



## PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

### OREGON-WASHINGTON CHAPTER

<http://www.orwapif.org> Winter 2005

Prepared by Cathy Flick. Submissions welcome at: [cflick@fs.fed.us](mailto:cflick@fs.fed.us)

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- **Feature Article: Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge Integrates PIF Conservation Plan with Management Program**

Jaime L. Stephens, Klamath Bird Observatory

The Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge is using the Oregon-Washington Partners in Flight (PIF) Bird Conservation Plan, *Conservation Strategy for Landbirds of the East-Slope of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington* to describe desired habitat conditions for forested and forest/meadow habitats on the Refuge. Refuge managers, biologists, and prescribed fire specialists believe that reducing excessive fuels accumulation via current funding initiatives represents an opportunity to achieve desired habitat conditions while simultaneously reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. One management program at the Refuge is designed around the conservation plan's desired habitat conditions for aspen stands, and will use suggested prescriptions to develop associated fuels reduction projects to promote large aspen trees and snags with regeneration.

The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO), in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat Programs, Branch of Bird Conservation, and the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, has implemented a bird-monitoring program to measure the effectiveness of the fuels reduction and aspen restoration project on the Refuge. Effectiveness will be measured by the response of the aspen-dependent bird community to habitat changes that result from fuels reductions. In 2004 KBO collected a second year of pre-treatment data; including breeding season point counts, migration/dispersal season area searches and corresponding vegetation surveys. Post-treatment monitoring in subsequent years will yield comparable data from which we will interpret the response of birds to those treatments. The Mountain Bluebird, Northern Flicker, House Wren and Tree Swallow have the potential to be good indicators of the effect of aspen restoration on breeding and migrating birds based on our detection rates. This project represents a significant step towards integrating Partners in Flight conservation planning and National Wildlife Refuge management programs. To receive a complete copy of the 2004 Klamath Marsh progress report please contact KBO at (541) 201-0866 or visit: <http://www.klamathbird.org/> on the World Wide Web.

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- *Upcoming Meetings and Workshops...*

**April 7-8, 2005: Tools for Bird Conservation in Coniferous Forests in CA-OR-WA - Ashland, OR.** This workshop is hosted by the Oregon/Washington Chapter of Partners in Flight (PIF), in collaboration with the California chapter of Partners in Flight. The workshop will focus on the conservation and management of conifer forest birds and their habitats. Our objective is to bring together forest administrators, biologists, managers, and researchers to provide an overview of the important issues and tools available for conservation of non-listed species in coniferous forests. **Contact:** Jaime Stephens, 541-201-0866, [jlh@klamathbird.org](mailto:jlh@klamathbird.org)

**April 13-15, 2005: Shorebird Western Working Group Meeting-Brigham City, UT** Optional field trip will occur to the Great Salt Lake ecosystem on Tuesday afternoon (12th) via airboat or motorboat. Shorebird conservation planning occurs on Wednesday. The Intermountain Western Shorebird Working Group will reconvene to review achievements and strategize future implementation objectives. There will be a session on integrated wetland management for aquatic birds for refuge and wildlife area managers. **Contact:** Carol J. Beardmore, 602-242-0524 ext. 248, [carol\\_beardmore@fws.gov](mailto:carol_beardmore@fws.gov)

**May 9-13, 2005: Bird Monitoring Techniques & Vocalization Training-Stevenson, WA.** Always a hot seller, this training includes up-to-date survey techniques, exposure to our regional bird gurus, special speakers, and polishing up on bird vocalizations. A must-DO! **Contact:** Barb Bresson-Kott 541-503-668-1414, [bkottbresson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bkottbresson@fs.fed.us)

**May 16-19, 2005: Pinyon-Juniper and Sagebrush Ecology & Mgt -Montrose, CO**  
Sponsored by the Uncompahgre Plateau Project.

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- *Synopsis of Some Recently Held Meetings and Workshops...*

**Sagebrush Bird Conservation Network Meeting Summary by Aaron Holmes**

On November 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, the Sagebrush Bird Conservation Network (SBCN) held a meeting in Olympia, Washington. Attendees representing universities, state wildlife agencies, federal land management agencies, and 4 western bird observatories traveled from 7 western states and Canada to share information on sagebrush associated birds. The SBCN is committed to the preservation and enhancement of shrubsteppe bird populations and the sagebrush ecosystems they depend on. We strive to improve coordination among individuals and institutions that conduct research on sagebrush associated birds and provide science based recommendations and decision support tools for land managers. For more information on the SBCN and partner projects please visit [www.sagebrushbird.org](http://www.sagebrushbird.org) or contact Aaron Holmes ([aholmes@prbo.org](mailto:aholmes@prbo.org)).

### **Bird Monitoring Workshop Summary by Char Corkran**

On November 29 and 30, 2004, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife held a workshop on monitoring birds, led by Holly Michael and Peg Boulay from ODFW and Bob Altman from American Bird Conservancy. The effort was part of preparation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), a non-regulatory, statewide plan that will address vertebrate and invertebrate species and habitats. Guest speakers described some current efforts on forest bird monitoring in the Blue Mtns, sagebrush birds, forest and oak woodland birds in southern Oregon, seabirds, shorebirds, upland game birds, waterfowl, waterbirds in eastern Oregon, the importance of monitoring vital rates, and Coordinated Bird Monitoring with an example from Idaho. All attendees participated in break-out groups that identified ongoing, smaller-scale monitoring efforts in Oregon, and discussed indicator species and guild approaches, how Coordinated Bird Monitoring might work in Oregon, how to use citizen science, effectiveness monitoring, performance indicators, when/where to use demographic studies, and issues of scale. All comments from the workshop will be considered in framing the monitoring chapter of the CWCS. When completed, the plan is intended to meet the requirements of the USFWS in administering the State Wildlife Grants Program and the Wildlife Conservation and Recovery Program. Both federal programs provide funding to states for proactive wildlife conservation efforts designed to prevent further listings and move currently listed species toward recovery.

### **Western Purple Martin Working Group Annual Meeting Summary by CJ Flick**

On January 26, 2005, contributors from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California shared geographical updates on martin populations. The energy level was intense and the optimism high among group attendees. Of special interests at this meeting were martin's use of natural snags, finalizing population objectives for CA-OR-WA-BC, reviewing a draft monitoring protocol and training manual, obtaining more banding information between the existing colonies and population centers, including the Columbia River. Next meeting is October 26, 2005 at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Headquarters in Vancouver, WA. Contact Stan Kostka for meeting minutes ([lynnandstan@earthlink.com](mailto:lynnandstan@earthlink.com)).

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## **• *Contributions to the Newsletter and Website***

### **Newsletter**

Submissions for to the Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight newsletter are welcome throughout the year. If you are interested in preparing an article or would like to submit an announcement please contact Cathy Flick ([cflick@fs.fed.us](mailto:cflick@fs.fed.us)).

### **Website**

Likewise, contributions to the Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight website are welcome throughout the year. To submit materials, please contact Dan Barton ([dbarton@grayflycatcher.org](mailto:dbarton@grayflycatcher.org)).

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- ***New Internet Resources***

**Easier-to-Use and Updated Website for *National PIF***

An updated "**PIF Publications**" section and a new section called "**Best Management Practices**" are available on the web at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/> - help populate these pages.

**Contact:** Janet M. Ruth, 505-346-2870 or 2872 Ext. 12, [janet\\_ruth@usgs.gov](mailto:janet_ruth@usgs.gov)

**Landbird Reports by State - IAFWA**

National PIF and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) developed landbird reports by state. They include priority species lists, population estimates, population targets, and population objectives for those priority species. The information is sorted by habitat suite within each state and BCR. The reports and the user's guide can be downloaded from the IAFWA's website at <http://www.iafwa.org> **Contact:** Deborah Hahn, 202-624-8917, [dhahn@iafwa.org](mailto:dhahn@iafwa.org)

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