
Appendix D

Glossary

Adaptation: A modification, or change, by which a species improves its condition in relationship to its environment over generations.

Adjustable Eyepiece: One of the two focusing devices used to form a clear image through binoculars. Usually located on the right eyepiece on binoculars and reads “+ 0 –.”

Alpine: Referring to high mountainous regions.

Aperture: The diameter of each objectives lens on a pair of binoculars. The larger the aperture, the brighter the image.

Bird Banding: A method of bird monitoring to track bird population and demographic trends (characteristics of the population) over time.

Barb: A tiny needle-like structure attached to each side of the feather rachis and points upward to form the contour of the feather.

Barbule: A needle-like structure attached to each barb usually having hooklets to keep the feather vane interlocked.

Bract: A modified or specialized leaf, associated with reproductive structures.

Binoculars: A tool used for birding (or birdwatching) and studying birds to enhance one’s ability to see birds. They are essentially two identical telescopes mounted side by side and aligned to point in the same direction.

Biodiversity: A term referring to the diversity, or number, of biological species.

Bioregion: An area constituting a natural ecological community with characteristic plants and animals and environmental conditions, bounded by natural rather than artificial borders.

Birding trail: A network of nature sites chosen to help conserve and enhance bird habitat through birdwatching.

Breeding Season: The time of year when a certain species is breeding (mating and raising young).

Cache: A site or location where food, typically nonperishable but can also be perishable, is hidden or stored by an animal for consumption during times of food scarcity.

Calamus: The hollow part of a feather just below the vane.

Call: A vocal communication used by birds that is typically short, simple, and produced by both sexes throughout the year.

Calyx: The outermost whorl of flower parts below the true petals.

Central Focus: One of two focusing devices used to form a clear image through binoculars. Located on the hinge on a pair of binoculars.

Citizen Science: A partnership between the public and professional scientists. People across the continent to better understand and conserve birds.

Climate: The long term average of a regions weather.

Clutch: The number of eggs that a is typically laid by a species of bird.

Conifer: Cone bearing trees with needles as opposed to leaves.

Conifer Forest: A dense growth of conifer trees, plants, and underbrush. Typically found at higher elevations in Modoc County.

Contour Feathers: Basic vaned feathers of a bird's body and wings. They coat the body, giving it a streamlined shape, and are highly specialized for bird flight and display.

Deciduous: Broad leafed tree.

Down Feather: Lacking barbules located under the contour feathers. They are fluffy and keep birds insulated.

Ecological Vital Sign: Select physical, chemical and biological elements and processes of the park ecosystem that represents overall health or condition of park resources, known or hypothesized effects of stressors, or elements that have important human values.

Economics: The production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Eyepiece Lens: An external component of binoculars where the image is retrieved by the eye.

Field Guide: A tool birders and biologists use to identify organisms such as birds when outdoors or in the field. Typically includes information about bird species found in a particular area such as habitat, nesting, feeding, and sound.

Field Journal: A scientific tool birders and biologists use to collect information and/or record field observations such as animal observations and vegetative characteristics.

Field Marks: Physical characteristics that make one bird species different from another. Examples include coloration, size, and shape.

Flank: Bird body part located on the sides of the bird's body.

Glume: Pair of bracts at the base of a grass spikelet.

Grassland: An area covered with grasses and/or low growing herbs.

Habitat: The arrangement of food, water, shelter, and space suitable to an animal or plant's needs.

Hibernation: A winter adaptation that refers to the metabolic depression, that lowers body temperature, slows breathing and conserves energy.

Inflorescence: An entire cluster of flowers and associated bracts.

Inventory: An extensive point in time effort to determine the location or condition of a resource, including the presence, class, distribution and status of plants, animals and abiotic (water, soils, landforms and climate) components.

Lemma: In the grass family, the lower two bracts usually enclosing a flower or seed.

Life History: In biology, refers to an organism biological processes.

Magnification: The "power" of binoculars represented by the first number on a pair of binoculars. For example, the seven in a pair of 7x 35 binoculars represents the magnification and means an object is seen seven times closer than with the naked eye.

Matrix: A term used by land managers referring to general areas in Parks that are non-riparian, non-subalpine, non-specialized habitats.

Migration: Traveling from one place so another, usually to find food, shelter, or mate and breed.

Mist net: A fine, soft net used for capturing birds.

Mixed Conifer Forest: This forest zone includes the ecologically complex region of southwestern Oregon where environmental and floristic diversity make this perhaps the most biologically diverse region in the United States (Whittaker 1960). It includes mixed vegetation zones of Douglas-fir, true firs (e.g., grand fir, white fir, red fir), pines, and hardwoods including oaks and pacific madrone. These forests occur from sea level to 1,800 m (6,000 ft) in elevation, and climate tends to be milder and drier than elsewhere in western Oregon and Washington.

Mnemonic Device: A device used to remember bird songs or calls. This system translates songs into word phases so they are easier to remember.

Monitoring: is the systematic, consistent, and simultaneous measurements of physical, chemical, biological, and human use variables of different landscape compartments, through time and at specified locations. In theory, by monitoring a wide range of variables at long-term sites, it is possible to gain an understanding of how ecosystems function and respond to change.

Nape: Bird body part located on the back of the head.

Non-native: A species not found naturally in an area or has been introduced after the 1800s.

Objectives Lens: An external component of binoculars located at the far end of the barrel. The image first enters the objective lens, is magnified, and formed into a visual image.

Ornithologist: A scientist who studies birds.

Ovary: Female structure in flowering plants that encloses the seed and develops the fruit.

Parks Network: National Parks that are grouped together for the purposes of inventory and monitoring studies based on similar biotic and abiotic factors.

Perennial: A plant that lives more than two years.

Pistil: Female structure of the flower. Consists of an ovary at the base, a style, and a stigma at the top.

Plumage: The external coat of feathers on a bird that give it its coloration and may differ with season (e.g. breeding or age).

Rachis (*ray-kiss*): The part of the central shaft of a feather to which the vane is connected.

Raptor: A term used by ornithologists for eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls. Also know as birds of prey, raptors are among the fastest and strongest of all flying birds.

Range map: A color-code system included in a field guide indicating the range and migration pathways of birds.

Riparian: The natural banks along a flowing body of water (e.g. river, creek, or stream).

Rocky Pumice: Areas of Crater Lake National Park where the major soil component is pumice. In these areas there is typically very little vegetation; pumice flats and boulders rule the landscape. Talus slope is the accumulation of rocky debris on a steep mountain slope.

Rump: A bird body part located on the upper part of a bird's tail.

Service-learning: A learning and teaching strategy that integrates some level of community service into the learning experience.

Snags: Dead trees that have the potential to support a number of living organisms.

Song: A vocal communication used by birds that is typically long, complex, and almost exclusively produced by male birds during breeding season.

Species: A population of individuals able to breed and produce fertile offspring under natural conditions.

Stamen: Male structure of a flower. Consists of a filament (or stalk) and pollen producing anthers at the top.

Steppe: A vast semiarid grass covered plain, as found in southeast Europe, Siberia, and central North America.

Talus Slope: A sloping mass of loose rocks at the base of a cliff.

Vane: The part of a feather composed of thin, needle like structures, which attach to the rachis.

Waterbird: Any bird that utilizes an aquatic habitat.

Weather: A regional affect that is the mix of events that happen each day in our atmosphere including temperature, rainfall and humidity.

Wetland: Lowland area where there is an excess of water such as marsh or swamp.