



## 2008 Landbird Monitoring Highlights

### Why Monitor Bird Communities?

Bird communities were selected by park and network staff because they provide cost-effective information about ecological conditions of interest and are well represented in the major terrestrial habitats in the parks. In partnership with the Klamath Bird Observatory, the Klamath Network is in the process of developing a landbird monitoring protocol, designed to yield important information about avian community composition, status of landbirds in a given year, and long-term population trends. Additionally, our landbird monitoring efforts contribute to and align with multiple regional and continental bird monitoring programs.

### Objectives of the Project

- ✦ Monitor breeding landbird richness and density every three years in relatively accessible areas of the parks.
- ✦ Co-sample habitat parameters at bird survey points to aid in the analysis and interpretation of landbird and habitat status, trends, and interrelationships.
- ✦ Determine status and trends in demographic parameters for select landbird species at a mixed-conifer and riparian habitat at Oregon Caves National Monument.

### Parks Surveyed in 2008

- ✦ Lava Beds National Monument, Oregon Caves National Monument, Redwood National and State Parks

### 2008 Results

#### ➤ *Lava Beds National Monument*

- ✦ Fifty-six species were detected along 25 point count routes.
- ✦ The five most common songbird species detected were: Spotted Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Chipping Sparrow.
- ✦ Some of the least common songbirds detected included Black-throated Gray Warbler, Cassin's Vireo, House Wren, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Steller's Jay.

#### ➤ *Redwood National and State Parks*

- ✦ Forty-one species were detected on 30 point count routes.
- ✦ The five most common songbird species detected were: Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter Wren, Wilson's Warbler, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.
- ✦ Some of the least common songbird species detected were Black-headed Grosbeak Bushtit, Tree Swallow, Western Scrub-Jay, and Western Wood-Pewee.

#### ➤ *Oregon Caves National Monument*

- ✦ One ecological monitoring station was run 15 times during the breeding and fall dispersal/migration season. Thirty-eight species were detected, with 27 species captured using mist nets and 16 species detected during area searches.
- ✦ One rarity was captured on September 11, 2008 - a **Northern Waterthrush**. This was the first record of this species at the monument. The Northern Waterthrush is a rare breeder in Oregon and is otherwise considered a vagrant species.

### Future Work

The Klamath Network landbird monitoring protocol is designed to sample two parks per year using point count methodology. Additionally, the Oregon Caves NM ecological monitoring station will be operated every year. Work to be completed over the next 2 years includes:

- ✦ 2009 - Implement monitoring at Lassen Volcanic NP, Oregon Caves NM (mist net), and Whiskeytown NRA
- ✦ 2010 - Implement monitoring at Crater Lake NP and Oregon Caves NM (mist net and point counts)

### More Information

For complete information about this year's sampling, please read the 2008 annual landbird monitoring report. All completed reports are made available on the KLMN web site at:

[http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/klmn/Monitoring/vs/Landbird/VS\\_Landbirds.cfm](http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/klmn/Monitoring/vs/Landbird/VS_Landbirds.cfm)

