



Oregon Coordinated Aquatic Bird Monitoring:
Description of Important Aquatic Bird Site

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
BCS Number: 47-14

Site description author(s)

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Site location (UTM)

Datum: NAD83, Zone: 10, Easting: 500781, Northing: 5038497

General description

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve is a wetland of 725 acres within the city limits of Hillsboro, Oregon. The entire Jackson Bottom floodplain is 3000 acres. It is in the Tualatin River watershed. The Preserve hosts a Nature Center and has 25,000 visitors a year (2005) for educational programs and nature enjoyment. There are about 4 miles of publicly accessible trails.

The main plant species of the wetlands include the invasive reed canary grass, with wild rose and willow. Riparian areas are dominated by Oregon ash, with lesser number of black cottonwood and bigleaf maple. Small areas of slightly higher elevation have small groves of Oregon white oak or Douglas-fir.

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

The Tualatin River forms much of the southern and western edge of the wetlands. Part of the western portion of the wetlands is farmed. The northern edge is bordered by industrial lands including Clean Water Services water treatment plant. Most of the east and northeastern corner abuts residential housing developments. The southeast corner merges into wetlands and ponds on the edge of the Hillsboro landfill. Highway 219 bisects the Preserve, though the western portion is cultivated agriculturally at present.

Ownership:

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve is owned cooperatively by the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, Parks and Recreation department and Clean Water Services (water treatment utility and watershed management).

Water levels

The wetlands are fed by local rainfall runoff into Jackson Slough and nearby areas mainly from October to May. Much of the wetlands become dry by late August. Most of the wetlands are between 128-130 feet above mean sea level (MSL). It is flooded several

times annually (November to March) by the Tualatin River. When the river rises above 16.2 feet (128 feet MSL) at River Mile 44.4 (from the confluence with the Willamette River) water from the Tualatin starts backing up into Jackson Slough and Miller Swale refilling the wetlands. All lowland areas are flooded when water reaches 134 feet MSL.

The 10-year flood level is 140-141 feet. The 100-year flood level is 146 feet (Walker & Macy 1989).

Focal species use and timing

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Unknown	Present	Present
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present	Present	Present
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Present	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present	Present	Present
American Bittern	Unknown	Present	Present
American White Pelican	Absent	Absent	Absent
Barrow's Goldeneye	Absent	Absent	Absent
Black Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-crowned Night Heron	Present	Absent	Present
Black-necked Stilt	Absent	Absent	Absent
Bufflehead	Present	Absent	Present
California Gull	Uncommon	Unknown	Unknown
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clark's Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Common Loon	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Dusky Canada Goose	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Eared Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Forster's Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Franklin's Gull	Absent	Absent	Absent
Great Blue Heron	Present	Present	Present
Greater Sandhill Crane	Absent	Absent	Absent
Green Heron	Occasional	Unknown	Unknown
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Long-billed Curlew	Absent	Absent	Absent
Pied-billed Grebe	Present	Present	Present
Red-necked Grebe	Absent	Absent	Absent
Snowy Egret	Absent	Absent	Absent
Sora	Unknown	Present	Present
Upland Sandpiper	Absent	Absent	Absent
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Present	Present
Western Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Absent	Absent	Absent
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Absent	Absent	Absent
Bald Eagle	Present	Present	Present
Tundra Swan	Present	Absent	Present

Focal species information adapted from Bird Species Checklist of Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, presented by the City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation (n.d)

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Pond margins	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Emergent vegetation	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	[see Great Blue Heron, below]	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Pond margins, mudflats	Flooded short grass fields (spring)
Pied-billed Grebe	Shallow ponds	Unknown
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Pond edges, dense willow (roosting), riparian trees (roosting)	Unknown
American Bittern	Emergent vegetation, wet grass	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Emergent vegetation, cattails	Unknown
Sora	Emergent vegetation, wet grass	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Shallow ponds, wet fields, trees for roosting	Douglas-fir (nest colony)
Bald Eagle	Ponds and shores for hunting, large trees for perching and nesting	Unknown
Tundra Swan	Shallow ponds, farm fields	Deep ponds

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

Flooding possible November to March requiring canoe or boat. Breeding surveys may need hip waders. Boots for water and mud needed throughout year.

Bald Eagle nesting at northeast end of Preserve and Great Blue Heron rookery at southeast corner may be sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season (February through June).

Audibility/visibility of focal species

Describe any issues that would diminish the detectability of birds. e.g secretive marsh birds are difficult to detect due to hwy noise

Unknown

Conservation issues

Unknown

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

New wetlands restoration projects proposed or in progress for Ducks Unlimited wetlands enhancement, Port of Portland mitigation, Oregon Department of transportation mitigation, Clean Water Services wetland enhancement for water treatment.

Vernal ponds created for Red-legged Frogs.

Control of invasive reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberries have been attempted, with planting of native wetland plants.

Past and current surveys

Past volunteer bird surveys for general presence and seasonal abundance to create Preserve checklist. Survey of Great Blue Heron rookery by Rick Balazs.

Potential survey methods

Description: (describe survey methods that are appropriate for your site and recommend the best means in which to complete them considering the limitations and history above. Include information on suggested standardized or specialized protocols)

Unknown

Selection bias: (Discuss the potential for selection bias when designing a survey in the future, especially when sub-sample of the site will be studied. Point out how bias could be introduced and recommend ways to prevent this)

Unknown

Measurement error and bias:

Unknown

Potential pilot studies

Unknown

Literature cited

Bird Species Checklist, City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation. n.d. Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Trail map [Map]. 2006. Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.

Walker & Macy. 1989. Jackson Bottom Concept Master Plan, a plan which integrates wildlife, recreation, and water management.

Figure 1. Map of Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve trails and boundaries.

