



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

OREGON-WASHINGTON CHAPTER

www.gorge.net/natres/pif.html

Spring 2000

Partners in Flight is an international coalition of government agencies, conservation groups, academic institutions, private organizations, and citizens dedicated to the long-term maintenance of healthy populations of native landbirds.

BIRD CONSERVATION PLANS COMPLETE!

Landbird Conservation Plans, the most ambitious effort ever undertaken by the Oregon-Washington PIF chapter, are now complete. These plans have been prepared to stimulate and support an active approach to conservation of landbirds. They represent the collective efforts of many individuals from various agencies and organizations within Oregon-Washington PIF.

Recommendations included in the plans are intended to guide planning efforts and actions of land managers, direct expenditures of government and non-government organizations, and stimulate monitoring and research to support landbird conservation. The recommendations provide direction for what, where, and how to implement conservation for all the priority habitats and species in both states. A brief overview of the process and emphasis of the plans follows.

Five plans were prepared, one for each of the major ecoregions in Oregon and Washington. The five plans are:

- # Westside Coniferous Forests
- # Westside Lowlands and Valleys
- # East-Slope Cascades
- # Columbia Plateau
- # Northern Rocky Mountains

Each plan describes the process and the recommended actions to implement landbird conservation. The four principal components of that process are:

- # Identify habitats and habitat attributes important to landbirds
- # Describe the desired habitat conditions based on the habitat relationships of a select group of priority species
- # Provide interim management targets (i.e., biological objectives) to achieve the desired conditions
- # Recommend management actions (i.e., conservation strategies) that can be implemented by various entities at multiple scales to achieve the biological objectives

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Ready, set, start implementing!

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riting the plans was a significant step in the process of bird conservation. However, our most important and challenging task will be to "make conservation happen" through **actions** to support bird conservation as directed in the plan. This will require all PIF partners to take ownership of parts of the plans, both individually and in partnerships with others.

To facilitate implementation, plan coordinator, Bob Altman, is working on several tasks. These include:

- # Working with the Pacific Coast and Intermountain Joint Ventures to integrate our objectives within the context of their activities
- # Giving presentations on the content and suggested implementation of the plans to all potential partners in bird conservation
- # Seeking to support projects that are representative of bird conservation as directed by the plans
- # Preparing technical products that address how bird conservation can be implemented (e.g., restoration of riparian habitat for landbirds in conjunction with salmon restoration efforts)

These examples represent just a few efforts to jump-start bird conservation. However, success will only be achieved if all the partners take action in planning and management to support bird conservation. For information on how to be a part of this, contact Bob Altman, American Bird Conservancy, alt8bird@aol.com.

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The conceptual approach for each plan was to emphasize ecosystem management through a hierarchy of conservation recommendations for priority habitat types, habitat attributes or conditions within those habitat types, and landbird species highly associated with those habitats and habitat attributes.

Based on the habitat relationships of these species, biological objectives are recommended and management actions (i.e., conservation strategies) to achieve them are described. The biological objectives provide a management target for planning and implementation, and a benchmark for measuring success.

The plans can be viewed and downloaded at . They are intended to be "dynamic" documents with continual revisions and updates as new information becomes available. Ultimately, we envision a regional landscape of Bird Conservation Areas where integrated conservation for multiple species is being implemented as part of ecosystem management.

N. Rockies BCR coordinator hired

Dan Casey of Kalispell, Montana has been hired by the American Bird Conservancy as coordinator for the Northern Rockies Bird Conservation Region (BCR), which includes portions of Oregon and Washington. This BCR, as it is known, is one of 37 regions identified by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) as a geographic framework for the implementation of all-bird conservation efforts. Dan was hired using a grant from the LaSalle-Adams Foundation. His primary function will be to help identify and support local projects that protect or enhance habitat values for waterfowl, landbirds, shorebirds and or colonial waterbirds. He is working with representatives from all these 4 major bird conservation initiatives to develop integrated goals for the region.

The Northern Rockies BCR stretches from western Wyoming through western Montana and northern Idaho into central British Columbia, and includes the Blue Mountains and extreme northeastern Washington. Dan is available to help state Partners in Flight committees as they implement objectives in Bird Conservation Plans, and is working closely with state Intermountain West Joint Venture committees and Jim Cole (IWJV Coordinator) to review grant proposals and find funding partners for wetland and upland projects in the BCR. For more information or support for potential projects, contact: Dan Casey, American Bird Conservancy, 33 Second St. East, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406)751-4581, dan-casey@digisys.net.

"Birds of Oregon" update

Progress continues on "Birds of Oregon: A General Reference" to be published soon by Oregon State University Press.

Of the 481 species currently listed for the state, the book editors have received accounts for 323 species. Of these, 211 have reached the draft 2 or better stage. Many of these are on the book's web site and can be seen at <http://osu.orst.edu/pubs/birds/bogr/spaccts/index.htm>. Comments on these accounts are welcome. Approximately 768 references for the book are now listed at <http://osu.orst.edu/pubs/birds/biblio/bogrsrc/index.htm>.

Approximately 75 authors are participating in this effort and all species have been assigned. However, it is probable that some species will be released. For further information contact one of the following editors: David B. Marshall (dmarsh@teleport.com), Matt Hunter (mhunter@proaxis.com), Alan Contreras (acontrer@pond.net).

IMBD materials available

If you are in need of information packets or other materials for International Migratory Bird Day, please contact Jennifer Wheeler at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 703-358-2318, or e-mail her at IMBD@fws.gov.

This year's poster features a dignified pair of peregrine falcons by the late Roger Tory Peterson.

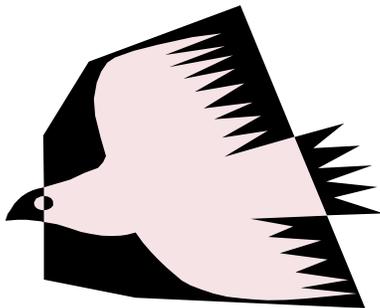
Klamath Bird Observatory up and running

The Klamath Bird Observatory has begun operations this year as a nonprofit research organization based in Ashland, Oregon, primarily working in northern California and southern Oregon. We are dedicated to regional monitoring efforts promoted by the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network in the Klamath Basin and beyond. Our primary purpose is to conduct high quality science in monitoring and inventory of bird populations and to investigate factors that directly or indirectly affect them. We are working to further the Network's efforts to integrate bird monitoring programs in southern Oregon and northern California by emphasizing an eco-regional approach in the Klamath/Siskiyou Province. The Network is a group of private, local, state, and federal companies, organizations, and agencies with more than 45 constant-effort mist netting stations in operation, and more than 8,000 point count stations, ranging from the headwaters of the Rogue and Klamath Rivers on the north and east to the Sacramento and the Eel Rivers on the east and south. Our efforts will produce results for scientific publications and will provide information for federal, state, and local land managers to better protect and enhance bird populations and their habitats. We will also focus on providing opportunities for students to incorporate scientific bird monitoring and inventory into undergraduate and graduate programs.

We currently collaborate with the Redwood Sciences Laboratory on a project to analyze data from over 6,000 point count census data stations which were submitted to the Network by various partners. We have active collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund, the Medford BLM's Cascade/Siskiyou Ecological Emphasis Area Project, and PacificCorp to demonstrate how the wide range of habitats in the Klamath/Siskiyou Province contribute to diverse bird communities, and the overall biodiversity of this important Ecoregion.

The Klamath Bird Observatory is also looking forward to a busy field season working with various ongoing monitoring projects in southern Oregon and northern California. In cooperation with many private individuals, the Redwood Sciences Laboratory, BLM's Klamath Falls Resource Area, the Winema and Rogue River National Forests, Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge, Crater Lake National Park, PacificCorp

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Websites

New PIF address
www.partnersinflight.org

American Bird Conservancy
www.abcbirds.org

Cats Indoors!
Link to this through ABC's website

DOD
www.dodpif.org

EPA
www.epa.gov/owow/birds

Audubon Society of Portland
www.audubonportland.org

Hawkwatch International
www.hawkwatch.org

Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas
www.teleport.com/~guide/atlas/atlas.htm

Index of Sustainable development in the Americas
www2.planeta.com/mader/headlines.html

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
birds.cornell.edu/pifcapemay

Environmental Journalism Resources
www2.planeta.com/mader/ecotravel/period/period.html

Exploring Ecotourism
www2.planeta.com/mader/ecotravel/etour.html

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Websites - continued —

National PIF Bird Conservation Plans

www.blm.gov/wildlife/pifplans.htm

Colorado Bird Observatory

www.cbobirds.org

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

www.prbo.org

BIRDNET

www.nhnh.si.edu/birdnet

North American Important Bird Areas

www.cec.org

Conservation and Reinvestment Act

www.teaming.com or www.house.gov/resources/ocs

NAWCA Grant Process

www.northamerican.fws.gov/nawcahp.html

Cape May PIF Proceedings

www.birds.cornell.edu/pifcapemay

Raptor Research Foundation

www.biology.boisestate.edu/raptor

Sagebrush Bird Display

www.id.blm.gov/iso/912/enviroed.html

Smithsonian Institute Migratory Bird Center

web2.si.edu/smbc

Royal Blue Organics Cafe Mam

www.cafemam.com

Equal Exchange

www.equalexchange.com/index.html

Thanksgiving Coffee Company

www.thanksgivingcoffee.com

(Klamath/ continued)

Inc., and the Humboldt Bay and Point Reyes Bird Observatories, we will continue efforts to monitor bird populations in the Upper Klamath Basin operating some 12 constant effort mist netting and census stations. We will also be working with the Forest Service Region 5 Partners In Flight Steering Committee, the Klamath National Forest and the Yreka field office of the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue with our 8th year of constant effort mist netting on the middle Klamath River in California, and to implement a 3-year project investigating the effects of prescribed burning on landbird distribution. In addition, we will work with Southern Oregon University and Medford BLM to continue ongoing efforts to monitor birds during breeding and migration seasons at two mist netting stations. We are in the process of developing and implementing two innovative monitoring techniques: a Rapid Ornithological Inventory method to quickly survey the birds of a site using a multiplicity of methods, including netting and census, and a Small Owl Monitoring Protocol using a combination of recordings and mist nets.

While keeping busy with these various projects, the Klamath Bird Observatory is putting together a diverse board made up of directors from the research, agency, education, and business communities of Oregon and California. For more information about KBO, and to become involved with our internship program, please contact John Alexander at 541 482-2638, (zeezle@mind.net) or C.J. Ralph at 707 822-2015 (cjr2@humboldt.edu).

TRANSCRIPTS AVAILABLE

Complete transcripts of the workshop on Avian Mortality at Communication Towers, held August 11, 1999, in conjunction with the 117th meeting of the American Ornithologist's Union at Cornell University, are now available on the Migratory Bird Management Office's new web site located at: <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/towers/agenda.html>

Handbook steers use of native plants along highways

In continuing effort to protect the environment and help control the introduction of invasive species of plants, the Federal Highway Administration has released *Roadside Use of Native Plants*, a handbook that provides state by state references in the use of native plants and how they can be used to benefit highway projects by saving time and money.

"We are committed to protecting the environment along the nation's highways," administrator Kenneth R. Wykle said. "Native plants are particularly useful for this because they can thrive in all parts of the country and also help preserve our natural heritage for future generations."

The 665-page handbook includes vegetation maps as well as lists of native trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and other plants particular to each state. In addition, the handbook lists environmental, academic, scientific and other organizations in each state. Requests for copies should be sent to Fred Bank, Federal Highway Administration HEPN-30, Room 3240, 400 7th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or email Bonnie.Harper-Lore@fhwa.dot.gov.

BBIRD data contributions needed

The Breeding Biology Research and Monitoring Database (BBIRD) is an easily accessible database that combines widely distributed nesting ecology projects from the New World and will be used to monitor the health and distribution of populations. Participants are asked to utilize standardized research protocols to monitor nesting productivity and habitat variables. People who have not used standard BBIRD protocols in the past may also contribute data. The only stipulations for the contribution of non-standard data is that they are computerized in some format (i.e., spreadsheet, database) and the methods of data collection are explained. For more information contact: Leslie Jette, BBIRD database Manager, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, USA, Tel: (406) 243-5372, Fax: (406) 243-6064; Email: ljette@selway.umt.edu, ljette@yahoo.com, or visit: <http://pica.wru.umt.edu/BBIRD/>

Grassland habitat workshops upcoming

As you start planning your activities for spring, take time for the birds by attending a Grassland Bird Habitat Workshop!

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is offering "hands-on" workshops for private landowners interested in creating and enhancing habitat for grassland bird species of concern. In recent years, the western meadowlark, Oregon vesper sparrow, horned lark, grasshopper sparrow, and common nighthawk have become less abundant in the Willamette Valley and are classified as State Sensitive Species. Workshop participants will learn the basic natural history of these species, their habitat needs, and simple habitat management strategies. Special emphasis will be given to Oregon's State Bird, the western meadowlark. Workshops will be conducted by ODFW biologists and will include presentations, activities, a short field trip, and a raffle.

Workshop dates and locations: May 20th and 21st at the Linn Co. Fairgrounds, Albany, OR 1-5PM; June 10th and 11th at the Dept. of Forestry, Springfield, OR 1-5PM

Please bring appropriate clothing for a field trip such as rain gear and sturdy waterproof shoes. Refreshments will be provided.

To register for a workshop or receive more information, call Susan Kedzie-Webb at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Corvallis, OR, (541)757-4186 ext. 252.

Please register as soon as possible - space is limited!

Statistical guide for bird data available

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory has published a *Statistical Guide to Data Analysis of Avian Monitoring Programs*. The guide is intended to aid field biologists wishing to analyze data gathered in standardized monitoring programs for landbirds. It also provides valuable insights to help biologists design such programs. It is USFWS Biological Technical Publication BTP-R6001-1999 and can be obtained from Tara Zimmerman, USFWS Migratory Birds/Habitat Programs, 911 NE 11th, Portland, OR 97232, (503)231-6214.

Burrowing owl research

A multi-agency effort is coming together to develop a state-wide monitoring and research program on Burrowing Owls in eastern Washington.

This is the first year of a multi-year coordinated effort to address issues of management and conservation importance for Burrowing Owls in the state.

Objectives of the overall effort are: 1) to initiate a state-wide standardized monitoring program for nesting burrowing owls in the state to

determine status, distribution, and population trend; 2) to evaluate survey methodologies and develop effective survey protocols by measuring detection probability and the environmental factors affecting detection probability; 3) to evaluate the habitat features that influence reproductive success, burrow fidelity, post-fledging dispersal, juvenile and adult survival; 4) to evaluate the effectiveness of using artificial burrows to help restore local populations; and 5) to identify the ultimate causes of presumed population declines in Washington.

Project partners include Washington State University, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Golf Association, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arid Lands National Wildlife Refuge, and 5 local golf courses. Dr. Courtney J. Conway, Biology Program, Washington State University, 2710 University Drive, Richland, WA 99352, (509) 375-3979, conway@tricity.wsu.edu.

EPA decision thwarts pesticide threat to birds

Successful campaign, led by the American Bird Conservancy, halts hazardous pesticide

An impending Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision to deny the cotton registration for chlorfenapyr forced American Cyanamid to withdraw their application early this week. The withdrawal comes after an intense year-long campaign led by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) that brought numerous conservation groups, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, scientists, and the public together in opposition to the controversial pesticide.

"An incredible array of organizations and people came together to halt - for the first time - a pesticide registration based solely on its threat to birds" said Kelley R. Tucker, Director of ABC's Pesticides and Birds Campaign. "Testing and close scientific evaluation by EPA and

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Information sought on yellow-billed cuckoo

On February 17, 2000, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that a petition to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as endangered presented substantial scientific information to indicate that listing the western subspecies (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) may be warranted, while noting that the taxonomic status of the yellow-billed cuckoo subspecies is uncertain. The Service has begun a status review to determine if listing the cuckoo is warranted.

To ensure that the review is comprehensive, the Service is seeking information regarding this species. Of particular interest are data and other information regarding: 1) the taxonomy and population genetics of the species, and whether this information supports classifying the western yellow-billed cuckoo as a valid subspecies; 2) behavioral and ecological differences between eastern and western yellow-billed cuckoos; and 3) the relation of western populations to the species as a whole, that may aid in differentiating distinct population segments. For direct telephone inquiries contact: Karen Miller, Tel: (916) 414-6620. Anyone with information regarding the species that may assist in this status review is asked to provide that information by mail to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825, USA.

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independent scientists clearly revealed the persistence of this pesticide and its chronic and reproductive risks to birds," she explained.

Laboratory studies of chlorfenapyr showed declines in test birds of close to 50% in number of eggs laid, number of viable embryos, and number of normal hatchlings, leading EPA science staff to label chlorfenapyr as "one of the most reproductively toxic pesticides to avian species [the Division] has evaluated." It was also found to persist in soils for over a year, leading many to question its hidden, long-term effects on the environment.

Chlorfenapyr - developed and tested by American Cyanamid over almost a decade - was intended to assist cotton farmers in their struggle with the beet armyworm, a potentially devastating pest. But EPA has put forward several "reduced risk" chemical alternatives that appear to be just as effective. Because of the evidence suggesting danger to birds this registration has been closely monitored by regulatory agencies from other countries, especially Canada. "Use of this chemical in any country would pose an unacceptable risk to migratory birds throughout the hemisphere" according to Julia Langer, Director of World Wildlife Fund Canada's Wildlife Toxicology Program.

ABC was the first organization to respond to the EPA's request for comment on the chlorfenapyr registration. After an ABC action advisory publicized the opportunity, comments poured into the Agency from birders, conservationists, toxicologists, doctors, wildlife professionals and numerous government and non-government organizations - including Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society and World Wildlife Fund - in the U.S. and abroad. "The scientists at EPA accurately and effectively outlined the risks associated with chlorfenapyr, however, it was the scientifically accurate advocacy and outreach by American Bird Conservancy staff that led to this important result," stated Mary G. Henry, Branch Chief for Ecosystem Health at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Environmental Contaminants Division.

Citizen science and bird conservation in national forests

A partnership with Cornell's Lab of Ornithology

By Barb Kott

A new "citizen science" bird conservation partnership is underway on National Forests. The Birds In Recreation program was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Forest Service to census thrushes and hawks in high use recreation sites. The data collected will help answer important scientific questions about birds and recreation impacts that can only be addressed through collective efforts of thousands of volunteers across the nation.

The protocol for this new program was adapted from the Birds in Forested Landscapes study that was implemented in 1999 across forests nationwide. In 2000-2003 we will be collecting similar data on the effects of recreation on bird populations. The study sites will be in high use recreation sites on Forest Service Ranger Districts. The project entails visiting these selected sites in forested patches and recreation areas to census forest dwelling thrushes and Cooper or Sharp-shinned hawks. Three visits per site are required to gather the needed data. Volunteers will be trained in identifying thrushes and hawks by their calls and visually. Participants will also search for indication of successful breeding and record landscape and habitat characteristics about each site.

This program is a great opportunity for local residents, "citizen scientists" to get involved in a bird conservation program going on nationwide. The Forest Service is looking for interested volunteers who want to learn more about birds, and help collect important data to be used in reversing the declining population trends. To learn more about how you can be a part of a national bird research effort going on locally contact Barb Kott at the Zigzag Ranger Station at 503/622-3191 x687 or bkott@fs.fed.us



Prairie Restoration Underway in the Puget Sound

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is actively funding many exciting projects in western Washington, including restoration activities on native South Puget Sound prairies. These prairies occur on gravelly deposits left by glacial meltwater at the end of the last ice age. Dominant vegetation includes bunch grasses, camas, Garry oak, and lodgepole pine. Many rare plants are found on the remaining acreage. These include the Federal listed Golden Indian Paintbrush and White-topped Aster, and the state sensitive Small-flowered trillium. Along with threatened plant species, many Washington State sensitive or threatened wildlife species inhabit the prairies including the Mazama pocket gopher, western gray squirrel, western bluebird, and the Mardon skipper butterfly.

Historically, prairies spanned approximately 150,000 acres across five present day counties. Today, native prairie species dominate only 2,993 acres, or less than 3% of their original expanse. This reduction is due to encroachment by Douglas fir forest, invasion of scotch broom, and conversion to residential or agricultural uses.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program focuses on establishing habitat restoration practices on private, local, and state lands. NRCS works with landowners to develop conservation plans that outline restoration practices over a 5-10 year implementation period. Landowners receive up to 75% cost-share to implement habitat restoration practices.

NRCS is proud to be partnering with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department, and The Nature Conservancy to implement restoration practices on three prairie preserves. These preserves include the Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, and Glacial Heritage Preserve. Cost-share practices include removal of invasive trees, mowing of scotch broom, and planting of native prairie grasses and forbs. Restoration activities are being accomplished with volunteers, Thurston County corrections crews, and agency staff. During 1998 and 1999 NRCS and their partners implemented restoration activities on 360 acres at a cost of \$22,860. An additional 360+ acres are planned over the next three to five years with cost shares totaling approximately \$66,000.

For more information on the WHIP program, please contact Rachel Maggi at (360)883-1978 or [or your local NRCS field office](#).

CEC publishes Important Bird Area directory

Every year, millions of birds migrate across North America, stopping in a wide range of habitats along the way. Whether as a rest stop for a few hours, or a place to nest for a few months, these 'bird sites' are crucial to the successful migration, well-being and reproduction of hundreds of species of birds.

Without these birds, crucial ecological processes, multi-billion dollar economic benefits, and an age-old source of human joy would be lost. Yet their survival is threatened across the continent, as development encroaches on their habitats and pollution renders them inhospitable. It is a problem shared by Canada, Mexico and the United States, and one they can only solve together.

In order for the three countries to cooperate to protect habitat, a unified effort was needed to identify the most important bird area across North America. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) was ideally suited to take up this task.

The CEC brought together bird conservation specialists from each of the three countries to identify North American sites critical for the conservation of birds. The results have been published by the CEC in the book *North American Important Bird Areas: A Directory of 150 Key Conservation Sites*. The directory is part of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative being coordinated by the CEC.

Visit the CEC's web site to download an electronic copy of *North American Important Bird Areas*: www.cec.org/english/resources/publications/ibas.cfm?format=2

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 Newsletter items may be sent to Jenny Valdivia, USFWS, 911 NE 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97232 or e-mailed to
jenny_valdivia@r1.fws.gov



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