

oregon-washington



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Following an unpleasantly damp summer, fall was somewhat drier until mid-October. August rainfalls averaged above normal, mostly due to thunderstorm activity, so some areas were quite wet while others were rather dry. September, however, was exceedingly dry and October was drier than average. November saw a return to *La Niña* conditions with exceptionally heavy rainfall on the westside but dry to average conditions on the eastside. Temperatures were generally unremarkable until November, which was moderately warmer than normal throughout.

It was another spectacular fall for rarities, with 26 reports of birds warranting boldface. The most remarkable were the Region's first **Eurasian Kestrel** and Washington's first and Oregon's second **Wedge-tailed Shearwater**. Beyond mega-rarities, there were relatively few trends. Few eastside birds wandered west and *vice versa*. Migrants did not arrive early nor did they depart late. However, some changes were evident, most of them good. Common Murres, Sooty Shearwaters, and N. Fulmar, three seabirds relatively scarce over the last decade, seemed to rebound in 1999. Laysan Albatrosses continue to increase. The spate of vagrants from Beringia continued with a

smattering of Horned Puffins in Oregon. Brown Pelicans arrived in large numbers again showing that their growing summer/fall numbers are not just a warm-water phenomenon. Among landbirds, Western Scrub-Jays continued to expand and reports of Clay-colored Sparrows continue to rise. Finally, Com. Redpolls invaded in the last weeks of November.

Abbreviations: eastside (east of the Cascade crest); F.R.R. (*Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., OR*); M.N.W.R. (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney Co., OR*); N.S.C.B. (*N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA*); P.N.P. (*Pt. No Pt., Kitsap Co., WA*); W.W.R.D. (*Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla Co., WA*); westside (west of the Cascade crest); Y.R.D. (*Yakima R. delta, Benton Co., WA*).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Red-throated Loons, rare on the eastside away from the Columbia R., were at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes*, 3 Oct (PS) and Upper Klamath L., *Klamath*, 11 Nov (KS). Regular seawatching at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, revealed high counts of 2,000 Red-throated Loons 17 Nov and 15,000 Pacifics 29 Oct (PP). Twelve Clark's Grebes on the westside, including four at Gold Beach, *Curry*, 25 Oct (DM), were well above average. Only two were in Washington, at Oak Harbor, *Island*, 31 Oct (SDs, RS) and P.N.P. 7 Nov (GR). Black-footed Albatross counts on 16 pelagic trips averaged 100 per trip, roughly normal (TRW, GG, MH). A fall record high 16 Laysan Albatross was reported. One was 65 mi w. of Sand L., OR, 19 Sep (GG, MH), the remainder off Westport, WA, with a total of nine 9-10 Oct (TRW). N. Fulmar numbers were large, averaging >1,000 per trip, with counts peaking in late August to mid-September: 1,103 off Depoe Bay, OR, 21 Aug (GG, MH) and 8295 off Westport 12 Sep (TRW). A N. Fulmar off Keystone 31 Oct was *Island's* first (SM, GT). The identity of a **dark Pterodroma** 65 mi w. of Clatsop Beach, OR, 19 Sep (+JG, OS) is under review. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were low to normal, averaging ± 100 per trip. Eleven Flesh-footed Shearwaters were reported, all off Washington, a better showing than the last two falls (TRW). Buller's Shearwaters averaged merely 30 per trip, with a peak of 113, the

lowest fall numbers since 1994 (GG, MH, TRW). Sooty Shearwater counts were higher than most years this decade, averaging 2,000 per trip off Washington and peaking at 9,930 offshore 21 Aug (TRW). Counts from shore were high again, with 20,000 at Tokeland, *Pacific*, 1 Aug and at O.S. 5 Aug (SM, TA). Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters are rare from Port Angeles, *Clallam*, west. This fall, there was a Sooty off Keystone 31 Oct (SM, GT) and unidentified dark shearwaters at P.N.P. 26 Oct (VN) and off Keystone 31 Oct (SM, GT). Single **Manx/Black-vented Shearwaters** were at O.S. 1 Aug (SM) and Boiler Bay 9 Nov (+PP); given the recent spate of Manx records and the cool ocean temperatures this year, these birds were probably Manx. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were present in good numbers offshore, averaging 165 per trip off Westport (TRW).

Am. White Pelicans continue to be unusually numerous on the westside, with one at Edmonds, *Snohomish*, 23 Oct (DD), two at Blaine, *Whatcom*, throughout the period (SM, DD), one at F.R.R. 26 Oct-30 Nov (A. Prigge), and one at Sauvie I. Aug-Sep (D. Robberson). Despite cooler ocean temperatures, large numbers of Brown Pelicans appeared and stayed late, with a maximum of 1,150 at Westport 22 Aug (SM, JE, SP) and 200 still there 4 Nov (GR). Few wandered into Puget Sound,

SA Prior to 1998 there were only two accepted ABA records of **Wedge-tailed Shearwater**, both from California. Thus, discovery of a dead one near Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, 26 Mar 1999 was a complete surprise (D. A. Leal, *Oregon Birds* 25:96). The record was not unique for long, however, as another dark-morph bird was found dead this fall near Ocean City, *Grays Harbor*, 10 Sep (C. Wood, T. Haas, Univ. Washington Burke Museum 63735) and a live dark bird was ± 30 mi w. of Newport, *Lincoln*, OR, 2 Oct (+MH). At least two others have been reported from California in the past two years (*N. Am. Birds* 53:99, D. L. Shearwater). Do recent records reflect a real change in status, a temporary blip, or better observer awareness?

with singles at P.N.P. 23–26 Sep and 22–24 Nov (VN). Twenty Cattle Egrets were on the westside, better than average, with a maximum of ten at Gold Beach 18 Oct (DM), but only one in Washington, near Edison, *Skagit*, 11–14 Nov (TA). A Green Heron, rare in e. WA, was at Bateman I., *Benton*, WA, 30 Sep–5 Oct (NL, BL). Twenty White-faced Ibis in *Crook*, 15 Aug, were n. of that species range in se. Oregon (PS).

Migrant Trumpeter Swans were at McNary Dam, *Umatilla*, 13 Nov (CC, JS) and Columbia N.W.R., *Grant*, WA, 20 Nov (RH); this species is rare on the eastside away from small introduced populations. A Snow Goose on Fir I., *Skagit*, 30 Aug, was six weeks early and may have been summering locally (SM, DD, JS). A Ross's Goose remained at Bandon, *Coos*, through Sep (DL, KC), one was at Sauvie I. 23 Oct and 18 Nov (RK, BS), and one was at Post Office L., *Clark*, 27 Nov (SM); previously casual, they are now rare-but-regular in Washington and w. Oregon. A Brant, rare away from saltwater, was at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, 26–27 Oct (TSu, E. Anderson). A count of 22 Eur. Wigeon at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam*, 31 Oct was exceptional for fall; counts of this magnitude are regular Dec–Mar (SM, GT). A **King Eider** at Seal Rock S.P., *Lincoln*, 9–25 Oct (L. Osis, m.ob.) was about the 12th for Oregon and the Region's earliest by two weeks.

FALCONIFORMES THROUGH PHALAROPES

An Osprey at Woodland, *Cowlitz*, 27 Nov was six weeks late for Washington (SM).

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase, mainly in w. OR; however, one at Bonney Butte Hawkwatch on Mt. Hood, in late Sep was unexpected (NP) and singles at Tumalo Res., *Deschutes*, 6 Sep and M.N.W.R. 10 Sep were in e. OR where rare (S. Kornfeld, MD). Another was in Washington, where not annual, at Steigerwald L., *Clark*, 4 Sep (+WC). HawkWatch International's counts are establishing Broad-winged Hawks as regular fall migrants along the Cascades. This season's reports included an amazing kettle of 60+ over Bonney Butte 29 Sep—more than the sum total of previous Regional records (D. Baccus, CH). Five others were there late Sep to mid-Oct, one was near Madras, *Jefferson*, 17 Aug (CH, DI, NP), and another was farther e. in Spokane 18 Sep (+JA, D. Mann). A Swainson's Hawk, casual on the westside, was at Edmonds 22 Aug (DD).

A Gyrfalcon at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, 19 Sep was a month early (RG). More typical sightings included an ad. near Edison, *Skagit*, 7 Nov+ (SM, DD, ED), an imm. near Edison 31 Oct+ (ED), one near Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, 18 Nov (JA), an imm. near Sequim, *Clallam*, 19–20 Nov (SDs), and an imm. near Banks, *Washington*, in late Nov (JG). Two Sage Grouse at FEALE 6 Nov, were in *Benton*, WA, where considered extirpated (NL, BL). A count of 750 California Quail at Burns, *Harney*, 27 Sep was impressive (PS).

Am. Golden-Plovers had an average fall, with a Regional tally of 63. Pacific Golden-Plovers, however, were unusually scarce with only ± 30 reported. Single **Mountain**

SA The Region's first **Eurasian Kestrel** was at Bow, *Skagit*, 31 Oct–11 Nov (BA, ED, M. Muller). This modestly underweight imm., probably male, was banded 3 Nov and showed no signs of previous captivity (BA). Other North American records include ± 8 from Alaska (*ABA Checklist* 1996), ± 4 between New Jersey and Nova Scotia, one from Bermuda (D. Wingate), and one from Alkali L., British Columbia, 10 Dec 1946 (*Condor* 87:294).

Plovers were near Flores L., *Curry*, 7 Nov (DL, KC) and Dunes Overlook, *Curry*, 16 Nov+ (DL, KC), Oregon's seventh and eighth records. Previous records were from the westside Dec–Mar. A **Eurasian Dotterel** at O.S. 20 Oct–5 Nov (+TA, ph., m. ob.) was the third for Washington and ninth for the contiguous United States, seven of which appeared 3–20 Sep. A Black-necked Stilt at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Klamath*, 27 Oct was the Region's latest ever (FM). Am. Avocets, rare on the westside, were at Tillamook, *Tillamook*, 30 Aug (W. Gross), Brownsville, *Linn*, 23 Sep (RG), Nehalem, *Tillamook*, 9–23 Oct (E. McVicker), O.S. 25 Oct (P. Hicks), Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington*, 16–25 Oct (PS), and Siletz Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, 23 Nov (PP). It was an average fall for Solitary Sandpipers, with 30 on the eastside and seven on the westside, but eight at Tucannon R. Fish Hatchery, *Columbia*, 11 Aug (MD, MLD) may be the largest concentration ever in Washington. A Whimbrel at Atkin's L., *Douglas*, Aug 29 was in e. Washington, where not annual (KK, Pts). Washington's 20th and 21st Hudsonian Godwits were at O.S. 27 Aug (GR) and Tokeland 26 Sep–10 Oct (+RSh). The Region averages ± 2 Bar-tailed Godwits per fall. This year's included an ad. male at Tokeland 1–16 Aug (+SM, JF), an ad. female there 1 Aug–11 Sep (+SM, JF, GR), and an ad. at Bandon 11 Sep (DL, KC, PS). Marbled Godwits are rare away from the outer coast in Washington, so 22 at Dungeness Bay 9 Oct was noteworthy (B. Boekelheide). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Ridgefield N.W.R. 28 Nov was Washington's latest by two days (+M.&E. Palm); one at W.W.R.D. 26–29 Sep was only about the tenth for e. Washington (AS). Eight others were reported from the westside 8 Sep–17 Oct, an above-average number. Stilt Sandpipers had a below-average showing with only 11 on the eastside and ten on the westside. Buff-breasted



Representing only the third state record, this Eurasian Dotterel at Ocean Shores, Washington, 20 Oct–5 Nov 1999 (and photographed 22 Oct) also represented one of only ten records for North America away from Alaska, all on the West Coast from Washington south to northern Baja California. Photograph/Ruth Sullivan

Sandpipers at Necanicum R. mouth, *Clatsop*, 31 Aug–1 Sep (TT), New R., *Coos*, 8 Sep (DM), and O.S. 11 Sep (BW) provided an average fall. A Ruff at Y.R.D. 6–13 Sep was only the eighth from e. WA (BW). Others were at Yaquina Bay 29–30 Aug (KAI), Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, 2–3 Sep (B. O'Brien, TT), Siltcoos Creek, *Lane*, 2 Sep (S. Maulding, D. Petty), Bandon 13 Sep (T. Bray), N.S.C.B. 21 Sep (TR), O.S. 9 Sep (TA), and Oak Bay, *Jefferson*, WA, 2 Oct (D. Watkins); the Region averages \pm three per fall. Counts of both pelagic phalaropes continued a decade-long low, with only 23 Reds and 133 Red-neckeds on 12 trips off Westport (TRW).

SKUAS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A South Polar Skua, rare from shore, was at Boiler Bay 30 Sep (PP); 33 from pelagic trips was an above-average fall total (GG, MH, TRW). Pomarine Jaegers are now almost annual in Puget Sound, where formerly considered casual. This fall's include one from Edmonds, three from P.N.P., and one off Cultus Bay, *Island* (DD, VN, SM). Offshore, counts were low, totaling only 64, lower than some one-day counts in previous years (GG, MH, TRW). Parasitic Jaegers at Wanapum Dam, *Kittitas*, 30 Aug (SP, JF) and Y.R.D. 30 Sep (NL, DR) were along the eastside portion of the Columbia R., where rare in fall. A Long-tailed Jaeger, rare from shore, was at Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, 19 Aug (JG, OS). A total of 85 were found offshore, below the long-term average, but above 1993–1998 numbers (GG, MH, TRW). The only Franklin's Gulls in the Puget Sound region were singles at P.N.P. 5 Sep and 23 Oct (VN) and two at Stanwood, *Snohomish*, 13 Aug (K. Kemper), representing the lowest total in decades and part of a distinct decline over the past 10 years. The only one in w. Oregon was at Boiler Bay 21 Aug (PP) and the only one in e. Washington was at the W.W.R.D. 1–6 Oct (MD, MLD). A Little Gull returned to Summer L., *Lake*, 18 Sep–Oct (CM, MM); it is casual on the eastside. Three per fall has been typical on the westside, but one at P.N.P. 20 Nov was the only report (PtS, RS). A count of 1,950 Thayer's Gulls at Ediz Hook, *Clallam*, 6 Nov is likely the largest total ever for the contiguous U.S. (SM, GR, RR). An ad. **Slaty-backed Gull** at Tacoma, *Pierce*, 7–28 Nov was Washington's fifth and more than a month earlier than most Pacific Northwest records (+M. Donahue). A W. Gull at Y.R.D. 14 Nov was on the eastside where rare-but-annual (NL, BL). Five Glaucous Gulls, all on the westside during Nov, provided the

best fall showing since 1994. Sabine's Gulls averaged \pm 20 per pelagic trip, with a peak of only 85 off Oregon 19 Sep (JG, OS). An imm. Arctic Tern at Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson*, WA, 6–10 Nov was six weeks late and among the latest ever for the West Coast (ph. RR, SM, GR). Offshore, the season total of 151 was low, less than daily counts in good years. Forster's Terns were at Edmonds 1–6 Oct (DD) and P.N.P. 7–8 Oct (VN); they are now annual in Puget Sound, mostly Oct–Nov, considerably later than elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. One on the outer coast, where rare, was at Charleston, *Coos*, 29 Aug (AC). Common Murre numbers were high after their first successful breeding season in a decade, with tallies of 1,000+ off Boiler Bay 4 Aug (PP) and 2,397 off Westport 7 Aug (TRW) including a large percentage of juvs. Two **Long-billed Murrelets** at O.S. 6 Aug were the fourth for Washington and first for the outer coast (+BS, +TS). The early fall date falls within the pattern of North American records. Xantus's Murrelets were found for the fifth consecutive fall, with two *scrippsi* off Westport 14 Aug (BT). A few early Ancient Murrelets were scattered along the Oregon coast throughout Aug (PP, NW, TR); they usually arrive in mid-Sep. Cassin's Auklet numbers were contradictory. Counts were good off Oregon, with maxima reaching 100+ (PP, MH), but poor off Washington, with most tallies in the single digits (TRW). Horned Puffins were at Bandon 3 Aug (J. Lenhard, B. Foy), near Cape Arago, *Coos*, 11 Aug (*fide* DL), and at Otter Rock, *Lincoln*, OR, 14 Aug (D. Fix); there have been \pm 90 in the Region in the past 20 years. Most live birds from land occur May–Aug but most at-sea or beached birds are Nov–May.

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Sisters, *Deschutes*, 26 Nov (SS) was rare and late for the eastside. Washington's fourth **White-winged Dove** was at Tokeland 8 Oct (+I. McGregor). Previous records come from May, July, and November. Burrowing Owls, rare in w. Oregon, were at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 13 Oct (TJW) and Salem, *Marion*, 18 Oct+ (SD). The only Snowy Owl was at Moses L., *Grant*, WA, 27 Nov (RH). Though not rare, Boreal Owls are rarely reported, so singles w. of Bend, *Deschutes*, 1–9 Oct (PS) and above Tollgate, *Umatilla*, 9 Oct (MD) were noteworthy. Twelve Black Swifts, rare on the Oregon coast, were at Cannon Beach, *Clatsop*, 24 Aug (B. Godfrey). The peak count of Vaux's Swifts at their traditional U. of Oregon, *Lane*, roost was \pm 17,000 on 8 Sep (B. Newhouse). A Calliope Hummingbird, rare on the outer coast,

was at Astoria, *Clatsop*, 19 Sep (MP). Washington's third **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was an imm. at Sacagawea S.P., *Franklin*, 1 Oct (+MLD, MD); previous records are Dec–Mar.

FLYCATCHERS

THROUGH THRASHERS

A Least Flycatcher was banded on the outer coast, where casual, at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 25 Aug (DL, KC). Another at Cove Palisades S.P., *Jefferson*, 12 Oct, was about a month late and in e. Oregon, where rare (DI). A Dusky Flycatcher at Wahluke Slope W.M.A., *Franklin*, 2 Oct was three weeks late and likely the latest ever for e. Washington (SM, CH). A Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Sisters 16 Oct was a month late (A. Esche). A Black Phoebe near Klamath Falls, *Klamath*, 21 Nov was e. of its usual range in Oregon (FM). The only westside Say's Phoebe was at N.S.C.B. 2 Oct, a poor showing (TR). Washington's third and most northerly **Vermilion Flycatcher** was an ad. female on Fir I. 24 Oct–10 Nov (D. Gallup, +m.ob.); previous records were Dec–Mar on the westside. An Ash-throated Flycatcher n. of Royal City, *Grant*, WA, 26 Sep was slightly n. of its usual range and a month late (SM, GR, RRm). A migrant E. Kingbird was at Steigerwald L. 4 Sep (WC); though regular during spring on the westside, it is rare during fall. Single Tropical Kingbirds were at Port Orford, *Curry*, 12 Oct (NW), Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 15 Oct (TJW), Pistol R., *Curry*, 13 Nov (DM), and Pistol R. 20 Nov (DM), representing a typical fall but well down from the 23 during 1997 and 1998. There are \pm 70 Regional records. Two N. Shrikes at M.N.W.R. 10 Sep were three weeks early (MD). The only Blue Jays were at Sisters 25 Oct (*fide* SS) and Spokane 23 Nov (JA, W. Hall), a poor showing; 36 were found during the previous four falls and 20+ during fall 1994. W. Scrub-Jays continue to expand in se. Oregon, with two at Redmond, *Deschutes*, 19 Sep and four at Sisters 20 Sep (SS). Another near Government Camp, *Clackamas*, 24 Sep was near the 4,000-ft line and well out of normal habitat (DM), and one near Naches, 27 Aug was only *Yakima's* third (B. LaBar). Black-billed Magpies are rare in w. Washington and casual w. of the Puget Trough, so one at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, 1 Oct was exceptional (S. Grimmel, S. Weinstein).

A belated report of 60 Purple Martin nests at Ridgefield and Steigerwald L. was remarkable for this scarce regional breeder (TSu). A Cliff Swallow at Hammond, *Clatsop*, 25 Nov was at least six weeks late (KAI)

A Rock Wren was at Steigerwald L. 12 Sep (WC); it is a rare fall migrant in w. WA. Washington's fifth **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Marymoor Park, *King*, 21-25 Oct (+M. Hobbs, +SM) followed by the sixth at P.N.P. Nov 10+ (+TA, +M. Roening); previous records were Nov-Jan, with three from the westside. Eight N. Mockingbirds was about average, with reports from *Klamath*, *Coos*, *Lane*, *Clatsop*, *Adams* (Washington), and *Snohomish*, all after 26 Sep. A Gray Catbird, rarely seen during migration, was at Bateman I., *Benton*, WA, 24 Aug (NL, BL). Washington's fourth **Brown Thrasher** was on Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, 8-9 Sep (ph., T. Wootton) followed by the fifth at Wahluke Slope W.M.A., *Grant*, 10 Sep (J. Stephens, +KA, +SM); Oddly, no previous record was from fall. Oregon's fourth **California Thrasher** was at Medford, *Jackson*, 17 Sep (G. Shaffer); previous records are from *Jackson* and *Josephine* in 1967-68, 1977, and 1998.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Magnolia Warbler** at Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit*, 4 Sep was Washington's 10th (JF, S. Terry), but one at Harris Beach S.P., *Curry*, 16 Oct added to ± 30 Oregon records (AB). Oregon's fall records span 19 Sep-25 Oct whereas Washington's are mostly 4-21 Sep. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Grant's Pass, *Josephine*, 14 Nov (DV) was six weeks late, and a Hermit Warbler at Sutherlin, *Douglas*, OR, 9 Oct (K. Wilson) was three weeks late. A **Prairie Warbler** at M.N.W.R. 10 Sep was Oregon's seventh and e. Oregon's first (ph., MD, MLD); one at Lone Ranch State Wayside, *Curry*, 13-25 Oct was Oregon's 8th (DM); previous records span 24 Aug-28 Sep plus one from Dec. A Palm Warbler at Siltcoos Creek, *Lane*, 5 Sep was Oregon's earliest by four days (R. Hoyer). One at Indian Canyon Park, *Spokane*, 18 Sep was on the eastside where rare (JA). Blackpoll Warblers at M.N.W.R. 18 Sep (AC) and Fields, *Harney*, 4 Oct (FM, H. Herlyn, V. Arnold) were expected fall vagrants in se. OR, but one at McKenzie Pass, *Lane*, 27 Sep, was in the mountains, where casual (J. Carlson). A Black-and-white Warbler at Bateman I., *Benton*, 21 Aug was the 37th for WA (BW). Another at Two Rivers County Park, *Benton*, 26 Nov-Dec was only the second late fall/winter record for e. WA (DR); more expected were singles at M.N.W.R. 20 Aug (W. Gross), Tumalo S.P., *Deschutes*, 27 Aug (D. Hale), and Tillamook 17 Oct (JG). A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Frenchglen, *Harney*, 7 Oct was Oregon's sixth (J.&J.



This Chestnut-collared Longspur, an apparent adult male, provided the fifth Washington record when it appeared in Grays Harbor 27-29 Nov 1999, where it was obligingly photographed 28 Nov. Photograph/Ruth Sullivan

Carlson, TM, AM); previous records span 19 Aug-19 Oct plus one from May/June. A Wilson's Warbler at Richland, *Benton*, WA, 11 Nov was exceptionally late, especially for the eastside (NL). A tally of 100 W. Tanagers at Washougal, *Clark*, 6 Sep was exceptional (WC).

Clay-colored Sparrow numbers are exploding in the Region. As of 1994 there were only 32 records from Oregon (*Birds of Oregon*, Gilligan et al.), but last fall there were five and this fall six, five in *Curry/Coos*, 19 Sep-14 Nov (DM, TJW, TR) and one near Eugene, *Lane*, 19 Sep (D. Wendt). W. Washington had its 11th and 12th, at Seattle 7-10 Nov (C. Sidles) and near Bayview, *Skagit*, 14 Nov (BS). Records from e. Washington include singles at Six Prong, *Klickitat*, 11 Sep (SJ), Spokane, 16 Sep (JA), Palouse Falls S.P., *Franklin*, 19 Sep and Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla*, 1 Oct (MD, MLD); there were only three prior e. Washington records in fall. Three Brewer's Sparrows were at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, 23 Aug (L. McQueen), one was at Lower Table Rock, *Jackson*, 11 Aug (DV), and another was near Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 19 Oct (PP); they are rare in w. Oregon during fall and rare on the outer coast. A Lark Sparrow was at Gold Beach 15 Oct (DM), the only westside county where it is a regular in fall. A Grasshopper Sparrow, an extremely rare migrant on the westside, was at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, Sep 19 (RRb). Swamp Sparrows at Diamond L., *Douglas*, OR, 16 Sep (DF) and Fir I. 24 Sep (D. Beaudette) were two to three weeks early; ten more later in the fall was about average. White-throated Spar-

rows were numerous again, with maxima of eight at Millicoma Marsh, *Coos*, 21 Nov (TR) and 7 at Post Office L., *Clark*, 27 Nov (SM). Harris's Sparrows at Lyon's Ferry S.P., *Franklin*, 19 Sep (MD, MLD) and Wanapum S.P., *Kittitas*, 26 Sep (SM,GR, RRm) were only Washington's third and fourth Sep records; five others later in fall rounded out an average fall. Four White-crowned Sparrows at W.W.R.D. 7 Aug, were a month early for the e. lowlands (MD, MLD). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at M.N.W.R. 19 Sep was in se. Oregon, where rare (AC). A Lapland Longspur at O.S. 15 Aug was Washington's earliest ever by two weeks (PtS). Oregon's seventh **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 13 Oct (TJW, DM, J. Rogers) and Washington's fifth was at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, 27-29 Nov (+H. Vail, + P.W. Smith); most previous records are also from the westside. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Fields 1 Nov (Maitreya) and Gladstone, *Clackamas*, 18 Nov (DVB), an average fall for Oregon. Washington's seventh **Indigo Bunting**, first found in summer, remained until 31 Aug near W. Richland, *Benton* (NL, BL). Another at Cape Blanco 19-21 Nov was about the 41st for Oregon and was late (TJW, TR); the great majority have occurred mid-May to early Aug.

Three Bobolinks at Bandon 11 Sep (DL, KC) were on the outer coast, where not annual. A Rusty Blackbird at Confluence S.P., *Chelan*, 3 Oct (KK) was early. Other reports of this rare, regular visitor to Washington include one at Elma, *Grays Harbor*, 28 Nov (PtS, RS), one at Iowa Beef,

Walla Walla, 5 Nov (MD, MLD), and two near Iowa Beef 25 Nov (MD, MLD). A Great-tailed Grackle, casual in ne. OR, was at Mission, *Umatilla*, late Oct-late Nov (CC); almost all Regional records come from *Harney*. Many White-winged Crossbills were present in the central Oregon Cascades, with flocks at McKenzie Pass 6 Sep–Nov (J&J Carlson, SD), Waldo L., *Lane*, 2–24 Oct (PS, FM, TM, AM), and near Sisters, *Deschutes*, 14 Aug (SS). Three near Goldendale, *Klickitat*, 29 Aug (SJ) and one at Tiffany Mtn., *Okanogan*, 19 Sep (SDs) were in Washington's Cascades. Com. Redpolls irrupted into the eastside beginning mid-Nov with ± 450 reported from Washington and 15 from Oregon. The largest concentration was 125 at Ritzville, *Adams*, 20 Nov (MD, MLD) and the southernmost were eight at Black Butte Ranch, *Deschutes*, 27–28 Nov (A. Averill). On the westside, where not annual, singles were at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, 28 Nov (KK) and Gresham, *Multnomah*, 27 Nov (S. Finnegan, PS). This incursion was larger and several weeks earlier than most.

ADDENDUM

An Emperor Goose at Leadbetter Pen., *Pacific*, 2 Apr 1999 (†M. A. Patten) was inadvertently omitted from the spring report.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Ken Aldridge, Bud Anderson, Tom Aversa, Alan Barron, Dan van den Broek, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Ed Deal, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Steve Dowlan, Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, David Fix, Jim Flynn, Roy Gerig, **Jeff Gilligan** (w. OR), Greg Gillson, Carol Hallett, Carl Haynie, Randy Hill, Matt Hunter, Stuart Johnson, Ken Knittle, Ray Korpi, Bill LaFramboise, Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Frank Mayer, Allison Mickel, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (*Clallam*), Michael Patterson, Nancy Peate, Phil Pickering, Gene Revelas, Roger Robb (RRb), Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Rick Romea (RRm), Owen Schmidt, Ryan Shaw (RSh), Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, Stephen Shunk, Kevin Spencer, Jason Starfire, Andy Stepniewski, Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, **Paul Sullivan** (e. OR), Bob Sundstrom, Tahni Sutura (TSu), Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Bob Woodley.



middle pacific coast

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(larids through alcids)

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(loons through frigatebirds)

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(doves through wrenit)

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Although warm-water pelagics such as Black-vented Shearwaters and Least and Black Storm-Petrels were scarce, some seabird species were present in record or near-record numbers. Late fall was mild and dry; numerous late or high-elevation landbird migrants were encountered in the Sierra and east, but space precludes details (data in our *N.A.B.* notebooks). There were no irruptions (e.g., Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, finches), except a middling flight of Varied Thrush. It was a good fall for eastern vagrants, but Peter Pyle, summarizing Farallon banding data, asserted that “the big story was a noticeable paucity of western landbird migrants, especially those that winter in California. . . . Many of these were in their lowest abundance recorded here in the past 30 years, and for most the proportion of arrivals that were adults (50%+) was way out of the typical range of 10 to 20%. Our conclusion is that these species must have had very poor re-



productive success in the Northwest, consistent with early analysis of results from [banding] programs in Alaska.” Pyle also suggested that “summer productivity [may have] more to do with occurrence of vagrants than [do] weather patterns; in 1999 productivity seemed good in eastern North America, perhaps accounting for the good vagrant year.”

Abbreviations: C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); R.S. (*Regional Shoreline*); S.R. (*State Reserve*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published, including California Bird Records Committee review species and claims of first county records. Banded birds at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, should be credited to Big Sur Ornithology Lab and those on F.I. to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

California's first **Shy Albatross**, an individual of the nominate race, was well documented 9 mi wsw. of Pt. Arena, *Mendocino*, 24 Aug (†Jid, W. Russell, BMcK, ph. DLSh, †ph., m.ob.) and was apparently seen off *Sonoma* 25 Sep by the same boat crew (V. Orsini, R. Garcia). A count of 20 to 22 Laysan Albatrosses at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 31 Oct (ShJ), and Black-footed Albatross totals of 204 off *Santa Cruz* 1 Aug (ShJ), 431 off *Sonoma* and *Mendocino* 24–25 Aug (ShJ), and 140 together off *Humboldt* 17 Sep