



Kákya Táymut

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

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NEWEST MEMBER OF THE LOCAL AVIFAUNA

The Pendleton Bird Club's official list of Umatilla County birds stands at 304 species. Nearly 250 species (82% of the total) are recorded in Umatilla County annually as breeding species, transient species, and/or winter visitors or year-round residents. Some of these species are very common (e.g., Cliff Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Canada Goose), others are rare (e.g., Red-eyed Vireo, Great Gray Owl, and American Three-toed Woodpecker), but most are somewhere between common and rare (e.g., Red-naped Sapsucker, Chukar, and Cassin's Vireo). The remaining 54 species are very rare (not seen every year) or are "vagrants" (recorded only once or a few times ever).

Since all of the regularly occurring species are already on the county list, when we add a new species, such as the recent additions of White-winged Dove and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, they are usually vagrants to our area. These vagrant species are more common in other regions of North America, and one or a few individual birds have "accidentally" wandered into Umatilla County, which is well outside their normal range.

Sometimes, a species, which is not a vagrant, may be added to the list: a species that is observed here because it is expanding its range to include Umatilla County. We are currently witnessing such a phenomenon with the influx of Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*), locally. This species has been steadily expanding its range from east to west across North America and has recently arrived

in Umatilla County. The first record of a "wild" Eurasian Collared-Dove (hereinafter, Collared-Dove) in Umatilla County was on February 6, 2005, at Pilot Rock. However, before we get too far into the story of the Collared-Dove in Umatilla County, a summary of the interesting history of its origins in North America is in order.

Collared-Doves are not indigenous to North America; they are believed to be native to India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar.¹ Collared-Doves tend to wander and colonize new areas. In the 1600's, the Collared-Dove apparently made a "massive expansion [that] brought it into Turkey and the Balkans."² About 100 years ago, the Collared-Dove began expanding its range throughout Europe and "by 1950 had reached the British Isles."³



Pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves. Photo by Bette Husted, June 8, 2008.

With the wide expanse of the Atlantic Ocean (hostile habitat to land-based Collared-Doves) blocking their way, how did Collared-Doves make their way to the North America? Collared-Doves arrived here with the assistance of people. These doves are often kept as pets or caged birds², and they were imported for the pet trade into North America.

Collared-Doves were introduced to the Bahamas Islands as caged birds in the 1970's. In December 1974, up to 50 of the birds escaped from an aviary due to a break-in⁴, and the first Collared-Dove nest was discovered in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas in 1975.⁵ They rapidly increased their population in the Bahamas, and apparently, the first doves dispersed without human assistance from the



Bahamas to Florida in 1978.⁶ It is thought that the doves from the Bahamas established a breeding population in southern Florida by 1982.⁷

From their population base in southern Florida, where they are now very common, and with their propensity to wander, Collared-Doves began moving north and west across the United States. The range expansion of the wild doves in the United States has been assisted by escaped, or local releases of, caged birds.^{2,8} The expansion across North America has proceeded at a rapid pace, is consistent with “documented long-distance dispersal by [Collared-Doves] in its native range,” has expanded into Canada, where birds have successfully over-wintered, and will likely result in the Collared-Dove becoming “a widespread, permanent member of the North American avifauna.”⁸

Indeed, Collared-Doves have spread from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast in North America. The first report of Collared-Dove in Oregon was in Portland in 1998, and the species reached the Oregon coast near Astoria on April 3, 2000.⁹ However, the 1998 sighting was not accepted by the Oregon Bird Records Committee, because there wasn't enough information to exclude Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*),¹⁰ a closely related species. Another report of a Collared-Dove on June 19, 1999, at Fields was not accepted by the Records Committee because the description did not rule out other dove species.¹⁰ The first accepted record of this species in Oregon was an observation of one bird in Oregon City on December 21, 1999.¹¹

This brings us back to the unfolding story on the status of Collared-Doves in Umatilla County. The initial sighting in Pilot Rock was of one bird on February 6, 2005, but a week later, two were seen together in Pilot Rock. These birds were visiting a bird feeder near Pilot Rock High School. Numerous sightings of the two birds by many observers continued into the fall of 2005. There was also a report of possible Eurasian Collared-Doves in Adams in July 2005, but these birds were later identified as Ringed Turtle-Doves. Turtle-Doves are popular cage birds and occasionally escape or are released from captivity. But unlike Collared-Doves, Turtle-Doves are not known to occur in self-sustaining populations in North America.

On February 8, 2006, almost exactly a year after the first report in Pilot Rock, four Collared-Doves were observed in Pilot Rock. Perhaps the increase from

two to four birds during the previous year was the result of the doves nesting in Pilot Rock, but no one had reported finding a nest or observing fledged young. Or, maybe the increase in numbers was due to doves continuing to wander into Pilot Rock? Throughout the rest of 2006, two to four doves were occasionally seen in Pilot Rock. Most searches for doves in Pilot Rock produced no sightings, as the birds proved to be elusive. Besides the Pilot Rock doves, the only other reported sighting in 2006 was of one Collared-Dove regularly visiting a feeder about 5 miles south of Pendleton from mid-November 2006 through March 2007.

In 2007, Collared-Doves were beginning to be reported from more locations in the county. However, unless you had a dove or two in your neighborhood, Collared-Doves were still difficult to find in the county. They were seen a few times in Pilot Rock but remained very difficult to find. In February, two were reported in Stanfield, one in Echo, and one in Hermiston. In April, a pair of doves was engaged in courtship behavior in Hermiston, but there was no confirmation of breeding. Two were observed in the Sherwood area of SW Pendleton, stayed through the summer, but disappeared in November. On December 22, six were seen along Hwy 207 at the SW edge of Hermiston.

This year, 2008, is the “breakout” year for Collared-Doves in Umatilla County. More birds were reported from more areas than in the previous three years. They were seen in the same areas as before, but they were also found in Adams, Stanfield Meadows Road, Mt. Hebron and North Hill in Pendleton, and Mission Hwy just east of Pendleton. They were fairly easy to find in Pilot Rock and Echo; as many as five Collared-Doves were seen in Echo in one day. Up to four doves were reported on a regular basis from several scattered locations by several observers in Pilot Rock during the year. They likely nested in the Sherwood neighborhood in SW Pendleton, as territorial behavior was noted during the spring and three doves (one of them was possibly a juvenile) were seen together on June 8, but breeding has not been confirmed. Territorial/courtship behavior was noted in Hermiston again, but still no one was able to confirm breeding.

On August 24, 2008, a Collared-Dove was observed carrying a twig in its beak as it flew across a street in Pilot Rock. Collared-Doves use twigs to construct their nests. In the same neighborhood on September 28, two adult doves were observed chasing a Black-



billed Magpie from the area. This is strong circumstantial, but not conclusive, evidence of breeding in Pilot Rock in late summer of 2008.

Since 2006, Collared-Doves have been reported in Umatilla County every month of the year. Almost certainly, the doves have nested in Pilot Rock, Echo, Stanfield, Hermiston, Pendleton, and Adams, but we are not aware of anyone actually seeing a nest or recently fledged young. Collared-Doves are prolific breeders, raising 3 to 6 broods per year.¹² They build their twig nests in trees, bushes and occasionally on man-made structures.¹³ They are not especially secretive during the breeding period, so a little searching in the neighborhoods where the birds are displaying territorial or courtship behavior could produce the evidence (a nest or recently fledged young) needed to confirm breeding.

In addition to the locations where Collared-Doves have been reported in Umatilla County, there is similar habitat in the towns and suburbs of Milton-Freewater, Umapine, Weston, Athena, Helix, Mission, and Umatilla. However, we have not received reports of doves from these areas. If you are birding in these areas, be on the lookout for Collared-Doves and report your sightings to Dave Herr (see the Bird Sightings article at the end of this newsletter).

Collared-Doves are well on their way to establishing a permanent population in Umatilla County. They are increasing in numbers and expanding their range, locally. It's only a matter of time before nesting is confirmed in Umatilla County. Welcome or not, the Eurasian Collared-Dove is a new, year-round member of the bird community in Umatilla County.

The following observers provided information for this article on sightings of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Umatilla County since 2005: Duane Whitten, June Whitten, Aaron Skirvin, Dave Herr, Connie Betts, Russ Betts, Nancy Brown, John Annear, Dolly Robison, Craig Kvern, Bette Husted, Neal Hinds, Mayanna Kopp, Rose Scott, Gloria Langford, and Margaret LaFaive.

¹ <http://www.natureali.org/collareddove.htm>

² Smith, P. William (1987). The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas. *American Birds* 41(5), 1370-1379; Retrieved from http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Eurasian_Collared-Dove.html

³ <http://www.birdsource.org/Features/EUCDOV/>

⁴ <http://home.xnet.com/~ugeiser/Birds/Streptopelia.html> with information from Smith, P. William (1987). The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas. *American Birds* 41(5), 1370-1379.

⁵ <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/JFO/v064n04/p0477-p0489.html> with information from Smith, P. William (1987). The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas. *American Birds* 41(5), 1370-1379.

⁶ Brinkley, Edward S., 2007. National Wildlife Federation field guide to Birds of North America. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York. 527 pp.

⁷ <http://www.bioone.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&issn=0273-8570&volume=071&issue=01&page=0159&ct=1>

⁸ Romagosa, Christina Margarita. 2002. Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/630/articles/introduction>

⁹ Nehls, Harry B. Eurasian Collared-Dove. Pp. 303 in *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*. D.B. Marshall, M. G. Hunter, and Al. L. Contreras, Eds. 2003, 2006. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.

¹⁰ http://www.oregonbirds.org/obrc_unaccepted_2008.html

¹¹ http://www.oregonbirds.org/obrc_accepted_2008.html

¹² <http://www.natureali.org/collareddove.htm>

¹³ <http://www.wbu.com/chipperwoods/photos/eudove.htm>

Contributed by Aaron Skirvin



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., November 13, 2008

BIRDS OF THE INLAND NORTHWEST & NORTHERN ROCKIES

Mike and MerryLynn Denny are no strangers to the Pendleton Bird Club as they have presented at several program in the past. At this meeting, Mike will speak about Birds of the Inland Northwest and Northern Rockies. A new book by the same title has just been released and Mike is one of the co-authors. After the program, Mike will have copies of the new book available for sale and will be happy to autograph any copies folks may have. Please join us for what is sure to be an enjoyable evening.

**Pendleton First Christian Church
N. Main Street, Pendleton**

Christmas Bird Count

January 3, 2009

For more information, contact
Aaron Skirvin umatbirder@yahoo.com
or 541-276-1948

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., January 8, 2009

NORTH TO ALASKA, PART 2: BIRDING AT GAMBELL AND NOME

By June Whitten & Duane Whitten

**Pendleton First Christian Church
N. Main Street, Pendleton**

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., December 11, 2008

NORTH TO ALASKA, PART 1: BIRDING AT AMBLER

By Betty Klepper and Aaron Skirvin

&

Annual Bird Club Fundraiser

**Pendleton First Christian Church
N. Main Street, Pendleton**

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., February 12, 2009

Program TBD

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



Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., March 12, 2009

QUEST FOR THE ROSEATE SPOONBILL

By Bruce Mayfield

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., April 9, 2009

BIRD TREKKING THROUGH PANAMA

By June & Duane Whitten and
Betty Klepper

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., May 14, 2009

Program TBD

Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton

Planning for the Bird Club's December Raffle/Auction

DECEMBER'S BIRD CLUB MEETING will feature a raffle and auction to raise money for club activities like funding the website. Be thinking about what you want to contribute! Home-made items like bird houses, feeders, food-cakes, and trinkets were popular last year. How about store-bought sacks of bird feed? Calendars? Books? T-shirts? Put your thinking cap on and get started on any items that you would like to bring!

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Klepper at klepperb@ucinet.com or 276-8416, who has agreed to chair the event again this year. Other committee members, Lorna Waltz at clwaltz@eoni.com or 276-6353; and Jeanne Jensen at ljensen@oregontrail.net or 276-7510, will also be happy to assist with questions.

Bird of the Month – Bonaparte's Gull *(Chroicocephalus philadelphia; changed from Larus philadelphia by the American Ornithologist Union July, 2008)*

The Bonaparte's Gull, only 13½ inches long, is one of the smallest gulls apt to be seen in Umatilla County, most often in fall migration. Sabine's Gull is the same length and is seen here occasionally; the last one was at Cold Springs NWR (near Hermiston) from September 21 – 27, 2008. Ross's Gull is also 13 ½ inches but has been recorded locally (McNary Dam vicinity) only one time (Nov. 27, – Dec. 1, 1994). The only smaller gull is the Little Gull (about 11 inches), and it is also highly unlikely to be in Umatilla County.

Bonaparte's Gulls are delicate in appearance and tern-like in flight. How, then, did they happen to be named Bonaparte's? Well, it is not after the famous general, Napoleon Bonaparte, but a relative of Napoleon (sometimes referred to as a nephew and other times, a cousin), Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte who was a zoologist, French ornithologist, collector, and author.^{1,2}

Bonaparte's Gulls are generally easy to identify, due to their small size, and the adults during the breeding season have a black hood and a short, thin, black bill. These are two-year gulls, meaning they mature at two years and then obtain the black hood. But, by fall migration most of the dark hoods of the adults have



molted into a mostly white head with a dark eye and a dark ear-spot. The body is mostly white with pale gray back and upper wings. The under wing is pale with dark tips. Helpful identification tips include a dark line down the trailing edge of the outer wings and a white leading edge (forming a wedge shape) on the upper surfaces of the primary wing feathers. The legs, often not visible in flight, are pinkish.

These graceful fliers often forage in flight for insects, which are the primary food for the hatchlings. The rest of the year, they continue to eat some insects, and pick up objects from the water on the wing, or while swimming or wading. Their diet also includes crustaceans and fish. Unlike some gulls, Bonaparte's seldom scavenge. When Bonaparte's Gulls fly over water and dip down to touch the water, they are usually catching insects.

VISIT THE BIRD CLUB'S WEBSITE

Bird checklists, ID Challenge, Club Member's Photo Gallery, Newsletter Archive and more.
www.pendletonbirders.org

The breeding grounds are in the far north, including Alaska and most of the Western Canadian Provinces. Their preferred nesting habitat is near a bog or a lake with coniferous trees nearby. They usually nest in the trees but rarely nest on the ground. They use abandoned nests in conifers, or build a new nest of twigs bound with turf and lined with grass and moss. The nest rests on a branch several feet from the tree trunk. 2 to 4 brownish-buff eggs are laid, but very little is known about their breeding biology.³ Bonaparte's Gulls migrate to warmer climates and ice-free water in winter. They spend the winter in the coastal areas of the United States and Mexico, staying near bodies of water including estuaries, lakes, ponds, sewage lagoons, rivers, and ocean shores.

Fall is the best time to see Bonaparte's Gulls in Umatilla County. There was one at Cold Springs for several days the first part of October this year. They should be arriving in larger numbers now and be easily seen at McNary Dam in early November and possibly Cold Springs NWR as well. Franklin's Gulls have a similar appearance to Bonaparte's, but are more often seen here in spring migration, and most often only one or two birds. Franklin's also has a black hood in the breeding season, are a little larger

and have distinct white eye-arcs (broken eye ring), and a larger, reddish bill.

¹http://www.sdakotabirds.com/species/bonapartes_gull_info.htm

² A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names, James A. Jobling

³ The Birder's Handbook, Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye

Contributed by June Whitten

The BIG SIT!

The Big Sit turned out to be a great day for birds and birders alike! The weather was pleasant for October 12. There was camaraderie among the birders, and a fair number of birds showed up to be counted.

Aaron Skirvin had a very successful circle at Cold Springs NWR, where he was joined by Bruce Mayfield, Katrina Susi, Angela Baylink, Dave Herr, and Neal Hinds. There were waterfowl hunters in the vicinity, but the bird counters were not sprinkled with shot nor did the shooting seem to affect their birding (except for those unfortunate birds succumbing to the hunters: 1 Cackling Goose, 2 Green-winged Teal, and possibly 1 Northern Shoveler).

The Cold Springs group recorded 42 species at their circle, including Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Cackling Geese, and Canada Geese. Besides the fairly usual array of ducks, they also identified many shorebirds, including Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Black-bellied Plover; Semipalmated Plover; Western, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers; and Long-billed Dowitchers. Two of their better birds of the day were both a Prairie and a Peregrine Falcon.

June and Duane Whitten set up their circle in the McNary Wildlife Nature Area with a view of both a pond and the Columbia River. Bob and Dannell Tapley and Nancy Brown joined them in species search. Thirty species were recorded here including Ring-billed Gull, California Gull; Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Wood Duck, Redhead, Common Merganser, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Barn Swallow, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Jack Simons set up a circle on the dike road between Mission Ponds and the Umatilla River, about 4 miles east of Pendleton. Jack saw quite a few waterfowl including Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, American



Wigeon, Canada Goose and most notably, 25 Greater White-fronted Geese which landed on the island at the south end of the pond. Two Greater Yellowlegs and three Belted Kingfisher were seen in the river bottom and two Pileated Woodpeckers were heard calling in Jack's back pasture. Upon his return home, he walked to within 15 feet of these two birds as they fed on insects in a dead cottonwood tree. He soon realized they were most likely the same adult and juvenile birds he saw earlier in the summer. In all, Jack recorded 19 bird species.

Contributed by June Whitten and Jack Simons

September – October Bird Sightings

With the leaves turning color and after several heavy frosts, it is clear that fall has arrived. Most summer resident songbirds have left for warmer regions, but waterfowl and other water and shorebirds made quite a showing during the past month. Again this report period, much of the birding action occurred at Cold Springs Reservoir and birding results from this area will be reported first.

Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge Report:

The first report from Cold Springs this period (September 21) was from Aaron Skirvin and June Whitten and it was a great one. Topping the list, was their sighting of a **SABINE'S GULL**. Although reported previously in the county it is not found every year. The bird stayed at Cold Springs for about a week. Along with the gull, Aaron and June reported over 800 shore birds, about half being **Killdeer**. They reported **3 American Golden Plovers**, **4 Black Bellied Plovers**, a **Sanderling**, **2 Stilt Sandpipers**, **8 Red-necked Phalaropes**, **8 Baird's Sandpipers**, **4 Pectoral Sandpipers**, **2 American Avocets**, one **Black-necked Stilt**, **5 Semipalmated Plovers** and **24 Long-billed Dowitchers**.

Russ and Connie Betts checked Cold Springs on September 23. They found the **SABINE'S GULL** as well as more than 100 **American White Pelicans**, **Killdeer**, **Western Sandpipers**, **Long-billed Dowitchers** and **American Avocets**.

I (Dave Herr) checked Cold Springs in the evening of September 25. I saw the **SABINE'S GULL** as well as lots of **Killdeer**, a few peeps, and one each of **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Black-bellied Plover**. I also heard at least 3 bull elk bugling in the eastern side of the refuge.

The evening of September 26, Aaron reported finding quite a few shorebirds. Some of the highlights included **3 Sanderlings**, **2 American Golden-Plovers**, one **Black-bellied Plover**, several **Pectoral Sandpipers**, **2 Sandhill Cranes** and the **SABINE'S GULL**.

The following day Neal Hinds reported the **SABINE'S GULL** was still present and he found at least **1 Black-bellied Plover** and **1 Semipalmated Plover**. Neal's sighting of the **SABINE'S GULL** was the last report for this bird.

Aaron checked Cold Springs on September 28, and reported about **150 Long-billed Dowitchers**, many **Western Sandpipers**, **26 Pectoral Sandpipers**, **1 Black-bellied Plover**, a **Dunlin** and numerous **Killdeer**. In the willows surrounding the reservoir Aaron noted a **Varied Thrush** and a **Townsend's Solitaire**. I checked Cold Springs the same day and added **4 Common Terns** to the day's list.

Neal Hinds visited the refuge on the windy afternoon of October 4, and reported the following highlights: **2 Bonaparte's Gulls**, **1 Stilt Sandpiper**, **1 Red-necked Phalarope**, **2 Lesser Yellowlegs**, and a handful of **American Pipits**. Neal also saw many deer and one huge bull elk.

Birding Cold Springs October 5, Aaron and June found **21 Greater White-fronted Geese**, **10 Cackling Geese**, **1 Bonaparte's Gull**, one **Black-bellied Plover**, one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Western** and **Least Sandpipers**, **40 Pectoral Sandpipers**, **4 Semipalmated Plovers**, one drake **Canvasback**, one **Great Egret** and several **Barn Swallows**. October 13 they found another **Bonaparte's Gull** at the refuge.

Highlights from a trip to Cold Springs Aaron and June made October 18 included at least **70 Pectoral Sandpipers**, **5 Black-bellied Plovers**, **20 Dunlin**, one **Least Sandpiper**, **2 Lesser Yellowlegs**, **150 Long-billed Dowitchers** and **7 Tundra Swans**.

Other Area Birding:

Birding in the southern portion of the County September 20, Aaron and June found several **Lincoln's Sparrows**, a **Chipping Sparrow**, one adult **Golden Eagle** and numerous **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. Along Alkali Canyon Road they found **20 American Pipits**, the first reported this year. Later in the day they checked McKay Reservoir and found



1 **Sanderling**, 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** as well as **Western and Least Sandpipers**.

Late in the afternoon on September 22, Aaron drove to the Ukiah area to look for Mountain Quail.

Although he did not find any quail, he noted 3 **Turkey Vultures** and 3 **Say's Phoebes** at Ukiah. At the Ukiah Sewage Ponds he found 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes**, 24 **American Wigeons**, 4 **Northern Pintails** and 4 **Ring-necked Ducks**. Downstream from the mouth of Camas Creek, the sighting of a male **Eurasian Wigeon** was an unusual find.

September 23, Mayanna Kopp reported over **200 Mourning Doves** as well as several **Eurasian Collared-Doves** have been visiting her Pilot Rock feeder for over 2 weeks. During a stop at the McNary Wildlife Area on September 23, Russ and Connie Betts found **American Wigeons**, **Wood Ducks**, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Double-crested Cormorants**, **Ring-billed Gulls** and a **Great Blue Heron**.

Stopping at McKay Reservoir for a quick check on September 25, Aaron and June noted the number of ducks was increasing. They also found 3 **Common Loons**, several **Western Grebes**, one **Eared Grebe**, 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**, one **Pectoral** and a few **Western Sandpipers**.

Looking for grassland birds on September 27, Aaron found a **Sage Sparrow**, a **Sage Thrasher**, and a **Loggerhead Shrike** along Coombs Canyon Road. Birding at McKay Reservoir on September 27, Russ and Connie Betts found **Ruddy Ducks**, **Mallards**, 11 **American White Pelicans**, a few **Killdeer**, 3 **Western Sandpipers**, 1 **Great Blue Heron**, **Canada Geese**, **Black-billed Magpies**, **European Starlings**, lots of **Ring-billed Gulls**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Cedar Waxwings**, **White-crowned Sparrows**, 1 **Savannah Sparrow**, a **Song Sparrow** and a few **Barn Swallows**.

On September 28, upon leaving Pearson Creek (after another unsuccessful Mountain Quail quest), Aaron drove to Cold Springs following back roads. Along his route he noted a **Prairie Falcon**, widespread **Savannah Sparrows**, **Western Meadowlarks** and **Horned Larks**. Along the way he also found a **Chipping Sparrow**, **Say's Phoebe** and one **Sage Thrasher**.

Connie Betts reports that **Eurasian Collared-Doves** have now invaded Montee and Sherwood additions. She and several neighbors have been seeing them in the area.

Checking McKay Reservoir on September 30 (the last day the gate was open until next spring) Aaron found a **Common Tern**, 8 **Eared Grebes**, **Canada Geese**, **Western Grebes**, 5 **American White Pelicans** and a group of **75 Ruddy Ducks**.

October 3, Jack Simons reported 8 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Mission Ponds.

Finally, **Mountain Quail** was added to the County year list. Hunting in the Bridge Creek area on October 4, Brian, Wyatt and Cody Whitten flushed a covey of about 12 **Mountain Quail**. They have reported finding **Mountain Quail** in this area in previous years as well.

It is always interesting to hear what Jack Simon's dogs are going to scare up in his pasture, which borders the Umatilla River. While walking with his dogs on October 12, the dogs charged ahead and started barking. To Jack's surprise, his dogs had treed 6 **Chickens**. Jack expects someone no longer wanted them and dropped them off on his property. Subsequent checks have shown the number of **Chickens** is dropping and Jack expects there is a happy **Great-horned Owl** in the vicinity.

October 13, birding near Barnhart Road (west of Rieth), Aaron found a small flock of migrant birds that included 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, several **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, a few **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and an **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

Checking the Pendleton Community Park on October 15 Connie and Russ Betts found (along with the more common species) an **American Kestrel** eating a mouse, a **Red-tail Hawk**, **Northern Harrier** and earlier in the week a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. Driving home from work the same day, Aaron found 4 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in a flock picking seeds along the shoulder of Mission Highway about 300 yards west of the ODFW office. Check Aaron's article in this newsletter for specific information about the recent "invasion" of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** into Umatilla County.

First driving to Ukiah early October 19, Aaron and June birded on their way back to McNary Dam. They had a banner day with a number of great sightings. Topping the list was a noisy **BLUE JAY** spotted at a Ukiah feeder. They also found a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** and 3 **Spotted Towhees** in town. At the Ukiah sewer ponds there were 4 **Hooded**



Mergansers and **Buffleheads**. Near the sewer ponds was a flock of 55 **Sandhill Cranes**. At the McNary Wildlife Area they found a male **Eurasian Wigeon**. Below McNary Dam they found one **Mew**, a few **Herring**, many **Ring-billed** and some **California Gulls**. However their best find at the dam was an immature **THAYER'S GULL**. Although probably occurring in the county every year, this is a very difficult bird to identify. Good job Aaron and June!

Rose Scott also reported the male **Eurasian Wigeon** at McNary Wildlife Area on the 19th. On the way to McNary, Rose spotted a small flock of **Greater White-fronted Geese** and **Buffleheads** at Mann's

Pond. Mann's Pond is located along Stanfield Meadows Road about one-half mile east of Hwy 207.

It's time to fill your bird feeders and start checking for winter visitors. Please send your bird sightings to me, Dave Herr at dsherr1@mac.com or 276-6413.

Newsletter Editor: Position Vacant

Editor for June: Aaron Skirvin

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