



Noah Berger/AP Photo

A firefighter sprays water while trying to stop fire from spreading to neighboring homes in California on Saturday.

# Wildlife center sees influx of injured birds due to heat

By **BRYCE DOLE**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The calls flooded into Blue Mountain Wildlife first thing in the morning in late June — dozens of baby hawks, desperate to escape the blast of early summer heat, bailed from their nests and plummeted to the ground.

Calls poured in day after day as temperatures pushed beyond 110 degrees across Eastern Oregon. In her 30 years as director of the wildlife rehabilitation center outside of Pendleton, Lynn Tompkins had not seen anything like it.

“They had no choice,” said Tompkins. “It was just too bloody hot to survive.”

In all, the center took in nearly 50 nestling Swainson’s and Cooper’s hawks after they leaped from their nests in the extreme heat wave that baked the Pacific Northwest. Thirteen of the raptors suffered injuries severe enough they had to be euthanized.

“We knew the temperature was going to spike beforehand, and we assumed we might get a few more calls,” said Trisha Marquez, a volunteer who fielded the calls and who is also Tompkins’ niece. “But we did not expect this at all.”

Blue Mountain Wildlife lodged 157 more birds compared to the same day last year. The influx was more than the small staff could handle. They hardly had the space to put them all, and eventually, they asked people to turn on their sprinklers and hoses and set out pans of water for less-injured birds to cool themselves down.

Tompkins said they will typically see a few injured birds who display this sort



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Lynn Tompkins, director of Blue Mountain Wildlife, checks on a group of baby Swainson's hawks at the rehabilitation center outside of Pendleton.

of behavior in heat waves around July or August. But this year, with the heat arriving earlier and surging higher, it caught the babies right in their nesting period.

“The conditions were just right, or wrong,” Tompkins said, adding, “When your normal body temperature is like 100, and it’s 115, you have no way of moderating the temperature except for getting out of there.”

The birds came from across the region, including southeastern Washington state, as the wildlife center’s facility in the Tri-Cities took in more than 70, Tompkins said.

And it’s not just happening here. A rehabilitation center in Delta, British Columbia, saw a similar uptick amid the heat wave. The center has about 140 more birds than last year at this time, and many babies that flung themselves from their nests didn’t make it, a Vancouver news station reported.

In Seattle, state officials began monitoring a colony of Caspian terns last week after dozens of premature seabirds fled their rooftop nests as tempera-

tures reached 108 degrees. Too young to fly, they fell to their death.

Marquez said events such as the heat wave can have a population-wide effect.

“Usually, rehabbers make a difference for one bird at a time,” Marquez said. “Overall, we can have an impact, but this is a whole generation of a species of bird.”

A growing body of research from experts around the world suggests as the planet warms due to climate change, species will disappear at an accelerating rate. Some studies suggest the planet has entered its sixth mass extinction of wildlife.

An analysis by scientists from prominent universities across the world, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2020, found more than 500 species of land animals are on the brink of extinction and likely will die off within 20 years. That will have a domino effect, the research shows, with interdependent species dying one after another, causing extinction rates to accelerate.

# Wildfires rage as West sees heat amid drought

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER**  
Associated Press

Firefighters were working in extreme temperatures across the West and struggling to contain wildfires, the largest burning in California and Oregon, as another heat wave baked the region, straining power grids.

The largest wildfire of the year in California — the Beckwourth Complex — was raging along the Nevada state line and has burned about 140 square miles as of Monday morning and state regulators asked consumers to voluntarily “conserve as much electricity as possible” to avoid any outages starting in the afternoon.

In Oregon, the Bootleg fire exploded to 240 square miles as it raced through heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, near the Klamath County town of Sprague River. The fire disrupted service on three transmission lines providing up to 5,500 megawatts of electricity to neighboring California.

A wildfire in southeast Washington state grew to almost 60 square miles while in Idaho, Gov. Brad

Little has mobilized the National Guard to help fight fires sparked after lightning storms swept across the drought-stricken region.

The blazes come as the West is in the midst of a second extreme heat wave within just a few weeks and as the entire region is suffering from one of the worst droughts in recent history. Extreme heat warnings in California were finally expected to expire Monday night.

On Sunday, firefighters working in temperatures that topped 100 degrees were able to gain some ground on the Beckwourth Complex, increasing containment to 23%.

Late Saturday, flames jumped U.S. 395, which was closed near the small town of Doyle in California’s Lassen County. The lanes reopened Sunday, and officials urged motorists to use caution and keep moving along the key north-south route where flames were still active.

“Do not stop and take pictures,” said Jake Cagle, the fire’s operations section chief. “You are going to impede our operations if you stop and look at what’s going on.”

Cagle said structures had burned in Doyle, but he didn’t have an exact number. Bob Prary, who manages the Buck-Inn Bar in the town of about 600 people, said he saw at least six houses destroyed after Saturday’s flareup. The fire was smoldering Sunday in and around Doyle, but he feared some remote ranch properties were still in danger.

“It seems like the worst is over in town, but back on the mountainside the fire’s still going strong,” Prary said.

A new fire broke out Sunday afternoon in the Sierra Nevada south of Yosemite National Park and by evening covered more than 6 square miles, triggering evacuations in areas of two counties. Containment was just 5% but the highway leading to the southern entrance of the park remained open early Monday.

In Arizona, a small plane crashed Saturday during a survey of a wildfire in rural Mohave County, killing both crew members.

The Beech C-90 aircraft was helping perform reconnaissance over the lightning-caused Cedar Basin fire, near the tiny community of Wikieup northwest of Phoenix.

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WEATHER PERMITTING

**SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA**

| TODAY            | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY     | FRIDAY     | SATURDAY               | SUNDAY       | MONDAY       |
|------------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                  |            |              |            |                        |              |              |
| 66 56            | 64 55      | 64 55        | 65 53      | 67 52                  | 67 54        | 68 55        |
| Partial sunshine | Low clouds | Partly sunny | Low clouds | Sunny to partly cloudy | Mostly sunny | Mostly sunny |

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

|                     |                   |                    |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Seattle 82/57       | Wenatchee 100/71  | Spokane 97/68      |
| Aberdeen 68/56      | Moses Lake 102/66 | Pullman 92/60      |
| Olympia 82/53       | Yakima 102/67     | Walla Walla 100/70 |
| Tacoma 83/55        | Kennewick 104/69  | Lewiston 101/70    |
| Longview 79/56      | Hermiston 103/71  | Enterprise 101/70  |
| Astoria 66/56       | Pendleton 100/66  | La Grande 96/62    |
| Portland 86/59      | The Dalles 98/67  | John Day 97/60     |
| Salem 90/56         | Bend 96/59        | Burns 96/54        |
| Corvallis 87/54     | Albany 88/54      | Ontario 102/66     |
| Eugene 91/54        | Medford 99/63     | Caldwell 99/63     |
| Klamath Falls 96/52 |                   |                    |

**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Sunday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 64/56  
Normal high/low ..... 67/53  
Record high ..... 91 in 1951  
Record low ..... 43 in 2008

**Precipitation**

Sunday ..... Trace  
Month to date ..... 0.13"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.47"  
Year to date ..... 37.40"  
Normal year to date ..... 36.38"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2021

**UNDER THE SKY**

**Tonight's Sky:** After sunset low west, the waxing crescent moon, Venus and Mars in close gathering. A must see!

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today ..... 5:37 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 9:05 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 9:18 a.m.  
Moonset today ..... 11:38 p.m.

|         |         |         |       |
|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| First   | Full    | Last    | New   |
|         |         |         |       |
| July 17 | July 23 | July 31 | Aug 8 |

**TODAY'S TIDES**

| Astoria / Port Docks | Time      | High (ft.) | Time       | Low (ft.) |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
|                      | 3:28 a.m. | 7.9        | 10:35 a.m. | -1.0      |
|                      | 5:06 p.m. | 6.8        | 10:43 p.m. | 2.4       |
| Cape Disappointment  | 3:08 a.m. | 7.8        | 9:47 a.m.  | -0.9      |
|                      | 4:45 p.m. | 6.7        | 9:51 p.m.  | 2.9       |
| Hammond              | 3:20 a.m. | 8.2        | 10:05 a.m. | -1.1      |
|                      | 4:55 p.m. | 7.1        | 10:13 p.m. | 2.7       |
| Warrenton            | 3:23 a.m. | 8.3        | 10:19 a.m. | -0.9      |
|                      | 5:01 p.m. | 7.3        | 10:27 p.m. | 2.5       |
| Knappa               | 4:05 a.m. | 8.2        | 11:36 a.m. | -0.8      |
|                      | 5:43 p.m. | 7.1        | 11:44 p.m. | 2.1       |
| Depoe Bay            | 2:18 a.m. | 7.9        | 9:16 a.m.  | -1.2      |
|                      | 4:00 p.m. | 6.8        | 9:21 p.m.  | 2.9       |

**NATIONAL CITIES**

| City          | Today Hi/Lo/W | Wed. Hi/Lo/W |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Atlanta       | 84/71/t       | 87/72/t      |
| Boston        | 69/64/pc      | 80/69/t      |
| Chicago       | 81/68/c       | 87/72/pc     |
| Dallas        | 94/77/pc      | 94/76/s      |
| Denver        | 93/65/pc      | 87/61/t      |
| Honolulu      | 87/75/sh      | 88/75/pc     |
| Houston       | 91/75/t       | 91/76/t      |
| Los Angeles   | 85/68/s       | 83/67/s      |
| Miami         | 87/79/t       | 89/78/t      |
| New York City | 77/70/t       | 86/70/t      |
| Phoenix       | 105/87/t      | 97/84/pc     |
| San Francisco | 70/58/pc      | 71/58/pc     |
| Wash., DC     | 94/77/s       | 93/74/t      |

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.