



Newsletter of the Pendleton Bird Club

Kákya Táymut

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

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BURROWING OWLS FEATURED IN MAY PROGRAM

Some people view the 17,000 acres of the Umatilla Chemical Depot (formerly the Umatilla Army Depot) as a vast wasteland of sand and sagebrush. Their vision for this area is lots of water, cultivation, and huge green fields of potatoes, melons, and corn.

On the other hand, some people have a different vision for the future of this stand of brush-steppe habitat. This is one of the few areas of natural Eastern Oregon habitat that has survived the plow or grazing. These 17,000 acres are filled with bitterbrush, big sage, and stands of native grasses. This is the native habitat for many birds as well as other wildlife. Burrowing Owls and Long-billed Curlews, two species of great concern due to their greatly diminished numbers, nest in this particular habitat.

Don Gillis, Umatilla Chemical Depot's natural resource manager, with Mike Gregg and James Rebholz, U. S. Fish and Wildlife biologists, have been working on a plan to increase the Burrowing Owl population at the Depot. They have partnered since 2008 to construct owl burrows from materials that mimic desirable features of the favored burrow — abandoned badger dens. A backhoe was used to dig the holes for the "owl condos," but the installation still required some hours of volunteer work. The burrows are built using plastic barrels (cut in half at their circumference) and 5-gallon buckets, with a 6-inch diameter flexible pipe attached to the barrel that leads to an above-ground opening. The bucket is placed over the barrel, all of which is underground. Matching holes are cut in both the barrel and the bucket to create a

"tunnel" so the biologists have easy access to the underground burrows for counting birds or eggs, banding chicks, or housecleaning. The 8 to 10 feet of flexpipe, installed as the entrance to the nest site, is too small of a diameter for coyote predation, one of the main predators on Burrowing Owls.



Although Burrowing Owls can clean out an existing burrow, they probably do not dig a complete burrow. The "owl condos" on the Chemical Depot have been placed near Burrowing Owl burrows that have had recent use, and the owls are responding very well to their new homes. In 2008, 18 condos were installed in clusters of 3 condos per site, and within a few weeks, **14 of the condos had owl activity**; that is, visual sighting, owl pellets, feathers, or beetle parts in front of the burrow. And, this spring, several pairs of Burrowing Owls have used the condos as nesting sites, with some condos housing owl families.

Don Gillis offered the Pendleton Bird Club three owl condos. While this is greatly appreciated, there are several hurdles to overcome before installing a condo, including finding suitable sites, obtaining permission from the landowners if the sites are on private land, plus acquiring the techniques and manpower involved in installing the condos, such as a backhoe (or LOTS of shoveling). In addition, club members would need to commit to monitoring and maintaining the condos.

The "Condos for Burrowing Owls" program demonstrates that there are ways to help a species



that is in decline. Local farmers tell of seeing many owl burrows decades ago in the Juniper Canyon area, as well as Coombs and Alkali Canyons. It is now rare to find a Burrowing Owl in Umatilla County, with the exception of the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

As the chemical weapons disposal program at the Depot winds down in the next few years, which 'vision' of land use at the Depot will prevail — to develop the Depot for economic purposes or retain and enhance existing habitat for declining animal species that have likely survived at that location for thousands of years?

Only time will tell.

Contributed by June Whitten

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Club Field Trip

Sunday, May 31, 2009

**Birding at Tower Burn,
Ukiah, Battle Mountain, and
Albee Bluebird Trail**

**Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the NE corner
of Pendleton Safeway parking lot**

Bird Club Picnic

Saturday, July 11, 2009

Tollgate Area

**Meet at Woodward Campground
(Langdon Lake) at 9 a.m. for some
birding prior to the picnic or at Target
Meadows Campground at noon when
we will start the picnic.**

Bird Club Meeting



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

PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

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

VISIT THE BIRD CLUB'S WEBSITE

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

www.pendletonbirders.org

Albee-Ukiah Bluebird Nesting Box Trail Update

As most of you know, the Bird Club built a bluebird trail on the Albee-Ukiah Road in the spring of 2003. At that time, club members assembled 19 cedar nesting boxes from wood purchased (at a discount) from Kelly Lumber Supply. Thanks to support from club volunteers over the years, the number of nesting boxes on the trail has increased to 27 with an additional 5 boxes installed at nearby Battle Mountain State Park.

The purpose of creating the trail was 1) to increase secondary nesting sites for the local bluebird population, 2) to stabilize or increase declining bluebird populations in selected areas and 3) to increase public awareness of the importance of maintaining natural habitat for healthy bird populations. Until recently, secondary nesting sites were located in dead or decaying trees. The cutting of firewood by the public however, has significantly reduced nesting tree sites for cavity nesters such as bluebirds.

Two species of bluebirds have nested in boxes built by the club — Mountain Bluebird and Western Bluebird. How many birds have fledged from boxes installed by the club? We don't know the exact number but nest box monitoring in 2008 by June and

Duane Whitten suggested over **100 bluebirds fledged** from our nesting boxes from last year alone! That's quite a flock of bluebirds!

This year the monitoring duties have been shifted to Jack and Sharon Simons (with considerable advice and input from Aaron). Aaron, Sharon and I have checked all 32 boxes (Battle Mountain State Park plus the Albee-Ukiah Trail) twice this year. On **March 21** there was no nest building activity to report but there was considerable activity around the boxes. In fact, on that date we observed 15 boxes with bluebirds nearby which suggests nesting pairs arrive early to setup territories.

On Sunday, **May 10** we counted 30 nests that had been started or completed with only 2 nesting boxes showing no nest construction. Of the 30 boxes with nests, **6 boxes had eggs** with an aggregate egg count of 22. Two of the nest boxes had 6 eggs each which is an excellent clutch size. Mysteriously, there was a noticeable lack of adult activity at 15 of the 32 nesting sites. We aren't sure if the adults were out feeding or perhaps well hidden in nearby trees but it struck us as odd that so few nesting adults were seen. We will continue monitoring the club's boxes throughout the summer with periodic updates in the Newsletter.

Don't forget that the club's next **field trip** will be held on **Sunday, May 31st**, and will take us to Tower Burn, Ukiah, Battle Mountain, and the **Albee -Ukiah Bluebird Trail**. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the NE Corner of the Pendleton Safeway parking lot.

Contributed by Jack Simons

BIRD OF THE MONTH – BURROWING OWL (*Athene cunicularia*)

The Burrowing Owl is a **medium-sized** owl, about 9 ½ inches long, with long legs and a short tail. This is one of the few owls that is often seen in the daytime, perched on its burrow or a nearby fence post. The Burrowing Owls in Umatilla County, as well as populations in the other western states, are migratory. Exactly where they spend the winter months is unknown, but some are in Mexico, including Baha California, and part of Texas. Some of the Burrowing Owls from the Umatilla Chemical Depot are being fitted with tiny radio transmitters that will give scientists valuable information about their migratory habits and wintering grounds.

Burrowing Owls are usually found in open grassland where they find their preferred food:



mice, voles, lizards, and insects. They may hunt any time, day or night, but are usually more active at dawn and dusk. The female remains in the burrow during most of the incubation and early life of the chicks. A typical clutch size is 7 to 9 eggs which are incubated for 28 – 30 days. The young may be on top of the burrow when 2 weeks old, but they do not leave the burrow or forage for insects until they are about 7 weeks old.¹ The male brings the female food and also food for the babies when they hatch. Soon both adults are foraging for sufficient food to feed the young.

The Burrowing Owl may use its long legs to clean out or enlarge an existing burrow by kicking dirt backward out of the burrow. A typical burrow is an abandoned badger burrow, or similar burrow dug by a mammal. The nest is often lined with cow chips, dry grass, weeds, pellets, and feathers. Their call is a fairly loud, two-syllable, *coo, coo*. They also have a raspy call that probably indicates danger and alerts the young to retreat into the burrow.

Burrowing Owls have been known to live as long as nine years in the wild. They face many dangers, such as striking vehicles and predation by coyotes, badgers, and larger owls, hawks, and falcons. It is a species of concern in the United States due to their serious population drop in recent years. Several factors may be the cause, including fewer available burrows, pesticides, and loss of habitat.

Burrowing Owls do not seem to object to nesting in the proximity of human habitation. A separate subspecies, which lives year-round in Florida, nests in burrows near housing sub-divisions. These Burrowing Owls use abandoned gopher tortoise burrows for nesting sites. The Florida population is darker above and less buffy below than the migratory owl population west of the Mississippi River. Citizens of the Cape Coral area in Florida have also had success in providing additional burrows for the owls.²

Other than the Umatilla Chemical Depot (which is not open to the public) and the private lands in the vicinity of Juniper Canyon and Butler Grade, there is no reliable location for viewing Burrowing Owls in Umatilla County. Even though they were once a common bird in the area, Burrowing Owl is seldom reported for the county bird list kept each year by members of the Pendleton Bird Club. However, if anyone is lucky enough to spot a Burrowing Owl, it is important to report the date and location to the Bird Club.

¹http://www.owlpages.com/owls_php?genus=Athene&species=cunicularia

² Wildbird, July/August 2008: Urban Floridians by Jeff Bouton

Contributed by June Whitten

The 108th Christmas Bird Count Review (2007 – 2008)

If you have ever participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) then you know that all participants receive the *Audubon Birds* magazine describing the previous year's event. Embarrassingly, I finally opened the cellophane wrapper to my copy of the magazine the other day, making it what — 4 months after I received it? *Geez!* Somebody needs to clean off my desk!

What and when is the Christmas Bird Count? The CBC season is December 14 through January 5 each year. Your local count will occur on one day between those inclusive dates. The count for Umatilla County occurs on one date each year, usually on a weekend around January 1st. The count takes place within a 'Count Circle' with a diameter of 15 miles. The geographic center for our count circle is approximately 6 miles southeast of Pendleton. The center point of the Umatilla County count circle was chosen so the circle would include a representation of the variety of habitats located in the Pendleton area, including McKay Creek NWR, part of the city of Pendleton, coniferous forest in the Blue Mountains, agricultural areas, wetlands, grasslands, etc. Each circle is led by a Count Compiler and anyone can participate.

History

Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt". They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won the competition.

"Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition — a "Christmas Bird Census" — that would count birds in the holidays rather than

hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied a total of 90 species on all the counts combined."¹

Weather always seems to play a critical role in the CBC. Sometimes really great birding weather yields dismal results while lousy weather can yield great results. I've been privileged to attend the past 6 or 7 CBCs in Umatilla County while enduring all kinds of weather — freezing, bitter cold; sunny, balmy days; and snow mixed with rain. Of all the weather conditions we've encountered, nothing puts birds down faster than a good strong wind. Fortunately for local birders, the wind never, ever blows in Umatilla County.

While the 2008 – 2009 winter slowly fades from memory (more slowly than some of us would like), the 2007 – 2008 winter was punctuated by big winter storms and lots of snow. To freshen your memory, a massive storm system consisting of 2 Japanese typhoons and a northern Pacific cyclone smashed into the Pacific Northwest (PNW) with sustained winds of 75 miles per hour and gusts exceeding 120 miles per hour (equivalent to a Category 3 hurricane). The storm lasted 48 hours causing widespread flooding, landslides and power outages and forced the cancellation of several counts east of the Cascades.²

Despite the inclement weather here in the PNW and across the nation, count records were broken once again. Data from 2,113 count circles were tabulated in the 108th CBC including: 371 counts from Canada; 1,658 counts from the United States; 84 counts from Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. The database used to compile this information came from 13 countries and 7 territorial regions.

The level of participation in the 108th CBC reached an all-time high with 59,918 participants (11,565 in Canada; 46,620 in the United States; and 1,733 elsewhere) which surpassed the previous year's record of 58,000 participants. Stationary Feedwatchers made up 9,176 observers while 50,742



observers were in the field. Quite an organizational effort, to say the least!

As you might imagine, approximately 50,000 observers counting birds in 2,100 fifteen mile diameter circles would amass a huge number of birds as well as number of species. Total birds tallied in the 108th CBC amounted to 57,704,250 (3,234,026 in Canada; 53,631,734 in the U.S.; and 839,000 elsewhere). Cumulative species counts were equally impressive with 2,267 species and 246 other subspecies and hybrids tallied in all regions. Of this total, 281 species were recorded in Canada and 665 species in the U.S. To put these totals into perspective, almost one-quarter of the world's avian population were tallied in the 108th CBC!

There were 87 count circles north of the U.S. – Mexican border that recorded 150 or more species. Matagorda County – Mad Island Marsh, TX recorded a high of 235 species. However, counts south of the U.S. – Mexican border (24 circles recorded 150 or more species) included exceptional recordings with one circle, Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador, reporting a whopping 435 species.

Closer to home, one notable species, Eurasian Collared-Dove, continues to expand its range northward and/or westward. Less than 30 years ago this Old World species arrived in Florida on its own from the Bahamas. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now well established and increasing over much of southwestern, mid-western and western North America. Only a few months ago, as many as 30 of these doves were counted in less than half an hour in the nearby town of Echo. As far as we know the collared-dove population three years ago in Echo was zero.

Poor weather in 2007 – 2008 forced cancellation of several eastern Oregon counts which reduced the number from the previous year to 38. Washington had 43 counts. Coos Bay, OR had the highest species count with 154. East of the Cascades, high counts included Klamath Falls, OR (110), Tri-Cities, WA (108) and Lyle, WA (101).

So what can we learn and what possible good can come from these counts? Well, Audubon has now crunched the numbers on a huge database from the previous 40 years of CBC sightings and population trends are now becoming evident. Preliminary results show that more birds are doing better in the north than in other regions and that waterbirds are

wintering more and more in interior states.³

By this time next year Audubon scientists will have drawn several conclusions based on the CBC data that birders have gathered over the decades. This information will be important to help understand how climate change is impacting bird populations and what consequences may be in store for all of us.

If you've never participated in a CBC, the 110th count will be coming your way by the end of next December or early January. We encourage every Pendleton Bird Club member (and their friends) to participate and make a contribution to this important cause. To conduct field sightings, the most basic birding equipment is necessary (a pair of binoculars, field guide, warm clothing and possibly a thermos of your favorite hot beverage and a nominal \$5 fee to ensure you receive the annual *Audubon Birds* magazine). If you would prefer to conduct a feeder count from within the comfort of your home, we can help you set up for that important task as well.

Making an important scientific contribution while having fun with friends — doesn't get any better than that, does it?

¹ <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/history.html>

² "The 108th Christmas Bird Count", *Audubon Birds*, Volume 62, 2007 – 2008.

³ Ibid

Contributed by Jack Simons

April – May Bird Sightings

Wow, it sure has been a wet and cold spring, but the last few days have been clear and warm, hopefully a harbinger of weather to come. Lots of migrating birds have been reported this month and more are sure to follow.

Driving back from a birding trip at Burns April 18, Ginger and Roger Shoemakes and George Jameson, birded north along the Albee Road from Ukiah. Ginger reports in a feeding flock they found all three species of **Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadee, Red Crossbill, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Bluebirds, Dark-eyed Junco and Chipping Sparrow**. Along Highway 395 they also saw a **Say's Phoebe** and **Western Bluebirds**.

This spring, Tanya Harrison has been seeing quite a few different species in her Pendleton yard. On April



19, she reported **American Goldfinches, White-crowned Sparrows, Pine Siskins, Dark-eyed Juncos, a Western Screech-Owl, House Finches, Black-capped Chickadees, House and Song Sparrows.** The following day, working at Wanaket Wildlife Mitigation Area, Tanya found a **Black-necked Stilt** and a **Savannah Sparrow.**

Along with numerous **White-crowned Sparrows,** on April 21, Connie Betts reported seeing a **Spotted Towhee** and a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in her yard near McKay Creek in SW Pendleton. The following day June Whitten reported that Duane saw a **Rufous Hummingbird** at their feeder at Grecian Heights in Pendleton. On April 24, June reported a male **Calliope Hummingbird** visiting their feeder.

Mayanna Kopp feeds birds at her home in Pilot Rock near Wegner Creek Road. On April 24 she reported 50-100 **White-crowned Sparrows** at her feeder along with a **Rufous** and possible **Black-chinned Hummingbird.** She was also seeing **American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, Morning Doves** and **Eurasian Collared-Doves.** April 25 and 26 Mayanna had a male **Evening Grosbeak** visit her feeder, and on April 28 she saw 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds.** On May 5 Mayanna reported that along with normal plumaged **Eurasian Collared-Doves** there was one **ALBINO** bird.

Dolly Robison reported seeing her first of the year **Western Kingbirds** along I-84 near Stanfield the last week of April. On April 24, Barbara Clark found 3 **Western Kingbirds** along Highway 37 near the Cold Springs Grange. The following day she reported seeing 12 to 15 **Evening Grosbeaks** at her home near McKay Reservoir. Barbara noted all appeared to be males.

April 25, Jack Simons saw his first **Vaux's Swift** of the year near his home along the Umatilla River. He found an **Osprey** carrying sticks to a nest east of his home and noted a large number of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** passing through.

Birding at the Pendleton Country Club April 25, June Whitten and Aaron Skirvin managed to find 3 species of Empidonax Flycatchers (**Western, Gray** and **Dusky**) and a **Lazuli Bunting** before the wind picked up and put an end to birding for the day.

April 26, June and Aaron birded McKay Reservoir, part of Combs Canyon, Battle Mountain, Ukiah and Albee. In all, they were able to tally

93 bird species, many mule deer, 4 pronghorn antelope and 2 coyotes. Sightings of special interest on this trip included 4 pair's of **Ferruginous Hawks** along Highway 395 and a **Snow Goose** at the Pilot Rock Sewage Ponds. At McKay Reservoir they discovered **Great Blue Herons** as well as **Double-crested Cormorants** nesting on the east side of the reservoir.

Checking the Pendleton Community Park on April 26, Russ and Connie Betts found a **Bonaparte's Gull,** an unusual location for this gull, and a pair of **Orange-crowned Warblers** in a flock of **Yellow-rumped Warblers.**

Driving north from John Day on Highway 395 on April 27, Kathy Ramsey spotted 2 **Buffleheads** in Camas Creek near Ukiah-Dale State Park. Kathy noted she was surprised to see this species in such fast, high water.

Andrew and Barbara Clark found 8 **MARBLED GODWITS** at McKay Reservoir in the evening of April 27. Aaron noted this species is not found in Umatilla County every year. He said that most records for Umatilla County are in September, with the exception of one additional May record near Hermiston. The Clark's sighting was the only one in the county outside of the Cold Springs/Hermiston area.

Ann Wyatt had a pleasant surprise on April 27. While checking through a large flock of **White-crowned Sparrows** at her feeders she was able to identify a **Golden-crowned Sparrow.** Aaron noted **Golden-crowned Sparrows** are reported most years during migration, but this was the first sighting this spring.

Checking McKay Reservoir April 28, Aaron found 8 **Common Loons.** He stated although **Common Loons** use McKay as a stopover during spring migration each year, they seem more plentiful this year. The same day, Craig Kvern found a **Short-eared Owl** foraging in a field on Tutuilla Flat. Craig watched the owl drop to the ground and come up with either a mouse or vole.

April 30, Russ and Connie Betts found a **Dusky Flycatcher** and 3 **Yellow Warblers** near their home in SW Pendleton. On a drive the same day in the Coombs Canyon area, Russ and Connie found large flocks of **White-crowned Sparrows, Horned Larks,**



2 **Osprey** along the Umatilla River, **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Northern Harrier**, **American Kestrels**, **Western Meadowlarks**, **Red-winged** and **Brewer's Blackbirds** and many other common species. On May 1, Connie found a **Lazuli Bunting** in her yard.

May 1, birding at McKay Reservoir, Aaron and June found a **Red-necked Grebe**. Later in the afternoon they found a **Semipalmated Plover** at Memorial Marsh at Cold Spring NWR.

Driving back from a trip to the Enterprise/Joseph area May 3, Portland birder Khanh Tran checked several spots in Umatilla County. Driving along I-84 he found a pair of **Gray Partridge** west of Poverty Flat. Along Rieth Road he found a **Yellow-breasted Chat**, a **Bullock's Oriole** and a **Rock Wren**. Near the I-84 and Highway 207 junction he reported **White Pelicans**, **American Avocets**, **Black-necked Stilts**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Wilson's Phalaropes**, **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Dunlin** and a **Long-billed Curlew**.

Lorna Waltz reported on May 4, a **Lazuli Bunting** flew into her yard for a drink of water. Bob and Danell Tapley, who recently moved to Arizona, returned for a visit and had time to do some birding. On May 7, Bob reported that even in windy conditions at McKay Reservoir, they were able to spot several **Canada Geese** with goslings and a **Common Loon**. Driving along the Coombs Canyon road they found a **Northern Harrier**.

May 9, Aaron participated in the spring North American Migration Count, spending the day counting birds in the northwest portion of the county. During the day he counted **2,897** birds of **106** species. On May 10, Aaron and Jack Simons drove to Albee and Ukiah to check the PBC (Pendleton Bird Club) Bluebird trail. Aaron reports they found lots of **Western Bluebird** activity along the route. Some of their other notable finds included a lone **Greater White-fronted Goose** at the Pilot Rock sewer ponds, a pair of **Gray Partridge** along Wegner Gulch Road and a **Loggerhead Shrike** along Highway 395 south of Nye junction. Driving south from Ukiah they briefly checked the Tower Burn area and found **Lewis's Woodpeckers**, **Western Bluebirds** and **House Wrens**. Aaron noted the area is already greening up and predicts the burn will be loaded with birds in time for the PBC field trip to the area May 31.

On May 11, Sharon Simons found an unusual **Morning Dove** (it had scattered



patches of white plumage) at their bird feeder along Mission Highway. Jack took a picture and stated he thought it was a leucistic bird. Aaron, after checking the picture, agreed with Jack's opinion.

Checking McKay Reservoir on May 11, June and Aaron found two new county year birds, 1 **Clark's Grebe** and 2 adult **Franklin's Gulls**. The following day, checking Mission Ponds at noon, Aaron reported there were hundreds of swallows flying into the wind. He noted that 90% were **Bank**, then **Tree**, **Violet-green**, **Cliff**, **Barn** and **Northern Rough-winged** in that order.

Mary Ann Low has been seeing an unusual owl as she drives at dusk along the Yellowjacket Road southwest of Pilot Rock. Although she thought it was a **Short-eared Owl**, the markings were somewhat different from the owls she normally finds. Aaron and June checked the area on the evening of May 15 and verified it was indeed a **Short-eared Owl**.

Lorna Waltz reported a flock of 12 **Lazuli Buntings** at her home on May 11. I (Dave Herr) also have **Lazuli Buntings** visiting my feeder and on May 14, counted **52 birds**, mostly males. Tanya Harrison reported **Lazuli Buntings** at her feeder and noted on May 14, she started to hear **Dusky Flycatchers** in the trees around her home on the North Hill in Pendleton.

Checking the Pendleton Community Park on May 17, Connie and Russ Betts noted things were pretty quiet, but did find a **Dusky Flycatcher**, one female **Wilson's Warbler**, 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and 2 drake **Mallards**.

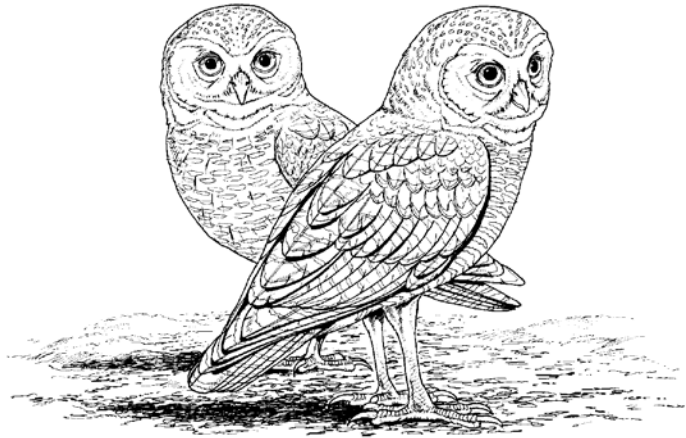
Eurasian Collared-Doves (ECDs) continue to spread in our area. April 30, Carl Scheeler reported a pair in his yard about a mile below McKay Dam. Carl said he believes they might be building a nest. I have heard **ECDs** calling in my Mt. Hebron neighborhood and Duane and June Whitten reported **ECDs** in the Grecian Heights area. Tanya Harrison heard 3 **ECDs** calling while doing point counts (bird census technique) at the Wanaket Wildlife Mitigation Area on May 18. And, Jenny Barnett reported while driving down SW Perkins Street in Pendleton on May 19 that she flushed 3 **ECDs** from the street.

Although the peak of migration has already passed in the valley, there are still new birds to be found in the county. And, as soon as the roads open, birding in the

Blue Mountains should be great. Please continue to send your bird sightings to me, Dave Herr at dsherr1@mac.com or 276-6413.

Newsletter Editor: Position Vacant

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