

**Sauvie Island Steaked Horned
Lark Patrol – Survey protocol**

Project Objective: Monitor two sites on Sauvie Island for presence/absence of Streaked Horned Larks and survey all other species as well to better understand site usage.

- Site 1: a section of ODFW farmland and adjacent “Grandma’s Kitchen” plot.
- Site 2: a section of private agricultural land with suitable Streaked Horned Lark habitat on the southern part of the island (off Gillihan Road) that is within 2 miles of one of the only remaining Streaked Horned Lark breeding areas in Portland (Rivergate).

Study site location information (also see maps at end of document)

Site Name	Latitude/Longitude*	eBird hotspot name	Comments
ODFW farmland + Grandma’s Kitchen ¹	Start (south end ag land): N 45.757543°, W 122. 783367° End (north end ag land: N 45.774670°, W 122.786697°	Sauvie Island-- ODFW farmland (ASOP survey)	Survey conducted along delineated transects. ODFW permit required
Gillihan Road transect	Start (Parking pullout 1: N 45.641461°, W 122.789932° End (Parking pullout 6): N 45.667208°, W 122.781022°	Sauvie Island -- NW Gillihan Loop Rd.	Survey conducted from pullouts off of Gillihan Road

* Coordinates in decimal degrees

Bird Survey protocol

1) ODFW farmland / Grandma’s kitchen line-transect:

- Best to do this survey with 2 people (and 2 vehicles) to reduce amount of back-track walking. One person park at north end parking lot (will need gate key until April 30 – see below), other person at end of Rentnaar Road near Grandma’s kitchen (see map). Surveyor #1 start at the north end of the ODFW farmland transect and surveyor #2 do the Grandma’s Kitchen transect and then start on the ODFW farmland transect from the south end. Both observers meet somewhere in the middle. Only 1 person should enter the combined data into eBird.
- Bird survey: walk along the line-transect at a slow to moderate pace. You may stop to observe birds but do not linger too long. If you leave the transect to get a closer look at a bird, stop surveying temporarily and then return to the point you left off at on the transect and initiate surveying again. Record all bird species in eBird. Pay special attention for lark (both visual and auditory detections). See below for more info on species identification.
- **Only count birds detected within the site boundaries** (green boundary lines depicted on map below). However, if you do detect Streaked Horned Larks elsewhere on the island let us know. Please refrain from making general announcement on OBOL or other public listserves if you detect a Streaked Horned Lark. We do not want to cause any undue stress to birds that may be attempting to nest.

¹ Grandma’s Kitchen coordinates: Start: N 45.75618°, W 122.78853°; End: N 45.75865°, W 122.79002°

- The Grandma’s Kitchen transect is marked with **T-bar stakes (spray painted pink on top)**. The North and South starting points of the ODFW farmland transect is marked with T-bars. Feel free to program the transect start and end point coordinates (see table above) into a GPS to help you quickly locate the transects.



T-bar ODFW farmland south end transect start/end.

2) Gillihan Road

- This survey performed from six pullout locations along Gillihan Road (see map below).
- There is no plot boundary delineated for this transect. You will be surveying from the road onto private farmland that has suitable Streaked Horned Lark breeding habitat (i.e. relatively large areas: 100+ acres, sparsely vegetated sites dominated by grass and forbs, grass height <6 inches, relative high percentage of bare ground 17% to support territories; 31% to support nest sites).
- Focus your surveys on the first 200 meters out from the road (on each side of the road) where suitable habitat is available. Beyond that distance it will be difficult to identify larks reliably unless you are using a good scope.
- At each of the 6 pullouts, get out of your car and survey appropriate habitat for all bird species (but keeping especially attuned to lark detections). Survey for a minimum of 10min at each pullout. **Be sure to not enter private property** (stay on the pullout or roadside).

Data collection:

- Record all species and # of individuals observed.
- Enter all data into eBird, using the hotspot named “**Sauvie Island--ODFW farmland (ASOP survey)**” for the ODFW farmland transect and hotspot “**Sauvie Island --NW Gillihan Loop Rd.**” for the road transect. You may enter data any way you prefer — directly from the field with a phone app or afterwards from written notes made in the field. Please try to enter data as soon as possible after your visit so as to ensure accuracy, and remember to double-check your entries before clicking “submit”.
- **Avoid double counting:** Make an effort not to double count the same birds.

- **Only count flyover birds that are using the surveyed habitat** (e.g. swallow catching insects on the wing, Northern Harrier hunting). Do not count flyover birds that you are sure are not using the habitat.

Timing:

- Surveys will occur during the Streaked Horned Lark breeding season: **late March until late July**
- Surveys are to be conducted **at least once per week**. Surveyors commit to conducting a survey on a given week. They can choose any day during that week to conduct the survey.
- **Start survey 30min. before sunrise to 2 hours after**. Do not conduct surveys during heavy rain or winds. Streaked Horned Lark display activity subsides substantially by mid-morning so **aim to finish surveys no later than 9am**

Surveyors:

- As mentioned previously, it's best to survey the ODFW farmland/Grandma's Kitchen site with at least 2 people. We encourage less experienced birders to participate but that they pair up with a more experienced birder until they feel comfortable working independently. In this situation, the less experienced birder can record data that the more experienced birder dictates.
- Experienced birders should be proficient in bird identification, both auditory and visual.

Important notes:

- **Please notify Justin Elliott at ODFW the day before you do the survey at the ODFW farmland site. This site is actively farmed so it's important to let ODFW know if you will be on site. You can text or phone Justin at 503-706-9431**
- **If you need to access the ODFW farmland transect from the north end road, you will need to get the key to open the gate. The key is in a wood duck box in Justin's front yard (18336 NW Sauvie Island Rd, Portland 97231). Please return the key after the survey.**
- **Any reports of Western Meadowlark, Streaked Horned Lark, and/or Vesper Sparrow should be reported to Joe Liebezeit and Justin Elliott as soon as possible.**

Gear list:

Permit (get from ODFW main office or from Joe Liebezeit, place on dashboard of vehicle when surveying the ODFW farmland site)	Binoculars (ideal to use a scope on the Gillihan Road surveys)	Pencil or pen
Field notebook (or smartphone with eBird App)	Protocol (available for download at http://audubonportland.org/issues/community-science)	Insect repellent
Appropriate clothing for surveying (consider knee high water proof boots for the ODFW farmland transect if rainy)	Sun protection (sun hat, sun block)	GPS Unit (optional)

Contact info:

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Info for helping with Streaked Horned Lark identification

- See attached notes and photos below for separating *strigata* (Streaked Horned Lark) from *merrilli* – another horned lark subspecies that visits the area. This document was put together by Dr. Randy Moore as OSU.
- [Click here](#) to listen to Streaked Horned Lark calls and songs.

ODFW farmland & Grandma's Kitchen

Directions from Sauvie Island Bridge to Grandma's Kitchen & south end of ODFW farmland site: Take left on NW Sauvie Island Road, Take Right on Reeder Road and continue on it around the east side of Sturgeon Lake. Take left on Rentenaar Road. At the end of this road is Grandma's Kitchen. Transect is just over the levee from the end of Rentenaar Road.

Directions from Sauvie Island Bridge to parking lot at north end of ODFW farmland site: Take left on NW Sauvie Island Road, Take Right on Reeder Road and continue on it around the east side of Sturgeon Lake. After passing Rentenaar Road, take left on road where Reeder Road becomes a gravel road. There will be a gate that will be locked until April 30. **Be sure to get key from wood duck box at Justin Elliot's front yard (next to ODFW office) before you come out.** Parking lot will be a few hundred yards down the road.



- There are 4 T-bar stakes marking this transect: at north and south ends and also in the middle of the transect on either side of the channel.
- There is a walking bridge (see photo) that you will use to cross the channel.



Gillihan Road

Directions from Sauvie Island Bridge:

Take left on NW Sauvie Island Road and then another left onto Gillihan Road, go under bridge and head out about 2 miles to the first stop on the transect (at Portland Pumpkin Farm).

Pullout / parking site descriptions:

Pullout parking area	Coordinates	Description
P1	N 45.64146°; W 122.78993°	on left side of road just before the Pumpkin Patch
P2	N 45.64312°; W 122.78422°	Pullout on right
P3	N 45.64722°; W 122.77700°	Pullout on right
P4	N 45.65282°; W 122.77859°	Park next to Trapold Farm
P5	N 45.66037°; W 122.77930°	Park in Olympic Pipeline Co. pullout
P6	N 45.66721°; W 122.78102°	Pull off on grass at vineyard next to private road



Notes for the separation of
Eremophila alpestris strigata
from *E. a. merrilli*



Which subspecies is this?



merrelli

- Face often very yellow, but supercilium usually fades to white-yellow or whitish.
- Face sometimes yellow but washed out, unlike any winter *strigata*. Be wary of viewing conditions.
 - Females can be without yellow
 - Uncommonly with yellow below black bib.



Main points- *Strigata* is the warbler of the horned lark world; if it isn't saturated with yellow, it almost certainly isn't *strigata*. If it is saturated, it isn't necessarily *strigata*. If it's *extensively* yellow below the black bib, then it almost certainly is *strigata*. Lack of yellow below bib is not diagnostic in any way. Very important: the effect of late summer feather wear can negate some of these differences and make these ssp. Very difficult to separate. But you have to worry about that only in late July and August.



female

strigata

- Face saturated with bright yellow to rear of supercilium, irrespective of gender. Males brighter, though.
- Commonly with obvious and extensive yellow below black bib, most often in males.



male

male



merrelli

- Cool gray or gray-brown feather edgings to dark centered dorsal feathers, giving a lighter dorsal appearance. Females are often especially pale.
- “Pinkish-brick” color to nape when red is present. Female *merrelli* almost always without noticeable reddish of any shade.

male



Main points- *Strigata* darker dorsally, although both have equally dark feather centers. *Strigata* females especially are much warmer brown than *merrelli* females, and usually have much more red on red parts. There is a subtle but consistent difference in coloration of red parts.

strigata

- Warm cinnamon to brown feather edgings, resulting in darker dorsal look. Warm nape edgings good character for separating females.
- “Red-brick” color to nape, coverts, and rump when red is present.

male



female

