

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare

'Weather more delightful than ever (not too hot, as it can sometimes get), a late spring that resulted in an impossibly more stunning wildflower show and more birdsong than usual, a variety of very good restaurants and consistently excellent productions of the seven plays by a world class theatre company all added up to a wonderful extended week in southwestern Oregon. Dazzled by Elegant Terns and stunning vistas on the coast, we arrived in Ashland for the plays and mountain birding. A Great Gray Owl, meadows alive with Rufous Hummingbirds, Clark's Grebe and a Northern Pygmy-Owl were some of the highlights among the birds, while performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A View From The Bridge* were particularly notable. Rounding out the experience were our delicious grilled fajitas dinner in the fresh air of Fort Klamath and the full morning exploring every view of the fabulous Crater Lake National Park.

We started our first day with a pre-breakfast American Dipper, while during our first of many picnic breakfasts we were serenaded by a Winter Wren in the mossy coastal forest. We hopped down the coast, marvelling at the numbers of Common Murres, gulls and cormorants while snagging some fine species such as Tufted Puffin, Peregrine Falcon and Black Scoter. On the second morning on the coast, we walked out the south jetty and spotted a Surf Scoter with a radio antenna. It turns out that researchers have been studying the wintering and migration patterns as well as effects of oil and treatment of scoters in the San Francisco Bay, and this was probably one of their birds. After adding Wrentit and Snowy Plovers, we made our way inland and south to Ashland, where we watched a pair of Vaux's Swifts flying over the Elizabethan Stage during the first 20 minutes of *The Comedy of Errors*, a fun play set in the Wild West, replete with lasso-slinging cowboys and a snake oil salesman. The singing fit in well, but was perhaps a bit much at times.

We had three mornings in the complex mosaic of forests on the plateau just east of Ashland as well as a morning to the southwest on the slopes and even to the very peak of Mount Ashland. Watching for the many Black-tailed Deer and Western Scrub-Jays along the main road up the mountain (and one morning even stumbling across a Tricoloured Blackbird here), we drove several back roads early, succeeding in finding a big covey of Mountain Quail (with many week-old chicks which quickly scattered), but never chancing across Sooty Grouse. Finding a Great Gray Owl was a little more of a challenge, but for those present, it sat for great views for several moments before finding a well-hidden perch. We encountered many flocks populated by Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Lazuli Bunting. MacGillivray's Warblers were still on territory and quite obliging, Olive-sided Flycatchers were still calling, a very territorial "Thick-billed" Fox Sparrow perched too close for binoculars, and a surprise Evening Grosbeak came out of nowhere while we were looking for grouse and admiring a small stream adorned with rein orchids and leopard lilies. We made it as far as Upper Klamath Marsh where Clark's Grebe came very close to us, and to the butterfly-swarmed top of Buck's Peak, near which a Great Horned Owl was being mobbed by Steller's Jays. In several places we heard Pileated Woodpecker, but none ever came close for us to see. We saw some fun critters in these forests such as a Snowshoe Hare, huge Two-tailed Swallowtails, Blue and Purplish Coppers, a brilliant Pacific Fritillary and many unidentifiable fritillaries, several Lorquin's Admirals, Great Arctics, and a cooperative Twelve-spotted Skimmer, in addition to swarms of other dragonflies not so easy to identify in flight.

Our side trip to the Klamath Basin and Crater Lake was brimming over with birds. We started in the oak zone with Acorn Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Oak Titmouse, "Coastal" White-breasted Nuthatch and a Black-tailed Jackrabbit before we headed over the mountains and dipped into California. In the sagebrush flats we picked up a few new things such as California Quail, Swainson's Hawk, Sandhill Crane (three flying over very high), Mountain

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare: Bird List...2

Bluebird, Sage Thrasher and Brewer's Sparrow. Massively outnumbering all other birds together were the Gadwall, though numbers of Eared Grebe (one adult feeding the young perched on the other parent's back), Great Egret, White-faced Ibis, Black Tern and American Coot were also very impressive. Scoping the lakes we picked out Canvasback and Redhead, and Bonaparte's Gull and an American Bittern were good finds. A Peregrine Falcon continues to hold territory along State Line Road, while a territorial and vocal Willow Flycatcher was new for the list. Closer to Crater Lake, we lucked into a Northern Pygmy-Owl, but more expected were the "Oregon" Gray Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers, both performing right on schedule.

We also spent one day in the totally different habitats of the Rogue and Applegate river valleys. We had more and even better Wrentit sightings here followed by Bushtits in the same place and finally caught up with Black-capped Chickadee and Downy Woodpecker. During the day we added Black Phoebe, Yellow and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and California Towhee to the list as well. A calling Red-shouldered Hawk eluded good views, but our favorite Osprey (out of many) was on a nest atop the railroad bridge that paralleled ours as we crossed over the Rogue River near the town of Merlin. Cool bugs this day included a Western Tiger Swallowtail, a Sylvan Hairstreak and a Golden Buprestis beetle that visited during our picnic lunch.

The plays were all memorable. Besides the imaginative setting for *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the sexy fairies in black mesh and tutus (and Puck in platform heels), the blond Helena and stunning costumes for Oberon and Titania was particularly well done and a favourite of the group. *Othello* was done on an appropriately stark (black-on-white) stage, though the fluorescent lights didn't quite work as well as they might have; the performance was gripping nonetheless. *Coriolanus* was perhaps the best Shakespearean performance of all, especially considering how little it is done. Done in modern dress, it offered themes of politics and war which translated perfectly well to current issues and even personalities in today's news. The non-Shakespeare plays were not all modern this year. *The Clay Cart* is quite a bit older than the Bard's works but was similar in style but more amazingly Bollywood-like in its themes of love disallowed, misunderstandings, and close calls saved by coincidence. Interestingly different were the themes of religion that probably made a lot more sense 2000 years ago. *Our Town* was simply perfect, probably never done any better, and provides for a good thought exercise if not just plain enjoyable. *A View From The Bridge* was as disturbing as watching any "train wreck" always is. The lead roles were played absolutely brilliantly, but the nature of the relationship between Eddie and Rodolpho wasn't elucidated as clearly as it might have been. We also enjoyed post-play discussions of both this and of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with some of the actors.

Wonderful days in the field, great plays, fine restaurants and time with a group of friendly participants has us looking forward to continuing this tour in years to come.' - Rich Hoyer.

Bird List:

This is a list of all the species seen during the last three tours to Oregon.

Column A = Number of tours on which this species has been recorded

Column B = Number of days this species was seen on the last tour

Column C = Maximum daily count for this species on the last tour

H = Heard only, N = nest or dependent young observed

A	B	C	
3	8	150	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
2			<i>Aix sponsa</i>
3	3	10000	N <i>Anas strepera</i>
3	3	100	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
3	1	15	N <i>Anas cyanoptera</i>
2			<i>Anas acuta</i>
1			<i>Anas crecca</i>
3	1	50	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>
2	1	5	<i>Aythya americana</i>
2	1	2	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
3	2	500	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>
2	2	5	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
2	1	1	<i>Melanitta nigra americana</i>
2	1	3	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
2	1	2	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
3	1	250	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
2			<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>
1			<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
3	2	30	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>
3	1	1	N <i>Callipepla californica</i>
1			<i>Gavia stellata</i>
2	1	1	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>
1			<i>Gavia immer</i>
1			<i>Gavia adamsii</i>
3	2	20	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
2			<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
3	1	150	N <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
3	3	100	N <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
3	2	3	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>
3	4	25	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
3	2	15	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
3	2	250	N <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>
3	5	30	N <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
3	2	100	N <i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus</i>
2	1	1	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>
3	6	8	<i>Ardea herodias</i>

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare: Bird List...4

3 Great Egret	2	52	<i>Ardea alba</i>
3 Snowy Egret	1	6	<i>Egretta thula</i>
3 Green Heron	2	1	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
2 Black-crowned Night-Heron			<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
3 White-faced Ibis	1	500	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>
3 Turkey Vulture	9	100	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
3 Osprey	6	10	N <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
3 Bald Eagle	5	4	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
3 Northern Harrier	2	3	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
2 Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
3 Cooper's Hawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
3 Red-shouldered Hawk	3	1	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>
3 Swainson's Hawk	1	1	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
3 Red-tailed Hawk	8	20	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
1 Golden Eagle			<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
3 American Kestrel	4	8	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
3 Peregrine Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
1 Prairie Falcon	1	2	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>
1 Yellow Rail			<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>
3 American Coot	3	8000	<i>Fulica americana</i>
3 Sandhill Crane	1	3	<i>Grus canadensis</i>
1 Black-bellied Plover			<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
1 Snowy Plover	1	6	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
2 Semipalmated Plover	2	25	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
3 Killdeer	3	6	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
3 Black Oystercatcher	1	12	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>
3 Black-necked Stilt	1	2	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>
2 American Avocet	1	1	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>
3 Spotted Sandpiper	3	1	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
2 Wandering Tattler	1	1	<i>Tringa incana</i>
3 Greater Yellowlegs	3	2	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>
1 Lesser Yellowlegs			<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
1 Whimbrel			<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
1 Marbled Godwit			<i>Limosa fedoa</i>
1 Ruddy Turnstone			<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
1 Black Turnstone			<i>Arenaria melanocephala</i>
1 Surfbird			<i>Aphriza virgata</i>
2 Sanderling	1	1	<i>Calidris alba</i>
3 Western Sandpiper	2	300	<i>Calidris mauri</i>
3 Least Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>
2 Short-billed Dowitcher	1	2	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>
1 Long-billed Dowitcher			<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
3 Wilson's Snipe	1	8	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>
1 Wilson's Phalarope			<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare: Bird List...5

1 Bonaparte's Gull	1	3	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>
1 Franklin's Gull			<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>
3 Heermann's Gull	2	15	<i>Larus heermanni</i>
3 Ring-billed Gull	4	100	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
3 Western Gull	2	500	N <i>Larus occidentalis</i>
3 California Gull	2	1000	<i>Larus californicus</i>
3 Glaucous-winged Gull	1	30	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>
2 Western x Glaucous-winged Gull	1	5	<i>Larus occidentalis x glaucescens</i>
3 Caspian Tern	4	10	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
3 Black Tern	2	150	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
3 Forster's Tern	2	10	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>
1 Elegant Tern	1	32	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>
3 Common Murre	2	10000	N <i>Uria aalge</i>
3 Pigeon Guillemot	2	200	<i>Cephus columba</i>
3 Marbled Murrelet	1	2	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>
2 Rhinoceros Auklet	1	3	<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>
2 Tufted Puffin	1	1	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>
3 Rock Pigeon	5	200	<i>Columba livia</i>
3 Band-tailed Pigeon	2	3	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
2 Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	4	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
3 Mourning Dove	6	75	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
1 Barn Owl			<i>Tyto alba</i>
2 Western Screech-Owl			<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>
2 Great Horned Owl	1	1	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
3 Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	1	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>
3 Great Gray Owl	1	1	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>
1 Common Nighthawk			<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
3 Vaux's Swift	7	4	N <i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
1 White-throated Swift			<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>
3 Rufous Hummingbird	7	20	N <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>
3 Belted Kingfisher	4	3	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>
3 Acorn Woodpecker	2	6	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
3 Red-breasted Sapsucker	6	4	N <i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>
2 Red-naped X Red-breasted S.			<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis X ruber</i>
3 Downy Woodpecker	1	2	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
3 Hairy Woodpecker	2	2	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
1 White-headed Woodpecker			<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>
3 Red-shafted Northern Flicker	8	12	<i>Colaptes auratus collaris</i>
3 Pileated Woodpecker	4	2	H <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
3 Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	4	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>
3 Western Wood-Pewee	6	4	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
1 Willow Flycatcher	1	1	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>
1 Hammond's Flycatcher			<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>
2 Gray Flycatcher			<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare: Bird List...6

3 Dusky Flycatcher	3	2	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>
3 Pacific-slope Flycatcher	3	2	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>
3 Black Phoebe	1	2	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
2 Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	2	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
3 Western Kingbird	1	15	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
3 Cassin's Vireo	5	2	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>
2 Hutton's Vireo	1	1	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>
3 Warbling Vireo	4	5	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
3 Oregon Gray Jay	2	4 N	<i>Perisoreus canadensis obscurus</i>
3 Steller's Jay	6	15	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
3 California Western Scrub-Jay	7	20	<i>Aphelocoma c. californica</i>
3 Clark's Nutcracker	1	12	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>
3 Black-billed Magpie	2	10	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>
3 American Crow	8	50	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
3 Common Raven	8	10	<i>Corvus corax</i>
2 Purple Martin	1	1	<i>Progne subis</i>
3 Tree Swallow	2	2	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
3 Violet-green Swallow	7	40	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>
1 Bank Swallow	1	5	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
3 Cliff Swallow	5	200	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
3 Barn Swallow	7	50	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
3 Black-capped Chickadee	2	2	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>
3 Mountain Chickadee	5	20	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>
3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee	4	15	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>
3 Oak Titmouse	1	3	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>
3 Coastal Bushtit	2	11	<i>Psaltriparus minimus minimus</i>
3 Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	20	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
3 Coastal White-breasted Nuthatch	2	2	<i>Sitta carolinensis aculeata</i>
1 Pygmy Nuthatch			<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>
3 Brown Creeper	3	3	<i>Certhia americana</i>
3 Rock Wren	1	1	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
1 Canyon Wren			<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>
3 Bewick's Wren	2	1	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
3 House Wren	2	2	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
2 Western Winter Wren	1	3	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes pacificus</i>
3 American Dipper	1	1	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>
3 Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	3	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>
3 Western Bluebird	2	6	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
3 Mountain Bluebird	2	5	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
3 Townsend's Solitaire	4	2	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>
3 Russet-backed Swainson's Thrush	2	8	<i>Catharus ustulatus ustulatus</i>
3 Hermit Thrush	4	10	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
3 American Robin	9	30	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare: Bird List...7

3 Wrenit	2	5	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>
3 Sage Thrasher	1	4	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
1 Gray Catbird			<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
1 Northern Mockingbird			<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
3 European Starling	6	500	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
3 Cedar Waxwing	4	6 N	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
3 Orange-crowned Warbler	5	5	<i>Vermivora celata lutescens</i>
3 Western Nashville Warbler	3	3	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla ridgwayi</i>
3 Yellow Warbler	2	4 N	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
3 Audubon's Yell.-rumped Warbler	5	30	<i>Dendroica coronata auduboni</i>
1 Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	1	<i>Dendroica coronata auduboni</i>
1 Townsend's Warbler			<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>
3 Hermit Warbler	4	5	<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>
3 MacGillivray's Warbler	1	4	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>
2 Common Yellowthroat	1	1	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
3 Wilson's Warbler	1	1	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
3 Yellow-breasted Chat	1	3	<i>Icteria virens</i>
3 Western Tanager	6	25	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
3 Green-tailed Towhee	3	6	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>
3 Spotted Towhee	4	10 N	<i>Pipilo maculatus falcinellus</i>
2 California Towhee	1	1	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>
3 Chipping Sparrow	3	5	<i>Spizella passerina</i>
3 Brewer's Sparrow	1	15	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
3 Vesper Sparrow	1	3	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>
2 Lark Sparrow	1	4	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
3 Savannah Sparrow	3	3	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
3 Thick-billed Fox Sparrow	2	2	<i>Passerella iliaca megarhyncha</i>
3 Song Sparrow	6	25	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
3 Lincoln's Sparrow	1	2	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>
3 White-crowned Sparrow	2	10 N	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys pugetensis</i>
3 Oregon Dark-eyed Junco	6	50	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>
3 Black-headed Grosbeak	3	10	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>
3 Lazuli Bunting	5	10	<i>Passerina amoena</i>
3 Red-winged Blackbird	5	750	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
2 Tricolored Blackbird	2	2	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>
3 Western Meadowlark	1	10	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
3 Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	150	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
3 Brewer's Blackbird	7	350	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>
3 Brown-headed Cowbird	4	20	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
3 Bullock's Oriole	2	3	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>
3 Purple Finch	3	3	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>
3 Cassin's Finch	4	6	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>
3 House Finch	4	50	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
3 Type 3 Red Crossbill	1	2	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>

OREGON – Birds and Shakespeare: Bird List...8

1 Type 2/4/5/7 Red Crossbill			<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
3 Pine Siskin	6	5	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>
3 Lesser Goldfinch	6	4	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>
3 American Goldfinch	5	10	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>
3 Evening Grosbeak	1	1	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
3 House Sparrow	4	30	<i>Passer domesticus</i>