



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

New River
BCS number: 47-24

*****NOTE:** *We were unable to determine most information on focal groups/species for this site description. If you would like to contribute the needed information to this description, please contact the Klamath Bird Observatory at kbo@klamathbird.org.*

Site description author(s)

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Primary contact for this site

N/A

Site Location (UTM)

Datum: NAD 83, Zone: 10, Easting: 380997, Northing: 4761849

General description

“Running parallel to the Pacific Ocean for nine miles, this coastal river is separated from the ocean by only a thin foredune of sand. Many rare birds, animals, and plants depend on New River's estuary, forest, meadow, wetland, and shrub habitat for survival” (BLM n.d.).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“On the southern Oregon coast, west and north of Langlois, crossing the Curry-Coos county line. This area includes roughly 10 miles of New River between Floras Lake and the Pacific Ocean” (National Audubon Society 2010).

Ownership:

Approximately 60% of this area is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The remainder is private, state, and county land (National Audubon Society 2010).

Water levels

“Prior to EuroAmerican settlement, a vast complex of wetlands was present, including sizeable bogs” (USFWS 2005). “[The introduction of European Beachgrass has] created a deflation plain behind the foredune, allowing New River to extend its length to the north by 2.9 miles within 30 years” (Barnes 2007). The BLM manages water levels by “mechanically breach[ing] on the New River Spit to alleviate seasonal flooding” (ORPD

2005). “[T]otal water levels [...] range from 18.05 to 19.25 feet, NADV88” (Barnes 2003; cited in Barnes 2007).

Focal species use and timing

“[T]his area is one of only four tundra swan wintering sites along the Oregon Coast. Shorebird use of the Bottoms is significant as a migration stopover with more than 100,000 western sandpipers and 2,000 whimbrels recorded on a single day on one ranch” (USFWS 2005). “During spring, up to 20,000 Aleutian Canada Geese and tens of thousands of shorebirds (peaks up to 100,000) can be observed. Numbers are usually smaller in fall” (National Audubon Society 2010).

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Present ³	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Present ³	Unknown* ²	Unknown* ²
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present ²	Present ²	Present ²
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Present ¹	Present ¹	Present ¹
American Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
American White Pelican	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Barrow’s Goldeneye	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-crowned Night Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Black-necked Stilt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bufflehead	Present ³	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Present ³		
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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Great Blue Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Greater Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Green Heron	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Least Bittern	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lesser Sandhill Crane	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Long-billed Curlew	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Pied-billed Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Red-necked Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Snowy Egret	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Sora	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Virginia Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Grebe	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Western Snowy Plover	Present ¹	Present ¹	Present ¹
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Tundra Swan	Present ²	Unknown	Unknown

1. National Audubon Society (2010).

2. USFWS (2005).
 3. ebird (2009). Based on data collected at Floras Lake.
- * Source only listed general presence – specific timing unknown.

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

National Audubon Society (2010) classifies habitat types along New River as water/open water/mudflat or littoral, water/open water/river, wetlands/emergent herbaceous wetlands/tidal marshes or tidal wetlands. See Figure 2 for distribution of habitat types.

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Wetlands ¹	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Barren/Bare Sand/Coastal Beach ¹	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Barren/Bare Sand/Coastal Beach ²	Unknown

1. USFWS (2005).
2. Barnes (2007).

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

- “Operation of any boat or water craft in violation of Oregon State Marine Board Regulations” (EPA 1996).
- See Figure 1 for general road access.

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

The introduction of European beachgrass has limited the preferred nesting habitat of the snowy plover (Barnes 2007).

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

“The river and adjacent lands form a special management area known as an ‘Area of Critical Environmental Concern’ (ACEC), with management decisions that focus on conserving the area’s unique variety of plants and animals, habitats, and ecological processes” (OCEAN n.d.). European beachgrass removal is done to increase the available nesting habitat for the snowy plover (Barnes 2007).

Past and current surveys

Briefly describe past and or current surveys, and how completed. Refer to certain protocols/other documents or persons (list contact info) if survey specifics are unknown

Unknown

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

- Barnes, T.L. 2003. New River Health EA OR128-03-11 Geological/Geomorphologic Review: United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District Internal Report. 23 pp. Cited in Barnes, T.L. 2007. Western Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration Area Environmental Assessment for New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern, EA OR128-06-01. United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District Internal Report. 40 pp.
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- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. New River Land Protection Planning Study for a Proposed National Wildlife Refuge.

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/OR/NewRiver/new%20river%20pu%201.pdf>. Accessed February 08, 2010.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>. Accessed March 01, 2010.

Figure 1: Google Map (2010) road view map of New River.

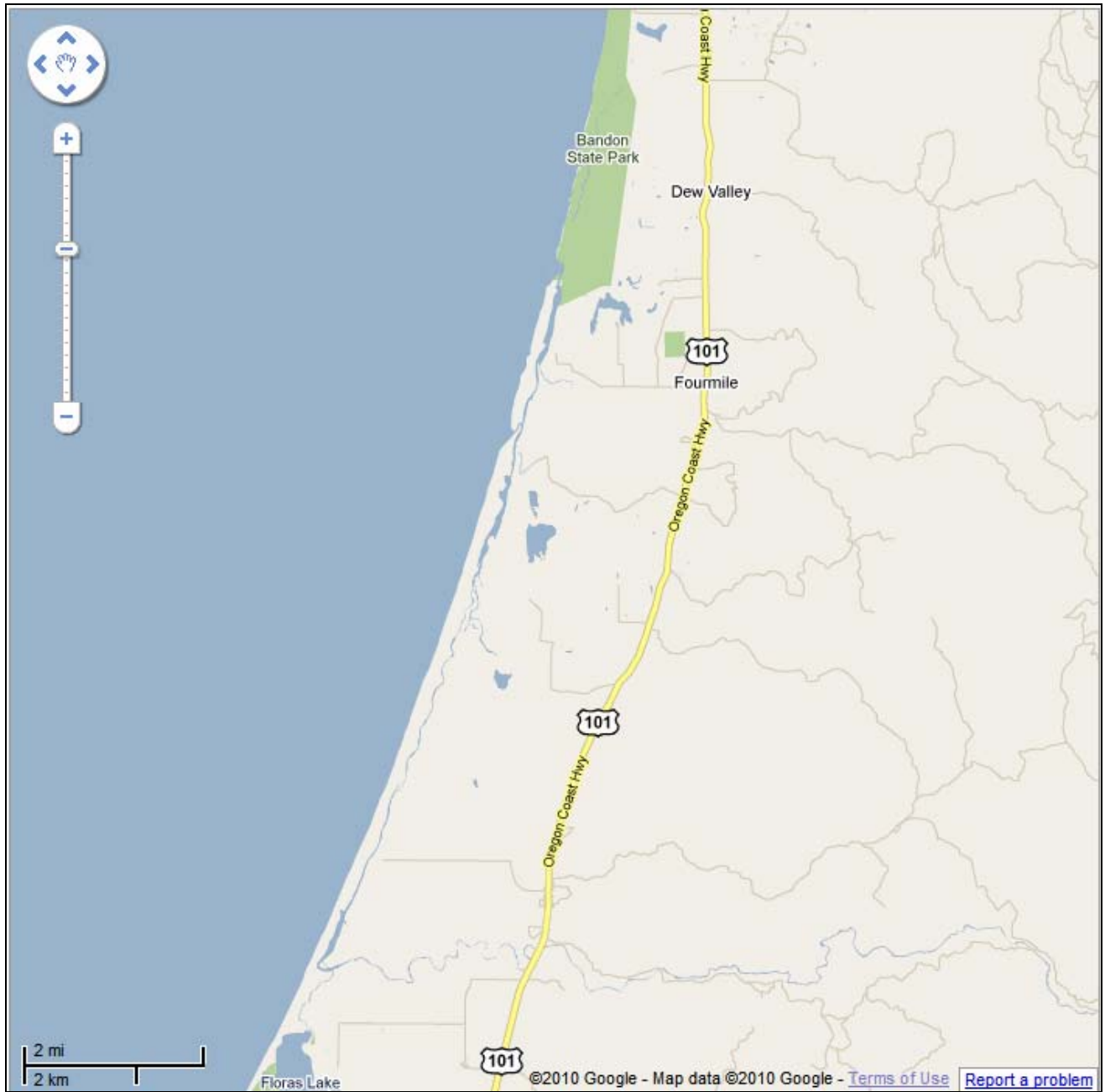


Figure 2: Google Earth (2010) map of New River with the USFWS (2010) National Wetlands Inventory layer.

