



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

Clatsop Beaches
BCS number: 47-7

****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 27, Zone 10, Easting: 426360, Northing: 5108549.

General description

“Roughly 15 miles of wet and/or dry sand beach” (National Audubon Society 2010). “The Coast Range’s climate is influenced by cool, moist air from the ocean and is the wettest and mildest in the state” (ODFW 2006). “They are open and fully exposed to wind and wave action from the west at all points. They are discontinuous only at the mouth of the Necanicum River which separates the southernmost portion” (Hirschhorn 1962).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

“From the south jetty of the Columbia River south to the north spit of the Necanicum River. Includes the ocean side of Clatsop Spit, Columbia Beach, and Sunset Beach, Clatsop County, Oregon” (National Audubon Society 2010).

Ownership:

State/State Park (National Audubon Society 2010).

Water levels

Clatsop Beaches experience two daily high (and two low) tides.

Focal species use and timing

“This stretch of beach has consistently (in season) hosted huge congregations of shorebirds (primarily Sanderlings) and sometimes large flocks of gulls” (National Audubon Society 2010).

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present	Present	Present
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Unknown	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	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

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

*Habitat definitions adapted from National Audubon Society (2010).

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

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 two most likely detriments are 1) the chronic disturbance of the large flocks by hikers, their dogs, and/or their vehicles, and 2) the potential for an oil spill to injure a large number of birds at one time” (National Audubon Society 2010).

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

“Maintain existing habitat values, [m]anage public use to minimize disturbance for shorebirds”, and “[p]lan development to maintain key ecological functions and habitats” (ODFW 2006).

Past and current surveys

- Seasonal or daily passage surveys of Sanderlings in 1977, 1978 and 1983. See *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Daily non-breeding survey of Heermann's Gull in 1980 (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Daily non-breeding survey of Thayer's Gull in 1980. See *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Daily non-breeding survey of Herring Gull in 1980. See *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* (National Audubon Society 2010).

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

- Hirschhorn, G. 1962. Growth and Mortality Rates of the Razor Clam (*Siliqua patina*) on Clatsop Beaches, Oregon. Fish Commission of Oregon. Contribution No. 27. http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/bitstream/1957/3017/1/Growth%2BMortality_Razor_Clam_ocr_sm.pdf. Accessed February 06, 2010.
- Google. 2010. Map of Clatsop Beaches. <http://maps.google.com/>. Accessed February 06, 2010.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba>. Accessed February 05, 2010.
- Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (ODFW). 2006. ODFW. http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/document_pdf/b-eco_cr.pdf. Accessed February 06, 2010.

Figure 1: Google (2010) road view map with Clatsop Beaches highlighted in yellow.

