

Green Island Bird Survey

Winter 2007



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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

The survey will be conducted utilizing two different methodologies: point count surveys and general surveys. Thirty four survey points have been established on Green Island with twenty in the north sector and fourteen in the south sector. Where possible, these survey points correspond with points used by Paul Adamus in an earlier study. Point count surveys are conducted two to four times per month. Birds are identified and recorded by sight and sound during five minute sessions at each point. General surveys are 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.

The Winter Season (December – February)

One point count survey was conducted in December, two in January and two in February. Heavy rains in late December washed out the road at the crossing over the old McKenzie channel prohibiting a second point count survey during that month. One general survey was conducted in December, one in January and one in February. Observers for the period included Diane Horgan, Kit Larsen, and Roger Robb who spent 61 hours in the field.

The birds of the winter season are comprised of late fall migrants and winter residents. Waterfowl began arriving at Green Island in the late fall and numbers peaked in February with twelve species of ducks and geese using the area throughout the winter season. Wintering shorebirds were sporadic with six species utilizing Green Island. A Black Phoebe was observed on four out of five point count surveys and two of three general

surveys and appears to be a permanent resident at Green Island. A Pileated Woodpecker has been regular and vocal on the southwest portion of the island. The most numerous passerines using Green Island during the winter season are American Robins and European Starlings. Western Meadowlarks were found on three of the five point count surveys and are likely present during the entire winter.

Sixty four species were found on the point count surveys. Six species were found on the general surveys, but not on the point count surveys. These included California Quail, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Lincoln’s Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Brewer’s Blackbird. Chart I. represents the species found on the winter point count surveys.

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

| | Dec 10th/ 12th | Jan 9th/ 12th | Jan 22nd/ 23rd | Feb 5th/ 6th | Feb 19th/ 25th |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Grebes | | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 11 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 6 |
| Cormorants | | | | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | 2 | 2 | | 51 |
| Ducks, Swans, Geese | | | | | |
| Cackling Goose | 830 | 150 | 474 | 2004 | 75 |
| Canada Goose | | 42 | 39 | 46 | 12 |
| Wood Duck | 4 | 4 | | | 2 |
| American Wigeon | 30 | 26 | 65 | 232 | 68 |
| Gadwall | 2 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 12 |
| Green-winged Teal | | 10 | | 31 | 4 |
| Mallard | 29 | 46 | 21 | 118 | 38 |
| Northern Pintail | 17 | | | | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 9 | 72 | 9 | 24 | 9 |
| Bufflehead | | | 1 | | |
| Hooded Merganser | 8 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Common Merganser | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 17 |
| Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns | | | | | |
| Great Blue Heron | 8 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 10 |
| Great Egret | | | | | 1 |
| Diurnal Birds of Prey | | | | | |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Northern Harrier | 1 | | | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | 2 | | | |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | 1 | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| American Kestrel | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

| | Dec 10th/ 12th | Jan 9th/ 12th | Jan 22nd/ 23rd | Feb 5th/ 6th | Feb 19th/ 25th |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rails & Coots | | | | | |
| American Coot | | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| Shorebirds | | | | | |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | 4 | 1 | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | | 1 | | | |
| Dunlin | | | | | 200 |
| Killdeer | 81 | | | | |
| Gulls & Terns | | | | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | 80 | | | |
| Pigeons & Doves | | | | | |
| Mourning Dove | 1 | | | | 6 |
| Owls | | | | | |
| Great-horned Owl | | | 2 | | |
| Kingfishers | | | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Woodpeckers | | | | | |
| Red-breasted Sapsucker | | 1 | | | |
| Downy Woodpecker | | | 2 | 1 | |
| Northern Flicker | 10 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Flycatchers | | | | | |
| Black Phoebe | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Crows & Jays | | | | | |
| Steller's Jay | 12 | 12 | 30 | 34 | 10 |
| Western Scrub-Jay | 12 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 9 |
| American Crow | 1 | 34 | 8 | 22 | 6 |
| Raven | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Thrushes | | | | | |
| Varied Thrush | 2 | | 4 | | |
| American Robin | 146 | 139 | 153 | 192 | 544 |
| Starlings | | | | | |
| European Starling | 137 | 93 | 377 | 267 | 251 |
| Creepers | | | | | |
| Brown Creeper | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Wrens | | | | | |
| Marsh Wren | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Bewick's Wren | 6 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| Winter Wren | 3 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| Long-tailed Tits | | | | | |
| Bushtit | 35 | 20 | | 19 | |

Chart 1. Green Island Species Report

| | Dec 10th/ 12th | Jan 9th/ 12th | Jan 22nd/ 23rd | Feb 5th/ 6th | Feb 19th/ 25th |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Kinglets | | | | | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 5 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 10 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 21 | 8 | 9 | 8 | |
| Old World Warblers | | | | | |
| Wrentit | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Chickadees & Tits | | | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 14 | 18 | 13 | 28 | 11 |
| Wagtails & Pipits | | | | | |
| American Pipit | 1 | | | 31 | 20 |
| Siskins, Crossbills & Finches | | | | | |
| American Goldfinch | 3 | 1 | | 1 | |
| Purple Finch | | | | 3 | |
| House Finch | | 1 | 2 | | |
| New World Warblers | | | | | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | 3 | 3 | 25 | 15 |
| Buntings, Sparrows, Tanagers & Allies | | | | | |
| Fox Sparrow | 6 | 25 | 11 | 6 | 2 |
| Song Sparrow | 52 | 59 | 49 | 81 | 58 |
| Golden-crowned Sparrow | 10 | 10 | 1 | | 5 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 9 | 51 | 2 | | 20 |
| Spotted Towhee | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| Blackbirds & Orioles | | | | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 5 | | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| Western Meadowlark | 18 | | | 25 | 27 |

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 seven species of birds are suspected of breeding at Green Island with 31 confirmed, 20 probable and 6 possible breeders. Some breeding activity was noted in February

including Great Blue Herons perched in and around nests in the rookery on the west side of Green Island and a Red-tailed Hawk carrying nesting material. Chart II lists the breeding birds of Green Island.

Chart II. Green Island Breeding Birds

| | <u>Confirmed</u> | <u>Probable</u> | <u>Possible</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Grebes | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | x | | |
| Ducks, Swans, Geese | | | |
| Canada Goose | x | | |
| Wood Duck | x | | |
| Mallard | x | | |
| Herons, 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 | |

Chart II. Green Island Breeding Birds

| | <u>Confirmed</u> | <u>Probable</u> | <u>Possible</u> |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Flycatchers</i> | | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | x | | |
| Western Wood-Pee-wee | x | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | x | |
| <i>Crows & Jays</i> | | | |
| Steller's Jay | | x | |
| Western Scrub-Jay | x | | |
| American Crow | | x | |
| <i>Vireos</i> | | | |
| Cassin's Vireo | | x | |
| Warbling Vireo | x | | |
| <i>Waxwings</i> | | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | | x | |
| <i>Thrushes</i> | | | |
| Swainson's Thrush | | x | |
| American Robin | x | | |
| <i>Starlings</i> | | | |
| European Starling | x | | |
| <i>Creepers</i> | | | |
| Brown Creeper | | | x |
| <i>Wrens</i> | | | |
| Bewick's Wren | | x | |
| <i>Long-tailed Tits</i> | | | |
| Bushtit | x | | |
| <i>Swallows</i> | | | |
| Tree Swallow | x | | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | x | | |
| Barn Swallow | x | | |
| <i>Kinglets</i> | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | x | |
| <i>Old World Warblers</i> | | | |
| Wrentit | | x | |
| <i>Chickadees & Tits</i> | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | | x | |
| <i>Siskins, Crossbills & Finches</i> | | | |
| American Goldfinch | | x | |
| House Finch | | | x |
| <i>New World Warblers</i> | | | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | | x | |
| Yellow Warbler | | x | |
| Common Yellowthroat | x | | |

Chart II. Green Island Breeding Birds

| | Confirmed | Probable | Possible |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|
| Wilson's Warbler | | | x |
| <i>Buntings, Sparrows, Tanagers & Allies</i> | | | |
| Song Sparrow | x | | |
| Savannah Sparrow | | x | |
| Spotted Towhee | x | | |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | x | | |
| Lazuli Bunting | | x | |
| <i>Blackbirds & Orioles</i> | | | |
| Bullock's Oriole | x | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | x | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | x | | |
| Total | 31 | 20 | 6 |

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 140 species. Two new species were added to the list during the winter season.

Lesser Yellowlegs 2/4
Dunlin 2/25

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

Chart III. Green Island Bird Checklist

Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe

Cormorants

Dbl-crested Cormorant

Ducks, Swans & Geese

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

California Quail

Rails & Coots

American Coot

Shorebirds

Wilson's Snipe

Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs

Spotted Sandpiper

Dunlin

Killdeer

Gulls & Terns

Ring-billed Gull

Glaucous-winged Gull

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

Black Phoebe

Gray 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

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

