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Conclusion: Birds captured in this brief study represent an unknown mix of permanent and winter residents. Further in-hand field study will allow better separation of subspecies, permitting identification of resident versus migrant birds. The question of possible sexual segregation is also intriguing. Since my limited time in the field was hampered by cold weather and lack of familiarity with the area, I undoubtedly missed a lot of information.

Funding was provided in part by a grant from the Western Bird Banding Association. 📧

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Western Station Reports

Summary of 2003 MAPS Season at Livermore Marsh

2003 was the first season of the Livermore Marsh MAPS station (LIVE). The station is at Audubon Canyon Ranch's Cypress Grove Preserve in Marshall, Marin County, California (38°10'13"N 122°53'58"W). It consists of ten standard nets in a mosaic of willow forest, coastal scrub, and freshwater marsh surrounded by grassland and tidal marsh adjacent to Tomales Bay. The nets are close together and the total area of the station is only about 8.6 ha.

We had a total of 358 captures of an estimated 232 individuals of 30 species in 525.33 net-hours distributed over nine sessions. Overall capture rate was 68/100 net-hours. The numbers of individuals by species were 50 Song Sparrows; 30 Swainson's Thrushes; 25 Wilson's Warblers; 20 Wrentits; 19 Common Yellowthroats; 12 American Goldfinches; 9 Bewick's Wrens; 8 each of Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Bushtit; 7 each of Allen's Hummingbird and American Robin; 4 California Towhees; 3 each of Anna's Hummingbird, Western Scrub-Jay, and Barn Swallow; 2 each of Downy Woodpecker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Spotted Towhee, and Brown-headed Cowbird; and 1 each of Virginia Rail, Mourning Dove, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Marsh Wren, and Lazuli Bunting. Sixty-three species were documented within the station during banding sessions, the most notable being a male Lark Bunting, the first spring record of the species in the county.

Jan - Mar 2004

I thank Denise Jones and Michael Parkes for their assistance during the season and Audubon Canyon Ranch for financial support and use of its land for this purpose.

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Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

We had a few unusual events at the GGRO banding station this season, as well as a rarity — not banded — at our Hawk Count site.

We banded a total of 628 Sharp-shinned Hawks in the fall and winter of 2003, a new record for Sharp-shinned Hawks banded in one season at the GGRO. Our previous high was 537, set in 1999. Our Hawk Watch counted 5,208 Sharpies in 2003, a good high number, but not a record. I believe that the reason for the high number of Sharpies captured this season was that the Sharp-shinned Hawk flight was a little more spread out over time, giving us more days with good numbers available for trapping, instead of a smaller number of days of more concentrated passage.

A second event of interest was the recapture of an adult Red-tailed Hawk, caught on November 20th, 2003. This bird was originally trapped and banded in the Marin Headlands on November 5th, 1998, as an SY bird. Surprisingly, out of over 100 banders at the GGRO in each of the years, the same site leader was in charge of the blind where the bird was captured both in 1998 and

again in 2003. In 2003 this Red-tail was of normal weight and in good condition despite an injured and apparently non-functioning right foot and stiff tibio-tarsal joint. ☞

On October 28th, 2003, a Mississippi Kite was seen by the counters over the Hawk Watch site at Hawk Hill. This is only the second sighting ever recorded for this species at Hawk Hill, and the first since the establishment of the GGRO count in 1986. None of the banders got a view of the bird.

Visit the GGRO webpage at: <http://www.ggro.org>

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Klamath Bird Observatory – two reports

Willow Wind Winter 2003-04 Banding Report

The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is a non-profit scientific and education organization dedicated to promoting bird conservation through science. KBO operates a single banding station during the winter months at its headquarters in Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon. Located at the Ashland School District's Willow Wind Learning Center, the Willow Wind station (WIWI) consists of 11 12m x 2.5m, 36mm mesh mist nets. This facility was formerly a small farm at which livestock were grazed until ten years ago. Most nets are situated within, or adjacent to, the well-established marshy riparian zone of Bear Creek with White Alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) and Red Alder (*A. rubra*), willow (*Salix* sp.), Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), and Cattail (*Typha* sp.) the dominant plants. Several of these net sites have standing water throughout the year. Two additional nets are situated at a seep and the third over a small stream; where willow, alder, and pine were planted in 2000. These plantings were part of a habitat restoration effort of this formerly grazed hillside, which is otherwise dominated by non-native grasses and thistle. Ashland is located at the southeast end of the Rogue River Valley in southern Oregon,

within the Klamath-Cascade-Siskiyou Mountain Province.

From November 2003 through March 2004, the WIWI station was operated for five hours following local sunrise once a week. Adverse weather conditions caused occasional lapses in this schedule for a week or so at a time and for nets to be opened late and/or closed early. Opening time temperatures ranged from -1°C to 11°C and closing time temperatures 5°C to 20°C. Wind direction and speed, and cloud cover varied greatly.

From 7 November 2003 to 20 March 2004, we compiled 622.9 total net-hours during 16 efforts. We captured 234 birds of 25 species; six recognized subspecies, and one intergrade. The top five species captured were: Golden-crowned Sparrow (63), Song Sparrow (26), Bushtit (17), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (17), American Goldfinch (15).

During the winter months, KBO and the Northwest Nature Shop (of Ashland, OR) presented public tours of the WIWI station. As part of KBO's continuing effort to provide training opportunities, we initiated an internship with a student from South Medford High School who worked with KBO as part of his senior research project. This young scientist will be entering a full-time internship with our summer program before beginning studies at Oregon State University in August.

The WIWI station serves as KBO's nature education demonstration site. In late 2003, we were awarded a grant from Jackson County, which will be used to implement a public outreach program addressing riparian restoration and wildfire management, and their affects on birds.

We thank the Ashland School District Willow Wind Learning Center and the Northwest Nature Shop and Josh Williams for his tireless assistance at the station.

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KBO Banding Efforts in 2004

The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is a non-profit scientific and education organization dedicated to promoting bird conservation through science. Through our cooperation with government agencies, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and private land-owners we take a non-advocacy approach to conducting quality scientific research projects enabling integration of Partners In Flight (PIF) conservation objectives with land management planning processes.

Here we chronicle our continuing banding efforts that are part of KBO's various monitoring and research projects. In all, KBO will operate 21 banding stations in 2004 and continue to provide training opportunities our international internship program. At all KBO bird-monitoring stations we use a combination of standardized mist-netting and census methodologies to track population demographics during the breeding and migration (May – October). We provide data to the Institute of Bird Population's Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program, the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network and the North American Migration Monitoring Network.

KBO cooperates with Southern Oregon University (SOU) and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Medford District to operate 2 stations in the northwestern end of the Rogue Valley, Josephine County, OR, one on the Rogue River and another at the confluence of Snow and Cow Creeks. Our third Rogue Valley station is operated at KBO's Willow Wind Community Learning Center Headquarters, in Ashland, Jackson County, OR, at the southeastern end of the valley. In partnership with the National Park Service, we established a station at the Oregon Caves National Monuments in 2002, near Cave Junction, Josephine County, OR. Since 1997, KBO has partnered with the BLM Klamath Falls Resource Area, the Winema National Forest, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex in implementing a long-term monitoring program in the Upper Klamath Basin, where we operate eight stations throughout Klamath County, OR.

For 12 years, with support from the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region's PIF Program, we have operated two stations in Siskiyou County, CA, cooperation with Klamath National Forest. In 2003, we established seven stations on the Trinity River, in northern California, as part of a large-scale river restoration monitoring project being implemented by the US Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory (RSL).

In partnership with SOU, we have brought student interns from Argentina, Colombia, and Trinidad & Tobago to Oregon to learn bird banding techniques. In January 2004, KBO biologists presented a three-week banding training workshop in Jamaica, with additional workshops in Costa Rica and Trinidad planned this year. KBO is a partner in the Tortuguero Integrated Bird Monitoring Program with RSL, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, the Costa Rica National Park Service, Universidad de Costa Rica, and others, which has trained over 100 Caribbean and Central American banders since 1994.

These efforts would not be possible without the diverse set of partners we have assembled, who truly exemplify the meaning and spirit of Partners In Flight. In September, KBO will be hosting the 79th Western Bird Banding Association annual meeting. This will be a joint meeting with the Western Field Ornithologists and Oregon Field Ornithologists. ☐

Visit the KBO's web site at:
<http://www.KlamathBird.org>

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