



Newsletter of The Pendleton Bird Club

Kákya Táymut

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

Volume 8, No. 10 Pendleton, Oregon October 2010

A Ruff Comes to be Counted: #308 for Umatilla County

A Ruff at Cold Springs NWR observed by several viewers on October 9, 10, and 11 was a welcome addition to the Bird Club's year list. Not only was the Ruff a county-year bird, it was the first ever recorded Ruff in Umatilla County making it the county's 308th species on record!

"What is a Ruff?" More than a few people made this comment, so June Whitten has made it our *October Bird of the Month!*

A Ruff is a medium-sized shorebird, varying in size from 8 to 12 inches, with the males averaging 20 percent larger than the females. Where did they receive the name of Ruff? A ruff is a high frilled or pleated collar popularly worn by both men and women in the 16th and 17th centuries. The male Ruff has a large, beautiful ruff of feathers which is inflated only during the breeding season. Think of the male Ruffed Grouse, common to Umatilla County, which can also display a ruff of feathers in the breeding season.

Ruffs are rare but regular migrants on both the Pacific and Atlantic coastal areas, where single birds are usually seen. It is a species that breeds in Eurasia, and Ruffs are often in huge concentrations (up to 1 million in West Africa) away

from their breeding areas. They breed from Britain and Scandinavia to Eastern Siberia, usually in moist Arctic tundra as well as freshwater marshlands, and winter primarily in sub-Saharan Africa with smaller numbers throughout Western Europe, the Middle East, India, Indochina, and Southern Australia. They have been recorded (once or twice) breeding on the Arctic tundra of Alaska. Ruffs are usually found near freshwater, grassy habitats, but sometimes in coastal pools.

The breeding ritual of Ruffs is somewhat complicated, mostly due to the males appearing in three distinct

plumages. The main breeding males, referred to as the territorial males, with colored ruffs of mostly black or chestnut feathers, form onto leks much like our Greater Sage-Grouse. Each male has a territory about 1 yard across where they show a high degree of aggression toward the other males. In fact, their Latin name, *Philomachus pugnax*, means fond of fighting. They perform an



Ruff, juvenile female. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

elaborate display that includes wing fluttering, jumping, and crouching with ruff erect, or upright and lunging at rival males. These males make up about 84 percent of the male population and they do mate regularly with the females, which are sometimes referred to as reeves. Mating occurs outside of the lek.

The males of the second group, about 16 percent of the total males, are referred to as satellite males and have white or mostly white ruffs. They loiter near the leks and attempt, often successfully, to mate with the females. They do not perform the mating ritual on the leks. The territorial males do not object to the presence of the satellite males as they draw more females toward the lek.

A third type of male, recently described in 2006, is a permanent female mimic, the first such reported for a bird. About 1 percent of the males are small, intermediate in size between males and females, and do not grow the elaborate breeding plumage of either of the other males. These cryptic males obtain access to the leks together with the females and “steal” matings. These males are called “faeders,” an old English term for father. Despite their feminine appearance, the faeders migrate with the larger “normal” males and spend the winter with them.

More than half of the female Ruffs mate with and have clutches fertilized by more than one male. Individual females mate with males of both main morphs more often than expected by chance. In species that use leks, females can choose mates without risking the loss of support from males in nesting and rearing chicks, since the males take no part in raising the brood anyway.

The nest is a shallow scrape on the ground, lined with grass and leaves. It is concealed in marsh plants or tall grasses up to 400 yards from the lek. Nesting is solitary, although several females may nest in the general vicinity of a lek. The typical clutch is 4 eggs, which are slightly glossy, green or olive and marked with dark blotches. Incubation time by the female alone is 20 – 23 days with a further 25 – 28 days to fledging. The chicks are buff and chestnut down, streaked with black and frosted with white. They feed themselves on a variety of small invertebrates but are brooded by the female.

Ruffs normally feed using a steady walk and pecking action, selecting food items by sight. During the breeding season, the diet consists almost exclusively of the adults and larva of terrestrial and aquatic insects. During migration and on the wintering grounds, Ruffs eat mostly small insects, crustaceans, spiders, worms, small fish and frogs, and rice and maize where available.

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Ruffs were formerly considered a delicacy in England where on one occasion, 2,400 ruffs were served at Archbishop Neville’s enthronement banquet in 1465. The birds were usually netted at the lek. The heavy toll on breeding birds together with loss of habitat through drainage meant that the species became almost extinct in England by the 1880’s. Recolonization has occurred in small numbers since

1963. The most important breeding populations in Europe, Russia, and Scandinavia are remaining stable.

Each time the Ruff at Cold Springs NWR was observed, it was very actively feeding, walking rather rapidly and constantly pecking in the wet mud along the shore. Its legs were quite long, the bill was longer than the head and most of the visible feathers along the back and wings were black-centered with beige edges. This Ruff was no more

than 10 inches in length and was probably a young female.

Will another Ruff visit Umatilla County? The question is: *when* will another Ruff visit Umatilla County and will it be observed? More than likely, this is not the first Ruff to stop by Cold Springs NWR, or some other likely location in Umatilla County. While they certainly are rare, it takes a certain amount of luck and skill to find them. So, it is up to you, birders, to be alert for rare birds, while checking out all of

the beautiful more common species in Umatilla County.

Some of the information for this article was obtained from: The Shorebird Guide; Michael O’Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson and from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruff>

Submitted by June Whitten



Ruff, adult in flight. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.



Calendar of Events

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 11,
2010

A BIRDING ADVENTURE – SOUTHERN AFRICA

Presented by Terry Steele

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

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

Pendleton Bird Club meetings for new year off to a great start

by Ann Wyatt

The October 14th kickoff Bird Club meeting program was spent “grousing” with Jenny Barnett and Mike Gregg. Their audio visual presentation of the family *PHASIANIDAE* was an in-depth, up close, and personal meeting with “THE GROUSE OF THE WORLD”.

Starting with the North American grouse and working through the Eurasian species to the notable subspecies, Jenny Barnett’s discussion of each bird



included its tongue-twisting Latin classification, distribution, habitat, conservation status, size, diet, breeding systems, and differences between the sexes.

No lek was left unvisited from the largest grouse, the nearly turkey-size Western Capercaillie, to the rarest grouse and a notable subspecies, the “Waddley Grouse” (“*Obesia Rotundus*”).

Those present gave Jenny and Mike a rousing “well done” for an excellent, informative program presented with delightful humorous incidents while studying the birds. All wished Jenny well on her new position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Cheney, WA. Both will be missed and welcomed back whenever their time and responsibilities permit.

Visit the Bird Club’s website at
www.pendletonbirders.org



About Jenny Barnett...

I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, between 4 and 5 decades ago. Fortunately, my parents moved to Laramie, Wyoming, when I was 5. I attended primary, secondary, and college education in Laramie, receiving a BS in Zoology from the University of Wyoming in 1987.

My dad has a minor interest in birds, and I remember him pointing out western tanagers and yellow warblers when they stopped in our yard during migration



Jenny Barnett and husband Mike Gregg took the time to educate club members on the uniqueness of grouse species in the world.

season. We also noted the waxwings (not sure which species) that would get drunk on fermented berries on the big bush outside our living room window. Although not birders, my parents loved the mountains. We spent many summer vacations and weekend outings in the national forest lands outside Laramie, where we would hike and fish, and mom would identify wildflowers.

I came out to Oregon in 1989, to do graduate work at Oregon State University. I studied sage grouse for my master's thesis, and graduated with an MS in Wildlife Science in 1992. I met my husband, Mike Gregg, on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, where I was a prospective grad student and he was my tour guide. We worked together studying sage grouse on Hart for 2 years. I also got introduced to birding through our grad school buddies at Hart Mountain. I decided to learn to ID birds so I could run Breeding Bird Survey routes and do other bird survey work. It just sounded like fun. I remember

getting teased because I was so slow to learn the song of a common bird around Hart HQ — the American Robin. I finally figured out the ID tricks, and I've been running Breeding Bird Surveys for over 15 years now.

Outside of work, I enjoy hiking and casual birding. I've especially enjoyed birding in other states and countries through my travels. Mike got involved with the International Grouse Symposium, which has allowed us opportunities to travel to and view grouse and other birds in Finland, China, France and Canada. With luck, we'll view Japanese Rock Ptarmigan near Nagano, Japan next July.

THE BIG SIT!

by June Whitten

October 10, in spite of a forecast of rain, turned out to be a beautiful day for birding the "Big Sit!" The Pendleton Bird Club sponsored three sites this year: Mission Ponds by Jack Simons and Marilyn Cripe, Cold Springs NWR by Aaron Skirvin and Neal Hinds, and the McNary Wildlife Pond and the Columbia River by June Whitten.

Aaron estimated about 1,000 shorebirds at Cold Springs NWR, a great number of which were Killdeer. He did



Great Egret. Photo by Aaron Skirvin.

record Least, Western, and Pectoral Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, both Western and Clark's Grebes, and quite a few duck and gull species. Bonaparte's Gulls were a little unusual for Cold Springs. And, of course, the bird of the day, the Ruff, was still present! The Ruff was a juvenile, probably a female, since it was no more than



10 inches in length, with very beautiful black feathers with buffy fringing. The bird counters recorded 39 species at Cold Springs NWR during the "Big Sit!"



Wilson's Snipe. Photo by Rose Scott.

Jack and Marilyn took turns checking out the species near Mission Ponds: Jack in the morning and Marilyn in the afternoon. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were a nice addition to their list of 25 species. One Ring-necked Duck swam with the American Wigeons and Mallards. Marilyn spotted a Great Egret in the afternoon, apparently the first one to be at Mission Ponds in several weeks.

The highlight of the Columbia River site was a group of 22 Wilson's Snipes resting on a little rocky outcropping into the river. Some of the snipes were in the tall grass, and there were probably more than 22, with some hiding in the grass. After a good rest, they departed for parts unknown. A Common Tern was a good bird from this location, as well as the usual gulls and ducks. Many Wood Ducks are now using the pond. Two Black-crowned Night-Herons showed up as well as several Western Grebes. A total of 20 species was observed at the Columbia River location.

So, until next year, the "Big Sit!" is over. It is always a fun day and relaxing birding from a lawn chair!

Big Sit! Addendum from Editor Jack Simons:

I thought you might want to peruse The Big Sit! results for Oregon (or any other state). Copy the following link into your browser then scroll down to Oregon and click on the name of the circle...

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigisit/2010/circles.php>

Preparing For Winter Birds

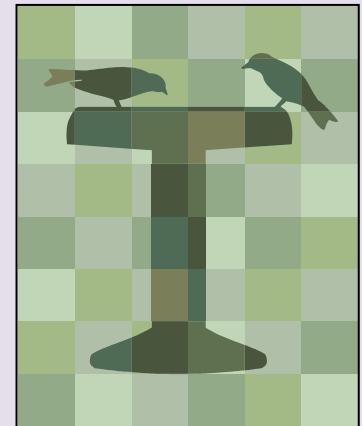
Submitted by Barbara Clark

For those who feed birds throughout the year, the time has come to prepare for your visiting birds during the coldest time of the year.

Take Stock of Feeders

During winter, birds need high calorie foods to keep warm especially during cold nights.

Now is the perfect time to clean and repair your feeders and replace any that cannot be fixed. Clean your feeders with warm, soapy water, and sanitize them with a 10% bleach solution.



Provide Shelter

Cold winds strip heat from birds very quickly. Birds will seek refuge from the wind in dense vegetation, natural cavities or roosting boxes. Roosting boxes provide birds with a warm, dry location that can help protect them from cold, nasty winter weather.

Offer Water

Birds need water in winter to maintain their feathers for effective insulation. Use a heated bird bath or add a heater to your existing concrete, plastic, metal or stone bird bath. This will help make some water available even on the coldest day. Some concrete baths with an added heater may not be able to handle freezing weather. To be safe, place a plastic bird bath dish with a heater on the existing pedestal.

*Adapted from information by **Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop***

Next month our newsletter *Kakya Taymut* will feature an article on building and maintaining bird houses. We welcome information and experience from our readers. Send your contributions to bainbrid@gmail.com or call Barbara Clark at 541-278 1252.



Report on Efforts To Move Nesting Terns From Columbia River To Interior Oregon

Recommended reading by editor Aaron Skirvin

Caspian terns can be recruited to new colony sites (i.e., islands in Crump Lake and Summer Lake Wildlife Area) from existing breeding colonies (i.e., East Sand Island) over considerable distances, according to the preliminary conclusions of a study of Caspian tern nesting in interior Oregon and the San Francisco Bay area during 2009.

"Caspian Tern Nesting Ecology and Diet in San Francisco Bay and Interior Oregon" also preliminarily concludes that Caspian terns are more easily recruited to nest at sites with a prior history of tern nesting, as compared to sites with no history of tern nesting (i.e., Fern Ridge Reservoir west of Eugene, Ore.). The draft completed in September can be found at:

http://www.birdresearchnw.org/CEDocuments/Downloads_GetFile.aspx?id=399303&fd=0

The study is part of an ongoing research project that is a joint, collaborative project between Oregon State University, Real Time Research Inc., and the USGS-Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Its goal is to investigate the ecology of piscivorous colonial waterbirds (primarily, Caspian terns, double-crested cormorants, American white pelicans, and several gull species) and their impacts on the survival of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River basin and elsewhere along the Pacific Coast.

The report has been prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, for the purpose of assessing accomplishments of an ongoing project aimed dispersing a portion of the world's largest Caspian tern colony, which is located at East Sand Island near the mouth of the Columbia River. A tern management plan envisions moving terns to alternative colony sites in interior Oregon and the San Francisco Bay area, as well as other locations, so that fewer of the avian predators remain in the Columbia

estuary to prey on juvenile salmon and steelhead migrating toward the Pacific Ocean. Many of the young fish are members stocks that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

East Sand was created by the Corps with the deposits of sand dredged from the main Columbia River navigation channel as part of normal maintenance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also involved in the project in its role as a protector of migratory birds. The research is largely funded by federal entities, including the Bonneville Power Administration.



Caspian Tern. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

The 2009 research also showed that the diet of Caspian terns nesting at alternative colony sites identified in the USFWS's January 2005 Final Environmental Impact Statement regarding the tern relocation project (i.e., Brooks Island, Crump Lake, and Summer Lake Wildlife Area) consisted mostly of forage fishes that are neither listed under the ESA nor of significant economic value

for commercial, recreational, or subsistence fisheries.

The researchers also preliminarily conclude that:

- the availability of suitable sites for breeding colonies was the main factor limiting the number and size of tern colonies in both the San Francisco Bay area and interior Oregon, and
- nesting success at existing colonies was limited by attributes of those colony sites as they influenced (a) quality of nesting substrate, (b) susceptibility to mammalian and avian nest predators, (c) displacement by other colonial waterbirds, and (d) human disturbance.

As part of the project management plan the Corps completed construction of two 1-acre islands and two 0.5-acre islands at sites in interior Oregon that were in use by terns during 2009. Under the management strategy a half acre of suitable habitat at East Sand can be rendered unfit for every acre of suitable tern habitat that is created elsewhere. The goal is to reduce the East Sand colony size by two-thirds. That could mean a reduction in the amount of suitable



habitat there from just under 5 acres to as little as one acre.

The new islands are specially-designed tern islands included a 1-acre island on Fern Ridge completed February 2008), a 1-acre island on Crump Lake in the Warner Valley, northeast of Lakeview, Ore, in the south-central part of the state (completed March 2008), and two 0.5-acre islands at Summer Lake Wildlife Area, also in south-central Oregon near the town of Summer Lake (completed March 2009).

Following the construction of these islands and before the arrival of Caspian terns from their wintering grounds, Caspian tern decoys and acoustic playback systems that broadcast Caspian tern calls were deployed on all the islands to attract nesting Caspian terns.

Birds banded previously for identification purposes were spotted nesting at the new interior Oregon sites and at colony sites in San Francisco Bay.

From The Columbia Basin Bulletin at www.cbulletin.com.

September-October Bird Sightings

Compiled by Dave Herr

Fall is here, and I (Dave Herr) hope the lovely weather we've been having sticks around, but clouds and fog are surely just around the corner. Some of our fall visitors are starting to show up.

Dark-eyed Juncos are moving down from the mountains into the valley and now large flocks of **White-crowned Sparrows** are quite common. I've had up to 30 **Pine Siskins** at my thistle feeders lately; another sign that fall is here.

Many of the reports this period included sightings of shorebirds that stopped briefly during their southerly fall migration.

Checking McKay Reservoir September 22, Aaron Skirvin (Aaron) found a few shorebird species including **Western** and **Least Sandpipers**, **Killdeer**

and 4 **Long-billed Dowitchers**. There was one lone **Greater White-fronted Goose**, a "flock" of 8 **Great Blue Herons** loafing in the shallows, and Aaron got a quick glimpse of a **Merlin** as it flew by. However, the best find of the evening was a **Gray Flycatcher**.

September 23, Jack Simons reported seeing flocks of **White-crowned Sparrows** behind his home along the Umatilla River just east of Pendleton. He noted that there are still a few **Turkey Vultures** hanging around, less than a dozen, far fewer than he had been seeing a few weeks ago.

On September 25, Neal and Sandi Hinds reported 7 or 8 **Common Terns** below McNary Dam and at Cold Springs Reservoir a

Semipalmated Plover, 2 **Black-bellied Plovers** (county year bird), one **Sanderling**, several **Pectoral Sandpipers** and one large plover on the north shore. Ten members of the Bird Club participated in the trash cleanup project at McKay Creek NWR on September 25. There wasn't much opportunity for birding, but they did see one adult **Common Tern** flying over the upper end of the reservoir.

September 26, Aaron and June Whitten (June) spent the morning birding in the west part of the county. They scanned the shore of Cold Springs Reservoir and were able to identify **Pectoral**, **Western**, and **Least Sandpipers** and a **Sanderling**. A plover they had spotted earlier moved closer, and they identified it as an **AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER**, a county year bird. As they drove to Warehouse Beach Recreation Area along the Columbia River, they noted many **White-crowned** and **Savannah Sparrows** along the route. Scoping from the river, they sighted **Herring**, **Glaucous-winged**, **Ring-billed** and **California Gulls**. An **Eared Grebe** and



Merlin. Photo by Dave Herr.



several **Pied-billed Grebes** were also in the area. Below McNary Dam, they saw **Common Terns** that Neal Hinds had reported seeing the previous day. The same day, I checked Gurdane Road for migrating birds and found quite a few birds, including 5 species of sparrows at the old “town site” of Gurdane: **Lincoln’s, White-crowned, Fox, Savannah, and Vesper.**

Also on the 26th, Connie Betts reported seeing either a **Merlin** or **Cooper’s Hawk** chasing a squirrel in her yard near McKay Creek in SW Pendleton. The squirrel escaped! The following morning Connie checked McKay Reservoir. Along with the more common birds, she noted thousands of **Canada Geese, Mallard, American Wigeon, Western Grebe, American Coot, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Ring-billed** and **California Gulls**. Two **Northern Harriers** swooping over the mud flats scared all the shorebirds. Returning to the Reservoir later in the day Connie did find **24 Killdeer** and **20 Western Sandpipers**.

Checking below McNary Dam on the 28th, I found a number of **Common Terns** and one immature **Forster’s Tern**. Connie Betts reported finding **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and several **White-crowned Sparrows** in Pendleton Community Park on September 29. Neal Hinds and Portland birder Stefan Schlick found 2 **Black-bellied Plovers**, a **Semipalmated Plover**, and several **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Cold Springs NWR on October 2. Later that day, Stefan found several **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** NE of Tollgate but was not able to find a Boreal Owl along the Kendal-Skyline Road in Umatilla County or Wallowa County. The following day, Stefan saw a **Prairie Falcon**, a



American Golden Plover. Photo by Mike Danzenbaker.

Peregrine Falcon, and 4 **Black-bellied Plovers** at Cold Springs NWR. Joy and Steve Jaeger spent the weekend of October 2 and 3 at their property NE of Albee. They found a number of species including a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** harassing the local **Steller’s Jays**, a number of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, migrating **White-crowned Sparrows**, and a few bluebirds.

Visiting Indian Lake on October 6, Craig Kvern watched a mature **Bald Eagle** “strafing” ducks – it made 4 or 5 dives at them before flying off toward the spillway. Craig also saw a **Great Horned Owl**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, and both **Gray** and **Steller’s Jays**.

Neal Hinds birded at Cold Springs NWR on October 8 and found one immature **Bonaparte’s Gull** feeding on the mudflats in the SE corner of the reservoir. October 9 was a special day at Cold Springs Reservoir. Aaron was birding the area when he found a shorebird he could not readily identify. After consultation with Neal Hinds, June and five members of the Coeur D’Alene Audubon who happened to be in the area, the bird was identified as a **RUFF**. This was the first Umatilla County record for this Eurasian species and a really great find. On

October 10, Mike and MerryLynn Denny found a **RUFF** at a pond in western Walla Walla County, WA, and then drove to Cold Springs NWR and spotted the **RUFF** there. Mike wonders if anyone has ever seen 2 RUFFS in one day in two states?



Bonaparte’s Gull, juvenile. Photo by Neal Hinds.

The Pendleton Bird Club hosted three “Big Sits” in Umatilla County on October 10. At Cold Springs Reservoir Aaron and Neal Hinds tallied 39 species. Along the Columbia River at

McNary Wildlife Nature Area, June Whitten tallied 20 species, and at Mission Ponds Jack Simons and Marilyn Cripe tallied 25 species. A summary of these counts can be found in a separate newsletter



article. The evening of October 11, Aaron, June, and Connie Betts birded at Cold Springs NWR and readily refound the **Ruff**. Other species they saw at Cold Springs included 20 - 25 **Sandhill Cranes**, 1 sub-adult **Bald Eagle**, **12 Black-bellied Plovers**, 2 immature **Bonaparte's Gulls**, several dozen **Long-billed Dowitchers**, numerous **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and several **Least Sandpipers**.

Traveling on I-84 October 12, Neal and Sandi Hinds watched a flock of **Wild Turkeys** fly across the highway just past the Deadman Pass exit. The following day Connie Betts noted **Dark-eyed Juncos** in her SW Pendleton yard along with **American Goldfinches**. She also had a juvenile **Sharp-shinned Hawk** fly into one of the windows on her patio. Fortunately, the hawk was not seriously injured and flew away.

I spent some time birding at McNary Wildlife Nature Area on October 13. Walking about 150 yards northwest of the Fountain Pond, I came across a patch of cultivated sunflowers. It had been irrigated, and in addition to the sunflowers, there were lots of weeds. The sunflowers and weed seeds attracted many sparrows, including **Song**, **Lincoln's**, **Savannah**, **White-crowned**, and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**. The sunflower patch is worth checking for birds; it has the potential to attract species that are rare or unexpected in our area.

Making a short loop south and east of the Umatilla Tribal Office during his lunch break on October 15, Aaron observed an adult **Northern Shrike** actively feeding on insects along Nicktyoway Road. This was

the first **Northern Shrike** Aaron has found this fall.

On October 16, Neal Hinds was able to photograph an **AMERICAN BITTERN** at the McNary Wildlife Nature Area. Undoubtedly, a few **AMERICAN BITTERNS** pass through our area each year, but because of their wariness and secretive behavior, they are seldom detected.

Aaron checked out the Milton-Freewater and Tollgate areas October 17. Although he did not find his target species (Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch and Northern Shrikes), he found some **Wild Turkeys** and two flocks (3 and 12 birds) of

Mountain Bluebirds. In addition, there was one female **American Wigeon** and 4 **Common Goldeneyes** on Langdon Lake. Birding at Cold Springs Reservoir the evening of October 18, Aaron found lots of shorebird activity including several **Dunlins**. And, there were **26 Snow Geese** mixed with the **Canada Geese** on the NE shore.

Driving between Pendleton and Pilot Rock October 17 and 18, Jack Simons found 4 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 3 **American Kestrels**. Jack believes these birds may have been pushed south with the cold weather earlier in the week.

There is still plenty of good birding left this fall. Rough-legged Hawks will be returning shortly. Late shorebirds should continue to use the Cold Springs

Reservoir for the next few weeks, although it is best to visit this area on non-hunting days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). The ducks have started to return to the McNary Wildlife Nature Area and this is a great place to find Wood Ducks and Black-crowned Night Herons. So get out and do some fall birding and please continue to send all your bird sightings to



Lincoln's Sparrow. Photo by Dave Herr.



American Bittern. Photo by Rose Scott.



me, Dave Herr at dsherr1@mac.com or 541-276-6413.

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Clark, 541 278-1252

Email Address: bainbrid@gmail.com

Technical Editor: Aaron Skirvin, 541 215-0761

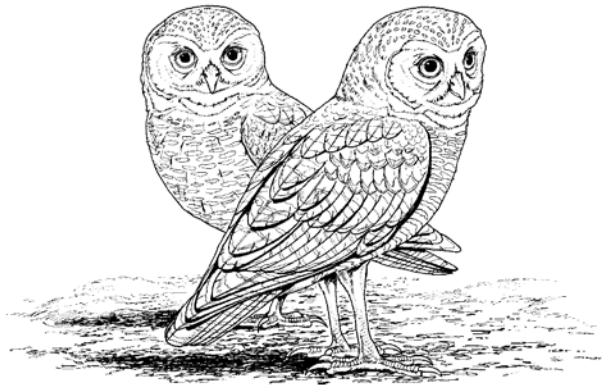
Email Address: umatbirder@yahoo.com

Field Sightings Editor: Dave Herr, 541 276-6413

Email Address: dsherr1@mac.com

Photo Editor: Jack Simons, 541 276-8566

Email Address: styletoil@eoni.com



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Pendleton Bird Club
Pendleton, OR 97801

