

TWO INCIDENTAL OBSERVATIONS OF WATERBIRDS AT VALSETZ LAKE, POLK COUNTY

Bob Llewellyn, 1821 Moonshine Park Road, Logsdon, Oregon 97357
Range D. Bayer, P.O. Box 1467, Newport, Oregon 97365

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A. INTRODUCTION

Location: Township 8S, Range 8W, Sect. 28, 33, 34
Area Studied: ?
Habitat(s) Studied: Lake
Elevation: about 1099 ft (335 m)
Distance to Coastline: 18.1 mi (29.3 km).

Valsetz Lake is described in Johnson et al. (1985:285). It was a humanly made impoundment for timber storage; it was drained in the summer of 1988 (Mary Jo Hedrick, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, pers. comm.). During a visit in 1993, Llewellyn noted that the old Lake bottom is now mostly covered with red alders and willows, with only a few areas of open water.

It was in the middle of the Coast Range about 2.5 mi (4.0 km) east of the border with Lincoln County and along the South Fork of the Siletz River.

The draining was controversial because of alleged buried drums of chemicals and of concern of downstream sedimentation, so articles about Valsetz Lake were intermittently in the Newport newspaper (News-Times) sometime before and several years after the draining. Articles might also be found by using the indices of the Corvallis and

Salem newspapers.

Bob Llewellyn twice visited this Lake and recorded waterbirds incidental to his other activities. Bayer compiled and prepared these records for this publication.

Although there are so few records, Bayer feels that they are worth documenting because of the Lake's unique position and because of some of the waterbirds that Llewellyn observed.

B. RESULTS

The following observations were incidentally made and are estimates of what birds were present. During the 1988 observations, the number of birds was usually not recorded.

- 1/24/1985. 3 Double-crested Cormorants, 50 Mallards, 6 Buffleheads, 100 Common Mergansers, 3 Great Blue Herons.
- 6/25 & 26/1988. 1 adult Bald Eagle, Osprey, 1 female Common Merganser, Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, pair of nesting Red-winged Blackbirds, 2 pairs of Purple Martins nesting in stumps over water, Eurasian Starlings nesting in stumps over water.

C. LITERATURE CITED

Johnson, D. M., T. R. Peterson, D. R. Lycan, J. W. Sweet, M. E. Neuhaus, and A. L. Schaedel. 1985. Atlas of Oregon lakes. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis.