and no winter records: one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 25 August 2007 (M. Boothroyd et al.; OBOL; eBird); a single in Bandon from 1 August through at least 5 September 2008 (R. Namitz et al.; OBOL; eBird); one in Bandon from 23 August- 12 September 2009 (H. Schubothé et al.; OBOL; eBird); one at Redmon Pond from 22 August 2010 through the end of September 2010 (H. Schubothé et al.; OBOL; eBird); another single in Bandon from 6 July- 1 October 2011 (R. Robb et al.; OBOL; eBird); one from 1 August through at least 30 September 2012 (H. Schubothé et al.; OBOL; eBird); a single at Redmon Pond from 22-28 September 2013 (S. Dimock et al.; OBOL; eBird); one at Redmon pond on 12 August 2019 (R. Robb, eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR from 11-18 October 2020 (R. & D. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); one at Redmon Pond in Bandon from 11-25 April 2021 (N. & K. Shorts et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); and two at Redmon Pond on 19 August 2024 (K. Saxton, eBird).

Records from other locations since 2015 are rather sparse and include: one east of Bandon on 3 August 2015 (M. Kinberg, OBOL; eBird); a single along New River on 8 October 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one

near Riverton from 14-17 April 2020 (D. & R. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); one in Charleston on 28 March 2021 (D. Edge, eBird); the first overwintering bird in a decade in Empire from 12 January- 4 February 2023 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43 incorrectly reported only through 3 February 2023; eBird); two at Pony Slough on 2-3 September 2024 with perhaps one of the same birds still there on 26 November 2024 (D. Hargreaves et al.; eBird); one in the lower bay across from the Empire boat ramp on 15 December 2024 that could be one of the birds seen earlier in the fall at Pony Slough (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); perhaps a different bird in the Haynes Inlet/Kentuck Slough area from 30 Dec 2024 through at least 15 February 2025 (A. & G. Beerman, D. Pettey; eBird); two reported off Fossil Point in Empire on 4 April 2025 (K. Saxton, eBird); and one near Coquille from 19 April-16 May 2025 (K. Saxton, eBird).

? Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Uncommon and local wintering species. They appear at their winter roost sites as early as August and generally leave for breeding areas in April and May. There are several mid-June and July records suggesting a few could breed locally, but breeding has never been verified. If they do breed, they do so in small numbers and are very secretive, unlike the fairly obvious breeders in wetland marshes in Eastern Oregon.

Winter roosts are known from Coos Bay/North Bend, Coquille, and formerly from Myrtle Point. Birds had been seen at their former winter roost at Marshfield High School as early as 31 August 2005 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 28; eBird). The large roost trees have since been cut down at Marshfield High School, but they continue to roost in the downtown Coos Bay area at and near the Post Office. They also likely still roost in North Bend although roost sites change from time to time with no sites documented in recent years. This species was normally found on the Coos Bay CBC as long as known roost sites had not changed from year to year. In 2023 a roost site was found in Coquille, the first one discovered there at least since the Coquille Valley CBC was begun in 1991 (K. Saxton et al; eBird). The long-time Myrtle Point roost tree was cut down in the early 2000s, but birds have still been reported at the marsh in recent winters (winter 2019-2020, D. & R. Henise, eBird) so they are likely still roosting somewhere in Myrtle Point.

The first fall migrants generally appear in August, with single juvies noted as early as 1 August 2015 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). This does not include several July records which could represent potential breeders or very early fall migrants.

Potential breeding season records in June and early to mid-July include: two birds seen flying overhead in the Barview area of Coos Bay on 26 June 1994 (H. Herlyn, O. Harper; eBird); one seen flying over Hwy 101 one mile south of Coos Bay on 5 June 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); one seen at dawn flying over the Bandon area on 6 June 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(1): 144; eBird); one seen flying over Bandon at dawn on 1 June 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird); a pair of birds seen at the marsh north of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 June 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird); an adult seen in Coos Bay on 3 July 2000 (S. Townsend, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 219; eBird); an adult seen flying over Hwy 42 in Coquille three different days from about 12-19 June 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 6(4): 7; eBird); one or more birds heard calling pre-

dawn in North Bend on 27 June 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an immature seen flying into the large conifers above Hwy 101 across from the Mill Casino in North Bend on 6 July 2008 (J. Metzler, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 607; eBird); two adults at Bandon SP from 6-22 July 2011 (K. Saylor, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird); one adult observed flying over Mingus Park Pond in Coos Bay at dawn on 19 July 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird); an adult observed flying over Hwy 42 near the Roseburg Mill Pond in Coquille on 21 July 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33 with an incorrect date of 23 July; eBird); an adult photographed at a small pond at the south end of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 15 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an adult photographed at Millicoma Marsh on 14 June 2025 (D. Hargreaves, eBird); and one seen flying west over Hwy 101 on 15 July 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

• **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*

Breeds locally near slow-moving water. Although nests of this uncommon, somewhat secretive species are not often found, young birds are reported from time to time. It is sometimes seen feeding on tidal flats during the breeding season.

Most birds depart in winter but a few remain. These wintering birds are very infrequently encountered. Locating one on a local CBC has always been considered a "good" find. The Coos Bay CBC only found single birds about every third year while the Coquille Valley CBC has reported singles about every other year. Perhaps the most regular location in winter in recent years has been Myrtle Point Marsh, but even there, reports have been sparse.

There is a noticeable influx of migrants in spring in mid-April. In the fall, migrants are evident in August and September.

• **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Common but local breeder around Coos Bay and a common fall through spring resident in pasturelands and wet marshy lowlands throughout the county.

Egrets have bred on the North Spit of Coos Bay, with two nests in 1988 and two in 1989. See Rainboth (1990) for details of this species first breeding in the county (and in western Oregon). They also bred in 1995 and 1996 in the Eastside Great Blue Heron colony; a nesting attempt in 1997 was unsuccessful, apparently owing to Bald Eagle predation (B. Fawver, p.c.). From 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 24(4): 130) through 2001, they bred in the remnant old-growth forest just north of Simpson Park with 25-30 pairs in 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 34; eBird). A large windstorm blew many of these trees down during February of 2002 and the colony moved onto the North Spit of Coos Bay in 2003 to a protected area of old-growth forest on the Oregon Dune National Recreation Area lands adjacent to Transpacific Lane (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 147; eBird). Since 2004, breeding birds have been more dispersed and have been noted throughout the bay, probably using various Great Blue Heron rookeries as well as establishing their own breeding colonies. In 2007 and 2008, there were approximately 65 nests amongst a lesser number of Great Blue Heron nests at the Catching Slough rookery (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* (33)3: 92). Bald Eagle predation caused this rookery to be abandoned sometime after 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). From at least 2022-2025, a rookery has been present in an alder stand just east of the Charleston bridge with at least 45 nests observed on 6 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), upwards of 80 nests with young on 24 May 2024 (T. Rodenkirk,

eBird), and about 60 nests with young on 29 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

This species is present all year in the Coos Bay/North Bend area but is seen in the greatest numbers during the breeding season in spring and summer. 132 were seen feeding on the mudflats adjacent to the Simpson Park nesting area on 2 August 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 27; eBird) with 148 in the same area on 13 May 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 86; eBird). 245 birds, including recently fledged young, were counted in the Charleston rookery on 24 May 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

As winter rains begin, birds tend to concentrate in the flooded Coquille Valley, although many remain around Coos Bay and a few may appear elsewhere in the county where water or marshy or muddy habitats allow feeding. In some years, numbers can still be high in early April, such as the 106 birds found in the Coquille Valley 1 April 1989 (D. Fix, S. Heinl, S. Gordy; *Or. Birds* 15(4): 299; eBird). In 2011 high numbers persisted in the Coquille Valley into June (30+ birds- T. Rodenkirk, eBird), possible evidence that this species is now breeding somewhere close to Winter Lake (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Subsequent observations of multiple birds in the Coquille Valley in June since 2011 further suggest that there is likely a breeding population in the Coquille area at least some years (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

The first published record for the county was from 12 November 1961, at which time the species was considered highly unusual (J. Olson, *Am. Birds* 16(1): 66). However, Hilda Reiher noted one on North Slough at Coos Bay on 3 January 1934 (eBird) and six other times through 1945 (unpublished notes). Numbers slowly increased until, by the early 1970s, this species was regular in some numbers. The first published numbers similar to those present today were by Hilda Reiher, who noted 140 birds on Coos Bay in October 1975 (*Am. Birds* 30(1): 113; eBird).

Numbers have generally increased over the past several decades and this species has begun breeding further north along the coast with nesting noted at Bolon Island near Reedsport, Douglas County beginning in 2016.

Western Cattle-Egret *Ardea ibis*

Formerly a rare, irregular fall and winter visitant but there have been no records since 2001.

The first county record was photographed by Bob Mullen 10-12 December 1970 (*Am. Birds* 25(3): 616; Evanich 1992; eBird). Another appeared in late fall 1972. This species became somewhat regular after that and was reported most years in the latter half of the 1970s through the early 1990s, typically arriving in early to mid-November, with some remaining into winter. By the latter half of the 1990s and early 2000s, it had become much less regular, with single birds present during the winters of 1999, 2000, and 2001. The population then further contracted and now this has become a rare species in Oregon with only one or two reported most years and none in Coos County since December of 2001. The most recent sighting close to Coos County was one on ranchlands in the Floras Lake area of Curry County in November of 2014 (eBird records). The largest number reported from the county was 31 near Lakeside on 2 December 1979 (J. McDowell, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 50; eBird).

Although this species was usually found in the open pastures of the Coquille Valley and the lower Coos River, birds appeared on the Kentucky Golf Course, along Hwy 101, up Larson Slough, and in other

small grassy areas. Birds were occasionally reported on the outer coast, but they did not remain there for extended periods. One of the more unusual reports was a bird that landed on a research vessel 109 nm west northwest of Cape Arago, Curry County (closest land being Cape Blanco, see the section on Pelagic Birding) on 21 October 2005 (P. Pyle *fide* G. Gillson; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 28). This bird was actually in Curry County and has been duly noted on eBird.

Historically, when birds appeared in the county, they would invariably find cattle or sheep to attend. Most observers think that few birds survive the winter in the northwest, and their almost complete disappearance from western Oregon in the past decade, other than a handful of singles present for very short periods, seem to validate this assumption.

Singles are still regular in winter in coastal California in very small numbers as far north as Arcata and irregularly to Del Norte County. In years when this species winters in these locations it is always possible a bird could stray north to Oregon but there have only been two recent records in Curry County: one on 20 September 2015 at Crissey Field State Recreation Site just south of Brookings (D. Munson, eBird) and one in the Pistol River lowlands on 2 May 2016 (T. Hook, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 28 October 1983 at Bandon (M. & M. Denny; *Or. Birds* 9(1): 5; eBird).

Latest Date: 5 April 1979 in the Coquille Valley (E.G. White-Swift, *Or. Birds* 5(2): 18; eBird).

• **Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias*

Locally common breeder in colonies in trees. Well-known colonies have been located on the North Spit of Coos Bay (probably still present), on South Slough (J. Hodder, p.c.), in Catching Slough near Eastside (no longer active), and in the Beaver Hill area (B. Fawver and J. Thomas, p.c.; no recent records). Found throughout the county feeding in estuaries, rivers, lakes, small streams, and even on rocks in the ocean.

Numbers increase in winter with the arrival of birds from more northerly or inland breeding sites. Locally common in winter, especially along Coos Bay.

There is an unusual record of an immature seen 25nm off Hauser from a cruise ship on 28 September 2015 (M. & B. Toochin, p.c.; eBird).

Order CATHARTIFORMES

Family CATHARTIDAE

• **Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura*

Common throughout the county from early spring through fall, birds can be seen soaring overhead almost anywhere except over the open ocean. Historically, winter records were few and rare. In recent years, a few birds have begun to overwinter making this species visible year-round in the Coquille Valley with a few in the Catching Slough area of Coos Bay some winters. Migrants are regular through October on the outer coast but become rare by November and December with the first northbound outriders appearing on the outer coast by early to mid-January. December records prior to 2011 include four Coos Bay CBC records (two in recent years) and one Coquille Valley CBC record (also recent).

The first overwintering record of this species occurred during the winter of 2011/2012. Several birds were present throughout December and January at or near the Coos River pasturelands (*Or. Birds* 38(1): 13). These records include: four in the Catching Slough pastures on the 18 December Coos Bay CBC (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, J. Withgott, S. Masta; eBird); two close to the same area a bit further east along the Coos River on 29 December (B. Taylor, p.c.; eBird); one in Coos Bay on 6 January (H. Rodenkirk, p.c.; eBird); and one the next day near Kentuck Inlet (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird). In 2012, up to four birds were in the same Catching Slough pasture area throughout December and into January for the second year of overwintering birds (B. Fields, R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird). No birds were seen overwintering in the Catching Slough pastures during the winter of 2013/2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 7). In 2014 two birds were seen on 18 December (B. Fields, p.c.; eBird) and again on 29 December (L. Mangan, p.c.; eBird) and were likely overwintering again. No birds overwintered during 2015/2016 (*Or. Birds* 42(1): 15). Two birds were found on the 18 December 2016 Coos Bay CBC in the same area and were likely overwintering again (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; eBird). The Coos Bay CBC was skipped in 2017 and the last year was 2018 so there has not been a good winter count in the Catching Slough Pasture area in recent years. However, there are December eBird records from 2020 and 2023 so it is possible that a few birds are still occasionally overwintering in this area.

Birds began overwintering regularly and in greater numbers in the Coquille Valley in 2012. In December of 2012 up to six birds were present throughout December with 11 found on the 5 January 2013 Coquille Valley CBC (K. Saxton, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 8; eBird). In 2013, up to seven birds were seen throughout December in the Coquille Valley, for the second consecutive overwintering record in this location (K. Saxton, T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird). In 2014 there were at least nine birds present near Norway on 7 December with 10 birds seen on 19 December (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) for the third straight year of overwintering (*Or. Birds* 41(1): 7). Several birds were observed during December of 2015 and early January of 2016 and the species overwintered once again (multiple observers, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird). During the winter of 2016/2017, several birds overwintered again with two birds in the Norway area on 24 December and five in the same area on 27 December with 27 (seen by the author at one time rising up out of the valley) on the 1 January 2017 Coquille Valley CBC (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 13; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird). Recent Coquille Valley CBC records probably give a good idea of the number of overwintering individuals in the Coquille Valley although with migrants arriving now by the beginning of January, counts late in the CBC period in early January may include a few early migrants as well as overwintering birds. Recent Coquille Valley CBC numbers include: five on 30 December 2017 count, five again on the 5 January 2019 count, 14 on the 4 January 2020 count, 14 again on the 2 January 2021 count, 15 on the 1 January 2022 count, 27 on the 1 January 2023 count, 36 on the 1 January 2024 count, and 16 on the 1 January 2025 count (CBC records).

Earliest Arrival: probably in early to mid-January although overwintering birds from the Coquille Valley could wander over towards the coast making an actual date hard to determine. The main northbound migration does not become noticeable on the outer coast until about mid- to late February.

Latest Date: overwintering birds in the Coquille Valley and the Coos River Pastures make this difficult to ascertain further inland. Along the outer coast most birds have migrated through by the end of October and are only rarely reported in November and December.

Order ACCIPITRIFORMES

Family PANDIONIDAE

• **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Fairly common and highly visible breeder, uncommon winterer in Coos Bay and Bandon, and rare wintering species elsewhere in the coastal portion of the county although they appear to be increasing in number in recent winters (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Breeds locally, primarily in valleys and lowland but also along larger creeks and rivers where tall trees and snags near water are available. The first breeders generally return in early March, with a significant movement in early to mid-April. An unusually early bird was seen in Powers on 10 February 2004 (D. Shea, p.c.; eBird).

In September and early October numbers increase somewhat as migrants pass down the coast, stopping to fish in estuaries. Most are gone by the end of October.

Numbers of this species have increased in the past 40 years, probably due to protection efforts and the ban on use of DDT in the United States in 1972. This species was not found on the Coos Bay CBC its first 25 years and was first detected on one in 1997. Since that year, that have been found every year in the Coos Bay area during winter with likely three or four birds some winters now (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). A single bird was first found on the Coquille Valley CBC in Bandon in 2012 and one to two have been regular on the count since 2016. Single birds have been reported along New River and in the Tenmile Creek estuary area also so they may be overwintering in these locations some winters now also.

Prior to 1997, this species was rarely seen during the winter months. Unusual pre-1997 mid-winter records include: a bird on the North Spit at Coos Bay 18 January 1983 (R. Lawrence, *Am. Birds* 37(3): 331; eBird); another at Eel Lake 28 December 1983 (R. Bender, *Tattler* 8(1): 10; eBird); and one in Coos Bay on 4 February 1990 (L. Thornburg, *Or. Birds* 16(3): 245; eBird).

The highest count on record is 52 birds tallied on Tenmile Lakes on 21 July 1983 (B. Hines, *Tattler* 7(5): 9; eBird).

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

Subfamily ELANINAE

• **White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus*

This species is a relatively recent addition to the county's avifauna, first appearing in the early 1970s. Rare to uncommon and local in summer, uncommon and more widespread from fall through spring. The Coquille Valley is this species "stronghold" in Oregon where birds are present year-round although they are least common during the late spring and early summer breeding season.

This species is a notoriously secretive breeder. It breeds locally in the Coquille Valley with the primary evidence of breeding consisting of displaying birds in May and June and family groups with recently fledged young birds in July and August. Actual nest sites are well camouflaged in forested areas and are hardly ever observed. Adults

are infrequently reported during the nesting season, the only evidence of breeding normally being recently fledged young suddenly present in late July and August often in company of an adult. There are several records of likely breeding attempts: two adults with four young birds in the Coquille Valley on 14 August 1981 (C. Watson, D. Watson, *Or. Birds* 7(3): 118); a pair displaying along South Slough NERR south of Charleston 11-14 May 1997 (D. Lauten and K. Castelein; *Am. Birds* 51(4): 518); an adult with a recently fledged juvenile on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 July 2004 in the same area where two adults had been seen earlier in the spring (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(4): 180); nesting birds near the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR in 2010 and 2011 (D. Ledig, p.c.); and two adults with four recently fledged young at the 5-mile marker along Hwy 42S on 25 July 2020 (D. & R. Henise, eBird).

The principal influx of birds to the county occurs in fall. A few birds spend the summer and breed but more begin appearing by late summer. By the end of September, the species is fairly common in most open lowland areas of the county, especially the Coquille Valley, coastal spits and plains, the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR, and the marshes and pastures around Coos Bay.

High counts include eight in the Catching Slough pastures on 29 October 2005 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 28; eBird) and the same number at the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR on 10 October 2025 (N. Clements, eBird).

Subfamily ACCIPITRINAE

• **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

This species is rare breeder and year-round resident to the mountainous southeastern and southwestern portions of the county, primarily in the Bethel Mountain and Powers areas. In addition, a pair bred on Coos Bay BLM lands near Gravelford in 1994 (J. Heaney, p.c.).

Arguably one of the most misidentified birds in Oregon, immature Bald Eagles have fooled many less experienced observers into calling them Golden Eagles. Immature Bald Eagles are fairly common in coastal Coos County also, where Golden Eagles are particularly rare. Golden Eagles reported anywhere in the county, but particularly on the outer coast, should be verified with photos and/or detailed descriptions that eliminate the much more likely immature Bald Eagle.

Records prior to 1990 include: birds on 2 October 1969 (J. Crowell, *Am. Birds* 24(1): 84); two immatures over Palouse Ridge near Haynes Inlet 8 October 1979 (J. England, *Tattler* 3(4): 6); at Powers on 15 May 1982 (A. McGie, *Tattler* 6(3): 3) and 12 May 1984 (A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 10(3): 90); two near Powers in fall, 1986 (B. Griffin, L. Thornburgh; *Tattler* 9(6): 14); 20 April 1987 (G. Keller, *Tattler* 10(1): 16); and two addition records from the Powers area on 13 October 1987 (J. Thomas, B. Fawver; *Or. Birds* 14(3): 287) and 6 May 1989 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 15(4): 301).

Single birds have been seen in the lower Coquille Valley, an unusual occurrence so far west, on the following dates: 3 January 1998 (fide A. Contreras, *Or. Birds* 24(3): 98); 2 January 2001 (J. and C. Rogers, Clint Brummit, et al.; Coquille Valley CBC records); and on 29 December 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL). In addition, singles, likely from the nearby Bethel Mountain area, have been seen on several occasions as far west as the ranch pastures in the New Lake/New River area in the

southwestern corner of the county (J. Heaney, R. McKenzie, T. Rodenkirk; p.c.).

• **Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonius*

Uncommon to fairly common resident. Present year-round and breeds locally in marshy and dense grassy areas. Courtship displays on the North Spit of Coos Bay suggest breeding in that area (A. McGie, p.c.) as did the presence of a pair in the same area on 9 July 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 117) and again during several subsequent years up through 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). Numbers increase in winter as migrants move in.

• **Sharp-shinned Hawk** *Accipiter striatus*

Uncommon, breeds locally, mainly in the inland part of the county. Nests are difficult to locate; in recent years breeding was confirmed in Coos Bay in the forested area at Mingus Park from 1999-2001 (J. Metzler, p.c.).

They are sparse in lowland and urban areas in summer, with birds moving back into the lowlands during fall and staying for the winter, living on small birds and sometimes raiding feeders.

• **Cooper's Hawk** *Astur cooperii*

Uncommon, breeds locally (few reports), mainly in the inland part of the county. Generally absent from the open lowlands in summer but uncommon throughout the county in winter.

American Goshawks are very rare in Western Oregon particularly along the coast. When well documented reports do occur, it is almost always during the spring migration period from mid-March through mid-May or in fall in September and October. Out of season reports of American Goshawks are most likely this species.

◦ **American Goshawk** *Astur atricapillus*

Rare migrant or visitant in the county and a possible very rare breeder. Multiple records from the mountainous inland part of the county suggest that it may regularly migrate through the area. The absence of reports from the northern part of the county may reflect the denser structure of the Coast Range forest vs. that of the Klamath Mountain region; see DeStefano and McCloskey (1997) for a discussion of this issue in the central Coast Range. Observers should document any sighting with photos and/or a detailed description eliminating the much more likely Cooper's Hawk- the two are easily confused by inexperienced observers. Birds seen in summer or winter are particularly suspect as breeders and overwintering birds have yet to be well documented and/or are very rare.

Spring records include: one near Randolph on 9 March 1981 (E. White-Swift, J. Hobson; *Tattler*5(1): 5); one at China Flat nine miles south of Powers on 22 May 1982 (B. Griffin et al.; *Tattler*6(3): 3); one near Belloni Boys' Ranch south of Coos Bay on 10 March 1984 (B. Griffin, L. Thornburgh; *Tattler*8(2): 6; eBird); one near Coos Bay on 20 April 1985 (G. Dawson, *Or. Birds* 11(4): 174); one at Eden Valley on 10 May 1986 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*10(1): 16; eBird); one on Sandy Creek north of Remote on 4 April 1996 (T. Rodenkirk, S. Hootman; eBird); one adult male seen entering a forested area in Baker Creek near Powers on 26 June 1998- this bird was heard calling from the same stand on other dates that year and may have been attempting to breed (J. Heaney, p.c.; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 13 April 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Simpson Park in North Bend on 7 April 2002 (T. Rodenkirk,

eBird); one in the Blossom Gulch area of Coos Bay on 1 May 2011 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 13; eBird); one near Lampa Lane off Hwy 42S on 8 March 2009 (M. Schnoes, *Or. Birds* 35: 14; *Tattler*09(2): 6); an adult at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on about 28 March 2023 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird); and a probable adult male in the Elliot SF on 18 May 2023 (C. Ruge, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

Fall and winter records include: one reported near Coos Bay in winter, 1974 (*Am. Birds* 28(3): 680); at the S. Fork Coquille River falls on 20 September 1978 (N. Brown, S. Thurman; *Tattler*2(3): 12); at Coos Head on 13 August 1982 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*6(4): 12; eBird); along Hwy 101 near Saunders Lake on 10 October 1986 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*10(2): 14; eBird); at Pony Creek in North Bend on 30 November 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler*February 1989; eBird); near Norway on the 26 December 1994 Coquille Valley CBC (A. Hewetson et al.; eBird); one in the Eastside section of Coos Bay on 14 November 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 7; eBird); one on 24 September 2017 along the Coos Bay Wagon Road (R. Crofton, W. Harmon; eBird); one reported on the 5 January 2019 Coquille Valley CBC (J. Bernt, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6); an adult at New River on 8 September 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); an adult at Lower Fourmile Creek on 31 October 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); an immature flying around the southeast side of Mt. Bolivar on 7 October 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and an adult at the same location on 22 September 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

• **Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Uncommon but regular breeder locally near water. This species has become much more common in the county in the last 30 years and was removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007. They are fairly common in the Charleston, Empire, and East Bay areas of Coos Bay year-round and are common in the Coquille Valley in the wintertime when multiple eagles can often be observed perched next to and cruising around Winter Lake. Eighteen breeding areas had been documented in the county up through 2007. In that same year, 12 Coos County breeding areas were occupied by breeding pairs and nine successfully fledged young. There is no new nesting data for the county but it appears that the species continues to be doing well.

• **Red-shouldered Hawk** *Buteo lineatus*

Fairly common winter resident, uncommon breeder. Adult birds found in the county have the typical brick-red underpart coloration of the California subspecies.

The first county record was fairly recent, 30 December 1979 at Pony Slough (A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 34(3): 300; eBird). This was followed by one on 9 September 1981 at Bandon (A. Contreras, S. Heinl, D. Rogers; *Or. Birds* 7(3): 118; eBird). The third record was on 4 September 1982 at Mettman Creek on the east side of Coos Bay (D. Varoujean, *Or. Birds* 8(4): 143; eBird). There were many additional records in late 1982 and in 1983. The species was thought to be breeding in the Coquille Valley by 1984 and it was confirmed breeding at Sumner on 4 July 1990 (G. Keller, *Or. Birds* 17(1): 27; eBird). It now breeds regularly in the Coquille Valley and along the southern sloughs of the Coos River drainage locally in the lowlands on the east side of the county. An apparent family group was noted at South Slough NERR near Charleston in summer, 1997 (D. Lauten and K. Castelein; OBOL). A pair has bred each year near the headquarters of Bandon Marsh NWR since 2009 (D. Ledig, p.c.).

Winter numbers in the Coquille Valley have increased dramatically, with the 62 birds on the January 2009 Coquille Valley CBC an all-time Oregon CBC record. By the mid-1990s it had become regular in fall and winter around Coos Bay and continues to increase with the highest Coos Bay CBC total of 15 on the 16 December 2012 CBC.

This species has successfully expanded its breeding area throughout western Oregon in the last couple decades. It now breeds north to Clatsop County along the coast and as far north as Polk and Benton Counties in the Willamette Valley, with Coos County representing a major population center.

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*

Vagrant. There is a single record by an experienced observer that was never submitted to OBRC, one seen flying over the Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 8 May 2009 (T. Wahl, *Or. Birds* 35: 14; *N. Am. Birds* 63(3): 493; eBird).

This species was subsequently removed from the OBRC review list and the sighting has since been added to eBird.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

There are only three records of this rare visitant from east of the Cascades. The first was a bird reported at the Myrtle Point cemetery on 24 October 1993 (S. Wilson, *Tattler* January 1994). Subsequent records include: a light morph flying north just above the treetops along a ridgeline at New River on 3 May 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(3): 127; eBird) and another light morph observed headed north at Cape Arago on 11 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird).

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*

Vagrant with a single accepted Oregon record. A possible Zone-tailed was well seen and described along the beach at New River on 22 August 2025 but no photograph was obtained (D. Lauten, OBOL). A report has been submitted to OBRC.

• **Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*

This species is a common resident of open country and openings in forests and wooded areas. The breeding population is augmented in winter by migrants, and open areas such as the Coos River pastures and the Coquille Valley support many birds.

This is the only resident buteo in the forested Coast Range so large hawks observed there are invariably this species or Cooper's Hawk.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*

This species is rare to uncommon as a late fall migrant and occasionally can be found overwintering, with numbers varying from year to year. In some years it is uncommon but highly visible during migration in most of the open habitats in the county, but in most years only a few birds reach the county and only a single bird or two are reported. It does not overwinter every year, but occasionally a bird or two can be found in the Coquille Valley, in the open pasture country on the east side of Coos Bay, or up Bethel Mountain Road in the southwest corner of the county. The main fall migration period is from late October through November (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Earliest Arrival: 14 October 2006 at Bandon Marsh NWR (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler*06(5): 6; eBird) and 14 October 2018 at the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. & H. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird).

Latest Date: 27 April 1986 (*Tattler*10(1): 16); this is an unusually late date and perhaps in error; most overwintering birds are gone by early March with birds rarely reported after mid-March.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*

Vagrant. This species is a regular breeder east of the Cascades with birds wintering as close as Del Norte County, California so it is a surprise that there is only a single record to date, one observed at New River on 14 November 2006 (J. Heaney, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 23; eBird).

Order STRIGIFORMES

Family TYTONIDAE

• **American Barn Owl** *Tyto furcata*

This is an uncommon resident found mainly in open areas where extensive pastureland is available for hunting mice. In addition to using barns, in the early 2000s birds were found roosting in buildings at the North Bend airport.

The Coquille Valley supports several pair of these birds and they can also be found in Lower Kentuck and Catching Slough pastures along East Bay Drive and in the nearby Millicoma Marsh area.

Migrants have been detected after dark during October by their loud screech call in residential Coos Bay on several occasions in recent years (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Family STRIGIDAE

• **Western Screech-Owl** *Megascops kennicottii*

This is an uncommon resident species throughout the county. It is most common along the fringes of lowland pastures where such habitat abuts stands of sizable deciduous trees or mixed forest. The sloughs east and south of Coos Bay, the edges of the Coquille Valley, the Twomile Creek pastures south of Bandon, and similar habitat are where these birds are most often found. However, they also occur in city parks with large trees and potentially almost anywhere that wooded areas have openings supporting rodents. Birds were found using old apple trees near Dora in 1985 (P. Sullivan, p.c.).

As with other local owl species, these birds are easiest to locate during the breeding season when they are most vocal from approximately mid-March through mid-May.

In recent years numbers have dropped off on local CBCs while Barred Owl numbers have increased; it is suspected by some observers that Barred Owls may be preying on this species and the cause of the apparent decrease in numbers (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.; Acker 2012).

• **Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus*

Uncommon resident. Although it is uncommon, it still may be the most widely reported owl species in the county, hooting from hillsides or dense stands of older trees in towns. It occurs in almost any habitat but is least often encountered in large tracts of contiguous forest.

This species has proven to be difficult to locate on local CBCs and are normally found only in low numbers. Interestingly, in the

Willamette Valley during the CBC season, they reportedly are a relatively easy species to find and often found in high numbers.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*

This rare arctic visitant occurs in the county in winter mainly during invasion years, which have occurred about once a decade in the last 50 years. Birds are reported primarily from the open coast, especially along grassy sand spits. Invasion years are more common further north along the coast with Coos County not seeing any birds during some years when multiple birds are reported further north.

There are at least 14 records. The first was by Hilda Reiher, whose unpublished notes report a bird 2 February 1932 at a farm near Shutter's Landing, South Tenmile Lake (eBird). Subsequent reports include: one at the tip of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 December 1973 (A. McGie, p.c.; eBird); at the Coquille Spit on 23 December 1973 (S. Wilson, p.c.; eBird); at Myrtle Point on 6-8 January 1974 (S. Wilson, p.c.; eBird); at Coos Bay 18 December 1976 (A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 31(3): 366; eBird); on the North Spit of Coos Bay on the 17 December 1977 Coos Bay CBC (G. Gillson, eBird); perhaps the same bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 March 1978 (J. McDowell, *Or. Birds* 4(2): 30; eBird); at the North Bend airport on 13 March 1985 (B. Smith, *Tattler* 9(2): 5); at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 12 November 1996 (K. Dazey, p.c.; eBird); one on the Coquille Spit from approximately 7-20 November 2005 (S. Brown, G. Montasano, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 30; eBird); one at the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 29 November through 4 December 2005- the bird was found shot dead on 4 Dec (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); one at the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 17 December 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 15 December 2011 (S. Miller *fide* J. Tally, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14; eBird); and one at Horsfall Beach on 14 January 2026 (S. Fowler *fide* B. Taylor.; eBird).



Figure 37- Snowy Owl at the Coquille Spit on 20 November 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

• **Northern Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium gnoma*

This small forest owl is an uncommon to fairly common resident most often reported in the forested eastern portion of the county in mature and old-growth forests where it readily responds to imitations of its call (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). From March through about mid-May they can often be heard calling, making this the easiest time to locate them. Since much of the older forest has been cut on the west side of the county, this species is much less likely to be found closer to the coast except where stands of larger trees can still be found such as at South Slough NERR.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

Rare winter visitant to the county, occurring mainly along the outer coast on sand spits. Birds sometimes remain in the same general area all winter, but their somewhat retiring nature makes them hard to relocate if they move even a short distance.

Late fall and winter records include: one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 December 1979 (A. McGie, *Tattler*3(4): 6; eBird); at Bandon the winter of 1980-81 (D. Deuel, *Tattler*5(1): 5); at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 December 1981 (R. Wilson, *Tattler*6(1): 8; eBird); 11 November 1982 through at least February 1983 (*Tattler*7(4): 15); at the North Bend sewage treatment plant on 10 December 1983 (B. Griffin, L. Thornburgh; *Tattler*8(1): 10; eBird); at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 Dec 1990 and at Coquille Spit on 9-10 February 1991 (both *fide* L. Thornburg, *Or. Birds* 17(3): 96; eBird); at the Coquille Spit on 22 December 1991 (R. Hoyer et al.; CBC data; eBird); at the North Spit of Coos Bay 8 February 1993 (J. Heaney, *Tattler*17(2): 11; eBird); on

the North Spit of Coos Bay from 18-26 December 1996 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Heaney; eBird); on the Coquille Spit on 1 October 1998 (S. Mlodinow, B. Tweit; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 53; eBird); one using a burrow in the north dike at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 12-23 February 2002 (A. Prigge, B. Hunter, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 98); one on the Snowy Plover HRA at the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 February 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90); one at the North Bend airport from 2 October 2011 through mid-April of 2012 (D. Lawson, D. Smith, S. Love, et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one in Charleston on 8-9 October 2012 (S. Love, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one off the upper portion of the Bethel Mountain Road from 31 December 2013- 1 March 2014 (J. Heaney et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one that spent the winter of 2014 at the Bandon Dunes Golf Course (specifically at the Old MacDonald Course, *fide* N. & K. Shorts; p.c.); one at Pacific Dunes Golf Course north of Bandon from 22 October 2016 through 3 March 2017 (N. & K. Shorts et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 17; eBird); one found just north of the Coos/Curry line along New River on 26 December 2016 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); two separate birds at Bandon Dunes Golf Course from 23 October 2018 through 6 March 2019 with one of the birds present a bit longer- through 14 March 2019 (N. & K. Shorts et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird); a single at Bandon Dunes again from 4 October 2019 through at least 20 February 2020 (N. & K. Shorts et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 6; eBird); another at Bandon Dunes on 10 November 2020 that likely overwintered (*fide* N. Shorts, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); and yet another at Bandon Dunes on 17 October 2024 (N. Shorts with photographs, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43, p.c.; eBird).

Late spring/summer records are even more rare, with only four to date: a bird at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 August 1979 (*Or. Birds* 6(1):51; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North spit of Coos Bay on 20 April 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *N. Am. Birds* 62(3): 471; eBird); one near the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 18 April 2017 (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); and one at the New River spit on 14 April 2020 (K. Castelein, D. Lauten; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 1 October 1998 (S. Mlodinow, B. Tweit; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 53; eBird), this does not include the late August record.

Latest Overwintering Date: mid-April 2012, an overwintering individual at the North Bend airport, this does not include the three late April migrant records. Most overwintering birds disappear in late February or early March.

• **Spotted Owl** *Strix occidentalis*

Rare resident. This species was once fairly common in mature and old-growth forests prior to the arrival of the Barred Owl in the early 1990s. It has become increasingly rare as a consequence of the loss of old-growth forest and by the appearance and remarkable increase in Barred Owls numbers in the region. Many of the spotted owl territories located in the 1990s during demography surveys are now occupied by Barred Owls, so the future for this species in the county is looking very bleak (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

In August of 2024, the USFWS released its "Final Barred Owl Management Strategy", which includes plans to shoot many thousands of Barred Owls to help recover the Federally Endangered Spotted Owl. How and when this plan will be implemented in Coos County is unknown at this time. If implemented, it is possible that one day, and least for

as long as Barred Owls are "controlled," Spotted Owls could make a comeback?

Records and known nest sites are not listed here.

"Sparred Owls"

Two pair of Spotted Owl-Barred Owl hybrids known colloquially as "Sparred Owls" were located on Coos Bay BLM land in eastern Coos County during demographic studies in the early 1990s (J. Heaney, p.c.). However, now that Barred Owls are firmly established in the region, it seems as though the males are no longer wooing Spotted Owls and are instead displacing them (Levy 2004). Even though some male Barred Owls will occasionally mate with female Spotted Owls, the Spotted Owl female is cast off in favor of a Barred Owl in a year or two (Levy 2004).

• **Barred Owl** *Strix varia*

Uncommon to fairly common resident. The status of this species in the county is changing and numbers have increased tremendously in the past 20 years. Probable breeding pairs are now present in many locations in the county having displaced most Spotted Owls from their former breeding areas (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

This species was first recorded west of the continental divide in Montana on 30 July 1966 (Shea 1974). Its southward expansion continued, and it reached the Wenaha River drainage in northeast Oregon on 18 June 1974 and is now uncommon in much of the state. However, it is still rather local, and its true abundance and distribution are poorly known. In Coos County it has primarily been found in older, fragmented forested lands in the eastern portion of the county but can also occasionally be found within pockets of older forested habitat in more urban areas such as within town in Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Even in the larger remaining contiguous patches of old growth, this species has been usurping Spotted Owl nesting sites. Eric Forsman, a biologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station and a Spotted Owl expert, believes there is nothing that can be done about the range expansion of Barred Owls. He says the range expansion is going to happen and that all that we can do is sit back and see how these two species work it out (Levy 2004).

The first Coos Bay CBC record of this species was on 16 December 2004 at South Slough NERR and the first Coquille Valley CBC record was on 3 January 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, CBC records). Since that time, the species has become almost annual on both counts.

In August of 2024, the USFWS released its "Final Barred Owl Management Strategy", which includes plans to shoot many thousands of Barred Owls to help recover the Federally Endangered Spotted Owl. How and when this plan will be implemented in Coos County is unknown at this time.

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa*

This species is a rare breeder in western Oregon with only a handful of credible records from the Coast Range. In Coos County there have been two records. The first was a bird heard calling from the Eden Valley campground at 3AM on 27 June 1990 (F. Craig, p.c.). This was a highly unusual sighting, but the observer is an experienced birder that had been surveying for this species several years in southwest Oregon. It seems unlikely the species would breed in Coos County, but the habitat where this bird was heard is similar to its breeding habitat

elsewhere in western Oregon (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). The second record was at Bandon Marsh NWR from 2-5 February 2024 (R. Lowe, per. com.). This bird was photographed and its identity was verified. The status of this individual is unknown, it may have been just passing through the site or, perhaps just as likely, overwintering.

• **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

The status of this species in the county is a bit unclear, although there are several credible records to date suggesting it is mainly a rare migrant and/or overwintering species and a very rare breeder.

The first report was in the Coquille Valley on 1 January 1992 (S. Russell, *Or. Birds* 18(3): 95; eBird). Since that date there have been five additional records including one breeding record. These records include: one hit and killed by a car on McClain/Libby Road on 14 November 2006 (*fide* R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 26; eBird- a specimen was collected); a likely migrant photographed in a dense willow patch at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 August 2016 (J. Metzler, OBOL; eBird); a "possible" bird heard calling in a forested Coos Bay neighborhood on 3 December 2019 (M. Seedborg, eBird); and one calling near the 9 mile marker along the Powers Highway just before dawn on 16 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). This latest sighting was on private lands with a mix of large meadows and stringers of forest which seemed like it could be potential breeding habitat although it is hard to know if this bird was attempting to breed or just migrating through.

The one breeding record was two adults with two recently fledged young up Honcho Creek near the Park Creek Recreation Site on BLM land in the Coast Range (T26S R10W Sec. 33) on 25 June 2014 (Amanda Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird). The fledglings were sitting in a snag next to a road begging. The observer was an experienced Spotted Owl surveyor. In addition, during this same time period, a likely breeding individual was seen twice in late June by other Spotted Owl surveyors in the northeast end of Curry County just a couple miles from the Coos County line (J. Perry, R. Perez; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9). This bird was observed along a road adjacent to a 20 to 30-year-old plantation with some small meadows in the area at about the 1,200-foot elevation. Given the date and multiple sightings during a two-week period in late June (including by the author who was able to see a bird during the day), it was likely breeding in a dense second growth forest patch adjacent to a series of open meadows on private industrial forest land (T31S, R13W, Sec. 25) with no public access.



Figure 38- Long-eared Owl at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 August 2016. Photo by Joe Metzler.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

An uncommon migrant and wintering species that does not breed in the county. Most records are from fall and winter, when birds are occasionally found in the lower Coquille Valley and on grassy spits. The species is not annual on the Coquille Valley CBC nor was it on the Coos Bay CBC. The best location for this species in recent years has been the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR (*Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; multiple eBird records). There are only a few spring records- all from April.

Overwintering birds generally disappear after February although there is at least one record of an overwintering bird that stayed into early April in 2008 (L. Mangan, *Tattler*08(3): 4). Spring migrants seem particularly rare with only seven records to date: a bird seen about a mile offshore from Cape Arago on 28 April 1999 (B. Pease, OBOL; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 April 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(3): 4; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 5 April 2012 (B. Bridgeland, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 9; eBird); one at Bandon Beach SP on 24 April 2013 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh on 22 April 2015 (B. Bridgeland, L. Sherman; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird); one at New River on 30 April 2018 (K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 13 April 2021 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); and one in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 April 2025 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird).

There is a single rare summer record, one that circled a fishing boat 30 miles offshore on 10 August 2015 (L. Standley, M. Graybill; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 27 September 2015 at Millicoma Marsh (J. Meredith et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 15; eBird), this does not include the rare summer record.

Latest Overwintering Date: 3 April 2008- two birds that overwintered up Haynes Inlet (L. Mangan, *Tattler*08(3): 4); eBird), this does not include the rare spring migrants seen later in April.

• **Northern Saw-whet Owl** *Aegolius acadicus*

This small, uncommon to fairly common forest owl is found in the county year-round and breeds in coniferous and mixed forests. Most reports are in forested areas away from the open coast, but a juvenile was at Coos Head on 4 August 1983 (A. McGie, *Tattler*7(5): 9; eBird). During fall migration from about mid-September through October, this species can become almost common. Birds were noted calling almost nightly 12 October- 1 November 1997 along South Slough NERR south of Charleston (D. Lauten and K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird).

In winter, birds sometimes occur in towns and in habitats not used for breeding, e.g., the bird found in a willow patch in the open Coquille Valley on the 1994 CBC. On the Coos Bay CBC, this bird historically was easiest to find in 40 to 80 year-old second growth forest at South Slough NERR and along Libby-McClain Road.

Order CORACIIFORMES

Family ALCEDINIDAE

Subfamily CERYLINA

• **Belted Kingfisher** *Megasceryle alcyon*

This is a fairly common breeder along rivers and streams throughout the county. Numbers may be somewhat reduced in winter when higher water covers parts of the county and high turbidity due to runoff makes fishing more difficult.

Order PICIFORMES

Family PICIDAE

Subfamily PICINAE

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis*

Rare visitant to the county, probably from the Rogue Valley or eastern Oregon. A small portion of this species' population moves west over the Cascades in autumn and winters in the western interior valleys; some of the county's records probably represent wanderers from this movement. Jack Thomas notes that the species was more regular fifty years ago than it is today (J. Thomas, p.c.).

There are at least 11 modern records for the county. These records include: one in Coos Bay on 23 September 1986 (L. Topits, *Tattler*10(2): 13; eBird); one at Powers on 4 October 1987 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 14(3): 295; eBird); one near Mingus Park in Coos Bay on 15 July 1988 (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 15(1): 53; eBird); one in Coos Bay in May 1990 (Cory Dazey et al.; p.c. fide K. Dazey; eBird); two observed flying toward a snag patch along Lampa Lane near the junction with Hwy 42S on 28 March 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 24(4): 132. Note that the date was erroneously reported as 29 March in *Or. Birds*; eBird); one on

a telephone pole on Lower Fourmile Road near New River on 20 September 1998 (J. Carlson, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 54; eBird); one in North Bend near the Coos Bay BLM office on 12 February 2003 (M. Wihler, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 May 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird); an immature at the Bethel Mountain quarry on 25 September 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with likely the same immature at the same location on 18 October 2021 (J. Gula, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); two in a clearcut on private forest land in the Coast Range east of Coos Bay on 29 April 2023 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird); and one along Johnson Creek in Bandon during an east wind event on 14 May 2023 (T. Yaukey, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43; eBird).

◦ **Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*

Historically a breeder but loss of Oregon white oak stands and an aggressive invasion of the remaining oak woodland nesting habitat by European Starlings appeared to extirpate the breeding population by the 1990s. No birds were observed again in the county until 2010 when singles and small groups were found almost annually in the same Mt. Bolivar area. In 2023 a pair was found in a snag patch near the beginning of the trail and a granary for storing acorns was found in the same snag patch. A pair was seen again in the same Mt. Bolivar snag patch on multiple occasions from late April through early July of 2024 giving the appearance that breeders may once again have a toe hold in the far southeast corner of the county (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). A nest has yet to be located but it is likely that the birds are breeding along the trail in the snag patch or close by.

Birds were observed on 18 April 1986 at Mt. Bolivar and two small colonies were found on the Coos-Douglas County line in that area in the early 1990s (J. Thomas, B. Fawver, B. Griffin; p.c). Despite many visits to Mt. Bolivar, no birds were found in that area of Coos County from the late 1990s until 2010 (T. Rodenkirk per. obs.). During the early 2000s there were a couple of wildfires that created very open habitat with many snags on the south and east sides of Mt. Bolivar which resulted in very patchy forest cover and provided quite a bit of new snag habitat. Since 2010 there have been almost annual records of birds in the Mt. Bolivar area, primarily in the spring but also a few fall records. Prior to 2023, although there were annual sightings at Mt. Bolivar, there was still no evidence of nesting. In 2023 and 2024, a pair of birds was found in an open snag patch along the lower end of the Mt. Bolivar Trail and there was a recently excavated granary consisting of several snags with multiple holes for stashing acorns. In 2024, one or two birds were seen in this snag patch on several visits from late April through early July suggesting they were nesting at or near this snag patch. No actual fledged young have yet to be documented but it appears this location may indeed be a nesting site.

Recent records at the Mt. Bolivar site since 2010 include: a single bird on the south side on 25 April 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); another single in the same area 4 May 2011 (M. Nikas, *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 509; eBird); another in the open, snag-filled forest on the northeast side on 26 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one in the same location on 3 May 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one on 20 September 2014 (B. Follansbee, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); another single on the northeast side on 19 April 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); a single in the same location on 21 April 2017 with two additional birds on the south side (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one still there on 29 April 2017 (T.

Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); three together on the south side on 13 May 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird); one or two at the base on 4 May 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one heard from the south side of the summit on 11 April 2020 that was far below and may have been in Curry County (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); three in the snag field on the east side on 9 May 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); 1-3 birds from 17-30 April 2021 in the same area (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); three on the forested north side on 26 September 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); at least two on the open snag-filled northeast side of the peak on 21 September 2023 with two in the snag patch near the base of the trail there on 21 October 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 43-44; eBird); two seen in a snag patch along the lower trail at Mt. Bolivar on 10 April 2024 with two there on 19 April 2024 and singles observed on 9 May, 1 June, and 2 July 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and two birds in the same snag patch on 16 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

There are no real concentrations of tan oak trees at or right near Mt. Bolivar at least in Coos County; Mt. Bolivar is just north of the Coos/Curry County boundary and just west of the Coos/Douglas County boundary. The adjacent area to the south in Curry County and east in Douglas County both contain quite a bit of tan oak though and certainly there are breeding birds fairly close to Mt. Bolivar in those counties.

Other recent Coos County records away from Mt. Bolivar include: a bird observed at the Powers Ranger Station frequenting a feeder from 7-9 May 2011 (J. Lowe, R. Namitz; *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 509); a bird observed in a Coos Bay yard on 29 August 2014 (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); a flyover calling on Weyerhaeuser Forest lands south and east of Golden and Silver Falls SP on 2 September 2014 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one northeast of Myrtle Point on 2 September 2014 (D. & B. Follansbe; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); a flyover about a half mile north of Myrtle Point on 14 January 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and two at Azalea Lake on 20 September 2025 (B. Sanders, eBird).

There is still a fair amount of Oregon white oak habitat adjacent to the Powers area in the southeast area of the county, much of which is inaccessible on private ranchlands. It is possible isolated nesting Acorn Woodpeckers could still be found, but the lack of detections in the last four decades in more accessible habitat in that area suggests they are most likely absent.

There are no breeding records for the coastal or northern portion of the county.

This species has apparently occurred in Coos County since at least the 1930s, as Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) mention its occurrence in the county.

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*

Vagrant with a single record. A bird was present "for some days in late December" 1971 at Hilda Reiher's suet feeder in Glasgow (*Am. Birds* 26(3): 646; eBird). Given the extensive experience of the observer there is no reason to doubt this record. Reiher's own unpublished notes have two dates, 1970 and 1971, and one set indicates that this bird remained from 19 November 1970 through 10 January 1971, but it seems likely that she wrote down the years incorrectly, since the *Am. Birds* reference makes no mention of the report being from an earlier season.

There was another report from 17 November 2013 but the observers withdrew their sighting (*Or. Birds* 40(1): 7).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*

There are 12 records of this vagrant species, the first six found within a one-year period, four of those which were found in a three-day period! The first record has been accepted by OBRC:

YBSA-2011-30 Bandon, Coos County, an immature from 31 December
2011 through 3 January 2012 (NS, RNa, DH, AH).

OBRC removed this species from its review list in March of 2012.

Additional records, all from after the species was removed from the review list, include: an adult female in Coos Bay on 18 October 2012 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); an adult female near Norway on 4 January 2013 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); a first winter individual along Fishtrap Road in Coquille on 5 January 2013 (K. Phifer, CBC records with photo; eBird); another first winter bird east of Bandon near Bear Creek on the same day, 5 January 2013 (D. Munson, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); a first winter female starting to attain adult plumage on Fishtrap Road near Coquille on 6 January 2013- this was about a mile south of the 5 January sighting and have could have been a different bird (A. Heyerly, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); another first winter individual beginning to attain adult plumage in the Catching Slough pastures area of Coos Bay on 15 December 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); an adult video-taped in a Charleston yard on 30 October 2018 (K. Kravik; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9- incorrectly reported as 13 October in *Or. Birds*; eBird); an adult male feeding on apples in a Bandon yard from 5-10 January 2019 (R. & S. Holzman, D. Cavaness et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one at Bradley Lake in Bandon from 4 January 2020 through at least 7 March 2020 (H. Schuboth, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); a juvenile photographed in a southeast Bandon neighborhood on 14 January 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird); and an adult found in Bandon on the 3 January 2026 Coquille Valley CBC (H. Schuboth, L. Basch; p.c.).

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

Vagrant. Birds identified as this species in western Oregon, upon closer examination, are often found to be hybrids with Red-breasted Sapsuckers. There are four records from the county, none of which had definitive documentation eliminating a possible hybrid: one at an unknown location on 22 December 1985; one feeding in cherry trees at North Bend High School on 11 June 1988 (*Or. Birds* 15(1): 53); one at Judah Parker County Park east of Bandon on 1 January 2011 (D. Munson, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14; eBird); and one at Bradley Lake in Bandon on 24 September 2018 (H. Schuboth, eBird). A Red-naped was reported from Riverton on the 5 January 2019 Coquille Valley CBC (R. McCreery, D. & B. Follansbee, p.c.) that, upon further study on 7 January 2019, appeared to be a hybrid (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

• **Red-breasted Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus ruber*

This species is an uncommon breeder in the county, with most birds in the inland portion of the county in the Coast Range in conifer and mixed deciduous forests. Nests are usually located in dead trees or dead portions of live trees. They breed locally west to the lower Coquille Valley and tributaries.

A few birds are found in coastal areas in winter, but numbers vary from year to year. Orchards and yards in towns with fruit trees

CRCA-2012-07 Langlois, Curry County, one bird on 1 Dec 2012
(photo, Lois Miller). This bird was present from
December 1 through December 30 in the New River
bottoms area of Coos/Curry and was seen in both Coos
and Curry Counties by multiple observers.

An interesting article In *Western Birds* (Nelson and Pyle, 2013) details the work the California Birds Record Committee has done sorting through the 60 caracara records in California which they whittled down to 11 potential birds. One of the birds they tracked (ID #4 in the article) was the bird seen in late April of 2005 near Langlois, Coos (incorrectly reported as being in Langlois, Curry in *N. Am. Birds* 59(3): 485 and in the *Western Birds* article). This bird was originally observed in Santa Barbara, California in October of 2001 and then continued moving north and was in Eel River, Humboldt County, California from November of 2004 through January of 2005 right before being observed in late April of 2005 near Langlois. It then went back south and was seen on 2 May 2005 in Mendocino County, California. In late 2006 and 2007, the bird was observed near Ferndale, Humboldt County, California from 8 December 2006 through 28 March 2007 when it went unreported in Ferndale again until December of 2007. During this six-month hiatus, a caracara was observed in Myrtle Point. From 31 January 2008 through February of 2012, the bird was present near Fort Dick, Del Norte County, California. The bird continued in that area through November of 2012 and then disappeared (A. Barron, p.c.). Shortly thereafter, a caracara was observed in the New River bottomlands of Coos/Curry during December of 2012. This bird stayed in the New River bottomlands until the end of December before disappearing. The Fort Dick bird then reappeared in January of 2013 (A. Barron, p.c.). These observations indicate that the same bird could possibly account for all three of the Coos caracara records.



Figure 39- Crested Caracara at the McKenzie ranch near New Lake in late April of 2005. Photo by Dave Ledig, USFWS.

• **American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius*

This is a fairly common breeder in open areas throughout the inland portions of the county including not only open valleys but areas of large or extensive clearcuts. It is uncommon to rare along the outer coast except during migration when an occasional bird can be expected. Most common in the Coquille Valley, along the Coos River pastures, and in similar open grassy areas. Numbers generally increase in winter in the inland valleys as migrants move in.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon from early fall through spring. This small falcon can be found near water and in open country throughout the winter, chasing shorebirds, small ducks, and anything else unable to get out of the way of its incredible powers of acceleration.

This is an extremely pugnacious bird even for a raptor and will often harass other hawks, including those larger than itself.

There are no breeding records for Oregon, so summer records are rare anywhere in the state. There are four generally accepted July records in Coos: a bird seen on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 19 July 1998 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 23; eBird); another at Bandon Marsh NWR on 24 July 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 188; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 July 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 607; eBird); and one in the same location on 26 July 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird). This species has yet to be confirmed breeding in Oregon and normally does not return in the fall until late August or the first part of September, so the status of these mid-summer records is unclear?

There are at least three records of the Prairie subspecies (*richardsonii*), which is thought to be rare in western Oregon: a bird seen at New River on 13 January 2005 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 31(2): 87; eBird); another at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 May 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one photographed at New River on 12 May 2016 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 6 August 2003 at the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 41; eBird), not including the unusual July records.

Latest Date: 1 June 2000 at New River (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 220; eBird).

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*

Rare visitant. The first report of this species is from 16 October 1992 at Bandon but was not accepted by OBRC as the description did not rule out Peregrine Falcon (OBRC report #GYRF-1992-13). The next two reports to OBRC were accepted:

GYRF-1998-28	Bandon, Coos County, one immature pale bird on 1 March 1998 (TR).
GYRF-2001-37	New River, Coos & Curry County, one subadult brown phase bird 21 to 29 December 2001 (DLA, KC, TR, photos by DMu). This bird was first observed in the Floras Lake area on 21 October 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; <i>Or. Birds</i> 28(1): 35).

This species was taken off the OBRC review list in 2002.

Additional records since this species was removed from the review list include: an immature gray-phase individual that overwintered at the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay and was seen sporadically from 16 December 2003 through at least 23 February 2004 and which may have been the same bird reported at New River on 22 September 2003 (J. Heaney, T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 30(2): 89; eBird); an overwintering gray-phase adult, possibly the same bird as the previous year, at the North Spit of Coos Bay from 26 September 2004 through at least 11 April 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 24; *Or. Birds*

31(3): 127; eBird)- another bird was seen a few times during this same period in the New River bottoms area (R. McKenzie *fide* D. Pitkin) and at least twice in Bandon and may have been the same individual (S. Brown *fide* D. Lauten); an overwintering bird in the New River bottoms area of Coos/Curry Counties from 23 December 2005 through at least 26 February 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, T. Wahl, J. Rogers, R. McKenzie; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 86; eBird); an adult male gray-phase (a different bird than one earlier this winter as two birds were reported at different locations on the same date) seen on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 22 January through at least 15 March 2006 (J. Thomas, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 86; eBird); a very early gray-phase bird in Empire on 7 September 2006 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 23; eBird) with likely the same gray-phase bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 27 September 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 23; eBird); a "possible" seen flying over Pony Slough on 23 October 2007 (J. Heaney, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 31); one seen near New Lake in early November of 2008 (R. McKenzie, *Or. Birds* 35: 12; eBird) which may be the same individual seen at Shore Acres on 5 December 2008 (S. Wilson, *Tattler*09(1): 4; eBird) and at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 9 December 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*09(1): 4; eBird) and along the east side of Coos Bay on 20 December 2008 (J. Heaney, *Tattler*09(1): 4; eBird); one that overwintered in the New River bottomlands of Curry/Coos Counties during the winter of 2009/2010 (R. McKenzie, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8) which may have been the same bird that was observed at Seven Devils Beach on 24 December 2009 (D. Lauten, *Tattler*09(5): 9; eBird) and at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 27 December 2009 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 35: 13; eBird); one at New River, Coos on 18 October 2014 (J. Heaney, OBOL; eBird); a rare white morph at Winter Lake near Coquille on 17 November 2014 (J. Heaney, C. Holland; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird) with another white-morph Gyrfalcon in the New River bottomlands of Curry County (near Floras Lake) in January of 2015 that was likely the same individual as the 17 November 2014 report (K. Fairchild et al; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16); a gray morph at Bandon Dunes Golf Course north of Bandon on 9 January 2016 (N. & K. Shorts, p.c.; eBird); a gray morph at China Creek in Bandon on 13 February 2019 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); a gray morph photographed in Bandon on 29 September 2019 (D. & D. Bilderback; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird) which was likely the same bird seen on a private ranch on the Coos/Curry border near Langlois for about three weeks in October of 2019- this bird was hunting Aleutian Cackling Geese which were present at the ranch in the many thousands during this period (R. McKenzie, p.c.); one "possible" bird reported from Bandon on 15 December 2020 (D. Bilderback, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6); and one in the New River bottomlands of Coos/Curry from 30 September 2021 through at least 3 October 2021 (R. McKenzie, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird).



Figure 40- Overwintering adult male gray-phase Gyrfalcon at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 February 2006. Photo by Russ Namitz.

• **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Breeds locally but nest sites are not publicized. Uncommon to fairly common and easy to find in preferred habitat from fall through early spring. Migrants begin appearing in July and August.

Most often reported at the Coquille River estuary, in the Coquille Valley, along lower Coos Bay, on the North Spit of Coos Bay, and along the cliffs at Cape Arago.

In the 1990s, the Coquille Valley hosted several birds in winter. It is one of the species' major wintering grounds in Oregon. Numbers have been increasing for several years.

A radio tagged, female Peales subspecies was recorded wintering near Myrtle Point (D. Doyle, *Or. Birds* 31(2): 87). This bird came down from the northern tip of Vancouver Island, B.C. and arrived in Coos County in early November 2004 and was last detected in late February 2005 when the radio batteries stopped working.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*

Rare migrant and overwintering species from east of the Cascades. There are about 20 records to date, about equally split between migrants and overwintering individuals.

Migrant records include: one at Bandon on 24 April 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 15(1): 42; eBird); one at the Coos Bay BLM office across from the airport in North Bend on 19 October 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 52; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 August 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 20 August 2004 (K. Castelein, D. Lauten; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 24; eBird); one at the south end of Bandon on

10 August 2009 (K. Castelein, D. Lauten; *Or. Birds* 35: 16; eBird); one at Bandon Beach SP on 13 April 2014 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 April 2014 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 31 October 2019 (R. & D. Henise, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); and one at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 26-27 March 2021 (R. & D. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird).

The first probable overwintering bird was found up Kentuck Slough in January of 1978 (J. Gilligan, D. Irons; p.c.). Almost all the rest of the overwintering birds are from the Coquille Valley and include: one near Myrtle Point on 15 January 1990 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 16(3): 245; eBird); one near Norway from December of 2005 through at least 22 January 2006 (D. Ledig, p.c.; eBird); one along North Bank Road on 9 February 2008 (J. Robinson, B. Mullen, P. Murphy; p.c.; eBird); one near Norway from 6 November 2008 through at least 11 January 2009 (D. Ledig, D. Irons, M. Solhstrom, et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 13; eBird); one in the same location from 3 January through at least 18 February 2010 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan, et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 8; eBird); one in the same Norway area from 5 January- 2 March 2013 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one up Bethel Mountain from 30 December 2012 through at least 1 February 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one in the Coquille Valley near Norway from 2 January through at least 27 January 2016 (J. Metzler et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one at Simpson Park in Coos Bay on 21 February 2016 that may have been wintering somewhere along the east side of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one in the north end of the Coquille Valley from 30 December 2017 through at least 13 January 2018 (R. Cooper, C. Dunn, et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird).

Order PASSERIFORMES
Family TYRANNIDAE
Subfamily TYRANNINAE

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*

This is an uncommon visitant along the Oregon coast in late fall/early winter with at least 86 records to date. Numbers have dramatically increased in the past two decades. These records are almost all from the late September through November period with several early winter records and Oregon's first overwintering record. There are seven OBRC accepted records from the county:

TRKI-1979-02	Bandon, Coos Co., 1 bird on 27 October 1979 (AMc).
TRKI-1982-08	North Bend, Coos Co., 1 bird on 4-7 November 1982 (AMc; photos by BG).
TRKI-1983-09	Sunset Bay SP, Coos Co., 1 bird on 20 October 1983 (AMc).
TRKI-1997-22	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co. 2 silent birds 1-30 November 1997 (DLA).
TRKI-1997-23	Near Bandon, Coos Co., 1 bird on 6 December 1997 (DLA, RHo). This was found near Rocky Point County Park.
TRKI-1998-26	Pony Slough, Coos Co., 2 silent birds 16-19 October 1998 (DLA, TR).
TRKI-2000-30	Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 silent bird on 21 November 2000 (DLA). The bird was present from 18-22 November in the Catching Slough Pastures and was first found by

Tim Rodenkirk; it made its distinctive call on that first day.

There is one very early September record that was not accepted by OBRC (TRKI-1984-11) as Western Kingbird was not ruled out.

OBRC removed this species from the review list on 13 April 2002.

September records are sparse and include: one at Bandon on 27 September 1998 (D. Lusthoff, P. Bernardi; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 54; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 September 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, B. & J. Woodhouse; *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); and one at the same location on 30 September 2017 (T. & H. Rodenkirk; eBird).

October has the greatest number of records, these include: one at Pony Slough on 26 October 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 33; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 31 October 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 33; eBird); one at Bandon on 31 October 2000 (S. Brown, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 33; eBird); another at Bandon on 7 October 2001 (J. Cornelius, J. Martin; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 41; eBird); perhaps the same bird on the Coquille Spit near Bullards Beach at Bandon on 7 October 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 41; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 12 October 2002 (R. Smith, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 49; eBird); one on a fence line at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin, R. Namitz; *Tattler*07(5): 5; eBird); possibly a different bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 10 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the same old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 8 October 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with three there on 22 October 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Holcomb, Maitreya, B. Griffin; *N. Am. Birds* 63(1): 147; eBird); one at the Coos Bay BLM office across from the airport in North Bend on 27 October 2008 (H. Witt, J. Heaney, A. Hoefs; p.c.; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 28 October through 10 November 2008- this is possibly the same bird reported from just across the bay in North Bend on 27 October but is probably not one of the birds seen earlier in October at the same site as no birds were seen at that site from 23-27 October (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. and H. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, D. Ledig; *Tattler*08(6): 7; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 October 2009 (S. Wilson, *Tattler*09(5): 5; eBird); one in North Bend on 25 October 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin; *Tattler*09(5): 5; eBird); one along Lower Fourmile Road south of Bandon on 16 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(4): 2; eBird); one at New River on 22 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(4): 2; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 October 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one in the Catching Slough pastures on the east side of Coos Bay on 19 October 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one at Cape Arago on 6 October 2014 (M. & S. Dennis, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); a fly-over along Lower Fourmile Road on 12 October 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 16-17 October 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); likely a different bird at the end of Transpacific Parkway on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 October 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one along the bay across from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 7 October 2015 with another one, possibly the same bird, at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 23 October 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); one in Bandon at Redmon Pond on 29 October 2016 (J. Lea, OBOL; eBird); one across the road from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 30-31 October 2016 (T. Rodenkirk,

eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 13 October 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in North Bend off North Bay Drive from 26 October- 5 November 2017 (H. & T. Rodenkirk; eBird); singles at Bandon Dunes Golf Course and Bandon Marsh NWR on 12 October 2018 (N. Shorts, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; two eBird records); one at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 5 October 2020 (K. Dumroese, eBird); one in Bandon at Redmon Pond along south jetty on 17 October 2020 (T. Spencer, eBird); one calling bird at Lower Fourmile Creek on 1 October 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; eBird); two birds in downtown Bandon on 23 October 2022 (D. Hargreaves et al.; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26-27 October 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the same location on 12 October 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another photographed at the same location on 17 October 2024 (D. Hargreaves, eBird) with a different bird reported from Coquille the same day (K. Saxton, eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 18 October 2025 (S. Sifford, eBird); one along the Jarvis Turn Bayside Trail on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 October 2025 (D. Hargreaves, eBird); one next to the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 29 October 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one along Cape Arago Hwy near the Bastendorff Beach pulloff on 7 November 2025 (D. & H. Burton, eBird).

November also has quite a few records which include: one from 12 November 1982 at Cape Arago; one on 8 November 1997 at the Coos Bay BLM office across from the airport in North Bend (S. Dowlan, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); a single bird in an open grassy area east of Henderson Marsh on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 November 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(1): 25; eBird); one in Lakeside on 13 November 2005 (J. Randolph, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 31; eBird); three at a residence at Saunders Lake on 1 November 2009 (K. Johnson, *Tattler*09(5): 6- incorrectly reported as 31 October in the *Tattler*; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 7 November 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Taylor; *Tattler*10(4): 3;; eBird); one to two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 2-28 November 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Fields; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one at the BLM office in North Bend on 22-25 November 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); one to two on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay from 11-18 November 2016 (T. & H. Rodenkirk; eBird); one in Bandon at Redmon Pond along the south jetty from 1-5 November 2017 (S. Dimock, eBird); two at Pacific Dunes Golf Course near Bandon on 5 November 2017 (D. Lauten, OBOL; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 6 November 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR from 29 November- 24 December 2017 (F. English, F. Lospalluto, J. Metzler; eBird); one at Pony Slough in North Bend from 3-12 November 2019 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 November 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and two together in a different location on the North Spit from 9-24 November 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in Coquille on 10 November 2022 (K. Saxton, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 18 November 2022 (D. Hargreaves, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); and one at a campground adjacent to Bastendorff Beach on 19 November 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Winter records have increased in recent years and include: one on 18 February 1985 at Cape Arago (S. and K. Robinson, *Or. Birds* 11(2&3): 105- never reviewed by OBRC); one photographed along the Cape Arago Hwy on 28 December 2014 (A. Sidhu, P. White; eBird); one near the BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 December 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one photographed near Hollering Place in Empire on 6 January 2018 (K. Kravik, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird); one found behind the

headquarters of Bandon Marsh NWR on the 5 January 2019 Coquille Valley CBC (R. Steffens; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one seen in a backyard in Barview on 1 January 2023 (M. Graybill, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); one overwintering in the Eastside area of Coos Bay from 26 November 2023 through at least 7 April 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); one in Bandon from 21 November 2024– 19 January 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird); and one in North Bend from 6 December 2025 through at least 14 January 2026 which is likely attempting to overwinter (E. & A. Pratt et al.; eBird). Although birds have been documented into January in several locations in the state including Coos County, the winter 2023/2024 record is the first time this species has successfully remained the entire winter (and into spring!) in Oregon.

2012 was an outstanding year for this species on the south coast with nine sightings of 12 birds in Coos County alone (*Or. Birds* 39(1): 10, which incorrectly reported a total of 11 birds). These sightings are as follows: one in downtown Bandon on 27 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 7 October (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one on the east end of Bandon Marsh NWR on 19 October (B. Bridgeland; eBird); one at the south jetty of Bandon from 20 October through at least 27 November (S. Dimock, H. Schuboth, D. Lauten, et al.; eBird); two in North Bend at the Coos Bay office on 20 October which could have flown over to the mill site on the North Spit—where one was still near the Southport Mill on 21 October (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin; eBird); one at the North Bend airport from 20–26 October (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 October (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); two at Millicoma Marsh on 25 October with one still there through 4 November (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); two on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 November that were likely different birds than any previously seen there (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); and one along Hwy 101 in North Bend on 14 November (*fide* T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

Earliest date: 25 September 2003.

Latest date: 19 January 2025, not including the overwintering bird that stayed through 7 April 2024 and the unreviewed record from 18 February 1985.



Figure 41- Tropical Kingbird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 October 2007. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

• **Western Kingbird** *Tyrannus verticalis*

This is an uncommon migrant and very local breeder in the county. Birds breed in some years in the Coos River valley and in the eastern parts of the Coquille Valley, including in the open lowlands along the South Fork of the Coquille River.

The first confirmed breeding was at Broadbent in 1983 (*fide* A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 9(3): 97). Breeding is local and irregular, as Coos County represents the northernmost edge of the species' breeding range in coastal Oregon. However, records go back at least to the 1930s, as the species is noted from the county in Gabrielson and Jewett (1940).

A recent breeding record at the Myrtle Point Fairground was very early. The first bird appeared on 5 April 2020 (D. & R. Henise, eBird). This bird was joined by a second bird on 20 April (D. & R. Henise, eBird). By 2 May, a nest was observed being constructed and on 10 May incubation had begun (D. & R. Henise, eBird). In most years, the earliest spring birds are reported in mid-April with the migration peaking in the first and second weeks of May.

Coastal migrants are regular in small numbers and are primarily noted from late April through May, rarely into early or even mid-June. Fall migrants are almost always coastal, are much rarer than in spring, and are usually seen in early September. One on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 August 2023 was an exceptionally early migrant (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird).

Kingbirds noted in the fall after mid-September should be examined with care to eliminate the more likely Tropical Kingbird.

Earliest Arrival: 5 April 2020 at the fairgrounds in Myrtle Point (R. & D. Henise, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

Latest Date: 2 November 1986, assuming that this was a Western, not a Tropical Kingbird. A certain Western was at North Bend High School on 24 October 1993 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* January 1994). Most Westerns have migrated south by mid-September.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Rare visitant with eight records to date. Birds are primarily found in the early fall with just two spring records. These records are as follows: one at Coos Head on 27 August 1984 (K. Hansen, *Or. Birds* 11(1): 2; eBird); one at New River on 4 September 1994 (J. Gilligan, J. Johnson, G. Lillie; *Or. Birds* 21(2): 65; eBird); one at Eden Valley on 23 June 1995 (D. Munson, J. Bischoff; *Or. Birds* 22(1): 28; eBird); one at Pony Slough on 5 June 1998 (Barb Griffin, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 24; eBird); one at Cape Arago on 13 August 2011 (M. and M. Denny; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14; eBird); one at a Charleston residence on 9-10 September 2013 (J. Chatt et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one south of Bandon on Lower Fourmile Road on 4 September 2017 (J. Gilligan, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); and one along the same Lower Fourmile Road on 7 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus forficatus*

This is a spectacular vagrant from the southeastern United States. There are six records accepted by OBRC:

STFL-1997-10	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 adult 4-5 November 1997 (DLA). (Old number: 443-97-10). <i>Note: This bird was present through 8 November 1997 (TR).</i>
STFL-2005-19	Coos Head, Coos County, one adult on 14 May 2005 (details by TR, photo by JCh).
STFL-2008-21	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird 24 November - 3 December 2008 (TR, DLa, KC; photos by LoM, KnA, DLa, KC).
STFL-2014-23	Cape Arago, Coos County, one bird on 30 December 2014 (photos by JuT).
STFL-2018-24	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 25 May 2018 (details and photo by DLa, KC).
STFL-2022-26	Tenmile Creek estuary, Coos Co., 1 bird on 15 June 2022 (report and photos JoM, TR).

In addition, there are two unreviewed records and a third that was not accepted by OBRC. These additional records include: a bird found 7 May 1966 at Cape Arago lighthouse by James Anderson and a field trip of about 50 teachers (*Am. Birds* 20(4): 541); another at North Bend on 10 August 1987 that was not accepted by OBRC because the description did not rule out an immature Western Kingbird (OBRC record #STFL-1987-02); and one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek in August of 1993 or 1994 (C. Hallett, p.c.).



Figure 42- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 November 2008. Photos by Lois Miller.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

This rare visitant has been reported at least 14 times in the county, mainly in late spring with just a few fall records.

Spring records include: one in Coos Bay on 9 May 1978 (B. Griffin *fide* A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 32(5): 1049), however, one was also reported at Pony Slough on 9 June 1978 (B. Griffin, *Tattler* 2(2): 14; eBird) - these two records were probably the same bird and the *Am. Birds* record was likely in error as June is a more likely date for this species; at Bandon 14 June 1986 (J. Gilligan, S. Heintz, J. Johnson; *Or. Birds* 13(1): 104; eBird); near Mt. Bolivar 14 May 1988 (B. Fawver and J. Thomas; *Tattler* December, 1988; eBird); in North Bend 4 June 1990 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 17(1): 28; eBird); on a fence line up Coos River on 24 June 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(1): 24; eBird); at Pony Slough on 15 May 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(4): 111; eBird); one again at Pony Slough on 10-12 June 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 220; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 7 May 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 510; eBird); one in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 11 June 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one near New River off Lower Fourmile Road on 8 June 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 June 2022 (K. Saxton, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

Fall records include: one at Coos Bay on 23 August 1979 (C. Corder, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51; *Am. Birds* 34(2): 193; eBird); at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 November 1996 (K. Wilson, *Or. Birds* 23(2): 83; eBird); and another on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 15 August 2010 (Larry Miller, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird).

In late fall and winter, observers finding what looks like this species should take care to distinguish it from the almost as likely Dusky-capped Flycatcher, which has occurred twice in winter in Newport and which has a pattern of late fall wandering to California. The November 1996 bird at the North Spit of Coos Bay falls into this time period, but the observer's description strongly supports Ash-throated Flycatcher.

Subfamily FLUVICOLINAE

• **Olive-sided Flycatcher** *Contopus cooperi*

This is an uncommon but obvious migrant and breeder. It is most easily found on forest edges adjacent to clearcuts, wetlands, or similar open areas as well as in recently burned forests. A few breeders can be found as far west as on the North Spit of Coos Bay and New River. They are far more obvious in spring and early summer because of their loud, distinctive song and call, and their habitat of perching atop tall open trees or snags while singing.

Most birds arrive between the end of April and mid-May and disappear unnoticed by mid- to late August.

Earliest Arrival: 16 April 2018 at Bradley Lake in Bandon (H. Schubothe, eBird).

Latest Date: 14 September 2025 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with photo).

• **Western Wood-Pewee** *Contopus sordidulus*

This is a fairly common migrant and breeder in open wooded areas throughout the county. It arrives around the first of May and leaves in late August to early September. Birds do not breed on the outer

coast; however, they are conspicuous during migration there around mid-May and less regular there in migration in late August and early September.

Earliest Arrival: 22 April 2024 in the Coast Range southeast of Bandon (N. Winner, eBird). This species rarely arrives before the end of April or first of May. Silent birds early in the season are often confused with Olive-sided Flycatcher, the latter which typically arrives a week or more before peewees.

Latest Date: 7 October 2011 at Millicoma Marsh (R. Namitz, TattlerDecember 2011: 6; eBird); this is one of the latest staying neotropical flycatchers with a few stragglers into mid-September most years.

• **Willow Flycatcher** *Empidonax traillii*

This is a fairly common breeder in the county, most easily found in brushy, young Douglas-fir plantations in the eastern portion of the county. It is a rare breeder in the coastal plain with the extensive willow habitat at Millicoma Marsh one of the few places closer to the coast one can find this species breeding. It is uncommon to rare along the coast during migration where it is normally found in wet areas with abundant willow and alder.

This is one of the latest spring migrants to arrive, first appearing in mid- to late May. Fall migration is quiet and not well known, with numbers beginning to drop in mid-August and most birds gone by mid-September.

An *Empidonax* sp. thought to be a Willow was seen at Millicoma Marsh from 25 November- 8 December 2001 (K. Cradler, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 41).

Earliest Arrival: 24 April 1984, although this date is suspect; the earliest birds normally do not arrive until mid-May and become common quickly, by the end of May.

Latest Date: 1 October 1999 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), this does not include the possible early December record.

Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus*

Vagrant. There is a single verified record, one found and photographed near Coquille on the 1 January 2022 Coquille Valley CBC (E. Clough, R. Aragon, L. Norgren; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird). Although this bird never vocalized, the photographs were reviewed by several experienced birders who concurred on its ID.

There is a breeding season record of a possible bird heard calling on 17 June 2001 in the Elliot State Forest (S. Shunk, p.c.). This bird was never visually observed nor was it relocated, so this record was never verified with a photo or recording.

It appears that this species may be one of the more likely "empids" to be found in winter in Oregon. Indeed, there is a well-documented record of another Least Flycatcher just a month before the 2002 January record from 24 November- 13 December 2021 from a private ranch near Cape Blanco in Curry County (T. Wahl, C. Hinkle, T. Rodenkirk; eBird). Any late fall/winter empid should be documented with photographs and recordings whenever possible to help with the identification of this difficult group.

• **Hammond's Flycatcher** *Empidonax hammondii*

This is an uncommon flycatcher found in older coniferous forest in the inland portion of the county. A 1985 study found them mainly in even-

aged Douglas-fir stands over 100 years old (P. Sullivan, p.c.). Migrants away from the breeding habitat are rarely seen in the county.

As is true of other small flycatchers, the fall migration pattern of this species is poorly known, in part because flycatchers rarely make distinguishing sounds in autumn and because quiet *Empidonax* are even harder to locate than singing *Empidonax*.

This species is quite rare in Oregon in the winter. There is a single Coos record, a well described individual at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 26 January 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: a silent bird seen along the South Fork of the Coquille River on 13 April 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); most early migrants are not detected until singing birds are heard in the Coast Range which is normally during the last week of April.

Latest Date: a singing bird in the Coast Range near Bridge on 25 September 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird), not including the one very rare winter record.

Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*

Vagrant. There are two records, both recent. The first was a silent bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 9 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird). The second was also silent, and was at Millicoma Marsh on 4 September 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).

• **Dusky Flycatcher** *Empidonax oberholseri*

This species occurs occasionally in migration, mainly in the inland parts of the county, and is an uncommon breeder locally in open, young tree plantations and meadow areas in the Mt. Bolivar area of the southeastern corner of the county, where the county's first breeding record was discovered on 26 June 1983 (G. Keller, *Tattler* 7(4): 15; eBird). Breeding probably occurs elsewhere along the eastern edge of the county where drier open forest habitat and young plantations resemble habitat more typical of southwestern Oregon interior valleys and hillsides.

This species is rarely reported as a migrant in the coastal lowlands with only three recent records: one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 June 2010 (R. Namitz, *Tattler* 10(2): 8); a fall individual at Millicoma Marsh on 24 August 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 19 August 2025 also at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

An *Empidonax* flycatcher thought to possibly be a Dusky was present at Millicoma Marsh from 4-18 December 1998 although no photos or recordings were obtained (T. Rodenkirk, E. Horvath; *Or. Birds* 25(3): 88). It now appears that winter empids reported this late often turn out to be the very similar Least Flycatcher and are best IDed to species with photographs and audio recordings.

Earliest Arrival: a calling and singing bird on 25 April 2004 in a young, open Eden Valley tree plantation (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 131; eBird).

Latest Date: 12 September 2001 at the top of Sandy Creek in the Coast Range (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 41; eBird), this does not include the December *Empidonax* sp. record. Mostly this species goes unreported after departing from its breeding areas in late July and August.

• **Western Flycatcher** *Empidonax difficilis*

Formerly known as "Pacific-slope Flycatcher," before being lumped once again with Cordilleran Flycatcher in 2023. It is a common migrant and abundant breeder in the county. This is the most common flycatcher in the older moist forests, and is found county-wide in deciduous draws, Douglas-fir forests, spruce stands, and other forest habitats, especially near water.

This species arrives in mid- to late April and departs by mid-September. Fall migrants are often reported, possibly because the species is relatively easy to identify when silent and perhaps because its habitat preferences result in its occurrence where observers are likely to find it.

There are two late fall records: one from the east side of Coos Bay on 6 November 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird) and another very late bird that was first detected by its call at Millicoma Marsh on 24 October 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with audio). Interestingly, for the latter detection, a bird was heard singing at Millicoma Marsh in a different location on 5 October 2025 that could possibly have been the same bird (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with audio)?

Earliest Arrival: 5 March 1995 at Pony Slough (L. Thornburgh; *Tattler* June, 1995); this date is unusually early- most early arrivals are in the third week of April with a singing bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 April 2004 being the next earliest arrival (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: a singing and calling bird on 5 October 2025 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with another calling bird close to the same location on 24 October 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) that could possibly be the same individual? These are the only October records and do not include the one very late November record. Most years, birds go unreported after about mid-September.

• **Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*

It seems inconceivable today that 10 January 1982 provided the first record of Black Phoebe in Coos County (G. Keller, *Tattler* 6(1): 8; eBird). Today it is a locally common resident throughout the lowland portions of the county, particularly during the winter months.

This species was known from the Rogue Valley of Oregon since the 1950s, but numbers remained very small until the 1970s, when more birds were reported in Josephine County and birds began being reported in Curry County. By the mid-1980s, the species was seen occasionally in the Coquille Valley and in the late 1980s birds were found nesting at Myrtle Point.

Today the species is a fairly common breeder in the Coquille Valley, mainly from the Riverton area eastward and in the valleys of the South Fork of the Coquille River. Breeding birds have continued their expansion elsewhere in the lowlands and were found breeding on the North Spit of Coos Bay in 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). The species is common in winter in the valley (less so near the coast), and Coquille Valley CBC numbers have increased steadily since the 1990s.

Until the early 1990s the species was not reported often in the Coos Bay area. It was first found on a Coos Bay CBC in 1996 with numbers gradually increasing each year after that.

This species has continued to expand its range and now breeds as far north as Clatsop County along the coast and throughout the Willamette Valley north to Multnomah County and as far north as Skagit County, Washington. In fact, a Black Phoebe paired up with an Eastern Phoebe way north in Saanich (near Victoria), British Columbia in May of

2025 and successfully fledged young so it seems like it is just a matter of time before Black Phoebes begin regularly breeding in British Columbia.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe*

There are three records of this vagrant flycatcher in the county, all of which have been accepted by OBRC:

EAPH-1998-07	At a farmhouse along Hwy 42N east of Coquille, 28 December 1998 through 20 March 1999 (D. Lauten, photos by CD, BoM).
EAPH-2015-23	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird on 21 March 2015 (TR)
EAPH-2017-26	Mingus Park, Coos Bay, Coos Co., 13-15 May 2017 (details by TR).

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*

This is a rare but regular visitant to the county in migration and, in recent years, an uncommon overwintering species. The source of the migrant birds is unknown, but they may come from the northwest breeding population east of the Cascades. The spring migration period is early and starts in February with most birds detected in March and April but with a few records as late as May and early June. Fall migrants are much less regular and are normally encountered in September and October. Overwintering birds return by late September and early October and leave by mid- to late February.

Prior to the first edition of this book, this was a rare migrant with no winter records. Pre-1998 records include: one 6 December 1927 (Gabrielson and Jewett, 1940); two in Coos Bay on 23-28 February 1981 (R. Lawrence, *Or. Birds* 7(2): 72; *Am. Birds* 35(3): 330; eBird); one at the south jetty of Coos Bay 24 March 1982 (M. and M. Dembrow, *Am. Birds* 36(5): 887; eBird); one at Pony Slough on 17 September 1982 (*Tattler* 6(4): 12; eBird); one at Coquille on 17 March 1984 (B. Lucas, *Or. Birds* 10(3): 93; eBird); one north of Bandon 10 September 1988 (*Tattler* December, 1988); and one at Millicoma Marsh in 1997 (J. McDowell *fide* K. Dazey).

Diligent searching since 1998 has resulted in at least 41 additional migrant records, most of which have been from coastal locations, about equally split between spring and fall.

Spring coastal records include: one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 May 1998 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 24(4): 133; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 June 1998 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 25(1): 24; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 March 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one on a fence line near the south jetty at Bandon on 2 April 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); two on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 March 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 135; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 April 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 135; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 6 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 135; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26-27 March 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 30 March 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 127; eBird); one on a fence line on the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 March 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and again at the same location on 23 March 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 07(2): 6; eBird); one at the same location on 26 March 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a probable early migrant on the beach

near the north jetty of Coos Bay on 26 January 2010 (J. Metzler, *Tattler*10(1): 7; eBird); one at the south jetty of Coos Bay on 17 April 2010 (M. Wihler et al.; *Tattler*10(2): 5; eBird); one at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 March 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek from 3-7 March 2014 with another by the same observer on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 March 2014 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; both on eBird); one in Lakeside at Tenmile Lakes on 20 March 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the North Bend airport on 9 April 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 March 2023 (J. Corrente, eBird); and one at Millicoma Marsh on 8 April 2023 (R. Escobar, eBird).

Fall coastal records since 1998 include: one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 October 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 September 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 33; eBird); one count week bird on the Coos Bay CBC at Millicoma Marsh on 14 December 2002 (M. Paige, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 139; eBird); one to two birds on the North Spit from 6-10 September 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4 December 2005 (M. Wihler, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); one on a fence line on the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 October 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*06(6): 5; eBird); at the same spot yet again on 17-18 November 2006 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler*06(6): 6; eBird); yet again at the same location from 3-5 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(5): 5; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 8 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Shelmerdine; *Tattler*07(5): 5; report erroneously as the same bird as on 3-5 October; eBird); one at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 28 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(5): 6; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 11 October 2008 (R. Namitz, *Tattler*08(6): 6; incorrectly reported as being found by T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 November 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(6): 7; eBird); one at Southport lumber mill on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 October 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*09(5): 5; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 23 September- 6 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(4): 1; eBird); one on the Coquille Spit near Bandon on 24 September 2010 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; OBOL; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 August 2015 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 21 October 2020 (D. Lauten, OBOL; eBird); one on the beach in Bandon on 25-26 November 2020 (W. Shriner et al.; eBird); and one in Coquille at the Roseburg Lumber Mill Pond on August 24, 2023 (K. Saxton, eBird).

Inland migrant records are much less common than coastal records, with a total of only five records, perhaps because the coast gets birded more often during migration. These records include: a bird in the Coast Range in a rock quarry at the top of Sandy Creek near Remote on 13 September 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 41; eBird; this was erroneously reported as occurring in a valley within the Coast Range); a bird at Myrtle Point on 19 February 2004 that may have been overwintering (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird); one in the town of Arago on 3 March 2007 (D. Smith, T. Rodenkirk; OBOL; eBird); one in Broadbent on 3 March 2023 that was not there earlier in the winter (F. Mayer, eBird); and one at the Power's Ranger Station on 11 October 2024 (M. Ruggiero, eBird).

Probable overwintering birds were first reported during the winter of 2007/2008 and have increased to the point that one or more

are now found on an almost annual basis with 33 separate overwintering records, which is about two per winter since 2007. Favorite locations often get return birds for several years. Individuals arrive at their wintering quarters around late September/early October and normally migrate out by late February.

Overwintering records include: one at the Southport lumber mill on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 9 January 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(1): 6; eBird); one northeast of Langlois at a rock quarry up Bethel Mountain Road in early to mid- February of 2008 (R. McKenzie, *Tattler*08(2): 6); one at the Southport lumber mill on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 6 December 2008- 4 March 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*09(1): 4; *Tattler*09(2): 5; eBird); one at a barn off Picture Valley Road in Norway from 3-28 January 2009 (D. Irons, L. Norgren, K. Fairchild, et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 12); one again at the Southport lumber mill on 30 January 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(1): 7; eBird); one again at the Picture Valley Road location from 30 December 2010- 13 February 2011 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14; eBird); one likely overwinterer on the Bethel Mountain Road on 1 January 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one at a dairy near Arago on the 4 January 2014 Coquille Valley CBC (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one in Broadbent on 25 January 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one to two east of Coos Bay at the barns on the way into the Doris Place Boat Ramp from 5 December 2015 through at least 16 February 2016 (J. Metzler et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); one again at the ranch barn below Picture Valley Road in the Coquille Valley near Norway from 2 January through at least 22 February 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); another at the same location from 30 December 2017 through at least 13 January 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, T. Wahl; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 19 January 2017 (N. & K. Shorts; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one again near the Bethel Mountain quarry from 31 December 2017- 18 March 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird); one on the same location on 21 November 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one again at the ranch barn off Picture Valley Road in Norway from 1 December 2019 through 5 February 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one again at Bethel Mountain quarry on 28 December 2018- 14 January 2019 (T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird); one in Lee Valley northeast of Myrtle Point during the winter of 2019 (B. & D. Follansbee, p.c.); one in Myrtle Point on 3 December 2019 and another in a different area of Myrtle Point on 9 January 2020- perhaps the same bird (R. & D. Henise, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one again at the ranch barn off Picture Valley Road near Norway from 26 September 2020 through 10 February 2021 (D. & R. Henise et al.; eBird); one at the fairgrounds in Myrtle Point from 23 October- 28 November 2020 (R. & D. Henise; eBird); again in Lee Valley during the winter of 2020 (B. & D. Follansbee, p.c.); one at the Hayes Century Ranch at the 11.4 mile mark along the Powers Hwy from 28 November 2020 through at least 23 January 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the Bandon airport from 2 December 2020 through 25 February 2021 (R. Batchelder et al.; eBird); one at New Lake in far southwest Coos during the winter of 2020 (R. McKenzie, p.c.); again at the Bandon airport from 1 October 2021- 14 February 2022 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); again at Hayes Century Farm from 15 October 2021 through 23 January 2022 (K. Saxton et al.; eBird); again in Lee Valley the winter of 2021/2022 (B. & D. Follansbee, p.c.); one in Broadbent on 23 January 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in the Gaylord area along the Powers Hwy from 23 January 2022- 13 February 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one for a third winter at Bandon airport

from 1 October 2022- 25 February 2023 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); the same bird back for a fourth winter at Bandon Airport from 13 October 2023- 14 January 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one on the west end of the fairgrounds in Myrtle Point on 22 February 2025 which may have been an overwintering bird or a very early migrant (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one at the Picture Valley Road site near Norway from 16 November through at least 29 December 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

Earliest spring migrant date: 26 January 2010. No birds were seen earlier in the winter at this site and another bird was found elsewhere on the North Spit a few days later so this bird was likely a very early migrant; most spring migrants do not show up until late February or March.

Latest spring migrant date: 2 June 1998; this is a very late date- mostly the spring migration is over by the end of March with very few later records.

Earliest fall migrant date: 24 August 2023 at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille (K. Saxton, eBird) with most fall migrants reported in September and October.

Latest fall migrant date: 14 December 2002- this bird was reported at Millicoma Marsh but was never refound even after extensive searching so it appeared to have been a very late migrant.

Earliest return of overwintering bird: 26 September 2020

Latest date of overwintering bird: 18 March 2018

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

One of the earliest accepted records in Oregon of this vagrant southwestern desert species is from Coos County. An adult male was found at Myrtle Point during a year that saw record numbers of this species scattered into northern California and brought Oregon two of its records.

VEFL-1992-02 Myrtle Point, one adult male on 6-7 December 1992 (SW).

Family VIREONIDAE

Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*

Vagrant. There is a single recent record which has been accepted by OBRC:

BEVI-2024-06 Millicoma Marsh, Coos Bay, Coos Co., 1 bird, 4-6 September 2024 (report and audio files TR, photos NC, DHr, NSt).

This bird had no yellow tones below so was probably the Federally Endangered subspecies, *V. bellii pusillus*, which breeds in Southern California and Northern Baja California and which has never before been documented north of Mendocino County in California (eBird records).



Figure 43- Oregon's second Bell's Vireo at Millicoma Marsh on 4 September 2024. Photo compliments of David Hargreaves.

• **Hutton's Vireo** *Vireo huttoni*

This is a fairly common but under-reported resident breeder. This is probably because it is difficult to see and may go unnoticed much of the year. Familiarity with its call note and song make it quite easy to locate though, particularly in late winter and early spring when it begins to sing, one of the earliest birds to do so in the forested portions of the county.

This species often joins flocks of other forest species including kinglets and chickadees in winter, and some care must be exercised in distinguishing it from the similar Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Again, call notes are distinctive.

Seasonal movements in the county are not known but may occur.

• **Cassin's Vireo** *Vireo cassinii*

This species was part of the Solitary Vireo complex split by the AOU in 1997. It is an uncommon breeder, primarily found in mixed forests in the southeast portion of the county. It is rare along the coastal plain, where it is only found during migration. It is easiest to find in the mixed woodlands around and near Powers.

This is a fairly early migrant, with some movement in early April and outriders reported as early as the last week of March. It departs quietly with few reports after early September.

There is one very late fall record, a bird found in Bandon on 28 November 2008 (R. Hoyer, A. Contreras; *Or. Birds* 35: 12; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 26 March 1978 on the North Spit (*fide* A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 4(2): 30).

Latest Date: 21 September 2022 at Millicoma Marsh (S. Harmon, eBird), not including the one late November record.

• **Western Warbling Vireo** *Vireo swainsoni*

This species was split by the AOS in 2025 into two species, ours is the Western subspecies. It is a common breeding bird throughout the county in mixed and deciduous woodlands and the edges of forests, in parks, and wooded draws. It first arrives in late April and peak movements are in mid-May. Fall migration is quiet and early, with most movement in August and early September with few birds reported after mid-September. There are no winter records for Oregon.

Earliest Arrival: 17 April 2021 at the Powers USFS Ranger Station (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird).

Latest Date: 18 October 1998 at Bandon (J. Gilligan, K. Castelein, D. Lauten; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 55; eBird)- this record was entered into historic eBird as Western/Eastern Warbling Vireo because at such a late date the possibility of an "eastern" species always exist.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Although this species breeds as close as the Willamette Valley, it is a rare visitant to the coast. There are five records to date: two birds in North Bend on 27 May 1989 (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 15(4): 305; eBird); one at Sunset Bay on Cape Arago on 21 June 1992 (H. Nehls, B. Fawver, B. Griffin et al.; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on about 24 May 2003 (S. Wilson, p.c.); a bird that struck a window at a North Bend residence but recovered and flew off on the late date of 2 October 2009 (L. Mangan, *Or. Birds* 35: 16; *N. Am. Birds* 64(1): 145; eBird); and a singing bird observed in mature willow forest habitat along the First Street Trail in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 12 July 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird).



Figure 44- Red-eyed Vireo at a North Bend residence on 2 October 2009. Photo compliments of Larry Mangan.

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*

Vagrant. Oregon's first record of this species was on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 October 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). This was an invasion year with up to three in Arcata, California with Washington State getting its first record shortly after the Coos bird was observed. A record has been submitted to OBRC.

Family LANIIDAE

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

This is a rare visitant to the county with at least 10 records to date, about equally split between late fall/winter and spring with a single very rare summer record.

Fall records include: one first observed 22 October 1977 and spent the winter of 1977-78 on the north shore of Coos Bay near Jordan Cove (A. Contreras, E. White-Swift; *Am. Birds* 32(3): 393; eBird); one on 20 December 1981- no details available; one that overwintered on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 8 November 2001 through 24 March 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 43; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 99; erroneously reported as first being found on 7 November in *Or. Birds*; eBird); and one at the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR on 14-15 September 2023 (K. Saxton, R.J. Ridley, C. Neuman; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).

Spring records include: one seen at New Lake on 17 April 2005 (D. Pitkin, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128); one at the same location in mid-May of

2009 (D. Pitkin, R. McKenzie; *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird); one seen near Bandon Beach SP from 17-19 April 2011 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14; eBird); and one near the mouth of New River on 22 April 2012 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird).

Coastal records during summer are virtually unprecedented in Oregon with a single Coos record: a bird seen at Cape Arago on 22 July 2005 (J. Withgott, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; eBird).

The earliest record lacks pertinent details, one at the North Bend airport in the early 1970s.

Northern Shrike *Lanius borealis*

This is an uncommon and quite local winter visitor, mainly in the coastal plain. The southern Oregon coast is the trailing edge of the species' winter range and for this reason numbers are low and the species is sometimes absent. Even in peak years only a few birds are reported on CBCs when coverage is best. The species is most often reported from the North Spit of Coos Bay, the Coquille River spit, and in open pasturelands along the east side of Coos Bay.

Birds typically arrive in mid- to late October and leave by late March.

Earliest Arrival: an immature on 2 October 2022 at Millicoma Marsh (D. Hargreaves, eBird).

Latest Date: 8 April 1999 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); April shrikes are rare and by mid-month a Loggerhead Shrike would be more likely than Northern so all April shrikes should be carefully scrutinized.

Family CORVIDAE

• **Canada Jay** *Perisoreus canadensis*

This uncommon, local resident is difficult to find in the county, mainly because it occurs in dense coniferous forests in the higher elevations of the inland part of the county, above approximately 1,500 feet in elevation, areas not frequented by most birders. The higher one goes and the further east, such as along the Signal Tree Road off Hwy 42 on the very east edge of the county, the more likely one will be found. It is mostly associated with late-seral and old-growth forests or edges along these habitats and can be found in this habitat year-round (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). It probably breeds based on numerous breeding season sightings. Geoff Keller reported birds carrying nesting material in Eden Valley on 29 April 1990 (*Am. Birds* 44(3): 489; eBird). It is more common in the northeast end of the county and gradually becomes more difficult to find as one moves south; in Curry County, this species is seldom reported.

Unlike counties further north along the Oregon coast, this species is rarely seen in the lowland or coastal portions of the county. The few lowland records include: some in the Coos Bay area in fall, 1974 (H. Reiher, *Am. Birds* 29(1): 111); some at a feeder along North Inlet on 2 January 1979 (K. Jackson, *Tattler* 2(4): 11); an unexpected visitor at Bullards Beach SP on 25 July 1990 (B. Fawver et al.; *Or. Birds* 17(2): 62; eBird); and a single bird at Cape Arago on 20 December 1998 representing the only record from a Coos County CBC to date (CBC records).

• **Steller's Jay** *Cyanocitta stelleri*

This is a common resident throughout the county wherever coniferous trees are present. It is the most widespread and easily seen jay in the county. Some movement into lowland areas occurs in some winters.

Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*

This is a rare vagrant. There are two county records. The first was a bird that spent the winter from October 1976 through 10 April 1977 in North Bend (*Or. Birds* 3(4): 18).

BLJA-1977-02 North Bend, one on 2 April 1977 (AMc). First verified Oregon record.

This species was removed from the review list in 1986.

The only other record was one briefly present in a yard with feeders in Coos Bay on 4 November 2017 (K. Long, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird).



Figure 45- A Blue Jay in a Coos Bay yard on 4 November 2017, photo compliments of Kara Long.

• **California Scrub-Jay** *Aphelocoma californica*

The Western Scrub-jay was split by AOU in 2016; the California Scrub-jay is the commonly occurring species in all of Oregon. It is present year-round in the southeast portion of the county where it breeds locally from Myrtle Point and Broadbent east and south, mainly

in the upper reaches of the Coquille River drainage where oaks are more common. It seems to be slowly expanding its range into the northwest portion of the county where isolated pairs have bred in town in both North Bend and Coos Bay in the last couple of decades. One pair of birds bred in Coos Bay in spring of 2012, with recently fledged birds seen throughout June and July (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10). Birds bred again in this same Coos Bay neighborhood each year up through 2016 (J. Metzler, p.c.) before vanishing from the area.

During migration single birds occasionally appear on the outer coast and in Coos Bay. As early as 1977 it was reported at Glasgow (*Or. Birds* 4(2): 29). These birds may be from inland Coos County or possibly birds that moved up the coast from the breeding population in southern Curry County.

In some winters, there is a noticeable movement of birds into the central Coquille Valley, with several in Coquille and single birds west to Riverton. This movement is thought to be linked to the availability of food. The first Coos Bay CBC record was in 1996 and there have been several subsequent records.

A single bird was found up at 2,200 feet in Eden Valley in the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF on 27 September 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird), a very unusual location for this species which is normally restricted to lowland valley bottom locations in Coos County. This would seem to indicate there is some migratory movement at higher elevations in addition to the occasional migrants found on the outer coast.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*

This is a rare visitant to the county, with all but a single record from late fall and winter. Hilda Reiher's notes indicate that in the fall of 1972 there were "flocks ... all over Coos County". That year also brought a major incursion into lowland California.

Fall and winter records to date include: flocks of up to 200 birds between Charleston and Bandon on 16 October 1972 (H. Reiher, *Am. Birds* 27(1):109; A. McGie, p.c.); 100 in North Bend (Glasgow?) during the winter of 1974-75 (H. Reiher, *Am. Birds* 29(3): 734); one on Robert's Ridge east of Hauser on 13 November 1979 (J. England, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51; *Tattler*3(4): 6); south of Bandon on 13 November 1986 (K. Downey, *Or. Birds* 13(2): 243); south of Bandon on 30 October 1987 (C. Casseney, *Am. Birds* 42(1): 125); one at Pony Slough from 30 September- 8 October 1998 (B. Griffin, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 25(2): 55; eBird); at least 10 in the Mt. Bolivar/Eden Valley area on 6 November 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with 36+ birds there on 9 November 2007 and at least one bird still around on 11 November 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, J. Randolph; *Tattler*07(5): 7; eBird); and one reported from William M. Tugman SP on 2 November 2019 (*fide* R. Friese, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird).

There is one spring record of this species, eight birds seen flying and calling in the Mt. Bolivar area on 4 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(3): 471; *Or. Birds* 34(3): 93; eBird) with at least one bird still around on 10 May 2008 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler*08(4): 5; eBird). This same year, two birds were seen 4.5 miles southwest of Mt. Bolivar one half mile into Curry County on 22 June 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 610; eBird) for an incredibly rare summer record begetting the question, what were they doing there so late?

● **American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

This is a common to abundant resident breeder throughout the county, with peak abundance in towns, along estuaries, and in agricultural areas with the fewest birds found in the forested Coast Range.

Numbers are thought to have increased significantly since the 1960s (B. Fawver, p.c.).

● **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*

This species is a fairly common resident throughout the county, though crows are much more common in urbanized areas. It can be found from the coast to the highest forested ridges but seems to be most common in the forested portions of the Coast Range and along the outer coast.

Family PARIDAE

● **Black-capped Chickadee** *Poecile atricapillus*

This is the common lowland chickadee of the county, found in any habitat with deciduous trees, sizable shrubs, or open mixed forest. It is especially common in willow draws and similar stringers of habitat within forested zones or towns. It is generally absent from dense coniferous forest.

In winter, it often flocks with other species such as Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and kinglets.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*

Irregular visitant. This species occasionally moves into the lowlands from its mountain pine and fir forests in the Cascades and Siskiyou during the fall and winter months.

Some winters just a single bird or two are reported, records of this nature during non-incursion years include: one at Shore Acres SP on 3 February 1973 (A. McGie, p.c.; eBird); one in North Bend on 3 October 1979 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51; eBird); 4 November 1983 and a second bird in December (Am. *Birds* 38(2): 239; B. Griffin, *Tattler* 8(1): 9; eBird); at Bastendorff Beach SP on 29 January 1984 (A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 10(2): 40; eBird); along Beaver Hill Road on 2 February 1985 (listed as D. Anderson, 7 Feb. in *Tattler* 9(2): 6; eBird); several at Cape Arago in the winter of 1990-91 (*Or. Birds* 17(3): 96); one coming to a feeder in North Bend during January of 2004 (P. Olmstead, p.c.; eBird); one coming to a feeder in the Glasgow area of North Bend from 2-13 November 2010 (A. McMann, B. Taylor, et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); one in Bandon on 17 September 2013 (H. Schubothe, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one in Bandon in 2016 on 8 March (F. Cat, eBird) and another report in Bandon on 27 March (eBird); one heard in the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF at Mt. Bolivar on 26 October 2020 (F. Mayer, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); and one nearby in Eden Valley on 28 November 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird).

Perhaps once or twice a decade, this species will invade the lowlands of western Oregon in good numbers. During these years, they can often be found throughout Coos County. Recent incursions include the fall/winter of 2000/2001 with the following observations: 12 birds on Mt. Bolivar on 6 October 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 34; eBird); two birds at Cape Arago on the Coos Bay CBC on 17 December 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; CBC records; eBird); five birds on the Coquille Valley CBC on 31 December 2000 (CBC records); and one to four

birds at New River from 26 January 2001- 25 April 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 90; eBird).

The fall/winter of 2007/2008 was also an invasion year (*Or. Birds* 34(1): 34) with the following records: several flocks totaling up to 60 birds in the Mt. Bolivar/Eden Valley area on 6 November 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with only a single bird in the same area on 9 November 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler*07(5): 7; eBird); two birds at Cape Arago on 15 December 2007 (D. and A. Heyerly; *Tattler*08(1): 5; eBird); one bird at a feeder near South Slough NERR on the 16 December 2007 Coos Bay CBC (R. Elledge, *Tattler*08(1): 6; eBird); one to two birds at New River from 21 January- 15 March 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(3): 93; eBird); and one singing bird near the Powers Ranger Station on 4 April 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(3): 93; eBird).

Another incursion occurred during the fall/winter of 2012/2013 (*Or. Birds* 39(1): 10). Records include: one at Evergreen Court in North Bend on 20 October 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Thomas); another single sporadically from 20 October- 31 March 2013 near the boat ramp in Eastside area of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the Coos Bay BLM office in North Bend from 1-9 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one south of Ferry Road Park in North Bend on 23 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one sporadically at Millicoma Marsh from 27 December 2012- 13 April 2013 (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one at Bullards Beach SP on 4 January 2013 (G. Shaffer, eBird); and two in Bandon on 5 January 2013 (N. Strycker, eBird).

The latest incursion was during the fall/winter of 2015/2016: up to three at the BLM office in North Bend from 6 October 2015- 24 November 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); three birds in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 1 November 2015 with one bird at the BLM office in North Bend the same day (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); one to three birds coming to a Coos Bay feeder from 29 November through the end of March 2016 (J. Fereday, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); and one at a North Bend feeder on 7 January 2016 (B. Griffin, p.c.; eBird).

• **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** *Poecile rufescens*

This is the common to abundant resident breeding chickadee of coniferous forests. It also occurs in mixed forests and, in winter, in varied habitats including towns, where it flocks with other small forest birds such as kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Black-capped Chickadees.

Family ALAUDIDAE

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

This is a rare but almost regular fall migrant and a very rare winterer found mainly on the outer coast.

Birds have not been recorded earlier than September in the fall. Records from September include: one at Bullards Beach Park on 19 September 1981 (J. Gilligan, D. Irons; *Tattler*5(4): 6; eBird); five birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 September 1998 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, S. Mlodinow, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); three at New River on 6 September 1998 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, S. Mlodinow, T. Rodenkirk; OBOL; eBird); one at the Bullards Beach SP from 10-28 September 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Pettey; eBird); one bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 29 September 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(5): 5; eBird); one at New River

on 2 September 2011 (R. Namitz et al., *Tattler*Sep/Oct 2011: 8; eBird); one at the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR on 12 September 2011 (B. Wishnek *fide* P. Adamus; eBird); one at Bandon SP and another at Bandon Marsh both on 23 September 2021 (F. English, eBird); and four Streaked Horned Larks in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 September 2022 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

October records include: six at Horsfall Lake on 6 October 1987 (B. Fawver, *Or. Birds* 14(3): 295; eBird); nine on the beach near the north jetty of Coos Bay on 5 October 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 43; eBird); one to two birds seen at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 31 October 2002- 3 November 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 50; eBird); two on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 17 September 2003 (S. Steinberg *fide* P. Adamus; eBird); two on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 October 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one or two at the same location on 2 October 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4 October 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two at Coquille Point in Bandon on 17 October 2015 (S. Russell, eBird); one in the Snowy Plover HRA at the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 October 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a flyover calling in the same location on 31 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

November records are the most numerous and include: a small flock at the North Spit of Coos Bay in late November of 1978 (R. Deering, *Tattler*2(4): 11); one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 November 1979 (A. McGie, *Tattler*3(4): 6; eBird); one with Lapland Longspurs at Bandon on 3 November 1985 (P. Mueller et al.; *Or. Birds* 12(3): 220; eBird); two at Bullards Beach SP on 9 November 1985 (T. Shelmerdine, eBird); at an unknown location on 20 November 1989; one at Millicoma Marsh on 6 November 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); five on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 12 November 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one on the beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 43; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4-6 November 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 November 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); one at the same location on 24 November 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one in Bandon on 6 November 2015 (S. Lloyd *fide* D. Pettey; OBOL; eBird); one at Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint in Bandon on 1 November 2019 (D. & R. Henise, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); and one at Bullards Beach SP on 1 November 2020 (D. & R. Henise; eBird).

December records are fewer and some records could potentially be of birds attempting to overwinter: one on 16 December 1979; one at the North Spit of the Coquille River from 20-24 December 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); 18 on the 17 December 2006 Coos Bay CBC including one flock of 17 birds out on the Menasha Spoil behind Simpson Park in North Bend (L. Norgren, *Or. Birds* 33(2): 60; erroneously reported as 18 birds out on the North Spit); and one on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 December 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*09(5): 7; eBird).

There are seven winter records, a few which may have been birds overwintering locally. The first record was "February 16-17" (Gabrielson and Jewett, 1940). The other records include: up to five in the open, sandy Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay from 29 October 2000- 23 February 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or.*

Birds 27(1): 34; *Or. Birds* 27(2): 65; eBird); up to six birds in the same area from 2 December 2005– 31 January 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, M. Wihler, R. Namitz et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); a single bird along the Bethel Mountain Road on 20 January 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*09(1): 6; eBird); one on the Bethel Mountain Road on 31 December 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two on the beach south of Tenmile Creek on 7 February 2021 (E. Krygsman, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); a male with a pale, yellow face and all white below in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay from 11–17 February 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, N. Koeltzow; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); and three on the beach on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 February 2024 with one in the same area the next day (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

Spring records are very rare with only two to date, a bird seen on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 April 2011 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 510; eBird) and another in the same area on 9 April 2020– likely of the western arctic group (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

Family HIRUNDINIDAE

Subfamily HIRUNDININAE

◦ **Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia*

This is a rare but regular spring migrant species, seen in small numbers each year on the outer coast, at least since 1998. Fall migrants are much rarer. It breeds locally near Gold Beach and Cape Blanco in Curry County, and formerly bred at Yachats, Lincoln County (Gabrielson and Jewett, 1940). It is a rare migrant in interior southwestern Oregon and breeds commonly in eastern Oregon. In 2021 and 2022 up to four birds were present along New River in June and July suggesting breeding somewhere near this location.

On 13 and 28 July 1951 Giesler (1952) noted a single bird around Sunset Bay on Cape Arago (J. Giesler, eBird). It is possible that this represented an immature Tree Swallow, but I am inclined to accept the record as correct given the generally excellent reports of the observer.

Hilda Reiher's unpublished notes include reports of this species on ten occasions between 27 March and 11 April in the years 1924–1934, but not after that year, suggesting that a small migrant population formerly passed through the county in spring. Her notes also include records of one at Hauser on 28 May 1940 (eBird) and of four birds in the North Bend area on 17 June 1976 (eBird) suggesting the possibility of a relict or intermittent breeding colony somewhere around Coos Bay. Currently, the closest known breeding colonies are at Nesika Beach in the cliffs around Otter Point north of Gold Beach and in the cliffs south of Cape Blanco, both locations not too distant from Coos County. These colonies could be responsible for some of the late June and July records in Coos County since 1998. It is also possible that a few could be nesting undetected elsewhere on coastal cliffs along the south coast with the best-looking coastal cliff habitat between Seven Devils Beach and Cape Arago.

Spring migrants can rarely be found in late April, with only two records since 1998: a single bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 April 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds*

27(3): 90; eBird) and another bird at the same Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 27 April 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128; eBird).

May is the month migrants are most often reported, records since 1998 include: a single bird at New River on 13 May 2000 with another there on 17 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two birds at Millicoma Marsh on 5 May 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 27(3): 90; eBird); two birds seen flying north along New River on 16 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(3): 135; eBird); one at New River on 6 May 2003 and four more there on 20 May 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 149; both eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 8 May 2004 and another or the same bird at the same location on 12 May 2004 (T. Shelmerdine, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 30(3): 131; both eBird); a single bird at the same Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 21 May 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128; eBird); another one at New River on 11 May 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*06(4): 6; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 13 May 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*06(4): 6; eBird); one on Tenmile Creek on 13 May 2007 (J. Metzler, *Tattler*07(3): 6; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 16-17 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(3): 7; eBird); one at New River on 8 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(4): 5; eBird); another one at New River on 31 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(4): 6; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site see on four separate dates between 21 May- 5 June 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Bosler; four eBird lists); one at Coquille on 8 May 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler*10(2): 6; eBird); one at New River on 14 May 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 30 May 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); a single at the same location on four separate dates from 7 May- 3 June 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 510; eBird); at the same location on 23 May 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 5 May 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one on two birds at the same location on 24 May & 1 June 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); another at the same site on 20 May 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the BLM office in North Bend on 26 May 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 2 May 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 23 June 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); one at Bandon SP on 16 May 2021 (A. Moss, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 23 May 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the same site on 9 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 12 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 19 May 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

June records since 1998 are much less common than May records and include: one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 1 June 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(4): 208; eBird); a single bird at New River on 8 June 2005 with one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site the same day (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; erroneously reported as 7 June in *Or. Birds*; both eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 2 June 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler*08(4): 6; eBird); at the same site on 5 & 26 June 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Bosler; eBird); at the same site on 1 June 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); and again, at the same site, on 8 June 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

There are a few July records since 1998. It is hard to say if these were very early migrants or birds that bred somewhere nearby in Curry County or perhaps even in Coos County. These July records

include: one at New River on 21 July 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, *Or. Birds* 26(1): 146); two again at New River on 6 July 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 191); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 16 & 22 July 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Bosler; eBird); one at New River on 10-11 July 2009 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 63(4): 649; eBird); and one at Millicoma Marsh on 26 July 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Fall records are much rarer than spring records and include the following dates since 1998: one or two birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on 22 August 1998 (J. Gilligan, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 54; eBird); two at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 September 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 1 September 2007 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Tattler* 07(4): 6; eBird); one at the same location on 25 August and 7 September 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 66(1): 160; eBird); another at the same location on 27 August 2012 (A. and C. Hinkle, eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 2 September 2017 (N. Strycker et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); and three at Seven Devils Wayside on 10 August 2021 (G. Apte, eBird).

There are no verified breeding records in Coos but in the late spring and early summer of 2021 (*Or. Birds* 48(1): 33) and again in 2022 (*Or. Birds* 49(1): 43) up to three were observed multiple times along New River between the mouth and the Storm Ranch area with most observations at the easy to access Lower Fourmile Trail (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). In 2021 three birds were first observed at Lower Fourmile on 12 June and were observed off and on through 13 August (T. Rodenkirk, D. & R. Henise, K. Saxton, A. Hinkle; eBird). In 2022 up to three birds were seen in the same area from 17 May- 16 July making it highly probable that these birds were breeding locally somewhere along New River (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

Earliest Spring Migrant Date: 26 April 2001.

Latest Spring Migrant Date: 26 June 2009, not including several July records of birds that were likely early southbound migrants or possible breeders from Curry County or even birds breeding at an unknown site in Coos County.

Earliest Fall Migrant Date: 10 August 2021, not including the July records, some of which could have been very early migrants or birds that were breeding at an unknown location in or near Coos County.

Latest Fall Migrant Date: 7 September 2011.

• **Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor*

This is a common to abundant breeder county-wide where snags, boxes, or other holes provide appropriate habitat near water. They are less common in towns than the Violet-green Swallow. In recent years they have become almost regular in small numbers in the latter half of December and January and may become a more regular overwintering species in the future.

This is the earliest swallow to arrive and the first to leave. The first outliers arrive in the Coquille Valley in early to mid-February (earlier in mild years), with significant movements by early March. Birds generally arrive a few weeks later at the coast. In July post-breeding flocks form and birds begin moving south. By August, only a few birds remain with a few stragglers reported into September some years. Care should be taken IDing white-bellied swallows in September as most are Violet-green Swallows, Trees being very unusual by then.

Observations from late fall and winter are rare and may pertain to early migrants, or in some cases, to birds attempting to overwinter.

These records include: 7 January 1970 (*H. Reiher, unpublished notes*); 2 January 1981; three on the 3 January 1998 Coquille Valley CBC (*H. Herlyn and J. Adkins, fide A. Contreras; Or. Birds* 24(3): 99; eBird); one to four birds apparently trying to overwinter at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 16 December 1998– 21 January 1999 (*T. Rodenkirk, Or. Birds* 25(3): 89, this was erroneously reported as 29 December– 8 January in *Or. Birds*; eBird); two seen on 25 December 2003 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (*B. and J. Woodhouse, Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird); 140 “white-bellied swallows” (presumably this species although the author notes that young Barn Swallows can have white bellies so the exact ID of these swallows is still in question) seen at New Lake on about 7 January 2006 (*R. McKenzie fide T. Wahl, Or. Birds* 32(2): 87); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the 17 December 2006 Coos Bay CBC (*M. Wihler, p.c.; eBird*); one at the same location from 29 October through at least 1 November 2007 (*T. Rodenkirk, Tattler*07(5): 6; eBird); six birds at Myrtle Point Marsh on 6 January 2008 (*M. Wihler, Tattler*08(1): 6; eBird); up to 13 birds at Johnson Mill Pond from 19 December 2010 through early February 2011 when the normal migrant swallows began to show up in large numbers (*T. Rodenkirk, Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); two to 12 at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille from 26 December 2011 through at least 22 January 2012 (*T. Rodenkirk, F. Mayer, R. Foster; Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); a dozen at the old Norway lumber pond on 22 January 2012 that may have been early migrants (*T. Rodenkirk, Tattler*12(1): 7; eBird); four birds in the Coquille Valley on the 2 January 2016 CBC (*J. Metzler, Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); three birds in the Coquille Valley on the 1 January 2017 Coquille Valley CBC (*B. Taylor, E. Clough; Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one on 24 January 2017 in Bandon (*K. Castelein, p.c.; eBird*); nine birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 January 2018 (*B. Taylor, p.c.; eBird*); one bird with two Barn Swallows at Johnson Mill Pond on 5 January 2019 (*T. Rodenkirk, Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4 November 2019 (*R. & D. Henise; eBird*); three with two Barn Swallows at Myrtle Point Marsh on 19 December 2019 (*R. & D. Henise, Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); two at Coos County Fairgrounds in Myrtle Point on 18 January 2020 (*R. & D. Henise; Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); up to 14 at Myrtle Point Marsh from 11 December 2020 through 4 January 2021 (*R. & D. Henise, T. Rodenkirk; Or. Birds* 48(1): 33; eBird); up to seven at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille from 28 November– 31 December 2020 (*R. & D. Henise, T. Rodenkirk; Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 25 December 2020 with four there on 15 January 2022 (*E. Clough, T. Rodenkirk, Z. Fukuda; eBird*); two at Bandon Marsh NWR on the 1 January 2024 Coquille Valley CBC (*D. Irons, S. Finnegan; eBird*); 10 at Myrtle Point Marsh on 6–7 January 2024 (*T. Rodenkirk, eBird*); six at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 16 January 2024 (*B. Hoeflein, S. Schwartz, eBird*); and two also on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 January 2024 (*D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird*).

Earliest Arrival of Breeding Birds: Historically, the first birds have shown up in the Coquille Valley in early February but it appears that the first arrivals have begun showing up as early as mid-January in recent years. December groups that persist into January are likely overwintering birds.

Latest Date: Probably in mid-September although by September care needs to be taken not to confuse the more likely Violet-green Swallow

for the much rarer Tree Swallow. The latest records of Violet-green Swallows extend into early October while Trees are rarely observed after early September.

Earliest Arrival of Wintering Flocks: 11 Dec 2020 at Myrtle Point Marsh; this does not include a couple November records of birds that were only briefly seen at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site.

Latest Date of Wintering Flocks: 21 January 1999 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, this flock had been there since 16 December 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(3): 89). However, with the first breeders arriving earlier in recent years and the number of wintering attempts increasing, it is hard to differentiate when birds are departing and arriving at favored wintering sites particularly in the Coquille Valley.

• **Violet-green Swallow** *Tachycineta thalassina*

This is the common "town swallow" in the county, where most of the breeding population uses houses and other buildings for its crevice nests. Some use holes in natural settings such as cliff faces.

This swallow generally moves a couple of weeks later in spring and fall than the Tree Swallow, with the first birds typically found in the Coquille Valley in late February and the bulk of movement in mid- to late March. Birds usually arrive a few weeks later on the coast. In fall, bird numbers drop by late August and by mid-September they are hard to find in the lowlands where most swallows still around are Barns. However, sporadically during mid- to late September and the first week or so of October, large south bound "flash" flocks (because they can suddenly appear and just as suddenly disappear as they migrate through in a large steadily moving swarm) of Violet-greens pass through, some of which can number in the hundreds. Sometimes these larger flocks are barely visible and can only be seen well with binoculars. On occasion these late, large flocks can be impressive in size with an estimated 2,000 observed migrating south along New River on 26 September 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird) and another enormous flock at least a mile long of approximately 2,600 high above New River in northern Curry County on 29 September 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

This is a much rarer species in winter than the Tree Swallow with only five records to date: two south of Coquille on the 5 January 1997 Coquille Valley CBC (CBC records; eBird); one at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille with Tree Swallows from 26 December 2011 through 14 January 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one on the 16 December 2012 Coos Bay CBC (J. Metzler, J. Heaney; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one at Myrtle Point Marsh with a large group of Tree and Barn Swallows on 6-7 January 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one at the same location with Tree and Barn Swallows on 12 January 2025 with perhaps the same bird reported on 26 January 2025 (K. Saxton, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 4 February 1984 at Coos Bay (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 10(2): 40) although most birds do not show up until the latter half of February in the Coquille Valley with the first coastal birds usually not reported until early March.

Latest Date: a flock of 200+ birds on 12 October 2020 at Myrtle Point Marsh (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 6; eBird) and several flocks from the Coos Bay and Myrtle Point areas on 12 October 2025 during an early wet weather spell that brought an incursion of late migrants down low into coastal areas around the county (G. van Vliet, T. Rodenkirk, K. Saxton; eBird); this is not counting the few rare mid-winter records.

• **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

This is an uncommon but widespread migrant and breeder in the county, occurring mainly along rivers and slow-moving streams and backwaters, including lower Coos Bay (they nest on in burrows on Coos Head). It is a bank hole nester but forms loose assemblages rather than dense colonies like the Bank Swallow. Away from nesting colonies, sightings tend to be in smaller numbers than other swallows with singles or twos and threes mixed in with large swallow feeding flocks.

This species seems to spend less time in the county than any other swallow. Spring migrants generally arrive in very late March or early April. Birds are clearly less numerous after July but small numbers persist through August and early September.

There are no winter records.

Earliest Arrival: 19 March 2022 at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

Latest Date: 25 September 2002 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 50; eBird).

• **Purple Martin** *Progne subis*

This species has made a remarkable comeback from being almost extirpated from the county by the late 1980s or early 1990s due primarily to efforts made by concerned individuals to provide and maintain nesting habitat (primarily E. Horvath, T. Rodenkirk, J. Metzler). It was once widespread but declined in number due to the removal of its preferred snag habitat by logging and fire prevention programs and because of competition exclusion from the remaining snags by introduced European Starlings (Horvath 1999). Starting in 1998, a nest box program was begun in the county and was expanded and now birds have become widespread once again, with nest boxes in several locations in Coos Bay, Coquille, and Bandon. In addition, in recent years birds have once again been documented nesting in natural snag habitat in the Coast Range.

Sightings were limited by the 1990s and included the following observations: in summer at Bandon (bred in old martin boxes in 1989, D. Fix, *Or. Birds* 16(2): 194); at Powers probably breeding in hillside snags (A. McGie, p.c.); and at Tenmile Lakes near Lakeside where they nested under the metal caps which were affixed to the top of pilings (to prevent rot) scattered around the lake. They formerly bred at the mouth of Kentuck Inlet on Coos Bay and in a building in Powers with the last nesting report from Powers in May of 1984 (A. McGie, p.c.). In the late 1970s and early 1980s they were sometimes seen investigating pilings and other possible nest sites along Coos Bay (A. McGie, p.c.).

In 1998, a Purple Martin nest box project was initiated in Coos Bay by Tim Rodenkirk with help from Eric Horvath in conjunction with the Coos Bay BLM (Rodenkirk and Kritz, 2000). Three "starling proof" nest boxes were installed on pilings in Coos Bay off the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay. This effort was immediately successful, with one pair nesting the first year. The project was expanded in following years, and by 2015 there were a total of 41 nest boxes included in this project. The 41 nest boxes were all affixed to pilings in Coos Bay and are located at three locations: off the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay, in downtown Coos Bay behind the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office, and north of Millicoma Marsh on the southeast side of Coos Bay. Post breeding monitoring in October of 2015 found 16 nests, 13 of which successfully fledged birds.

Joe Metzler was contracted by Coos Bay BLM to continue the project in 2015 and continued the project into the early 2020s. Metzler has maintained the three original sites and added additional boxes, some of his own design, around the county in several areas including in the Snowy Plover HRA on the North Spit, along the causeway out to the North Spit, and around the Snowy Plover nesting area near the mouth of Tenmile Creek. In addition to maintaining and monitoring boxes, Metzler has been banding birds and has been involved with a satellite tracking program to learn more about where Purple Martins migrate and winter when not in Coos County.

Historically, Tenmile Lakes was the last stronghold of this species in the county. The martins were able to nest under the metal caps affixed to the top of pilings (caps were attached to top of pilings to prevent rot) at this site and persisted primarily because starlings were too large to get under the metal caps and steal these nest sites from the martins. Although standard nest boxes had been put up here and at other locations in the county, starlings were able to gain entrance to the boxes and basically "took over" most nest boxes. Eric Horvath recognized this problem and put up 20 of his "starling proof" nest boxes on Tenmile Lake in 1999 and ODFW added 15 boxes in 2000 and 17 more in 2001. These boxes were designed with the entrance size small enough to let martins in but too small for starlings to gain access. Horvath estimated approximately 60 nesting pairs on Tenmile Lake in 2002 making this the largest colony in the county (E. Horvath, p.c.). During the next couple of decades, the boxes were not cleaned or monitored on a regular basis that the author knows of, and the boxes fell into a state of disrepair and numbers of nesting birds likely dropped off. However, in the early 2020s, Joe Metzler replaces some of the old boxes as did the Coos Watershed (J. Metzler, p.c.). On 26 March 2025, three early Purple Martins were noted at the lake at some of the newer nest boxes which should help bolster the population there once again (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Horvath also put up five nest boxes on Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille in 1998. Joe Metzler "adopted" taking care of this site in about 2008. That year he cleaned the boxes out and four out of five successfully fledged young. Metzler added four "starling proof" boxes in 2009 and all nine boxes were used by nesting martins that year. In 2010, eight of nine boxes fledged young. In 2011, Metzler added six more boxes for a total of 15- all boxes were used successfully by martins, although a starling had to be removed from one box so a martin pair could move in. Metzler also found two martins nesting in the pilings on the pond in 2011. In 2012, 16 boxes were up and all were used by martins with an additional three or four pairs nesting in pilings there (J. Metzler, p.c.). In 2013 there were 13 successful nests and in 2014 there were 14 nests with fledglings (J. Metzler, p.c.). Metzler has continued to monitor this site every year since, and it appears that Purple Martins continue to have a high rate of successfully fledging young although starlings are present and always a headache as they also nest in crevices in the old pilings and so remain a persistent threat to the martins.

The Bandon Harbor area had nest boxes installed in the 1970s, and Horvath added four new boxes in 1998 (E. Horvath, p.c.). Birds have been reported breeding there in 2003 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43), in 2004 (E. Horvath, OBOL), and again in 2007 (T. Rodenkirk) and probably bred there for several years after that. Horvath also put up seven boxes on pilings in the Coquille River near Bandon in 2001. These boxes had breeding birds by 2003 (T. Rodenkirk,

per. obs.) and likely were used by breeding birds although they are not regularly monitored or cleaned and are probably in disrepair by now. In recent years, most of the old pilings in the harbor area which had nest boxes affixed to them were removed. The Purple Martins then moved their nest to underneath the docks in the same harbor area, where they were observed flying in and out of during the summer of 2023 and 2024—there must be pilings with sufficient crevices for them to nest in this peculiar location (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Birds may be nesting in the vicinity of New River as there have been multiple sightings there since 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

There are several recent inland records of nesting birds in snags in recent clearcuts including the following records: several pairs in large Douglas-fir snags on Coos Bay BLM land near Gravelford in May and June of 2002m (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.); four+ pairs in large madrone snags left in a clearcut located on private land up Slide Creek near Remote in July and August of 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.); a pair nesting on private land in a myrtlewood snag east of Norway in 2012 with two pairs present in the same clearcut in late May of 2013 (B. Follansbee, p.c.); a pair in a large snag in a clearcut just south of the Signal Tree Communication Site in far southeast Coos County at 3,200 foot elevation on 2 July 2014 (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); and at least two pairs nesting in the microwave tower at the Signal Tree Communication Site as well as in large snags in a clearcut adjacent to the north side of the communication site from 2022–2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Recent clearcut stands with large remnant snags do offer habitat for nesting martins. However, this habitat is transitory and the martins will leave after time once a young forest becomes established and has grown tall enough that the snag habitat no longer towers high enough over the plantation below. Exactly how many years this takes or how high the young plantation needs to be to make the habitat no longer attractive to martins is unknown, but these islands of habitat only remain habitat for a limited amount of time. Thus, some of the natural nesting sites listed above, from clearcuts in 2012 and 2013 for instance, may no longer have nesting martins. This open habitat with large snags needs to be constantly replaced by new clearcuts and/or natural disturbances to provide additional martin nesting habitat. A major limiting factor in these second and third growth managed forest stands is large snags. Thus, a program to affix nest boxes to residual trees in clearcut stands may become necessary if this species is to persist long term in the Coast Range forests in Coos County.

The adult male scouts typically arrive first in Coos County at the Tenmile Lake site the last few days of March but do not arrive at other sites in the county until about a week or so later. Nesting normally begins in May with some birds still fledging as late as mid-August. Most nesting birds are gone by the end of August.

Earliest Arrival: 14 March 1985 at Pony Slough (B. Griffin, *Am. Birds* 39(3): 343), this is an unusually early date though, in recent years the first birds have normally not been detected until the last few days of March. A recent very early date was two birds at Tenmile Lake on 23 March 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: 15 September 2001 at the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 43; eBird).

● **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

This is a common breeder and migrant throughout the county in a wide variety of habitats. It is most common near water where bridge

nests are the norm but it also nests on structures away from water in agricultural areas and often builds its mud nest under eaves on houses, barns, and other outbuildings.

This is one of the latest swallows to arrive in the spring, with few birds seen before very late March, remaining later than most other swallows into fall, with many birds in September and a few still around some years into early October. It is also now regular in small numbers in winter with birds typically appearing in mid- to late December with reports continuing through February and rarely into early March with a brief pause in March before the usual first spring migrants arrive in late month although the distinction between winter birds and spring arrivals is a bit murky in years when birds are detected in mid-March.

Prior to the early 2000s, this species was very rare in the winter with only a few records. These records included: three near Riverton on the 5 January 1997 Coquille Valley CBC (H. Herlyn, M. Hunter; eBird) two seen flying along the beach on the 2 January 1999 Coquille Valley CBC (A. Contreras, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 25(3): 89; eBird); and one at Bandon on 3 February 2000 (D. Lauten, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 188; eBird).

Starting in winter of 2001 and all but three winters since, this species has become regular in small numbers during the winter with at least one record most winters and usually several observations.

The winter 2001/2002 incursion included several records: two at Millicoma Marsh on 12 January (J. Sullivan, *Or. Birds* 28(2): 100; eBird); five at New River on 17 January (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 100; eBird); one at the BLM office in North Bend on 25 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one or two at the Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 18 February (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(2): 100; eBird); and one at Johnson Mill Pond on 2 March (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird).

There was only one winter record during the winter of 2002/2003, two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 December (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140; eBird).

There were many birds during the winter of 2003/2004 with the following records: two birds seen at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 24 December (eBird) with 2-8 birds seen regularly throughout January and peaking on 31 January when 30 birds were seen at this site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird); 21 at New River on 13 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and 40 birds at Winter Lake in the Coquille Valley on 30 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird).

During the winter of 2004/2005 birds were seen at several locations (all records from *Or. Birds* 31(2): 88) including: one to five birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 22-24 December (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); 25+ birds at New Lake on 1 January (T. Wahl, p.c.; eBird); nine at New River on 13 January (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

In the winter of 2005/2006 records include: two seen from 18-25 December at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (M. Persmark, D. Irons, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); one bird near New Lake on about 8 January (*fide* T. Wahl, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); four birds seen at New River on 22 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); and one bird at the old Weyerhaeuser Pond site on 23 February (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird).

The winter of 2006/2007 only produced a single sighting, a bird seen on 17 February at Johnson Mill Pond (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(2): 62; eBird).

During the winter of 2007/2008 there were several observations: three birds seen flying north at Henderson Marsh on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 January (T. and H. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(2): 58; *Tattler*08(1): 6; eBird); 6-8 birds seen at Myrtle Point Marsh from 26 January through at least 2 February (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(2): 56; eBird); six birds at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 27 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(2): 56; eBird); and three birds up Catching Slough on 27 January (T. Rodenkirk *fide* S. Messerle; OBOL; eBird).

During the winter of 2009/2010 there was only a single record, two birds on the 20 December 2009 Coos Bay CBC at Millicoma Marsh (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 35: 16; eBird).

During the winter of 2010/2011 there were several observations (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Tattler*10(1): 6-9): one with 13 Tree Swallows at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 15 January (eBird); 10 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 19 January (eBird); one with 17 Tree Swallows at Myrtle Point Marsh on 6 February (eBird) with two there on 13 February with 40 Tree Swallows (eBird); and two first winter birds at Johnson Mill Pond on 22 February (eBird) with one adult there on 25 February (eBird).

During the winter of 2011/2012 there was a single bird at Millicoma Marsh on 3 December 2011 (T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler*12(1): 5; eBird), up to six at Johnson Mill Pond on 14-15 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird), and two at Norway Pond on 22 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird).

During the winter of 2013/2014 two birds were seen near the Eastside boat ramp in Coos Bay on 25 December (D. and A. Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7) and three birds were at Johnson Mill Pond on 11 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9).

During the winter of 2014/2015 there was only a single sighting, two birds at Johnson Mill Pond on the 3 January 2015 Coquille Valley CBC (J. Billstine, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird).

The winter of 2016/2017 was busy with the following detections: three at Henderson Marsh on the North Spit of Coos Bay on the 18 December 2016 Coos Bay CBC (V. Thompson; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); five at the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR on 31 December (L. Sherman, eBird); an amazing 21(!) on the 1 January Coquille Valley CBC- seven on the outer coast (eBird) and the rest in the Coquille Valley (*fide* H. Schuboth; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); four at Johnson Mill Pond on 8 January where 12 had been a week before on the CBC (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); three along Hwy 42N near Coquille on 15 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); three at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 January with 10 there on 25 January and only a single bird on 1 February (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; all eBird); and seven at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 18 February (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird).

During the winter of 2017/2018 there was only a single report, one at Pacific Dunes Golf Course north of Bandon on 2 January (N. Shorts, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird).

During the winter of 2018/2019 one was reported at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 December (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird) and two more were at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 5 January (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird- incorrectly reported as one in *Or. Birds*).

During the winter of 2019/2020 there were the following records: two at Myrtle Point March with three Tree Swallows on 19 December (R. &

D. Henise, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); 12+ at Johnson Mill Pond with two Tree Swallows on 4 February (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird); and 24 at the same location with six Tree Swallows on 9 February (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird).

During the winter of 2020/2021 there were several records: one to two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 12 December- 5 January 2021 (N. Koeltzow, T. Rodenkirk, E. Clough et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird) with a single again further south on the spit on 2-3 February (N. Koeltzow, eBird) and 2-3 at the settling pond site on 18-28 February (T. Rodenkirk, R. & D. Henise; eBird); a single with Tree Swallows at Myrtle Point Marsh from 12-14 December (T. Rodenkirk, D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird) with one to two at the same Myrtle Point location on 18-24 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with a single there on 5 February and eight there on 23 February (D. & R. Henise, eBird); and one at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille on 26 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

During the winter of 2021/2022 there were three sightings: one flying south at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 14 January (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird); one with Tree and Violet-green Swallows at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 20 February (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and two at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 11 March that could have been very early spring migrants (K. Saxton, eBird).

There were several records from the winter of 2022/2023: one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 January with two on 22 Jan (K. Saxton, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); two in Bandon on 22 Jan (T. Kurz, P. Buchanan; eBird); two at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 19 February (P. Newland, K. Van Norman, J. Maynard; eBird); and six at Johnson Mill Pond on 26 February (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

During the winter of 2023/2024 there were several records: one in Bandon on 2 January (T. Jeske, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 January (T. Yaukey, eBird); 16 at Myrtle Point Marsh on 6-7 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two at Horsfall Beach on 7 January (D. Russell, eBird); and one to four at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 3-26 February (m.o.; eBird).

During the winter of 2024/2025 there were quite a few records: five on 22 December in Bandon (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird); two to 11 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 23-24 December (G. Gregor, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one at Horsfall Beach on 2 January (K. Pahlas, eBird); nine at Myrtle Point Marsh on 12 January with two Tree Swallows and one Violet-green Swallow (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyco settling pond site on 18 January (T. Yaukey, eBird); one on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 January (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); one at New River on 22 January (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird); four at Myrtle Point Marsh with Tree Swallows on from 26-31 January (T. Rodenkirk, K. Saxton; eBird); one at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille on 31 January (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two at Myrtle Point Marsh on 22 February (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one at Johnson Mill Pond with a large mixed flock of Tree and Violet-green Swallows on 2 March 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

During the winter of 2025/2026 there were several reports: seven at the Old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 25 December (M. Weber, eBird); five at Johnson Mill Pond on 29 December (B. Showler, eBird); one in Bandon on the 3 January Coquille Valley CBC (T. Jeske, eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 11 January (T. & H. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 14 March 2020 at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); this does not include the mid-winter records since early 2002. With mid-winter birds now regular into late February and early March, trying to figure out early arrival times for the "regular" spring migrants has become a real guessing game.

Latest Date: one on 4 November 2009 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (K. Fairchild, eBird), with the exception of the mid-winter records listed above. Most years a few are reported into very early October then none until late December or January.

• **Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

This is a common migrant and colonial nester in the county. The mud nest colonies can be found on buildings, bridges, coast guard navigational aids in Coos Bay, and other structures as well as on cliffs when available.

Birds begin arriving in southwestern Oregon in late March and depart in August with a few birds sometimes lingering into mid- to late September.

Earliest Arrival: 18 March 1998 at Myrtle Point Marsh (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 24(4): 133; eBird).

Latest Date: 29 October 1999 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), although this species is rarely reported after mid-September.

Family AEGITHALIDAE

• **Bushtit** *Psaltiriparus minimus*

This is a fairly common widespread resident breeder. It is most common in open shrubby or wooded areas, where small flocks gather most of the year, breaking up rather briefly in May and June to breed, then reforming into foraging bands until the following spring.

This species sometimes feeds with mixed flocks of other small birds in winter, but usually flocks with its own species and flows between the bushes in a distinctive stream of softly lisping little gray birds.

Family SYLVIIDAE

• **Wrentit** *Chamaea fasciata*

This is a common resident of dense brushy areas, especially along the outer coast and in recently replanted clearcuts and young conifer plantations. It is especially abundant in dense thickets of salal and salmonberry. The species' secretive habits make it hard to see but its distinctive "bouncing ball" song and dry ratcheting calls often give its presence away.

There are no known seasonal movements as pairs reportedly rarely leave their breeding territory and have been known to defend the same territory for up to 12 years (Geupel and Ballard 2023).

Family REGULIDAE

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula*

This is a common to abundant winter bird throughout the county, with peak numbers in low-elevation mixed forests, open woodlands, forest edges, towns, and shrubby swamps. These birds often flock with

other small forest birds in winter but are frequently found as solitary foragers also. Numbers vary somewhat from year to year.

The species does not breed in the county but singing wintering birds and migrants in April and May could easily be mistaken for birds on breeding territories. The first fall influx to the county comes in early September and by mid- to late month they quickly become abundant. There is a distinct drop in numbers in late April, but stragglers can appear through much of May.

Earliest Arrival: 4 September 2000 at Bandon (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 29(1): 50; eBird) and 4 September 2005 also in Bandon at Bandon Marsh NWR (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: a singing bird at Mt. Bolivar on 15 June 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), this was unusually late as most birds have disappeared by mid-May.

• **Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa*

This is a locally common and widespread breeder that is even more conspicuous in winter, when flocks of dozens can be found in any sizable stand of conifers. It often flocks in winter with Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and chickadees.

There may be some movement into the county in winter, presumably from more montane or northerly populations, but this movement is not well understood.

Family BOMBYCILLIDAE

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

This is a rare irruptive winter visitant. It is uncommon in winter in northeastern Oregon and rare in Western Oregon, particularly along the coast. There are only two records: one on 1 January 1979 in North Bend (B. Griffin, *Am. Birds* 33(3): 309; eBird) and three with a starling flock near Bastendorff Beach on the 18 December 2016 Coos Bay CBC (A. Contreras, G. Floyd; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).

• **Cedar Waxwing** *Bombycilla cedrorum*

This is a fairly common breeder in the county in mixed woodlands and more open forests. At other seasons it is irregular and unpredictable with considerable variation in abundance. Birds are easy to find in fall but most are gone by winter and so they are normally considered a "good find" on local CBCs. When they are found in winter it is almost always in neighborhoods in towns where berries can be procured, with holly trees and cotoneaster bushes a favorite winter food source. A few can sometimes be found tagging along with large feeding flocks of robins. On the Coos Bay CBC, birds were found about every other year but were very local with a single neighborhood flock often the only ones found. Spring migration is patchy and hard to predict, with birds tending to arrive in numbers in late April and early May.

Family SITTIDAE

Subfamily SITTINAE

• **Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis*

This is a fairly common breeding bird in stands of older coniferous forests, especially Douglas-fir and hemlock. It is most regular as a breeder in the inland parts of the county.

In some years there is a major fall movement of these birds into the lowlands and especially along the coast. There is considerable variation in winter numbers in the lowlands from year to year depending on the size and duration of the fall incursion. There is no spring surge similar to the frequent fall movements.

This species often accompanies small flocks of chickadees and kinglets in winter.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

This is a very rare fall and winter visitant to the county. Although its preferred oak habitat exists in the inland portion of the southeast portion of the county, it has never been reported from there.

There are five records to date, all coastal. The first was two at Coos Head with a movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches on 12 September 1977 (A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 32(2): 249; eBird). The next three records were all from Coos Bay CBCs on the following dates: 21 December 1975; 17 December 1977; and 17 December 1995 (CBC records). The latest record was two(?) found on the Coquille Valley CBC in Bandon on 3 January 2009- these birds could not be refound after an extensive search (N. Holcomb et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 13).

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*

This tiny waif is a resident breeder east of the Cascades and an irregular, wandering vagrant to western Oregon with coastal reports being especially rare. Curry County has at least five records, all in the fall. The lone Coos record was a single bird in the shore pine forest at Lost Lake in the New River ACEC on 19 August 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird). This species was located during a period when there was a major irruption of this species into Western Oregon with several birds reported at Mary's Peak in Benton County and one coastal report from Lincoln County preceding the Lost Lake discovery.



Figure 46- Pygmy Nuthatch at Lost Lake on 19 August 2023.
Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Family CERTHIIDAE
Subfamily CERTHIINAE

• **Brown Creeper** *Certhia americana*

This is an uncommon but widespread resident breeder. It is found mainly in older forests where trees have large slabs of loose bark behind which it prefers to nest. It nested on the outer coast at Coos Head in 1980 (A. McGie, p.c.) and occasionally nests close to the coast elsewhere such as at New River (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Numbers are hard to gauge but there is some variation in winter in the lowlands, suggesting occasional vertical migration for at least some birds.

Family POLIOPTILIDAE

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea*

In western Oregon, this species breeds as close as Josephine County, but it is a rare coastal visitant with seven Coos records. Most records are from fall/winter but there are a couple spring records including the first record, two on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 April 1980 (B. Griffin, A. McGie; *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127; *Tattler*4(2): 6; eBird). Subsequent records include: one on the Coos Bay CBC on 20 December 1987 (CBC records); one at Lakeside on 23-24 January 1988 (B. Griffin, L. Thornburgh, B. Fawver et al.; *Tattler*11(3): 20; eBird); one in the county forest near Beaver Hill on 22 April 2019 (D. Rankin, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one photographed at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4-5 November 2019 (D. & R. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7; eBird); one at the same location that was also photographed on 24 September 2022 (D. Hargreaves, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and one photographed at the Lower Fourmile trailhead on 17 November 2023 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).



Figure 47- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at the Old Weyerhaeuser Settling Pond Site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 24 September 2022, compliments of David Hargreaves.

Family TROGLODYTIDAE

- **Rock Wren** *Salpinctes obsoletus*

This species is a rare, irregular breeder at inland locations in the county and an equally rare coastal migrant. This species breeds regularly in the open, rocky high country of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in Curry County (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.) and locally in Douglas County as well.

The only documented breeding record was a bird singing in a large clearcut located in the rock bluffs above Camas Valley 6.2 miles up the Signal Tree Road at about 2,600 feet from 19 June through 30 July 2008 with a recently fledged bird observed on 15 August 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(4): 7; *Tattler*08(5): 5; *N. Am. Birds* 63(1): 148; three eBird records).

Another likely location this species may breed on a somewhat regular basis is atop Mt. Bolivar in the southeast corner of the county. Singing birds have been observed on the south side of Mt. Bolivar near the summit on the following dates in recent years: one on 22 June 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 610; eBird); two birds from 22 June through at least 3 July 2011 (J. Metzler, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one on 16 June 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one on 22 June 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one on 3 July 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, incorrectly reported as 5 July in *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14;

eBird); one on 24 June 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird); and one on 22 June 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

Other potential breeding attempts include: a pair of birds at a quarry up Foggy Creek near Eden Valley on 21 June 1995 (D. Shea, p.c.; eBird); another pair at Elephant Rock (now a quarry) near Powers during the same period (D. Shea, p.c.); a singing bird discovered in a recent clearcut on the top of Table Rock Mountain north of Eden Valley from 21-24 June 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(4): 153; eBird); a singing bird at Bethel Mountain quarry on 1 July 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); a calling bird in a private clearcut at 2,700 feet elevation below Signal Tree Communication Site in the far eastern end of the county on 19 August 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird); one at the Bethel Mountain quarry site from 29 May through at least 18 June 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one along Tioga Creek in eastern Coos County on 1 June 2017 (D. Robinson, eBird); and two different singing birds high up along the Bone Mountain Road in far eastern Coos County on 27 May 2018 (D. Robinson, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; eBird).

This species could occur as a migrant almost anywhere in the county on jetties, rockpiles, log decks or such places. There are five records of migrants: two birds in North Bend on 10 October 1992 (D. Gray et al.; *Or. Birds* 19(2): 60, *Tattler* 16(1): 5; eBird); a single bird found foraging in the jetty rocks at the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 May 2002 (R. Hoyer, J. Simmons, T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 135; eBird); one at Bullards Beach SP on 12 May 2007 (K. Tran, *Or. Birds* 33(3): 96; eBird); one at the same location on 13 September 2016 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); and one in the Coast Range near Burnt Mountain Road in an area without breeding habitat on 1 September 2021 (B. Carlson, eBird). There is a very interesting record of a bird in a rather bizarre location, one found at the author's semi-wooded residence in Coos Bay on 15 September 2016 where it flew up from the driveway into an adjacent wooded yard and sang from the back porch there much of the day (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).



Figure 48- Singing Rock Wren at Table Rock Mountain in Eden Valley on 24 June 2006. Photo by Russ Namitz.

- **Bewick's Wren** *Thryomanes bewickii*

This is a fairly common resident wren throughout the lowlands of the county wherever there is plenty of dense low vegetation, including urban hedgerows and brush piles. It is most prevalent in areas outside heavy timber but uses brushy areas such as overgrown clearcuts within forested portions of the county.

- **Northern House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon*

This is an uncommon, local breeder. It prefers semi-open areas with available nest holes for breeding and, in Coos County, seems to be restricted to brushy clearcuts with remnant snags or large stumps in the higher elevations of the far eastern portion of the county. Elsewhere it is found only as a rare migrant.

Most birds arrive in late April and early May, and there is a quiet fall migration that is underway in August and generally ends in early September.

Singing birds occasionally show up in town during migration and can remain for a week or more as if attempting to breed; however, there are no confirmed breeding records in the coastal lowlands. Recent migrants found in town include a singing bird in an Eastside Coos Bay neighborhood from 13-30 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) and another across from Milner Crest School in Coos Bay from 5-14 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

It is very rare in winter, with no confirmed records but a number of sight records, some of which are possibly valid. Care should be taken to distinguish this species in winter not only from Pacific Wren

but from the somewhat more similar Marsh Wren, which can be quite dull in winter. There are two Coos Bay CBC records, one from the 17 December 1977 count and another from the 19 December 1982 count.

Earliest Arrival: 6 April 2020 at Myrtle Point Marsh (R. & D. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6; eBird).

Latest Date: 13 September 2018 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Robinson, J. Curtis; eBird), not including the two Coos Bay CBC records.

• **Pacific Wren** *Troglodytes pacificus*

Formerly Winter Wren but split and renamed by the AOU in 2010. This is a common resident breeder throughout the county, especially where there is dense undergrowth in a forested setting. Breeding numbers are greatest inland in the Coast Range and become less common to the west in the coastal lowland areas.

Numbers increase in lowlands in winter, suggesting that birds from elsewhere move into the area.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus stellaris*

Vagrant. Oregon's first record of this species was a singing bird found on the North Spit of Coos Bay on the southwest end of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 30 May 2003 that stayed for over six weeks until 10 July, singing the entire time (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; et. al.; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 149).

SEWR-2003-01 North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one territorial
bird 30 May to 10 July 2003 (TR, videos by OS, DKn,
DLa). First verified Oregon record.



Figure 49- Oregon's first Sedge Wren at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 June 2003. Video clip by Owen Schmidt.

• **Marsh Wren** *Cistothorus palustris*

This is a locally common breeder in marshes, swamps, and grassy habitats. It achieves high densities in cattail and sedge marshes such as the marsh by the Myrtle Point Fairgrounds and around some lakes. It is also a common nester in low willows in swampy areas on the North Spit of Coos Bay (A. McGie, p.c.).

In fall, birds migrate into the county from elsewhere and can be found in a variety of habitats including dense dune grass on the Coquille Spit in Bandon and on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

FAMILY MIMIDAE

Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

Vagrant. This species can be found breeding as close as northeast Oregon but is rare in western Oregon with a single verified breeding record from Newport in 2014. There are six Coos records to date, two from the same year and five of the six from the North Spit of Coos Bay. The first record, and also the first coastal record in Oregon, was a bird found singing at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 27 May 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128; eBird). Subsequent records include: a calling bird just one-half mile south of the first record,

in a clump of dense willows across the road from the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp, on 15 September 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 31; eBird); one found singing along the bay just east of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 5-13 July 2013 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 67(4): 644; eBird); one on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay from 23-25 June 2015 (J. Metzler, OBOL; eBird); a singing bird at Millicoma Marsh from 12 June- 19 July 2019 that appeared to be staying to breed but no evidence of a second bird was ever observed (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); and a silent bird photographed in the willows adjacent to the large pond at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 7 July 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).

Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum*

Vagrant. The only record was one found in Coquille on the 4 January 2014 Coquille Valley CBC that lingered through at least 23 February 2014 (K. Phifer et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 68(2): 270; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 9; eBird).

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*

A rare visitant with nine records to date, over half of which have been found on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Of the nine records, seven have been found in a narrow window from mid-May to mid-June. Records include: a single bird on the southern end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 19 May 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 25(4): 112; eBird); one on the north end of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 November 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, R. McCreery, B. Griffin; *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); one on the southwest edge of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 22 May 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 131; eBird); one in Bandon on 19 May 2006 (K. Smith, *Or. Birds* 32(3): 128; eBird); one on the north end of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 26 May 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 9; eBird); one along Bethel Mountain Road on 12 June 2010 (K. Andersson with photo; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); one at Bandon Beach on 13 June 2016 (K. Castelein, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one on the north end of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 20 May 2024 (D. Hargreaves et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird); and one in the exact same location as the previous record at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 7 October 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Hargreaves; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).



Figure 50- Sage Thrasher in Bandon on 19 May 2006.
Photo compliments of Kevin Smith.

• **Northern Mockingbird** *Mimus polyglottos*

This is a rare but regular visitant to the county, presumably from populations in California or southwestern interior Oregon. The first county record was 9 August 1980 (A. McGie, *Tattler*4(3): 6); it is now annual.

In 1999 there were upwards of six different sightings including one bird that overwintered on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 18 October 1999 through at least 24 March 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 99; eBird). Other recent overwintering records include: one in the Empire area of Coos Bay from 17 December 2000 through at least 27 February 2001 (Maitreya, C. and M. Miller, R. McCreery, et al.; *Or. Birds* 27(2): 65; eBird); another in a Bandon neighborhood from 10 January through at least 6 March 2007 (D. and V. Faulke et al.; OBOL; eBird); one in Coos Bay from 18 December 2016- 14 January 2017 (T. Rodenkirk et al; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one in North Bend from 28 December 2016- 20 March 2017 (D. Robinson et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one in Arago from 8 December 2018- through at least 16 February 2019 (J. Bernt and K. Hartmann et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 9; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8;

eBird); likely the same bird in Arago from 4 January 2020- 11 April 2020 (J. Metzler, T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); again at the same location from 2 December 2020 through at least 21 January 2021 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); the same bird for the fourth winter in Arago from 29 December 2021 through at least 5 February 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); again in Arago for its fifth winter from 12 November 2022 through at least 19 February 2023 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); again in Arago for its sixth winter from 28 Dec 2023 through at least 22 Jan 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 23-26 February 2024 which may have been overwintering in the area (D. Hargreaves et al.; eBird); one in a Bandon neighborhood from 28 December 2024 through at least 6 March 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); the overwintering Arago bird back again for its seventh winter from 4 January 2025 through at least 11 March 2025 (J. Metzler, M. Kennedy et al.; eBird); one in a Coos Bay neighborhood on 5 February 2025 that likely had been overwintering (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one back in Bandon for its second winter from 1 November 2025 through at least 16 January 2026 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); and one at Picture Valley Road near Norway from 5 December 2025 through at least 3 January 2026 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

A fledgling mockingbird was found on Seven Devil's Road near Charleston on 9 September 2006 suggesting that this species bred nearby (P. Sullivan, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 27; eBird). There have been a couple recent June records of birds found in habitat they could potentially breed in: one on 17 June 2015 in Fairview (R. Namitz, eBird) and another at Millicoma Marsh on 19 June 2017 (S. Egger, OBOL; eBird). Birds have bred in Crescent City, Del Norte County, California and near Medford, Jackson County, Oregon. It is not an annual breeder in Crescent City, but numbers are increasing slowly. In the Rogue Valley it breeds annually in small numbers. This species may also have bred in southern Curry County where there have been multiple late spring and summer reports.

Family STURNIDAE

• **European Starling**[I] *Sturnus vulgaris*

This introduced pest is an abundant breeder in most of the county, being generally absent in heavily forested areas. It uses a wide variety of holes for nesting.

Large flocks form in winter, feeding in a variety of lowland habitats including agricultural areas, towns, and mudflats. These birds often roost together, such as on McCullough Bridge over Coos Bay.

Family CINCLIDAE

• **American Dipper** *Cinclus mexicanus*

This is an uncommon but highly visible local resident along fast-moving streams in the inland portion of the county away from the coastal plain. It is especially noticeable at locations such as Golden and Silver Falls and at Salmon Creek near Powers (A. McGie, p.c.). It can also regularly be found along the South Fork of the Coquille River and its tributary streams in the southeast portion of the county (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). There is usually no migratory movement although some birds may wander in winter. There are no CBC records; this bird has not been reported from the coastal plain in recent memory.

FAMILY TURDIDAE

• **Western Bluebird** *Sialia mexicana*

This is an uncommon local breeder in the inland portions of the county where there are sizable openings, particularly with snags. Because of this preference, this is one species that has probably benefited from clearcutting as a logging technique, as the resulting openings in Coastal forests are well-suited to the needs of this species if snags are available for nest holes. They can be found year-round in the same areas where they are found breeding and often flock in the winter with large groups occasionally found in coastal valleys during particularly cold and wet winters.

At least a few birds make into the lowlands during most winters, where they are sometimes found in coastal towns on CBCs. On the Coquille Valley CBC birds have been found on average two out of every three years and one the Coos Bay count not as often, about every other year. Bandon in particular, seems to have birds locally in neighborhoods most winters.

There is a rare, recent breeding record from Bandon, a pair that fledged young at a residence just four blocks from the beach in June of 2019 (B. Williams, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 7). This species is known to nest south of Bandon in open ranchlands in the New River bottomlands and in the Cape Blanco area, so the Bandon birds could be on the north edge of this small coastal breeding population. Nest boxes have been put up for them on several ranches in the New River bottomlands of southwest Coos and Northwest Curry south to the Cape Blanco area (T. Wahl, per. com.).

The largest flocks reported in the county were 75 birds in the Coos Bay area on 17 December 1944 (H. Reiher, unpublished notes- it is not clear whether this was a single flock; eBird) and 76, in two flocks, up Bethel Mountain Road on 26 January 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(1): 7; eBird).

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*

This is a rare visitant with eight records to date, all but one from the spring, when overshoots from breeding grounds in eastern Oregon and the Cascades sometimes show up along the coast. These records include: two on a fence line at the North Bend airport on 3 April 1977 (*Tattler*1(1): 3; eBird); again at the same location on 7 May 1983 (*Tattler*7(4): 16; eBird); a female at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 27 September 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin; *Or. Bird* 29(1): 50; eBird); a male photographed at New Lake on 26 March 2003 (D. Pitkin *fide* T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); a male at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 April 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 33(3): 96; eBird); a female on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 12 April 2019 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); three on the south side of Mt. Bolivar on 26 March 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and a male photographed on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 April 2023 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; p.c.; eBird).

Earliest Spring Record: 26 March 2003 & 26 March 2022

Latest Spring Record: 7 May 1983



Figure 51- Male Mountain Bluebird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 4 April 2007. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

• **Townsend's Solitaire** *Myadestes townsendi*

This is an uncommon breeding resident in the more mountainous inland portions of the county, primarily in the Mt. Bolivar area. Four juvenile birds were seen on Mt. Bolivar in August (year not available, probably late 1970s or early 1980s) by Ben Fawver and Jack Thomas. The seven birds found on Mt. Bolivar and vicinity on 25-26 June 1983 also suggest local breeding (A. McGie, G. Keller; *Am. Birds* 37(6): 1021). Stan Wilson observed courtship behavior on 19 April 1986 in the southeast portion of the county (*Tattler*10(1): 18).

Most breeders are found above 2,000 feet in elevation; however, there are a few low elevation records of potential breeders: along the North Fork of the Coquille River on 21 July 1979 (A. McGie, *Tattler*3(3): 6); near Dellwood on the Coos River on 22 June 1983 (J. Thomas, *Tattler*7(4): 17; eBird); and one singing in a clearcut above the South Fork of the Coquille River near China Flat on 6 May 2012 (T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

It is rarely reported in the lowlands or the coastal plains. Records in these locations include: an amazing six at OIMB on 10 April 1978 (A. McGie, *Tattler*2(2): 4; eBird); one in Coos Bay on 7 February 1984 (*Tattler*8(2): 6); one in North Bend on 24 April 1984 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 10(3): 95; eBird); one frequently perched on the same power pole along Hwy 42N between Bandon and Coquille from 20 March through at least 1 April 1999 (P. Sullivan et al.; OBOL; eBird); one at New River on 20 May 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in Eastside on 10 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one at New River on 28 April 2013 (W. Gross, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 7; eBird); one in a clearcut at

375-foot elevation near Myrtle Point on 18 March 2020 (C. Nichols, eBird); one in Myrtle Point on 25 March 2020 (D. Henise, eBird which was mistakenly listed as 18 March in *Or. Birds* 47(1): 6); and one on Telegraph Hill in Coos Bay from 1-28 March 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).

This species has overwintered in the Mt. Bolivar area, with a couple recent records of singles: one on 28 February 2001 and another on 4 February 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). However, most winters this species appears to be absent in the Mt. Bolivar area (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Birds likely return to the Mt. Bolivar in April and probably depart by the beginning of the winter rainy season in October and November; however, most winters access to this site is not possible so it is unclear how often this species may overwinter in the higher elevations of the southeast portion of the county.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens*

Vagrant. This species regular breeds in northeast Oregon which is on the far western edge of its range, but it is quite rare west of the Cascades with three coastal records, two in Curry County and one in Coos County. The Coos record was a singing individual at the New River boat ramp on the morning of 7 June 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 191; eBird).

• **Swainson's Thrush** *Catharus ustulatus*

This is an abundant breeder throughout the county, its swirling song issuing from any sizable, forested area. The first outliers are sometimes found the last few days of April, but most movement occurs in early May. The fall movement is more drawn out, with nocturnal migrants identifiable by their liquid whit calls from late August through September, some years even into early to mid-October, with calls numbering in the hundreds per minute during the peak of migration the last few days of August and first week or so of September.

There are no confirmed winter records for the county (only one for Oregon, an injured bird) but there is a mid-winter specimen from Arcata, California and a few multi-observer sight records from the northern California coast (Harris 1996). Observers should note that some races of Hermit Thrush are rather dull and resemble Swainson's Thrush.

During late April and early October, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes can be about equally common on the outer coast. During this overlap season, calls are the best way to separate these similar species. By early May Hermits are pretty much gone from the coastal lowlands and Swainson's quickly become the common brown thrush. In mid- to late October, Swainson's have mostly all departed and Hermits quickly become the common *Catharus* thrush seen throughout the coastal lowlands.

Spring *Earliest Arrival*: 21 April 1933 (H. Reiher, unpublished notes). Historic spring records earlier than about 20 April, including some late March records from 1998, were probably misidentified as this species. The earliest arrivals are generally the last few days of April although some years birds go undetected until the first week of May. Hermit Thrushes migrate in mid- and late April and can easily be confused as early arriving Swainson's Thrushes (a reoccurring identification mix up almost every spring in Oregon), so care must be taken to distinguish between these two similar species in late April (mid-April birds are Hermits almost without exceptions). By the first week of May these wintering Hermit Thrushes are almost completely

absent from the coastal lowlands and the default low elevation thrush species quickly becomes Swainson's.

Fall Latest Date: 27 October 2021 in Coos Bay during a nocturnal flight count with an incredible 76 calls in five minutes, an amazing number for this late in October (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Mostly this species goes unheard at dawn after the first week of October although some years birds can be heard into the second and third weeks of the month. Calls are one of the best ways to distinguish this species in later October from the increasingly abundant Hermit Thrush.

• **Hermit Thrush** *Catharus guttatus*

This is a fairly common breeder in higher elevation (approximately >1,500 feet) coniferous forests in the eastern portion of the county. It is decidedly uncommon to rare as a breeder in lower elevation forests and does not breed along the immediate coast (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

It is thought that the birds which breed in the county depart in winter and that birds wintering in the county come from breeding populations in Alaska and northwestern Canada (Gabrielson and Jewett, 1940). Winter birds are found mainly in the valleys, coastal thickets, and riparian areas. The winter influx is usually noticeable by late September. The migration of these wintering birds is well underway by mid- to late April with most gone by early May.

The southern Oregon coast sustains the highest numbers of wintering Hermit Thrushes in the state.

This species is often confused with Swainson's Thrush during spring migration. Hermits begin migrating in April and there is quite a bit of movement all of that month. Almost all coastal records of brown thrushes in April will be Hermits. They begin to disappear quickly from the coastal lowlands by the first week of May at about the same time Swainson's Thrushes arrive in large numbers. The default brown thrush in the coastal lowlands from mid-May to mid-September are Swainson's. During the periods when they both occur in the coastal lowlands- very late April/early May and mid- to late September, songs or calls are very helpful in ensuring a correct ID is made.

Spring Latest Date in coastal lowlands: 24 May 2010 at New River (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), most birds are gone from the lowlands by the first week of May though.

Fall Earliest Arrival in coastal lowlands: 13 September 2020 at Bullards Beach SP (K. Spencer, eBird).

• **American Robin** *Turdus migratorius*

This is a common to abundant and obvious breeder throughout the county, including towns. It uses almost any habitat containing some trees or large shrubs except the densest forests and the open dunes.

Local breeders are thought to depart in winter and be replaced by birds coming into Oregon from more northerly breeding grounds (Gabrielson and Jewett, 1940). Winter numbers vary from year to year and birds often form flocks and roosts. These birds are most obvious in towns where plantings offer fruits to eat, and in open pastures and parks where they feed on the ground.

• **Varied Thrush** *Ixoreus naevius*

Fairly common resident. These birds mainly breed in older conifer forests in the eastern portion of the county where their flute-like whistled song alerts visitors to their presence. Birds also occasionally breed closer to the coast where older forests with a dense

brushy understory still exist such as at Cape Arago SP, Sunset Bay SP, and South Slough NERR.

A significant influx of birds in some winters makes the species quite common and locally abundant in Douglas-fir and spruce forests, valleys, and coastal thickets. These wintering birds can be particularly abundant feeding along forested coastal roadsides at first light, such as along the highway at Cape Arago SP, when a dawn automobile drive can flush tens of birds per mile. Winter numbers are variable though, and in some years very few birds migrate into the county in winter.

Fall Earliest Arrival in coastal lowlands: 13 September 2020 at Bullards Beach SP (K. Spencer, eBird); this does not include the few potential coastal breeding locations listed above.

Spring Latest Date in coastal lowlands: a rare singing bird at Mingus Park in Coos Bay that apparently was attempting to breed and was heard singing through 30 June 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); singing birds are common in coastal sites in April and even into early May but then depart and are generally not heard or seen again until October.

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Vagrant. There is single record which has been accepted by OBRC:

NOWH-2010-06 Bullards Beach SP, Coos County, one on 24-26
September 2010 (TR photo by TH, KnA).



Figure 52- a Northern Wheatear on the Coquille spit on 25 September 2010. Photo compliments of Tristen Hynes.

Family PASSERIDAE

• **House Sparrow**(I) *Passer domesticus*

This is an abundant resident breeding dooryard bird that can be found throughout the county in towns and around farm buildings.

In winter, it also occurs in blackberry patches and similar brushy areas where it sometimes flocks with House Finches, juncos, and other seedeaters.

Family MOTACILLIDAE

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Vagrant. The AOU lumped Black-backed Wagtail with White Wagtail in 2005. There is one accepted record from Coos County:

WHWA-1999-03 North Bend, Coos County, one adult male, subspecies *M. a. leucopsis*, on 23 February 1999 (photo by JuM).



Figure 53- White Wagtail, photo by Julie Martin.

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

This is a locally common to abundant migrant and an uncommon winter bird in open areas in the county. Fall migration brings flocks (a few birds to several hundred) through the county, especially in open coastal areas and in areas of open mud, dirt or gravel pans. Peak movements occur from late September through October. Historically, some of the largest flocks were found at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay in the early 2000s before the

open habitat pipits used became overgrown with willows. High counts there included: 400 on 30 September 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 51; eBird); 600 on 1 November 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); and 500 on 16 October 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; eBird). In recent years, peak numbers have been much lower with flocks of up to 100 at open locations along New River, in the open Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay, in the ranchlands up Bethel Mountain in southwest Coos, and in fields south of Powers during winter. Spring migration is less noticeable and tends to peak in the last three weeks of April. The highest recent number recorded was on 24 April 2013 when 1,000+ were seen flying overhead over the course of the day at the Snowy Plover HRA on very south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird). Birds can be found inland in open settings such as muddy pastures and occasionally even on gravel roads. Birds seem more common, more widely scattered, and in more marginal habitat in fall than in spring.

Winter numbers vary from year to year, but the species is normally uncommon along the coast and in large pastures.

There is one very rare summer record, a flyover calling at New River on 7 July 2014 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird).

The "Asian" subspecies was split from American Pipit by AOS in 2024 and is now called Siberian Pipit. Birders should be on the lookout for this species in Oregon. A great older reference for telling these two similar species apart is the "Pipits and Wagtails" book by Per Alström and Krister Mild (2003).

Earliest Arrival: 7 August 2011 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird), not including the rare summer record. Most years though the earliest arrivals are not reported until late August or early September.

Latest Date: 14 June 2019 at Bandon (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); birds are normally rarely observed after mid-May.

Family FRINGILLIDAE
Subfamily CARDEULINAE

• **Evening Grosbeak** *Coccothraustes vespertinus*

This is an irregular migrant and breeder in forested areas of the county. In some years it is plentiful and can be found breeding even in coastal areas while other years reports are sparse.

This species is absent in the county most winters. When this species is present it is generally found at lowland locales in small numbers, typically singles, and is most evident coming to feeders. Irruption years with birds reaching the south coast seem to be very infrequent but can be quite impressive; the last big one was in 1991 when 13,626 were found on the Coos Bay CBC.

Spring migrants usually first appear in April, some years early in the month and other years later in the month but become pretty regular by late April and May. Fall migrants are most often reported from late August through September and rarely through October but are more irregular in number and observed less frequently than in spring.

• **House Finch** *Haemorhous mexicanus*

This is a common resident breeder throughout lowland areas of the county and locally elsewhere in towns. It nests around human habitations and other buildings.

This species generally forms flocks in autumn that can be found throughout the winter at feeders, large blackberry patches, and other places where seeds are available, including the outer coast.

• **Purple Finch** *Haemorhous purpureus*

This is a fairly common breeder in coniferous and mixed forests throughout the county. Migrants are noticeable in late August and early September but they become hard to find by the end of September. A few birds remain to winter and are most easily found at feeders. This is one of the earliest migrants in the spring, with the first singing birds back by early March with quite a few in by that month's end.

On Coos Bay CBCs, this was always a "good" find with single digit numbers on most counts and occasionally none at all. On the author's winter walks in neighborhoods in various towns in the county, this species was definitely more common inland, such as in Myrtle Point, versus in cities on the outer coast (e.g. Bandon and Coos Bay).

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*

There are six records for this vagrant finch in the county, four of which were fall migrants at higher elevations, all but one in the southeast end of the county at Mt. Bolivar. The first was a Coos Bay CBC record from 19 December 1976. Fall migrant records include the following: a bird heard, but not seen, doing some abbreviated songs on the east summit of Mt. Bolivar on 10 October 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 16; *Tattler*09(5): 5; eBird); one singing on a ridgetop in the Coast Range at the 2,200-foot elevation southeast of Sitkum on 5 September 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); three calling males on the south side of Mt. Bolivar on 14 October 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 8; eBird); and a calling male and two females/immature males along the Mt. Bolivar trail on 21 October 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird with recording).

There is a single summer record- a "possible" singing on the south side of Mt. Bolivar on 22 June 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird). The status of this detection is uncertain and it may have not even been a Cassin's? This species breeds in small numbers in the nearby Siskiyou Mountains of Curry County so it is possible they could one day be found breeding in the Mt. Bolivar area. However, Purple Finches are the default breeder at Mt. Bolivar, and probably a common migrant also, so care needs to be taken differentiating Purple Finches from a much less likely Cassin's in that area. Photos and/or song recordings would be the best way to verify sightings particularly for any bird(s) found during the summer breeding season since there are no verified spring or summer records.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

There are 10 records of this rare arctic visitant. The first sighting was the only mid-summer record of this species in Oregon, two birds photographed coming to a feeder in Bandon on 11-12 July 2002 (C. Ray, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 192; eBird). Subsequent records include: a single bird seen on the 17 December 2006 Coos Bay CBC (L. Norgren, D. Smith; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 53); a pair of birds seen in the Barview area of Coos Bay on 25 December 2006 (J. Randolph, *Or. Birds* 33(2): 53; eBird); a flock of six birds which landed in a yard up Kentuck Inlet on 25 April

2008 (D. Varoujean *fide* R. Namitz, *Tattler*08(3): 6; *N. Am. Birds* 62:(3) 473); a single bird photographed on the northern most island off downtown Coos Bay on 8 December 2011 (J. Metzler, *N. Am. Birds* 66(2): 339; eBird); one photographed coming to a feeder at Saunder's Lake on 2 & 21 January 2012 (K. Johnson, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); one photographed coming to a Bandon feeder on the late dates of 3-4 June 2017 (S. Brown, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one briefly observed at a Coos Bay feeder on 21 December 2021 (H. Rodenkirk, p.c.; eBird); and a male at a Bandon feeder from 21-27 January 2024 (T. Spencer et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird) with a different female coming to another Bandon feeder from 22-26 January 2024 (T. Yaukey et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird)- these two birds were initially confused as being just a single bird since the sightings were so close together, only 0.4 miles apart, and discovered about the same time.



Figure 54- A July(!) Redpoll with a Pine Siskin at a feeder in Bandon. Photo by Cathie Ray.

• **Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

This is a highly irruptive species that can be common one year and hard to find the next. It probably breeds on occasion wherever cone crops are good in the county, no matter what time of year. Calling flocks can occur in just about any location in the county, from the outer coast to the top of the Coast Range.

Although birds are often hard to come by in winter in the lowlands, there are sometimes a few at Cape Arago even when there are none elsewhere.

There are at least eight different flight call "types" in North America. Along the south coast the most common is type 10 (Sitka spruce). Type 4 also occurs along the coast and further inland (Douglas-fir). Type 3 is probably regular in the Coast Range (western hemlock). Type 2 (ponderosa pine) and type 5 (lodgepole pine) could occur during irruptive years and possibly even type 7 (enigmatic).

Recordings of the different types sometime accompany these observations on eBird; recordings are really the only way to validate sightings to type. The inland portion of the county is birded much less, so there is still little information on which call types are most regular there.

White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

There are several records of this rare visitant, all but two of which occurred during the winter of 2017/2018. The first record was one reported coming to a feeder near Charleston on 24 October 2010 (J. Randolph, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird). The second record was one observed with a Red Crossbill flock at Shore Acres on 9 December 2015 (K. Coury *fide* V. Thompson, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17).

In the fall/winter of 2017 there was a large irruption of this species on the West Coast with reports from the Washington coast south all the way to Humboldt County, California. Birds were primarily observed feeding on the cones of Sitka spruce right along the outer coast. Records during this period include: two birds heard at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 5, 13 and 30 December 2017 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; all eBird); one heard at Cape Arago on 14 December 2017 with one seen on 18 December 2017 and one or two heard again on 7 January 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; all eBird); one or two heard at Lost Lake south of Bandon on 29 January 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); and a female at Bullards Beach SP on 27 March 2018 (K. Spencer, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird).

• **Pine Siskin** *Spinus pinus*

This breeding resident varies in number considerably from year to year. It breeds locally in stands of sizable conifers, mainly inland.

Numbers vary in winter as well, with none present in some years and thousands in others. This no doubt reflects immigration from other areas.

A recent high count was an amazing 6,550 counted migrating north along New River at Lower Fourmile Creek in a 45 minute period on 17 October 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird).

• **Lesser Goldfinch** *Spinus psaltria*

This uncommon resident reaches the northern edge of its coastal breeding range in Coos County, where it occurs mainly in the upper Coquille Valley, especially along the South Fork of the Coquille River, with the most regular reports from Broadbent, Baker Creek, and the Powers area (A. McGie, p.c.). It does not breed regularly in the northern part of the county. An unusual breeding record was a pair that nested in downtown Coos Bay in 1984 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 10(3): 98). They have also bred irregularly in Coos Bay and Bandon neighborhoods in recent years (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) considered the species "fairly common" in June 1920 in the county, but they do not state where the records were from other than that they were recorded by Gabrielson himself.

During most winters, this species occurs in small numbers as far west as Millicoma Marsh and locally at feeders in Coos Bay and Bandon neighborhoods.

This species is primarily detected in the lowlands, but a few could migrate through at higher elevations in the spring and fall but go mostly undetected as there are few observers up high. Recent records from high elevations in the Coast Range include: a pair seen with an

American Goldfinch flock at 2,200 feet in elevation in a brushy clearcut southeast of Sitkum on 5 September 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.; eBird); two in Eden Valley on 28 April 2021 (W. Tice, A. Beerman; eBird); and a single on Mt. Bolivar on 3 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Lawrence's Goldfinch *Spinus lawrencei*

Vagrant. There are two records, only one of which was submitted to OBRC for review. The first unreviewed record was a male observed coming to a feeder up Catching Slough on 25 May 2012 (F.J. Petock, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11). Although the observer did not file a report with OBRC, the bird was well described and another Lawrence's Goldfinch was seen the same day near Langlois, Curry (K. Andersson, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11). Both those birds were reported during an irruption year in Oregon. The second record has been accepted by OBRC:

LAGO-2024-23 Bandon, Coos Co., 1 male adult 29 November 2024 to 1 December 2024 (reports and photos TR and KSa).



Figure 55- Lawrence's Goldfinch at Tim Yaukey's Bandon feeder on 29 November 2024. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

• **American Goldfinch** *Spinus tristis*

This is a common breeder county-wide in farmland, around towns, and in open woodlands and overgrown fields.

Many birds leave in winter but those that remain form small flocks, sometimes with House Finches and Pine Siskins but on average are pretty scarce. Birds were found 39 of 43 years on the Coos Bay CBC, often coming to feeders, with a median number of 19 per year and a high count of 219.

Family CALCARIIDAE

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

This is an uncommon fall migrant found primarily on the outer coast. Winter visitors and spring migrants are rare and are not seen every year.

The peak season in the fall is late September through early November. Good locations to locate this species include open areas with short grass on the North Spit of Coos Bay and the Coquille River spit near Bandon. Single birds or small flocks are most often reported. The largest flock reported in recent years was up to 27 birds at the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 30-31 October 2008 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Tattler*08(6): 7; eBird).

The New River bottomlands area of southern Coos County (New Lake) and northern Curry County (Floras Lake and vicinity) contain much open, private ranchland. Reports of birds are only occasionally received, but it appears that this species regularly overwinters in this area in small numbers. Winter records away from the New River bottomlands are rare and include: two on the 17 December 1978 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records); one at the odd location of Bridge in the inland part of the county on 21 December 1990 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 17(3): 96; eBird); one south of Bandon on the Coquille Valley CBC on 25 December 1992 (eBird); one at Bullards Beach SP on 12 February 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 141; eBird); three at Bullards Beach SP on 3 January 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(2): 89; eBird); one to three on 3-18 December 2005 in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, CBC records; eBird); seven on the North Spit of Coos Bay on the 14 December 2008 Coos Bay CBC (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Tattler*09(1): 4; eBird); 25 on the 1 January 2011 Coquille Valley CBC (T. Wahl, D. Ledig; *N. Am. Birds* 65(2): 333; eBird); one along the beach at New River (north of the New River bottomlands) on 4 March 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); approximately 25 at Pacific Dunes Golf Course north of Bandon on 30 Dec 2016 (N. Shorts, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one on the Coquille Spit in Bandon on the 1 January 2022 Coquille Valley CBC (N. Burns, M. Houtman; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); one in Bandon on the 1 January 2023 Coquille Valley CBC (H. Schubothe, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); and one in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 January 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).

Spring records are also relatively rare and are not reported most years, records include: one on 2 May 1982 (A. McGie, *Tattler*6(3): 4); one in the Bandon area on 30 April 1983 (T. Crabtree, eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 13 April 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 25(4): 113; eBird); one at Tenmile Creek on 3 June 2000 (D. Bailey, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 221; eBird); one, or possibly two, at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 15-18 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Hoyer, J. Simmons, et al.; *Or. Birds*

28(3): 138; eBird); one at the same location on 16 April 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 150; eBird); one heard flying overhead at New River on 13 May 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 150; eBird); one at New River on 23 April 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a breeding-plumaged individual at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 4 May 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*06(4): 5; eBird; date was incorrectly published as 5 May); one at Bullards Beach SP on 12 May 2007 (K. Tran, *Tattler*07(3): 6; eBird); a longspur on the beach at New River that was "likely" a Lapland on 23 April 2010 (K. Castelein, OBOL; eBird); one in the same location with two Snowy Plovers on 20 May 2011 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one at New River on 6 April 2016 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird); one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 May 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird); two at New River on 9 May 2019 (A. Partin, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, eBird); one flyover calling at New River on 15 April 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); two at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 April 2021 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 15 April 2021 (D. Farrar, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird); a flyover calling at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 12 April 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); and a flyover calling at the Sheep Ranch Course at Bandon Dunes Golf Complex on 30 March 2025 (eBird) and another at the same location on 27 April 2025 (D. Lauten, eBird).

In the spring of 2009, there was an unprecedented number of reports of this species (*N. Am. Birds* 63(3): 496), doubling the previous number of spring records up to that date: single birds seen at two separate locations on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 April (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; both eBird); a large flock of 18 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 15 April (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one in Bandon on 16 April (J. Hein; eBird); one on the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 April (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; eBird); one at the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 22 April (H. Herlyn); five at the Menasha Spoil near Simpson Park in North Bend on 23 April (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 25 April through at least 3 May (T. Rodenkirk; eBird); one at the Oregon Island NWR overlook in Bandon on 25 April (J. Gatchet; eBird); and one at Bullards Beach SP in Bandon on 25 April (J. Metzler; eBird).

There is only a single, very rare summer record, one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 9 July 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: 7 September 2008 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(5): 6; eBird).

Latest Fall/Winter Date: 4 March 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), not including the 30 March 2025 record from Bandon Dunes Golf Course which was either a very early spring migrant or a very late wintering bird.

Earliest Spring migrant: 6 April 2016 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; OBOL; eBird) and 6 April 2021 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird), not including the 30 March 2025 record from Bandon Dunes Golf Course which was either a very early spring migrant or a very late wintering bird.

Latest Spring date: 3 June 2000 (D. Bailey, *Or. Birds* 26(4): 221; eBird), not including the rare July record.



Figure 56- Lapland Longspur on the North Spit of Coos Bay deflation plain on 14 September 2006. Photos compliments of Russ Namitz.

Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus*

This is a rare vagrant with several records to date, four of which were accepted by OBRC:

CCLO-2002-14	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, two females on 2 November 2002 (TR). These birds were around on 10 November 2002.
CCLO-2002-15	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, one female on 8-10 November 2002 (TR).
CCLO-2006-23	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, one female on 3-4 November 2006 (TR photos by RuN).
CCLO-2007-24	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 22-23 October 2007 (TR).

The following records have not been reviewed or were not accepted by OBRC: a female at the Coquille Spit on 10 October 1985 (D. Lusthoff et al.; *Or. Birds* 12(3): 222); an elusive bird seen only briefly flying but heard calling several times in dense beachgrass along the beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7-8 November 1999 that was not accepted by OBRC (record #538-99-17; eBird); a single winter female at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 October 2001 that was not accepted by OBRC (record #538-01-11); and one female/immature in the Bethel Mtn. area present from at least 3-5 October 2006 (J. Fontaine, *Tattler*06(5): 5; eBird).

OBRC removed this species from its review list in 2012. There is a single record after that year, one heard but not seen well (typical for this species) on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 October 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird).

Smith's Longspur *Calcarius pictus*

Vagrant. This is the rarest longspur in Oregon, with only a few accepted OBRC records, one of which is from Coos County:

SMLO-2008-04	North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird on 30 October 2008 (DLA, KC, RuN).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare fall and winter visitant. The first documented report was in 1978; historically it has averaged being reported about once every three or four years, at least up through 2018. However, from 2019 through 2024, it was found all but one winter with no reports through mid-January of 2026 either. Southwest Oregon is the edge of the species' usual winter range. It is almost always found on the outer coast, often in beach wrack or on the grassy edges of dunes. Most observations are single birds seen for only a day but there are a few winter records of birds that stayed several weeks. November and December are the peaks months to look for migrants with a few of these later birds sometimes wintering.

There are only three October records: the first was very unusual—a calling bird that dropped out of the sky and landed on a stump right in front of the observer behind the Corp of Engineer Office along the Coos Bay waterfront on 14 October 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); a single in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird); and one on the beach right next to the old

Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 28 October 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).

November records are more numerous: one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 29 November 1978 (N. Brown, S. Thurman; *Tattler*2(4): 11; eBird); one at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 17 November 1994 (J. Heaney, p.c.; eBird); one at Bastendorff Beach on 10 November 2003 (J. Schultz, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird) followed by a single bird seen on the north jetty of Coos Bay (within eyesight of Bastendorff Beach sighting and possibly the same bird) on 11-12 November 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); one on the beach at Bullards Beach SP on 23 November 2014 (R. Foster, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); one on the beach near the North Jetty of Coos Bay on 7 November 2023 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); and one at the Sheep Ranch Golf Course at Bandon Dunes on 10 November 2024 (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird).

December records include: one at the south jetty of the Coquille River on 1 December 1984 (R. and G. Barkhurst *fide* L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 11(2): 108; *Tattler*9(1): 7; eBird); one at the Coquille Spit on 16 December 1985 (S. Wilson, *Am. Birds* 33(2): 209; *Tattler*9(5): 5; eBird); two at the same location on the 27 December 1993 Coquille Valley CBC (CBC records; eBird); a single at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 December 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(2): 66; eBird); and one at Coquille Point in Bandon on 3 December 2007 (D. Ledig, *Tattler*08(1): 5; eBird).

The open, sandy, recently disced (to control European beachgrass-done in October/November most years) Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay is apparently good habitat for birds to spend the winter- all overwintering records have come from at or near this site: one to two from 30 November 2005 through at least 23 January 2006 (M. Vander Heyden, T. Rodenkirk, M. Wihler, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 88; eBird); a flyover on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 17 February 2008 that was likely overwintering somewhere in the area (J. Metzler, *Tattler*08(2): 6; eBird); one to two from 20 December 2015 through 30 January 2016 (S. Burns, et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); an amazing flock of up to 15(!) from 26 January 2020 through at least 10 March 2020 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. and D. Henise, A. Partin, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); and two to four from 19 January 2021 through at least 28 February 2021 (D. Lauten, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird).

The only non-coastal reports came from Larson Slough off Haynes Inlet on 29 November 1985 (K. Hansen, *Tattler*9(5): 5; eBird) and the previously mentioned 14 October 2019 individual found along the downtown Coos Bay waterfront.

Earliest Fall Migrant: 14 October 2019 T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird).

Latest Overwintering Date: 10 March 2020 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, R. and D. Henise, A. Partin, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird).



Figure 57- Snow Bunting at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 23 December 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

McKay's Bunting *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*

This arctic breeder is much rarer than Snow Bunting in Oregon and takes considerable effort to correctly ID due to its similarity to Snow Bunting. There is single record which was accepted by OBRC:

MKBU-2011-03 Seven Devils Wayside, Coos County, one bird on 25
November 2011 (details By DLa, photos by KaO).



Figure 58- McKay's Bunting at Seven Devils Wayside on 25 November 2011. Photo by Karen Olsen.

Family PASSERELLIDAE

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*

There are three records of this rare vagrant. The first record was a bird seen and recorded singing about half a mile from Coquille along Fishtrap Road on 2-3 July 1992 (G. Keller, *Tattler*15(2): 9 and p.c.; eBird). Attempts to locate birds in that area in 1994 and 1995 were not successful. The second record was one seen along Pony Point Road at Pony Slough on the 18 December 2005 Coos Bay CBC (G. Keller, T. Shelmerdine, D. Smith; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird). Special permission was granted to bird the airport area on the day of the Coos Bay CBC so no revisits to relocate this bird were made and therefore it is unknown if it wintered at the airport or was just migrating through. The latest record was a bird first detected by its singing then seen along the Powers Hwy in an uncut hay field at the 13.4-mile mark on 19-20 June 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird). This same hay field was mowed on 22 June and no further observations were noted.

Black-throated Sparrow *Amphispiza bilineata*

There are five records of this rare visitant in the county. The closest breeding population is in Southeast Oregon, but unlike some other eastside breeders, spring overshoots are pretty unusual in the county. The first record was 17 June 1974 and the second was 21 May 1984, both at OIMB (A. McGie, *Tattler*8(3): 5; both eBird). The third record was at Shore Acres SP on 3 June 2012 (S. Anderson, eBird). The

latest two records were both in 2021, a bird at Bandon SP- Devil's Kitchen on 15 May (S. Peat, eBird) and another found along Lower Fourmile Road south of Bandon on 23 May (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird).

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*

This species breeds in the Rogue Valley and occasionally to central Douglas County but is a rare visitant in the county with 16 records to date.

Fall records are the most numerous and include: one at Pony Slough 7 October 1979 (L. Thornburgh, *Am. Birds* 34(2): 194; eBird); one south of Bandon on 24 August 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 45; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh from 3-6 November 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 September 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62(1): 143; eBird); one in Charleston on 28-29 September 2012 (J. Metzler, T. Rodenkirk; OBOL; eBird); one along Lower Fourmile Road on 7-9 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); one in Charleston on 17 September 2022 (D. Hargreaves, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 25 August 2023 with another found by the same observer on the same day(!) at Point Adams in Charleston (D. Hargreaves, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; both eBird); one photographed at Millicoma Marsh on 30 August 2025 (D. Hargreaves, eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8-9 September 2025 (D. Hargreaves, eBird). Alan Contreras observed a bird on the Coquille Spit in late fall in the late 1970s or early 1980s, but the date has been lost.

Spring and summer records are much rarer: one near Coquille on 29 June 1991 (P. Osburn, *Or. Birds* 18(1): 32; eBird); one at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 29 April 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 65(3): 511; eBird); one in Charleston at the Joe Ney land fill on 5 May 2020 (J. & L. Standley et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); and one along Lower Fourmile Road during an east wind event on 14 May 2023 (T. Yaukey, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).



Figure 59- Lark Sparrow at Millicoma Marsh on 4 November 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Lark Bunting *Calamospiza melanocorys*

Vagrant. There are three records all of which have been accepted by OBRC:

LARB-1980-03	North Bend, Coos County, one in winter plumage, probably a male, on 12 September 1980 (DI, photos by JG, TF).
LARB-2002-20	Bandon, Coos County, one breeding plumaged male 17-19 August 2002 (JG, TR, videos by DLa, OS). This bird remained through 20 August.
LARB-2010-22	North Spit Coos Bay, one breeding-plumaged male 22-23 May 2010 (TR photos by HaS).



Figure 60- Male Lark Bunting in Bandon on 17 August 2002. Video clip by Owen Schmidt.

• **Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina*

This is an uncommon to fairly common breeder in open grassy areas with scattered trees in the drier southeast interior portion of the county, particularly in the Powers area. A few likely breed in the Bethel Mountain area also. Spring migration is early, with some birds arriving by the second week of April. They do not breed on the outer coast- birds that sound like them singing in late spring and early summer are likely Dark-eyed Juncos which breed on the outer coast in low numbers.

On the outer coast it is an uncommon migrant in the spring and a rare migrant in the fall. Most outer coast spring records are from mid-April to early May but dates range from as early as 4 April 2021 at Bullards Beach SP (A. Clayton, eBird) to as late as 11 June 2011 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 38(1); 16).

Most fall movement goes unnoticed and birds are rarely reported after August. Also, unlike spring migration, during the fall birds are rarely seen along the coast where any sighting is rare. Coastal and late fall migrant records include: alternate-plumage adults at Pony Slough on 13 August 1982 (L. Thornburgh et al.; *Or. Birds* 8(3): 96; eBird) and 13 August 1985 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* 9(4): 6; eBird); at Bandon on 5 August 1988 (L. Thornburgh, *Tattler* February 1989; eBird); at Millicoma Marsh on 20 October 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 45; eBird); on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 October 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 2 September 2007 (T. Shelmerdine, eBird); one in Myrtle Point on 28 October 2020 (R. & D.

Henise; eBird); and one at Millicoma Marsh on 9 September 2023 (D. Hargreaves, M. Fanuzzi; eBird).

This species is occasionally reported in winter, but birds should be carefully examined to ensure that they are separated from the look-alike Clay-colored Sparrow which have also occurred and are actually much more regular in winter. There are two confirmed winter records: one at Bandon 21 January 1992 (S. Summers, *Or. Birds* 18(3): 96) and another at Millicoma Marsh on 17 March 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 4 April 2021 at Bullards Beach SP (M. Clayton, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird), this does not include the single March record which may have been a very rare wintering individual.

Latest Date: one in Myrtle Point on 28 October 2020 (R. & D. Henise; eBird), not including the two winter records. Birds are rarely reported after August.

Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida*

This rare visitant is primarily encountered as a migrant in late fall. Overwintering birds and spring migrants are more irregular and occur much less frequently. Back in the early 1980s this was an OBRC review species with two accepted OBRC records:

CCSP-1983-11 North Bend, one immature on 5+ November 1983 through at least 11 Dec (AMc, photos by BG). A second bird was present 11 December but was not reviewed by the OBRC (*Tattler* 8(1): 9). The bird was present through at least 26 December 1983 (M. Hunter, eBird).

CCSP-1985-16 Bandon, one immature on 27 October 1985 (SH, TMi, AMi, RE, *Am. Birds*).

OBRC stopped reviewing records after April of 1996. There have been at least 39 additional records since OBRC stopped accepting records.

Most migrant records are in the fall starting in October with November being the month with the most records. About 1/3 of

There is only a single September record: one at North Bend feeder on 20 September 1990 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 17(2): 63; eBird).

October records include: one at the Coquille spit on 7 October 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 45; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh from 26 October- 3 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk et al., *Or. Birds* 28(1): 451; eBird); one to two birds at Millicoma Marsh from 8-11 October 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, E. Clough; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 26; eBird); one at Pony Slough from 10 October- 4 November 2004 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one at a Bandon feeder on 30 October 2009 (G. Shaffer, eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 October 2012 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); one up Catching Slough on 30 October 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); and one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 October 2016 (M. Bressler, eBird).

November is the month with the most migrant records, these include: one at North Bend on 16-17 November 1987 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 14(3): 297; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh from 12-28 November 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173; eBird; note that *Or. Birds* 26(3): 188 had this bird erroneously there until 4 December); one at Pony Slough from 10-17 November 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 35; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 25-26 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 45; eBird; note that the 26 October- 3 November 2001 record and this one were incorrectly combined as one record in *Or. Birds*); one at Pony Slough on 25 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 45; eBird; note that

this bird was erroneously reported in *Or. Birds* as a Harris's Sparrow); one bird at Millicoma Marsh from 3-9 November 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 28; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 November 2016 on the Jarvis Turn Bayside Trail (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Pony Slough on 4 November 2016 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one behind Fred Meyers in Coos Bay on 17 November 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); one in Myrtle Point on 6 November 2019 (D. & R. Henise, eBird); and one at the south jetty area in Bandon on 20 November 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

Many of these late fall birds overwinter, with birds found in late December, January, and February likely birds that are or have been overwintering. These overwintering records include: one at North Bend from 4 December 1988- 9 May 1989 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 15(3): 195; eBird); at Bandon from 22 December 1991- 15 February 1992 (C. Dillingham et al.; *Or. Birds* 18(3): 96; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay at Henderson Marsh from 7-21 December 2002 that was never refound in January and may have just been a late migrant (T. Rodenkirk, W. Yungen; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140; eBird); one at the south jetty of Bandon on 4 January 2002 that was likely overwintering in the area (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(2): 101; eBird); up to two birds at Millicoma Marsh from 12 November 2005- 18 March 2006 (M. LaFaive, E. Henze, et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 88; *Or. Birds* 32(3): 123; eBird); one to two birds coming to a North Bend feeder from 20 November 2006 through mid-April of 2007 (B. Griffin et al.; *Or. Birds* 33(1): 28; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 62; eBird); one near Norway from 26 November 2013- 22 February 2014 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 8; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); one coming to a feeder in Myrtle Point on 14-16 February 2014 (R. Foster, eBird); one photographed coming to a feeder in Bandon from 7 January 2017- 13 March 2017 (B. Bridgeland, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one along Fishtrap Road near Coquille on 19 February 2017 that was likely overwintering in the area (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one in the Eastside neighborhoods of Coos Bay on 19 December 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); one in a North Bend neighborhood west of the casino on 31 December 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); and one coming to seed in a North Bend neighborhood south of the airport from 12 February through at least 8 April 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).

Spring migrants are rarer than fall and winter birds and include: 6a singing bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 9-11 June 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 26(1): 146; eBird); a singing bird found at the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 29 May 2007 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* (33)3: 98; eBird); one at the end of the paved Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(3): 95; eBird); a singing bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay near the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on 5 June 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another singing bird at the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay from 23-28 May 2014 (K. Castelein, D. Lauten; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); and a singing bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: two at a North Bend feeder on 20 September 1990 (B. Griffin, eBird); the last half of October and the entire month of November are when the majority of fall migrants have been found. Most overwintering birds are first found in the latter half of November or in December and typically pass the winter at feeders or in areas where seed is regularly put down such as was the case at Millicoma Marsh in the early 2000s.

Latest Overwintering Date: 9 May 1989 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 15(3): 195; eBird); this does not include the five records of late spring singing migrants, all from the North Spit of Coos Bay, found during the brief window running from 22 May- 9 June.



Figure 61- Clay-colored Sparrow at Millicoma Marsh on 17 November 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*

This species is a rare visitant along coastal Oregon with only six Coos records. The first was located along the waterfront in Bandon on 23 May 1999 (S. McAllister, *Or. Birds* 25(4): 112; eBird). Additional records include: a worn adult at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay 14 August 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 29; *Tattler*07(4): 5; eBird); another adult at the same location on 20 April 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 62:(3) 472; *Tattler*08(3): 5; eBird); one photographed at Face Rock Wayside in Bandon on 8 October 2018 (R. Doster, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 9-10 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); and one at the same location on 7 May 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 43; eBird).



Figure 62- Brewer's Sparrow at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 May 2024. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*

An abundant winter resident with birds in every blackberry clump, salmonberry patch, and salal thicket. Almost all birds encountered are from the Sooty subspecies group which breeds further north of Oregon in Alaska and British Columbia and are almost exclusively the subspecies that winters in the county. The Thick-billed subspecies group breeds in the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains but has never been found breeding in Coos County although it does breed in the highest elevations of Curry County in the Bear Camp area. This subspecies (often lumped with the Slate-colored group in wintering birds since they are so similar) has rarely been found in the county in winter as has the red fox sparrow subspecies group.

Wintering Sooties typically arrive in September and depart in late April. Fall migrants and wintering birds sometimes burst into short periods of song during sunny weather even in mid-winter.

Birds from the Red Fox Sparrow subspecies group are rare migrants and occasionally overwinter. This is the subspecies group that reportedly is the most likely to be split into a new species someday. There are at least seven records of Red Fox Sparrows and include the following records: one at Millicoma Marsh from 13-14 December 2008 (D. and A. Heyerly, *Or. Birds* 35: 13; *Tattler*09(1): 4; eBird); another at Millicoma Marsh from 9 December 2009 through at least 10 January 2010 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 17; eBird); another also at Millicoma Marsh on 29 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); three(!) near Bastendorff Beach on 18 December 2016 (G. Floyd, A. Contreras; *Or.*

Birds 43(1): 14; eBird); one photographed coming to a feeder in Charleston on 4-5 March 2019 (K. Kravik, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); one coming to seed in Norway from 1 Feb 2023 through at least 10 April 2023 (*fide* B. Follansbee, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); and one photographed in Bandon on 9 April 2023 (H. Sands, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).

Very rarely, even rarer than the Red Fox Sparrow subspecies group in winter, are birds of the Slate-colored/Thick-billed Fox Sparrow subspecies group. There are only two winter records, neither of which have been particularly well-documented: one at the Eastside boat ramp area of Coos Bay from at least 8-14 March 2014 (B. Wagner, T. Rodenkirk; eBird) and another at Millicoma Marsh from at least 12-15 December 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), the latter which was actually present much of the winter but without additional eBird records documenting the later sightings (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Earliest Arrival of the Sooty subspecies: 5 September 2024 at Millicoma Marsh (m.o.; eBird).

Latest Date of the Sooty subspecies: 21 May 2015, a bird that landed on a cruise ship (Lehman 2017); the latest land record is 9 May 2003 in Eden Valley (C. Dillingham, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 150; eBird), 9 May 2020 in Bandon (T. Spencer, eBird), and 9 May 2021 at Mt. Bolivar (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

American Tree Sparrow *Spizelloides arborea*

This species regularly winters in northeast Oregon but is only a rare visitant to the county. There are at least 18 records to date. Migrants are typically found in late fall or early winter with a few records of individuals that likely overwintered.

Migrant records include: one at Myrtle Point on 17 December 1965 (S. Wilson, p.c.; eBird); a single bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 11 November 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 56; eBird); another bird in the same area from 8-31 December 2002 (D. Pettey, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140; eBird); a single bird at Norway Pond on the Coquille Valley CBC on 28 December 2002 (G. Gillson, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140; eBird); one at Bullards Beach SP on 21 December 2003 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 30(2): 91); a single at Millicoma Marsh on 7 November 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 28; eBird); one north of Simpson Park in North Bend on 18 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 35; eBird); one at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 28 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 35; *N. Am. Birds* 62(1): 142; eBird, incorrectly reported as November 29); one at Millicoma Marsh on 17 November 2007 (E. Clough, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 34(1): 35; *N. Am. Birds* 62(1): 142; eBird, incorrectly reported as 7 November); one at Millicoma Marsh from 24-27 November 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); one at Bandon Marsh NWR on 31 December 2010 (B. Bridgeland, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); one in Coos Bay near the Eastside boat ramp on 13-14 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); another in the Eastside area of Coos Bay off the First Street Trail on 12 January 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); and one at the Niles'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR from 31 December 2022- 4 January 2023 (L. Murphy et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 43; eBird).

Overwintering records include: a bird present near Jordan Cove on the north side of Coos Bay from 19 December 1976 through the winter of 1976-77 (L. Norgren, A. Contreras; p.c. also *Am. Birds* 31(3): 366; eBird); an overwintering bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay next to the

old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 13 December 2007 through 11 April 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin, R. Namitz, et al.; *Tattler*08(1): 5; *Tattler*08(3): 4; *N. Am. Birds* 62(3): 472; eBird); and two overwintering birds found on the Coquille Valley CBC- one coming to feeders in Bandon on 1 January 2017 (H. Schubothe et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird) and the other in Coquille that was present 1-2 January 2017 (L. Norgren, T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). These last two "possible" overwintering individuals were found at locations where it was difficult to know if they stayed around and overwintered or not- the late date they were found suggests that they were overwintering nearby.

Earliest Arrival: 18 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(1): 35; eBird), although birds are typically found later in November and December.

Latest Date: 11 April 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

• **Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis*

This is an uncommon breeder in openings within dense coniferous and mixed forests in the inland portion of the county and also locally county-wide in parks and other areas where there is some dense undergrowth available adjacent to sizable evergreens. Along the outer coast, breeding birds have also been observed on nests in the open shore pine forest in the dune area at the New River ACEC (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

In fall and winter many more birds move into the county and gather in flocks in the lowlands, feeding in towns, brushy areas, pasture edges, and other sites where seeds are available. They are ubiquitous at feeders.

The Oregon Junco (*J. h. oregonus* group) is the default race in the county with a of the few Slate-colored subspecies (*J. h. hyemalis/carolinensis*) reported most winters. Birders should be on the lookout for the Cassiar Junco subspecies (*J. h. cismontanus*) also, which at first glance resembles a Slate-colored but has a contrasty head and back unlike Slate-colored. This subspecies may be just as regular as Slate-colored in Western Oregon, but because it is less well known few folks look for it or assume that the darker looking Oregon Junco in their yard is a Slate-colored. Greg Gillson was one of the first Oregon birders to blog about this subspecies; for more information check this website: [Not a Slate-colored Junco! The Cassiar Junco - Pacific NW Birder \(nwbackyardbirder.blogspot.com\)](http://nwbackyardbirder.blogspot.com).

• **White-crowned Sparrow** *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

This species breeds locally throughout the county and also winters in large numbers. It is a fairly common to locally common breeder and is common to locally abundant in some winters. The breeding form is *Z. l. pugetensis*, which has a white eye stripe extending to grayish lores. It has a yellowish bill and is extensively suffused with brown underneath. Many if not most of these birds remain in winter.

In migration other forms may be seen, and small numbers of *Z. l. gambelii* join the large flocks of *pugetensis* to winter in Coos County lowlands. It is similar but has a pinkish bill and is mostly gray on the breast and upper belly. For more information about the various populations of White-crowned Sparrow see Dunn et al. (1995) or the "Birds of the World" website (Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

Most fall birds come through from September through early October, and spring birds move early, from March through early April.

Golden-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

This is a common migrant and winter resident. It occurs with White-crowned Sparrows and juncos but sometimes forms small pure flocks. It is most common where dense cover such as blackberries lies next to cultivated land or pasture. Birds often feed outward on the ground, then flush back to cover, repeating the pattern in a "tidal" motion, a pattern also seen in White-crowned Sparrows. In young tree plantations with dense understories in the Coast Range this species often forms pure flocks in winter.

Birds typically begin arriving mid-September and depart over a period of weeks with some very late for a winter bird, lingering through mid-May. There is a single, late, verified individual observed by experienced birders at a feeder in Bandon on 7 July 2018 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird).

An astonishing record exists of a pair that fledged four young along East Bay Drive in 1982 (R. Lawrence, *Tattler* 6(4): 13). If correct, this constitutes the only breeding record for Oregon. The observer was familiar with the species, but no further information is available as of this writing. The nearest documented breeding occurs British Columbia.

Earliest Arrival: 24 August 2013 in Charleston (B. Taylor, eBird).

Latest Date: 13 June 1982 (A. McGie at Shore Acres SP, *Tattler* 6(3): 5); not including the single early July record or the unverified breeding report for which dates are not available.

Harris's Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*

This is a rare visitant to the county, with at least 26 records to date. Birds normally appear during migration in late fall, many of which linger and overwinter. There is only one spring migrant record.

Fall migrant records include: one on 21 December 1987; one adult at Pony Slough on 6 January 1995 (R. Pelham, eBird); one at Pony Slough on 17 December 1995 through at least 7 January 1996 (T. Kenefick, *Or. Birds* 22(3): 96; R. Pelham, eBird); a first winter bird at Coquille on 6 December 1997 (R. Hoyer, D. Lauten, et al.; *Or. Birds* 24(3): 99; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 1 November 1998 (T. Bray, eBird); a single bird at Pony Slough on 19 November 2000 (C. Dillingham, T. Rodenkirk; eBird); an adult at a feeder in Coaledo from 4-12 November 2002 (M. Wihler, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 52; eBird; note that *Or. Birds* erroneously stated it was only present through 8 November); a first winter bird at the old Christenson Ranch (Graveyard Point) on the east side of Coos Bay on 22 December 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 141; eBird); a first winter bird at Millicoma Marsh from 22 November- 2 December 2005 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; *Or. Birds* 32(2): 88; eBird); and another first winter bird at the same location from 3 November- 10 December 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird).

Overwintering records include: one near Jordan Cove on Coos Bay on 19 December 1976 (CBC) through at least 12 January 1977 (A. Contreras; eBird); one in "winter" 1982-83 in North Bend through 30 April 1983 (G. Keller, *Or. Birds* 9(2): 53; eBird); one during the winter 1983-84 in Coos Bay (I. Quick, *Or. Birds* 10(2): 42); one at Pony Slough from 2 February 1995 until May (S. Townsend, *Or. Birds* 21(3): 100; *Tattler* June, 1995; eBird); a first winter bird at Millicoma Marsh from 6 November 2000 until at least 28 March 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, G. Keller, et al.; *Or. Birds* 27(1): 35; *Or. Birds* 27(2): 66; *Or. Birds* 27(3): 91; eBird; note that the original date was erroneously stated as 5 November in *Or. Birds*); an adult at Millicoma Marsh from 25 November

2001- 18 March 2002 (R. Freeman, T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 46; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 101; *Or. Birds* 28(3): 138; eBird); a first winter bird from 24 December 2001 through March of 2002 in North Bend (B. Griffin, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 101; eBird) and another at a residence in Broadbent the same winter (B. Griffin, p.c.); a first-year bird at Millicoma Marsh from 29 October 2006- 24 February 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, J. Metzler, et al.; *Or. Birds* 33(1): 28; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 62; eBird; erroneously reported as two birds in *Or. Birds* 33(2): 62); an adult coming to a Bandon feeder from 30 December 2010 through at least 8 January 2011 (G. Shaffer et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); perhaps the same adult coming to the same Bandon feeder from 31 December 2011 through at least 6 January 2012 (G. Shaffer, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 16; eBird); another coming to a Bandon feeder on 15-16 February 2014 (M. Ayers, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); a first-year bird overwintering in a residential neighborhood in the Eastside area of Coos Bay from 31 January 2015 through at least 8 February 2015 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); another first-year bird at Millicoma Marsh from 13 December 2018 through at least 24 February 2019 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); and a first-year bird coming to a Bandon feeder from 11 January through at least 25 February 2024 (S. Forgey, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird).

The only spring migrant record was an adult photographed at Cape Arago on 4 June 2019, one of the latest spring records for Oregon (M. Clayton, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 29 October 2006, although birds typically are not found until later in November and December.

Latest Date: a bird that overwintered through 30 April 1983 (G. Keller, *Or. Birds* 9(2): 53; eBird), not including the single, very rare June record.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

This is an uncommon to fairly common winterer in the county, most often reported with flocks of other *Zonotrichia* sparrows. Prior to about 2000, reports of single birds were the norm with larger groups seen from time to time, such as the four birds found together on 19 December 1993 in Sunset Bay Campground (A. Contreras; eBird) or four at a feeder in Coquille in December of 1997 (G. Keller, p.c.; eBird). Since about 2000, this species has gone from somewhat uncommon to fairly common and numbers have also increased with a high count of 15 birds coming to seed at Millicoma Marsh on 17 November 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 46; eBird) and 15 at the same location on the 2002 Coos Bay CBC (V. Thompson, eBird) with a total of 28 on the Coos Bay CBC that year (CBC records). Dave Irons did a tally of individual detections of this species by county in Oregon for the winter of 2002/2003 and a total of 63 were reported from Coos (*N. Am. Birds* 57(2): 250). High CBC counts were 34 on the 15 Dec 2013 Coos Bay count and 50 on the 1 January 2024 Coquille Valley count.

Birds typically arrive in early October and often remain in the same place all winter. Most depart in late April or early May.

Earliest Arrival: 16 September 2023 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (DS CT, eBird).

Latest Date: 11 June 2021 (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird).

Sagebrush Sparrow *Artemisiospiza nevadensis*

This species is a common resident of the high desert of eastern Oregon with only a handful of overshoots reported in Western Oregon, one of which is from Coos County. A single was found in an unlikely location, on the very top of Mt. Bolivar feeding along the edge of a snow drift, on 19 April 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44, eBird).



Figure 63- Sagebrush Sparrow on the top of Mt. Bolivar on 19 April 2024.

• **Vesper Sparrow** *Pooecetes gramineus*

This species is an uncommon to rare migrant in the county although it has bred irregularly in recent years in the southwest corner of the county. There are also several rare winter records. Historically, there are only a few verified records of birds detected in winter in Oregon, primarily in the Willamette Valley on CBCs, although many of the records are probably valid (Altman 2003).

Birds probably bred at New River from 2000 through 2002. Up to five birds were heard singing there in 2000 with the first birds detected on 29 April 2000 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 26(3): 199; eBird). These birds continued singing through at least 10 June (T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 26(4): 221; eBird). Several birds were again heard singing in the same area on 18 April 2001 and were heard through at least 14 June 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(3): 91; *Or. Birds* 27(4): 120; eBird). In 2002 birds were not heard singing until 2 June (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 191; eBird). No birds have been observed at New River since 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).

Another location where this species likely attempts to breed, at least some years, is in the open ranchland in the Bethel Mountain area in the very southwest corner of the county (access to this site is along a privately controlled road that has only had sporadic public access since about 2021). The habitat there is quite similar to locations a few miles south where they are known to breed in the open, hilly ranch lands above Floras Creek and the adjacent Langlois Mountain area of northwest Curry County. One was seen along the upper Bethel Mountain Road on 1 September 2008 and may have been a lingering breeder (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler*08(5): 6; eBird). Two to three birds were heard singing along this road just south of the large quarry from 18 April through at least 13 July 2009 suggesting probable breeding (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 63(3): 496; eBird). Singing birds have been detected almost annually at this site from 2009 through 2024 with the earliest arrival date being 10 April 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird) and the latest date being one found on 4 September 2015 which could have been a lingering breeder or a rare fall migrant (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Not all these singing birds are necessarily potential breeders at this site and some could just be migrants passing through, but this area of private ranchlands does have the best-looking breeding habitat in the county.

Another location this species may have attempted to breed is in the grass fields south of Powers where single birds have been found singing several years during the spring from 2014 through 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Taylor, R & D. Henise; eBird). In 2017 a single bird was present on several dates ranging from 29 April- 28 May (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird). However, it appears that most years this species is just a migrant at the site with records from late April and early May but no further records in June. These fields can be heavily grazed in late April and early May some years, likely making them less attractive to potential breeders. Also, they are often mowed for hay in by early to mid-June when not grazed, which makes successful breeding by singing birds found earlier in the season unlikely.

West of Powers is a series of natural prairies in the Dement Creek area on private land, some of which are also in Curry County close to the Coos County boundary. In 2009, when access was temporarily possible, a single bird was observed in the Dement Ranch area (up the Sixes River Road between Cape Blanco and Powers just outside the Coos County boundary in Curry County) on 8 July (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), suggesting breeding may sometimes occur on private lands in that area.

Migrant records away from these few potential breeding areas are few. Spring migrant records include: three at Bandon on 28 May 1979 (J. and D. Rogers; *Tattler*3(2): 7; eBird); one singing between Powers and Broadbent in June 1982 or 1983 (G. Keller, p.c.); one at Pony Slough on 15 April 1984 (A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 10(3): 97; eBird); one near Coquille on 13 April 1987 (B. Fawver, J. Thomas; *Tattler*11(1): 19; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 May 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); again at the same site on 22 April 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one further south on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 June 2002 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(4): 191; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 8 June 2009 (J. Bosler, eBird); one in the same area on 6 May 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one on 18 June 2023 at the Sheep Ranch Golf Course north of Bandon, one of several Bandon Dunes golf courses (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird).

Fall and winter records are more numerous and include: one on 25 September 1976; one at Bullards Beach SP on 26 August 1977 (B. Fawver,

Tattler1(3): 8; eBird); one at Myrtle Point 26 November 1978 (S. Wilson, p.c.); one along Fishtrap Road 20 August 1980 (E. White-Swift, *Tattler4*(3): 7; eBird); one at Myrtle Point 28 January 1989 (S. Wilson, p.c.; eBird) and presumably the same bird 4 February 1989 (L. Thornburgh, *Or. Birds* 15(3): 195; eBird); a bird at Myrtle Point on 12-19 February 1991 (eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 17 September 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 56; eBird); one in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 November 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 1 September 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 35; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the end of Transpacific Lane on the 16 December 2001 Coos Bay CBC (S. Dowlan, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 101; eBird); one in Bandon on 3 January 2002 (B. Fawver, J. Thomas; *Or. Birds* 28(2): 101; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 20 August 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); one at the same site on 27 January 2006 (S. Wilson, *Or. Birds* 32(2): 87; eBird); one at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 August 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler08*(5): 5; eBird); another at the end of Transpacific Lane on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 9 December 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 16; eBird); and one in the Snowy Plover HRA on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 October 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Spring Arrival: 10 April 2014 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird).

Latest Spring Date of Migrants: 18 June 2023 (D. Lauten, p.c.; eBird), not including probable breeders present through the summer.

Earliest Fall Migrant Record: 20 August 1980 (E. White-Swift, *Tattler4*(3): 7; eBird) & 20 August 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; eBird); these birds were found in areas without breeding habitat so were likely migrants.

Latest Fall Migrant Record: 26 November 1978 (S. Wilson, p.c.; eBird), not including the several winter records (December through February) listed above.

• **Savannah Sparrow** *Passerculus sandwichensis*

This is an uncommon to common breeder in open, flat grassy areas in the lowlands, especially in moist situations and in beachgrass. Some birds remain in winter, especially in dense grassy lowlands, beachgrass on the spits, and along the outer coast. Territorial birds have been found as early as 26 March 1978 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (*Or. Birds* 4(2): 29).

There is a distinct spring migration that results in flocks of dozens of birds appearing along the outer coast in mid- April to early May in some years. A recent high count was a flock of 40+ along Lower Fourmile Road near New River on 1 May 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Fall movements are more protracted with most birds moving through in late August and September.

• **Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*

This is a common and widespread resident breeder in the county. It uses a variety of habitats, but streamside thickets are preferred.

It is just as common or more so in winter, using all manner of hedges, blackberry thickets, and brushy areas. Some immigration in winter occurs, with birds coming from more northern populations (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940). Little modern information on this movement is available.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolnii*

This is an uncommon and somewhat secretive migrant and winter resident in the county. Although it can be found in a variety of lowland brushy habitats, especially in migration, it is most easily located in winter in places where dense brush, such as a blackberry tangle, lies adjacent to a sizable patch of tall grass such as reed canary grass, especially if the area is moist.

Numbers vary considerably from year to year as shown in CBC data; in some years it can be fairly common in its relatively specific, preferred habitat.

This sparrow can sometimes be detected in a mixed flock or in dense cover by a sound that it shares only with the Swamp Sparrow, a single long, flat, dry, fizzy note. It does not make the short, sharp "tink" note that helps identify the Swamp Sparrow. It is worth learning these sounds to help find and identify skulking sparrows.

Birds begin arriving in the lowlands in mid-August, with a significant movement in early September. They remain through April with stragglers into early May.

Earliest Arrival: 3 August 2020 at the Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR (A. Christensen, S. Masuda; eBird with photo).

Latest Date: 23 May 2022 at the Old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana*

This species was almost unknown from Oregon until the late 1960s; records began increasing in the 1970s and today it is known as a rather local, uncommon wintering bird. Although single birds are found here and there in the county each winter, the central Coquille Valley provides a careful observer the opportunity to find multiple birds. Millicoma Marsh in Coos Bay is another regular wintering area for this species.

These birds have fairly exacting habitat preferences. Look for them in near-swamp conditions that feature dense grass (often reed canary grass and teasel), heavy cover such as blackberries, and often small trees such as willows or young ash. When large areas of such habitat also contain standing water in winter, Swamp Sparrow may well be present. See Fix (1992) for an excellent discussion of how to find this species.

These birds arrive rather late in fall, with most initial reports coming in late October. Numbers peak in November and December and then drop off in January suggesting that the fall migration may continue rather late for some birds. Overwintering birds usually remain into March.

Earliest Arrival: one on 5 October 2025 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: 25 April 1999 at Coquille (C. Dillingham, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, G. Keller, T. Rodenkirk; OBOL; eBird).

Green-tailed Towhee *Pipilo chlorurus*

Vagrant. This species has only occurred once in Coos County, a bird that improbably appeared at a feeder in Riverton on 24-26 December 1994 (eBird). This bird, seen by many observers, was the first winter record for Oregon and is still only one of three for winter for Oregon (up through 2024 on eBird).

Although there are no breeding records for the county, this species breeds locally to northeastern Curry County in the Burnt Ridge-Bear Camp area. Much time has been spent in recent springs looking for

overshoots in the nearby Mt. Bolivar area of Coos County without luck (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.) although the relatively high elevation and open, brushy habitat in that area appears like a logical location for an overshoot some spring.

• **Spotted Towhee** *Pipilo maculatus*

This is a common resident breeder county-wide in dense, brushy areas. It winters in numbers, with some augmentation from migrants. Local breeders are probably resident but this is not known for certain. Winter numbers vary somewhat from year to year.

Family ICTERIIDAE

• **Yellow-breasted Chat** *Icteria virens*

This is a local breeder in dense lowland, riparian tangles, mainly in the southeast portion of the county from east of Coquille south to the Powers area. It can also be found as far north and west as Millicoma Marsh in the Coos Bay area where it appears to breed some years but is at least a regular migrant in the spring. One spent much of May and June in 2010 singing near the North Bend sewage treatment plant- unusually close to the ocean (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*10(2): 7). It is thought to be absent north of the Coos River valley. Coastal migrants are rare and not seen most years.

The species was first found in the county when Hilda Reiher noted one (probably at Glasgow) on 17 May 1955 (eBird). The next record was 18 June 1982 (A. McGie, *Am. Birds* 36(6): 1011; eBird) south of Broadbent. One was also at Broadbent on 25 June 1983 (*Or. Birds* 9(3): 98).

This species arrives later than most warblers, first appearing in early to mid-May. Birds depart unnoticed during August with no September records (at least none on eBird).

There are very few winter records for Oregon, but Coos has three. The first was a bird in willow scrub along the bluff by the south jetty of the Coquille River in Bandon on 29 December 1991 (D. Lusthoff et al.; *Or. Birds* 18(3): 96; eBird). The second was a bird that overwintered and was observed feeding on apples and coming to a suet feeder in Coos Bay from 31 December 2011- 28 April 2012 (B. Fields et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird). The latest record was one seen at a residence in Barview (near Charleston) on 13 December 2016 (M. Graybill, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 28 April 2019 up Sandy Creek near Remote (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird).

Latest Date: 27 August 2021 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), not including the rare winter records.

Family ICTERIDAE

Subfamily XANTHOCEPHALINAE

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

This is a rare but regular visitant to the county, with at least 56 records to date. It is most often encountered in the spring during the month of May. In the fall it is much less regular with the first three weeks in September the peak time most birds are reported.

Spring records include: one at Haynes Inlet on 16 May 1977 (M. Ingman, *Tattler*1(2): 8; eBird); one in North Bend 11 May 1978 (E. Troyer, *Tattler*2(2): 14; eBird); a female on the North Spit of Coos Bay

21 May 1983 (A. McGie, *Tattler*7(4): 16; eBird); one in Riverton on 26 April 1987 (G. Keller, *Tattler*11(1): 19; eBird); one at a residence in North Bend on 7 May 1999 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 25(4): 113; eBird); single birds at the Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on the following dates- 23 May 1999 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(4): 113; eBird), 8 June 2001 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(4): 120; eBird), and from 12-14 May 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an adult male at Millicoma Marsh on 2 May 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Fawver, et al.; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 150; eBird); a female later joined by a singing male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 14-20 May 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 29(3): 150; eBird); three (two females and an immature male) seen together at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 20 May- 4 June 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 132; *Or. Birds* 30(4): 181; eBird); a female at Millicoma Marsh on 15 May 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128; eBird); a male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 12-13 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* (33)3: 98; eBird); two males and a female at New River on 16 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(3): 7; eBird); two females/immature males at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 17-18 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*07(3): 7; eBird); one immature male at the same site on 16 May 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 34(3): 97; eBird); a female at the same site on 10 May 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 35: 14; eBird); one in Lakeside on 3-5 May 2010 (R. Goodrich, eBird); two females at the same site on 30-31 May 2011 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 16; eBird); an adult male at a small, wetland pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 May 2012 (S. Fowler, *Tattler*12(2): 8; eBird); a male in Bandon at Bradley Lake on 18 May 2012 (H. Schuboth, eBird); a female at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 6 May 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 8; eBird); a first-year male at the same site on 15 May 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 8; eBird); a female at Bandon Marsh NWR on 28 May 2015 (L. Sherman, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird); a female at a marshy area near the mouth of Tenmile Creek on 12 June 2015 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird); another female at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site from 15-17 May 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); a female in the same area on 21 May 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18); a female at the Myrtle Point Fairgrounds on 10 May 2020 (D. & R. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); a female at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 7 May 2021 (C. Centanni, C. Jett, C. Neuman; eBird); a male up Haynes Inlet from 19-21 May 2021 (L. Mangan, p.c. with photo; eBird); a female at Lower Fourmile Road on 23 May 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female/immature at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 27 May 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); and a female/immature at Bandon Dunes Golf Course on 2 June 2024 (T. Pietrzak, eBird).

Late summer and fall visitants are less common and include: a female at a feeder in Empire on 31 October 1978 (L. Topits, *Tattler*2(4): 11; eBird); another female at Iowa Slough along the Coquille River on 22 August 1980 (E. White-Swift, *Or. Birds* 6(4): 194, *Tattler*4(3): 7; eBird); one that came aboard the research vessel Chapman two miles off Coos Bay on 26 October 1981 (L. Osis, *Tattler*6(1): 8; eBird); a male in North Bend 12 October 1983 (G. Keller, *Tattler*7(5): 9; eBird); a female at Bandon on 14 September 1996 (T. and A. Mickel, *Or. Birds* 23(2): 84; eBird); several records all from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site: a female/immature on 5 September 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(2): 56; eBird), one on 22 September 2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 27(1): 35; eBird), a flyover on

22 October 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; eBird); a young male in Lakeside on 18-21 July 2010 (R. Goodrich; eBird); several additional records all from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site: a first fall female on 16 September 2011 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 38(1): 16; eBird), a hatch year male and female from 17-26 August 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird), a female/immature that had no tail on 7 September 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 40(1): 8; eBird), another immature male/female on 7 September 2014 (H. Schubothé et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); and a female on 13 September 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one at the south jetty of Bandon on 6 September 2020 (J. Seveyka, C. Gehrke; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); a female/immature male along New River on 21 August 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird); a female at the south jetty in Bandon from 16-21 September 2022 (C. Barba et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); and one seen at a feeder in Lakeside on 15 September 2025 (A. King, eBird).

This species is particularly rare in winter with five records: one reported on 3 February 1983 at an unknown location; one reported at the Bandon jetty on 25 February 1987 (D. Anderson, *Or. Birds* 13(3): 317; eBird); one at a North Bend feeder on 3 February 1989 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 15(3): 196; eBird); a male coming to a Lakeside feeder from 1 March 2010 that stayed through 5 May 2010 (R. Goodrich, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); and a female/immature reported at Redmon pond near the south jetty in Bandon on 29 January 2025 (K. Saxton, eBird).

Earliest Spring Arrival: 26 April 1987 (G. Keller, *Tattler*11(1): 19; eBird).

Latest Spring Date: 12 June 2015 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird).

Earliest Fall Arrival: 18 July 2010 (R. Goodrich; eBird).

Latest Fall Date: 31 October 1978 (R. Goodrich; eBird), not including the very rare winter records.

Subfamily DOLICHONYCHINAE

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

There have been at least 11 records of this rare visitant in the county, all of which have been in the late summer or fall with more than half the records in the narrow window from mid-September through the first week of October. These records include: one picked up dead in North Bend 3 October 1972 (H. Reiher, *Am. Birds* 27(1):110; eBird, date from her unpublished notes); two at Pony Slough 27 October 1979 (E. White-Swift, B. Fawver; *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51; eBird); two at Myrtle Point on 10 December 1979 (F. Whitaker, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51); one at Pony Slough in fall, 1984 (F. and A. Parker, *Tattler*8(4): 5); three birds at Bandon Marsh NWR on 11 September 1999 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein, et al.; *Or. Birds* 26(2): 174; eBird); a single bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 October 2001 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 28(1): 46; eBird); another bird at the same Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 23-25 September 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; eBird); another bird at the same site on the early date of 8 August 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 28; eBird); yet another bird at the same site from 5-8 October 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz; *Tattler*07(5): 5; eBird); one further north on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 5 October 2008 (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 35: 12; *Tattler*08(6): 5; eBird); and a flyover heard calling at Millicoma Marsh on 13 September 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with audio recording).

See Eltzroth (1978) and Jobanek (1994) for more information on the Bobolink in Oregon.



Figure 64- Bobolink at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 25 September 2005. Photo by Russ Namitz.

Subfamily STURNELLINAE

- **Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta*

This is a fairly common wintering species and an uncommon and very local breeder. Based on singing birds found after mid-June through July, breeding likely occurs sparingly in open pasturelands in the southeast end of the county from the Coquille Valley south to the Powers area. It has also been heard singing in June and July in the Bethel Mtn area in the southwest end of the county and likely breeds in the open ranchlands there also (T. Rodenkirk per. obs.; eBird). It could breed locally elsewhere in the county, but documentation is lacking. Late migrants typically sing throughout May and into June, giving one the false impression that they are a lot more potential breeders than there actually are.

The first fall migrants become regular by late September. Birds tend to form flocks in winter; these often contain only meadowlarks but sometimes blackbirds or starlings. These flocks feed in agricultural areas, grassy dunes, locally in parks, and even large yards.

Subfamily ICTERINAE

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius*

Vagrant. This is a recent addition to the county's avifauna with one accepted record:

OROR-2023-25 Bandon, Coos County, one juvenile bird found visiting an apple tree in a Bandon yard from 23 December 2023 through 2 January 2024 (Report and photos TR and GaS).



Figure 65- Orchard Oriole in Bandon on 23 December 2023. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Hooded Oriole *Icterus cucullatus*

There are at least 11 records of this rare visitant in Coos County. This species has been increasing and expanding its range in California; Oregon has seen a corresponding increase in reports.

There are four records that have been accepted by OBRC:

HOOR-1979-03 Coos Bay, one immature male on 16+ December 1979 through 14 March 1980 (AMc, photos by GV).
HOOR-1982-04 Coos Bay, two immature males, one bird on 24 December 1982 and later two to 19 February 1983 (AMc, photos by OS, BG). These birds were joined by a female on 4 February (*Tattler*7(4): 15).
HOOR-1992-13 South Slough NERR Coos Bay, one adult female on 31 August 1991 (JJo).
HOOR-2010-35 Bandon, Coos County, one bird 14-15 October 2010 (DL, KC photos by RuN).

In March of 2012 this species was removed from the review list.

Unreviewed records prior to 2012 and records after this species was removed from the review list include: one 4 December 1983; a female in North Bend on 11 September 1994 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 21(2): 68; eBird); one, or possibly two, at a North Bend residence on 27 October 2005 (B. Griffin, p.c.; eBird); a male at the same residence from 21 November 2014- 6 March 2015 (B. Griffin et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird); an adult male seen briefly at a feeder up Catching Slough on the east side of Coos Bay on 17 October 2023 (R. McCreery, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; p.c.; eBird); an immature male in Coos Bay from 25-26 December 2023 (A. Mitchell et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); and another immature male that visited a Bandon yard only long enough to be photographed on 5 April 2025 (Dusty Cat, eBird).



Figure 66- a first fall male Hooded Oriole in Bandon on 14 October 2010. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

• **Bullock's Oriole** *Icterus bullockii*

This is an uncommon but highly visible breeder that occurs mainly in the southeast portion of the county, especially along the South Fork of the Coquille River and locally to Myrtle Point. It also breeds along the lower Coos and Millicoma Rivers (A. McGie, p.c.). Migrants can rarely be found in the northern portion of the county and along the outer coast, but it is not known to breed in these areas. In recent years it has become an almost regular overwintering species in neighborhoods in coastal towns in very small numbers- birds are usually reported at feeders and are occasionally encountered eating apples in yards where fruit is still present in early winter.

Birds typically arrive in late April and early May and remain through August. Migrants can rarely be found on the outer coast in

September with stragglers reported through October. Birds found in December may be very late migrants or overwintering birds, the latter which are usually not reported after January but very rarely linger as late as early spring (March and early April).

Late fall and winter records include: one on the 17 December 1977 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records; eBird); a freshly dead bird in Coos Bay on 1 November 1978 (D. Gray, *Tattler*2(4): 11; eBird); one from Lakeside on 2 December 1979 (S. Thurman, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51; eBird); one in Coos Bay from 4-13 February 1985 that probably had overwintered (P. and F. Kinunen et al., *Tattler*9(1): 4; eBird); a first winter female coming to a feeder in Coos Bay from about 10 December 2009 through at least 21 April 2010 (L. Haun et al.; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); one coming to a feeder in North Bend for two weeks in early and mid-December 2010 (S. Cawley; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); a first winter male coming to a feeder in Myrtle Point 4 January- 5 February 2012 (R. Foster, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); a first winter male coming to a North Bend feeder from 24 December 2012- 17 January 2013 (B. Griffin et al.; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird); an adult male at a feeder in Coquille on the 5 January 2013 Coquille Valley CBC (L. Norgren et al.; *Or. Birds* 40(1): 8; eBird); a female coming to a feeder in North Bend from 27 October 2014 through at least 22 January 2015 (B. Griffin et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird); a female coming to a feeder in Coos Bay from about 26 November 2014- 20 April 2015 (B. Fields et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); a first-year male coming to a feeder in North Bend from 26 December 2015- 9 January 2016 (R. Boise et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird); an adult male coming to a feeder in North Bend from 25 November 2016 through late April of 2017 (B. Griffin, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 15; eBird); a first winter male at a feeder in Coos Bay from 18 December 2016 through mid-March of 2017 (L. Nelson, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 15; eBird); a female at a North Bend feeder from 27 November- 6 December 2017 (B. Griffin et al.; OBOL; eBird); a bright male feeding on apples in a Bandon yard from 5-10 January 2019 (R. and S. Holzman et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); a female reported in a Bandon yard on 6 December 2019 (F. Cat et al.; eBird); two found in a Bandon neighborhood on 23 December 2020- a first fall male and a dull female with the male around through at least 2 January 2021 (A. Hinkle, L. Kahle, et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); a female in northeast Bandon neighborhood from 1-16 January 2023 (D. Irons, S. Finnegan, et al.; eBird); a first year male in a southeast Bandon neighborhood from 20-31 January 2023 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); a first year female in Lakeside on 5-6 February 2023 (C. Lundblad, eBird); a female in the Eastside Coos Bay neighborhoods on 27 December 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); another female in Arago from 28 December 2023- 22 January 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); a young male in an Empire neighborhood in Coos Bay found on 29 March 2024 that had probably been overwintering (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female in a downtown Bandon neighborhood on 27 November 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) with possibly two females in this same general area on the 4 January 2025 Coquille Valley CBC (R. Hoyer, K. Castellen; eBird) with one continuing in the same area through at least 11 January 2025 (m.o.); perhaps a different female on 15 January 2025 in southeast Bandon (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an immature male coming to a Coos Bay suet feeder on 16 January 2025 (T. & H. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female at a North Bend hummingbird feeder on 7 February 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female/immature male in a North Bend neighborhood on 16 December 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and another female/immature in Bandon on the 3 January 2026 Coquille Valley CBC (F. Mayer, T. Rodenkirk; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: a male on 18 April 2016 at Broadbent (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 15; eBird).

Latest Date: several December observations of birds that were not subsequently refound and most likely late migrants; this does not include the increasing number of overwintering individuals most often encountered in coastal towns (Coos Bay/North Bend and Bandon).

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

This is a rare vagrant from the east. There are three records to date, two of which have been accepted by OBRC:

BAOR-2014-19	Coos Bay, Coos, an adult male on 24 May 2014 (photo LoM). This bird was first reported coming to the same hummingbird feeder on 23 May 2014.
BAOR-2022-23	Bandon, Coos Co., 1 bird, 28-29 Nov 2022 (report and photos AaB).

The first record was one at Coos Bay on 24 December 1982 (C. Schaeffer, *Or. Birds* 9(1): 8). Apparently, no record was ever sent into OBRC. The *Oregon Birds* reference mentions two Hooded Orioles coming to the same feeder at this time, one of which was photographed and the record accepted by OBRC. It seems unlikely that a report of the Baltimore would have been overlooked; so perhaps there was a mix up on ID of one of the two Hooded Orioles? For whatever reason, OBRC never received a report of a Baltimore Oriole and no further information is available.

Subfamily AGELAIINAE

• **Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus*

This is a common to abundant breeder in the county in almost any marshy or riparian area provided that there is a cattail patch or some dense shrub available in which to nest.

In winter, many birds leave but some remain, usually forming flocks (often with Brewer's Blackbirds and European Starlings) and feeding in agricultural areas, around cattle, in towns, and wherever else grain or other suitable food can be found. They also occasionally visit feeders.

Tricolored Blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*

Vagrant. A recent addition to the county avifauna with just two records to date. The first was a male with a flock of starlings and Red-winged Blackbirds along Lower Fourmile Creek south of Bandon from 11-14 September 2020 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird). The second record was two females found with a Brewer's Blackbird flock at the south jetty in Bandon on 26 October 2024 (C. Neuman et al.; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird). Up to four birds were found the next day at the same location (K. Landstra, R. Campbell; eBird). A few days later, on 29 October, a single was located with very large blackbird flock about a mile from the jetty at the Shooting Star Motel which may or may not have one of the same birds located at the south jetty a few days earlier (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird).

This species has been expanding its breeding and wintering range in Oregon and can be expected again in the county in areas where blackbirds congregate.

● **Brown-headed Cowbird** *Molothrus ater*

This is a fairly common breeder in the county, although it does its breeding in other species' active nests. It can be found in agricultural areas, along woodland margins, and forest edges (not in dense forests) county-wide.

Most birds leave in winter but a few usually remain, with single digit numbers occasionally found in larger blackbird flocks. In recent years a few have been regular in winter only in Bandon and sparingly in the Coquille Valley. Rarely large agglomerations of cowbirds occur together, e.g. the 75 on 5 January 1997 on the Coquille Valley CBC (H. Herlyn, M. Hunter). Spring migrants typically arrive during the last half of March and early April.

This species has been reported on pelagic trips off several Oregon counties and may be one of the more often reported seaward passerines such as the single seen circling a boat ten miles off Coos Bay on 15 August 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, E. Horvath; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 26; eBird).

Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*

Vagrant with two records, the first of which was accepted by OBRC:

UBL-2015-30 RV park in Lakeside, Coos County, one on 5 February 2015. This bird was a female and was present 5-6 Feb.

In 2015 OBRC removed this species from the review list.

There is only one additional record, a female found and photographed at Cape Arago on 24 October 2019 (R. & D. Henise et al.; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird).

A report from 17 September 1989 at Bandon (*Am. Birds* 44(1): 154) was not accepted by the OBRC and has been withdrawn by the observer (OBRC record #RUBL-1989-10). On the 4 January 2013 Coquille Valley CBC, a "possible" male was seen with a large blackbird flock at a dairy near Arago; however, the bird was never relocated for confirmation (J. Metzler, p.c.).



Figure 67- Female Rusty Blackbird in Lakeside on 5 February 2015. Photo compliments of Alan Brockway.

• **Brewer's Blackbird** *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

This is an uncommon breeder county-wide in the lowlands except in dense forests and along the coast. It is most common in towns and cities and along hedgerows in agricultural areas. It usually uses drier areas than those preferred by the Red-winged Blackbird.

In fall and winter, it often forms flocks with other blackbirds and feeds in agricultural areas, towns, and other locales where food can be obtained.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*

There are four records of this rare eastern vagrant, only one of which has been reviewed or accepted by OBRC:

COGR-2018-43 South Beach Road in Bandon, Coos County, 15 May 2018.
One bird (details and photos by ABr).

Other unreviewed/not accepted records include: one in Coos Bay on 31 May 1993 (B. Fawver, *Am. Birds* 47(3): 449); another reported flying upriver at New River on 2 June 2000 that was rejected by OBRC (OBRC report #COGR-2000-28); and a bird observed feeding with a blackbird flock in a Bandon yard on 14 May 2003 (B. Fawver, *N. Am. Birds* 57(3): 397).

? **Great-Tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Vagrant. This is the most likely grackle to be seen in western Oregon. It has been slowly expanding its range in the western U.S. and has bred in small numbers in southeast Oregon in recent years. Over half the Coos records have been during spring migration in May and June

with just a few fall records. The three earliest records were accepted by OBRC before they stopped reviewing records in April of 2007:

- GTGR-2005-20 Lakeside, Coos County, three birds from 22 May to 17 June 2005 (photos by JRa).
GTGR-2006-22 North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, two male birds from 17-24 May 2006 (TR, photos by RuN). This bird remained through 9 June.
GTGR-2006-24 Lakeside, Coos County, one bird 15-19 October 2006 (photos by JRa). This bird was seen on and off through 18 November 2006.

Additional records include: a male seen flying south at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 October 2006 (R. Namitz, *Or. Birds* 33(1): 29; eBird); a vocal male at Tenmile Lakes in Lakeside from 17 March through at least 22 April 2007 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Tattler* 07(3): 5; eBird); another calling male at the old Weyerhaeuser Pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 14-17 May 2007 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler* 07(3): 7; eBird); a male seen flying along Hwy 101 near Millington on 25 October 2010 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); a male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 8 May 2011 (S. Schlick, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 16; eBird); a male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 29 May 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); and a male in Mingus Park, Coos Bay on 22-23 May 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, S. Trott; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird).

Although this species has yet to be found breeding on the south coast, the Lakeside birds reportedly were around much or all of the period from 2005 through 2007 which suggest they probably at least tried to breed. However, in the last decade there have only been two records, both spring migrants in May.



Figure 68- Male Great-tailed Grackle on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 18 May 2006. Photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

Family PARULIDAE

Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*

There are four county records of this vagrant warbler. The first was a bird that came aboard a salmon troller and remained for an hour five miles off Coos Bay on 6 June 1970 (B. Mullen, *Am. Birds* 24(5): 711; eBird). The second and third records were from the same North Bend yard almost exactly a year apart: one on 1 November 2002 (S. Townsend, *Or. Birds* 29(1): 51) and perhaps the same bird on 16 October 2003 (S. Townsend, p.c.). The most recent record was a bird found singing on the south end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 8 June 2015 on a morning with dense fog (J. Metzler, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird).



Figure 69- Ovenbird off Coos Bay, photo by Bob Mullen.

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Vagrant. Most records are of fall migrants; however, in the last few years this species appears to have begun overwintering at one location.

Fall migrant records include the following: one calling bird at Millicoma Marsh on 12 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); a silent bird on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 22 September 2018 (D. Haupt, L. Norgren; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 1 September 2023 (D. Hargreaves, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); one in Bandon in the willow patch along the South Jetty Road on 7 September 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); one at Mingus Park on 2-4 December 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); one in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 1 September 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one on 10 October 2025 in the Empire area of Coos Bay (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with photos).

Winter records include the first county report of two birds near Broadbent on 16 March 1969 (S. Wilson, p.c.). The next report was a dead bird found in Coos Bay on 7 January 1978 (C. Markley, *Or. Birds* 4(2): 28; eBird). This specimen was in the collection at Southwestern

Oregon Community College but is thought to have been donated to the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History (B. Fawver, p.c.). All other recent records are from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay where single birds appear to have begun to overwinter: the first one found at the site was present from 3 December 2021 through at least 15 January 2022 (C. Hinkle et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); another or the same individual was found at the exact same location the next winter from 8 November through 3 December 2022 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); one in the same location a third year in-a-row but was only reported from 14-22 October 2023 (J. & D. Nordstrom et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird); no bird was found during the fall/early winter of 2024 although several observers did look and listen for one; and one was found again at the same site from 18 October- 10 December 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). This North Spit location is a unique, large willow swamp with several hundred acres of seasonally flooded wetlands which appear to provide appropriate habitat and sufficient food to support at least one overwintering bird. It will be interesting to see how long this species continues overwintering at this site and if it is ever found overwintering elsewhere on the south coast. The only other sites close to this that appear to have birds regularly overwintering are Arcata Marsh in Humboldt County, California where they have been almost annual since 1995 and more recently along the Columbia River in the Brownsmead area of Clatsop County, Oregon and nearby Julia Butler Hansen NWR in Wahkiakum County, Washington where they have been found off and on since 2018.

Spring migrants are very rare with only a single record, a singing bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 14 May 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 44; eBird).

There is also a single, very rare summer record, a silent bird seen well along the First Street Trail in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on the unusually late date of 19 June 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird).



Figure 70- Northern Waterthrush at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 15 November 2025. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

Black-and-White Warbler *Mniotilta varia*

This is a vagrant to the county, with at least 17 records to date, including several records of birds that were likely overwintering. Most of these are unreviewed by the OBRC because the committee ceased reviewing records of this species early on in December of 1982.

The first record was accepted by OBRC and was an overwintering individual:

BAWW-1977-04 North Bend, one from 17 December 1977- 22 January 1978 (M. Markley, AMc, photo by AC).

Late fall and winter records are the most numerous and although several of these were only reported a single time, likely were birds that overwintered: a female at Coos Bay on 19 February 1980 (N. Brown, *Or. Birds* 6(2): 110; eBird); one at Coos Bay on 20 December 1981; one in a North Bend yard on 20 February 2008 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 34(2): 58; *Tattler*08(2): 6; eBird); one briefly at a feeder in North Bend on 23 December 2017 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); a male in a mixed flock at Pigeon Point in Empire on 2 February 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 7; eBird); a female found in Bandon on the 4 January 2025 Coquille Valley CBC that continued through 2 February 2025 (M. Anderson et al.; eBird); a female/first fall individual at Millicoma Marsh from 3-5 November 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird) that apparently was overwintering and was refound and photographed in almost the same

location on 11 January 2026 (D. Hargreaves, eBird); and another female/first fall individual in the Empire Area of Coos Bay on 10 November 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Migrant records are most numerous in the fall and include: a stunned bird that survived a window impact at Coos Bay on 12 October 1979 (R. Barnhart, *Or. Birds* 6(1): 51; eBird); one at Kentuck Golf Course on 2 September 1981 (K. Knapp, *Tattler* 5(4): 6); one at a residence in the Green Acres area of Coos Bay on 18 September 2005 (L. Gray *fide* G. Keller, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; eBird); a female at New River near the mouth of Lower Fourmile Creek on 31 August 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); and a first-year male in a chickadee flock in a willow patch along the South Fork of the Coquille River on 26 September 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird).

There are only three records of migrants in spring and early summer: one from Sunset Bay on 7 April 1979 (T. Finnell, E. White-Swift, D. Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 5(2): 18; eBird); another at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 26 April 1980 (B. Griffin, *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127; eBird); and a singing bird at Bullards Beach SP on 24 June 2009 (J. Withgott, *Or. Birds* 35: 15; eBird).



Figure 71- A female/immature Black-and-White Warbler at Millicoma Marsh on 11 January 2026. Photo compliments of David Hargreaves.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*

Vagrant. There are three records, all of which have been accepted by OBRC:

- PROW-1974-01 Shore Acres SP, one adult female on 19 October 1974 (AMc). The first accepted Oregon record.
- PROW-2022-11 Near Nasomah Memorial, downtown Bandon, Coos County, one bird 20-21 November 2022 (TR, RuN, DLa, and KC).
- PROW-2024-15 Weyerhaeuser settling pond, North Spit, Coos Bay, Coos County, 1 bird, 3 October 2024 (report TR, report and photos DHr).



Figure 72- Prothonotary Warbler at the North Spit of Coos Bay on 3 October 2024. Photo compliments of David Hargreaves.

Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*

Vagrant. This is a recent addition to the county's avifauna that has quickly become more common with 16 records now, 13 of these since 2022. Eleven of the 16 records are birds that appeared to be overwintering, with all but one of the other records fall migrants.

The first record was one that overwintered in a North Bend neighborhood from 26 January through at least 16 February 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin, et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird). Subsequent records of birds apparently overwintering include: one found with a Palm Warbler on the North Spit of Coos Bay at Henderson Marsh on the 18 December 2016 Coos Bay CBC (V. Thompson; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); a bright male on 2 December 2022 in North Bend that apparently overwintered unnoticed but was refound again in the same location four months later on 1 April 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); one in an Eastside Coos Bay neighborhood from 19 December 2023- 27 February 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Hargreaves; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45- the Tennessee was incorrectly reported as first seen on 13 Dec in *Or. Birds*) with another or the same bird 0.3 miles southeast of the Eastside bird at Millicoma Marsh on 7 January 2024 (D. Hargreaves, eBird); one with an Orange-crowned Warbler in a Coquille neighborhood on the 1 January 2024 Coquille Valley CBC (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in a flowering cherry in a North Bend yard just east of Pony Slough on 9 February 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a different bird in a neighborhood west of the Mill Casino in North Bend on 10 February 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an adult male in the Eastside neighborhood on 1 November 2024 in the same area one overwintered the previous winter (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one found coming to a suet feeder in Bandon from 31 December 2024- 24 January 2025 (N. Clements, S. Webb, M. Scheuering et al.; eBird); one in Bandon from at least 2-4 January 2026 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); and one in Coos Bay on 14 January 2026 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Fall migrant records include: a first fall male with a chickadee flock in the willows along the sand road near the BLM boat ramp on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); one near downtown Coos Bay on 24 November 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 4 September 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); and one at Millicoma Marsh on 21 September 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

There is a single spring record, a singing male on the North Spit of Coos Bay across the road from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 9 June 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird).



Figure 73- The first Coos overwintering Tennessee Warbler which frequented a North Bend yard for a month during the winter of 2014/2015. Photo by Lois Miller.

• **Orange-crowned Warbler** *Leiothlypis celata*

This is a common breeder in the county, inhabiting brushy areas and open woodlands with undergrowth including young plantations in the Coast Range. It winters in very small numbers in dense lowland thickets near water and in residential neighborhoods often in or near dense blackberry patches. The peak winter count at a single site is three at the Norway log pond on 3 December 1990 (D. Fix) and three at Millicoma Marsh on 23 November 2008 (T. Rodenkirk) but a single bird per site is the norm. The highest CBC total was 12 on the 4 January 2020 Coquille Valley count (CBC count records); but the median for that count is only four.

Walking neighborhoods in winter has proven to be a great way to find this species provided the observer is familiar with the habitat it uses and can listen for its distinctive sharp chip note and then "pish" the bird out. A recent high count for birding a neighborhood in winter (Dec-Feb) was 11(!) in North Bend on a three mile walk on 3 December 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). In December of 2020, the author found 41 separate birds in Coos Bay, Bandon, and the Coquille area- primarily birding neighborhoods (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

The spring movement begins relatively early, with the first birds heard singing by mid- to late March and a heavy movement throughout April. Fall migration is protracted, with some birds moving in August but many seen throughout September and a few birds reported well into October. By December many of the birds encountered are likely overwintering individuals.

During November and December of 2025, the author found 122 Orange-crowned Warblers on the south coast (Brookings, Gold Beach, Port Orford, Bandon, Coos Bay/North Bend) primarily birding neighborhoods.

Of these 122 individuals, approximately 62% were the *lutescens* subspecies, about 24% were in the gray-headed group (*orestra/celata* subspecies), and the remaining 14% were not seen or the subspecies was unknown (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.).



Fig 74- "Gray-headed" (*celata/orestra* subspecies) Orange-crowned Warbler at a feeder in Coos Bay on 11 March 2025. This subspecies group is uncommon and only seen during migration with an occasional overwintering individual. The brighter, mostly olive above and bright yellow below, *lutescens* subspecies is the common breeder and the most often observed wintering subspecies. Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

• **Lucy's Warbler** *Leiothlypis luciae*

There are only a few accepted records of this rare late fall/winter vagrant in Oregon, one of which is from Bandon:

LUWA-2022-03 Near Nasomah Memorial in Bandon, Coos County, one bird from 23-27 November 2022 (reports TR and RuN, photos CLu).

• **Nashville Warbler** *Leiothlypis ruficapilla*

This is an uncommon local breeder, an uncommon migrant, and a rare but regular wintering species almost exclusively reported in coastal towns (Bandon and Coos Bay/North Bend).

Breeding birds are restricted to open woodlands and brushy areas on drier slopes along the interior ridges in the highest elevations in the southeast portion of the county with Mt. Bolivar being the easiest location to find this scarce breeder.

It is an uncommon to rare coastal migrant with a few found most years in locations such as Millicoma Marsh, Bullards Beach SP, New River, and the North Spit of Coos Bay. Coastal spring migrant records range in date from 17 April (in 2012- H. Schuboth, eBird; again in 2022- T. Rodenkirk, eBird) to 2 June (in 2002, T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 28(4): 191; eBird) with the peak migration window from late April to mid-May. Fall migrants have been found as early as 23 July 1969 (*Am. Birds* 23(5): 688) but peak later with a distinct early movement in late August and September and a later movement occurring in the November and December period with overwintering individuals lingering into January and February and very rarely into early March.

Historically only a bird or two have been found during winter but not every year (T. Rodenkirk, south coast field note records from 2010 to 2020). The few birds that are located in winter have often been found in neighborhoods in Bandon and/or in Coos Bay/North Bend on CBCs when these towns get more intensively birded or when an individual has been discovered frequenting a suet feeder. With this in mind, the author decided to do some intensive neighborhood birding during winter in Bandon and Coos Bay/North Bend areas to see how many Nashvilles could be found. This involved splitting each town up into areas birdable in one morning (Bandon four areas, Coos Bay four areas, North Bend four areas) and birding each area during early morning about once a month from December through February. During the winter of 2022 (December 2022 through February 2023), 11(!) different individuals were located in neighborhoods in Bandon and Coos Bay/North Bend (*Or. Birds* 49(1): 44). These same two towns were intensively birded again during the winter of 2023 (December 2023 through February 2024) and seven different individuals were located (*Or. Birds* 50(1): 45). In the winter of 2024 (December 2024 through February of 2025), for the third straight winter, the neighborhoods were intensively birded with fewer birds located, four on neighborhood walks and a fifth reported coming to a suet feeder in Bandon (A. Price, *fide* D. Lauten). In the winter of 2025/2026, based on neighborhood birding from only December through mid-January, 14(!) individuals were located, with three birds in Bandon and 11 in Coos Bay/North Bend area (T. Rodenkirk, multiple eBird lists). Based on these four winters of intensive "surveys", it would appear that this species is more abundant than past records show and that birds located in towns have mostly been overlooked during winter with numbers variable year to year with double digit numbers during "good" winters.

Although a few birds appear to winter regularly in coastal towns, they are much rarer inland where there have been only a handful of winter records: one in Riverton on the Coquille Valley CBC on 31 December 2000 (D. Irons, J. Ellis; *Or. Birds* 27(2): 65; eBird); another in Riverton on 23 December 2002 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140; eBird); and one in Myrtle Point from 19 December 2020 through 4 February 2021 (D. & R. Henise, eBird). Indeed, during intensive neighborhood winter surveys in 2022, 2023, and 2024 by the author, no Nashvilles were found in either Coquille or Myrtle Point suggesting that they have a decided preference for wintering in towns on the outer coast.

Earliest Arrival: 11 April 2004 at Mount Bolivar (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 131; eBird).

Latest Date: an easily overlooked migrant wave occurs in coastal towns in the latter half of November and December with a few birds remaining to overwinter into January and February with birds only rarely detected into March (T. Rodenkirk, *per. obs.*).

Virginia's Warbler *Leiothlypis virginiae*

Mainly a rare migrant in Oregon although birds were documented breeding in far southeastern Oregon in 1998 (BBA records). It is a rare, exclusively fall vagrant with a total of seven accepted Coos/Curry records through 2025, only one of which is from Coos:

VIWA-2003-15 North Spit Coos Bay, Coos County, one bird 11-13
September 2003 (TR).

• **MacGillivray's Warbler** *Geothlypistolmiei*

This is a common breeding warbler in the Coast Range and is only rarely found in dense tangles on the outer coast and lowlands during migration. This species could aptly be referred to as the "clearcut warbler" and is particularly prevalent as a breeder in brushy, young Douglas-fir plantations.

Migrants generally arrive in late April, peak in early May, and leave by mid- to late August with only an occasional straggler detected in very early September. There are no winter records.

It is rare in the coastal plains but one or two are usually reported annually during the spring migration but later than inland birds, typically not until mid- to late May.

There is a single late fall record, an adult male seen in the dense brushy area north of the boat ramp in the Eastside area of Coos Bay from 22 November through 14 December 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 10 April 2024 in the brush-filled, open Douglas-fir forest along the Mt. Bolivar trail (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: 14 September 2012 above 3,000-foot elevation at the Signal Tree communication site which is east of Remote near the Coos/Douglas County line (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird) and in Bandon on the same date in 2023 (N. Clements, M. Scheuering; eBird), this does not include the one late November- early December record.

• **Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas*

This is a common breeder in marshes, grassy thickets, Scotch broom and other low, dense situations. It is most commonly found in such vegetation close to or in water. However, some birds use drier, brushy areas where conditions of density are met.

Migration is early in spring, with many birds arriving in the last week of March and a significant surge in early to mid-April. Fall migration is protracted with birds beginning to move by late August, peaking by mid-September with stragglers throughout October and an occasional as late as mid-November. Those found later in November and December are good candidates for possible overwintering individuals.

This species is rare in winter in situations similar to those in which it breeds. Since 1998 it has become almost regular with an overwintering bird or two found most years. Winter records include: one at the Norway Pond near Myrtle Point on 20 January 1992 (D. Fix, *Or. Birds* 18(3): 96; eBird); two at Millicoma Marsh on 9+ December 1997 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *Or. Birds* 24(3): 99; eBird); two at Millicoma Marsh through 14 December 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one on the 2 January 1999 Coquille Valley CBC (CBC records, *Or. Birds* 25(3): 89); up to three overwintering birds at Millicoma Marsh during the winter of 1999/2000 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 26(3): 188; several eBird records); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 7-15 December 2002 that was present on the Coos Bay CBC and probably overwintered (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140; eBird); single birds that may have overwintered

at Millicoma Marsh (eBird) and at Johnson Mill Pond the winter of 2002/2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 140); a single bird observed at Millicoma Marsh on the Coos Bay CBC on 26 December 2003 (*fide* T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird); one near the end of the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 December 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 23 February 2005 that was probably an overwintering individual as a bird had been seen in the same area on 2 December 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(2): 89; eBird); one at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 7 December 2006 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one on the downtown Coos Bay waterfront on 16-17 December 2006 (L. Norgren et al.; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 61; eBird); one that overwintered west of Simpson Park from 18 December 2006 through at least 23 January 2007 (R. Namitz, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 33(2): 61; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on the 14 December 2008 Coos Bay CBC (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 63(2): 316; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 31 December 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*09(1): 5; eBird); one near Coquille on the Coquille Valley CBC on 3 January 2009 (M. Solhstrom, *Tattler*09(1): 5; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 13 December 2009 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); an overwintering bird at Millicoma Marsh from 14 December 2010- 29 January 2011 (T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird); two different birds- one along the Coos River near Catching Slough and the other near Dellwood from around 9 December 2011 through at least 24 February 2012 (J. Metzler, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one at Johnson Mill Pond near Coquille from 15 January through at least 15 February 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one on Red Dyke Road on the Coos Bay CBC on 16 December 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10; eBird); one at the Log Pond in Coquille on 26 January 2013 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL; eBird); one in Bandon on 2 January 2015 (D. & D. Bilderback, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); two on the east side of Coos Bay on the 20 December 2015 Coos Bay CBC (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); one at the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on 1 January 2016 (Sidhu, White; eBird); one on the Coquille Valley CBC on 2 January 2016 (B. Taylor, E. Clough, et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh from 10 December 2016 through at least 19 February 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); one in Coquille on 13 January 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird); one to three(!) at Millicoma Marsh from 5 December 2018 through at least 24 February 2019 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); one along the railroad tracks below the Winter Lakes overlook along Hwy 42 near Coquille from 3-27 January 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); one in the same area from 5 January- 28 February 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird); one near Coquille Valley Wildlife Area from 1-27 January 2022 (E. Clough, R. Aragon, L. Norgren, et al.; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); one along Baker Road near Coquille from 9 December 2022 through 11 February 2023 (K. Saxton, eBird); one in Bandon along Beach Loop Drive on 11 December 2022 (A. Beerman; eBird); one in Coquille from 9 Dec 2022- 21 January 2023 (K. Saxton, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); a different bird along Hwy 42S near Coquille on 15 January 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); one at Johnson Mill Pond in Coquille on 21 December 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a female/immature at the Coos County Fairgrounds in Myrtle Point on 22 December 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); a young male on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 24 December 2024 through at least 6 February 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and one in Coquille on 22 February 2025 (K. Saxton, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 18 March 2019 at Millicoma Marsh (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Latest Date: several December records, not including overwintering birds.

Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina*

Vagrant. There is a single record which was accepted by OBRC:

HOWA-2009-15 Northeast Coos County (Elliott SF), one bird on 29 May 2009 (audio tape by JuB). This bird was present through 31 May.

A second possible record was a bird heard singing and recorded, but not seen, at Millicoma Marsh on 26 May 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, B. Taylor; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird). OBRC reviewed the recordings but determined that the sonograms could not eliminate Common Yellowthroat so the record was rejected. Upon further review of the sonograms by the observers and an experienced bird song recorder, Geoff Keller, it was apparent that the sonograms were a better match for Magnolia Warbler than for Hooded Warbler which Keller cautioned were easily confused. However, Magnolia Warbler was no longer a review species at the time, so no further attempt was made by OBRC to change their initial assessment of this record and the actual identity of the bird was never decided upon (with any certainty!). Recordings of the song are available for review on Tim Rodenkirk's eBird list for that date, [eBird Checklist - 26 May 2019 - Millicoma Marsh - 8 species \(+1 other taxa\)](#).

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Vagrant with 11 records to date. Most records have been in late spring and over half the records are from at or adjacent to the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Spring and early summer records include: a singing adult male on the North Spit of Coos Bay near the Coos Bay BLM boat ramp on 24-25 June 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, B. Griffin, R. Namitz, et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 11; eBird); another singing adult male, in almost the exact same location as the 2008 bird, from 28 June- 11 July 2015 (T. Rodenkirk, et al.; *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); a singing immature male at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 10 June 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird with sonogram); a singing adult male in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 21 June 2020 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 47(1): 8; eBird with sonogram); a first fall female-looking bird at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 20 September 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird); an immature male on the south end of the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 6 July 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a different second year male that lingered at one location at Millicoma Marsh from 8 July- 13 August 2025 during which time it did a complete prebasic molt going from a "yellowstart" into the bright orange and black adult plumage- this male had not been detected earlier in May or June singing at Millicoma Marsh which had been frequented by the observer so it may have been a failed breeder from somewhere close by (T. Rodenkirk et al.; photos of molt progression on several eBird checklists).

There are three fall records: an immature bird in Bandon on 4 September 1999 (J. Gilligan, *Or. Birds* 26(2): 173; eBird); an immature at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on 20 September 2024 (T.

Rodenkirk, eBird); and another immature at the same site on 2-6 September 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

The only winter record was also the first record for the county, two immature birds on East Bay Drive on 13 January 1980 after two days of strong warm storms from the southwest (L. Flaxel, *Or. Birds* 6(2): 110; eBird, also seen by A. McGie; reported erroneously as 1 January in *Am. Birds* 34(3): 301).

This species should be expected to occur again on occasion as it is a rare but almost annual species in Curry County with one unsuccessful breeding attempt from the Wahl ranch near Cape Blanco in 2000 (T. Wahl, J. Rogers; *Or. Birds* 26(4): 220; eBird).



Figure 75- American Redstart on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 2 July 2015. Photo compliments of Knute Andersson.

Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina*

This is a rare vagrant to the county. The only record has been accepted by OBRC:

CMWA-2004-12 North Spit, Coos Bay, one female on 17 May 2004 (TR).

Northern Parula *Setophaga americana*

Vagrant with 12 records. Records are split between spring and fall with two winter records.

The first record was a male heard singing and seen in the Sitka spruces in the woods above Bastendorff Beach from 22 June to 3 July 1957 by David and Sue Fables (Contreras [Wampole], 1996). No female was ever observed. A slightly more detailed account of this record appears in *Audubon Field Notes*, see Fables (1957b). This report is the earliest known of the species in Oregon. Because no further information is available regarding the record, OBRC has not accepted the record on

the official state list according to Schmidt (1989) and subsequent reports of the OBRC. This record has been submitted to eBird with the above details.

The next record was accepted by the OBRC. Note that this bird was joined by a female (*Am. Birds* 38(6): 1057).

NOPA-1984-07 Charleston, a male on 9-10 July 1984 (AMc, LT).

OBRC removed this species from its review list in April of 2001.

All subsequent spring and early summer records were singing males: an adult observed on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 2-4 June 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, R. Namitz, B. Griffin, et al.; *Or. Birds* 35: 11; *N. Am. Birds* 62(4): 610; eBird); a first-year male seen briefly on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 21 June 2014 in the same location one was observed in 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); one on the North Spit of Coos Bay from 26-29 June 2020 (R. Robb et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 8; eBird); and one at OIMB in Charleston from 15-25 June 2025 (J. Sullivan, L. Johnson, et al.; eBird).

Fall records are all recent and three of them are from the same year: a molting adult that lingered at the Lower Fourmile section of New River from 18 August- 4 September 2021 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird); a molting adult at Millicoma Marsh on 29 August 2023 (D. Hargreaves, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird) with another molting adult found in a different area at Millicoma on 18 September 2023 which may have been a different bird (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); and a first-year male along the Lower Fourmile Trail on 1 September 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird).

There are two winter records. The first was two or possibly even three birds, a first fall male (and possibly a second) and a female, coming to a feeder in North Bend on 23 December 2010 (J. Randolph et al.; *N. Am. Birds* 65(2): 334; *Or. Birds* 37(1): 10; eBird). The other record was an apparent overwintering male coming to a suet feeder in southwest Bandon neighborhood from 20-23 January 2023 that was refound in a neighborhood in the northeast part of town on 11 March and last seen there on 11 April 2023 at which time it was observed singing (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird).

There are two recent breeding records in coastal Curry County, one at Tseriandun State Recreation Site in Port Orford in 2023 and one at Pistol River in 2025. There have only been four records of singing males documented in Coos County since 2008, but one of these was in Charleston in 2025 and the male stayed for 11 days. Based on these recent Curry breeding records, it would seem plausible that breeding could also be documented in Coos in the not too distant future.



Figure 76- first fall Northern Parula at a suet feeder in North Bend on 23 December 2010. Photo compliments of Jay Randolph.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*

This is a rare vagrant with three winter records, and a fall record which was not accepted by OBRC.

Prior to this species being removed from the OBRC review list in April of 2011, there was a record which was not accepted by OBRC: an adult reported from the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 28 September 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(1): 25). This record was rejected by OBRC (MAWA-2004-29) as the bird was not seen well and some key field marks were not noted.

There have been three subsequent records after the species was removed from the review list. The first was a bird caught by a cat and brought to its owner while barely still alive- this just happened to occur on the 16 December 2012 Coos Bay CBC (V. Cooley *fide* T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 10). The second record was a bird that overwintered in the Empire neighborhood of Coos Bay from 28 November 2023- 7 April 2024 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird). The latest record was one found in a North Bend neighborhood east of Pony Slough on 13 December 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*

Vagrant. There is only a single record, a first fall female reported from Millicoma Marsh on 11 September 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). A report has been submitted to OBRC.

• **Northern Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga aestiva*

The name was changed by AOS in 2025 from Yellow Warbler to Northern Yellow Warbler. This species is a very local breeder in the county and an abundant migrant in May and September. Breeding has only been documented

at two locations where extensive willow thickets occur, the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay and at Millicoma Marsh and the adjacent willow forest that extends west into the Eastside area of Coos Bay. Even at these locations only a few pairs typically breed. Although many riparian stands have abundant alder and maple, Northern Yellow Warblers have not been documented breeding in such habitat and apparently specifically breed only in the few dense lowland willow forests in the county (Wilson's Warbler are the common "yellow" warbler in alder forests). No breeders have yet been documented in the scattered patches of black cottonwood along the South Fork of the Coquille River between Myrtle Point and Powers either which also seem like they could be potential breeding habitat.

The first migrants typically arrive in early May and become increasingly common in the second and third week with numbers quickly trailing off by month's end. The species is most common in fall migration in September in mixed chickadee flocks in coastal riparian areas where it can be found with other common breeders such as Wilson's, Black-throated Gray, and Orange-crowned Warblers. The last few migrants normally are gone by the first week of October with an occasional stray into late October.

It is very rare in late fall and winter, with only few records to date and no verified overwintering records: two birds on the 19 December 1976 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records); a well-described bird in Bandon on the Coquille Valley CBC on 23 December 1995 (R. Hoyer, *Or. Birds* 22(3):95; eBird); one at Pony Slough on 10 December 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(3): 89; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh from 14 November- 14 December 1998 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 25(3): 89; eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 9 November 2012 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one at Millicoma Marsh on 10 November 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); one in an Eastside Coos Bay neighborhood from 21 November- 6 December 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); and one in a Coos Bay neighborhood on 21 November 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 10 April 1979; this record is unusually early- a more recent well documented record was 25 April 2023 at Millicoma Marsh (D. Hargreaves, eBird).

Latest Date: a few December records.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*

This is a rare vagrant to the county. Although this species is a regular fall visitor to Curry County and coastal California, it has only been reported in Coos seven times, with records almost equally split between spring and fall. The first record was accepted by OBRC while it was still a review species:

CSWA-1974-02 Coos Head, one from 12-17 June 1974 (AMc).

OBRC removed it from its review list in April of 2001.

Subsequent records include: a singing first-year male at New River on 13-14 June 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Lauten, K. Castelein, B. Griffin; *N. Am. Birds* 59(4): 648; *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; eBird); an adult male at Lower Fourmile Creek near its junction with New River on 31 August 2017 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 44(1): 18; eBird); a first fall bird (lack chestnut in the flanks) at Millicoma Marsh on 20-21 September 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); another first fall bird (lacking chestnut in the flank area) at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 13 September 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird); a young male

along the First Street Trail in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 2 July 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a first fall individual (lacking any chestnut in the flanks) at Millicoma Marsh on 18 August 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Hargreaves; eBird).



Figure 77- first fall female Chestnut-sided Warbler at Millicoma Marsh on 18 August 2025, photos compliments of David Hargreaves.

Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata*

Vagrant with only five records, two which were not accepted by OBRC when they were still reviewing this species.

The first record of this rare vagrant to Oregon is of "a male heard singing and later identified by sight in our yard in North Bend on 26 June [1957]" (D. and S. Fables, cited in Contreras [Wampole], 1996; eBird). Because no further information is available regarding the record, the OBRC has not accepted the record according to Schmidt (1989) and subsequent reports of the OBRC. The observers were familiar with the species from many years as active observers in New Jersey and there is little reason to doubt the report. The other record not accepted by OBRC was of a male in breeding plumage in Coos Bay on 4-5 September 1983 (record #BLPW-1983-08).

This species was removed from the review list in April of 2002.

There are only three other records, all more recent fall observations: one at Bandon Marsh NWR observation deck on 28 September 2014 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 41(1): 10; eBird); a first fall individual in the shore pine forest at the North Jetty area in Bandon on 4 September 2023 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); and another first fall at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 October 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, D. Hargreaves; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird).

This species is a regular fall vagrant in coastal California and it is surprising that there are not more records in Coos County.



Figure 78- First fall Blackpoll Warbler on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 1 October 2024. Photo compliments of David Hargreaves.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens*

This is a rare vagrant to the county with a single record. A bird spent a week near Powers in the yard of Dave and Veva Shea one winter. According to published reports, the bird remained through 31 January (*Am. Birds* 43(2): 359).

BTBW-1989-19 Powers, one male from 20-29 January 1989 (DSh, ME).

Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum*

This is an uncommon and local fall migrant, occasional winterer, and a rare spring migrant. The species was not known from the county until the early 1970s. It has become a more regularly reported species in Oregon in the past several decades, mainly along the outer coast.

The first migrants typically appear in October although rarely birds have been found in the latter half of September. Migration peaks in late October and November, and those birds still around in mid-December are good candidates for overwinterers. Usually only a bird or two are encountered but small groups are occasionally found such as: four at Pony Slough in early November 1977 (A. McGie, *Tattler*3(6): 30; eBird); four on the North Spit of Coos Bay at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on 15 November 1997 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; OBOL; eBird); five to seven at the same site from 9 November- 12 December 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; *Or. Birds* 30(2): 90; eBird); and up to six at the same location on 9 November- 2 December 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 31(1): 25).

By December, some birds are found away from the coast, typically in open cover near water. Birds have been found as far inland as the Coos River pastures and Coquille. High counts on CBCs include seven on the 2004 Coos Bay count and six on both the 1993 Coquille Valley count and the 1997 Coos Bay count (CBC records).

Overwintering birds are usually around into February and March and rarely into April. Spring migrants are much rarer than fall migrants and occur during April and early May. Sometimes these spring birds can be heard singing such as two overwintering birds on the North Spit of Coos Bay that sang from 16-26 April 2003 before departing (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 29(3): 149; eBird) and a singing migrant at New River on 23 April 2004 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(3): 132; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: four birds on 12 September 2009 at Saunders Lake (K. Johnson, *Tattler*09(4): 8; eBird).

Latest Date: 19 May 2016 at Bastendorff Beach (M. Seedborg, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).

• **Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata*

Abundant in winter but decidedly uncommon and local as breeders. There are two subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, Audubon's (*S. c. auduboni*) and Myrtle (*S. c. coronata*). The Audubon's is the subspecies that breeds in the county and both subspecies winter in the county. Breeding Audubon's are more common in open forest habitat and are particularly fond of pine forests (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). Breeders are restricted to shore pine forest on the outer coast and inland at the highest elevations in the southeast portion of the county in the Mt. Bolivar area where the Siskiyou Mtn Forest type offers more open forest habitat and includes tree species such as sugar and knobcone pine (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.) Audubon's do not breed in dense Douglas-fir/hemlock forests which predominate in the central and northern half of the Coast Range in Coos County.

An Audubon's was observed feeding a young cowbird on 14 July 1979 near Bluebill Lake (A. McGie, *Tattler*3(3): 6).

Both subspecies are common to abundant winter residents with the Myrtle far more numerous than the Audubon's. In areas of dense deciduous wetlands with abundant willows such as on the North Spit of Coos Bay and Millicoma Marsh, the Myrtle subspecies predominates. In towns (e.g. Bandon) and more open settings including open ranchlands, the Audubon's subspecies often predominates. Myrtles tend to occur in larger numbers in their favored deciduous wetland habitat, often in the

many tens and even hundreds. In comparison, in towns where Audubon's often predominate, they are usually found in smaller numbers, even ones or twos. With practice, the call note of the two species can be discerned with Audubon's have a much louder chip. These generalizations are just that too, mixed flocks are not uncommon although one subspecies will often predominate in their favored habitat types. Hybrids are regularly reported but typically in small numbers, perhaps because few birders look very closely.

This is one of the few warblers that can digest the wax on certain berries (e.g. of wax myrtle trees) and consequently it is able to winter in cooler climates further north than many warbler species where a fruit diet supplements the limited available insects.

During spring migration, a few birds can be found inland but they are most obvious on the outer coast from mid-April into early May when flocks of hundreds can be observed at locations such as New River and the North Spit of Coos Bay. In fall, migrants are once again most apparent on the outer coast, but do not become noticeable until mid- to late September after most of the more abundant breeding warblers, such as Wilson's and Black-throated Grays, have mostly all departed.

Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor*

Vagrant with three Coos records, the first two which have been accepted by OBRC:

PRAW-1989-02	Bandon, one adult on 24-27 August 1989 (DF, JJo).
PRAW-2022-18	One adult at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on North Spit, Coos Bay, Coos County, 18-20 September 2022. Reports TR and MW. Photos AHe and MW.

The latest record was a female/immature in North Bend from 2-6 December 2025 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird). This bird was seen by many and has been reported to OBRC.



Figure 79- Prairie Warbler at the old Weyerhaeuser Settling Pond Site on the North Spit of Coos Bay on 20 September 2022. Photo compliments of Anne Heyerly.

• **Black-throated Gray Warbler** *Setophaga nigrescens*

This species is a common breeder and is most abundant in the interior portions of the county in mixed deciduous/conifer forests both in the Coast Range and along riparian corridors. On the outer coast it is an uncommon breeder in shore pine forests at locations such as New River but breeders tend to arrive later there and are found in lower densities (T. Rodenkirk, per. obs.). It is one of the earliest migrants, with outriders appearing in early to mid-April with a significant surge coming in late April. Fall migration begins early but is somewhat protracted, with birds primarily moving from mid-August through mid-September with birds rarely reported after the end of September.

There are several late fall/winter records: a single bird found in North Bend on 2 February 1998 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 24(3): 99; eBird); a bird observed in Coquille in December (date lost) of 2001 (S. Wilson, p.c.); one seen at Millicoma Marsh on 22 November 2005 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 32(1): 32; eBird); one near Coquille on 30 January 2011 (M. Wihler, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 15; eBird); one in Coos Bay on the 18 December 2011 CBC (T. Rodenkirk, *N. Am. Birds* 66(2): 338; eBird; incorrectly reported as seen by MP); one coming to a North Bend feeder from 11-13 January 2013 (B. Griffin, *N. Am. Birds* 67(2): 331; eBird); one in North Bend on 15 December 2016 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird); a female along South Cedar Road in Coquille on the 5 January 2019 Coquille Valley CBC (L. Norgren, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); and another, possibly the same returning individual, in the identical location from 4-26 January 2020 (L. Norgren et al.; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 8; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: there are two early March records that may have been overwintering birds, but very early migrants cannot be ruled out: one on 9 March 2012 at Bandon State Natural Area (K. Saylor, *Or. Birds* 39(1): 11; eBird) and another 12 March 1981. Most years the earliest birds are reported inland in the Powers area in the first or second week of April with birds appearing a week or two later on the outer coast.

Latest Date: a few December and January records of birds that could be very late migrants or individuals at least attempting to overwinter. Fall migrants are common through about mid-September but then rapidly dwindle in number with birds only rarely reported in early October with only a single record in the mid-October through mid-December period.

Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi*

This is an uncommon but highly visible migrant and winter resident. Winter numbers vary from year to year, but single birds or small numbers are often present with flocks of foraging kinglets and chickadees in towns, wooded draws and parks, especially on the outer coast. David Fix notes that Oregon's winter birds probably come from the Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. (*Or. Birds* 16(4): 338).

In some years large pure flocks containing dozens of these birds can be found, especially in large coastal evergreens. Such flocks have been known to contain rare winter birds such as Hermit Warbler.

Spring migration begins in early to mid-April when singing birds can often be heard and are sometimes confused with Hermit Warblers which arrive in late April. Singing Townsend's remain regular into the first week of May but then rapidly become scarce and by mid-May are essentially gone not to return in number until late August/early September.

Townsend's and Hermit Warblers have been well documented hybridizing in the Cascades Mountains of Oregon and Washington (Morrison and Hardy, 1983; Rohwer and Wood, 1998). Thus, occasional hybrids should be expected such as the female reported from a Coos Bay neighborhood on 7 February 2024 and another female in a North Bend neighborhood on 7 February 2025 (both T. Rodenkirk, eBird).

Fall Earliest Arrival: one in a mixed chickadee flock at Millicoma Marsh on 18 August 2022 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Birds have been observed in Curry County as early as 14 August (2019, T. Rodenkirk, eBird) so the first arrivals likely reach Coos County even earlier than this sighting but are easily overlooked unless one spends time finding and carefully going through early migrant flocks in mid-to late August. By early September the species becomes more common and that is when birds are typically first reported on the outer coast.

Spring Latest Date: 13 June 2013 at Bradley Lake in Bandon (R. Batchelder, eBird), this singing bird was also verified visually. This was an unusually late individual, with birds rare after mid-May and very rare in June. Late singing birds should always be verified visually as this species' song is easy to confuse with both Hermit and Black-throated Gray Warblers. In addition, these three warbler species have been known to imitate each other's songs creating much confusion at times!

• **Hermit Warbler** *Setophaga occidentalis*

This is an uncommon to common breeder in dense stands of mature and older conifers county-wide including sites on the outer coast such as Coos Head. It does not usually winter but there are a few records

of likely overwintering birds, often with flocks of Townsend's Warblers.

Spring migrants typically begin arriving in late April with many in by early May. These early arrivals are usually detected first in the forested mountains further inland with birds appearing a week or more later in forests in the coastal lowlands. Fall migrants are infrequent in chickadee flocks on the outer coast and primarily found in late August and very early September, with essentially no records after mid-September.

Late fall and winter records are few and include: one on the 21 December 1975 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records); one on 23 March 1981 at Cape Arago that was more likely an overwintering bird than an early spring migrant (M. Sawyer, *Or. Birds* 7(2): 72; eBird); one on the 20 December 1987 Coos Bay CBC (CBC records); one at Bullards Beach SP on the Coquille Valley CBC on 22 December 1991 (R. Hoyer, details on file with the regional CBC editor; eBird); one on 9 March 2012 at Bandon State Natural Area that was more likely a wintering bird than an early spring migrant (K. Saylor, *N. Am. Birds* 66(3): 549; eBird); two on the 5 January 2013 Coquille Valley CBC (*Or. Birds* 40(1): 8) - one in Coquille (C. Tumer; eBird) and one in Norway (R. Namitz; eBird); and one in Coos Bay on 28 January 2018 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 13 April 2016 in the Coast Range near Hog Ranch (near Callahan in the northeast end of the county), the bird was heard singing but not visually verified (R. Namitz, eBird). Although there are at least two March records these are more likely birds that overwintered. The first spring migrants normally arrive by about 25 April give or take a few days. Birders need to take care identifying these early birds by song alone because singing Townsend's Warblers are in full migration during this same period and the species' songs are easily confused. In addition, the song of Black-throated Gray Warblers can also be confused with this species- visual verification is best particularly during the late April and early May period when all three are present and singing.

Latest Date: several records from the December through March period, most of which were likely overwintering individuals. In fall there are almost no migrant records after mid-September.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

Vagrant. There is a single record, a bird discovered at the Coos Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant that was accepted by OBRC and seen by many:

BTNW-2024-19	Coos Bay, Coos Co., one adult female, 29-31 December 2024 (reports and photos TR, RuN, AaB, JnS). Seen through 17 Jan 2025 per eBird.



Figure 80- Black-throated Green Warbler at the Coos Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant on 30 December 2024, photo compliments of Russ Namitz.

• **Wilson's Warbler** *Cardellina pusilla*

This is one of the most common breeding birds in the extensive alder/maple forests found throughout the interior of the county. This includes both valley and Coast Range forests as well as deciduous riparian corridors. They are least common on the outer coast in coniferous forests without much of a hardwood component, such as at New River. They do not breed in the extensive willow forests on the outer coast on the North Spit of Coos Bay although they do breed just a few miles further inland in the alder and maple forests from Coos Bay eastward.

Spring migrants begin appearing in mid-April and peak late in the month and into the first week of May. Fall migration is early with this species being the most abundant migrant warbler on the outer coast in late August. Large numbers continue into early September but rapidly drop off by mid-month, with only occasional birds reported by month's end and some years a report or two into early October.

There are only a few late fall/early winter records: a specimen taken near Coquille 6 December 1955 (Burleigh 1957; eBird); one 17 December 1978 on the Coos Bay CBC (CBC records); one near Arago in the Coquille Valley on the 23 December 1995 CBC (K. Dazey, D. Faxon; details on file with the regional CBC editor; eBird); a male at Millicoma Marsh from 15 November through at least 14 December 2008 (T. Rodenkirk, *Tattler*08(6): 7; *Tattler*09(1): 4; eBird); one at Johnson Mill Pond on 31 October 2019 (D. & R. Henise; eBird); one at Winter Lake near Coquille on 17 December 2019 (D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); a male in Coquille on 14 January 2023 that was likely an overwintering bird (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); one in a neighborhood near Mingus Park, Coos Bay on 14 November 2023 (T.

Rodenkirk, eBird); and one in an Eastside Coos Bay neighborhood on 1 November 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, eBird). Hilda Reiher (unpublished notes) reported a bird as late as 6 November (no year given).

There is also one recent early spring record, a bird found near Remote at Sandy Covered Bridge Wayside on 21 March 2018 (D. Rankin, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird). This could have been a very early migrant or, more likely, a bird that had overwintered.

Earliest Arrival: 7 April 1979 at Sunset Bay SP (A. Contreras, T. Cannon; eBird) and 7 April 2022 in Simpson Heights, North Bend (C. Lundblad, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird), not including the one late March record.

Latest Date: Several December records; not including the single January and March records which were likely overwintering individuals. Most years migrant numbers drop way off by mid-September with just the occasional bird reported thereafter with very late singles into early to mid-October.

Family CARDINALIDAE

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Vagrant. This species breeds as close as southern California but remains a very rare species on the south coast. There are two accepted records from Coos County:

SUTA-1981-02	Coos Head, one female on 10-13 November 1981 (AMc).
SUTA-2001-14	Millicoma Marsh, Coos County, one adult male on 27 June 2001 (TR).

This species was removed from the review list in July of 2024.

In addition, there are four other records, two older unreviewed records and two newer records since the species was removed from the review list: a possible male seen in a Bandon yard on 7 July 2011 (H. Schubothe, *Or. Birds* 38(1): 14); a first winter male at a feeder in Coos Bay from 31 December 2015 through at least 1 January 2016 (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 16; eBird); a female in a Bandon neighborhood from 25 November- 2 December 2025 that appear to have left after that date but reappeared a month later at a feeder near where it was originally seen in early January and continued through at least 14 January 2026 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; eBird); and one recorded calling in Coos Bay on 2 December 2025 that was a different bird than the one in Bandon but which was never refound (T. Rodenkirk, eBird with audio).



Figure 81- Female Summer Tanager in Bandon on 2 January 2026.
Photo by Tim Rodenkirk.

• **Western Tanager** *Piranga ludoviciana*

This is a fairly common breeder in coniferous forests county wide being least common on the outermost coast. It is one of the most obvious birds in spring migration as well, with outriders appearing in mid-April and birds building to a peak by the first week of May. Fall migration is quiet and hard to follow, but most birds have departed by late September.

In the last decade this species has become rare but regular in Oregon in the winter. There are five winter records in Coos County, all recent and two from the same winter: one in a North Bend yard on 28 January 2017 (Team Sidhu-White, eBird); one feeding in an apple tree in a Bandon yard on the 1 January 2022 Coquille Valley CBC (T. Rodenkirk, H. Schuboth; *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); one in the Telegraph Hill neighborhood in Coos Bay from 11 December 2023 through at least 29 January 2024 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird); one in North

Bend two miles north of the Telegraph Hill bird on 2 February 2024- assuming this was a different bird (T. Rodenkirk, eBird); and a male in Bandon from 16 December 2024- 11 January 2025 (T. Rodenkirk, P. Olsoy, K. Sorenson; *Or. Birds* 51(1): 44; eBird- incorrectly reported as 26 December in *Or Birds*).

Earliest Arrival: 1 April 1987 (*Tattler*11(1): 19); however, most years birds do not arrive until the last week of April.

Latest Date: 1 November 2016 in Coos Bay (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird), not including the recent winter records. Most birds are gone by the end of September though, with singles rarely reported into early October.

? Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

There are at least 21 county records of this rare but regular vagrant to Oregon. Birds are almost always detected at feeders. Males are normally the ones reported and thus this species is probably under-reported as the females look quite similar to Black-headed Grosbeak females and could easily go overlooked by an unwary observer.

Most birds have been found in late spring and early summer, these records include: a male seen 1 and 9 May 1983 at a feeder in Coos Bay (M. Hosie, *Tattler*7(4): 15; eBird); a male at a feeder in Bandon for four days in May of 2000 (T. Loomis, p.c.; eBird); another male at a Bandon feeder from 11-18 May 2002 (J. Leavey, p.c.; eBird); a male at a feeder in Coos Bay on 21-22 May 2005 (D. Olson, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128; eBird); another male coming to a feeder in North Bend from 17-19 June 2005 (S. Stein, *Or. Birds* 31(4): 174; eBird); a male coming to a feeder in Coos Bay on 27 June 2005 (V. Shaffer, *Or. Birds* 31(3): 128; eBird); a male at a feeder in North Bend from 21-27 May 2006 (S. Stein, *Tattler*06(4): 7; eBird); a male at a Bandon feeder from 4-9 June 2006 (T. Loomis et al.; *Or. Birds* 32(4): 155; eBird); a male at a different Bandon feeder on 24 June 2007 (J. Robinson, p.c.; eBird); a male coming to a feeder near Sumner on 13 June 2009 (J. McGriff, *Or. Birds* 35: 15- town incorrectly called Sumpster in *Or. Birds*; eBird); a male at a feeder in North Bend on 26 May 2010 (S. and B. Mitts et al.; *Tattler*10(2): 8; eBird); a male seen briefly in the top of a tree on Beach Loop Drive in Bandon on 8 June 2019 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 46(1): 8; eBird); a female in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 31 May 2022- very close to where one was seen in August of 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); and a female photographed at a Riverton feeder on 12 June 2022 (K. Saxton, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird).

There are three summer records. The first was a male that likely bred with either a female Black-headed Grosbeak or a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The male visited a feeder near Myrtle Point from 8 June through 5 August 2004 and was seen feeding a young grosbeak the last week of July- this young bird resembled a Rose-breasted juvenile. However, no female Rose-breasted was ever seen, but the observer did not know how to tell them apart and there were multiple female grosbeaks coming to her feeder during this period (T. Rodenkirk, photos B. Martin; *Or. Birds* 30(4): 181; *Or. Birds* 31(1): 26; eBird). The second summer record was a female found in the Eastside area of Coos Bay on 4 August 2021 (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 48(1): 34; eBird). Early August is an unusual time for a migrant so it is possible that it was in the area breeding or attempting to do so. The latest record was male photographed at a Bandon feeder on 9 July 2022 (D. Cat, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird). This latest male was in the same neighborhood where hybrids have been documented two different years.

There are four late fall and winter records: one in North Bend on 27 January 1973 (photos B. Mullen; A. McGie, p.c.; eBird); another on 28 January 1973 at Hilda Reiher's Glasgow feeder (unpublished notes; eBird); an adult male at a feeder in Coos Bay from 12-22 December 2004 (L. Haun et al.; photos B. Griffin; *Or. Birds* 31(2): 89; eBird); and a male coming to feeder in a North Bend yard on 27 December 2009 (B. Taylor, *Or. Birds* 35: 16; *Tattler*09(5): 9; eBird).

There are two documented records of hybrid Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeaks in the county, all from the same Bandon neighborhood and just a few years apart. A first-year male was first seen singing at Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint in Bandon on 6 July 2020 and photographed there the next day (S. Svedeman, D. & R. Henise; *Or. Birds* 47(1): 8; eBird with photograph). In almost the exact location, an adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed on 8 June 2019 suggesting that it may have bred with a female Black-headed Grosbeak in that same area in 2019 and that the hybrid male seen in 2020 was returning to the same area where it was born? In this very same Bandon neighborhood, a first-year male hybrid was photographed on 19 April 2023 but was only observed the one day (D. Cat, *Or. Birds* 50(1): 45; eBird).



Figure 82- Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak feeding a fledgling grosbeak.
Photo by Bobbie Martin.

• **Black-headed Grosbeak** *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

This is a fairly common breeder in forested areas particularly those that include a mix of deciduous trees such as big leaf maple, red alder, and willow and are especially common in riparian areas. In the spring the first birds are usually reported in the last week of April with singing birds back in number by the first week of May. Fall departures mostly go unnoticed, with only ones and twos normally present in migrant flocks into late August with singles sometimes found into early September and very few records after mid-September.

There is one rare winter record, a male coming to a feeder near Norway found on the 4 January 2025 Coquille Valley CBC (B. & D. Follansbee, CBC records; eBird).

Earliest Arrival: 19 April 2015 in Coos Bay (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 42(1): 17; eBird).

Latest Date: one frequenting a Coos Bay feeder through 6 October 2018 (B. Fields, *Or. Birds* 45(1): 10; eBird), not including the one rare winter record. Most birds have departed by the end of the first week in September.

• **Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena*

This is an uncommon breeder in brushy fields and overgrown hillsides in the inland portion of the county. It does not breed near the open coast or in the northern part of the county but is a rare but regular migrant in coastal areas with a bird or two reported most years.

This species is extremely rare in winter in Oregon with only a few records, one of which is from Coos County, a male seen at the Norway Pond on 24 December 2002 (Rodenkirk 2004; eBird).

Birds arrive in early May and leave by late summer, though specific departure dates are hard to determine as this species becomes hard to find after the males stop singing in mid-summer.

Earliest Arrival: 23 April 2022 in a Coos Bay yard (J. Metzler, *Or. Birds* 49(1): 44; eBird); the first migrants generally are not reported until the last few days of April.

Latest Date: 4 September 2020 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay (D. & R. Henise; eBird) not including the one December record. Breeding birds are typically reported into early August but then appear to depart soon thereafter with very few records by late August.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

A vagrant with four records to date, all of which have been in late May or very early June. One of these records was accepted by OBRC:

INBU-2001-26 Millicoma Marsh, Coos County, one subadult male on 23 May 2001 (TR).

OBRC removed this species from its review list in April of 2009.

There are three other records, all from Bandon: a male at a feeder on 6 June 1980 (not reviewed by OBRC- G. Wilson, *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127; eBird); another male at a feeder from 25-27 May 2010 (M. Welsch, *N. Am. Birds* 64(3): 492; eBird); and a singing first summer male along Riverside Drive near Bandon Marsh NWR from 30 May- 3 June 2016 (T. Rodenkirk et al.; *Or. Birds* 43(1): 14; eBird).



Figure 83- a male Indigo Bunting at a Bandon feeder on 25 May 2010. Photo compliments of Manfred Welsch.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Vagrant with four records, two of which has been accepted by OBRC:

PABU-2012-06	Bandon, Coos County, one female early March 2012 (photos (MAY). This bird was present from early March through mid-April of 2012.
PABU-2013-09	Coos Bay, Coos County, one adult female 18 December 2013 into March 2014 (TR, DI; photos by DSu, DiB, LoM, DI, JoB, OS). This bird was last reported on 14 March 2014 in a brushy area north of the boat ramp in Eastside, Coos Bay. Seed had been put down to keep it around but was finally discontinued after 14 March.

Hilda Reiher's unpublished field notes include two records from Glasgow on 10 May 1948 and 9 May 1958. Given the time of year and the quality and consistency of her other reports these records have been included as probably correct, although no further information about them is available. In the first edition of this book these records were considered possible cage bird escapees and placed on the hypothetical list. However, in 2005, an article appeared in *N. Am. Birds* about the vagrancy patterns of this species (Moldinow and Hamilton). These early records fit within a natural pattern of vagrancy and thus were included here.



Figure 84- Female Painted Bunting in Eastside in March of 2012. Photo compliments of Lois Miller.

Dickcissel *Spiza americana*

Two of Oregon's accepted records of this vagrant, including the first verified state record, are from Coos County:

DICK-1979-02	Lakeside, one from 30 November - 2 December 1979 (AMc, photos by STh, OS, TC). First verified Oregon record.
DICK-1988-04	North Bend, one adult male from 19 March to 18 April 1988 (BG, photos by JJo).

There is an unreviewed record from Coos Bay of two birds, possibly breeders(?), from 2 May 1932 (O. Barber *fide* A. McGie; OBOL). Gabrielson and Jewett's book "Birds of Oregon", published in 1940, did not list any records of Dickcissels in Oregon, although Olive Barber's

record was submitted eight years earlier. They probably did not know about this record or chose to ignore it without a specimen (A. McGie, OBOL) .

Hypothetical List

These are species not proven to have occurred in the county but for which records may exist or can be expected.

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*

This is a rare visitant to western Oregon. There have been no records in Coos County since 1981. During the 1970s and early 1980s, the similar looking Anna's Hummingbird was expanding its range into Oregon and caused considerable confusion until birders became aware of its widespread presence and familiar with field identification (D. Irons, p.c.). Since all of the county records occurred between 1975 and 1981 and no further sightings have been documented since then, it is likely that some or all of these sightings could have been misIDed Anna's Hummingbirds. Unfortunately, there are no specific details on the sightings available other than the historic magazine citations. Black-chinneds do occasionally occur in Western Oregon and have been reported from the Willamette Valley in recent years, but there has only been one coastal report on eBird since 2015 (in Brookings) suggesting that they are very rare on the coast and further casting doubt on the early "rash" of sightings in Coos County. Thus, this account was moved here.

Historic records from that early period included: two at North Bend from 30 July- 2 August 1975 (*Am. Birds* 29(5): 1023); a "probable" at Coos Bay on 22 March 1980 (P. and K. Colverson, *Or. Birds* 6(2): 110); a male at North Bend on 26 May 1980 (J. Thomas, *Or. Birds* 6(3): 127); one at North Bend on 28 March 1981 (A. McGie, *Or. Birds* 7(3): 120); and one at North Bend from 21-24 April 1981 (E. White-Swift, *Or. Birds* 7(3): 120; *Am. Birds* 35(5): 855).

Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

A widely circulated report of a bird at the North Spit of Coos Bay in fall, 1997 has been withdrawn by the observers as possibly pertaining to an immature Sora. However, there is at least one November record from Arcata, California and it has wintered in the San Francisco area, so it is possible it could be found someday in Coos County in the appropriate habitat.

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Two were reported at the south jetty of the Coquille River on 11 October 1986 (A. Parker and E. Boyles, *Tattler* 10(2): 13). The report was not accepted by the OBRC (report #AMOY-1986-01) and there are currently no OBRC-accepted records for Oregon. The OBRC noted that the description did not distinguish the birds from other species of black-and-white oystercatchers. American Oystercatcher occasionally wanders long distances (even to inland Idaho).

Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*

An aberrant *Charadrius* plover was photographed at Bandon Marsh NWR on 29 September 2009 which some thought might be a Piping Plover (D. and A. Heyerly; *Or. Birds* 35: 17; *Tattler* 09(4): 8). This record was not accepted by OBRC; their notes stated it was an albinistic plover showing inconclusive plumage or other specific characteristics (record #PIPL-2009-02).



Figure 85- Aberrant *Charadrius* plover at Bandon Marsh NWR on 29 September 2009. Photo compliments of Dan and Anne Heyerly.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

One was reported from New River on 19 August 1998 (D. Lauten, K. Castelein; *N. Am. Birds* 53(1): 96). A report was submitted to OBRC but was rejected because it lacked sufficient detail for this exceedingly difficult identification (OBRC report #LTST-1998-07). There are two accepted records from Clatsop County, Oregon so it is conceivable this species could one day turn up in Coos County.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

A record of this species at South Slough was inadvertently included in the first paperback edition of the book; however, the observer (Dehan Jahani) retracted his sighting. Remarkably, there have been two accepted records from the wet sand dune area of coastal Lane County since then, so who knows, maybe one will actually be found someday (Dehan was a visionary).

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

There are two reports of this species in Oregon. One is of a bird at the mouth of the Coquille River estuary on 18 August 1990 (J. Gilligan, G. Lillie; *Or. Birds* 17(2): 59). However, no report was ever filed with OBRC for this sighting.

Guadalupe Murrelet *Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*

Formerly Xantus's Murrelet, this species was split by the AOU in 2012. Guadalupe is considered to be much less common in Oregon than Scripps's Murrelet. There was a single accepted Coos record, but it

turned out to actually be closest to land in Curry County (Cape Blanco) although it was reported west of Cape Arago:

GUMU-1998-08 163.5NM west of Cape Arago, **Curry** County, one bird on 20 October 2001 (photos by MiF).

Another bird thought to be this species was recorded from a NOAA ship on 20 July 2008 but was not accepted by OBRC because the description did not rule out other similar species(#GUMU-2008-05).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Vagrant. There is a record of two adults from Shore Acres SP from 11 November 1982 that was not accepted by OBRC (record #BHGU-1982-03).

Mottled Petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*

There is one unreviewed but generally accepted record of this vagrant Pterodroma, three birds seen about 150 nm west of Cape Arago on 2 November 2001 (M. Force, *Or. Birds* 28(1): 33). Michael Force is a highly experienced seabird surveyor but did not file a report with OBRC for this record. However, this species was removed from the review list in 2006 so even if he sent in a report now, it would not be reviewed.

Based on using the closest point of land to determine which county a bird sighting is in, this one is actually in Curry County. After about 73 miles, bird sightings west of Cape Arago are actually closer to Cape Blanco than anywhere in Coos County. Thus, although this is likely a valid sighting, it is a Curry bird.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*

There is one record of this vagrant South Pacific species, a bird seen about 15 miles off Coos Bay on 26 August 2007 (E. Horvath, T. Rodenkirk; *Or. Birds* 34(1): 30; *Tattler* 07(4): 6). This bird was reviewed by OBRC but the record was not accepted (#GWPE-2007-01). The records committee decided the record did not rule out similar species of this very difficult to identify group of birds.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

Very rare offshore visitant with only a couple accepted Oregon records. The most recent record was a "possible" bird reported offshore Coos from a cruise ship on 24 September 2013 (J. Gilligan, OBOL). However, no report was ever submitted to OBRC.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

There are only a few records of this rare Asian vagrant that have been accepted by OBRC. A calling bird that could have been this species was seen with a flock of American Pipits on 23 September 2003 at the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond on the North Spit of Coos Bay; however, OBRC did not accept this report because the identity was mainly based a calling bird in flight with a description not detailed enough to accept (T. Rodenkirk, *Or. Birds* 30(1): 43; OBRC record #RTPI-2003-03).

Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica*

There is one unreviewed but generally accepted record of this vagrant warbler, a bird seen and heard singing in North Bend on 26 May 1989 (B. Griffin, J. Thomas; *Or. Birds* 15(4): 306). Because a report was never sent in to OBRC and it cannot be put on eBird as a historic

record without acceptance by OBRC, this report has been removed from the main species account and moved here. Through 2024, there had only been 11 accepted Oregon records, two of which were coastal- one from Tillamook County and one from Curry County.

Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea*

There is a single unreviewed sight record of this vagrant, a "possible" sighting from Myrtle Point on 5 July 1979 (F. Whitaker, *Or. Birds* 5(5): 22). There are two accepted records from coastal Curry County and one from coastal Lincoln County so it seems reasonable that this species could someday be found in Coos County.

Errata list

Species not on the county list but for which published records exist. These reports are included here in order to clarify the status of records that readers might discover in other publications.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*

This eastern quail species is a commonly introduced game species in Oregon although stocking has proven unsuccessful. Nonetheless, it is a popular game bird with some hunters and chicks can be purchased from various locations (a quick internet check will verify this). Birds appear to be occasionally released or escape from captivity and have been reported from various locations around the county. For instance, a single bird was seen and heard calling on the North Spit of Coos Bay in May of 2003 (T. Rodenkirk, OBOL).

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

This species is reported from the Coos Bay and Bandon areas from time to time. It is an introduced game bird that is now naturalized in Eastern Oregon and several other western states. The occasional birds reported from around the county are likely releases or escapees from domestic populations as no self-sustaining wild populations are known from Western Oregon.

Rivoli's Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*

There are currently no accepted records of this species in Oregon. An all-white hummingbird was seen near Saunders Lake from 2-15 September 1972. This record was not accepted because the motion pictures of this bird did not provide sufficient information for accurate identification (OBRC record #RIHU-1972-01).

Broad-billed Hummingbird *Cynanthus latirostris*

There are currently just a few records of this rare vagrant to Oregon. An immature male was reported from Charleston on 18 October 1983 but was not accepted by OBRC as the description was incomplete and not sufficient to eliminate other hummingbird species. (OBRC record #BBIH-1983-01).

Kittlitz's Murrelet *Brachyramphus brevirostris*

There are currently no accepted records of this species in Oregon. One was reported from Cape Arago on 24 July 1969 but was not accepted by OBRC (record #KIMU-1969-01).

Crested Auklet *Aethia cristatella*

There is a single report of this rare vagrant from Alaska, one seen in alternate plumage in 17 fathoms "off Bandon" on 1 September 1985 (Tattler9(4): 6). The OBRC determined that the report was actually from Curry County but did not accept it (record #CRAU-1985-01).

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnean*

One was reported off Bandon on 14 April 2020. OBRC did not accept the record and remarked that "the sighting was brief, from 500-600 yards away, no other birds nearby for size comparison" (record #IVGU-2020-01).

Ringed Storm-Petrel *Hydrobatus hornbyi*

This species was originally accepted as the first Oregon record. It was observed from a cruise ship on 3 May 2007 (record #RISP-2007-01). Upon reconsideration of the record in 2021, most OBRC members felt the documentation was not airtight enough for only the second North American record and the record was rejected and the species removed from the state list.

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

On 18 June 1992 this species was reported from Cape Arago SP. The record was not accepted by OBRC as the written description "was not consistent with Masked Booby and did not rule out some other species" (OBRC record #MABO-1992-01). In 2000, Masked Booby was split into Masked and Nazca Booby. Masked has not been found north of California whereas Nazca has occurred as far north as Alaska. Thus, future records of mostly white boobies with black wings are likely to be Nazca and not Masked with bill color being a significant ID feature to help separate these two species.

Black-backed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus*

The bird reported at Cape Arago in August 1955 by Miles Peelle (Wampole 1995) is the only record from the county of this Cascade Range breeder. Because there is no further information on this very rare sighting and it is in a very uncharacteristic location, it was moved here from the species account section in the fourth PDF Version of this book. This species is strongly associated with recent burns in higher elevations of the Cascade Mts and other high elevation forested mountain ranges in Eastern Oregon. Periodic wildfires in the higher elevations of the southeastern portion of the county on and near Mt. Bolivar have produced open burn areas with many snags, the type of habitat this species uses in the Cascades and that it has been found in once in the Siskiyou Mountains of Curry County and where one would likely be found if indeed one is ever well documented in the county.

White-headed Woodpecker *Picoides albolarvatus*

On 17 July 2008, an out-of-town birder reported a White-headed Woodpecker near the check-in station at Sunset Bay SP. The observer was unaware of the incredible rarity of finding this species anywhere on the Oregon coast and did not provide sufficient details to eliminate other white-headed woodpecker species.

California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum*

Two birds were reportedly seen at Mt. Bolivar just above the trailhead in an area with heavy manzanita cover on 30 July 2003 by a Wildlife Biologist (M. Bornstein *fide* D. Vroman). The report was not verified and at least one experienced birder followed up on it without luck (P. Sullivan, OBOL). There are only a few accepted records of this species in Oregon, all from Jackson and Josephine Counties. The number of birds (two) and the location make the sighting very questionable. In addition, no report was ever filed with OBRC.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

There were a few records of this species at feeders around North Bend, including birds that bred, possibly with House Sparrows (B. Griffin, p.c.). Their origin is generally assumed to be ships of Asian origin, and they were only present for a few years in the early 1990s.

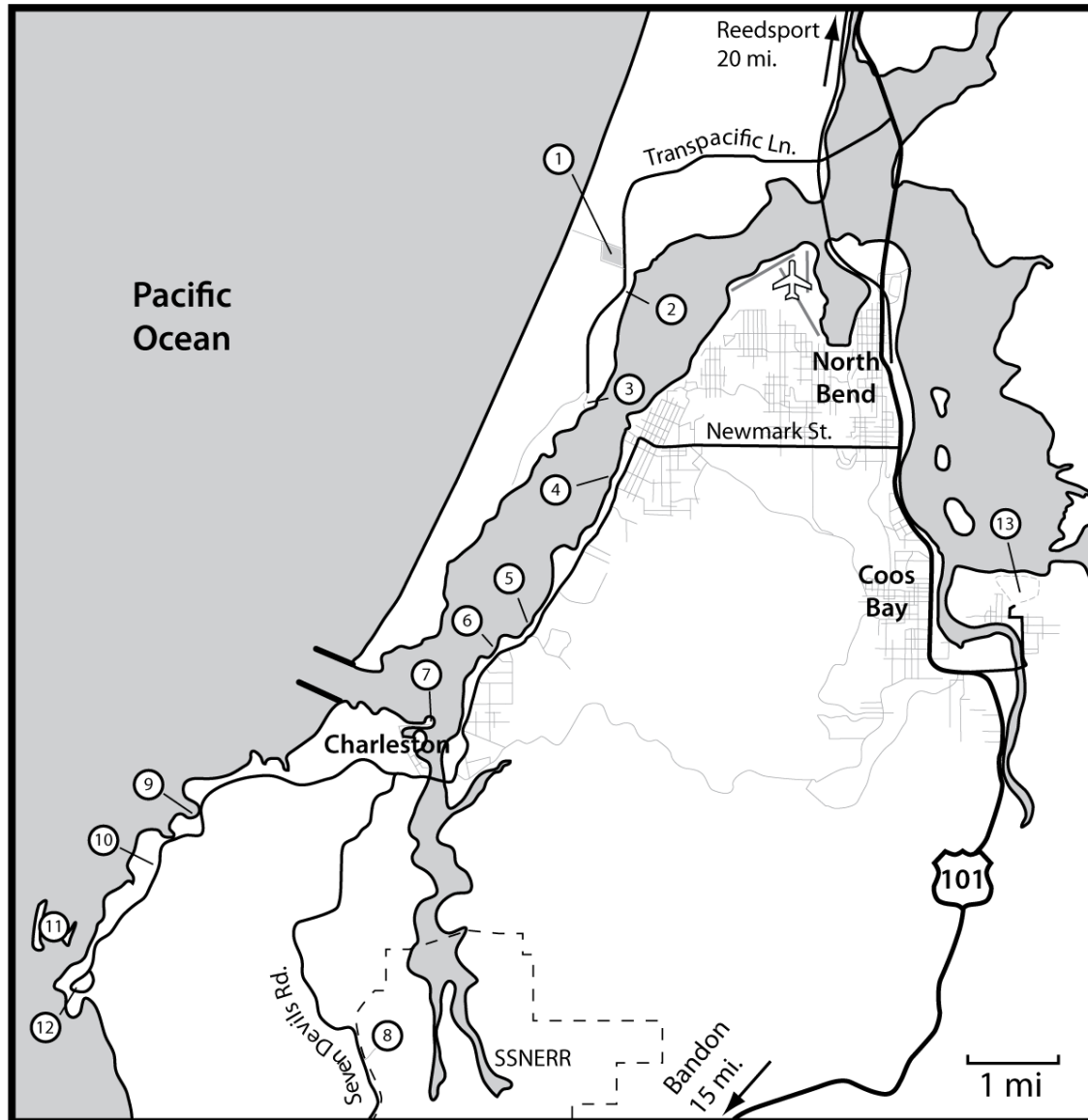
OBRC rejected a record of this species for the aforementioned reasons (record #ETSP-1989-01).

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*

A pair was reported in Coos Bay on 13 August 1982. (Tattler6(4): 12). This record has been withdrawn by the observer. This species occurs sparingly in the Cascades and is sometimes reported further west, mainly in fall and winter. There was a small flock found in coastal Clatsop County in January of 2024 (M. Patterson et al.; eBird) during a major winter irruption event which is what it would likely take for one to be found in Coos County.

BIRDING SITE GUIDE

MAP 1- COOS BAY AND VICINITY



1. Old Weyerhauser Settling Pond
2. BLM Boat Ramp
3. North Spit Road End
4. Empire Sewage Treatment Plant
5. Pigeon Point
6. Fossil Point
7. Point Adams

8. South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
9. Sunset Bay State Park
10. Shore Acres State Park
11. Simpson Reef
12. Cape Arago State Park
13. Millicoma Marsh

North Spit of Coos Bay

Map 1, points 1-3.

The North Spit of Coos Bay is a great birding location from spring through fall and is one of the best migrant traps in the county. Winters are less birdy.

This is a short route with only three stops. The reason there is only three stops is because one of the stops, the old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site, now owned and managed by the International Port of Coos Bay (IPCB), has been one of the premiere birding locations in Coos County since the late 1990's (see site guide in *Or. Birds* 32(2): 68-71). One can easily spend a half a day at this site, particularly during the spring and fall migration when shorebirds and migrant passerines make this an exciting place to bird. Over 270 species of birds have been recorded at this site, including many rarities.

From Coos Bay take Hwy 101 north through North Bend then over the mile-long McCullough Bridge. From the traffic light just past the north end of the McCullough bridge continue north 0.6 miles and turn left (west) onto Transpacific Lane which is signed Horsfall Dune and Beach. Transpacific Lane runs along a dike here and the first three-quarters of a mile has an unobstructed view of the upper bay. From late fall through early spring a wide variety of bay birds can be observed including loons, grebes, ducks, herons, egrets, cormorants and gulls. There are some Purple Martin nest boxes on pilings on the west end of the causeway here and the martins are present from May through August. At 1.1 miles from Hwy 101 on Transpacific Lane, just past the railroad tracks, stay left at the intersection. Continue 2.7 miles to a gate on the right (west) side of the road, this is the **old Weyerhaeuser Settling Pond Site (1)** (this is an eBird hotspot and is in the top 10 for most species found in Oregon) which is now owned by the International Port of Coos Bay and is open to the public. Walking around the gate you will follow a dike road and immediately come upon an old aeration pond (now without the aerators) frequented by a variety of duck species year-round but with the greatest diversity in the winter. In the late spring and summer, the pond is filled with breeding duck species, many of which breed nowhere else in the county. Seeing 100+ Gadwall here in June and July is common; visitors often mistake the large number of Gadwall as Mallards! Mallards do breed here but tend to have finished their breeding activities by early May and quickly disperse. Other specialty breeders here include Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, and Northern Shoveler although all three breed in much lower numbers, typically one to three pairs. Other occasional breeders include Blue-winged Teal (a pair every other year or so), Green-winged Teal (one record), and Ruddy Duck (one record). Also, there are usually oversummering nonbreeding ducks here including Greater Scaup and Bufflehead. American Wigeon and Northern Pintail have lingered here into late June and July but there are still no verified breeding records. This is one of the two spots Northern Yellow Warblers breed in the county (the other being Millicoma Marsh). The mature willow forest around the pond is a great spot for migrants in spring and fall and has attracted a long list of rarities in recent years including: Gray Flycatcher, Brewer's Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Sage Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Bobolink, Great-tailed Grackle, Yellow-headed Blackbird and many rare warblers

including: Virginia's, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Prothonotary, and American Redstart. Northern Waterthrushes have wintered twice along the south dike at the big pond and could again in the future. Continuing west on the dike past the aeration pond it is about 1/3 of a mile to an overlook of the beach which is a great promontory to ocean scope particularly during the spring and fall offshore migration period. During summer Marbled Murrelets can often be scoped from here just beyond the breakers. While walking out to the overlook during October and November on sunny days scan the power lines for Tropical Kingbird, which is almost annual here in recent years. A short walk on the beach either north or south of the overlook can be good for shorebirds in May and September/October, and a few Snowy Plovers have been regular in recent springs and summers.

From mid-May until early June, while birding anywhere at this site in the very early AM (a good time for finding passerines before it gets windy), scan the sky to the south to look for Black Swifts migrating overhead. Sunny mornings with no wind are the best bet and the last two weeks of May is when the swifts primarily pass through. Sunrise to two to three hours after sunrise is peak time with numbers quickly dropping to zero after about 8:30AM. Hundreds have been seen in a "big" morning during that period. This is also the best spot in the county to find a rare, migrant Bank Swallow which come through during May also, check carefully through the swallow flocks to try and find one. The pond often attracts gulls and, during migration, California Gulls can be very common here and sometimes occur in the many the hundreds, often in transit to the bay or back out to the ocean with many birds stopping and resting on the pond. During May and June Bonaparte's Gulls can often be found, sometimes in good numbers. Rarities have been found here too in spring including one of Coos few records of Black Tern, an occasional Franklin's Gull, and the only record of Laughing Gull.

The winter rains arrive in November and the willows drop their leaves, consequently birding for passerines becomes very slow. However, the pond always seems to have ducks and gulls. There may be duck hunters out in the deflation plain wetlands (the season runs from October through January) but they generally avoid the pond which is often full of ducks and a few gulls. Canvasbacks are regular during winter as are Eared Grebes and every few winters a Redhead or two can be found amongst the scaup and Ring-necked Ducks.

From the entrance to the old Weyerhaeuser settling ponds continue 0.7 miles on Transpacific Lane to the **BLM Boat Ramp (2)**. This is another location with good access to the bay where loons, grebes and other waterfowl can be observed. There are nest boxes for Purple Martins on some of the pilings out in the bay adjacent to the boat ramp and in the parking area making this an easy to see species during the late spring and summer months. There is a restroom and water fountain at this site.

From the boat ramp continue southwest on Transpacific Lane 1.3 miles to the end of the paved road and park, this is **North Spit Road End (3)**. Always give the fence lines near the end of the road a good check, as migrant Say's Phoebes and Western Kingbirds can occasionally be found in the spring (much less so in the fall) and unusual species like Mountain Bluebird have also been found during migration.

A nice round-trip hike, about a mile in length, starts at the end of the road. Walk the sand road to the right, the one that enters into the trees, to the bay then turn back east following the beach and return via the open sand road (along the fence line) to the parking area (if for some reason you would rather drive than walk this make sure you have 4-wheel drive or you will get stuck). The portion of the road that goes through the trees is good for breeding coastal passerines such as Purple Finch, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warbler, Western Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Rufous Hummingbird and Hutton's Vireo. Unusual species can sometimes be found here in late May and June such as the singing Northern Parula that spent a couple weeks along this road one spring. The road continues out past the trees and the return walk is along the bay. When the tide is out a bit the exposed mudflats attract shorebirds during migration and in the winter. The bay has many species of waterfowl from fall through spring including grebes, scoters, loons, geese, and ducks best seen with a spotting scope. Osprey breed here and most winters one or two can be found overwintering in this area. Mosquitoes can be viscous here in the spring, and elsewhere on the North Spit, mosquito repellent is highly recommended!

Coos Bay Area

Map 1, points 4-13.

Coos Bay is at its birdiest in the winter months when many species of waterfowl are present around the bay including four species of grebes, three species of loons, and over 20 species of ducks. The plethora of waterfowl attracts Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons which are both fairly common. Ocean scoping from Cape Arago can be quite rewarding particularly during the spring and fall migration when thousands of loons and shearwaters can be seen in a single morning, and other mainly pelagic species can be observed. During the summer months a variety of breeding passerines can be found in two different habitats, the mostly coniferous forest at South Slough NERR and the mature hardwood forest at Millicoma Marsh. The Millicoma Marsh attracts many migrant passerine flocks in spring (late April and May) and fall (mainly late August and September) and is one of the best vagrant traps in the Coos Bay area along with the previously detailed old Weyerhaeuser settling pond site on the North Spit of Coos Bay.

Take Hwy 101 in Coos Bay to the Newmark stop light and turn west onto Newmark- this stop light is 0.2 miles south of the stop light at the hard to miss Mill Casino site along Hwy 101. Drive west on Newmark (through several lights) 2.9 miles to a flashing yellow light, where you will bear left on the main Hwy. Continue 0.6 miles and there will be an unmarked turnoff on the right (west) side of the road directly across from a small mini mart (American Market in 2024). Turn here and you will quickly come to a parking area next to the site of the former **Empire Sewage Treatment Plant (4)**, which is also an eBird hotspot. A new sewage treatment plant was built across the road around 2020, but this location along the bay is still accessible for birding. The shoreline next to the parking area is a good spot for gulls all year and for shorebirds during the spring (late April- early May) and fall migration (August through mid-October). From 1976-2013 this was the best place to find wintering Snowy Egrets in Oregon; a single may occasionally appear such as during the winter of 2023/2024. Overwintering Marbled Godwits can also sometimes be found here. Walk

out along the dike just south of the old, fenced plant all the way to the far west end of the dike. From here you can scope the bay better and often there are loons, grebes, scoters, ducks, egrets, gulls, and shorebirds not visible from the parking area. This is a good spot for Black Phoebe during the late fall and winter months and occasionally for Palm Warbler during the fall migration and winter.

Go back to the main Hwy and continue south 1.4 miles to a couple of small turnoffs on the right (west) side of the road (no eBird hotspot). This is a wonderful promontory of the lower bay and is a good spot to set up a spotting scope during the winter months at high tide to sort through the many species of waterfowl normally present on the bay.

From here continue south on the main Hwy 0.6 miles and turn left (east) onto Miluk Drive just past the Kilkich sign. As soon as you turn onto Miluk Drive you can park right off the side of the road here, which requires doing a U-turn for the best parking spots. From here, walk across the main Hwy to the small, fenced pump station. Follow the unmarked trail outside the fenced building which leads to a short trail (1/8 mile), invisible from the main Hwy, that goes out to the bay to an area locally known as **Pigeon Point (5)**, which is also the eBird hotspot name for the site. Note: Bay Point Landing, the RV park to the north, recently bought this property and it is now signed no trespassing, mostly to stop homeless folks from camping in the woods here adjacent to the bay. It is now best to go to the adjacent RV Park just east of here and get permission to bird in the area. During all but the dry summer months, boots are highly recommended as the trail can be muddy and during low tides it is possible to walk far out into the bay on the very solid sandflats and get closer looks at shorebirds and bay waterfowl. Shorebirding is best here at or close to high tide when the bay is full and the birds are more concentrated and closer to shore. Low tide birding is best for walking further out with mudboots to get close to the large winter gull flocks that tend to congregate on the sandbar here. During fall migration, shorebirding can be particularly good with flocks of Marbled Godwits, Hudsonian Whimbrel, and a few Long-billed Curlews sometimes present. Check the flocks closely, Bar-tailed Godwits have been found here before too! During winter high tides, this is a superb location to scope the bay for a large variety of waterfowl. Locally rare species such as Barrow's Goldeneye seem to be best found here when present in the bay. Elegant Terns have been seen in this part of the bay in late summer and fall and sometimes hang out with the gull flock here during the years they make it this far north in Oregon. Back on the main Hwy continue 0.45 miles to an unmarked turnoff on your right (just past the Dairy Queen) where another small pump house is located. This is **Fossil Point (6)**, a fantastic winter birding spot and another eBird hotspot. You can scope the bay from the small parking area at high tide. At low tide, it is possible, and preferable, to walk out to the rocky point straight west of the parking area. Walking out to the point and around the point provides close-ups of wintering waterfowl and makes it easier to pick out uncommon to rare overwintering species such as Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Clark's Grebe, Eared Grebe, and Pigeon Guillemot. This spot also seems to be the favorite haunt for Emperor Geese during winters when they make it down to the south coast. This is a favorite location for herring to spawn in February and March (dates vary year to year) and always attract enormous numbers (thousands) of ducks and gulls and are best observed at low tide when you can walk out around

the point and approach the birds as they feed on herring eggs along the shoreline.

Back on the main highway, continue 1.8 miles to Boat Basin Road on the right (north) side of the main Hwy. This is just past the bridge into Charleston, the small fishing community you have now entered. If you're a gull fan, you can park in the small lot just off the road at the base of the bridge. Walking up onto the bridge gives one "bird's-eye views" of the 6+ several species of wintering gulls that like to roost on roof tops adjacent to the bridge. The area south of the bridge here is locally known as South Slough and the eBird hotspot for the bridge area here has that same name.

Immediately after turning onto Boat Basin Road in Charleston continue straight 0.2 miles and turn right (east) onto Kingfisher Road. Follow this 0.1 miles to a small parking area overlooking the area between the harbor and the Charleston bridge. This is another good spot to look at gulls and find less common waterfowl like Common Goldeneye and Eared Grebe. Sometimes a very late Brown Pelican can be found in this area in mid-winter. Palm Warblers occasionally overwinter in the adjacent harbor area or around the motel adjacent to the harbor area and have been found several years on the local Christmas Bird Count. This location does not have an eBird hotspot.

Go back to Boat Basin Road and continue north 0.3 miles to the end of the public road where you will see a sign that says Coast Guard only with a gated road to the right. Park just before the gated road. Walking out past the gate on the road is permitted (you can walk around the gate) and is a great location to bird the lower bay. Walk down the gated road stopping to bird here and there to the end of the road which is about 1/3 of a mile- this location is locally known as **Point Adams (7)** but the eBird hotspot is called Charleston Boat Basin. From the end of the road there are great views of the harbor area and the mouth of the bay. This is another good spot for Long-tailed Duck during the winter as well as all three species of loons, three+ species of grebes, other waterfowl, lots of gulls, and terns. During the occasional summers that Elegant Terns make it as far north as Oregon, this is a good place to look for a few of them. However, the most often seen tern species is Caspian which is regular here in fall. Rarely in late summer or early fall, a few of the smaller Common (should be Uncommon) Terns can visit this lower bay area.

Backtrack to the main Hwy in downtown Charleston. Continue west on this main Hwy 0.2 miles and there will be a turnoff on the left (south) to **South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (8)**. Follow this road (Seven Devils Hwy) 4.2 miles and you will find the turnoff to the reserve headquarters on the left (east). You can pick up a trail map here and they have an impressive interpretive center and a nicely stocked gift shop too. This is also the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve eBird hotspot location. The uplands of the reserve are covered by a mid-successional conifer forest with red alder mainly in the lowlands and along the slough edges and drainages that empty into the slough. Walking one of the several hiking trails will enable you to find the common forest-dwelling summering passerine species in this habitat which are similar to the Coast Range breeders further inland. Common breeders include Hermit Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak (riparian), Swainson's Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Western

Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler (riparian), Orange-crowned Warbler (edge habitat), and many Wrentits. Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers are regular year-round.

Return back to the main Seven Devils Hwy and continue south 0.9 miles and you will find Hinch Road on the left (east) side of the road. This road goes a mile to a pull off area at a bridge just before the slough. There is also a road at 0.8 miles (turn right) that accesses some more hiking trails. Hinch Road and the assorted hiking trails off it are good for breeding passerines and it is an excellent area to listen for owls- Northern Pygmy, Northern Saw-whet, Western Screech, and Barred have all been heard from along the road. There are no eBird hotspots for this area other than the general one for the entire Research Reserve.

Return back to the Seven Devils Hwy and go back to the main Hwy near Charleston. Continue west on the main Hwy 2.7 miles and **Sunset Bay State Park (9)** will be on the right (north) side of the road. This is an eBird hotspot. It is best for birding during the less crowded winter months with gulls and rockpipers often present in the cove area adjacent to the parking lot. The adjacent wooded area and campground also have an assortment of common forest breeding species in spring such as Wrentit, Swainson's Thrush, and Wilson's Warbler.

From here continue southwest on the main Hwy 1.1 miles to **Shore Acres State Park (10)**. This is a fee area and is famous for its formal gardens but also has incredible coastal rock bluff formations and offers some decent ocean scoping. This location has an eBird hotspot of the same name. Back on the main Hwy continue south 1.0 miles to the **Simpson Reef Overlook (11)**. This is a great spot not only to scope for seabirds and rockpipers, but also for California and Steller's sea lions and harbor elephant seals. This is one of the best locations in the county to find Ancient Murrelets in November and December (they usually disappear by January) and Harlequin Ducks year-round (males return shortly after breeding further inland so it seems there are always some around). The eBird hot spot here is Cape Arago SP- Simpson Reef/Shell Island Viewpoint.

Continue on the main Hwy 0.6 mile to **Cape Arago State Park (12)** which is at the end of the road. The ebird hotspot has the same name. This is certainly one of the best promontories to scope ocean birds in the county and is particularly rewarding after fall storms with strong west winds which can push in thousands of mostly more pelagic species. In addition, there is a hiking trail on the north end of the parking area that has great views of the north cove and a rocky headland at the end of the trail. The cove and vicinity almost always have Harlequin Ducks year-round (more common in winter) as well as close up seals and sea lions. During winter high tides, rockpipers tend to congregate on the rocks just below the end of the trail (1/3 mile from the parking area). Close examination of these flocks will usually yield Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, and Black Oystercatchers and sometimes include the elusive Rock Sandpiper, a tough to find species in the county in recent years.

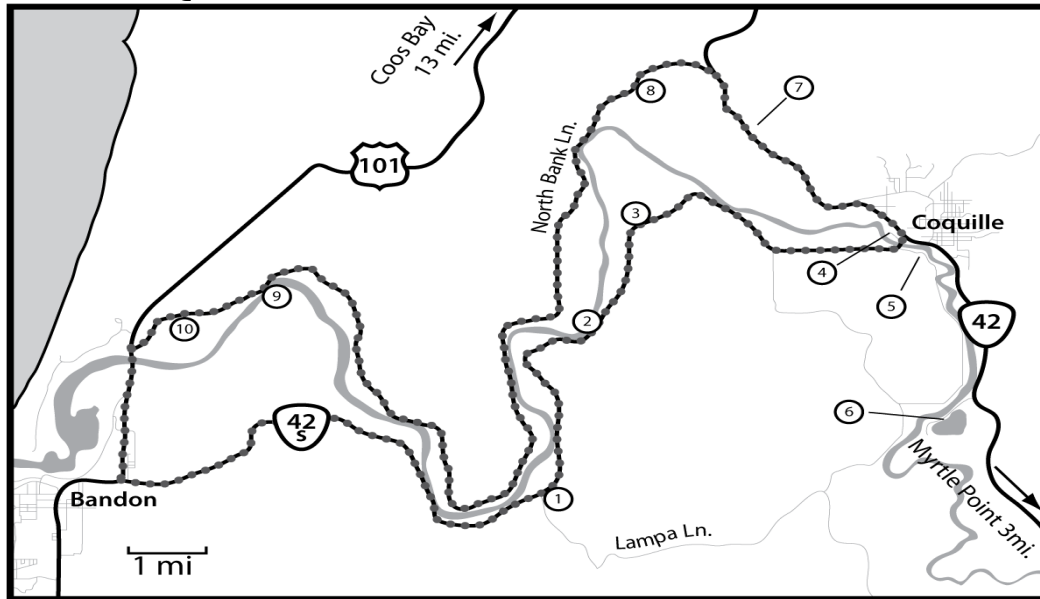
Millicoma Marsh (13) is an excellent migrant passerine birding location during spring and fall as well as a good location to see White-tailed Kite (uncommon in recent years) and Red-shouldered Hawk. The mixture of fresh and saltwater marsh plus the adjacent sewage treatment pond

provides excellent habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. Occasionally a rarity is found at the marsh during migration and some species reach their furthest north and west breeding location in the county here. There is an eBird hotspot for this location.

Take Hwy 101 in Coos Bay to the Newmark stop light and turn west onto Newmark- this stop light is 0.2 miles south of the stop light at the hard to miss Mill Casino site along Hwy 101. Continue south (through several more stop lights) 3.0 miles and turn left (east) at the Allegany/Coos River sign (just past the 7-11 store). Follow this road 1.1 miles to the top of the hill and turn left (west) onto D Street. Follow this 0.1 miles and turn right (north) onto 4th Ave. Follow this 0.1 miles and turn right (east) onto a gravel road that goes downhill to a parking area on the south end of an athletic field. The trailhead is located on the southeast side of the athletic field; keep left at each fork to complete a one-and-a-half-mile loop. Historically, this location was much more open and was known as a sparrow hotspot with 10+ species of sparrows regularly wintering here. Currently it is still a good location for Swamp and White-throated Sparrow but the habitat has become too overgrown to attract as many sparrow species as it once did. However, the extensive willow and alder forest that has come in has grown large enough to attract migrant passerines flocks in the spring during the last half of April and the first half of May and again in the fall in late August and September. Although this used to be the spot to find rare sparrows like Harris's, Clay-colored, and American Tree, the habitat is now better for vagrant warblers and in recent years has hosted rarities such as Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Black-and-White Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Tennessee Warbler. Many uncommon species have also occurred here more than once during migration including American White Pelican, Bank Swallow, Say's Phoebe, Western and Tropical Kingbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Red-shouldered Hawk is fairly common in the winter months as are White-tailed Kites. This is a good location to look for less common wintering species too such as Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and rarely a Lesser Yellowlegs mixed in with the Greater Yellowlegs flocks (along north dike close to or at high tide). Great Egrets, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagles, Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Black-bellied Plovers (often in the tens and even hundreds) can be seen in the bay off the north end of the marsh from fall through spring. Don't forget to bring a spotting scope if you want to see the shorebirds as they are usually further out on the extensive mudflats at lower tide and difficult to see with just binoculars. During the late spring and summer there are breeding Willow Flycatchers, Northern Yellow Warblers and sometimes Yellow-breasted Chat, species at the edge of their breeding range this far north and west. Listen for Virginia Rail and Sora also, a few winter here.

BIRDING SITE GUIDE

MAP 2- COQUILLE VALLEY LOOP



Birding Stops

1. Lampa Lane
2. Riverton County Park
3. Hwy 42S Swan Viewpoint
4. Sturdivant Park
5. Coquille Boat Ramp County Park
6. Johnson Mill Pond
7. Winter Lake Viewpoint
8. Hwy 42N Swan Overlook
9. Rocky Point County Park
10. Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR

Coquille River Valley Driving Loop

Coquille River Valley Loop

Map 2

The Coquille River Valley can be quite birdy during the May and June passerine breeding season with warblers, vireos, tanagers, and grosbeaks plentiful but it is at its birdiest from November through April when most of the lowland ranch country is flooded and many thousands of ducks are in the area. 15+ species of ducks can be seen and raptors are plentiful. Water levels in the valley vary considerably from year to year and month to month, so there are only a few birding spots designated along this route (and not many eBird hotspots either). Fields that are flooded and stuffed with ducks may be dry and duckless the same time the following winter. Water levels constantly fluctuate during the normally wet winter season. That means the best way to bird this route is to stop wherever the birds are, utilizing whatever turnoffs are available. A spotting scope is helpful for distant waterfowl flocks.

The route has many thousands of wigeon each winter, carefully check flocks and a Eurasian Wigeon or two can normally be found. The Common (Eurasian) Green-winged Teal has been found several times in the valley in recent years also. Tundra Swans are possible once the valley fills with water, particularly around Winter Lake. If you do find swans, check closely for a rare Trumpeter. This valley may have the highest density of White-tailed Kites and Red-shouldered Hawks in the state so a round trip from Bandon through the valley and back is almost a sure way to see these species. Check fence lines for Northern Shrikes (rare) and Western Bluebirds during winter. Swampy areas with a few scattered shrubs and/or small trees provide habitat for wintering Swamp Sparrows. The entire loop and side trip to Johnson Mill Pond is around 50 miles and can easily be driven in half a day.

Begin the loop at the Hwy 42S and Hwy 101 intersection (the northern most stop light in Bandon), turning east onto Hwy 42S. Follow this 7.3 miles and just past **Lampa Lane (1)** is a turnoff on the right. This is one of the larger turnoffs and can be a good location for waterfowl, raptors, sparrows (in the thick blackberry tangle nearby), and the occasional bluebird flock.

Continue east 3.5 miles and turn left into the small **Riverton County Park (2)**. This is a good location for breeding passerines and Red-shouldered Hawk and sparrows in the winter. There is a restroom here also. There is no eBird hotspot.

Continue 2.0 miles and look for the large turnoff on the left, just as Hwy 42S turns hard to the right, this is the **Hwy 42S Swan Viewpoint (3)**. When the swans cannot be found at Winter Lake they are often in this area as are hordes of ducks most winters when this area is flooded. This is a good location for geese too, including Greater White-fronteds and Cackling and rarely a Snow Goose or two. There is not an eBird hotspot here either.

Continue on 4.2 miles and after crossing a bridge you will come to **Sturdivant Park (4)** on the left. Bullock's Oriole sometimes nest near or at the park, a hard-to-find species in the county, and a variety of breeding passerines can also be encountered walking around the park

during the May and June breeding season. There is a restroom and picnic facilities here also. The eBird hotspot here is called Sturdivant City Park. In order to increase your odds of finding an oriole, go back out to the Hwy 42S and turn back west and drive 0.2 back across the bridge and immediately take a right (north) and turn on Fishtrap Road. Follow this 0.5 miles to **Coquille Boat Ramp County Park (5)**. Not only is this a good summer birding location but it can be quite birdy in the winter- on the 2012 Coquille Valley CBC a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found here as well as wintering Palm and Orange-crowned Warblers and a Snow Goose! Walking the road back toward the bridge will increase your chances of seeing an oriole. This boat ramp area does not have an eBird hotspot either.

Return to Sturdivant Park and continue 0.1 miles east on Hwy 42S to the T intersection at the main Hwy 42. For a quick side trip turn right (south) here and continue on Hwy 42 3.1 miles to the **Johnson Mill Pond County Park (6)** turnoff on the right (west) side of the road. The eBird hotspot is called just Johnson Pond. If you follow this gravel road about a 1/3 mile it will take you into an old mill pond area used locally for fishing, dog-walking, and picnicking. This is a particularly good spot in the winter for sparrows including Swamp Sparrow, which can be found hiding in the dense grass and shrubbery that surrounds the pond. This is another good location for Black Phoebe and Red-shouldered Hawk year-round. A wide variety of ducks, including Eurasian Wigeon, use the pond in the late-fall and winter, particularly during the duck hunting season from November through the end of January because there is no hunting allowed on the pond and most of the rest of the valley is open to the hunters. This is the first spot in the county Tree Swallows show up in the spring, usually by early to mid-February with Violet-green Swallows a couple weeks behind. The many nest boxes on the pond include a few specially designed for Purple Martins which arrive back to breed by mid-April. An overwintering yellowthroat or Orange-crowned Warbler is always a possibility here.

Continue back towards Sturdivant Park. From the intersection of Hwy 42S and Hwy 42 stay on Hwy 42 and continue north 2.9 miles and turn left across the Hwy onto a wide turnout area, the **Winter Lake viewpoint (7)**. This spot has a panoramic view of what locals call "Winter Lake", pasturelands most of the year that are transformed into a large lake once the winter rains and flooding from the adjacent Coquille River fill it up with water from about December through April. Thousands of ducks winter on this lake as well as a few Tundra Swans (most winters historically, but less regular in recent years). As the lake dries out, large numbers of Great Egrets sometime congregate here during the springtime. This is a wonderful spot to watch for Bald Eagles during the winter when multiple birds can often be found. This location does not have an eBird hotspot either.

Back on Hwy 42, continue north 1.2 miles and turn left (west) onto Hwy 42N. Follow this 1.3 miles to a large turnoff on the left just before a bridge, the **Hwy 42N Swan Overlook (8)**. This turnoff has awesome views of the north end of Winter Lake and is a great spot for ducks, geese, raptors and often swans. There is usually a Black Phoebe and Red-shouldered Hawk close by in winter, and White-tailed Kites and harriers often hunt over areas of unflooded pastureland. Bald Eagles are also usually present- make sure to scope all the distant treetops and fence

lines for eagles as well as other raptors. There is no eBird hotspot for this location.

For those with more time on their hands, just east of this overlook, and not on this map, is the relatively new **Coquille Valley Wildlife Area** which does have an eBird hotspot. This location was opened up to the public for birding (and hunting) in 2019 and has become a wonderful spring shorebirding location. This area was previously a diked livestock pasture that has undergone extensive restoration with river channels restored and willow planted along these channels. A one mile long (one way) trail accesses the main dike with a couple side dikes that added a half mile each (one way) for those wanting to look more closely for waterfowl and shorebirds. It is flooded in the winter months and used extensively by waterfowl hunters from October through January and so is not birded during those months. Conditions vary year to year, but in springtime when it has dried out enough to expose mudflats from mid-April to mid-May, shorebirds can be plentiful. If the area is filled with water or conversely if it has been a dry spring and there is no mud, there will not be as many shorebirds. In addition, in late April and early May, migrant passerines use the willowy habitat on the edges of the area particularly near the parking lot area. During this time, it is not uncommon to find species such as Bullock's Oriole (one of the best spots in the county for this species), Northern Yellow Warbler, Western Warbling Vireo, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, and migrant Western Kingbirds. Unusual shorebirds discovered here in spring have included White-faced Ibis, Wilson's Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, and Long-billed Curlew. During this period raptors are common including Bald Eagles, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, and Peregrine Falcons. Once the water dries up in May, the birds quickly thin out, with just a few Mallards remaining to breed. In summer and fall, this area is grazed by livestock so spring (April-May) is really the best time to bird here.

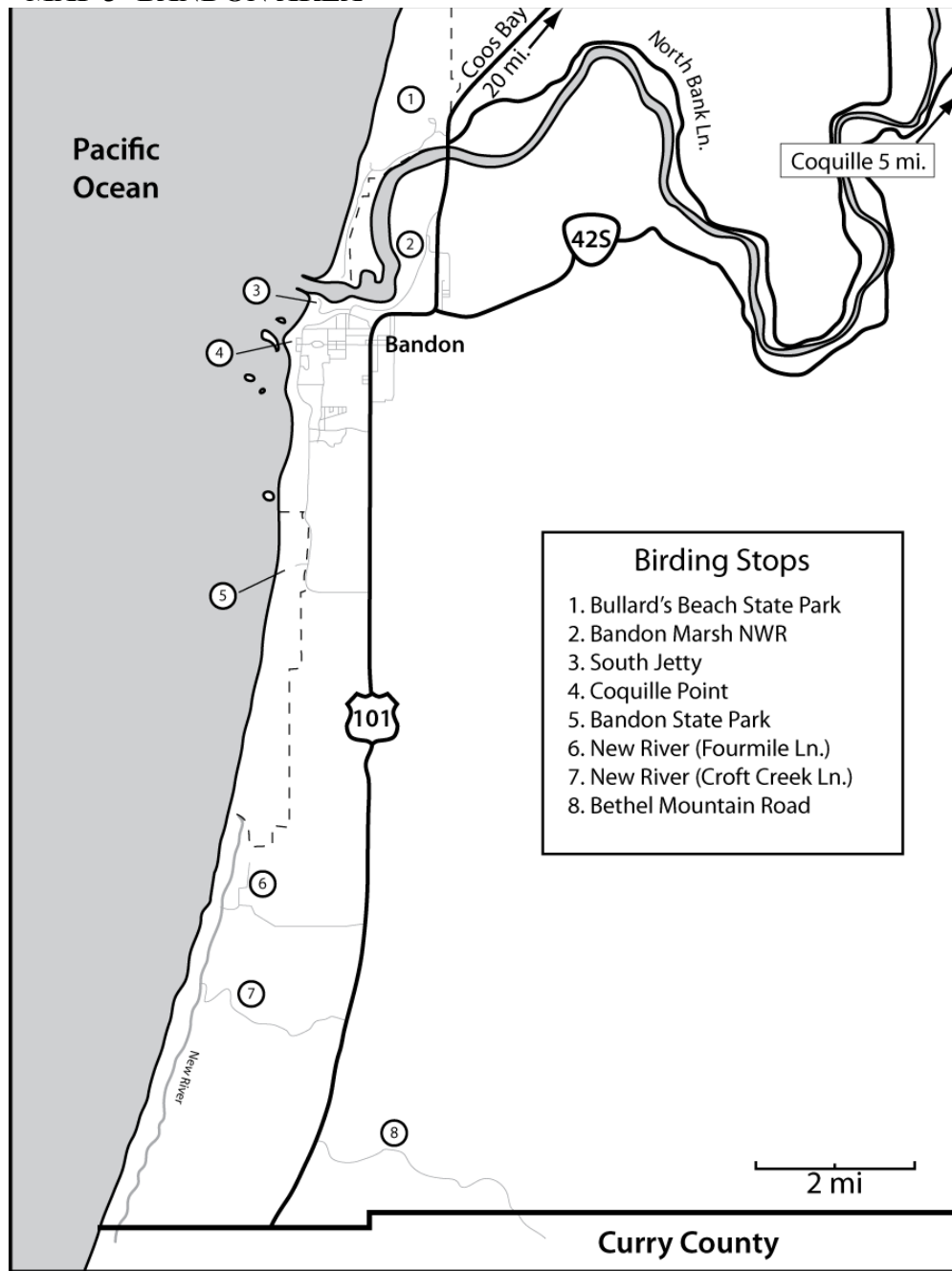
Continue west on Hwy 42N 14.1 miles from the Hwy 42N Swan Overlook (8) and turn left into **Rocky Point County Park (9)**. During later fall and winter, the river here seems to always be loaded with gulls. It is a good location to look for raptors in the winter too, and the adjacent grassland provides excellent sparrow habitat and an occasional Swamp Sparrow has been found in the area. There is an eBird hotspot here.

Continue west 1.1 miles and turn left into the **Ni-les'tun Unit of Bandon Marsh NWR (10)**. The area south of here was formerly pasturelands but recent restoration work removed the dikes and the area has been reconnected to the Coquille River and is once again tidelands. This area is good for raptors and Short-eared Owls have been seen here at dawn and dusk in November and December. This is one of the most reliable locations to find White-tailed Kites except during late spring and early summer when they are breeding and become very secretive although probably still in the area. The hotspot here is called Bandon Marsh NWR Ni-les'tun Overlook.

Continue west another 1.0 miles to Hwy 101. A right-hand turn here will almost immediately take you to the entrance of Bullards Beach SP (see Bandon Route). Turning left and driving 2.1 miles south on Hwy 101 will take you back to the beginning of the loop.

BIRDING SITE GUIDE

MAP 3- BANDON AREA



Bandon, New River, and Bethel Mountain

Map 3

Bandon Marsh NWR is recognized as one of the best shorebirding locations on the south Oregon Coast. Spring migration in late April and early May brings huge numbers of birds through in a very short period of time. Fall migration is much more drawn out with the first southbound birds in by early July, the peak of the migration from mid-August through mid-September, with some species lingering through October. Nearby Bandon Marsh, Tufted Puffins breed on the rocks offshore Bandon in small numbers. Snowy Plovers nest on the south Bandon Beaches. Bullards Beach SP has a shore pine forest with adjacent open grasslands on the Coquille spit with both beach and river easily accessible from the spit providing a mix of habitats and bird species. New River can be superb for shorebirding, is the center of the Allen's/Rufous Hummingbird hybrid zone and has a wide variety of nesting passerine species. Bethel Mountain Road accesses some private ranchlands (one has to bird from the road) in the very southwest corner where open grasslands provide habitat for hard-to-find species in the county such as Vesper Sparrow and Golden Eagle.

From the intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 42S (the northernmost stop light in Bandon) go north on Hwy 101 2.2 miles and turn left (west) into **Bullards Beach State Park (1)** which is just north of the Coquille River bridge. Visiting birders often stay at the campground here and use it as a base to explore the 1,289-acre state park area. From Hwy 101 go 0.2 miles to an intersection and continue straight towards the picnic and lighthouse areas. In another 0.2 miles turn right (west) into a parking area. You can pick up a hiking trail here that wanders through the park and passes by this parking area. The Bullards Beach SP eBird hotspot covers this area. The trail provides a good avenue to explore the forested area for breeding passerines in the late spring and early summer. The park's location makes it a prime spot for the occasional rarity including such species as Black-and-White and Blackpoll Warbler, Mountain and Wilson's Plover, Northern Wheatear, and Snowy Owl. During the winter months, Townsend's Warblers are often found amongst flocks of chickadees and kinglets.

From this parking area continue 0.2 miles to another set of parking lots on the right (north) side of the road. This area offers the same birding opportunities as the last stop but also includes views of the Coquille River. The river here is very birdy with cormorants, gulls, terns, ducks, and loons. There is an eBird hotspot for the Lower Coquille River here.

From here continue 0.3 miles to a turnoff on the left (south) side of the road adjacent to the river. This spot affords river access at low tide and walking south along the river is a nice hike and a good way to get better looks at the cormorants, loons, grebes, and other waterfowl on the river and to see gulls and shorebirds too. The Lower Coquille River eBird hotspot covers this stop also.

Back on the main road continue 0.2 miles to the northernmost beach access parking area on the right (west) side of the road. The beach is popular with hikers, dog-walkers, etc. and may not be very birdy on busy summer weekends. During less busy times of year, particularly

fall through spring, Sanderlings and Dunlin are commonly seen along the beach. During the fall migration (mid-August and September), golden-plovers and Baird's Sandpipers are occasionally observed. Oregon's only record of Wilson's Plover was found along this beach by a Canadian birder one September day and a Mountain Plover was seen in December of 2012. This location does not have its own eBird location but is close to both the Bullards Beach SP eBird hotspot and the Coquille River-North Jetty eBird hotspot.

From this parking area continue south 1.5 miles to the end of the road at the north jetty parking area. Before arriving at the jetty, you will pass several turnoffs on either side of the road. Those on the west access the beach, and those on the east access a large open, grassy area that is bordered by the river. This open grassy area is a good place to walk to look for Burrowing Owls, Lapland Longspurs, and Horned Larks during the fall migration and for a wintering Northern Shrike. Rarities found in this area have included: Black-necked Stilt, Tropical Kingbird, and Northern Wheatear. The north jetty itself is a good spot to look for turnstones, Surfbirds, Wandering Tattlers, and the occasional Rock Sandpiper. Scoters, loons, and grebes can often be seen between the jetties and sometimes a Harlequin Duck or two can be found. This location has its own eBird hotspot named Coquille River-North Jetty.

Back at the Hwy 42S and Hwy 101 intersection (the northernmost stop light in Bandon), go north 1.5 miles and turn left (west) onto Riverside Road (just south of the Coquille River bridge). Follow this 0.7 miles and there is a parking area on the right (west) side of the road. This is **Bandon Marsh NWR (2)**, an outstanding shorebirding location. The eBird hotspot is named Bandon Marsh NWR- Observation Deck. During the short spring migration peaks, it is possible to see tens of thousands of Western Sandpipers, thousands of Least Sandpiper, and hundreds of Semipalmated Plovers on the mudflats here. Black-bellied Plovers, Pacific and American Golden-plovers (Pacifics being much more common), both yellowlegs, Willet, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlin, both dowitchers, and Red-necked Phalarope are regularly seen during fall migration. The list of fall rarities is long and includes: Siberian Sand-plover, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and Ruff.

From the marsh continue south on Riverside Drive 0.9 miles and turn right (west) onto First Street SE. Continue west 0.3 miles and turn right (north) into the parking area next to the harbor boat launch. This is a good spot to check the river for loons, grebes, scoters, and other waterfowl and to check the rocky dike around the harbor for rockpipers. There is a public restroom available here also. There is no eBird hotspot for this location.

From the boat ramp continue west 0.2 miles to where the road veers left, pull off on the turnoff on the right (west) side of road where there are several parking spaces. There is a restaurant here (now closed) with a gravel driveway going down below it. This area was recently fenced off but one can observe the river from here and more importantly the old boat ramp which is behind the nearby Coast Guard station which sometimes contains large "rockpiper" flocks at high tide.

Just down the main road from here towards downtown is an excellent fall (September-November) vagrant trap called Nasomah Memorial. The dense mixed vegetation on the hillside here is worth a look as it seems to attract fall migrants and has produced some real rarities in recent years including Lucy's and Prothonotary Warblers and is often a good location for Nashville or Orange-crowned Warbler before the willows lose their leaves in late November. This location has an eBird hotspot which is named Bandon Coast Guard Station River View and a second one named Bandon- Nasomah Memorial, the first covering the river and the second the brushy hillside.

From the pullout continue south on the main road to a stop sign in 0.1 miles. Turn right (west) onto Jetty Road. Continue west and in the first 0.2 miles there are several wide areas on the right used as pull-offs that access the rocky beach. Black Oystercatchers and other rockpipers frequent this area at low tide and occasionally Harlequin Ducks are found in the winter. This area does not have an eBird hotspot but is likely included with many birder's Coquille River- South Jetty eBird list.

Continue another 0.2 miles and there is a small pond on the right with a turnoff across from it. It is always worth stopping to see what is on the pond here. A Snowy Egret has frequented this spot in recent years during the fall, Tropical Kingbirds are sometimes observed in October and November, Solitary Sandpipers have been found in the spring, and a wide variety of ducks and geese are present during the late fall and winter. The location has an eBird hotspot named Redmon Pond.

Continue another 0.2 miles to the end of the road at the **South Jetty (3)** parking area where a restroom is available. This is a good spot to watch and observe gulls which often rest here in the parking area (they are fed by locals) and is a good spot to scope the Coquille River mouth and the north jetty. During the fall migration it is possible to see thousands of migrating Sooty Shearwaters with a spotting scope just off the jetty. If the rockpipers and tattlers were not seen at the previously mentioned locations, they may be found here. Occasionally something unexpected can show up here, recent rarities have included an injured Nazca Booby which hung out in the parking area, a Common Ground Dove, and both Tricolored and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The eBird hotspot here is Coquille River- South Jetty.

Backtrack to the beginning of Jetty Road and turn right (south) onto Edison Ave (previously referred to as First St SE). Follow this uphill 0.1 miles to a stop sign and turn right onto Fourth St SE (which will shortly become Beach Loop Drive). Follow this 0.8 miles to another stop sign. Turn right here and drive straight about 0.1 miles to the **Coquille Point (4)** parking area. This overlook has wonderful views of Table and Elephant Rocks where breeding Western Gulls, Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, a few Tufted Puffins, and all three species of cormorants can be observed. Beach access is also available here and during migration Hudsonian Whimbrel and small shorebird flocks are often seen along the beach. The eBird hotspot here is called Kronenberg County Park- Coquille Point.

Backtrack back 0.1 miles to the stop sign and turn right (south) on Beach Loop Drive. Follow this 0.5 miles and turn right (west) into Face Rock State Scenic Viewpoint. This has many of the same species as

the last stop, including Tufted Puffins which are more regular here in recent years. This is the Face Rock Wayside eBird hotspot.

Return to Beach Loop Drive and continue south 2.4 miles and turn right into a **Bandon State Park (5)** parking area. The special treat at this location is Western Snowy Plover which nests on the beach just south of the parking area. From mid-May to mid-September the nesting area is roped off, but plovers can often be observed from a distance with binoculars. It is necessary to cross a small creek to find the birds, so appropriate footwear is helpful, particularly in the winter. During the winter months a few plovers can often be found in the same area or sometimes as far south as 1/2 mile from the parking area and often hiding higher up on the beach in the wrack line. The eBird hotspot here is named "Bandon SP- China Creek."

If you continue south on Beach Loop Drive you will shortly arrive back at Hwy 101. Turn left (north) to get back to Bandon, turn right (south) to continue on to New River (see below).

New River can be accessed from the northern most stop light in Bandon at the intersection of Hwy 42S and Hwy 101 by driving south on Hwy 101. It can also be accessed from where the south end of Beach Loop Drive meets Hwy 101 (see above). From the intersection of Hwy 42S and Hwy 101 go south on Hwy 101 8.5 miles and turn right (west) onto Lower Fourmile Lane or alternatively, turn right (south) onto Hwy 101 from the south end of Beach Loop Drive and go 4.3 miles to the same turnoff (Lower Fourmile Lane is just south of West Coast Game Park Safari on Hwy 101). Follow Lower Fourmile Lane 1.5 miles and it will turn to gravel (no problem for cars). Continue on the gravel 0.2 miles and there will be a small turnoff and trail head on the left (south) side of the road and you have arrived at **New River - Fourmile Lane (6)**. The eBird hotspot here is named Lower Fourmile Trail. The trail is on public land (Coos Bay BLM) here but passes between two private residences on its way to New River which is about 1/3 mile west of here. Some years New River often has extensive mudflats in this area during fall migration (late August and September), and if so, there can be shorebirds, ducks, and Canada Geese along the river. Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Ruffs, and a Red-necked Stint have been seen amongst the shorebird flocks in recent years. In order to get to the best sand, one has to walk north along the river for about a mile or two, which means wading through knee deep water in spots- bring appropriate footwear and plan all hikes for low tide when river levels make this trip possible some years. The short walk to the river here passes several willow thickets and this general location has proven to be good for migrant passerine flocks in spring and in fall sometimes including rarities, particularly in the fall, including: Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Tropical Kingbird (the latter multiple times). If one walks the road from the trailhead to the east, sproing migrants can often be found along the road itself in the many willow patches. The open fields along the road are good for White-tailed Kite also and during migration species like Western Kingbird and sparrow flocks can often be found right along the road and have included rarities such as Lark and Black-throated Sparrow in recent years. This general location is awesome for spotting Black Swifts if one is here between about sunrise and 8AM in late May. You need to check the open sky to the south and scan it with binoculars to see the Black Swifts which sometimes are high up while at other times, may be

right overhead! A few Vaux's Swift also migrate through but tend to fly much lower and have shorter tails and wings.

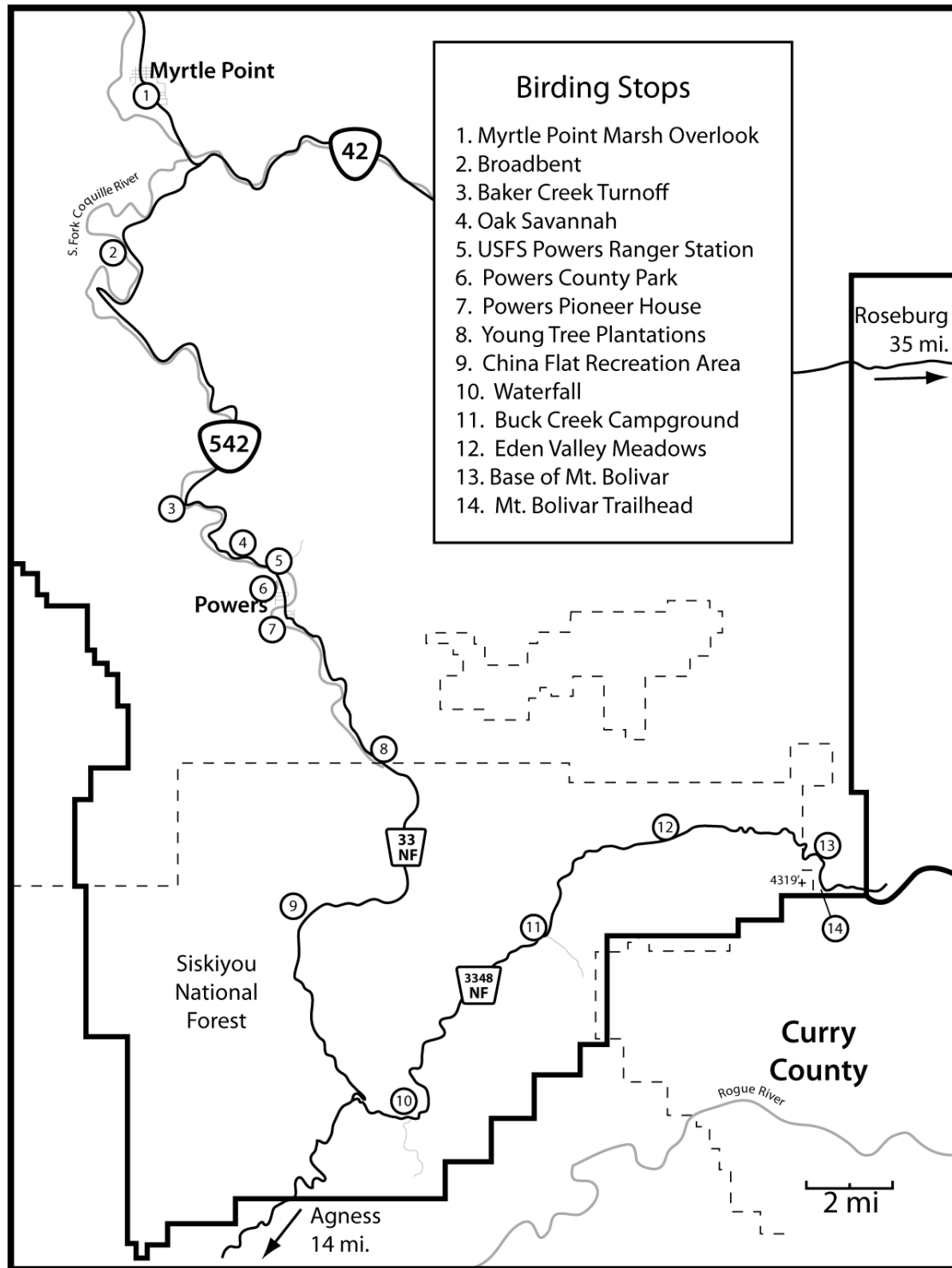
Backtrack and turn right (south) on Hwy 101 and continue 1.3 miles and turn right (west) onto Croft Creek Lane which has signs for New River. Follow this road 1.6 miles and stay right. Continue 0.4 miles to a parking area and you have arrived at **New River - Croft Lane (7)**. The general hotspot for this area is named "New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern." From the parking area there is a road that goes down to a boat ramp on New River. This is closed from March 15 to September 15 to protect the Western Snowy Plovers which nest across the river from the boat ramp and which unfortunately are not visible at this site, see the Bandon SP site above for information on seeing Western Snowy Plovers. It is about a mile down this road to the river. There are also three miles of other trails through the coastal forest and open meadows that are good for the common breeding coastal passerine species in spring and early summer. Historically, one of the big attractions for Oregon birders was Allen's Hummingbirds, once believed to be the furthest north they reliably breed on the Oregon coast. However, recent studies have shown that this is the center of a hybrid zone for Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds. Although many of the *Selasphorus* hummingbirds (Rufous/Allen's) here can be seen doing Allen's type displays, most of them have partially green backs instead of entirely green backs. In addition, many of the *Selasphorus* netted here during the study had r2 tail feathers that are slightly notched, an intermediate trait displayed by hybrids. As it turns out, much of the Oregon Coast from here all the way to Brookings, has an abundance of these hybrids. Looking for an unnotched r2 (photos necessary) is probably the only certain way to tell them apart. The hybrid zone runs as far south as Arcata, California so a visit south of there during the April-May breeding season (when migrant Rufous and hybrids would not be around) would appear to be necessary to ensure one has seen an Allen's that was not a hybrid. Anna's Hummingbirds also occur here and favor areas with more shore pine while the Rufous/Allen's hybrids like the manzanita woodlands the most. Besides these hummingbirds, around 80 species of birds breed in the coastal forest and along the river here including Mourning Dove, Band-tailed Pigeon, Olive-sided and Western Flycatcher, Western Wood-peewee, Hutton's Vireo, Barn, Cliff, Tree, and Violet-green Swallows, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Bushtits, Bewick's Wrens, Swainson's Thrush, Wrentits, Cedar Waxwings, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers, Western Tanager, and Purple Finch. In early to mid-April, many thousands of Aleutian Cackling Geese can often be seen in flocks flying both north and south over New River. They stage in the ranchlands surrounding New River for a few weeks fattening up on grass before departing on a nonstop flight to their breeding grounds in the Aleutians by month's end. New River is also a good spot to look for Black Swifts in the latter half of May. Remember, early morning (6-8 AM) on sunny days with little wind are a must with no birds after about 8:30AM! The Black Swifts are best seen from the higher ridges with unobstructed views to the south such as the Ridge Trail- trail maps available in the parking area next to the Nature Center.

Bethel Mountain Road (8) is 1.4 miles south of the New River turnoff along Hwy 101. This has been a good birding spot over the years but the new manager has decided to keep it closed off to the public, so there is no longer access. There are many records from this area, and

it is the only location in the county where Vesper Sparrows still likely breed. It is mostly higher elevation ranchlands, that are quite unique. However, since access is no longer available, birders can no longer access this area.

BIRDING SITE GUIDE

MAP 4- MYRTLE POINT TO MT. BOLIVAR



Myrtle Point to Mt. Bolivar

Map 4

This is the best route to find most of the regular breeding neotropical passerines in the county. The migrants are mostly in by late April and early May and continue singing through June, so that is the best time to drive it. The entire route is on paved roads but on the upper portion of the route the road narrows and sometimes has logging traffic, so large motor homes are not recommended. Early morning is the best time to drive the route- starting at sunrise if possible. If you only have one day, it is worth starting really early and driving all the way up to Mt. Bolivar and beginning there at sunrise and working your way down to Powers (it is a 2.5-hour drive to the Mt. Bolivar trailhead from Coos Bay). There is primitive camping available in the Eden Valley area as well as down along the South Fork of the Coquille River, information can be obtained by contacting the Powers Ranger District office of the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF which is right along the birding route. It is also a good idea to contact them beforehand to inquire about road conditions; particularly early in the spring when snow and rockslides could block the drive up to Mt. Bolivar (the road is not maintained in the winter). During September and October, the Eden Valley and Mt. Bolivar areas are great places to look for rare montane visitants such as Mountain Chickadee, Clark's Nutcracker, and Cassin's Finch. As with the other birding routes, there are many places one could stop that have not been included on the list. Stopping more often and looking and listening will increase your chances of seeing a Golden Eagle soaring overhead, catching the Western Kingbird perched on a fence line on the far end of a pasture, or hearing the raucous chatter of a Yellow-breasted Chat from a streamside thicket.

The route starts in Coquille at the intersection of Hwy 42 and Hwy 42S. Continue on the main Hwy 42 9.0 miles through Coquille to the first stop light in Myrtle Point. Continue on the main Hwy 0.45 miles, just past a motel on the right, and there is a small parking area on the right next to a salon, this is the **Myrtle Point Marsh Overlook (1)**. Carefully park off to the side out of the way of the salon traffic. A spotting scope is helpful to view the wetlands below that have many duck species, breeding rails and bitterns, many swallows, raptors, and normally a Black Phoebe right near the parking area. This is a good spot to see Cinnamon Teal in the spring with a few birds overwintering at the site some years. There is an eBird hotspot of the same name here.

Continue south on Hwy 42 2.4 miles to the Powers Hwy on the right (south) side of the road. Follow the Powers Hwy 2.8 miles and you will come to a small pull-off on the right (west) side of the road next to some large open fields next to the community of **Broadbent (2)**. Scan the fence lines in this area (and in the open fields the next 15 miles or so) in late spring and summer for Western Kingbird, a regular migrant in May and an occasional rare breeder in this area. There is no eBird hotspot here.

From this turnoff continue south along the Powers Hwy 12.7 miles to the **Baker Creek Turnoff (3)** on the right (west) side of the road. Park at the intersection and look and listen for breeding passerines including

Chipping Sparrows and Lesser Goldfinches. Scan the open ridgelines for Golden Eagles which are rarely seen in this area. A nice side trip can be made by walking down the Baker Creek Road to the SF of the Coquille River bridge (0.5 miles). This is a good location for breeding Cassin's Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, tanagers and grosbeaks. California Scrub-jays are rare on the outer coast, but breed in this area and are regular at this location. There is no eBird hotspot here.

Continue on 1.1 miles and pull off at the large turnoff/ driveway entrance on the left (north) side of the Hwy with a wonderful view of the **Oak Savannah (4)** to the north. This habitat is sparse in the county and is a favored breeding location for Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrows, Cassin's Vireos and Western Bluebirds. Golden Eagles nest somewhere in the vicinity and can rarely be seen circling above the savannah-like ranchlands in this area. There is no eBird hotspot here.

Continue 0.5 miles to the **USFS Powers Ranger Station (5)** on the left (east) side of the road. Park here and walk the area around the station in the early morning and listen for singing passerines including: Black-throated Gray Warbler, Cassin's Vireo, Western Warbling Vireo, Western Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, hybrid Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds, Lesser Goldfinch, and Vaux's Swift. If you walk north from the USFS Ranger Station along the Powers Hwy and cross the bridge over the South Fork of the Coquille River you'll immediately come to the Woodward Creek Road on the east side of the Powers Hwy. Walk up this road the first half mile or so and you can find additional species including: Lazuli Bunting, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper (below road along the river), Black Phoebe, Turkey Vulture, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and with luck the occasional Bullock's Oriole. If you haven't already heard or seen California Scrub-jays, the Powers area is a good place to find them. There is no eBird hotspot here.

From the USFS Ranger Station continue south 0.2 miles and turn right into **Powers County Park (6)**. This is a good spot to see Osprey and an occasional Bald Eagle. Sometimes Bullock's Orioles nest across the road or in Powers, keep your eyes and ears open for them. Northern Yellow Warblers can sometime be heard singing around the pond during migration in early May. This is a good location at that time to hear a diverse number of the regular breeding passerines, including many of the same species as listed for the Power's Ranger Station plus Hermit Warblers. Avoid busy weekends or bird this area early to avoid the crowds. There is an eBird hotspot of the same name for this location.

From here continue 0.8 miles to **Powers Pioneer House (7)** on the right. In mid-April this is one of the best spots to find early Vaux's Swifts. Listen for singing Lazuli Bunting and Chipping Sparrows in the fields behind the house. Evening Grosbeaks seem to be common in this area during the May migration. There is no eBird hotspot here.

From here continue on 4.3 miles to a small turnoff to the right (just before hitting the USFS boundary) across from and adjacent to, some **Young Tree Plantations (8)**. Walk the Hwy for about ¼ mile to the north and look and listen for bird species associated with young dense plantations. Breeding species include: Wilson's, McGillivray's, and Orange-crowned Warblers, Olive-sided Flycatchers (in the snaggy areas), Willow Flycatcher (later in May), Western Warbling Vireo, Black-headed

Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, and hummingbirds- some of which seem to be Allen's (but are likely hybrid Rufous/Allen's; see the Allen's Hummingbird account). This is as far southeast as Allen's type hybrid Hummingbirds regularly occur in the county. There is no eBird hotspot here.

Continue 6.9 miles into the national forest to the **China Flat Recreation Area (9)** on the right (west) side of the road. From China Flat south along this portion of the route there are several Forest Service campgrounds for those wanting to spend an evening in this pristine forest setting. China Flat is a good area to stop and listen and look for the following species: Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Cassin's Vireo, Violet-green Swallow, Western Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Olive-sided Flycatcher (in young tree plantations with snags). There is no eBird hotspot here.

From here continue south again on the Powers Hwy 4.4 miles to the Eden Valley turnoff, FS Road 3348 (paved and drivable by car, but not recommended for long motor homes or very low clearance vehicles due to the many potholes which you can drive around- just go slow!). After turning onto FS 3348, continue 2.1 miles and stay left on the main FS 3348 road. Continue another 1.3 miles and there is a magnificent **Waterfall (10)** adjacent to the road with only a small turnoff to view it. From here on along this road, listen and look for American Dippers as the road parallels the creek. There is no eBird hotspot here.

From the waterfall continue on FS 3348 5.8 miles to the **Buck Creek Campground (11)** which provides primitive camping. This is a good area to get out and look and listen for Hammond's Flycatchers, Hermit Warblers, Hermit and Varied Thrush, and Ruffed Grouse. Ruffed Grouse are particularly reliable 0.2 miles further down the road past Buck Creek where the road crosses a bridge and can be heard drumming in early AM from April through June. There is no eBird hotspot here.

From Buck Creek campground continue on 3.8 miles and stay left on the main FS 3348 road. Continue 0.6 miles to the **Eden Valley (12)** meadows, the highlight of this trip and one of the most diverse passerine birding locations in the county. The area on the left (north) side of the road is a meadow, and the area on the south is an old, logged area which is still fairly open with scattered trees. Both areas should be walked. This meadow and old clearcut host a few species of birds hard to find elsewhere in the county including Dusky Flycatcher and Calliope Hummingbird. The Calliopes do not breed here but often can be found migrating through from mid- to late April through the first week of May. Other species regularly found here in spring and summer include a long list: Sooty Grouse, Mountain Quail, Vaux's Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Western Warbling Vireo, Steller's Jay, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Pacific Wren, Bewick's Wren, Northern House Wren, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (wintering species mostly gone by the first of May), Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wrentit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, and Spotted Towhee. In June and July at dawn and dusk a

special treat are Common Nighthawks. One of Coos Counties' few records of Common Poorwill was heard calling here in May. The eBird hotspot for this location is named Eden Valley. The old plantation has grown tall enough here that it no longer hosts the diverse number of species it once did but there are some other young plantations scattered around Eden Valley that could host a wide variety of passerines also so I recommend stopping and listening for activity anywhere from here on along this road in locations where the dense forest is broken up by young tree plantations.

From the meadow continue on the main FS road 0.5 miles further to the primitive FS Eden Valley campground- a good place to camp if you want to bird the Eden Valley meadows early, otherwise it's a 2 1/4-hour drive (non-stop!) from Coos Bay. There is an eBird hotspot named Eden Valley Campground. The campground is particularly good for both Hammond's Flycatcher and Hermit Warbler in May, June, and July. Just past (east) of the campground about a half mile there are a few young private clearcuts, now young, open tree plantations, that have many of the same species as the Eden Valley location and are definitely worth walking early in the AM during spring and which may also have Calliope Hummingbirds in late April.

From the Eden Valley Campground continue on 5.3 miles to a turnoff on the left (east) and you will be adjacent to a young tree plantation at the **Base of Mt. Bolivar (13)**. The plantation is another good spot for Dusky Flycatcher, Western Bluebird, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher as well as Townsend's Solitaire. In addition, this is a fairly reliable location for Nashville Warbler, a species primarily found breeding in this general location in Coos County. Walk the road (there is little traffic) on either side of this pullout and look and listen for Nashville's which like the low brush and scattered trees in this area. This area has also proven to be a reliable location to find migrant (perhaps even breeding) Acorn Woodpeckers in late April and early May and again in September and early October. They show up in the snag field on the south and east side of the peak which is best viewed from along the road here or in the first 1/3 of a mile or so of the Mt. Bolivar Trail. This species likely breeds in the extensive tan oak forests in nearby Curry and Douglas Counties but no breeding has been verified in Coos County for at least a couple decades although in 2023 and 2024 a new granary was evident along the lower Mt. Bolivar Trail and may also be a breeding site with one or two birds here regularly in late spring and early summer of 2023 and 2024.

From this pulloff it is just 0.2 additional miles to the **Mt. Bolivar Trailhead (14)** on the right, which is the last stop on this route. The trail is 1.4 miles long and climbs 1300 feet to the 4,319-foot summit, the highest point in Coos County. At the top on a clear morning there are commanding views of the Coast Range, Siskiyou, and Cascade Mts. including Diamond Peak, the peaks around Crater Lake, Mt. McLoughlin, and Mt. Shasta (which is just barely visible). Hiking to the top will increase your chances of finding Townsend's Solitaires; this species seems to prefer to breed in the highest locations of the county. Of special note is the possibility of seeing and/or hearing a Rock Wren from late May through July which have been found singing and possibly breeding on the south side of the summit almost annually in recent years. Although the habitat looks good for Green-tailed Towhee, none have ever been located here but montane rarities such as Mountain

Bluebird and Cassin's Finch have been found during spring and fall migration. One of the strangest finds in Coos County in recent years was a Sagebrush Sparrow discovered on the very top of the peak in late April of 2024! There is an eBird hotspot named Mt. Bolivar for this location.

Appendix A

Coos Bay and Coquille Valley Christmas Bird Counts

Coos County has hosted two Christmas Bird Counts, Coos Bay and Coquille Valley. The Coos Bay count was established in 1972 and was held each year through 2018 except for 1973, 2010, 2014, and 2017. This count was discontinued after 2018 and has not been done since. The Coquille Valley count was begun in 1991 and run through 2001, then discontinued for several years, and resurrected again in 2008 and continued each year up through 2025. No data was yet available for the 2025 CBC, so the tables just include the first 28 years through 2024. Getting enough birders to do these counts has always been difficult and is why the Coos Bay count was discontinued. However, these two counts have consistently produced the highest species total of any CBCs in Oregon.

The information in the table below includes all the count data for the Coos Bay CBC and up through 2024 for the Coquille Valley CBC. Some records are footnoted; some questionable records are noted with question marks.

The only Oregon CBC to ever record 160 or more species is the Coos Bay CBC; the following is a list of all counts with 160 or more species:

168- 16 December 2012.
163- 20 December 2015.
162- 18 December 2011.
161- 17 December 2006.
160- 18 December 2005.
160- 19 December 2004.
160- 17 December 2000.

150 species has always been a benchmark to try and break each year for coastal CBCs in Oregon which regularly have the highest species totals in the state. Over its 43 years, the Coos Bay CBC often had the highest number of species of any count in Oregon and surpassed 150 every year it was held from 1998 through 2016, 17 straight years, a feat no other Oregon CBC has even come close to. The Coquille Valley count ranks second in the state for most species, having surpassed 150 eleven different years (up through 2024) with a high of 159 species (an Oregon record at the time) in 1995.

NOTES

? Record or number is doubtful, details are unavailable and/or record cannot be confirmed. Lesser Yellowlegs and Short-billed Dowitchers were reliably recorded in later years on the Coos Bay count but are very rare and only one or two could possibly be expected. Higher numbers recorded in the tens and hundreds on earlier counts indicate that these species were undoubtedly mis-IDed. Ring-billed Gulls are rather uncommon in the Coos Bay area (at least in recent years) so triple digit numbers are very suspect and likely include misIDed California or Short-billed Gulls which in some years can be found in the many hundreds in winter, the latter which can be particularly plentiful, even inland, in winter.

¹ Before about 2000, small "peeps" were often tabulated as Western Sandpipers as many observers at the time assumed that this species was present in large numbers in the winter just as in the fall- we now understand that Western Sandpipers are rare in Oregon in winter although the Coos Bay area often has singles and even tens in winter, more than elsewhere in the state. The large winter peep flocks are dominated by just two species, Dunlin and Least Sandpiper. Thus, early records of 100s of Western Sandpipers are most likely in error; their numbers were not accurately counted until after about 2012 on the Coos Bay CBC. The Coquille Valley Count has always had lower numbers of peeps in general including Westerns and may have been more accurately vetted by the compiler(s) although it has always been hard to know if each individual CBC participant is aware of the relative rarity of Western Sandpiper in the state in winter. Thus, median numbers are inordinately high for the Coos Bay count but Coquille Valley numbers are probably "closer" to being accurate although they are likely inflated also- a more accurate median would likely be in the single or low double digits on the Coquille Valley count and the double digits on the Coos Bay count.

² The Coos Bay compiler indicates that the count found 45, not 15, Tufted Puffins on the 1976 CBC. The record was published in American Birds as 15, apparently a typographical error.

³ Record not accepted by the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

⁴ The Coos Bay compiler indicates that this species was also reported on the 1988 count. That record was published in Oregon Birds as "shearwater, sp."

Deletions

Records of Thick-billed Murre and Yellow-breasted Chat on the Coos Bay CBC have been withdrawn by the observer and the compiler, respectively.

Herring Gull records in the high hundreds and thousands from the 1970s have not been included in median tabulations. Lesser Yellowlegs records of from three to 56 birds from the 1970s and early 1980s were not included in the median tabulations as they were likely mis-IDed Greater Yellowlegs. Short-billed Dowitchers totals of from two to 150 from the 1970s and early 1980s were not included in the median tabulations either as they were likely mis-IDed Long-billed Dowitchers.

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
Emperor Goose	1	1	1	1	1	2
Snow Goose	3	3	6	5	9	6
Ross's Goose	0	1	0	1	0	2
G. White-frt. Goose	13	3	27	93	15	15
Brant	2	6	51	50	14	29
Cackling Goose	17	27	146	125	16	12
Canada Goose	708	305	1876	1223	28	34
Trumpeter Swan	1	0	1	0	1	0
Tundra Swan	23	10	113	76	20	22
Swan sp.	15	0	15	0	1	0
Wood Duck	32	6	120	74	28	35

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	1	1	3	3
Cinnamon Teal	3	1	20	2	18	3
Northern Shoveler	1206	22	3032	208	28	41
Gadwall	123	173	585	2012	28	43
Eurasian Wigeon	5	3	28	9	27	30
American Wigeon	5126	1444	15614	6404	28	43
Eurasian x American Wigeon	0	1	0	1	0	1
Mallard	1493	263	3072	2071	28	43
Northern Pintail	4020	351	19640	9382	28	43
Green-winged Teal	1563	296	4863	3208	28	43
Canvasback	6	100	97	1383	15	43
Redhead	3	9	52	425	10	34
Ring-necked Duck	348	16	1178	222	28	43
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	CW
Greater Scaup	7	229	168	1864	26	42
Lesser Scaup	28	29	474	548	28	42
scaup sp.	12	46	95	590	7	20
King Eider	1	1	1	1	1	1
Common Eider	1	0	1	0	1	0
Harlequin Duck	2	8	6	49	11	28
Surf Scoter	98	479	452	3131	28	43
White-winged Scoter	18	127	615	2154	26	43
Black Scoter	4	5	18	34	17	38
scoter sp.	11	10	50	300	5	5
Long-tailed Duck	1	2	2	8	5	28
Bufflehead	309	914	748	4379	28	43
Common Goldeneye	1	21	16	77	19	42
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	1	0	1	0	4
Hooded Merganser	105	15	386	81	28	36
Common Merganser	6	6	45	52	24	39
Red-br. Merganser	14	51	56	121	28	43
merganser sp.	0	4	0	4	0	1
Ruddy Duck	61	72	594	621	28	43
duck sp.	500	102	1440	3000	13	20
Mountain Quail	2	4	10	10	6	5
California Quail	80	14	233	69	28	36
Wild Turkey	100	12	203	61	22	5
Ruffed Grouse	1	1	2	3	4	15
Sooty Grouse	0	1	0	1	0	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1	2	3	4	19
Pied-Billed Grebe	22	12	116	52	28	42
Horned Grebe	3	90	46	325	27	43
Red-necked Grebe	3	18	11	131	25	41
Eared Grebe	1	4	34	26	23	37
Western Grebe	20	257	255	722	28	43
Clark's Grebe	1	2	2	7	13	25
Mourning Dove	55	10	165	67	28	27
Band-tailed Pigeon	4	1	10	5	3	10
Eurasian Collared-Dove	202	84	599	158	17	10
Rock Pigeon	122	163	641	709	28	42

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
Anna's Hummingbird	51	11	317	104	28	42
Costa's Hummingbird	0	1	0	1	0	3
Rufous Hummingbird	0	2	0	2	0	1
<i>Selasphorus</i> sp.	0	2	0	2	0	2
hummingbird sp.	0	1	0	2	0	3
Sandhill Crane	2	0	2	0	2	0
Virginia Rail	11	7	35	29	28	37
Sora	2	2	11	6	24	22
American Coot	701	119	7484	1520	28	43
American Avocet	0	1	0	1	0	2
Black Oystercatcher	22	23	55	57	28	43
Black-bellied Plover	52	181	198	607	25	43
Pac Golden-Plover	0	6	0	8	CW	2
Killdeer	162	81	1421	1629	28	43
Semipalmated Plover	5	25	17	224	14	39
Mountain Plover	1	0	1	0	1	0
Snowy Plover	13	8	32	40	25	27
Hudsonian Whimbrel	2	2	7	5	17	4
Long-billed Curlew	3	1	3	9	1	11
Marbled Godwit	2	12	2	64	1	23
Ruddy Turnstone	2	1	8	31?	13	10
Black Turnstone	118	131	270	278	28	43
Red Knot	0	2	0	22	CW	3
Surfbird	32	53	221	260	26	41
Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	CW
Curlew Sandpiper	0	1	0	1	0	1
Sanderling	216	467	1651	5238	26	42
Dunlin	664	1626	4900	11334	28	43
Rock Sandpiper	2	2	5	17	7	24
Baird's Sandpiper?	0	7?	0	7?	0	1?
Least Sandpiper	220	335	2105	3268	28	43
Western Sandpiper ¹	10	281?	195	2437?	26	42
peep sp.	40	450	350	4729	14	23
Short-bill Dowitcher	1	1	1	1	2	1
Long-bill Dowitcher	25	40	397	532	25	39
dowitcher sp.	18	29	68	46	7	10
Wilson's Snipe	33	21	516	135	28	43
Spotted Sandpiper	3	4	10	20	27	39
Wandering Tattler?	1	13?	1	13?	3	1?
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	1	0	2	CW	11
Willet	2	4	2	20	2	29
Greater Yellowlegs	3	39	12	140	20	42
Wilson's Phalarope?	0	1?	0	1?	0	1?
Red-neck Phalarope?	0	2?	0	3?	0	2?
Red Phalarope	2	11	527	1370	8	15
Pomarine Jaeger	0	3	0	3	0	1
Parasitic Jaeger	1	3	1	4	1	2
jaeger sp.	2	1	2	2	1	3
Common Murre	758	182	20800	27007	27	37
Pigeon Guillemot	1	2	1	43	5	19
Marbled Murrelet	2	2	4	16	4	20

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
Ancient Murrelet	3	5	1007	800	15	24
Murrelet sp.	0	2	0	2	0	1
Cassin's Auklet	0	3	0	200	0	13
Rhinoceros Auklet	1	2	4	85	13	19
Tufted Puffin ²	0	25	0	45	0	2
alcid sp.	1	3	1	3	2	6
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	0	CW
Black-leg Kittiwake	1	6	85	62	19	33
Red-leg Kittiwake	0	1	0	1	0	1
Sabine's Gull	0	1	0	1	0	2
Bonaparte's Gull	2	5	29	109	16	33
Franklin's Gull	0	0	0	0	CW	0
Heermann's Gull	1	1	1	15	1	13
Short-billed Gull	95	317	781	6228	28	43
Ring-billed Gull	24	93?	1125?	354?	22	43
Western Gull	779	1222	2349	4717	26	43
California Gull	31	52	406	2432	28	42
A. Herring Gull	17	35	253	215	28	38
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	3	6	27	116	27	33
Glaucous-winged Gull	124	253	622	2831	28	43
Gl-W x Western Hyb	76	105	502	515	28	25
Gl-W x Glaucous Hyb	0	2	0	2	0	1
Glaucous Gull	1	1	3	2	13	10
gull sp.	341	778	1373	15615	28	33
Red-throated Loon	9	28	167	711	27	41
Pacific Loon	7	31	70	2199	28	41
Common Loon	7	90	18	221	28	43
Yellow-billed Loon ³	0	1	0	1	0	1
loon sp.	5	3	170	201	14	17
Laysan Albatross	0	0	0	0	0	CW
Black-foot Albatross	0	5	0	7	0	2
Northern Fulmar	1	7	47	49	5	12
Short-tailed Shearwater	1	4	4	18	5	13
Sooty Shearwater	0	1	0	3	0	6
Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwater	0	2	0	9	0	6
Pink-ft Shearwater	2	2	2	2	1	1
Flesh-ft Shearwater ⁴	0	1	0	1	0	1
Manx Shearwater	0	2	0	2	0	1
Black-vented Shearwater ³	1	0	1	0	1	0
shearwater sp.	1	1	7	110	11	14
Leach's Storm- Petrel	0	1	0	1	0	1
Brandt's Cormorant	7	21	34	238	28	41
Pelagic Cormorant	60	80	141	415	28	43
Double-cr Cormorant	36	128	112	315	28	43
cormorant sp.	6	25	110	150	15	14
Brown Pelican	5	8	74	2717	11	17

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
American Bittern	1	1	2	3	12	12
Snowy Egret	2	3	2	11	1	36
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	2	3	19	4	36
Green Heron	2	2	5	6	12	14
Great Egret	78	23	298	76	28	43
Western Cattle- Egret	1	1	1	3	2	9
Great Blue Heron	35	77	67	190	28	43
Turkey Vulture	16	1	36	4	14	5
Osprey	1	2	3	5	10	20
White-tailed Kite	12	7	25	24	28	39
Golden Eagle	1	0	1	0	2	0
Northern Harrier	18	9	40	34	28	43
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	3	13	10	28	38
Cooper's Hawk	3	2	9	7	27	33
American Goshawk	1	0	1	0	2	0
accipitrine sp.	1	1	2	2	5	10
Bald Eagle Total	-	3	-	12	-	34
Bald Eagle adult	10	3	26	9	27	29
Bald Eagle immature	3	2	10	5	18	17
Bald Eagle unknown	1	3	6	3	6	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	40	6	62	15	28	24
Red-tailed Hawk	37	18	52	38	28	43
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	3	12	5	11
buteo sp.	0	1	0	2	0	7
hawk sp.	0	2	0	2	0	1
American Barn Owl	3	2	8	5	24	28
Western Screech-Owl	4	2	11	7	25	25
Great Horned Owl	4	2	10	15	28	36
Snowy Owl	0	1	0	1	0	1
Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	1	6	3	22	19
Burrowing Owl	1	1	2	1	4	4
Barred Owl	2	1	4	2	13	6
Short-eared Owl	1	1	3	5	10	12
N. Saw-whet Owl	2	2	7	6	20	20
owl sp.	1	1	1	2	1	3
Belted Kingfisher	19	31	35	69	28	43
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	2	0	4	0
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-br. Sapsucker	2	2	10	9	28	33
RNxRB Sapsucker	1	0	1	0	1	0
Downy Woodpecker	17	6	32	15	28	41
Hairy Woodpecker	9	6	22	14	28	41
Northern Flicker	97	79	160	171	28	43
Pileated Woodpecker	5	2	18	8	27	31
woodpecker sp.	1	0	1	0	1	0
American Kestrel	25	5	40	24	28	43
Merlin	3	3	11	7	28	40
Gyr Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	CW
Peregrine Falcon	6	4	16	10	28	36
Prairie Falcon	1	0	1	0	5	0

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
falcon sp.	0	1	0	2	0	5
Tropical Kingbird	1	0	1	0	1	0
Least Flycatcher	1	0	1	0	1	0
Empid Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	CW
Black Phoebe	109	39	231	88	28	20
Eastern Phoebe	1	0	1	0	1	0
Say's Phoebe	1	0	2	0	10	CW
Hutton's Vireo	7	4	19	14	28	38
Loggerhead Shrike	0	1	0	1	0	3
Northern Shrike	1	1	3	5	8	26
Canada Jay	0	1	0	1	0	1
Steller's Jay	195	51	572	215	28	43
Cal Scrub-jay	3	1	11	2	27	10
American Crow	861	854	1916	3073	28	43
Common Raven	72	18	145	88	28	42
Black-cap Chickadee	174	98	275	337	28	43
Mountain Chickadee	4	2	5	3	2	5
CB Chickadee	140	114	280	372	28	43
Chickadee sp.	3	0	3	0	1	0
Horned Lark	0	12	0	18	0	2
Tree Swallow	3	1	6	1	7	1
Violet-green Swallow	2	1	2	1	2	1
Barn Swallow	2	3	21	3	5	4
Swallow sp.	1	0	1	0	1	0
Bushtit	52	73	189	188	28	40
Wrentit	78	76	153	266	28	43
RC Kinglet	280	206	688	876	28	43
Golden-cr. Kinglet	138	167	489	562	28	43
Bohemian Waxwing	0	3	0	3	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	1	5	80	37	17	17
Red-br. Nuthatch	12	6	228	184	27	35
White-br. Nuthatch	2?	1	2?	1	1	3
Brown Creeper	4	2	17	11	27	39
Blue-gray Gnatcatch	0	1	0	1	0	1
Bewick's Wren	17	8	60	40	28	42
Northern House Wren?	0	1?	0	1?	0	2?
Pacific Wren	32	37	112	131	28	42
Marsh Wren	45	14	149	148	28	41
Brown Thrasher	1	0	1	0	1	0
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	1	1	9	3
European Starling	2839	1396	10208	12674	28	43
Western Bluebird	11	11	53	34	19	21
Townsend's Solitaire	0	1	0	1	0	1
Hermit Thrush	74	35	185	260	28	42
American Robin	2890	670	8223	2104	28	43
Varied Thrush	139	110	863	818	28	43
House Sparrow	171	74	347	547	28	42
Eur. Tr. Sparrow (I)	0	1	0	1	0	3
American Pipit	36	20	363	138	28	32

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
Evening Grosbeak	1	3	13	13626	5	9
House Finch	136	130	331	346	28	42
Purple Finch	10	8	31	48	28	34
Cassin's Finch	0	1	0	1	0	1
finch sp.	4	0	5	0	2	0
Redpoll	0	1	0	1	0	1
Red Crossbill	17	24	718	856	22	34
White-winged Crossbill	1	0	1	0	1	0
Pine Siskin	290	164	2307	3067	27	40
Lesser Goldfinch	4	5	62	30	20	19
American Goldfinch	27	19	187	219	27	39
Lapland Longspur	1	2	25	7	4	3
Snow Bunting	2	2	2	2	1	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	0	1	0	1	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	2	1	2	2	5
Fox Sparrow (Sooty)	376	218	734	938	28	43
Fox Sparrow (Red)	0	1	0	3	0	3
A. Tree Sparrow	1	0	2	0	3	CW
Dark-Eyed Junco	946	397	1371	976	28	43
White-cr. Sparrow	653	257	1247	857	28	43
Golden-cr. Sparrow	189	56	614	391	28	42
Harris's Sparrow	1	1	1	1	2	6
White-thr. Sparrow	11	4	50	34	28	38
Vesper Sparrow	0	1	0	1	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	16	5	56	20	26	29
Song Sparrow	643	264	1161	936	28	43
Lincoln's Sparrow	20	7	73	42	28	35
Swamp Sparrow	5	3	26	12	26	22
Sparrow sp.	31	15	31	32	1	3
Green-tailed Towhee	1	0	1	0	1	0
Spotted Towhee	99	55	187	243	28	43
Western Meadowlark	63	50	163	192	28	43
Orchard Oriole	1	0	1	0	1	0
Hooded Oriole	0	1	0	1	0	1
Bullock's Oriole	1	1	2	2	8	3
RW Blackbird	297	64	1125	403	28	39
BH Cowbird	5	2	70	23	27	8
Brewer's Blackbird	365	63	1067	916	28	43
blackbird sp.	40	0	650	0	5	0
Bl. and Wh. Warbler	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	1	1	1	2	1
Orange-cr. Warbler	5	2	18	7	26	20
Nashville Warbler	1	2	1	2	7	2
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	1	2	5	9
Magnolia Warbler	0	1	0	1	0	1
N. Yellow Warbler	1	2	1	2	1	1
Palm Warbler	1	1	6	7	18	24
Yellow-rump Warbler	235	332	639	1748	28	43
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	1	1	1	2	1
Townsend's Warbler	33	28	171	95	28	42

Species	CoqV 28-yr MED*	Coos 43-yr MED*	CoqV 28-yr HIGH	Coos 43-yr HIGH	CoqV # of YRS	Coos # of YRS
Hermit Warbler	2	1	2	1	2	2
Wilson's Warbler	1	1	1	2	1	4
Western Tanager	1	0	1	0	1	0
Rose-br. Grosbeak	0	1	0	1	0	1
Black-Head Grosbeak	1	0	1	0	1	0
Painted Bunting	0	0	0	0	0	CW
TOTAL SPECIES	148	145	159	168	28	43
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	42433	25071	73413	70987	28	43
TOTAL OBSERVERS	40	33	56	65	27	43
Field	33	30	48	65	26	43
Home	7	3	12	8	25	34
Part Hours- Total	117	102	157	160	27	43
By Foot	75	60	95	102	26	42
By Car	43	39	61	63	26	42
By Boat	0	6	0	16	0	15
By Bicycle	7	3	20	7	15	4
By ATV	0	5	0	9	0	3
Part Miles- Total	356	337	506	535	26	43
By Foot	40	43	66	77	26	42
By Car	310	275	472	455	26	42
By Boat	0	8	0	29	0	15
By Bicycle	9	7	32	28	15	4
By ATV	0	9	0	25	0	3
Feeder Hours	0	7	27	27	26	31
Owling Miles	38	30	123	140	27	31
Owling Hours	10	6	16	19	27	33

* A median rather than an average is used as a better way to correct for regular species with large fluctuations. However, this also inflates the abundance of species seen infrequently. Use "years seen" to evaluate these.

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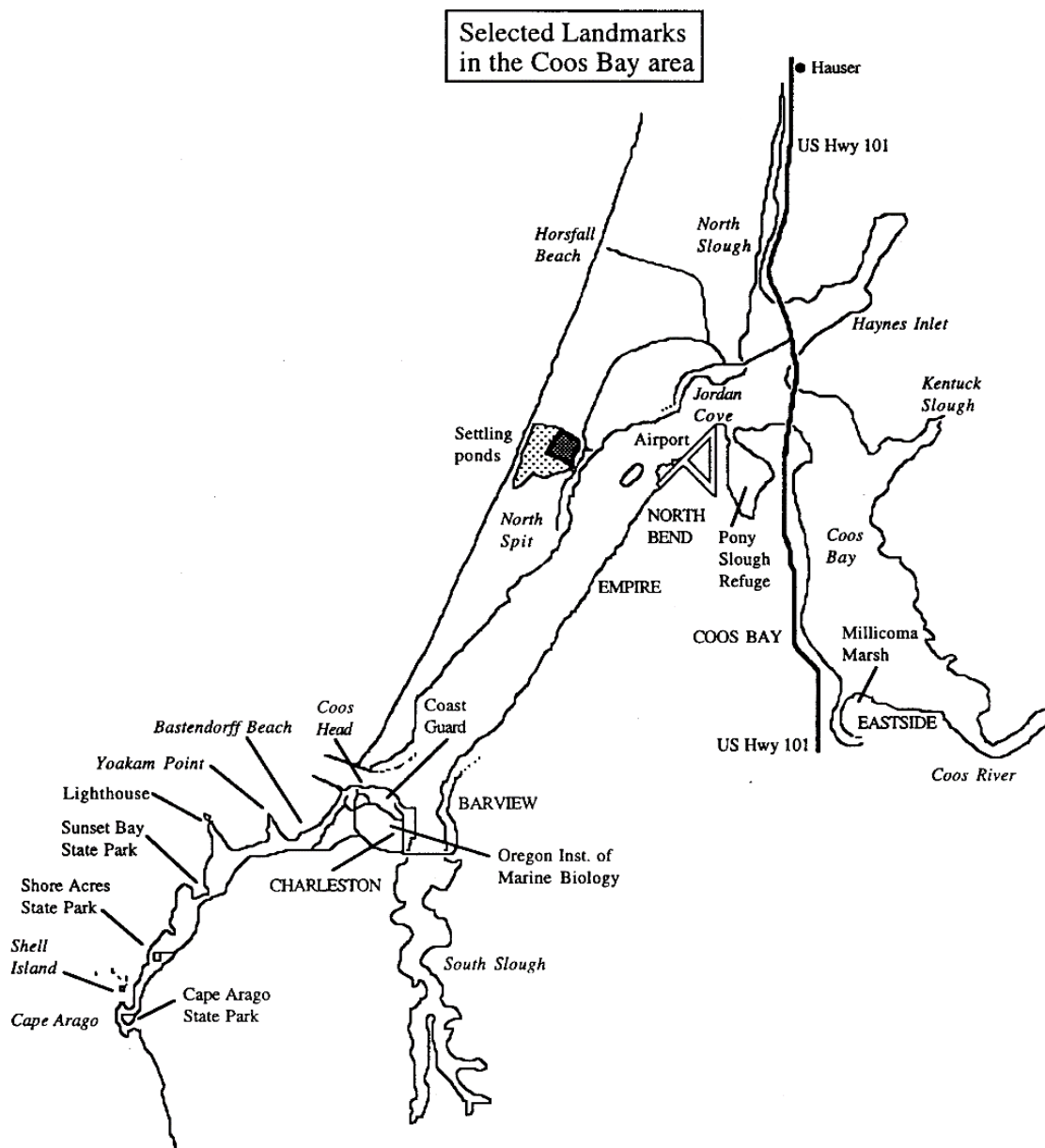
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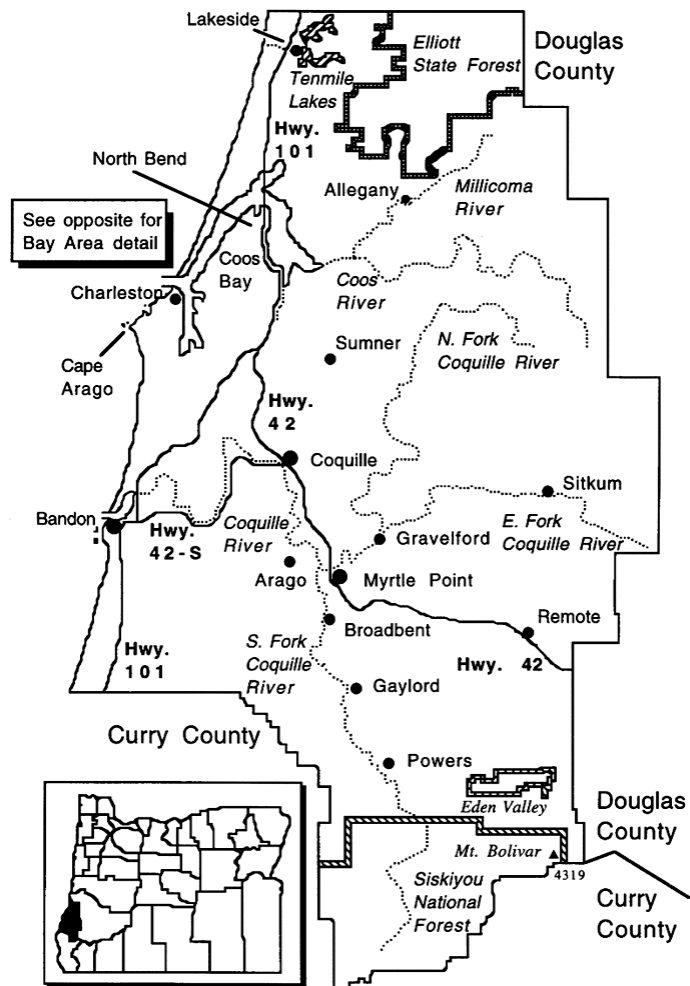
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Tim Rodenkirk is now retired and a full-time birder! Prior to retiring he worked for Coos Bay BLM for just under 35 years. He was initially hired as a Forester, became a Natural Resource Specialist working mainly in Wildlife, then spent his last 20+ years as a Botanist doing rare plant surveys and working on interdisciplinary teams. Bird related work at Coos Bay BLM included helping with Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Survey work in the 1990s and doing a point count bird monitoring project at the New River ACEC from 1996 through 2010. He has worked as the southwest Oregon field editor for "Oregon Birds" magazine since 2004.

Tim began birding in earnest in the county in 1997 and has kept careful field notes since. Several "big" birding years in Coos County early on helped him to get to know most of the nooks and crannies of the county, and he currently enjoys trying to find new and/or unusual birds around the county. In recent years he has become particularly fond of birding south coast neighborhoods (primarily Brookings, Gold Beach, Bandon, and Coos Bay/North Bend) in the winter months and looking for unusual passerines during spring and fall migration. He took over compilation of the Coos Bay Christmas Bird count in 1998 and did that through 2018 only stopping due to a recurring problem of getting enough observers to cover the count area. In 2015, he was asked to take over the Port Orford CBC which was in need of a new compiler; he has been compiling that count ever since. He lives in Coos Bay, Oregon with his wife Holly and their dog Pipit (Pip).

Tim is a member of both the Cape Arago (Coos County) and Kalmiopsis Audubon (Curry County) Chapters. He leads field trips from time to time for both chapters and encourages interested parties to look into becoming members of either or both chapters.