

Western Station Reports

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory Coyote Creek Field Station

Our main study site, overseen by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, is situated adjacent to Coyote Creek at the south end of the San Francisco Bay just north of San Jose. It is nestled against the northern end of the developing city of San Jose and is approximately 33 acres. We are in our 15th consecutive year studying the effects of an urban riparian revegetation project on bird populations. We conduct banding three days per week year-round, an annual point count, and vegetation surveys. With the help of our summer intern Amy Scarpignato, we began mapping all breeding territories of our resident birds in this area and another area on Coyote Creek. In conjunction with this, we will be looking for nests to track their success. Stay tuned for our results. Some of the more common breeders at our site are: Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, Bushtits, Downy and Nuttall's woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Bullock's Orioles, Bewick's Wrens, California Towhees, Western Scrub-Jays, White-tailed Kites, Anna's Hummingbirds, and Black Phoebes.

We also began a nine-month-long, intensive bander training class in September 2002. Three volunteers are near their successful completion after many early mornings spent with sponsor banders. We offer bander training on an as-needed basis, usually every other year.

We had two exciting mist net captures in March: a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, both banded on the 5th. This was a late capture date for a Northern Saw-whet Owl, since historically the concentration of captures has been between November and January. Spring migration will be gearing up soon, so we will be keeping a lookout for our regulars: Western Flycatchers, Wilson's Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Warbling Vireos, and Swainson's Thrushes.

For more information about the SFBBO, visit their website at: <http://www.sfbbo.org>

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Golden Gate Raptor Observatory 2002 Field Season Summary

The 2002 field season was exciting at the GGRO for several reasons. We had our highest number of sightings ever at 36,646 between 19 Aug and 8 Dec. Repeated sightings of a leucistic Turkey Vulture provided an extra level of excitement for the hawk watchers. Our banding number was also a new record at 1741 diurnal raptors banded between 19 Aug 2002 and 7 Jan 2003. Included in the new record high were GGRO season banding records for Northern Harriers (47), Red-shouldered Hawks (39), and Merlins (26). A Swainson's Hawk, only the third banded at the GGRO in 19 seasons, was banded on 20 Nov.

Our mechanical lure development project continued with an emphasis on developing a mechanical pigeon with a realistically rapid wing beat. The new lure should be ready for a full field test for the 2003 field season.

For more information about the GGRO, visit their website at: <http://www.ggro.org>

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Klamath Bird Observatory 2002 Update

In 2002 the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) continued to expand and build partnerships with government agencies, private landowners, and others, integrating conservation with land management through bird monitoring. With the Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory and the Forest Service's Redwood Sciences Laboratory, we continued to build the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network, one of the densest concentrations of bird monitoring stations in the world. Working with the BLM, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, and others, KBO operated a comprehensive network of constant-effort mist-netting stations in the northern California and southern Oregon. We also continued to develop a Rapid Ornithological Inventory (ROI—two-day intensive census and netting efforts) and small-owl banding program.

In 2002 we captured a total of 11,349 birds of 103 species, including 1616 recaptures. On 12 Aug at Odessa Creek, in the Upper Klamath Basin, 54 birds of 28 species were captured, the highest number of species captured during a single day this season. On 24 Aug, our busiest day of the season, we captured 152 birds of 18 species at the Seven Mile Guard Station, also in the Basin. Notable captures of the season included Common Snipe, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, the last a rare vagrant in our area.

This year marked the eighth year of breeding and migration season banding at Wildlife Images on the Rogue River in Oregon. Fourteen species of conservation concern are among the most abundant birds captured at this station. We conducted a preliminary analysis to examine population trends of species captured during the breeding season. Purple Finches, Orange-crowned Warblers, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds showed significant ($P < 0.01$) declines between 1995 and

2002. Breeding bird survey data from Oregon and Washington also show declines for Purple Finches, Orange-crowned Warblers, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Rufous Hummingbirds (Sauer et al. 1999). Additional years of data will improve our estimates of the rate at which these populations are declining. More importantly, the demographic data collected at our mist-netting stations may help us to evaluate factors driving the observed population change. We have been encouraging land managers to complete bird-monitoring efforts during dispersal and migration when food resources are more limiting. As part of our first year of work with the National Park Service's Monitoring and Inventory Program, both mist netting and area search censusing were utilized to inventory birds in the fall. At Oregon Caves National Monument, the number of species detected increased from 36 to 49 when surveys were conducted during both the breeding and migration seasons. Five ROIs along the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California were conducted during the last week of August to survey dispersing and migrating birds. Over 400 birds of 49 species were captured during this effort, as part of PacifiCorp's multi-taxa hydroelectric relicensing study. These data paired with those collected at constant-effort stations generate a more complete temporal and geographic picture of demographic patterns in the Klamath Siskiyou Province.

Our 2002 bird-monitoring season was a success due to our strong partnerships and dedicated and talented volunteer intern mist-netting crew.

LITERATURE CITED

Sauer, J.R., J.E. Hines, I. Thompson, J. Fallon, and G. Gough. 1999. The North American breeding survey: results and analyses. Version 98.1. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

For more information about the KBO, visit their website at: <http://www.klamathbird.org>

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