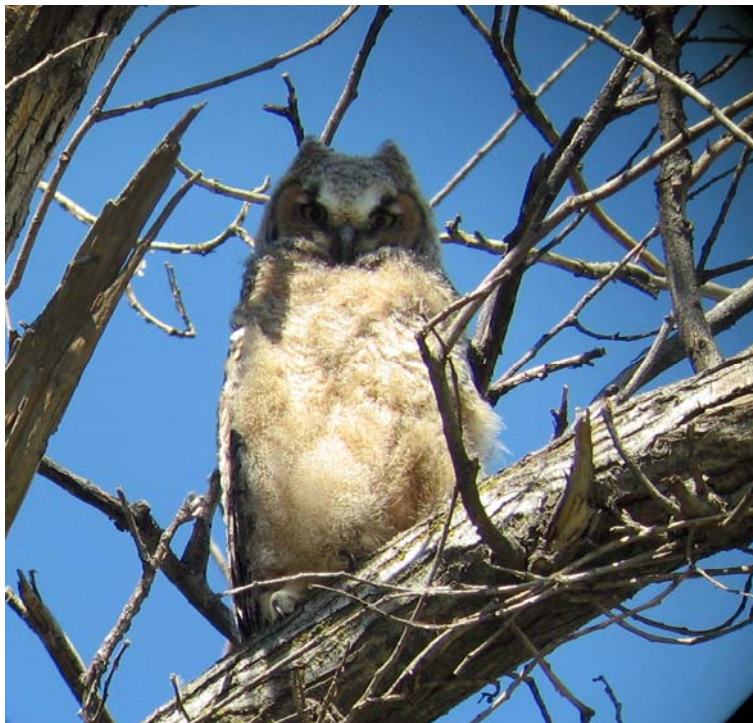


Green Island Bird Survey

Spring 2008



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McKenzie River Trust
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Green Island Bird Survey

Introduction

Green Island is located in Lane County, Oregon, about two miles west of Coburg, just below the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. The site is approximately 1,000 acres in size and was acquired by the McKenzie River Trust in 2003 for the primary purpose of restoring and managing native habitats for fish, wildlife and plants. This bird census is a follow on study to the work performed by Paul Adamus in 2000.

The objectives of this study are twofold. First, the study will identify and quantify the bird species utilizing Green Island as breeders, migrants and winter residents. Second, the study will detect and quantify population changes and trends over time, specifically related to the restoration of native habitat on Green Island.

Methodology

From April 2006 through February 2007 the survey was conducted utilizing two different methodologies: point count surveys and general surveys. Thirty four survey points were established on Green Island with twenty in the north sector and fourteen in the south sector. Where possible, these survey points corresponded with points used by Paul Adamus in an earlier study. Point count surveys were conducted two to four times per month. Birds were identified and recorded by sight and sound during five minute sessions at each point. General surveys were conducted one to two times per month identifying and recording species, abundance and behavior. General surveys will further identify breeding activity and enhance data from the point count surveys.

Starting in March of 2007 the survey methodology was modified by re-arranging the survey points and reducing the frequency of surveys. Two new survey points were created on the north end of the island to expand our census coverage. Eight survey points were eliminated due to their proximity with each other. Five points were moved 15 to 150 meters to offer better access to habitat types. The point count survey now consists of twenty-eight points, seventeen in the north sector and eleven in the south sector. Point count surveys are now conducted one to two times per month and general surveys one to two times per month.

The Spring Season (March – May)

One point count survey was conducted in March, two in April and one in May. One general survey was conducted in March and one in April. Observers for the period included Kit Larsen and Roger Robb who spent 34 hours in the field.

The spring season is represented by a mixture of wintering birds in the first half of the period, migrants throughout the period and breeding birds that are both permanent residents and returning migrants. Wintering duck numbers peaked in March with many birds staying through mid April. Early migrants such as Tree Swallows and Turkey Vultures began to appear in March followed by flycatchers and warblers in April and Swainson's Thrushes, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers and others in May. There was a large movement of flycatchers, swallows and warblers on April 24 and 25, mostly along the old McKenzie channel. An unusual migrant was a Say's Phoebe in March near point 20 accompanied by a Black Phoebe. Another unusual find in March and a first for Green Island was a Virginia Rail calling from the old McKenzie channel near point 9.

Several species showed significant increases in numbers over the spring season of 2007 including Northern Flicker (51%), American Robin (45%), Bewick's Wren (44%), Orange-crowned Warbler (71%), Yellow-rumped Warbler (44%) and Red-winged Blackbird (19%). Western Scrub Jays increased by 37% while Steller's Jays decreased by 47%. American Kestrels and California Quail were only seen in May and April, respectively, though they were found in every month in 2007. Another species showing a significant decrease was Common Yellowthroat (74%).

Eighty seven species were found on the point count surveys. Nine species were found on the general surveys, but not on the point count surveys. These included Bufflehead, Cooper's Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Common Raven and Townsend's Warbler. Chart I. represents the species found on the spring point count surveys.

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

	Mar 10th	Apr 3rd	Apr 24th	May 11th
Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe	5	3	3	
Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	4	72	4	
Ducks, Swans, Geese				
Greater White-fronted Goose				
Cackling Goose	605	90		
Canada Goose	34	45	20	12
Wood Duck	1	14	21	6
Eurasian Wigeon				
American Wigeon	130	78	24	2
Gadwall	7	12	7	

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

	Mar 10th	Apr 3rd	Apr 24th	May 11th
Green-winged Teal	9	8	7	
Mallard	71	20	21	10
Northern Pintail				
Blue-winged Teal				
Northern Shoveler				
Ring-necked Duck	52	23	18	1
Lesser Scaup	1			
Bufflehead				
Hooded Merganser	1		3	
Common Merganser	4	10	9	1
Herons, Egrets & Bitterns				
Great Blue Heron	9	5	8	1
Great Egret	2	2		
Green Heron				
Vultures				
Turkey Vulture	3	9	12	11
Diurnal Birds of Prey				
Osprey		3	4	5
Bald Eagle	1	3	4	2
Northern Harrier	1			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1		
Cooper's Hawk				
Northern Goshawk				
Red-shouldered Hawk				
Red-tailed Hawk	4	2	4	2
Rough-legged Hawk				
American Kestrel				1
Merlin				
Peregrine Falcon				
Pheasants & Quail				
Ring-necked Pheasant				
Wild Turkey		4	1	
California Quail			2	
Rails & Coots				
Virginia Rail	1			
Sora				
American Coot	1		1	
Shorebirds				
Wilson's Snipe				
Greater Yellowlegs				
Spotted Sandpiper	3			2
Least Sandpiper				

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

	Mar 10th	Apr 3rd	Apr 24th	May 11th
Dunlin				
Killdeer	3	3	5	2
Gulls & Terns				
Ring-billed Gull				
California Gull				
Glaucous-winged Gull				
Loons				
Common Loon	1			
Pigeons & Doves				
Rock Dove				
Band-tailed Pigeon				
Mourning Dove		1	2	6
Owls				
Barn Owl				
Western Screech-Owl				
Great-horned Owl	1	2		
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
Swifts				
Vaux's Swift			6	1
Hummingbirds				
Anna's Hummingbird				
Rufous Hummingbird		1		
Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher	3	3	1	2
Woodpeckers				
Red-breasted Sapsucker				
Downy Woodpecker			2	1
Hairy Woodpecker				
Northern Flicker	22	22	13	10
Pileated Woodpecker		1		
Flycatchers				
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
Western Wood-Pee wee				6
Willow Flycatcher				
Hammond's Flycatcher			1	
Gray Flycatcher				
Dusky Flycatcher			1	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher			1	4
Black Phoebe				
Western Kingbird				
Eastern Kingbird				

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

	Mar 10th	Apr 3rd	Apr 24th	May 11th
Crows & Jays				
Steller's Jay	23	24	3	5
Western Scrub-Jay	17	10	10	5
American Crow	8	13	5	1
Raven				
Vireos				
Hutton's Vireo				
Cassin's Vireo				
Warbling Vireo				5
Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing				
Thrushes				
Varied Thrush	1			
Swainson's Thrush				
Hermit Thrush			1	1
American Robin	400	109	48	20
Starlings				
European Starling	42	31	13	18
Nuthatches				
Red-breasted Nuthatch			1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch				1
Creepers				
Brown Creeper	2	3	3	
Wrens				
Marsh Wren				
Bewick's Wren	18	11	16	5
Winter Wren				
House Wren				1
Long-tailed Tits				
Bushtit	6			
Swallows				
Tree Swallow	5	5	56	23
Violet-green Swallow			1272	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			1	2
Cliff Swallow			1	
Barn Swallow			10	
Kinglets				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	21	4	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5			
Old World Warblers				
Wrentit				

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

	Mar 10th	Apr 3rd	Apr 24th	May 11th
Chickadees & Tits				
Black-capped Chickadee	30	21	9	12
Larks				
Horned Lark				
Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow				
Wagtails & Pipits				
American Pipit	35			
Siskins, Crossbills & Finches				
Pine Siskin	5		4	
American Goldfinch			13	26
Lesser Goldfinch				
Purple Finch				
House Finch	2			
Evening Grosbeak				
New World Warblers				
Orange-crowned Warbler		12	40	7
Nashville Warbler			1	
Yellow Warbler				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	14	70	163	
Black-throated Gray Warbler		1	3	
Townsend's Warbler				
Hermit Warbler				
MacGillivray's Warbler			1	
Common Yellowthroat		1	21	20
Wilson's Warbler				17
Yellow-breasted Chat				
Buntings, Sparrows, Tanagers & Allies				
Fox Sparrow	4	2		
Song Sparrow	55	71	75	44
Lincoln's Sparrow	2		4	
White-crowned Sparrow			5	
White-throated Sparrow				
Golden-crowned Sparrow	8		17	4
Dark-eyed Junco	47	5	3	
Savannah Sparrow			4	1
Chipping Sparrow				
Brewer's Sparrow				
Vesper Sparrow				

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

	Mar 10th	Apr 3rd	Apr 24th	May 11th
Spotted Towhee	20	21	7	5
Western Tanager				4
Black-headed Grosbeak			1	33
Lazuli Bunting				
Blackbirds & Orioles				
Bullock's Oriole				4
Red-winged Blackbird	18	25	42	20
Western Meadowlark				
Brewer's Blackbird				
Brown-headed Cowbird			5	23

Breeding Birds

The breeding status of the birds of Green Island is established using the methodology developed and used by the Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas published in 2001. The methodology captures criteria that define birds as possible breeders, probable breeders and confirmed breeders. For example, a criterion for possible breeding would be a bird seen or heard on one date during the breeding season. One of the criteria for probable breeding would be a pair (adult male and female) seen during the breeding season. And, one of the criteria for confirmed breeding would be recently fledged young attended by an adult.

Fifty nine species of birds are suspected of breeding at Green Island with 39 confirmed, 15 probable and 5 possible breeders. Great Blue Herons were returning to the rookery on the west side of the island with four birds on the nest on March 10. Osprey returned to their nests on Green Island in late March. One pair worked on the nest on a power pole near point 6 on the north end of the island, but soon abandoned the effort. Possibly the same pair has built a nest just outside the main gate to Green Island. Another pair is using the nest on the BPA tower near point 15 on the north end. On the south end of the island a pair has occupied a nest on a power pole near point 27 that was used last year. (Note: This nest was found to be abandoned in mid June.) The Bald Eagles were first seen on the nest across the river from point 13 on March 10 and two young birds were observed in the nest on April 3. Two Great Horned Owls were found on nests on March 10, one at point 10 and one across the river from point 15. A full sized fledgling was seen with the adult at point 10 on April 3. Chart II lists the breeding birds of Green Island.

Chart II. Green Island Breeding Birds

	Confirmed	Probable	Possible
Grebes			
Pied-billed Grebe	X		
Ducks, Swans, Geese			
Canada Goose	X		
Wood Duck	X		
Mallard	X		
Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns			
Great Blue Heron	X		
Green Heron			X
Vultures			
Turkey Vulture			X
Diurnal Birds of Prey			
Osprey	X		
Bald Eagle	X		
Red-tailed Hawk	X		
American Kestrel		X	
Pheasants & Quail			
Ring-necked Pheasant		X	
California Quail	X		
Shorebirds			
Spotted Sandpiper	X		
Killdeer	X		
Pigeons & Doves			
Mourning Dove	X		
Owls			
Great Horned Owl	X		
Hummingbirds			
Rufous Hummingbird		X	
Kingfishers			
Belted Kingfisher	X		
Woodpeckers			
Red-breasted Sapsucker	X		
Downy Woodpecker		X	
Northern Flicker		X	
Flycatchers			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X		
Western Wood-Peevee	X		
Willow Flycatcher		X	
Western Kingbird	X		
Crows & Jays			
Steller's Jay		X	
Western Scrub-Jay	X		

Chart II. Green Island Breeding Birds

	Confirmed	Probable	Possible
American Crow		X	
Vireos			
Cassin's Vireo		X	
Warbling Vireo	X		
Waxwings			
Cedar Waxwing		X	
Thrushes			
Swainson's Thrush		X	
American Robin	X		
Starlings			
European Starling	X		
Creepers			
Brown Creeper			X
Wrens			
Bewick's Wren		X	
House Wren	X		
Long-tailed Tits			
Bushtit	X		
Swallows			
Tree Swallow	X		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	X		
Barn Swallow	X		
Kinglets			
Golden-crowned Kinglet		X	
Old World Warblers			
Wrentit	X		
Chickadees & Tits			
Black-capped Chickadee	X		
Siskins, Crossbills & Finches			
American Goldfinch	X		
House Finch			X
New World Warblers			
Orange-crowned Warbler		X	
Yellow Warbler	X		
Common Yellowthroat	X		
Wilson's Warbler			X
Buntings, Sparrows, Tanagers & Allies			
Song Sparrow	X		
Savannah Sparrow		X	
Spotted Towhee	X		
Black-headed Grosbeak	X		
Lazuli Bunting	X		

Chart II. Green Island Breeding Birds

	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Possible</u>
<i>Blackbirds & Orioles</i>			
Bullock's Oriole	x		
Red-winged Blackbird	x		
Brown-headed Cowbird	x		
Total	39	15	5

Green Island Bird Checklist

A checklist of the birds of Green Island has been developed utilizing sightings from the historical studies by Paul Adamus and Leroy Fish, historical observations by Kit Larsen and George Grier and data collected during the current study. The Green Island bird list currently stands at 152 species. Two new species were added to the list during the spring season.

Virginia Rail 3/10

Say's Phoebe 3/20

Chart III is a checklist of birds found at Green Island.

Chart III. Green Island Bird Checklist

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe

Cormorants

Dbl-crested Cormorant

Ducks, Swans & Geese

Tundra Swan
Gr. White-fronted Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Eurasian Widgeon
American Widgeon
Gadwall
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns

Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green Heron

Vultures

Turkey Vulture

Diurnal Birds of Prey

Osprey
Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Goshawk
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon

Pheasants & Quail

Ring-necked Pheasant
Wild Turkey
California Quail

Rails & Coots

Virginia Rail
Sora

American Coot

Shorebirds

Wilson's Snipe
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Dunlin
Killdeer

Gulls & Terns

Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull

Loons

Common Loon

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon
Band-tailed Pigeon
Mourning Dove

Owls

Western Screech-Owl
Barn Owl
Great Horned Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl

Swifts

Vaux's Swift

Hummingbirds

Anna's Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird

Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

R-b Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker

Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher
Western Wood-Pee-wee
Willow Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Say's Phoebe
Black Phoebe

Gray Flycatcher

Dusky Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird

Crows & Jays

Steller's Jay
Western Scrub-Jay
American Crow
Common Raven

Vireos

Hutton's Vireo
Cassin's Vireo
Warbling Vireo

Waxwings

Cedar Waxwing

Thrushes

Varied Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
American Robin

Starlings

European Starling

Nuthatches

Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch

Creepers

Brown Creeper

Wrens

Marsh Wren
Bewick's Wren
Winter Wren
House Wren

Long-tailed Tits

Bushtit

Swallows

Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
N. R-w Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow

Kinglets

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Golden-crowned Kinglet

Old World Warblers

Wrentit

Chickadees & Tits

Black-capped Chickadee

Larks

Horned Lark

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow

Wagtails & Pipits

American Pipit

Finches & Allies

Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch
Purple Finch
House Finch
Evening Grosbeak

New World Warblers

Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Bl-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Hermit Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat

Buntings, Sparrows, Tanagers & Allies

Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Savannah Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Spotted Towhee
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting

Blackbirds & Orioles

Bullock's Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird

