



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

Sutton Beach
BCS number: 47-34

****NOTE: We were unable to determine all necessary information 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: 409639, Northing: 4879167

General description

Sutton Beach is a 2-mile area of beach and open low dune located about 5 miles north of Florence, on the central coast of Lane County (National Audubon Society 2010).

Boundaries and ownership

Boundaries:

From north of Berry Creek south to the mouth of Sutton Creek. See Figure 1.

Ownership:

Federal/USDA Forest Service (National Forest), State/State Park (National Audubon Society 2010).

Water levels

Sutton Beach experiences two daily high (and two low) tides. As of 2006, the sea level in the nearby area of South Beach, Oregon was about 0.27 meters higher than it was in 1967. The sea level is highest from November thru March and lowest from May thru July (NOAA 2010).

Focal species use and timing

Ad one of five Snowy Plover nesting areas in Oregon (USFWS 2009), it is recognized by the National Audubon Society (2010) as an important wintering site for Snowy Plovers.

Focal Group/Species	Wintering	Breeding	Migration
Secretive Marsh Bird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesting Bird Group	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebird Group	Present ²	Present ³	Present ¹
Ground-based Waterbird Group	Unknown	Unknown	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
California Gull	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Caspian Tern	Unknown	Unknown	Present ¹
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 ²	Present ³	Unknown
White-faced Ibis	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Yellow Rail	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

1. eBird (2010).
2. National Audubon Society (2010).
3. USFWS (2009).

Location of Type 1 and 2 habitat within the site

National Audubon Society (2010) classifies the habitats of Sutton Beach as barren/bare rock/sand/clay/coastal beach, barren/bare rock/sand/clay/coastal dune and barren/bare rock/sand/clay/sandflat.

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
Ground Based Aquatic Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Secretive Marsh Birds	Unknown	Unknown
Colonial Nesters	Unknown	Unknown
Migrating Shorebirds	Dry sand (BLM 2009)	Unknown

Access to Type 1 and Type 2 habitats

- In 2009, dry sand closures at snowy plover nesting areas within the site were in effect from March 15 thru September 15 (BLM 2009).

Audibility/visibility of focal species

Visibility: 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

Conservation issues include disturbance to birds from foot traffic, as well as threats from non-native plants (National Audubon Society 2010).

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed

In 2009, dry sand areas of Sutton Beach were closed off to protect potential snowy plover nesting sites (BLM 2009).

Past and current surveys

- Snowy plover seasonal non-breeding survey in 2000 by The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and US Forest Service (National Audubon Society 2010).
- Abundance surveys and nest surveys found no snowy plovers at Sutton Beach in 2008 (Lauten et al. 2008).

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

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2009. Snowy Plover Nesting Season Begins March 15. http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/files/09_plover_season.pdf. Accessed March 02, 2010.
- eBird. 2009. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available at <http://www.ebird.org>. Accessed March 02, 2010.
- Lauten, D.J., K.A. Castelein, D.C. Bailey, T. Lewis, E.P. Gaines. 2008. The Distribution and Reproductive Success of the Western Snowy Plover along the Oregon Coast – 2008. The Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University. Portland, Oregon. http://www.fws.gov/arcata/es/birds/WSP/documents/siteReports/Oregon/2008_WSP_Annual_Report.pdf. Accessed March 02, 2010.
- National Audubon Society. 2010. Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba>. Accessed March 02, 2010.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 2010. Sea Levels Online. <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends.shtml>. Accessed March 02, 2010.
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (ORPD). 2009. Appendix F: Snowy Plover Recreation Management Area Descriptions. Habitat Conservation Plan for the Snowy Plover. http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/docs/masterplans/osmp_hcp/HCPDraft08-09/AppF-RMAs_trackedchanges.pdf. Accessed March 02, 2010.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2009. Western Snowy Plover: Key Information on the Oregon Coast Population. <http://www.fws.gov/oregonFWO/FieldOffices/Newport/WesternSnowyPlover/default.asp>. Accessed March 02, 2010.

Figure 1: ORPD (2009) boundary map of snowy plover recreation management area at Sutton Beach.

