

BIRDMAN

Fall migration is under way

BY TED A. GLOVER

With the fall migration now fully under way, we can say good-bye to our summer visitors and welcome back many more of our winter residents.

Good-bye to the Black-headed Grosbeaks, the Rufous Hummingbirds, Ospreys, Western Tanagers, Western Kingbirds, many of the swallows and the beautiful Bullock's Orioles. Though here all year long, we welcome back species that begin returning in larger numbers to our area to spend the winter months. These species include the Dark-eyed Juncos,

White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, plus chickadees and Pine Siskins.

One bird species we can expect to see in growing numbers in the days ahead is the American Kestrel. Once called the Sparrow Hawk, this bird is actually a member of the falcon family and is, in fact, the smallest of all the falcons and the most common in all of North America. It's not much larger than a robin and can be seen perched on wires, poles and fence posts all around open fields, meadows and brushy locales. You will often see the

kestrel hovering, similar to the kingfisher, and usually pumping its tail when it lands.

The plumage of the male American Kestrel is quite colorful. He has blue-gray wing coverts, a red back and a red-brown tail with a black tip. Both the male and female have two very noticeable black sideburns on each side of their faces.

They hunt both by perching and hovering, then dive straight down to catch such prey as grasshoppers, lizards, voles and even small birds. The American Kestrel ranges from Alaska, across Canada to

Nova Scotia, south to Mexico and the Caribbean, and throughout most of South America.

So as the days grow shorter and the cool weather returns, many of our feathered friends find the Applegate Valley a great place to spend some time.

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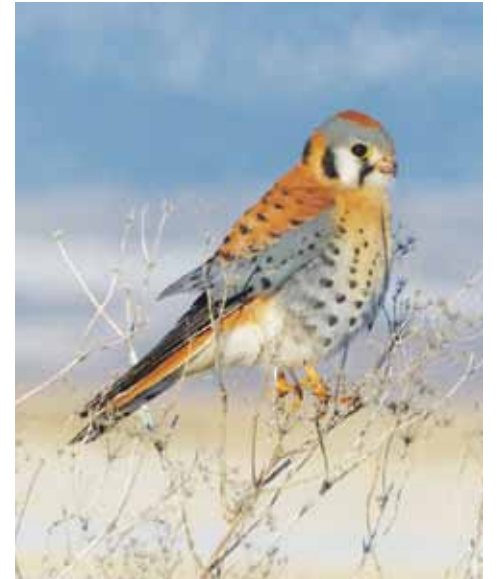
The **Bullock's Oriole**, a small New World blackbird, was named after William Bullock, an English amateur naturalist.



White-breasted Nuthatches move head-first down tree trunks to find insects wedged into the top edges of bark.



The **Pine Siskin** is a North American bird in the finch family with an extremely sporadic winter range.



The **American Kestrel** nests in cavities in trees, cliffs, buildings and other structures; the female lays three to seven eggs.

Sadler oak: A relict in the Applegate

BY SUZIE SAVOIE

Sadler oak is a survivor. It is an ancient species from the pre-Pleistocene that grew on this earth long before humans ever walked it. Sadler oak—often referred to as deer oak—grows wild only in the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains of northern California and southern Oregon. It has this restricted range because the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains experienced less glaciation during the Pleistocene ice ages. Sadler oak took refuge here during that time and survived the ice ages while many other plant species died out. Because of this, Sadler oak is considered a "relict" species [*Ed. note: "Relict" is defined as a species living in an environment that has changed from that which is typical for it; a remnant or survivor, per dictionary.com.*] According to John Roth, ecologist and chief of resource management at the Oregon Caves National Monument, Sadler oak is "part of the 40-million-year-old Arcto-Tertiary flora that once spread from Japan to the southeastern United States." Indeed, the closest relative is still found in Japan.



catkins that pollinate the female flowers to produce acorns in the fall. As is the case with most oaks, Sadler oak acorns are an important food source for local wildlife.

If you'd like a piece of pre-Pleistocene flora in your own yard, Sadler oak makes a great landscaping plant. Arthur Kruckeberg recommends in his book, *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, that "partial sun at the edge of a conifer canopy or in a moderately sunny shrub border [will] suit Sadler oak best."

You can see Sadler oak growing in the Applegate watershed in the Red Buttes Wilderness and the Grayback Mountain area, or more specifically along the following trails: Frog Pond Trail, Miller Lake Trail, Fir Glade Trail, Boundary Trail, Sturgis Fork Trail, and the Hinkle Lake Trail. Despite its restricted range, Sadler oak is not uncommon in the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains; in fact, in some locations Sadler oak is the dominant understory species.

Endemic plants, like Sadler oak, are what make the Applegate and the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains so unique. Fall is a great time to get out for a hike and see these ancient, relict plants growing in our watershed.

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The oak family is included in the genus *Quercus*, which is the Latin word for oak. The botanical name for Sadler oak is *Quercus sadleriana*. Sadler oak is a shrub oak, growing low to the ground with dense branching from the base. The height varies depending on soil and growing conditions, but it typically grows anywhere from three to nine feet tall. In the wild, Sadler oak can be found on open, rocky slopes and ridges, or as an understory species in coniferous forest, generally between 1,800 to 6,600 feet in elevation. Sadler oak is an evergreen oak, keeping its large, toothed, chestnut-like leaves year-round; it has unusually large leaves for an oak.

In spring, Sadler oak has lovely

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