

Klamath Bird Observatory



Advancing bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships

February 5, 2025

To: Co-Chairs Rep. Helm and Rep. Owens, Vice Chair Rep. Finger-McDonald, and Members of the Committee

Re: HB 2984

My name is Sarah Rockwell and I am a Senior Research Biologist at Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO). KBO advances bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. Based in Ashland, Oregon, KBO's field studies and science delivery efforts are rooted in the Pacific Northwest; however, our partnerships extend throughout the U.S., as well as internationally, across the ranges of our shared migratory birds.

In 2019, a publication in the journal *Science* found that 1 in 4 birds in North America have been lost since 1970, equivalent to the disappearance of a staggering 3 billion individual birds from our ecosystems. These losses are occurring across many different regions and bird taxa, among common species and species of conservation concern alike. That same study found that over 50% of forest-dependent bird species in the West are in decline. The widespread decline of bird populations is indicative of larger ecological problems that are important to understand and address. Specific causes of declines have not been identified for many of these declining populations, which is a barrier to developing and prioritizing effective conservation actions.

OCRF is one of the few dedicated programs that focuses on the implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy (our State Wildlife Action Plan), and is also one of the few funding sources that support Oregon-based organizations that promote science-driven conservation of our rich diversity of wildlife and habitats. KBO has used funding from OCRF in recent and ongoing studies of Oregon Conservation Strategy birds, such as Oregon Vesper Sparrow and Western Purple Martin, as well as suites of bird species associated with Conservation Strategy habitats (including oak woodland ecosystems), contributing to scientific knowledge of and conservation efforts for Oregon's priority species.

Oregon-Washington Partners in Flight (PIF) has published landbird conservation plans that describe important habitat attributes for Oregon Conservation Strategy birds and inform efforts to conserve the state's Strategy habitats in species-specific ways. PIF conservation planning



efforts have a long track record of informing the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agency's state wildlife action planning efforts, which in turn have guided OCRF programs to support all-lands approaches to implement the state's wildlife and habitat conservation priorities across state, federal, and private lands. KBO recognizes and values our longtime collaboration with OCRF and given the alignment of OCRF with the Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan, PIF priority species population and habitat objectives, and KBO's science-driven approach to meeting our mission, we support the continuation of its programs throughout the state of Oregon into the future.

OCRF supports the goals of conserving native habitats, halting and reversing the decline of western forest bird populations, and sustaining ecosystems for the benefit of wildlife and people – goals which are aligned with the mission of Klamath Bird Observatory and Partners in Flight.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah M. Rockwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Sarah M. Rockwell
Senior Research Biologist
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