



Newsletter of The Pendleton Bird Club

Kákya Táymut

KUK-yuh TIE-moot, Umatilla Indian Translation: *Bird News*

Volume 8 No. 11 Pendleton, Oregon November 2010

Around South Africa in 90 Minutes

Reported by Ann Wyatt

Listening to his father's stories as a child, Terry dreamed of Africa and knew someday he would go there. And go he did.

For close to 90 minutes author, speaker, photographer and story teller extraordinaire Terry Steele, and his wife Kay, captivated an audience of over 35 people at the November 11th Bird Club meeting. Their two month, 7000 mile journey circumnavigating South Africa in a camper was more of a "saga" than a trip.

Landing at Cape Town and starting from Simontown, where the Jackass Penguins crossed the road at the cross walk, the Bird Club "video-traveled" with Terry and Kay all around South Africa including the Cape Peninsula National Park, the Cape Floral Kingdom Botanical Park, the Kruger National Park, and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park (their favorite - adjoining parks in South Africa and Botswana) and then finally back to Cape Town for departure.

They traveled for two months, camping in the wilderness with the kudus, cuckoos, and cobras.

They showed us amazing photos of beasts, birds, blooms and reptiles. We heard wonderful stories; from the hilariously funny defecation habits of the hippo and having the BBQ chicken wrenched from his hand by a Brown Kite, to the most venomous snake in the world – the Cape Cobra, which can be quite aggressive - securely tied up in 3 sacks and tucked under the camper bed for safekeeping from night-

prowling predators.

To name a few, there were beautiful photos of Springbok, Wildebeest, Elephant, Rhino, Hippo, Baboon, Zebra, Lion, Leopard, African Wildcat (mother of domestic cats), monster Leopard Tortoise, Scrub Hare, swarms of Cape Lizards, Vervet Monkey, endemic Ostrich with chicks, Cape Fox, Pygmy Falcon, Babblers, Scarlet Breasted Shrike, Marabou Stork, a gazillion weaver birds, tiny jeweled kingfishers, sunbirds, Sacred Ibis, Puff Adders with huge fangs, Tawny Eagle with feathered legs, many storks, wading birds, and much, much more.

Terry summed up a truly delightful evening by recounting the night sounds of Africa: The laughing Hyenas and roaring Lions.

Visit Terry and Kay's website photo galleries at <http://terrysteelenaturephotography.com/> for some beautiful images.

Surprises! Surprises! December 9th Bird Club Raffle

Bring your Bird-loving Friends!

Nobody knows all of what might appear at the annual December Raffle and live Auction! It's up to you to bring that something that someone else has been waiting for, longing for, and dreaming of!!

Last year's raffle table was laden with 'Bird Goods' and 'Non-Bird' items: antiques, artwork, bird feeder, birdseed, books, carvings, ceramics, chocolate, cups, fabric, gourd bird-house, grab bag, home baked goodies, jewelry, magazines, photos, popcorn, posters, pot holder, salami, sculptures, suet, three-day coastal cottage, toys, wind chimes and more.

Big ticket items will be put in the live auction.

The doors open at 6:30 PM to allow time for placing your raffle items and perusing what you hope to win.

Lorna Waltz will have refreshments ready.

At 7:00 PM the Hummingbird video showing will begin and THEN the raffle drawings and auction will commence.

Andrew Clark will try his hand at auctioneering. (This alone could be worth the price of admission!)

Ticket prices will NOT be inflated. They will remain at last year's price of \$1.00 apiece, but with a recession special of 7 tickets for \$5.00.

The money collected is used for Bird Club expenses: Web page fees, speaker's honorarium, coffee/refreshment costs, meeting room donation, Blue Mountain Wildlife contribution, maintenance of Albee Bluebird Trail, memorials, and others as they arise. This fundraiser is how our club is financed instead of charging dues, so your participation is important.

Questions??? Contact **Andrew Clark 541-278-1252** or **Lorna Waltz 541-276-6353**.

It will be a fun evening – guaranteed! See you there!



Calendar of Events

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 9,
2010

AMAZING HUMMINGBIRDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A Video Presentation Produced by
Charles W. Melton

Followed by

THE ANNUAL FUND RAISER

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, January 2, 2011

We need your help to count birds on
the 111th Christmas Bird Count.

For more information, contact

Aaron Skirvin umatbirder@yahoo.com
or 541-215-0761



Bird Club Meeting & Potluck Dinner

6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 13,
2011

Potluck starts at 6:30 followed by
Club Members' Night

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 10,
2011

LONG-BILLED CURLEWS

Presented by Sidra Blake

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 10,
2011

3rd ANNUAL HUMONGOUS ID CHALLENGE

Presented by Jack Simons

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton



Umatilla County Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, January 2, 2011

Here are the details for the 24th official Umatilla County Christmas Bird Count, which is scheduled for **SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011**. This local count is part of the national 111th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. If you are interested in the history of the Christmas Bird Count and count data accumulated for the hundreds of counts across the country, please visit Audubon's website (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>).

During our count last year on January 2, 2010, 29 bird counters saw 78 species of birds, and tallied a total of 8,041 individual birds in our circle. The Umatilla County count circle is 15 miles in diameter, with the center located about 7 miles southeast of Pendleton.

We welcome **everyone** (from beginning birder to expert) to help count birds on January 2, 2011.

There are no major changes in Audubon's rules from last year as to how we conduct our count. The participant fee remains at \$5 per birder for those participants older than 18 years of age, and each participant can receive a CBC issue of *American Birds*.



Our count circle is divided into four areas, and each area has a Coordinator (see below). Each Coordinator is responsible for organizing and managing the bird counters in his/her area. To get involved and help count birds, each interested participant must contact one of the Area Coordinators to join that group for count day. The Coordinator will set a place and time for his/her team members to meet on count morning. If you want to help count birds on January 2, please contact one of the Coordinators listed below.

- ◆ **Area 1** (Pendleton, Wildhorse Creek, Patawa Creek and Riverside)
Jack Simons — home: 541-276-8566
- ◆ **Area 2** (Umatilla River and Cayuse)
Bruce Mayfield — cell: 541-969-8444

- ◆ **Area 3** (McKay Reservoir, Upper McKay Creek, and Birch Creek)
June and Duane Whitten — home: 541-276-9019
- ◆ **Area 4** (Mission, Emigrant Hill and Poverty Flats)
Aaron Skirvin — cell: 541-215-0761

Birders can also choose to do feeder counts if you have an active feeder within the count circle. If you want to do a feeder count, contact Aaron Skirvin (see contact information below). All Christmas Bird Count participants will get together for a count-down at the end of the day and compile the count results. Abby's Pizza on Southgate in Pendleton has reserved the banquet room for us from 4:30 – 7:30 pm that evening. Please contact Aaron Skirvin (541-215-0761 or umatbirder@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the areas or feeder counts or how to participate.

LET'S GO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011!!!

Contributed by Aaron Skirvin

Bird of the Month - Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

Western Scrub Jays Invade Oak Trees Near McNary Dam

A group of nine **Western Scrub-Jays** have been cited for taking acorns from two oak trees near the Oregon Fish Viewing Room near McNary Dam. This is a misdemeanor (a minor crime for which a fine may be assessed). The oak trees are lovely with the leaves in full fall colors. There are many acorns as well, both on the trees and the ground.



The Scrub-Jays are fairly new in Umatilla County and so far are very cavalier about the misdemeanor charges. The Jays maintain, in their defense, that it is not a crime to take the acorns as they are a source of food and most of them are being stored for winter feed. The Scrub-Jays continue to take acorns and are evidently hiding them in an unknown cache.

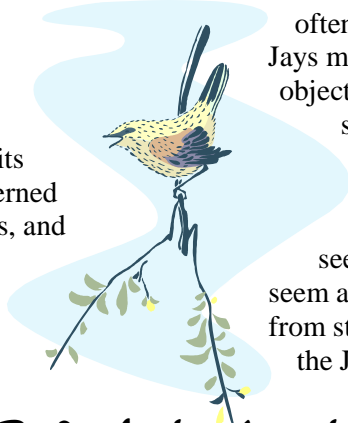


Does Umatilla County want Western Scrub-Jays? If it is decided the Jays will be desirable bird residents and neighbors, the charges will be dropped. This may be the most prudent outcome as it appears the Jays have no intention of retreating to wherever they came from.

The Western Scrub-Jay is a medium-sized bird, 11 to 12 inches long, which includes its rather long tail. They are mostly blue, patterned with some white and gray. The head, wings, and tail are various shades of blue with a gray-brown area on the back and grayish underparts. The throat is white with a dark blue necklace. It is a handsome bird, but the call can only be described as a harsh screech.

Western Scrub-Jays inhabit a variety of habitats, including oak woods, edges of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees, and, true to their name, scrub brush. Nests are often built low in trees or brush, up to 30 ft. from the ground. The female does most of the work building the nest, but the male does guard her efforts. He feeds the female and probably helps construct the nest as well. The sturdy nest is constructed on a platform of twigs and lined with mosses, dry grasses, and hair. Nesting time varies with the climate and may occur from March through July. The 4 to 6 eggs may be either pale green with irregular olive spotting or grayish-white to green with reddish-brown spotting. Again, the female alone incubates the eggs for about 16 days. The male feeds the female at the nest and both parents feed and tend the young until they can survive on their own. The young fledge at about 18 days old but remain as a family group for a year or longer.

Research is proving Western Scrub-jays, along with their several close cousins (Mexican Jay, Florida Scrub-jay, and Island Scrub-jay) are among the most intelligent of animals. The brain-to-body mass ratio of adult Scrub-jays rivals that of chimpanzees. Scrub-jays (and other corvids) are the only non-primates shown to plan for the future.



Bird of the Month

This intelligence is demonstrated by the Scrub-Jays storing food in scattered caches within their territories. They have highly accurate and complex memories to recover the hidden food stores, often after long periods of time. Western Scrub-Jays may also hoard and bury brightly colored objects. They do, however, have a mischievous streak and are not above downright theft from stores of other birds. They have been caught stealing acorns from the stashes of Acorn Woodpeckers and pine seeds from Clark's Nutcrackers. They even seem aware of their guilt, but it doesn't stop them from stealing, even from other Scrub-Jays. When the Jays hide their own acorns, they check first that no other Jays are watching. Scrub-Jays may help mule deer by picking ticks and other parasites off the animals. The deer seem to appreciate the cleansing and stand still, even holding up their ears, to give the Jays access.

Western Scrub-Jays usually forage in pairs, family groups, or non-related groups outside of the breeding season. Besides acorns and nuts, they may eat grains and berries, and, yes, even eggs and nestlings of other birds. Western Scrub-Jays were first located as apparent year-round residents in Umatilla County in 2009 when a pair was reported in Hermiston. These Scrub-Jays have remained in the same general location since at least April 2009 and probably nested, but no concrete evidence of the nesting has been reported. Additional Western Scrub Jays have also been reported this summer and fall on the McNary Golf Course, which is not far from McNary Dam.



Western Scrub Jay. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

The group of 9 Scrub-Jays near McNary Dam is the largest number recorded in Umatilla County. So far, this group has been regular visitors to the oak trees near the Fish Viewing Room since at least October 16, 2010. It appears, especially with their food-storing behavior, that these Jays plan to stay in the vicinity. However, there is no way to be sure what the Jays will do next or where they may go in the future. They may be starting to

colonize Umatilla County. Prior to the past two years, only an occasional straggler Scrub-Jay has been reported in Umatilla County.

The Pendleton Bird Club is interested in your observations of Western Scrub-Jays at McNary Dam and elsewhere in Umatilla County. Please report your sightings to Dave Herr (dsherr1@mac.com or 541-276-6413). Be sure to check the Club's newsletter to track the progress of Scrub-Jays' range expansion into Umatilla County.

By June Whitten

Some information for this article was obtained from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Scrub_Jay:
[ABOUT.COM:Birding/Wild Birds](http://ABOUT.COM/Birding/Wild_Birds)

Recommended Reading

from Jenny Barnett

BBC NEWS

Power lines 'invisible' to birds
By Ella Davies
Earth News reporter

Birds fly into power lines because they have "blind spots" in their field of vision, according to new research.

Vision experts found that cranes, bustards and storks were unable to see obstacles straight ahead when they tilted their heads downwards in flight.

Birds often look down during flight to find fellow birds as well as nesting and feeding areas, say the researchers.

The new evidence suggests that the problem cannot be prevented by altering the appearance of power lines.

Millions of birds are thought to be killed by hitting power lines globally each year.

Clear statistics are difficult to obtain because birds' remains are often scavenged before the cause of death can be recorded.

Despite efforts to make power lines more visible through the use of reflective markers and high-visibility tags, certain species still have high mortality rates from power line crashes.

Scientists from the Centre for Ornithology at the University of Birmingham, UK, studied three particularly affected species: kori bustards (*Aerdeotis kori*) blue cranes (*Anthropoides paradisea*) and white storks (*Ciconia ciconia*).

Their findings, published in the journal *Biological Conservation*, identify that these species share significant blind areas to the front of their heads.

Although the heavy bustard differs greatly in general body shape from the delicate crane and stork, the birds share a foraging technique - visually guiding their bill to take food items.

This technique requires excellent vision at the end of the bill, resulting in a narrow field of vision and wide "blind spots".

"Once we saw the wisdom of looking at the problem through birds' eyes rather than human eyes, it all made sense," says Professor Graham Martin.

"These birds can see straight ahead in flight but they only need to pitch their heads forward by a small amount and they will be blind in the direction of travel."



Many species of bird have been observed looking down during flight, possibly to locate fellow birds and suitable foraging and nesting sites.

Narrow binocular fields combined with birds' tendencies to look down effectively means certain species cannot see power lines until it is too late.

"Not all birds will be blind ahead when they look down but we can certainly suggest that this will apply in all crane and bustard species and probably in larger raptors including eagles and vultures," Professor Martin tells the BBC.

This new evidence could help to inform both ornithologists and power distribution companies seeking to avoid crashes.

"Simply putting devices on power lines to make them more conspicuous will not work in many situations... ways need to be found of decoying birds away from power wires at sites where collision rates are high," says Professor Martin.

Of the African birds studied, the blue crane is the most vulnerable according to the IUCN red list.

Conservationists point to power line incidents as a key factor in the blue cranes' population decline.

Story from BBC NEWS:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9140000/9140040.stm

Published: 2010/11/02 09:37:18 GMT

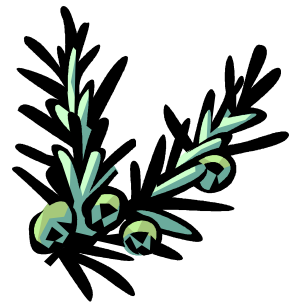
Winter Birds Are Arriving

As this newsletter goes to publication, the changing weather leaves no doubt that we're quickly transitioning from fall to winter. Our first snow of the season has just arrived, and the weatherman predicts the thermometer will drop to zero in Pendleton on November 23/24. If you feed birds, keep your feeders full because your birds will be dependent, more than ever, on the food you put out for them. Keep an eye on your feeders, too; you never know what rare or unusual bird might show up.



In addition to the regular clientele that visit your feeders, look for **Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, Lesser Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, and Harris's Sparrow** during this cold spell. Where birds congregate around feeders, they attract **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks**, to the consternation of many who feed birds. Be on the lookout for **Merlins**, as well; they are masterful bird hunters and are seen regularly in our area from October through March.

If you have fruit-bearing trees, such as mountain ash or juniper, in your yard or neighborhood, watch for both **Cedar** and **Bohemian Waxwings** feeding on the fruits. **Bohemian Waxwings**, which can be found (most years) between November and February, are fond of crabapples, too. The **Townsend's Solitaire** is another species that likes juniper berries, and they are sometimes seen in town in winter. In this snowy, cold weather, the secretive **Varied Thrushes** may become more visible as they are forced to forage out in the open. If you have an apple tree in your neighborhood and it still has apples, take an extra moment to look for a **Varied Thrush** feeding on the rotting fruit on or under the tree.



This is the time of year when **Anna's Hummingbirds** show up in our area. Duane and June Whitten saw a female Anna's at their hummingbird feeder on November 16. Last winter, Jennifer Karson-Engum first noticed her Anna's on December 5. If you provide the feeder, a hummingbird might find it and stay a day, a few days, or all winter.

If your birding adventures take you to the Columbia River and McNary Wildlife Nature Area this winter, you should see some **Bald Eagles, Greater Scaups, Common Goldeneyes, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Horned Grebes, Common Loons, Golden-crowned Sparrows**, lots of ducks on the ponds below McNary Dam, and many other species. A patient observer may also find **Barrow's Goldeneyes, Harris's Sparrows, Swamp Sparrow** (very rare, but probably annual), and **Western Scrub-Jays** (near the Fish Viewing Room). There could be as many as nine species of gulls along the Columbia River between McNary Beach Recreation Area and the Umatilla Marina: **Ring-billed, California, Mew, Glaucous-winged, Herring,**

Western (rare but regular), **Thayer's** (rare), **Bonaparte's** (in November and early December), and **Glaucous** (very rare). In the next month or so, look for the rare (in our area) **White-winged Scoter** and **Red-breasted Merganser** on the Columbia River.

Rough-legged Hawks and **Northern Shrikes** have returned from their Arctic and sub-Arctic breeding areas to spend the winter here. You can find them in the open, grasslands country: Juniper Canyon, Hwy 37, Athena area, Emigrant Road, Coombs Canyon Road, Mud Springs Canyon Road, Whitaker Flat, and the Ukiah area.

While looking for **Rough-legged Hawks** and **Northern Shrikes** you might also be lucky enough to see one of our



Common Redpoll. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

rarer winter birds that use similar habitat, such as **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**, **Lapland Longspur**, **Snow Bunting**, **American Tree Sparrow**, **Gyr Falcon**, and **Snowy Owl**.

Winter birding can be challenging due to cold, uncomfortable weather and poor road/driving conditions. However, winter is the only time of year when many species can be seen locally. If weather and road conditions are suitable, a day of birding can produce some interesting birds and reveal starkly beautiful winter landscapes. When you go birding this winter, please report your observations to Dave Herr (dsherr1@mac.com), so we can all read about your sightings in the newsletter.

Contributed by Aaron Skirvin

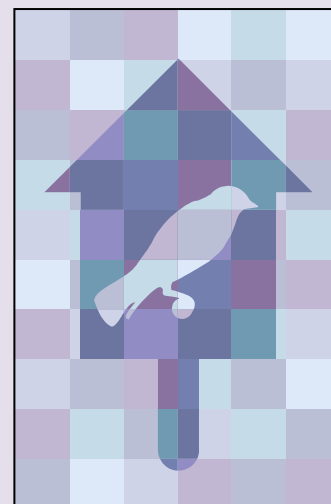
Winter Nest Box Information

from *Coverside Bird Houses*

(www.coverside.biz/winter-houses.htm)

Most people know that putting out a nest box will attract nesting birds in spring and summer. But did you know that small birds often use these same boxes for shelter at night, particularly in winter? Sometimes more than a dozen birds will pile into a single box to conserve heat. However, nest boxes are far from ideal for overnight roosting. They are usually too small for a group. Plus most birds need to perch or cling while roosting, and nest boxes have no perching surfaces inside.

You can help your backyard birds keep warm overnight with a specially designed winter roost box. Any backyard favorites that typically nest in boxes — bluebirds, chickadees, bushtits, nuthatches and small woodpeckers — may seek refuge in it.



Roosting boxes differ from nest boxes in several important ways. A good roost box is designed to prevent the birds' body heat from escaping, so, unlike a nest box, it lacks ventilation holes. Also, its entrance hole is near the bottom of the box so the rising warmth doesn't escape. Mount your roost box on a metal pole or a wooden post, and attach a metal baffle below the box to keep predators out. Place the box in a sheltered spot, out of prevailing winds. South-facing boxes receive the most warmth from the winter sun.

If you leave your box untreated it will weather naturally and be more attractive to birds. A coat of linseed oil on the outside of the box will make it last longer, but **never** paint or oil the inside of the box.



Editors' Note-

We thought you might be interested to know that our Pendleton Bird Club Newsletter is currently sent by email to 163 recipients!

October – November Bird Sightings

Although we are well into fall and daylight savings time is just a memory, there are still a lot of interesting birds to be found. At the last bird club meeting, Aaron Skirvin listed some of the fall birds to look for. Several of these species have already been found including **Blue Jay, Anna's Hummingbird** and **Pacific Loon**.

On the evening of October 18, Aaron Skirvin (Aaron) checked the birds at Cold Springs NWR. Among the **Long-billed Dowitchers, Killdeer,** and **Pectoral Sandpipers** were several **Dunlin**. Driving along Moorhouse Road on his return trip to Pendleton, Aaron saw one **Prairie Falcon**.

On a monitoring trip to check the Indian Lake Dam on October 20, Aaron, Ron Lee and Craig Kvern found a number of species at the lake including 2 **Clark's Grebes,** a **Western Grebe,** one **Common Loon,** 12 **American Wigeon,** 3 **Northern Pintails,** 5 **Ruddy Ducks,** 2 **Lesser Scaup** and several **Mallards**. There were also 2 **Bald Eagles,** a **Red-tailed Hawk,** a flock of **Red Crossbills,** 4 **Pine Siskins,** a **Steller's Jay** and a **Varied Thrush**.

October 23, Aaron and June Whitten (June) decided to check out the Columbia River to see if they could find a scoter. No scoter, but they did find 62 species including 2 county-year birds (an adult **Thayer's Gull** and **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW**). While driving by the fish ladder at McNary Dam they noted at least 6 **Western Scrub-Jays** picking up acorns under two oak trees just south of the Fish Viewing Room. The jays continued



Bird Sightings

to be seen in this area throughout this report period.

On October 23, I (Dave Herr) birded along Gurdane Road. As expected, most of the sparrows, so numerous along this route earlier in the fall, had moved on. I did find a few **Gray Partridges** along the road and in the white poplar grove found a male and female **Varied Thrush**.

Barbara and Andrew Clark drove up the McKay Creek Road on October 31. On their travels their sightings included 2 flocks of **Wild Turkeys,** **American Kestrels,** several **Red-tailed Hawks,** many **Ring-necked Pheasants,** several **California Quail** coveys and an immature **Bald Eagle**. The same day, Aaron and June birded in the northwestern section of the county finding a total of 61 species. Some of their more interesting finds included over **100 American Pipits,** many **Savannah Sparrows** and **Horned Larks** along the Speare Canyon Road. Below McNary Dam, there were **Bonaparte's Gulls,** a **Common Loon** and **Common Mergansers**. Above the dam was a large raft of **American Coots,** a male **Redhead,** **Common Loons,** and **Eared, Horned** and **Western Grebes**. At Warehouse Beach Recreation Area, they were able to pick out 2 **SURF SCOTERS,** the first found in the county this year.

November 1, Aaron, Bruce Mayfield, Katrina Dielman and Angela Baylink spent the day birding between Deadman Pass and McNary Dam. They saw lots of hawks, including many **Northern Harriers** and **Red-tailed Hawks,** one **Rough-legged Hawk,** a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** as well as 2 **Northern Shrikes**. They found a male **Dusky Grouse** along Emigrant Road a mile past Poverty Flat Road. Aaron



White-throated Sparrow. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.



reported that there are now lots of ducks and other waterbirds at McNary Wildlife Nature Area, and while checking the area they found an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, and a **Townsend's Solitaire**.

November 2, Connie Betts reported the Pendleton Community Park has a couple resident **Northern Flickers**, and flocks of **Canada Geese** flying over every day. However, she noted the number of **American Crows** seems to have thinned out. In her yard near McKay Creek Elementary School, Connie was seeing **Dark-eyed Juncos**, **American Goldfinches**, and a few **House Sparrows**.

While driving to their property NE of Albee on November 4, Joy and Steve Jaeger photographed a **Ruffed Grouse** as it strolled across the road in front of their car. The same day, Connie Betts spotted a **Townsend's Solitaire** in her neighborhood in SW Pendleton.

Birding below McNary Dam on November 6, Mike and MerryLynn Denny, John Gatchet and Neal Hinds found a number of interesting birds. A **SWAMP SPARROW** and **Pacific Loon** were new birds for the county year list. They also found an **Eared Grebe**, 9 **Western Scrub-Jays** near the fish ladder, a male **Eurasian Wigeon**, an **Orange-crowned**



Swamp Sparrow. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

Warbler, 14 **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, 65 **Wood Ducks** and a **Red-naped Sapsucker**.

Checking the bird feeders in her Grecian Heights yard on November 8, June spotted a **COMMON REDPOLL**. The following day Duane Whitten was also able to see this bird. **COMMON REDPOLL** is



Blue Jay. Photo by Lee Farren

a great find, since this species is not found in the county every year.

Veteran's Day, Rodger and Ginger Shoemake and Mike and MerryLynn Denny conducted the first northern Umatilla County raptor route survey of the season. Their count included **176 Red-tailed Hawks**, **56 American Kestrels**, 14 **Northern Harriers**, a **Rough-legged Hawk**, an unexpected **Ferruginous Hawk**, 6 **Cooper's** and one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and one **Great Horned Owl**. Along the route they also found a **Say's Phoebe**, **Snow Goose** and 2 **Northern Shrikes**.

At the Bird Club meeting on November 11, Dan Baum told the group of a recent sighting of a **Blue Jay** near NE Riverside Street in Pendleton. Apparently, another **Blue Jay** has been hanging around a residence on West Birch Creek Road south of Pilot Rock.

On a quick trip to the Columbia River on November 12, Aaron and June found several **Common Loons**, **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes**, a **Glaucous-winged Gull** and near McNary Dam a huge flock of **American Coots** with one **Redhead** and one **Eared Grebe**. Along with a number of **Western Grebes** and a **Clark's Grebe** below the dam they spotted 2 **Pacific Loons**. At the Hat Rock subdivision they found 2 **Bohemian Waxwings**. These are the first **Bohemian Waxwings** reported this fall.

November 13, Jack Simons saw his first **Bald Eagle** of the season along the Umatilla River behind his home between Pendleton and Mission. Jack believes

it may have been feeding on dead salmon. The same day, Connie Betts was enjoying watching some **Eurasian Collared-Doves**, **Morning Doves** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** in her yard, when an immature **Sharp-shinned Hawk** landed on her fence scaring everything away. The same day, Aaron, June and Bruce Mayfield birded the Columbia River and McNary Dam area. They found one **Pacific Loon** below the dam, and noted the **Eurasian Wigeon** reported earlier had moved to the pond next to the main parking lot. They found 9 **Scrub-Jays** by the fish ladder and 2 others near the McNary Golf Course. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was across the road from the Fish Viewing Room. Their most unusual sighting occurred in a harvested cornfield along Hwy 207 a mile north of the Umatilla River. They saw some **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in the field and stopped for a closer look. June reported there were **Eurasian Collared-Doves** everywhere and estimated between **150** and **200**, the most ever reported in one group in the county.

Also on November 13, Neal Hinds found a pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and a **Fox Sparrow** at the McNary Wildlife Nature Area. The next day, Jack Simons reported finding a **Rough-legged Hawk** across the Umatilla River from his property a couple miles east of Pendleton. This is only the second or third **Rough-legged Hawk** he has seen in his neighborhood in the past 10 or so years.

Checking Mission Ponds on November 15, Aaron spotted a **Western Grebe**, the first record for this species at the ponds. He also found **Mallards**, **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Hooded Mergansers**, **Ring-necked Ducks** and **American Coots**. As a **Bald Eagle** flew over the pond, Aaron reported that most of the ducks and coots scattered wildly.



Aaron and June birded south to Ukiah November 14. Their sightings included a **Barn** and a **Great Horned Owl**, **Northern Shrike**, **Cedar Waxwings**, 12 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** and one **Greater Sandhill Crane** at the Ukiah sewage ponds. Along the Texas Bar Road they found several **Townsend's Solitaires**, a **Canyon Wren** and some **Clark's Nutcrackers**. Along Camas Creek they saw a **Belted Kingfisher**, and driving across Camas Valley, 3 **Bald Eagles**.



Pacific Loon. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

Duane Whitten could hardly believe his eyes when he spotted a hummingbird at their feeder in SW Pendleton on the morning of November 16. Duane and June got several good views of a female **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** as it fed at the feeder several times. This is the first Anna's Hummingbird reported in Umatilla County since Jennifer Karson-Engum last saw "Anna" at her Pendleton feeder this past February. Unfortunately, the Anna's at Whitten's feeder didn't stay long. She was last seen about 9 a.m. on November 16; apparently, it made a brief refueling stop before moving on to parts unknown.



Eurasian Collared-Dove. Photo by Aaron Skirvin.

Winter birds continue to move into our area. So get out and do some birding and make sure your bird feeders are full. Please continue to send your bird sightings to me, Dave Herr at dsherr1@mac.com or call 541-276-6413.

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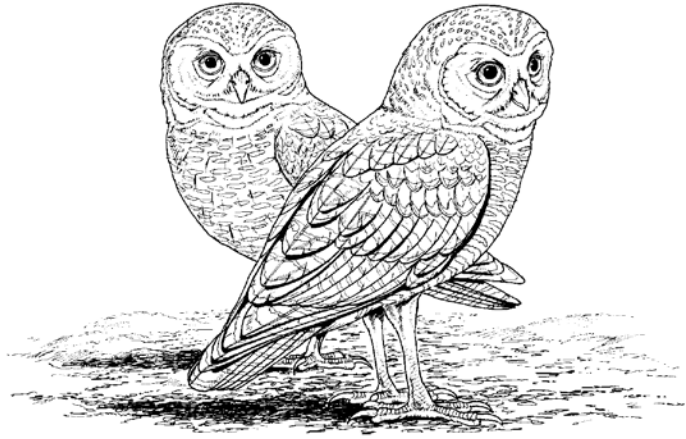
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