



# Kákya Táymut

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

Volume 8, No. 2 Pendleton, Oregon February 2010

## "Anna" Comes to Pendleton

Bird of the Month — Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)... "Bird of our Winter!!"

**A**n Anna's Hummingbird has spent the winter in Pendleton, the first recorded hummingbird known to remain in the area all winter. The young female has taken a place in the heart of her many observers and especially to her surrogate mother, Jennifer Karson Engum.

Jennifer maintains it was her negligence that brought "Anna" to her home. She and her husband Micah left their hummingbird feeder hanging on the front porch well past the season! Jennifer didn't notice "Anna" until Umatilla County was hit with a severe cold spell in early December. The temperature hovered between zero and ten degrees for several days. It was then that Jennifer and Micah observed "Anna" chipping at the ice in the hummingbird feeder! Shortly afterwards, they were offering her *unfrozen* nectar. However, a small problem remained in trying to keep the nectar from freezing during the cold spell. They would bring the feeder in every night and defrost it over the heater vent.

Jennifer called upon Aaron Skirvin to make sure she was identifying the little hummer correctly and for advice on ice-free nectar. Aaron identified "Anna" as a young female, probably born and raised in an unknown place sometime last spring or summer. He

also brought Jennifer a second feeder so she could trade a thawed one for a frozen one. Now that the weather has been quite balmy for January and February, "Anna" is enjoying Jennifer's yard, trees, and plenty of unfrozen nectar. Jennifer's family writes an "A" on the calendar every day that "Anna" remains with them in order to track her length of stay. As Jennifer recalls, "On the day of the Christmas Bird Count, "Anna" didn't seem to like the camera



*Anna's Hummingbird. Photo by Dave Herr.*

and tripod set up on the front lawn. She came around briefly to defend her feeder but didn't stay long. All of her drinks at the feeder were taken in mid-flight." At the moment, Anna seems comfortable with all of her adopted family's comings and goings and they encourage anyone in the bird club to come by and check her out.

"Anna" is also developing into a mature hummingbird. She is now getting a rather streaky throat with reddish-pink colors in it. She has a gray breast and a rather streaked darker gray on the flanks.

Anna's Hummingbirds are fairly common along the west coast and into southwestern Arizona, where they are year-round residents. They are the earliest hummingbirds to breed in North American, starting as early as December and up through June. One of



their favorite foods is wild gooseberry and it appears they may have co-evolved with this wild plant. Besides feeders, they enjoy Trumpet Vine and Salvia blooms.

Anna's Hummingbirds are more vocal than most North American hummingbirds. Males tend to defend nectar-rich areas and like to claim their territory, chasing intruders for long distances. From his perch,



the male will sing and do a dazzling display, where he rises 6 – 12 feet, hovers, and then climbs higher and descends at 35 – 65 miles per hour!

At the bottom of the dive, he veers up while giving loud sounds.

This is to impress the female and certainly gets her attention!

Exactly *who* decided to name this hummingbird species “Anna’s” is a bit obscure, but apparently Anna was named after Anna De belle Massena, (1802-1887). Andre Massena (1768-1817) was a famous French general who served under Napoleon. Some references refer to Anna as being married to Prince Massena while other references suggest she was the daughter of Andre Massena. There are two Massena towns, one in New York and one in Iowa, in honor of Andre Massena.

Will “Anna” stay at her current home into spring and summer? Will a male show up so she can build a tiny nest and lay two very small, white eggs? We can only hope this might come true. How likely it is to happen, no one knows. But one thing is certain, “Anna” will be carefully observed as long as she remains at her current home.

*Submitted by June Whitten/Jennifer Karson Engum*

Some of the material for this article was derived from [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andre\\_Massena](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andre_Massena) and <http://parismerriam.googlepages.com/anna'shummingbird>.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., March 11, 2010

### 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL HUMONGOUS BIRD ID CHALLENGE

Presented by Jack Simons

Pendleton First Christian Church  
North Main St., Pendleton

### Bird Club Meeting

6:30 p.m., April 8, 2010

**POTLUCK DINNER** followed by

### BIRDS IN ART AND LITERATURE

Presented by Shannon Van Kirk  
and Alison Timmons

Pendleton First Christian Church  
North Main St., Pendleton

### 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

**Tentative: Saturday, June 19, 2010,  
in the Battle Mountain  
and Albee areas.**

### Bird Bugs: Marilyn's Caution

*Submitted by Marilyn Cripe*

A couple of weeks after a February bird-watching vacation in Panama, I awoke in the mornings scratching tiny red bite marks on my abdomen! One morning I spotted a red speck on my pillow! Upon close inspection, the speck had legs, etc! My first fear was that I had picked up bed bugs during my travels — probably in a motel. After researching bed bugs online, I just could not find the bugs in the places where they should have been hanging out around my home. Finally, I found a website from Colorado State University Extension Service that explained the critters who were attacking



me. I trapped one. Upon inspection with a microscope from my newly found exterminator friend, the biting bug (see photo) turned out to be a Swallow Bug (*Oeciacus vicarius*).

*Oeciacus vicarius* breed and develop as parasites primarily on Cliff Swallows. The previous

spring I had welcomed, with open arms and naivety, at least 40 pairs of Cliff Swallows. It was so much fun to watch them fly above our bedroom window bringing mud to build their nests and to observe them rear their young. After they left in the fall, I still thought their “mud huts” in our eaves were so cute.

The Swallow Bugs remain in the mud nests and are dormant through the winter, so my problem didn't manifest itself until the following spring when the bugs began searching for food before the swallows returned. Luckily we had time to use an insecticide and destroy the nests before the birds returned. When the birds did return, it took several attempts at

various tricks before we discovered a way to keep them from building their nests on our home. The method that worked involved stapling plastic bags to the eaves so that the mud nests could not stick.



*Cliff Swallow nests. Photo by Barbara Clark.*

And now the good news.... First, the Cliff Swallows have moved across the creek and second, **you**, dear reader, are forewarned about allowing Cliff Swallows to build *their* homes on *your* home!

### Dave Herr's Fabulous Ecuador Birding Adventure

*by Barbara Clark*

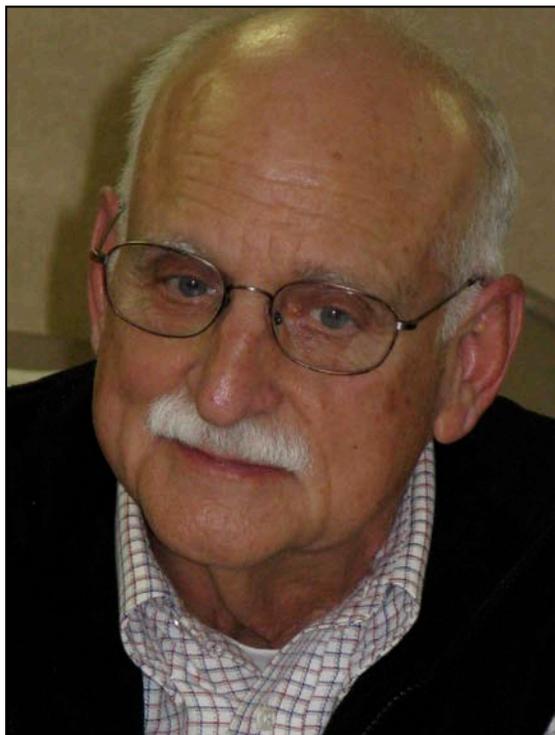
Dave Herr's engaging photo presentation of his birding trip to Ecuador was the highlight of the February Pendleton Bird Club Meeting. He photographed exotic birds like some of us have only seen in magazines and on TV. He noted that at one place 44 species of hummingbirds had been seen by the owners including Fawn-breasted Brilliant Hummingbirds, Booted Racquet-tailed Hummingbirds, Western Emerald Hummingbirds, etc., etc., etc. Beyond the extensive list of Hummingbirds he showed the group Toucans and Tanagers, the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, the Turquoise Jay, the Masked Trogon, a Slate-throated Redstart, and more and more! It was truly an Academy Award line-up of tropical birds.

Dave was able to view a variety of species in different habitats. The first part of the journey included a visit to the Cloud Forest Reserves at Bellavista and Mindo on the western side of the high Andes Mountains while the second portion of the trip was over the mountain crest to the Amazon side. He noted that the Ecuadorians, who are into bird



watching and bird tourism, are **serious** birders, many of whom carry iPods with speakers to attract birds. He was invited to join the Mindo group for their Christmas Bird Count and was interested to hear that Mindo's goal is to be Number 1 (or is it *Numero Uno?*) in the world with their Christmas count — and they succeeded with over 425 species recorded! **Wow!** Thank you Dave for inspiring us with your photos and tales of your adventure!

**G**etting to know Dave.....after graduation from West Virginia University Dave immediately started working for the U.S. Forest Service in Missouri. After working there a few years Dave moved to Minnesota, and then to the Pacific Northwest where he spent the last 40 years. It was here in the Pacific Northwest where he became interested in bird watching, a hobby that now includes bird song recording and bird photography, a skill he has excelled at. Not having had the time for travel while



working, Dave decided to do some exploring after retiring from the Forest Service in 2007. Since his retirement 3 years ago, Dave has visited Kenya, Ecuador and Egypt. Currently he is planning a trip to Vietnam in April and hopes to visit Namibia and Botswana later in the year. Our Bird Club looks forward to seeing and hearing more about the world's birds through the "lens of Dave Herr".

## New Protections for Birds Pass The U.S. House of Representatives!

*Submitted by June Whitten*

**O**n December 7, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives took a big step toward ensuring that people who intentionally injure or kill protected birds will face significantly stiffer penalties. The House unanimously passed H.R. 2062, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalty and Enforcement Act of 2009, which will allow courts to impose much more severe penalties on individuals convicted of "aggravated" (an act that is indifferent to the pain and suffering of birds) injuring or killing of protected bird species. The bill is now headed to the U.S. Senate where we hope for passage in early 2010.



When passed, this legislation would elevate "aggravated" injuring or killing of protected birds to Class A misdemeanors, punishable by up to a year in jail. Second offenses would be treated as felonies punishable by up to two years in jail.

The Audubon Society of Portland was instrumental in the support and passage of this bill. Oregon has seen horrific crimes against birds, especially birds of prey, in recent years. The Audubon Society of Portland treats a steady stream of illegally shot birds in the Wildlife Care Center, especially Peregrine Falcons; Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Herons.

Locally, Lynn and Bob Thompkins of Blue Mountain Wildlife also treat many birds from gunshot wounds each year, most often hawks, falcons, eagles, and owls. Many do not survive and often a survivor is never able to return to its former and natural life.

[This information was taken from an article written by Bob Salinger, Conservation Director, in "The Warbler," January/February, 2010, a publication of the Audubon Society of Portland.](#)



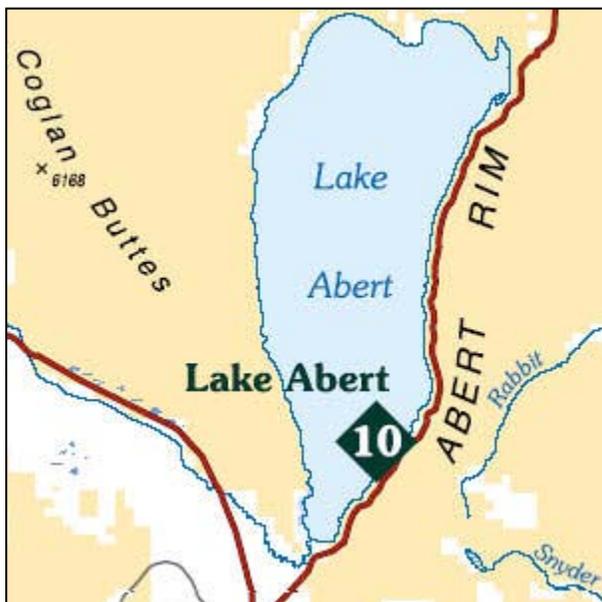
## Birding the Pacific Northwest:

### Lake Abert, Lake County, Oregon

(A PBC Potential Fall Field Trip?)

*Barbara Clark*

Lake Abert is located in south-central Oregon about 20 miles north of Lakeview on the west side of Highway 395. It encompasses an area of about 57 square miles surface area, making it one of Oregon's largest lakes. Hwy 395 winds about 18



miles along the east side of Lake Abert. The area has about 15" rainfall annually and Lake Abert has no outlet so its water evaporates, leaving concentrations of sodium carbonates and other salts. The lake is the lowest part of an 860 square mile closed basin and is one of the few nesting sites for Snowy Plover in Oregon. During the fall migration, the lake also hosts tens of thousands of Eared Grebes, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, and American Avocets. The water birds come for the brine shrimp that live in the salty lake. Over 12,000 gulls and 20,000 ducks have been recorded here.

The Abert Rim, which is home to Bighorn Sheep transplanted from Hart Mountain in 1975 and 1977, lies east of Hwy 395 and stretches from the south end of Lake Abert to Alkali Lake. Along the rim and over the lake, raptors such as Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagles may be sighted. It is thought that Abert Rim may be the largest exposed geological fault in North America, rising dramatically to a height of 2000 feet on the west side. The Lake and

Rim form an area of 100,000 acres managed by the BLM.

The Pendleton Bird Club traditionally hosts a fall field trip to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in early September. We are wondering if there might be some interest in tacking on a trip to Lake Abert as an addition to the Wildlife Refuge Field Trip this coming fall. If anyone is interested please contact Aaron Skirvin or Barbara Clark (contact information at the end of this newsletter).

[Information for this article is from the Audubon Society of Portland website and Oregon Wildlife Environment Study Areas \(OWESA\) web page for Lake Abert and Abert Rim.](#)

## Meet Our New Members

**Carol and John Saatzer**

Carol and John Saatzer retired to Pendleton in 2006 from Portland, Oregon where they had lived since 1980. They both worked for the VA Hospital there, John as a Med Tech and Carol in Mental Health and then in Management. Before coming to Oregon, John and Carol lived in Minnesota. They enjoyed birding on a trip to Hawaii in 1991. Carol noted that she has always liked bird watching and that last year they had Western Screech Owls in their nest boxes. John said that he hunted and fished and then it became bird watching. He especially likes hawks and flickers.



*Welcome to the Pendleton Bird Club Carol and John!*



## The Hunt for Hermiston Jays

*Email notes from Aaron Skirvin*

Date: Sunday, February 14, 2010, 6:48 PM

At Thursday's Bird Club meeting, Nancy and Lyle Brown told me that they had heard from an acquaintance that two "large blue-gray birds" were being seen in Hermiston near the Hermiston Tavern. Lyle volunteered that they were likely Western Scrub-Jays.

This morning, June and I went on a quest to look for Western Scrub-Jays. We readily found the Hermiston Tavern, which is on the corner of NW 1st Place and Standard Avenue. Apparently, the "large blue-gray birds" were being seen in a yard just west of the tavern.

We slowly drove down Standard Avenue with our windows rolled down. Sure enough, within seconds, just past NW 3rd Street, we distinctly heard a **Western Scrub-Jay** giving 3 of their typical loud, raucous, screechy calls. We could not locate the calling bird, and we drove through the area (up and down the streets and alleys) for 30 minutes. The bird was between W. Standard and W. Hartley Avenues. We covered the area between W. Standard and W. Ridgeway and NW 1st Place and NW 7th Street. Again, about 2 hours later, we drove through the area and still couldn't see a jay. Nonetheless, by call alone, Hermiston has Western Scrub-Jays for sure!

*For the record, after returning home, Aaron sent the following email —*

There are just 8 records of Western Scrub-Jays in Umatilla County, including the jays currently in Hermiston. The Hermiston jays are the only ones that were seen more than a few days, with the exception of 3 that stayed in Ukiah for 4 months between Oct. 2002 and Jan. 2003. The first record of which we are aware was one bird at McNary Golf Course on Nov. 22, 1990.

## Horned Larks...Yellow or White Faces??

*More field notes from Aaron Skirvin  
on the back roads of Umatilla County  
February 14, 2010*

**F**rom Hermiston (after the second time looking for the jay), we drove to Echo, Nolin, and all the way down Alkali Canyon Road to Hwy 74, Pilot Rock, and Pendleton. We saw quite a few **Horned Larks**, as we had on Saturday. On Saturday, with the Saatzers, we saw mostly single



*Horned Lark (one of our local breeding larks). Photo by D. Herr.*

or pairs of Horned Larks, but there were two flocks of Horned Larks along Alkali Canyon Road just west of its intersection with Mud Springs



*Horned Lark (arctic subspecies). Photo by Dave Herr.*

Canyon Road. Most of the Horned Larks are definitely pairing up and getting territorial, thus it was surprising to see some still in flocks. We wondered if the birds in flocks were either a different subspecies or the same subspecies that haven't



paired up yet or haven't moved to their breeding areas.

Well, we got our answer today. The flocking larks are the Arctic subspecies *Eremophila alpestris arctica* (white throats and faces). We got good looks at two birds in the flock of about 40 birds when they were on the ground. All of the larks in pairs or singles (yellow on throats and faces) are the local breeding larks - apparently the *Eremophila alpestris merrilli* subspecies. During the winter of 2007-08, there were some Arctic Horned Larks near the intersection of Coombs Canyon and Mud Springs Canyon Roads, which included some associated Lapland Longspurs. No longspurs today, however, and we got good looks at the birds as they flew across the road in front of the car.

## INVITATION TO A VIEWING

The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Chapter is sponsoring a "night out at the movies" on **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm** at the Battelle Auditorium in Richland, Washington. Pendleton Bird Club members have been invited to attend the showing of two DVDs - one on the progression of a Black-chinned Hummingbird family and the other on the 24 warbler species seen in the west. If you are tired of the Saturday night television scene, this sounds like a great way to do some *real* family entertaining! And, both DVDs will be available for purchase for your personal use.

Here is the link to the Audubon Chapter's webpage advertising the Movie Night with admission prices:

<http://www.lowercolumbiabasinaudubon.org/MovieNightMarch2010.htm>

## January – February Bird Sightings

*Dave Herr*

**I** (Dave Herr) wrote to some friends this week stating there are two things that signal for me spring is just around the corner. The first is the crowing of a **Ring-necked Pheasant**, and the second

is hearing the dawn song of the **American Robin**.

I've yet to hear a pheasant crow, but on February 14, I heard the first **American Robin** of the year singing outside my window just as it was getting light. Walking at Memorial Marsh east of the main Cold Springs Reservoir later that day, I heard more signs of spring including singing **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Marsh and Bewick's Wrens**.

Jennifer Karson-Engum reports she continued to see the female **Anna's Hummingbird** at her SE Pendleton home throughout February. See the lead article Jennifer and June Whitten have included in this newsletter for additional information about this remarkable bird.

Walking along the Umatilla River Parkway between the Elks Lodge and Roy Raley Park in mid January, Angela Baylink found a single **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. Although an infrequent visitor along the river in winter, this is the first report of the species along the Parkway in 2010.

Running a raptor survey along a route that included the Rieth/Echo Road as well as other areas in the northwest portion of the county January 21, Tanya Harrison found 50 raptors including two **Bald Eagles** and one **Prairie Falcon**.

Driving from Hermiston to Pendleton on January 25, Dolly Robison noted a flock of **Snow Geese** as well as one **Bald Eagle** and several **Eurasian Collared-Doves**. The same day, Aaron Skirvin (Aaron) and June Whitten (June) birded between Pendleton and the NF John Day River. Some of their notable finds included 4 **Northern Shrikes**, a **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, 3 **Clark's Nutcrackers**, 4 **American Dippers**, and a **Barn Owl** roosting in the basalt cliffs along Highway 395 west of Pilot Rock. However, their best find was 9 **GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCHES** in a flock along Highway 244 about 3 miles east of Ukiah.

Checking the heronry across the Umatilla River from Melton Field Little League Park in Pendleton on January 27, Aaron found 8 **Great Blue Herons** standing on nests, and counted a total of 18 nests in the heronry. January 30, Connie Betts found 9 **Great Blue Herons** at the heronry as well as one along the Umatilla River near the Arts Center.

On January 29, Barbara and Andrew Clark checked Mission Ponds and then spent several hours birding along the roads north of Pendleton. They found 3



pairs of **Hooded Mergansers** at Mission Ponds. Other species noted on their trip included **Western Meadowlarks**, **Horned Larks**, **Chukars**, one **Great Horned Owl**, and many raptors including an immature **Bald Eagle**. Barbara reports in their yard near McKay Dam, they are feeding more than 100 **California Quail**, **House Finches** and too many **Dark-eyed Juncos** to count. As expected, both a **Sharpshinned** and **Cooper's Hawk** are periodically visiting their yard looking for an easy meal. One evening in early February, Andrew heard 3 **Great Horned Owls** calling near their home.

Checking below McNary Dam on January 30, I found 8 **Bald Eagles** along the Columbia River.

On January 28, Connie Betts counted 18 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in her yard near the Pendleton Community Park. On February 1, the number had increased to an amazing **22 Doves**. After doing some investigation, Connie reports one of her neighbors is feeding cracked corn to attract **California Quail** and the doves are also attracted to the food. Karen Baxter has also been feeding **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in her Hermiston yard and has counted over 20 at one time.



*Eurasian Collared-Dove. Photo by A. Skirvin.*

Birding around McNary Dam on February 4, Aaron and June found adult **Western**, **Mew** and **California Gulls**, one first winter **Glaucous-winged Gull** and a number of **Ring-billed Gulls** trying to break open fresh water clams by dropping them on rocks. Other species they encountered included 2 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Hermit Thrushes**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 3 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and one **Townsend's Solitaire**. There were 2 **Common Loons** below the Dam. February 6, Neal Hinds found one **Harris's Sparrow** at the main McNary Wildlife Nature Area parking lot and a male **EURASIAN WIGEON** at the grain elevators above the dam.

On February 5, Katrina Susi heard a **Killdeer** calling on the Blue Mountain Community College campus in Pendleton. This is the first report of a **Killdeer** in Pendleton since last fall. Killdeer arrive early in the spring and immediately begin setting up breeding territories.

February 6, I (Dave) found a **Merlin** perched near my Mount Hebron home in NE Pendleton. It used the same perch for 6 days. **Merlins** seem to be moving into the area. Aaron reported finding several this month. Blue Mountain Wildlife admitted an injured **Merlin** on February 2, and on the North Umatilla County Raptor Survey on February 17, 3 **Merlins** were reported. February 7, Jack Simons found 2 pairs of **Wood Ducks** (his first for the year) and a **Bald Eagle** along the Umatilla River behind his home near Mission. The following day Aaron joined Tanya Harrison on the Hermiston Raptor Survey

Route. In the process of counting raptors they saw a flock of about **40 Dunlin** near Stanfield, and along Kosmos Road found a **Loggerhead Shrike**. Both are new birds for the year.

February 9, Bruce Mayfield reported a **Barn Owl** has taken up residence in the main hangar at the Pendleton Airport. Bruce is planning to build and install a nest box and hopefully he will let us know if the owl can be enticed to stay in the area. February 11, Bette Husted watched a female **Pileated Woodpecker** for 20 minutes searching for insects in a

crabapple tree located in her yard near Sherwood School in SW Pendleton. Normally very wary, this is an unusual species to be seen in Pendleton.

February 13, Aaron and June birded with Carol and John Saatzer. They checked the area west of Pilot Rock as well as the Echo and Stanfield, areas, driving back to Pendleton along Despain Gulch Road and Highway 37. They saw 38 species on the trip. Notable sightings included 9 **Rough-legged Hawks** and 3 **Prairie Falcons**.

February 14, Mike and MerryLynn Denny joined Rodger and Ginger Shoemake on their raptor survey in northern Umatilla County. They tallied a total of **232 raptors** including 154 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 3 **Merlins** and 9 **Great Horned Owls**. Other species of note included a **Northern Shrike**, **Savannah Sparrow** (first of the year for the county) and 16 **Wild Turkeys**.

At the February 11 Pendleton Bird Club meeting, Lyle and Nancy Brown told Aaron they heard that



two “large blue-gray birds” were being seen in Hermiston, and Lyle thought it likely they were **Western Scrub-Jays**. Aaron and June went to Hermiston on February 14 and heard the calling **Western Scrub-Jay**. For more details about the Western Scrub-Jays see the article by Aaron in this newsletter. In addition to the jay, other birds of interest found on this trip included a **Great Egret** in the now expected spot along Stage Gulch Creek in Stanfield, a **Merlin** in Stanfield and two **Common Loons**, and one **Eared**, one **Horned**, and several **Pied-billed Grebes** just upstream of the I-82 bridge at Umatilla. They found another **Merlin** in Pilot Rock. The following day Aaron saw 8 **Evening Grosbeaks** in Ukiah, adding another new bird to the county year list.

February 15, Aaron, June and Bruce Mayfield birded between Pendleton and Vinson. During the trip they found a **Rock Wren** near Vinson and 3 **Killdeer**. One **Killdeer** was standing on the highway at the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 74, and two were in a field along Highway 395 about one mile north of Pilot Rock. I also found several **Killdeer** at Memorial Marsh on February 14. The spring influx of Killdeer has started and in a few weeks, they will be common again.

February 16, Lorna Waltz had a **Black-capped Chickadee** visit her Pendleton feeder near the Umatilla River, and the following day two more showed up. These were the first **Black-capped Chickadees** Lorna has seen since last fall. Aaron notes that while he was conducting bird surveys along the River Parkway in 2001, he was surprised that chickadees were very uncommon, and he infrequently found them on his surveys.

Jack and Sharon Simons are currently feeding a flock of 20 to 30 **Canada Geese** in their pasture which borders the Umatilla River between Pendleton and Mission. February 17, Jack saw an immature **Bald Eagle** sitting in a cottonwood tree checking out the geese. Jack said all the geese resting in his pasture on the north side of his front pond casually “moseyed” over to the south side and lay down in the grass and watched the eagle. Jack noted he sensed there wasn’t a whole lot of trust going on between the two species!

Spring is still a month away, but early migrants have already started to arrive. Aaron notes that migrating **Sandhill Cranes** have already been seen in the Eugene area, and they will start to pass through our area in late February, with most passing through in March. According to Aaron, the best place to find



*Original photo of an American Robin by Joy Jaeger. Photoshop watercolor rendition seen here...*

cranes during spring migration is Echo Meadows. So as Aaron suggests, keep your ear to the sky; you just might hear some cranes flying overhead in the next few weeks. If you find **Sandhill Cranes** or any other species (common or rare), please report your sightings to me, Dave Herr at [dsherr1@mac.com](mailto:dsherr1@mac.com) or call 541-276-6413.

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