



Kákya Táymut

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

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Dream of Flight: Birds in Art and Literature

“Alison introduced their topic by saying their goal was to acquaint us with birds through metaphors and symbols that have been used in both art and literature...”

One of the main reasons the Bird Club sponsors guest speakers at its meetings is to expose members to fresh, innovative ideas that serve an educational purpose. With that goal in mind, Club members were treated to an excellent presentation on the relationship between birds, art and literature at our April meeting.

Guest speaker's Alison Timmons and Shannon Van Kirk enlightened 29 Club members on this topic at our April 8th potluck dinner. Alison is an English instructor at Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) and Shannon is the Director of the library at BMCC. Alison introduced their topic by saying their goal was to acquaint us with birds through metaphors and symbols that have been used in both art and literature in the past several hundred years. Judging by the audience reaction, our guests did not disappoint!



Alison Timmons (left) and Shannon Van Kirk give their presentation at our April Bird Club meeting.

Alison opened the presentation by using the bird family *Corvidae* (magpies, ravens and crows) as examples often found in art and literature. Magpies, for instance, are found on 6 continents and are known for their intelligence and hoarding behavior. Indeed, a ‘magpie’ is someone who collects things that have been discarded by others. It can also refer to someone who ‘chatters’ or talks constantly.

While a group of ravens is known as a “terror of ravens” a group of crows is known as “a murder of crows”. No wonder these birds carry the “symbol of death” with them wherever they go. Alison told us that, as carrion eaters, it would be likely to assume corvids have been seen feeding on deceased human remains which may explain why ravens have come to be known as the ‘prophets of doom’. Giving us a literary example, Alison pointed out Edgar Allen Poe’s ‘Quoth the raven, ‘Nevermore.’ in Poe’s poem, *The Raven*.

Moving from corvids to owls, Alison noted the wisdom of owls depicted in literature and how these birds are “finely tuned machines” which have given them special meaning in many native cultures. Alison pointed out that the Harry Potter series uses a Snowy



Owl (named Hedwig) as a wise, old bird. It turns out that the Snowy Owl is the symbol of Athena, Greek Goddess of Wisdom. Shannon mentioned numerous examples of owls in art from around the world including well know artists Robert Bateman, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and Charley Harper, a contemporary stylistic artist.

Charley Harper was born in 1922 and died in 2007. "In a style he called "minimal realism", Charley Harper captured the essence of his subjects with the fewest possible visual elements. When asked to describe his unique visual style, Charley responded:

When I look at a wildlife or nature subject, I don't see the feathers in the wings, I just count the wings. I see exciting shapes, color combinations patterns, textures, fascinating behavior and endless possibilities for making interesting pictures. I regard the picture as an ecosystem in which all the elements are interrelated, interdependent, perfectly balanced, without trimming or unutilized parts; and herein lies the lure of painting; in a world of chaos, the picture is one small rectangle in which the artist can create an ordered universe."¹



Moving on to raptors Alison noted that there are now over 100 sports teams in America that use bird names with hawks and eagles being the most popular. "Why use raptors to symbolize sports teams?" asked Alison.



Her answer is because raptors symbolize "intensity under pressure, keen eyesight and kingly" demeanor. Shannon displayed numerous examples in art that demonstrated these traits.

Pelicans, roosters and sparrows were highlighted next with Alison noting that the sparrow was the herald of spring in Thoreau's book entitled, *Walden*. In ancient times sparrows were often kept as pets and "have a way of connecting us to nature".

Their program ended most appropriately with a poem from Emily Dickinson called *Hope*. Dickenson defines hope by comparing it to a



bird (yet another bird metaphor in literature). The first stanza was displayed on the screen but I've copied the poem in its entirety here only because it is one of my favorites and a fitting ending to what was a great program.

Thank you for lifting our wings, Alison and Shannon! Dream of Flight, indeed.

Hope

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune — without the words,
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charley_Harper, Lewis, Rick (13 June), [Wildlife Artist Charley Harper Dead at 84](http://www.peoplelandandwater.gov/people/nps_06-12-07_wildlife-artist-dead.cfm), http://www.peoplelandandwater.gov/people/nps_06-12-07_wildlife-artist-dead.cfm, retrieved 30 Mar. 2009

Reported by Jack Simons

**Visit the Bird Club's website at
www.pendletonbirders.org**

Calendar of Events

Bird Club Field Trip

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Pendleton Bird Club and Blue Mountain Audubon

Joint field trip to look for

Great Gray Owls at Spring Creek & Marsh birds at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Arrowhead Truck Plaza, Exit 216 of I-84 to carpool to Spring Creek and Ladd Marsh

Questions? Contact Aaron Skirvin at umatbirder@yahoo.com or phone 541-276-1948

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., May 13, 2010

BREEDING BURROWING OWLS AT THE UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT

Presented by Don Gillis and Mike Gregg

**Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton**

Bird Club Picnic

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Battle Mountain and Albee areas

**Meet at 6 a.m. at Pendleton Safeway parking lot (NE corner)
For birding in the Albee area**

or

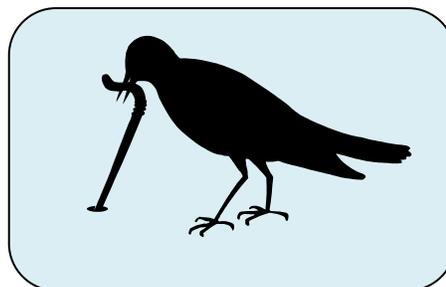
Meet at Battle Mountain State Park at noon for the picnic

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 14, 2010

Program to be determined

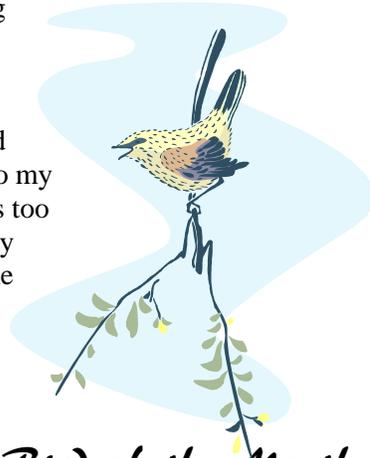
**Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton**



Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*

Submitted by Marilyn Cripe and June Whitten

Marilyn: The singing! Perching on the very top of our roof, then darting back and forth to the cupola on the barn, to one fence post and then another, declaring his territory or trying to attract a mate, catching passing insects and singing! This mystery bird looked like a small robin to my casual birding eye, but was too quick and was definitely fly catching! Binoculars came to my rescue and I could see the brownish-gray back and wings with a much darker head with a slight crest occasionally, and a black tail. This beautiful bird had a “peach” colored lower belly and under tail coverts (see photo by Tom Munson). Next, out came the bird books and I discovered my first (never to be forgotten) Say's Phoebe!



Bird of the Month

Marilyn & June: Resources vary in describing the underside colors; rusty, cinnamon, tawny, salmon, and rufous. Juveniles (April – August) also have that color in their two wing bars along with a yellow lower bill. Adult wing bars become inconspicuous; they have an all black bill and develop a black eye line. Their throat varies from pale gray to whitish.



Eastern Oregon is typical habitat of the Say's Phoebe as it prefers open country, arid grasslands, bluffs, cliffs and dry barren foothills. It is an infrequent visitor to eastern states. There is a huge latitudinal breeding range from the Arctic Ocean shore in Western Alaska south to Central Mexico.

Their favored foods are wild bees, wasps and ants, but they also eat flies, beetles, bugs,

moths, butterflies, crickets, grasshoppers, spiders, etc. Most commonly, they dart after “flying food”, but will also hover and drop to the ground to catch dinner. They regurgitate hard parts of insects in small pellets. They may occasionally eat some berries and probably seeds as well. On January 18, 1941, they arrived at a very snowy Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and seeds were assumed to be their major food source!

In our area, the north-bound migrants arrive as early as February and the southward migration begins gradually in August. A few of the phoebes over-winter in Umatilla County, as there are usually 1-3 birds reported each winter.

The open cup-shaped nests are built of weed stems, grasses, mosses, wool, empty cocoons, spider webs, and hairs. They are about 5-6 inches in diameter and are built on rocky shelves, crevices of cliffs and caves, natural cavities in trees, holes in banks, on rafters under bridges, and on horizontal beams inside open buildings such as cattle sheds and barns. Eggs are laid in March – July, usually 3-6 white eggs, although a few may have reddish or brown spots. The female incubates the eggs 12-14 days, both male and female feed the young which leave the nest 14-16 days after hatching. Second clutches are fairly common.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 opened up territory that needed to be explored! Major Stephen H. Long of the U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers led the 1819-20 exploration to the Rocky Mountains. Accompanying the expedition was Thomas Say, who became known as the “Father of American Zoology”. Say took detailed notes of the plants, animals, minerals and people they saw. Say made the first scientific description of the

coyote, Swift fox, Lazuli Bunting, Western Kingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Say's Phoebe, and various other birds. One bird he collected became the type for the genus *Sayornis*; ornis from a Greek word meaning bird. This bird was named Say's Bird by C.L. Bonaparte in 1825.



The Say's Phoebe is in the Tyrant Flycatcher family, in which some are known for their aggressiveness. Say's Phoebes are 7" to 8" long and are easily identified by their habit of leisurely jerking (wagging) their longish tail downward. Some sources say Phoebe comes from what the bird says, "fee-bee", but in case you can't hear that, go to: www.naturesongs.com

June: Look for the Say's Phoebe at the Highway 395 Bridge crossing Camas Creek just south of Ukiah, Mud Springs or Alkali Canyon Roads, and along the Rieth Road. The Say's Phoebes love the pastures and barn near the home of Gene and Marilyn Cripe. Call them at 541-443-1236 to arrange to see the phoebes.

Some of the information for this article was obtained from: En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Say; "Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies," by Harry Nehls, Mike Denny, and Dave Trochlell "Birds of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge," by Carroll D. Littlefield.

Garbage Bag Ospreys

Observed by Dave Herr

Many of you are familiar with the Osprey nest visible from the "Welcome to Pendleton" sign located at the east entrance into town. Last fall the nest blew down and Bird Club members wondered if the birds would rebuild this spring. On April 1, Aaron Skirvin noticed an



Osprey at the nest site, and indeed the nest was being rebuilt. This is not a total surprise because Ospreys often mate for life and have a predilection for returning to the same nest each year. What is totally surprising is what the birds are incorporating into their new nest.



On April 7, I was sitting in my car watching one of the Ospreys arranging sticks at the nest. While watching, I noticed a second Osprey returning to the nest with a full size black garbage bag flowing behind the bird. As I watched he began to incorporate the bag into the nest. Since then I have periodically checked the nest and have been amazed to find how much plastic detritus is being incorporated into the structure. The photo shows one of the birds adding a plastic supermarket bag.

I check some of the other local Osprey nests and although a few have used plastic baler twine hanging from them, none have the amount of plastic the east end birds have used. I also looked at pictures of Osprey nests on the Internet and none had plastic incorporated into the construction. I have no idea why the east-end birds used so much plastic in the rebuilding efforts, but it certainly makes for a unique nest. If you have not done so, drive by and check it out.

An Invitation

To: Pendleton Bird Club

From: Cathy Nowak, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
ODFW Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area, La Grande, Oregon

Event: Fifth Annual Ladd Marsh Birdathon

When: May 14 – 16, 2010

What: The Birdathon is a non-competitive celebration of birds and birding commemorating International Migratory Bird Day. With presentations Friday and Saturday evenings, a live raptor presentation Saturday afternoon, children's activities, field trips and staffed birding stations there is something for everyone at the Birdathon. Local birders will staff 6 stations from 6:00 am until noon Saturday to help novice birders locate and identify birds. Not-so-novice birders may also enjoy the spotting scopes at the stations. Field trips Saturday and Sunday will provide opportunities to bird elsewhere in Union County as well. For those more inclined to explore on their own, portions of the wildlife area normally closed to entry will be open to the public on this weekend only. Children's activities on Saturday



will include building a bird house, coloring a canvas tote, bird walks and the chance to earn a Junior Birder patch. Friends of Ladd Marsh will offer lunch as a fund raiser. Check the web page as details will be added as they come together:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/viewing/events/index.asp>

Some highlights from past Birdathons:

- Great-tailed Grackle viewed by all during lunch 2009
- Five American Bitterns in view from station in 2008
- A Sandhill Crane on the nest visible from a station in 2009
- 64 species seen from one station in 4 hours in 2007
- Sora and Virginia Rail seen at a station every year

Have Your Binoculars Handy

Be on the Lookout....these birds arrive between mid-April and mid-May

Blue-winged Teal
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Franklin's Gull
 Forster's Tern
 Wilson's Phalarope
 White-throated Swift
 Vaux's Swift
 Calliope Hummingbird
 Rufous Hummingbird
 Black-chinned Hummingbird
 Lewis's Woodpecker
 Western Kingbird
 Western Wood-Pewee
 Gray Flycatcher
 Dusky Flycatcher

Western Flycatcher
 Hammond's Flycatcher
 Warbling Vireo
 Cassin's Vireo
 Barn Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 House Wren
 Yellow Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Western Tanager
 Chipping Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow

Black-headed Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Bullock's Oriole
 Bobolink
 Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (peak of spring migration)



List supplied by Aaron Skirvin

Unusual Sighting

Observed by Jill Wyatt

On March 22 to 24, 2010, I was working out of town at the office in Baker City, Oregon, and staying at the Best Western Motel. The courtyard around the outdoor swimming pool at the motel had several trees with lots of small cherry-like berries. American Robins and a flock of Cedar Waxwings had been picking over the berries and eating them whole if they could work them down their beaks into their mouths. Watching the waxwings trying to swallow the oversized berries was comical entertainment. Plus, I

think the berries were a bit fermented because some waxwings were having a problem landing on branches and doing a lot of flapping in the process.

On the last morning of my stay, I slowly opened the curtains of my second floor room and watched a Cedar Waxwing that looked like a yellow canary with white wings. It had the waxwing's crest and facial markings, but otherwise the plumage was unlike a typical Cedar Waxwing. It sat only about 5 to 6 feet from my window, perched on a branch



eyeing the nearby berries. Since I did not have a bird book or binoculars with me, I quickly ran for my bird books when I got home. Neither Sibley nor National Geographic showed juvenile birds with this striking coloration. I decided the bird I'd seen was an albino or leucistic Cedar Waxwing.

March - April Bird Sightings

Compiled by Dave Herr

Today (April 12), the first flock of migrating **White-crowned Sparrows** arrived at my bird feeders. It's fun to see these sparrows with their bright new "white-crowns." And for the last couple of weeks the number of new birds added to the county year list has increased. Finally, spring migration is starting to "heat up."



Bird Sightings

March 17, Jack Simons found the year's first **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at his home between Pendleton and Mission. March 20, Neal Hinds birding at Cold Spring NWR's Memorial Marsh found one **Eurasian Wigeon** and a small flock of **Violet-green Swallows**. Neal also reported a large flock of **Tundra Swans** resting on the main reservoir.

Returning from a trip to Stevenson, Washington to view a **Tufted Duck** March 20, Aaron Skirvin (Aaron), June Whitten (June) and Connie Betts located the year's first **Sage Thrasher** along Mac Hoke Road south of Nolin near the Cunningham Sheep Headquarters. On the return trip, they also found **380 Sandhill Cranes** in the Echo Meadow area as well as **2 Long-billed Curlews**. In the grasslands west of Pilot Rock they found a total of **5 Ferruginous Hawks**.

March 21, Aaron and June located 2 new county year birds near the summit of Battle Mountain along Highway 395: **Williamson's Sapsucker** and **Cassin's Finch**. Driving on the Albee Road they counted **12 Western Bluebirds** and on the Cable Creek Road, near Ukiah, found **5 Mountain Bluebirds**. Several **Rough-legged Hawks** were scattered between Alkali Canyon Road and Camas Prairie. The same day, Ann Wyatt saw a male

Spotted Towhee on the ground below her feeders in SW Pendleton. Aaron noted that **Spotted Towhees** are starting their northern migration, and the bird Ann found was probably a migrating bird.

March 22, Dave Irons and Shawneen Finnegan, birders from Western Oregon stopped at McNary Wildlife Nature Area. They found **2 Harris's Sparrows** together in a mixed flock of **White-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**. March 25, Aaron found one **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the Wildhorse Golf Course Ponds.

Walking behind his home along the Umatilla River the following day, Jack Simons found a bird he could not readily identify. After consulting his bird books, Jack feels confident it was a juvenile **Northern Shrike**. On March 26, Jack saw the leucistic **Mourning Dove** at his feeder for the first time since last fall. March 28, Jack flushed **8 Greater White-fronted Geese** from Mission Ponds.

March 28, Aaron and June birded at Echo Meadows, Stanfield Meadows and Memorial Marsh. They found **2 American Avocets** (first for the year) along Rosenberg Road on Echo Meadows. Two **Long-billed Curlews** were attracted to a pasture just beginning to be flooded in the same area. One **Eurasian Collared-Dove** and one **Long-billed Curlew** were along North Loop Road a couple miles



Ferruginous Hawk on nest. Photo by A. Skirvin.

NE of Stanfield and two **Black-necked Stilts** were at Memorial Marsh, Cold Springs NWR. March 30, Connie Betts found a **Townsend's Solitaire** in her yard.



The first **Burrowing Owl** of the year was seen on March 29 by Don Gillis at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Don reported that because of the amount of disturbance at the entrance to the artificial burrow, the owls must have been there at least a week before he saw them. April 1, Aaron reported that the “East End” **Ospreys** had returned to their nest site in Pendleton, and they immediately began rebuilding their nest that blew off the pole last fall. (See the short note about this nest rebuilding elsewhere in this newsletter). Within the next few days, several others reported seeing returning **Ospreys**.



Violet-green Swallow. Photo by Joy Jaeger.

April 1, Craig Kvern found 2 **Long-billed Curlews** in the same field with a bunch of **Ring-necked Pheasants** along Motanic Road about 3 miles south of Wildhorse Casino. Driving up the Umatilla River on April 3, Diana LaSarge found an immature **Bald Eagle**, 4 male **bluebirds** (either Western or Mountain), and a **Steller’s Jay** near the Reservation boundary along Bingham Road.

On April 6, I (Dave Herr) birded at Memorial Marsh. My target species was **Cinnamon Teal**, and I did find one male. There were also a good number of **Northern Shovelers** along with the other expected duck species and a flock of swallows that included both **Violet-green** and **Tree**. On the evening of the same day, Jack Simons counted at least **25 Green-winged Teal** at Mission ponds.

April 7, Aaron, his daughter Christina and grandson Gabriel, had a picnic dinner at McKay Reservoir. However, before dinner, they birded south on Highway 395. Here they found 5 **Long-billed Curlews** flying over the junction of Highway 395 and Yellow Jacket Road and 2 **Barn Owls** in a crevice in the basalt cliffs along the highway. Although birding at McKay was slow, they did find **Double-crested Cormorants**, **Ring-billed Gulls**, **18 American Pipits** and 7 **American White Pelicans** soaring high over the



Reservoir. However, the best bird of the trip was a light phase **Swainson’s Hawk** that flew over while they were eating. This is the first report of a **Swainson’s Hawk** this year in the county.

Jenny Barnett and Tanya Harrison conducted the annual **Long-billed Curlew** survey at Wanaket Wildlife Area April 7. Jenny noted they found only **3 Long-billed Curlews**, a fraction of the curlews they normally find, which usually ranges from 14 to 21 birds. They did have a “3 goose day”, sighting one **Greater White-fronted Goose**, 2 **Snow Geese** and a flock of **Canada Geese**. They also found a **Vesper Sparrow**, the first reported for the year.

At the bird club meeting April 8, Donna Murdock reported finding **several Golden-crowned Kinglets** in her Pendleton North Hill yard, Lyle Brown reported the Hermiston **Scrub Jays** are still being seen, and Phil Emert reported seeing about **500 Sandhill Cranes** at Echo Meadows on April 4.

April 9, Dolly Robison saw a flock of 10 **Violet-green Swallows** flying over the Forest Service Warehouse next to the Washington School in SE Pendleton. Later the same day, Aaron and June drove to Indian Lake to see if they could call up a Great Gray Owl, but the only owl species they found on the trip was a calling **Western Screech-Owl** along East Birch Creek Road.



Long-billed Curlew. Photo by Rose Scott.

April 10, Aaron and June birded in the northern part of the county, tallying a total of 67 species including 4 new species for the year that included **Cliff Swallow**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Tricolored Blackbird**, and a **Caspian Tern**. Later in the day, Aaron checked out McKay Reservoir and found 23 species including **Least Sandpipers** and **Dunlin**. Aaron notes with the low water, there might be good shorebirding at the reservoir this spring.

Checking the McNary Wildlife Nature Area on April 10, Ann Wyatt reports there are still a few **Golden-crowned Sparrows** in the area. Earlier in the week, Karen Baxter saw and photographed the year's first **Lincoln's Sparrow** in the Wildlife Nature Area.

Jack and Sharon Simons monitored the Albee Bluebird Trail on April 11 and also birded as they checked the boxes. Along the way they found **24 hawks** including **12 Northern Harriers**. They found a **Golden Eagle** at Whitaker Flats, a **Prairie Falcon** on the rim rocks of Jack Canyon, **2 Long-billed Curlews** and a **Barn Owl** in a crevice in the cliffs south of Pilot Rock. Also birding in the southern part of the county the same day, Aaron and June tallied **82 species** and had a "grand slam, 4-*Buteo* day" (**Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Swainson's** and **Ferruginous Hawks**).

On the trip they also spotted both species of **shrike** (**Northern** and **Loggerhead**), and located the first **Canyon Wren** of the year.

Jack Simons is keeping track of the nesting birds near his home along the Umatilla River between Pendleton and Mission. At last count, Jack reports there are 3 nesting **Red-tailed Hawks** within a ¼ mile of each other. In the same area there is a nesting **Osprey** and a **Great Horned Owl** nest with one huge chick. Jack wonders how there could be enough prey in this small area to support the 4 nests. Checking Mission Ponds the evening of April 15, Jack found waterfowl numbers increasing. Along with the normal mix of **Green-winged Teal, Mallards** and **American Wigeon**, he found 4 **Buffleheads**, 2 female **Ruddy Ducks** and 2 male **Northern Shovelers**.

Rich Scheele, biologist at the Wanaket Wildlife Area, added another new species to the county year list when he found 2 **Long-billed Dowitchers** using the area April 16. The evening of April 16, Connie Betts checked McKay Reservoir; among the more expected species, she found one **Common Loon** and an amazing **400 Northern Shovelers**. Connie reports that large numbers of migrating

White-crowned Sparrows have started showing up in her yard. Also on April 16, Craig Kvern and Ron Lee were at Indian Lake and reported the lake was mostly ice-free, and they saw a couple hundred **ducks** and one immature **Bald Eagle**.

April 17, Marilyn Cripe reported the first-of-the-season **Rufous Hummingbird** (a female) "drinking from the bright yellow blossoms of the Siberian Pea scrub" in her yard near Upper McKay Creek.

Birding with Diana LaSarge on April 17, Aaron and Diana added a number of new birds to the county year list including: **White-throated Swifts** at the Rieth cliffs, **Bank Swallows** at Nolin and **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Echo Meadow. In addition they found 4 **Common Loons** at McKay Reservoir and reported **Northern Shovelers** are now common throughout the area. The same day, Neal Hinds added **Bonaparte's Gull** to the year list when he spotted one at



Chukar. Photo by Connie Betts.

Memorial Marsh, Cold Springs NWR. Neal also found 3 **Dunlins** and 4 **Least Sandpipers** at Memorial Marsh.

On April 18, June and Aaron birded through the central part of the county from Nolin to Emigrant Springs State Park. Highlights of their trip included a flock of 5 **Wild Turkeys** just west of Rieth; three small flocks of **American White Pelicans** in the Umatilla River between Yoakum and Nolin; a **Ferruginous Hawk** in the cliffs near Yoakum; 2 **Sage Thrashers** along Mud Springs Canyon Road; 3 **Swainson's Hawks** along Mud Springs Canyon Road; 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** (another 4-*Buteo* day); 2 **Chukars** in Jack Canyon; a lone **Western Kingbird** at Pilot Rock; a pair each of **American Avocets** and **Black-necked Stilts** at Pilot Rock sewer ponds; 8 **Common Loons** at McKay Reservoir; a **Pileated Woodpecker** at Emigrant Springs State Park; a male **Mountain Bluebird** along old Highway 30 on Emigrant Hill; and a calling **Virginia's Rail** at Mission Ponds.

With new migrants showing up every day, now is a great time to be out birding. In the next few weeks, watch for the multitudes of warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, and other species as they move through the local areas.



So please continue to send us your bird sightings.
For next month only, sightings should be sent to
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