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The Birds of Lassen Volcanic National Park

An annotated checklist

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2004

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
Research Library

NRBib #561699

Introduction

Lassen Volcanic National Park (hereafter "the Park") lies at the junction of four major bioregions - the Cascades to the north, the Central Valley to the west, the Sierra Nevada to the south, and the Great Basin to the east. The Park is a high elevation island ranging from 5,250 to 10,457 feet, while only a few isolated peaks in the surrounding area rise above 6,000 feet. The great range in elevation with its inherent diverse climates, combined with a variety of ancient and recent geological phenomena, episodic wildfire, and some recent anthropogenic factors, results in a great diversity of ecological communities in the relatively small area of this 106,297 acre Park.

The result of this diversity in habitat types and conditions, along with its location at the crossroads of four bioregions, has resulted in a rich avifauna. Nevertheless, until recently the bird life of the Park remained poorly documented, and, as evidenced by many of the species accounts in this checklist, a great deal remains to be discovered about the status and distribution of many of the birds of the Park. This annotated checklist is an attempt to build upon earlier, less detailed checklists of the Park and adjacent areas (Anon. 1969, Hatch 1982), by summarizing the more intensive studies of the last two decades, and placing these findings in context with the limited historical record.

The relatively high altitude and associated climate of the area are largely responsible for some of the remaining gaps in our knowledge of the Park's avifauna. Indeed, the true status of many birds in winter in the Park is essentially unknown given that most areas are almost totally inaccessible then. The majority of bird observations in the Park fall between May and October, and this should be considered when interpreting the species accounts. Nevertheless, many species that are present throughout much of the year appear to be genuinely absent, or at least very scarce, in winter compared to other seasons. This is largely a consequence of true migration and altitudinal movements, with some individuals of even generally sedentary species moving to milder climates at lower elevations in the coldest months.

The Park's avifauna is also affected by the presence of only relatively small and shallow water bodies. This results in all main water bodies freezing partly or completely in winter, removing available habitat for many aquatic birds for three to five months of the year (generally December to

information regarding the Lassen Peak region, although it is limited to a few references of birds around Lassen Peak.

Fortunately, one very significant ornithological study based in the Lassen region early in the twentieth century allows for unique historical comparisons. The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley undertook faunal surveys in the 1920s at numerous sites along a "transect" from Red Bluff into Nevada east of Susanville (Grinnell et al. 1930). A number of the sites surveyed were within the Park (Manzanita Lake, Summit Creek, near Mt. Conard (formerly Black Butte), Lake Helen, Warner Creek, and Drakesbad). However, most of the observations within the Park comprised anecdotal observations rather than quantitative data, and many areas were surveyed very briefly (e.g., Lassen Peak was ascended only once). Grinnell and Miller (1944), in their seminal review of the distribution of the birds of California, include many data pertaining to the Lassen area, although this almost entirely comprised of information gathered by Grinnell et al. (1930).

Julian Vogt, a Park employee in the first half of the twentieth century, appears to be the first Park staff member to have kept bird observations. He published some of his more notable observations (Vogt 1941), and his records comprise most of the earliest dated records in the bird section of the Park Natural History Database.

The first Park checklist was published in 1969 (Anon. 1969). It is clear from some of the species that were included that this list was based very heavily on the work of Grinnell et al. (1930), and that, despite its title, it referred to the Lassen area as a whole, not just the Park. Another Park employee, Daphne Hatch, compiled a revised Park checklist a little over a decade later (Hatch 1982). This included many observations from birdwatchers that had been active in the area mainly in the 1970s. Unfortunately, interpreting Hatch's checklist for this work is complicated by her inclusion of Battle Creek Meadows and the Park headquarters complex (both adjacent to Mineral, Tehama County), outside the Park. These areas are at significantly lower elevations (4,800-5,000 feet) than any portion of the Park proper, and consequently the status of a number of species is considerably different here than up in the Park. Thus, we have taken this into consideration when interpreting information in that work.

Steve Zachary joined the Park staff in the early 1980s, and since has accrued an invaluable series of anecdotal observations. He also persuaded many visitors and other staff members to record their observations systematically.

This project was carried out under the guidance of PRBO program directors Geoff Geupel and Nils Warnock. This is PRBO Contribution 831.

Terminology

The taxonomic order and scientific and English names used all follow the 7th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (AOU 1998), including updates through the 44th supplement. Subspecific nomenclature generally follows Grinnell and Miller (1944). For detailed information on the range and occurrence of subspecies in the Lassen area, readers are referred to Grinnell et al. (1930) and Grinnell and Miller (1944).

The individual species accounts begin with a very brief, italicized statement summarizing the species' status in LVNP. The following terms have been used in these status summaries, and elsewhere in the species accounts:

Status

Resident - a species present in all seasons that by definition breeds in the Park. Note however that generally such species are much scarcer in winter than in other seasons for reasons discussed above.

Breeding Visitor - a species that breeds within the Park, but leaves the Park entirely in winter thus is generally present from spring until fall.

Non-breeding Visitor - a species that is not known to breed in the Park, but occurs as a visitor. The majority of such species occur as passage migrants (spring and fall) or post-breeding dispersers (summer).

Historic Breeder - a species confirmed to have bred in the Park in the past but for which there are no breeding records in the last 30 years. This may refer to historic residents or historic breeding visitors; see species account for details.

Unconfirmed Breeder - a species whose dates of occurrence or other evidence suggest they may breed in the Park but it has not been conclusively established.

Additional Definitions

Introduced - used to describe species who do not naturally occur in North America or the Park. Their occurrence in North America or the Park is the direct result of humans releasing them here.

Locally - may be used as a qualifier to indicate a species that is common only in small or isolated areas of the Park, often constrained by limited suitable habitat.

Recent - refers to records since 1980, subsequent to the period covered by Hatch (1982).

Region and Lassen Region - the area within approximately a 30-mile radius of the Park boundaries.

Seasons

For the purposes of this work, winter refers to the period December-April, spring is May, summer June-August, and fall is September-November; this is slightly different than that used by Hatch (1982). We feel these designations more accurately reflect a combination of the high elevation climatic conditions in the Lassen area and the temporal patterns of the birds of the region. However, as noted in the Introduction, these designations are subject to considerable variation due to interannual climatological variation.

American Wigeon *Anas americana**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are at least thirteen separate records of this species in the Park, with all from either Snag or Manzanita Lake. Most reports are of multiple individuals and the high count is 30 on 6 November 1968 at Manzanita Lake. Most records are from October and November when this species' numbers increase substantially at wintering sites throughout the region.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common Breeding Visitor.

This species can be found throughout much of the year but appears to vacate the Park in the coldest months when all water bodies freeze. They breed or have bred on many of the lakes including Manzanita, Reflection, Sifford, Juniper, Rainbow, East, Upper Twin, Soap, Cluster Lake 5, and Lily, as well as Glen Pond 1. The high count is of 40 on 6 November 1968 on Manzanita Lake.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are two records for this species, four on Manzanita Lake on 6 June 1980 (DM) and one on Snag Lake on 28 August 1988 (DR).

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are at least seven records for this species in the Park. Prior to 1980 there was only one documented record. There have been six subsequent records from Snag and Manzanita Lakes. Reports of this species breeding at Willow Lake just outside the Park have not been confirmed though they are believed to breed on Lake Almanor.

Records:

- 2, 6 June 1964, Reflection Lake (Hatch 1982)
- 1, 17 August 1987, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 29 August 1988, Snag Lake (DR)
- 6, 19 April 1990, Manzanita Lake (RNM)
- 1, 5 September 1994, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 8 August 1997, Snag Lake (DR)
- 2, 9 September 2001, Manzanita Lake (RNM)

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Prior to 1980, there were only three known records of this species, all from Manzanita Lake. It is now recorded in most years, with records predominantly from the eastern lakes in August and September. The only recent record outside of August and September is of an individual on Cold Boiling Lake on 30 June 1987. The increase in records in recent years may be due to an increased coverage of the east side lakes by birders.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor, Unconfirmed Breeder.

This species is a spring and fall migrant mainly at Snag and Manzanita Lakes. The high count is 27 on 19 November 1960 at Manzanita Lake. A pair was recorded on 26 May 2000 on a pond near Badger Flat and was suspected of breeding; however this was not confirmed (BM).

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Almost all records for this species in the Park are from late August through mid-October at Snag and Manzanita Lakes. There are two mid-

lakes. Interestingly, there are no records of this species breeding in the Park prior to the 1940s, though Grinnell et al. (1930) reported them from Willow Lake just outside the southern boundary. The first reported records for the Park are of two females on Manzanita Lake in Nov 1939 (Vogt 1941).

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are four records of this species in the Park: two birds on Manzanita Lake on 19 November 1960; four birds on Teal Lake in summer 1987 (Gray 1987); an undated record of one on Reflection Lake in the mid 1990's (BCY); and one on Manzanita Lake on 4 November 2002.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor, Historic Breeder.

Grinnell et al. (1930) reported this species breeding at Butte Lake in the late 1920s. At that time, this represented the northern extent of a Sierra Nevada breeding population (Grinnell and Miller 1944), which is apparently now extirpated (Remsen 1978). The reasons for its extirpation from the Park are unknown, with possible causes mentioned by Remsen (1978) - such as human disturbance from fishing, boating and shooting, and the practice of dead tree removal reducing nest site availability - not applicable to the Park. No reliable records could be found from 1929-1978. Intriguing summer records between 1978 and 1988 suggest that occasional breeding attempts may have been made, especially in 1987, when a small raft was seen on Teal Lake from June through July (Gray 1987), and a pair was on Rainbow Lake on 31 July and 2 August. The other two summer records are individuals on 21 July 1978 at Snag Lake and 10 August 1988 on Manzanita Lake. Regular localized breeding occurs as close as southern Oregon, and a successful nesting was documented 10 miles east of the Park near Eagle Lake in 1988. It is possible that summer records are wanderers from these sites but localized breeding should be watched for on the secluded lakes.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*

Fairly Common Breeding Visitor.

This species occurs from spring through fall and breeds on lakes and creeks throughout the Park, including Butte, Snag, Upper Twin, and Rainbow. In late summer and early fall large flocks of 30-70 birds congregate on Snag Lake. A high count of 75 was recorded there in early September 1992.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Most sightings are from Manzanita Lake in the fall, though records span from 26 June to 23 November. Hatch (1982) considered it an unconfirmed breeder. With Grinnell (1930) having found no evidence of breeding and no subsequent records to our knowledge, we consider this species to only be a non-breeding visitor in the Park.

Gallinaceous Birds (*Galliformes*)

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor, Introduced.

The sole Park record is of one seen on the Bumpass Hell Trail on 15 August 1992.

Common Loon *Gavia immer**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor, Historic Breeder.

Since 1980 there have been 14 records for this species, spanning from 1 April to 13 November. Most records are from eastern lakes, with half of them from Snag Lake. Reports of this species have become less frequent over recent decades. The Park includes much of the former breeding stronghold of this species in California. Townsend (1887 in Grinnell et al. 1930) found a pair on each of Horseshoe, Snag, and Butte lakes in 1884, and found a nest at the latter. Additionally, while discussing their observations of breeding loons on Eagle Lake (outside the Park), they mention a secondhand report from Snag Lake in 1928. The last known breeding record was from 25 July 1948, when a female with six downy juveniles was seen on Butte Lake. An individual in breeding plumage calling on Manzanita Lake on 22 April 2002 (RNM) is certainly of note and future summer sightings should be reported to Park biologists.

Grebes (*Podicipediformes*)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Uncommon Breeding Visitor.

This species is regularly recorded on Manzanita and Reflection lakes between 26 April and 17 November where typically 1-2 pairs breed. Although almost all records are from the Manzanita Lake area, they are also known to breed at Butte Lake. From late July through September, they are reported in small numbers on the other eastern lakes. There are no winter records.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis**

Rare Breeding Visitor.

This species appears to be surprisingly rare in the Park, with records spanning from 21 May to 7 November. The only confirmed breeding record is from Butte Lake in 1984, where an adult was seen with nine chicks on 4 July. Breeding had been suspected but unproven prior to that (Hatch 1982), and it is surprising there have not been more records given the large breeding population on Eagle Lake (Grinnell and Miller 1944) and breeding records from the adjacent Caribou Wilderness.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis**

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

The majority of sightings for this species are from late July to early September on Snag Lake, although the high count is of 10 on 25 June 1994. Most sightings are probably of post-breeding dispersers from nearby breeding colonies at Eagle Lake and Lake Almanor. There are single records for Reflection Lake on 25 June 1981 (BD) and for Manzanita Lake on 6 July 1951. The only spring record is of one on 22 May 1987 on Snag Lake.

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

This species is most often recorded from the eastern lakes in August and September. There are no confirmed reports prior to 1989; however, until 1985 this species was considered a "phase" of the Western Grebe, thus earlier reports of Western Grebes undoubtedly included individuals of this species. Although probably not as common as Western Grebe, we would expect the frequency of sightings of this species to increase in coming years.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The only record appears to be of two on 20 October 1945 at Manzanita Lake and the adjacent Reflection Lake.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The only two confirmed records of this species are individuals at Manzanita Lake on 9 September 1968 and 20 July 2000 (BM). We consider a third record from 30 July 1974 unconfirmed.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

This species was considered rare in summer at lakesides and in marshy areas by Hatch (1982), though we could find only one record for the period she considered, an immature at the Lily Pond on 11 August 1980. A second record of one at Snag Lake on 17 August 1986 appears to be the only recent record (DR).

Raptors (*Falconiformes*)

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

This species is regularly seen overhead in the Park from late spring to early fall, with records ranging from 17 May to 18 September. Observations of more than one or two birds together are rare, but up to five have been seen together in August. Most records probably refer to passage migrants.

California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus**

Extirpated, Unconfirmed Historic Breeder.

This extirpated species was considered common by one observer in the Lassen Foothills in the late 1800s but was apparently already extirpated by the 1930's (Grinnell et al. 1930). They are being reintroduced in coastal central and southern California and Arizona.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Uncommon Breeding Visitor.

This species is regularly seen in the Park from June through October, and as early as mid April. Although most sightings are probably of birds wandering from known breeding concentrations outside the Park (e.g., Lake Almanor and Eagle Lake), a small number breed in the Park every year. Most sightings are of birds flying over the area. The frequency of records increases in August and early September, probably due to post-breeding dispersal and some passage migrants.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Fairly Common Resident.

This is one of the few species with records from every month, although most records are between mid May and mid November. All records from December to March are from locations below 7,000 feet, and are mostly below 6,000 feet. Bald Eagles are found widely in the Park, but most reports come from the larger lakes where feeding and nesting occurs. An active airie monitored from 1979 through 2001 fledged a single young in ten years while breeding was not attempted in the other 13 years.

1, 27 August 1987, Soda Lake

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Fairly Common Non-breeding Visitor.

This species is seen in all seasons, but is most common in July through September when dispersing birds and migrants pass through the Park.

There are no breeding records and they are very rare in winter.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are at least 10 records of this species in the Park with most being from August but spanning from 10 July to 12 October. This species breeds in extreme northeast California, thus the July and early August records may be of dispersing or wandering birds from this population since most records for California are later in the fall. Approximately half of the records are from Lassen Peak.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

All records are from fall through spring with recent records confined to August and September. Most of the records are earlier than we would expect for this species in northern California. This species typically does not reach other northern California locales until October (Bechard and Swem 2002). However, most reports appear to be from reliable observers, and are therefore presumed to be accurate.

Records:

- 1, 15 September 1977, Summit Lake
- 1, 31 August 1979, Old Summertown
- 1, 4 September 1979, Warner Valley
- 1, 3 August 1987, Manzanita Lake
- 1, 8 August 1987, Lassen Peak
- 1, 21 August 1991, Shadow Lake
- 2, 23 August 1991, Lassen Peak
- 1, 15 August 1992, Lost Creek
- 1, 17 August 1992, Eagle Peak
- 1, 24 September 1992, Manzanita Lake Area

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Rare Resident to Breeding Visitor.

This species is a rare breeder with nesting confirmed at various sites in the Park, including in 1969 and 1970 at Boiling Springs Lake and on the west side of Mt. Conard in 1977. An apparent family group was present in the Little Hot Springs Valley in August 1977. In recent years a pair was confirmed breeding in the Park and several individuals have been seen flying over Diamond, Brokeoff, and Lassen Peaks during the summer months. Its status in the Park in winter is not clear.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

All records of this species in the Park come from 1 July through 28 September. They occur in wide range of localities and elevations, although most records are from the west side. The absence of records in May-June suggests that breeding is unlikely. Most records refer to one or two birds, although there are two August records of three together, and four were seen together on 11 July 2000 over the Devastated Area.

Merlin *Falco columbarius**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are at least eleven documented records of this species in the Park, all single individuals. Most sightings are during fall migration from mid-August through mid October, though there is one spring record

Shorebirds, Gulls, and Terns (*Charadriiformes*)

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are seven records for the Park, all single individuals from August and September, and all records with known locations are from Snag Lake.

Records:

- 1, "fall" (Hatch 1982)
- 1, 17 August 1987, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 25 August 1989, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 8 September 1990, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 1 August 1992, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 26 August 2000, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 25 August 2001, Snag Lake (DR)

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

Uncommon Breeding Visitor.

This species breeds at numerous open locations in the Park, usually near water. They are present from May through October, with a sightings peak in late summer and fall.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

This is a rare migrant in August through September, but it has recently been recorded in most years from a variety of water bodies.

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

An individual at Snag Lake on 11 August 1979 (DA) is the only record for the Park.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Locally Common Breeding Visitor.

This species has been recorded in May-July at almost every lake in the Park, and also along creeks in Blue Lake Canyon, Drakesbad, and Kings Creek Meadow. Breeding is probable at all these locations and confirmed at Butte, Snag, Cliff, Manzanita, Lower Twin, Rainbow, and Summit lakes. Sightings become scarce by the end of August when this species vacates the Park until the following spring.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There is one record of this coastal shorebird in the Park, an individual at Snag Lake on 30 August 1988 (DR).

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

This species occurs in the Park during fall migration, with records from 18 July to 14 September from all the larger bodies of water. Six on 10 August 1979 at Snag Lake (DA) is the highest count reported.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

This species occurs as a passage migrant in the fall with records from late July through September. It is typically encountered in small flocks of up to ten birds. They can be found at any of the lakes in the Park, but most frequently at those in the east.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

A breeding plumaged adult was well described from Manzanita Lake on 9 June 1981. Although an annual fall migrant in very small numbers through the Sierra Nevada (most sightings from Lake Tahoe), the June date of this single Park record is remarkable.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Most records of this species are from July and August on the eastern Lakes where it is recorded in most years.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are only three known records for this species in the Park, single individuals at Snag Lake on 25 August 1984 and 7 September 1997 (DR), and four flying around Manzanita Lake on 30 May 1987 (RNM).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are two records for this species in the Park, one from 28 through 30 August 1982 at Snag Lake (DR), and two feeding over Upper Kings Creek Meadow on 7 August 1987.

Pigeons and Doves (*Columbiformes*)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

Although this species has been recorded from spring through fall, this introduced old world pigeon does not follow normal migration patterns and could appear in the Park at any time of year. Most records probably represent birds wandering from population centers in nearby urban and suburban sites such as Chester and Redding, or are lost racing pigeons.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Columba fasciata*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor, Unconfirmed Breeder.

Although this species presumably breeds in the Park, this has not been confirmed. It is most abundant, though still uncommon, in summer, with records spanning from 18 June through 23 September. Most sightings involve small flocks of 2 to 10 individuals, with the largest flock recorded being of 60 individuals seen between Butte and Snag Lakes on 6 July 1995 (SZ). Though they are most common in Jeffrey Pine Forest (Humble et al 2001), they can be found almost anywhere in the Park from spring through fall.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

This species' pattern of occurrence, from late July through September, suggests it reaches the Park during upslope dispersal and fall migration from breeding populations that occur up to 4,000 feet in the region. They are most commonly seen on the eastern side of the Park.

Owls (*Strigiformes*)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are three records for this species from the Manzanita Lake area from 8 August through 14 September 1987 that presumably represent the same individual.

Nightjars (*Caprimulgiformes*)

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*

Common Breeding Visitor.

This species is present from June through October, when it is not unusual to see large aggregations of up to 50 feeding over open areas at the lower elevations. The largest such count appears to be of at least 70 over Manzanita Lake on 29 July 1989 (BCY). It should be noted that there is one reported record of Lesser Nighthawk (according to the common name provided), a single bird at Butte Lake Ranger Station on 21 June 1989, but the scientific name given in the record is *Chordeiles minor*, so we have considered it unconfirmed with that record probably pertaining to Common Nighthawk.

Common Poorwill *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii**

Rare Breeding Visitor.

There are a few scattered records of this species from the summer and early fall. It is not common anywhere in the region but is seen infrequently during the peak of the breeding season adjacent to the Park. The only confirmed breeding record we know of is from Townsend (1887 in Grinnell 1930), who flushed a female off of eggs at the eastern base of Lassen Peak in 1884.

Swifts and Hummingbirds (*Apodiformes*)

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The only dated record of this species is of twelve individuals over Manzanita Lake on 31 August 1991 (RNM). However, there are undated reports from several other observers having seen a few individuals foraging with Vaux's Swifts over Manzanita Lake during the summer in the past 15 years. There is a breeding colony at Burney Falls approximately 30 miles north of the Park that may be the source of these birds.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

Fairly Common Breeding Visitor.

Pairs of this species are seen regularly from May through August, mainly around open water. Breeding is presumed at Manzanita, Snag, and Bathtub lakes, and it undoubtedly breeds elsewhere in the Park.

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatalis**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

All five records of this species in the Park are from July and August. They were seen throughout the summer of 2003 in the Mineral area two miles outside of the Park, where they were thought to be breeding. As with Black Swift, this species may be a more regular visitor to the Park than records suggest.

Records:

29 August 1982, Snag Lake (DR)
26 August 1983, Snag Lake (DR)
16 August 1984, Snag Lake (DR)
3 July 1991, Hat Lake
15 August 2001, Brokeoff Mountain trailhead (DRo)

Anna's Hummingbird *Calypte anna*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

This species is recorded annually in moderate numbers in the Park with records spanning 20 June through 29 August. These sightings are presumably of individuals dispersing upslope after breeding at lower elevations in the region. They can be seen anywhere in the Park, but are

September, though there are several June records as well. They have been seen in all areas of the Park with the most sightings from Manzanita and Snag Lakes. As noted by Grinnell and Miller (1944), this species is rather erratic and unpredictable in its occurrence both in breeding and wintering, though as with other oak woodland species poor acorn crops may lead to greater wandering outside the breeding season. It is certainly possible that occasional pairs breed within the Park, especially on the eastern side. It has bred in recent years in the Hat Lake Ranger District of Lassen National Forest less than 10 miles north of the Park and it can be abundant from fall through spring in some years in the oak woodlands of the Lassen Foothills.

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are four records of this species in the Park; however, three of these observations are of lone birds seen between Soda Lake and Lassen Peak on 15 and 16 September 1991, and probably all refer to the same individual. The only other record was one seen near Snag Lake on 24 August 2001 (DR). This is a common resident between 500-2500 feet in the Blue Oak woodlands of the adjacent Lassen Foothills. While rather sedentary, this species appears to disperse from breeding grounds, having been recorded wandering quite far in certain years, probably associated with poor acorn crops. Park records are likely these post-breeding wanderers. However, this species has colonized Black Oak habitat in the Susanville area and thus the potential for it to breed in or adjacent to the Park exists.

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*

Uncommon Breeding Visitor.

This species is probably more common in the Park than in any of the surrounding areas; however it is still only found in small numbers here. It is predominantly encountered in burned coniferous and Lodgepole Pine forests (Humble et al. 2001). It has recently been observed around Summit Lake in Red Fir and it surely occurs in small numbers in other fir dominated habitat throughout the Park. This species presumably becomes less common in the Park in winter when most individuals move to lower elevations.

Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber*

Common Resident.

This is one of the most common woodpecker species in the Park occurring in almost any habitat at any time of the year, although it becomes quite scarce in winter when most individuals move to lower elevations. Humble et al. (2001) reported they were most abundant in recently burned coniferous forest, but they are also abundant in willow riparian areas especially in late summer and fall.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*

Uncommon Resident.

This species is found in the Park in small numbers in all seasons, and is almost always associated with deciduous trees (e.g. Aspen, Willow and Cottonwood). They are occasionally found in coniferous forest, especially during dispersal in autumn and winter. The breeding subspecies is *P. p. turati* but it is possible that individuals of the Rocky Mountain subspecies (*P. p. leucurus*) may well reach the Park in winter, as this form has been recorded at Eagle Lake and Quincy (Grinnell and Miller 1944). They are regularly seen around the Loomis museum near the northwestern Park entrance.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii**

Rare Breeding Visitor.

The only known breeding sites for this California Endangered Species in the Park are at Sulphur Creek Meadows and Snag Lake. Summer records from Hat Lake since 1999 suggest this site may also support one or two breeding pairs. In migration they can be seen in riparian habitat throughout the Park, especially from July through September. The single largest breeding concentration of this species in the state lies just outside of the Park in the Warner Valley, where up to 50 breeding territories are reported annually (Humble and Burnett 2003).

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi*

Fairly Common Breeding Visitor.

This species breeds in shaded coniferous forest throughout the Park, where it can be encountered from May until October. Unlike the similar Dusky Flycatcher, this species molts on the breeding grounds thus staying longer into the fall, when its plumage is much brighter and fresher than the similar Dusky Flycatcher.

Gray Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

All six records of this species are from Snag Lake during the post-breeding period. These birds are likely dispersers from adjacent breeding populations. They have been confirmed breeding within five miles of the southeastern corner of the Park on the extreme eastern edge of the Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest. Additionally, they are regularly seen adjacent to the Park in May during spring migration. Difficulty in separating this species from the other more common flycatchers may explain the dearth of records.

Records:

9 August 1985, Snag Lake (DR)
28 August 1988, Snag Lake (DR)
25 August 1989, Snag Lake (DR)
17 September 1991, Dersch Meadows (RNM)
30 August 1999, Snag Lake (DR)
27 August 2001, Snag Lake (DR)
24 August 2002, Snag Lake (DR)

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*

Common Breeding Visitor.

Unlike the similar appearing Hammond's Flycatcher, this species is rarely ever found breeding away from habitat with a shrub component. Although it is most common in mixed species shrub fields, it can also be found in a variety of forested habitats as long as there is an adequate shrub layer. Away from shrub fields it can be found breeding in dense thickets of young Lodgepole Pine and occasionally in willow riparian habitat. In the nearby LNF this species has been found to nest almost exclusively in Bush Chinquapin and Green-leaf Manzanita (Burnett and Humble 2003).

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

This species has been recorded in the Park from late June to early September. Uncommon breeders along shaded canyons at lower elevations (e.g. Mill Creek), they don't appear to breed above 5,000 feet in the Lassen region, and thus there are few records for this species in the Park. The timing of records suggests this species wanders into the Park during post-breeding dispersal as it is regularly caught up to 7,000 feet in wet meadows in late July and August in the region.

Park are from the late 1960s. It rapidly became quite regular in the 1970s at least in autumn (e.g., at least 10 were around Juniper Lake Ranger Station on 5 October 1974). They were unrecorded from the Horseshoe Lake campground in the 1970s (SZ), but are now regular there. The first confirmed breeding report is 17 July 1981 at Butte Lake. In recent years the most reliable location for this species has been around Summit Lake, though outside of the breeding season (June and July) they can be found in a wider array of habitats.

Stellar's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Common Resident.

This is the one of the most ubiquitous species in the Park, with particular fondness for campgrounds and other human frequented areas. This species, which is well known for its raiding of eggs and young of other birds' nests, has likely increased in numbers in the Park in the past 70 years, having taken advantage of food made available by Park visitors.

Western Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are five records of this fairly sedentary species in the Park, two from Manzanita Lake and three from Snag Lake. The high count is of six birds together at Manzanita Lake on 19 May 2000 (BM). It is a common breeder in the oak woodlands and pine-oak belt on the western slope and pinyon juniper woodland on the eastern slope of in the region. A fairly sedentary species, they have been recorded wandering outside of their breeding range elsewhere in the Lassen region in spring and fall (DA).

Records:

- 1, 6 October 1988, Manzanita Lake
- 1, 8 September 1990, Snag Lake
- 1, 8 September 1992, Snag Lake
- 1, 8 August 1999, Snag Lake
- 6, 19 May 2000, Manzanita Lake

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*

Common Resident.

This species is one of the most conspicuous members of the Park's avifauna. It occurs throughout the year in almost any habitat, from the lowest elevations to the top of Lassen Peak at over 10,000 feet. However, it seems to become more abundant above 6,000 feet, especially in subalpine habitat surrounding Lassen Peak. Here it can be seen riding swift wind currents up and down the side of the mountain and foraging on the seeds of the stunted White-bark Pine. Rare to absent from lower elevation areas adjoining the Park in summer, they become quite common there in winter, probably due to an influx of altitudinal migrants leaving the higher elevations of the Park.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The true status of American Crow in the Park is obscured by erroneous reports due to confusion with the much more abundant Common Raven. Although considered rare in spring through fall by Hatch (1982), we could not find any records for this species prior to 1987. There are four known records in the Park with three of those from 1987 (SZ, Gray 1987), probably involving the same wandering birds: one at Snag Lake and Lost Creek Campground in late June and early July, one at Manzanita Lake on 14 July, three on Nobles Emigrant Trail on 26 August, and one at Manzanita Lake on 3 and 10 September. The only other record is of two at Snag Lake on 9 September 1990.

fairly regular in late summer and early fall during post-breeding dispersal and migration.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Fairly Common Breeding Visitor.

This species breeds in very small numbers in the Drakesbad area, but can be seen anywhere in the Park during migration and post-breeding dispersal when it is much more common.

Chickadees (*Paridae*)

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*

Common Resident.

This is the most ubiquitous and one of the most abundant breeding species in the Park. It is most abundant in White Fir forest (Humble et al. 2001). In winter this is probably the most commonly encountered species in the Park.

Bushtit (*Aegithalidae*)

Bushtit *Psaltiriparus minimus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are five known records of this species, all in a narrow window from 24 June through 29 July, probably representing the timing of juvenile dispersal for this species.

Records:

- 1, 28 June (unknown year and location)
- 1, 29 July (unknown year and location)
- 1, 27 June 1988, Big Bear Lake
- 1, 17 July 1988, Manzanita Lake
- 10, 24 June 2000, Manzanita Lake (BM)

Nuthatches (*Sittidae*)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*

Common Resident.

This species has been recorded in every month, and although it is most abundant in recently burned coniferous forest, it is, along with Mountain Chickadee, one of the most ubiquitous species in the Park throughout the year.

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*

Fairly Common Resident.

This species can be found in any month, with a strong affinity for Jeffrey Pine forest. Thus it is much more common on the east side of the Park where this habitat is most abundant. It can also be found in other forested habitats in small numbers.

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*

Uncommon Resident.

This species is present throughout the year in very small numbers, almost always associated with Jeffrey Pine stands on the eastern side of the Park.

Dippers (Cinclidae)

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*

Locally Fairly Common Resident.

Rarely if ever seen away from water, this species can be found bobbing on rocks on most swiftly flowing streams in the Park from May through October. They are one of the first species to begin breeding in spring when nests are often active before 1 May. They commonly breed in cut banks under root wads along streams. They are probably absent and at least much less common in winter when higher elevation water bodies dry up and freeze over.

Kinglets (Regulidae)

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*

Common Resident.

This species breeds in all forest habitats, becoming particularly abundant in closed canopy White Fir forest. It is uncommon in winter when most birds move to lower elevations.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Rare Breeding Visitor, Common Non-breeding Visitor.

The status of this species in the Park and the Lassen region appears to have changed dramatically in the past 70 years. Grinnell et al. (1930) reported them as a common breeder from the area, however there are no confirmed reports of this species nesting in the Park, or the region for that matter, in recent years (Burnett and Geupel 2001). In late summer and fall this species becomes fairly common as it migrates through the Park presumably from more northerly breeding grounds. A number of auditory detections were recorded during the avian inventory in 1999, but none were detected in 2000 (Humble et al. 2001), and it is the belief of the inventory authors and members of the 2000 survey crew that most of the 1999 records are best considered unconfirmed. Hatch (1982) considered them uncommon breeders present from spring through fall. It appears that this species has become a rare breeder in the Park and has not been recorded in 7 years of avian surveys in the adjoining Lassen National Forest. There are only a few records of singing birds in the Park in the past 10 years. We request that any observations of suspected breeding be reported so that the true status of this species in the Park can be determined.

Gnatcatchers (Sylviidae)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are three known record for this species in the Park, individuals on 30 May 1985 ¼ mile northwest of Terminal Geyser on the trail to Boiling Springs Lake, and on 8 September 1994 and 25 August 1996 at Snag Lake. With breeding populations at lower elevations to the east and west of the Park, it is surprising that this species has not been recorded more frequently during post breeding dispersal or migration.

Thrushes (Turdidae)

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*

Rare Breeding Visitor.

This species occurs from spring through early fall in very small numbers. It has been confirmed breeding several times including around Chaos Crags and Butte Lake (SZ).

a resident at this site. The only other record is of an individual at Manzanita Lake on 14 August 1988. It appears to be expanding its range, having been confirmed breeding in recent years east of the Sierra crest in Lassen, Plumas, and Mono counties. They have been recorded, and are believed to breed in shrub fields within five miles of the southeast corner of the Park (DH). This species may occasionally colonize shrub habitats around Drakesbad and Manzanita Lake, where it could easily go undetected. We wouldn't expect permanent breeding colonies to persist at these sites since in winter these shrub fields are almost always buried in snow for several months eliminating habitat for this skulking species.

Records:

- 1, 22 May 1987, Sunflower Flat
- 1, 22 June 1987, Sunflower Flat
- 1, 14 August 1988, Manzanita Lake

Starlings (*Sturnidae*)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor, Introduced.

There is at least one record of this species in the Park from Snag Lake on 10 September 1992, though others observers recall having seen them at Manzanita Lake but did not document the sightings. Hatch (1982) considered it rare in fall and accidental in all other seasons, suggesting there are additional records.

Wagtails and Pipits (*Motacillidae*)

American Pipit *Anthus rubescens**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

This species is rare in spring and summer but more abundant in fall when it is uncommon (Hatch 1982). Almost all records are from mid-September through 28 October with a high of 35 on Lassen Peak on 29 September 1980. It is most common around lakes and in alpine habitat. This species has been confirmed breeding in alpine habitat atop some of the higher peaks in the southern and eastern Sierra, having apparently colonized the area in the past 40 years (Small 1994). Several observers have surveyed alpine habitat in summer looking for breeding evidence of this species and did not find any. Though we know of no records to suggest it has bred in the Park, summer sightings from what appears to be suitable alpine habitat is worth note. We would not be surprised if this species has bred or is reported breeding in the Park in small numbers in the future.

Waxwings (*Bombycillidae*)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

We know of only eight records for this species, well known for its irruptive outbreaks and peregrinations. A flock of 15 at Manzanita Lake on 7 September 1991 is the high count (SZ), with all other records coming from the Snag Lake area. Hatch (1982) considered this species rare in fall and winter though it is unclear if these records were within the Park proper.

Records:

- 1, 26 August 1988 (DR)
- 1, 25 August 1989 (DR)
- 3, 9 September 1990 (DR)
- 15, 7 September 1991 (SZ)
- 6, 7 September 1995 (DR)

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

All records for this species are from late summer and early fall, and thus follow the pattern of many of the other mid-elevation nesting species (such as Nashville Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Black-headed Grosbeak) in dispersing up into the Park following the end of their breeding season. It is most commonly encountered in riparian habitat and is regularly seen at Snag Lake.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

Uncommon Non-breeding Visitor.

This species occurs annually in small numbers as a migrant in a variety of habitats throughout the Park. Although it is undoubtedly more common in fall, it occurs here in spring as well. Others have suggested this species to be very rare in the Sierra during spring migration. However, during a small window that usually spans about one week in early May, five to 10 individuals are recorded annually from various locations in the adjacent LNF. We expect they occur in the Park as well during that timeframe. Fall records span from 8 August to 6 October, with most of sightings in August below 7,000 feet. Additionally there are several interesting summer records, one at Summit Lake on 28 June 1987 and another at Raker Peak on 19 June 2000.

Hermit Warbler *Dendroica occidentalis*

Common Breeding Visitor.

This is a widespread breeding species in all unburned forest types, with highest densities in White Fir dominated forest. After Yellow-rumped Warbler, this is the most common breeding warbler in the Park. It is one of the first neotropical migrants to begin singing in spring and one of the first to stop singing in late summer. Although stragglers remain well into fall, the majority of the adults of this species have migrated south by the end of August.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

An individual at Manzanita Lake on 15 August 1988 (DM, SZ) is the only record for this species in the Park.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*

Locally Common Breeding Visitor.

Along with Song Sparrow, this is the most common breeding species in wet meadows in the Park, also occurring in smaller numbers in broadleaf hardwood and montane shrub habitats. It is present from mid May through at least mid September, although its skulking nature makes it hard to detect outside of the breeding season.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

All records for this species in the Park are from Manzanita and Snag Lakes in late summer and early fall.

Records:

- 1, 1 September 1988, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 25 August 1989, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 8 September 1990, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 14 September 1991, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 30 August 1996, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 26 August 2001, Snag Lake (DR)
- 1, 22 August 2001, Manzanita Lake (DM)

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri**

Rare Breeding Visitor.

The true pattern of this species' occurrence in the Park is unclear. However, it does appear that it has bred here. Grinnell et al. (1930) reported multiple birds in full song at Manzanita Lake on 6 June 1926, where they collected a specimen. Hatch (1982) considered it to have been extirpated as a breeding species, and only a casual summer visitor. Surveys in 1999 and 2000 found singing birds in the middle of the breeding season in barren areas of the Devastated Area and shrub habitat near Boiling Springs Lake. Similar observations in the late 1990s in areas near Butte Lake (JRK) also were of likely breeders. It has been recorded sporadically from 2000-2003 in Green-leaf Manzanita dominated shrub fields monitored by PRBO in the adjacent Lassen National Forest, all above 6,000 feet; at each of these sites numerous birds were found singing during one of the years, and completely absent in others. This species is known to abandon nesting territories in sagebrush habitats in the Susanville area by mid-June in some years (PRBO) and thus it is possible that records in Lassen are a small portion of this population moving upslope to attempt a second breeding.

Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor, Unconfirmed Breeder.

There are scattered records of this species from locations throughout the Park, mainly in fall. A record of three singing birds on the slopes between Cold Boiling and Crumbaugh Lakes (DM) in summer suggests this species has bred in the Park, though it has not been confirmed. It was considered very rare by Hatch (1982), and it is unclear whether the recent increase in records represents a genuine increase or improved observer coverage.

Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The only record is a single bird at Snag Lake on 9 August 1985 (DR). It was believed to be of the interior subspecies group *A. b. nevadensis*.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are five confirmed records for this species in the Park, all from Snag Lake in August and September. According to Grinnell and Miller (1944) this species occurred throughout the area in the spring and summer; however this seems to be based on records from Battle Creek Meadows outside the Park, where this species has bred. It has also been found to breed in large grassy meadows up to 4800 feet in the region, including around Lake Almanor, but this habitat does not exist in the Park.

Records:

- 1, 2 - 7 August 1988 (DR)
- 1, 25 August 1989 (DR)
- 1, 9 September 1990 (DR)
- 1, 15 September 1991 (DR)
- 1, 5 September 1994 (DR)

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*

Common Breeding Visitor.

This species can be found from May through September predominantly in montane shrub dominated habitats, but also less frequently in willow and alder dominated riparian habitat. They can also be found in forested habitats as long as there is a substantial shrub understory. Fox Sparrows in the Lassen region have been found to nest mainly in Mountain Whitethorn but will nest in other shrubs and even on the ground where appropriate substrate appears to be lacking (Burnett and Humple 2003). The breeding subspecies is believed to be *P.i. megarhynca*, a member of

birds can be seen, especially at higher elevations. These flocks are generally comprised of juvenal birds. The breeding race is Oregon Junco (*J.h. thurberi*). Slate-colored Junco (*J.h. hyemalis*) was considered accidental by Anon. (1969), and it seems likely that this subspecies has occurred occasionally in the Park despite a lack of recent reports. One claim of a "non-Oregon" junco on 26 August 1990 at Manzanita Lake was not described and is thus considered unconfirmed.

Grosbeaks and Buntings (*Cardinalidae*)

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus**

Rare Breeding Visitor.

This species occurs in small numbers in habitats with a broadleaf hardwood component. It can be seen from spring through fall, but it appears more common in late summer probably as a result of up-mountain dispersal. At this time there are scattered records from meadow and other hardwood habitats throughout the Park. A few are believed to breed in the Sulphur Creek area.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena**

Uncommon Breeding Visitor.

This species can be found breeding in small numbers from June through August. It is well known for its wandering habits and annual variation in abundance, when it can go from being fairly common in one year to nearly absent in others. It breeds on the alder and mule's ear covered slopes in the Sulphur Creek drainage up to at least 7,000 alongside White-crowned and Lincoln's sparrows. The other confirmed breeding location is at Crumbaugh Lake. Outside of the breeding season it can be seen occasionally at other locations, though it is certainly absent from the Park from at least November through April.

Blackbirds and Orioles (*Icteridae*)

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The only Park record is of a well documented individual at the outlet of Manzanita Lake on 15 August 1988 (DM).

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Locally Common Breeding Visitor.

This species is rarely found away from wet meadow habitats in the Park where it is present from spring through fall. It is most abundant in the Drakesbad area and around Manzanita Lake.

Tri-colored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There is one record for this species in the Park. Two birds were foraging in a mixed species flock of Red-winged and Brewers blackbirds on 16 October 1995 on the boat launch at Manzanita Lake.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

The species is a rare visitor to the Park in the spring and fall. It has been recorded from the Manzanita Lake area, Snag Lake, and Drakesbad in recent years. These records probably represent migrants and post-breeding dispersers from populations at lower elevations to the east and west of the Park.

population breeds opportunistically, perhaps dependent upon spring snow levels and/or the previous years' productivity of populations elsewhere. These small, isolated breeding populations would be highly susceptible to extirpation. Thus we hypothesize that this species breeds in the Park sporadically with small populations persisting for several years and then disappearing, but recolonizing these sites at some later time. Observations by Airola (1981) of individuals showing characteristics of both *L.t. tephrocotis* and *L.t. dawsoni* supports the theory that multiple colonization events have occurred.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

There are three known records, a pair on 16 August 1967 along Kings Creek, three in the southwest portion of the Park on 31 October 1979 (SL), and a male and female together at Summit Lake on 14 June 1986 (SZ). This last record suggests the species may have attempted to breed.

Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus**

Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

This species occurs in very small numbers sporadically from spring through fall, with most records from late summer and no records for the winter months. It has not been recorded breeding in the Park but could possibly do so as it is known to breed just outside the Park at around 5,000 feet. Additionally, confusion with the much more common Cassin's Finch may result in it being underreported.

Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii*

Common Resident.

This species occurs in a wide variety of habitats and elevations throughout the Park where it can be found throughout the year. Most records come from relatively open areas where they prefer to feed, such as the subalpine zone around Lassen Peak, burned forest and talus slopes. This species certainly undergoes some altitudinal movements in the winter when it is more common at lower elevations outside of the Park.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Hatch (1982) reports this species as accidental in summer and winter, though the winter records may represent sightings from the Mineral area. The two known records inside the Park proper are one on 22 June 1991 and five present around Butte Lake on 21 July 1978.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Uncommon to Fairly Common Resident.

The distribution and abundance of this species in the Park is hard to define. It is well known for its wandering habits and its ability to nest outside the "normal" breeding season. In some years it seems to be quite common, regularly seen and heard flying over many different areas of the Park, while in other years it is scarcely recorded. Recent studies have suggested that Red Crossbill may comprise up to eight separate species, some of which may co-occur but are reproductively isolated by differences in vocalizations (Groth 1993). Based on vocalizations that have been heard in the Park, at least two different "types" have been occurred here.

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus*

Common Resident.

This species is a widespread resident in all coniferous forests in the Park where it is most often detected flying overhead giving its distinct flight notes. Humple et al. (2001) found them to be most abundant in

Hypothetical Species

The data supporting the occurrence of the following species in Park are inadequate to consider them confirmed. Many of these are species mentioned in Hatch (1982) that we were unable to locate records for. Since that checklist included areas outside the Park, we conservatively consider them hypothetical. Any observations in the Park of these or any species not mentioned in this checklist should be carefully documented and submitted to the first author and a Park naturalist.

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus**

There is an undated record of two on Teal Lake, apparently from the period 1987-1995, in the Park database. In the absence of further details, we consider these records unconfirmed.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus**

One was fairly accurately described from Swan Lake on 5 July 1972; however we consider the details of the record insufficient to constitute a first Park record.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria**

The Park database contains a record for 17 June for Manzanita Lake, but no year is given, and there are no further details; thus we consider it unconfirmed.

Flammulated Owl *Otus flammeolus**

A rare breeder at lower elevations in the Pine Oak belt of the Lassen Region, most of the Park is above the elevation and habitat preference of this insectivorous neotropical migrant. Recent owl surveys in the Park have not detected this species. Since Hatch (1982) considered it hypothetical we have included it here, though we are unaware of any records for the Park.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus**

This species was listed as hypothetical in summer and fall by Hatch (1982), probably on the basis of one seen just outside the Park at Willow Lake on 19 July 1980 (DA). Two additional records in the Park database, for Manzanita Lake on 9 July 1997 and Sunflower Flat on 22 July 1997, lacked sufficient documentation to be considered confirmed.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus**

Very Rare Non-breeding Visitor.

Hatch (1982) listed this species as very rare in summer, with no evidence of breeding. There appear to be no recent records of this species in the Park. With no location given for the Hatch record and the possibility that it was from an area outside the scope of this list we consider this species to be hypothetical.

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis**

There is one report of a possible hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker on 10 August 1979 between Butte and Snag lakes (DA). The description was suggestive of Red-naped Sapsucker, but the breast band was dark gray not black, implying a possible hybrid. This species breeds as close to Park as the Warner Mountains area in extreme north-east California, and occurs uncommonly throughout the state outside the breeding season.

Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus**

Considered by Anon. (1969) to be an uncommon resident, this species is almost certainly included in error. This is due to confusion with the

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus**

Hatch (1982) considered this species accidental in open habitat in summer but there have been no records since then. We cannot rule out that the one or more records she referred to were actually outside the Park, thus we consider it only hypothetical, though there is a distinct possibility it has occurred in the Park. This species breeds in meadows just east of the Park along Highway 44, and throughout the open Oak Woodlands of the Lassen Foothills, and thus it is surprising that it has not been recorded more frequently.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea**

Records in the Park database of this species at Manzanita Lake on 17 May 1941 and near Terminal Geyser on 28 June 1991 lack sufficient detail. It is included by Anon. (1969) as "Accidental" possibly on the basis of the first of these, or possibly because of the 1899 record from the Eagle Lake area 'outside the Park boundaries (Grinnell and Miller 1944). A recent record from the Redding area demonstrates that this species does occasionally winter in the region.

Lawrence's Goldfinch *Carduelis lawrencei**

This species was considered confirmed by Hatch (1982) but that referred to a male at the Park Headquarters in Mineral on 28 May 1965, thus there are no confirmed records for the Park proper.

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