

Mike Force (MF); David F. Fraser (DFF); Wendy Frith (WF); Valerie Fuller (VF); Jeff Gaskin (JGa); Bryan Gates (BRG); Remi Gauthier (RG); Phil Gehlen (PG); Terry Geroux (TG); Mike Gill (MG); Lewis Glentworth (LGI); Jeff Godfrey (JGo); Laura Grafton (LGr); Russ Greenberg (RG); Tony Greenfield (TGr); Helmut Grunberg (HG); Anna Hamel (AH); Peter Hamel (PH); Wilhelm Harms (WH); Jim Hawkings (JH); Gjon Hazard (GH); Margo Hearne (MH); Steve Henderson (SH); Richard R. Howie (RRH); John Ireland (JI); Karen Irving (KI); Alvaro Jaramillo (AJ); Dale Jensen (DJ); Gavin Johnston (GJ); Jason Jones (JJ); Paul Jones (PJ); John Kalman (JK); Gary Kaiser (GK); Rex Kenner (RKe); Ken Klimko (KK); Frank Kime (FK); Sandra Kinsey (SK); Nancy Krueger (NK); Greg Kubica (GK); Lee Kubica (LK); Laird Law (LL); John Luce (JL); Peter McAllister (PMcA); Nelson McInnis (NMcl); Martin McNichol (MMcN); Doug McRae (DMcR); Sandy McRuer (SMcR); Hugh N. Mackenzie (HNM); Jo Ann Mackenzie (JAM); Alan L. MacLeod (ALM); Hilary Maguire (HMa); Derrick Marven (DM); Nigel Mathews (NM); Peter Mayfield (PM); Lyn Miller (LM); Andy Milligan (AM); Hubert Moore (HMo); Brin Nevile (BN); Elsie Nykyfork (EN); Colleen O'Brien (COBr); David Pearce (DP); Mary Peete-Leslie (MPL); Simon Perkins (SP); Mark Phinney (MPH); Tom Plath (TP); G. Allan Poynter (GAP); Michael Price (MPR); Prince George Naturalists Club (P.G.N.C.); Leah R. Ramsay (LRR); Keith Riding (KR); Clara Ritcey (CR); Syd Roberts (SR); Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society (S.A.B.N.-E.S.); Chris Sandham (CSa); Ron Satterfield (RS); Barbara M. Sedgwick (BMS); Brian G. Self (BGS); Mike G. Shepard (MGS); Arnold Skei (AS); Chris Siddle (CS); Pamela Sinclair (PS); Prue Spittmann (PSP); John Sterling (JS); David Stirling (DS); Barbara Studds (BSt); Cathy Sutton (CSu); Richard Swanston (RSw); Ken Thompson (KTh); Glen Thomson (GT); Mike Toochin (MTo); Rick Toochin (RTo); Sharon Toochin (STo); Danny Tyson (DTy); Vancouver Natural History Society (V.N.H.S.); Jost von der Linde (JVdL); Richard Veit (RV); Keith Walker (KWa); Judy Warne (JW); Wayne C. Weber (WCW); Bruce Whittington (BWh); Roy Wiedman (RW); Betsy Williams (BWi); Don Wilson (DW); Ken Wright (KW); Yukon Bird Club (Y.B.C.).

—Jack Bowling, RRI-S14-C41, *Prince George, BC, V2N 2H8*

Oregon/ Washington Region

BILL TWEIT AND JEFF GILLIGAN

The fall weather was a continuation of the current drought theme, with rainfall well below normal in all parts of the Region through early October. Late October brought snow to the mountains and November precipitation was normal on the westside. November was cooler than average in the interior, but otherwise temperatures were near average.

Ocean productivity continued to be very low; Sooty Shearwaters, storm-petrels, phalaropes, and jaegers were very scarce. Most westside observers who commented on the shorebird migration indicated that numbers for most species were generally poor, particularly for both species of golden-plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Ruff. Blue Jays staged a tremendous fall invasion into the Region, with at least 38 individuals reported. The Red-breasted Nuthatch movement through the interior was also spectacular.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge (*Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR*); Fields (*Fields, Harney, OR*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia, OR*); S.J.-C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA*); W.W.R.D. (*Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA*).

Loons to Ducks

The total of 14 Pacific Loon reports from e. of the Cascades (m.ob.) was relatively normal and considerably below last fall's record numbers. Four Yellow-billed Loons were reported from expected locales: one adult at Point Roberts, *Whatcom, WA* Sept. 11–15 (*vide M. Price*), one near LaConner, *Skagit, WA* Nov. 24 (G. Ritlin), one at Yaq-

uina Bay, *Lincoln, OR* Nov. 1+ (JL), and one near Ilwaco, *Pacific, WA* Nov. 13+ (MP). Clark's Grebe reports away from normal haunts included one at Beulah Res., *Malheur, OR* Sept. 3 (AC), one at Cape Meares, *Tillamook, OR* Sept. 18 (JG), one at O.S., Oct. 7 (†G&WH), one at Port Angeles, *Clallam, WA* Oct. 16 (SM), one at Vashon, *King, WA* Oct. 23 (R. Sanders), and three at Westport, *Grays Harbor, WA* Nov. 1 (†G&WH).

There were 11 pelagic trips off Westport, WA (TW) and 6 off Oregon (BOB, SR, GG, SD, PaSu, MH). Three Laysan Albatross were found Sept. 11, two off Westport (TW) and one off Charleston (†MH); none was reported later. Northern Fulmar numbers were very low until Sept. 24, when 50 were found. Pink-footed Shearwaters were found in normal numbers, but for the 6th consecutive fall Flesh-footed Shearwaters were very scarce. Only four were found, from Sept. 16+. Buller's Shearwater numbers were low as well; they peaked at 79 off Westport Oct. 8. Sooty Shearwater numbers were abysmal: 14 of the 17 counts were less than 1000! The peak was only 2250 Aug. 13, almost certainly the lowest ever peak count for fall pelagic trips. There was only one report of numbers seen from shore, 400/min. were flying S past Long Beach, *Pacific, WA* Aug. 20 (B. Duell). As usual, a few Short-tailed Shearwaters appeared in October; 25 were counted Oct. 8 and two were at Point No Point, *Kitsap, WA* Nov. 18–22 (VN). Very few Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel were seen each trip off Washington through



the end of September, but they were only found off Oregon Aug. 20 & 27 (TJ, GG). They disappeared in October for the first time ever.

Coastal numbers of Brown Pelicans were good, and several were on Puget Sound, where they are accidental, including one at Olympia Sept. 26 (MC) providing a *Thurston* 2nd, one at Point No Point, *Kitsap* Sept. 30 (VN), and one near LaConner Oct. 29 (*vide* K&JW) for a *Skagit* first. Great Egret numbers were very large; the total was certainly over 600. Peak counts were: 50 at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Sept. 2 (JE), 92 at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA Sept. 5 (BW), 67 at Davis L., *Deschutes*, OR Sept. 11 (CM), 150 in *Grant*, WA in mid-September (RHi), and 115 at Fern Ridge Nov. 5 (R. Kelsh). Interior reports of Cattle Egret predominated over coastal reports, continuing the trend of 2 of the last 3 falls. The interior records included one at Summer L., OR Aug. 15 (CM) representing a 3rd *Lake* record, one at Malheur Sept. 4 (AC), one e. of Pateros, *Okanogan*, WA Oct. 28 (D. Swedberg), and 25 at Othello, *Adams*, WA Oct. 25–Nov. 3 (RHi, PB). Only two were reported from the westside: one north of Albany, *Linn*, OR Oct. 29 (SR) and one at Redmond, *King*, WA Nov. 15 (†B. Dolphin). The number of fall reports of Green Heron from the interior is increasing. The six reports included singles at Crow Butte S.P., *Benton*, WA Aug. 20 (M&MLD), at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA Aug. 27 (BT), at Mosier, *Wasco*, OR Sept. 11 (DB), near Pendleton, *Umatilla*, OR Sept. 28 (DS, ph.), and at Malheur Oct. 14 (T&AM). They are not regular breeders in the interior, so an apparent nesting at Prineville, *Crook*, OR with three young noted Sept. 16 (TC) is significant. Black-crowned Night-Herons are sporadic on the westside: four were at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Aug. 15–17 (JE) and four were at Fern Ridge Aug. 14 (T&AM).

A Mute Swan resided on the Snake R. from Lower Granite Dam to Clarkston throughout the fall (*vide* MK); this exotic appears to be increasing in the Region. The **Whooper Swan** found at Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake*, Nov. 10+ (M. St. Louis, m ob.) provided Oregon's 2nd record, and is likely the same individual that first appeared in the California portion of the Klamath basin in the winter of 1991–1992. The single Emperor Goose reported was at Everett, WA Oct. 20 (G. Toffic). Of the >20,000 Canada Geese surveyed in the Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA area Nov. 9, less than 1000 were the "Dusky" race (JE), an alarmingly low number as this area is the center of their winter range. Over half of the population were "Cackling" geese, an unusually high number (JE). Cackling geese were also

reported more frequently than usual from the Puget Trough this fall (SM, BT). A brood of Ring-necked Ducks at Gold L., *Lane*, OR Sept. 2 (T&AM) were at the s. edge of their breeding range. A ? Tufted Duck at Columbia N.W.R., *Adams*, WA Oct. 10–17 (RHi) was the only report of this rare species. Seven Oldsquaw, slightly above average, were found in the interior, all in e. Washington Oct. 22+ (m.ob.). Ten Surf and 26 White-winged scoters in the interior was roughly average.

Kites to Phalaropes

White-tailed Kites were reported from all their accustomed Washington locations, including two adults feeding a juvenile at Frances, *Pacific*, Sept. 18 (SM, RR) and a juvenile Nov. 21–22 at the Raymond, *Pacific*, site that has not held kites for several years (C. Linsenmeyer). There were numerous reports of Red-shouldered Hawks away from their regular range in s.w. Oregon: two at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR Aug. 26–Oct. 30 (F. Schrock, MH), one immature at Lost L., Santiam Pass, *Linn*, OR Sept. 2 (†AC), one at Davis L., *Deschutes*, OR Sept. 18–20 (TC), one at Ilwaco, *Pacific*, WA Sept. 18 (†RR, *et al.*), one at Malheur Sept. 24 (T. Morgan), one near Creswell, *Lane*, OR Oct. 24 (K. Jones), one near Siletz Bay, *Lincoln*, OR Nov. 6 (SR), two at Fern Ridge Nov. 6+ (T&AM), and one at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Nov. 21 (S. Pinnock). The records from Lost L. and Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades and the record from the interior at Malheur were quite unusual. The Gyrfalcon at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* Nov. 6–12 (JL, *et al.*) was one of the most accessible individuals in w. Oregon in several years. The only other reports came from *Skagit*, WA (K&JW, T. Becker). For the 2nd consecutive fall, Duemmel found no White-tailed Ptarmigan in the N. Cascades. A ptarmigan female and chick were found Aug. 18 near Monogram L., N. Cascades N.P., *Skagit*, WA (Gary Bletsch) and one was at Big Snow Mt., *King*, WA Sept. 21 (EH).

The last fall with a total golden-plover count surpassing 100 was 1988, when 251 were reported. Since then, totals of both species have been much lower. The Am. Golden-Plover peak count was 12 at O.S. Aug. 4–11 (SM, PtSu), a total of 18 were reported elsewhere on the westside and four were reported from the eastside (BW, JA, MD). The Pacific Golden-Plover numbers were even smaller: four each at O.S. Aug. 4–19 (SM, RR) and S.J.C.R. Aug. 26–Sept. 17 (MP), one at Nehalem, *Tillamook*, OR Aug. 22 (HN, SR), one at McVay Beach, *Curry*, OR Sept. 7–12 (DM), one at Tillamook, OR Sept. 18 (JG), one at Swinomish Slough, *Skagit*, WA Oct. 9–10 (K&JW),

two on San Juan I., WA Oct. 9 (K&JW, SM), and one at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA Oct. 18 (D&SS). Two atypical flocks of Am Avocet were found on the westside: up to 15 were on Whidbey I., *Island*, WA Aug. 13–20 (HO, RR, SM) and ≤14 were at Sauvie Aug 6–Sept. 30 (DB, JJ, S. Jagers). The only other westside report was one at Fern Ridge Sept. 5 representing a 2nd *Lane* record (P French). The count of 5000 avocets at Abert L., *Lake*, OR Sept. 4 (C. & M. O'Leary) is only one-seventh of the fall 1993 census there. A normal number of Solitary Sandpiper reports entailed five from westside and 30 from the eastside, with one very late at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA Oct. 4–7 (BW). Upland Sandpipers are outstanding rarities on the coast: one was at O.S. Aug. 27–30 (†CCh, †VN) and another at Tillamook, OR Sept. 18 (M. Sheppard). A Hudsonian Godwit at Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake* Sept. 2–7 (CM) provided about the 3rd e. Oregon record. Bar-tailed Godwits are annual in fall on the outer coast: one ad. male was at O.S. Aug. 19 (†RR) and one was reported again at O.S. Sept. 3–4 (T. Peterson), but a juvenile at Kennedy Cr., *Mason* Oct. 1 (†CCh) provided only the 2nd lower Puget Sound record. The number of juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper reports did not measure up to the high counts of adults in July. Only eight were reported on the eastside and 18 on the westside. Small numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from numerous locations, with a peak of 100 on Sauvie Sept. 25 (DB), but most localities reported less than ten. Four Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reports was representative of recent fall totals: one at O.S. Sept. 18–19 (E. Larson, PtSu), one at Bandon, *Coos*, OR Oct. 5 (DM), one at Sauvie Oct. 9 (JJ) and one at S.J.C.R. Oct. 15 (MP). Stilt Sandpiper numbers were also low: nine were reported from e. Washington and 16 were found on the westside including the first *Lane* record at Siltcoos Outlet, OR Aug. 23 (P. Sherrell). No Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported for the first fall since 1977. Three of the 4 Ruff records constituted the 4th, 5th, and 6th records for e. Washington: one juvenile at McNary Aug. 15–17 (†T. Greager, †PB) for the first *Walla Walla* record, a juvenile at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton* Sept. 26 (BW), and a different juvenile there Oct. 7 (BW). The only other report was one at O.S. Aug. 12 (G. Gerdts). Red-necked Phalarope numbers on the ocean were unbelievably poor, ten of 15 pelagic trips found ≤20 and the peak was only 500 Aug. 27 (GG). Their distribution may have shifted somewhat to inside waters, if the count of >4000 at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA (VN) Sept. 1–3 was any indication. Coastal Red Phalarope reports were almost

non-existent; inland reports were one near Pendleton, *Umatilla*, OR Sept. 28 (†DS, ph.) and one at Richland, *Benton*, WA Oct. 5–6 (BW, PB).

Jaegers to Owls

Numbers of jaegers offshore were poor all fall; the peak counts of Pomarine and Long-tails were 15 Sept. 1 and six Aug. 27, respectively (TW). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Sept. 3 (VN) was very unusual on Puget Sound. Four Parasitic Jaegers were reported from the interior Sept. 10–14, and they were more common than usual on Puget Sound (VN, SM). One Pomarine Jaeger, very rare away from the outer coast, was on Puget Sound off Winslow, *Kitsap* Oct. 16 (†SM). Only 12 South Polar Skuas were reported, with a peak of four off Westport Sept. 24 (TW). At least 27 Franklin's Gull reports from the westside was an improvement from the low numbers of 1989–1993: >22 in w. Washington with the latest at Everett Nov. 8 (SM), two at Sauvie (DB, SR), one at S.J.C.R. (M. Edgington), one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR Oct. 14 (R. Gerig), and two at Monmouth, *Polk*, OR Oct. 18 (SD). Interior reports included six in e. Washington through Oct. 23 (PB) and one at Davis L., Sept. 11 (CM) for a *Deschutes* 2nd. The usual Little Gull reports were an immature at Everett, WA Oct. 8–10 (†SM) and adult at Mukilteo, *Snohomish*, WA Nov. 19 (SM). An ad. Com. Black-headed Gull off Seattle Oct. 27 (†RR) provided about the 8th Washington record. Heermann's Gulls are unexpected inland, so singles in the Willamette valley at Monmouth, *Polk* Oct. 13–28 (B. Tice) and at Fern Ridge Nov. 19 (R. Kelsh) were noteworthy. Mew Gull reports have increased in frequency from the interior, six were reported from Aug. 21+ (D. Lusthoff). California Gull numbers were below normal on the westside (HN, TW). Glaucous Gulls were sparingly reported, with four from the interior and eight from the westside. An ad. **Ross' Gull** in the interior at McNary Dam on the Columbia R., Nov. 27–Dec. 1 (†PB, m.ob.) was seen in both states, providing the first record for Washington and the 2nd for Oregon. Sabine's Gull numbers were very low offshore, with only 96 reported on all 17 pelagic trips. The only interior report was one immature at Summer L., OR Sept. 2 (CM) for a *Lake* 4th.

Elegant Terns were found in lower numbers than the previous 2 falls: two at Tillamook Bay, OR Aug. 6 (T. Shelmerdine), 1 at Siuslaw R. mouth, *Lane*, OR Aug. 20–Sept. 11 (T&AM), two at Charleston, *Coos*, OR Sept. 9 (PaSu) and six on both sides of the Columbia R. mouth Sept. 17 (D. Paulson, HN). The largest reported count of Com. Tern was 2000 at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Sept. 1–3

(VN). Interior numbers were quite good: 32 in Oregon and 49 in Washington. An ad. Arctic Tern at W.W.R.D., Sept. 5 (†AS) was an interior rarity. Forster's Terns at Oak Bay, *Jefferson*, WA Aug. 28 (N. Ball) and at Everett, WA Nov. 8 (SM) were unexpected, but singles at Fern Ridge Sept. 2 (MH) and 17 (P. Sherrell) were at the only westside location where they are regular in fall.

Common Murre numbers off Westport, WA showed a peak of almost 3000 in early August (TW), as the Oregon population moved N. After that the highest count was only 625, and by September they became scarce along the entire outer coast (TW, HN). An Ancient Murrelet on the Columbia R. at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA Sept. 23 (S. Ray) was a remarkably early interior record. On Puget Sound, hundreds were off Point No Point, *Kitsap* in mid-November (VN), a vast improvement over the 1993 numbers there. Cassin's Auklet numbers also showed a peak in early August off Westport (404); but succeeding counts were all fewer than 15 birds (TW, GG, BOB, SD), which should fuel concerns about the breeding population of this species in the Region! A Cassin's Auklet in Pickering Passage, *Mason* Sept. 15 (†J. Grettenberg) is the farthest south record for Puget Sound. Other Puget Sound records included one at Point No Point Oct. 27 (VN). Rhinoceros Auklet numbers along the Oregon coast were very low (HN), with peak counts of ten. Tufted Puffins were also difficult to find offshore all fall (TW). An ad. Horned Puffin at O.S., Aug. 7 (†SM) may be the same individual noted at Pt. Grenville in June.

Common Poorwill are very rare on the westside; singles were found in Bellingham, *Whatcom*, WA Oct. 14 (*vide* TW) and n. of Newport, *Lincoln*, OR Oct. 6 (C. Philo, D. Faxon). There were no Snowy Owl reports, accurately predicting poor winter numbers. A Boreal Owl was found near Tollgate, *Umatilla*, OR Oct. 2 (M&MLD) where they have been found regularly and two were at the s. edge of their known Oregon Cascades range, near Brokentang, *Deschutes*, Sept. 14 (CM, TC, ph.). A Barred Owl that spent Oct. 18 in a tree in front of the downtown Portland public library (HN, m.ob.) was a strong indication that the species is producing well in its new range.

Hummingbirds to Finches

Anna's Hummingbirds were at Wapato, *Yakima*, WA Aug. 23–Oct. 11 (AS) and at Walla Walla, WA Sept. 21 (M&MLD), away from their regular range in *Klickitat* in e. Washington. A Red-breasted Sapsucker was a rare vagrant to Malheur Oct. 15 (T&AM). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap*, WA Sept. 17 (J. Oakland) was an even rarer vagrant to the westside. The only

Least Flycatcher report was one at Washtucna, *Adams*, WA Aug. 28 (BT). An imm **Eastern Phoebe** at Seattle Sept. 4 (†SA) would be the 3rd Washington record, if accepted by the records committee. Two extralimital Ash-throated Flycatcher reports included one at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA Aug. 16 (RR) and one at Seattle Oct. 30 (†R. Robinson). The only Tropical Kingbird report was from Astoria, *Clatsop*, OR Nov. 1 (MP). The usual handful of November Barn Swallow reports consisted of one near Roosevelt, *Klickitat*, WA Nov. 3 (G&WH), two at Vancouver, *Clark*, WA Nov. 5 (BT, SM) and one at Prineville, *Crook*, OR Nov. 5 (PaSu).

SA The Blue Jay invasion greatly exceeded the previous record fall counts of 15 in 1990 and ten in 1991. The first reports were two in Cheney, *Spokane*, WA Sept. 24–25 (*vide* F. Wood) and one at Malheur Sept. 29 (R. Smith, S. Jones). By the end of November, >20 had been reported from e. Washington and >three from e. Oregon. At least nine were in the Spokane, WA area (*vide* JA, TR)! On the westside, the first report was one at Seattle Sept. 29 (*vide* EH); five others were found in w. Washington and three in w. Oregon included one near Leaburg, *Lane* Oct. 12 (V. Hempel), one at Bayshore Beach, *Lincoln* Nov. 10+ (L. Osis), and one at North Plains, *Washington* Nov. 13+ (J. Watkins). There were no indications of other corvids staging movements.

A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Malheur Sept. 22 (D. Anderson) was a regular vagrant. The ad. ♂ Indigo Bunting at Spokane, WA (†JA, ph., m.ob.) Sept. 23–Oct. 2 represented about the 7th Washington record. The Chipping Sparrow at Port Angeles, *Clallam* Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (B. Norton) was late. Five reports of Clay-colored Sparrow was a bit more than usual for fall: singles were at Washtucna, *Adams*, WA Aug. 28 (BT), Spokane, WA Sept. 23–28 (†JA), Harbor, *Curry*, OR Oct. 9 (DM), Brookings, *Curry*, OR Oct. 14–16 (C. Dillingham), and Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR Oct. 22 (C. Lawes). A juv. Black-throated Sparrow on Wahluke W.R.A., *Grant* Aug. 28 (AS, JA) was the only indication that birds from the summer invasion actually bred in Washington. The Lark Bunting on Tatoosh I., *Clallam* Aug. 19 (B. Paine) provided about the 10th Washington record. Swamp Sparrow reports included four from the interior: at Fields Oct. 15 (T&AM), near Ellensburg, *Kittitas*, WA Nov. 5 (HO), near the mouth of the Little Spokane R., *Spokane*, WA Nov. 20 (JA), and at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*, WA Nov. 28

(JA). In w. Washington, three were at Spencer I., *Snohomish* Oct. 25–29 (SM), one was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* Nov. 5 (D. Nunnallee), one adult was at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark* Nov. 5 (BT, SM), one was at Everett, *Snohomish* Nov. 20 (I. Ulsh), and one was near Monroe, *Snohomish* Nov. 24 (SM).

Great-tailed Grackles bred at Malheur this summer (*fide* U.S.F.W.S.); up to six males and two juveniles were present this fall. A Com. Grackle at Denman W.R.A., Oct. 3–5 (†BT, †SM, †H. Sands) provided a *Jackson* first and about the 15th for Oregon. A ♀ Hooded Oriole in North Bend, *Coos*, OR Sept. 11 (B. Griffin) provided about the 2nd fall record for Oregon. A minor Pine Grosbeak flight reached the e. Washington lowlands, with >10 reports, and there were 2 reports from the Willamette valley (GL, JL). Red Crossbills were found on the westside from the n. Olympic Peninsula (D&SS, G&WH) s. to *Douglas* in Oregon (K. Wilson). They were only noted as common in the central Oregon Cascades in early September (AC) and in the Willows in November (TJ). Pine Siskins were noted in moderate numbers in n.w. Washington through November (TW, JD), but were found abundantly s. to the n. Willamette valley (JE, G&WH, RR, HN). A Lesser Goldfinch in Everett, WA Sept. 3 (†SM) was a *Snohomish* first, and singles at Florence, *Lane* Sept. 1 (B&ZS), Aloha, *Washington* Oct. 18 (K. Smith), and South Beach, *Lincoln* Nov. 23 (SR) were all locally rare in w. Oregon. Five were at Lyle, *Klickitat* (MD), their only habitual Washington locale.

Initialed observers, with subregional editors in boldface: Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Scott Atkinson, David Bailey, Philip Bartley, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Michael Carmody, Chris Chappel, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Tom Crabtree, Mike & Merry L. Denny, Steve Dowlan, Jim Duemmel, Joe Engler, Greg Gilson, Randy Hill (RH), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Matt Hunter, Tim Janzen, Jim Johnson, Ken Knittle, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area), Gerard Lillie, John Lundsten, Donna Lusthoff, **Tom & Alison Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Steve Mlodinow, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob O'Brien, Hal Opperman, Mike Patterson, Robert & Georgia Ramsey, **Russell Rogers** (Washington), Tom Rogers, Skip Russell, **Dory & Stan Smith** (*Clallam*), Andy Stepnewski, Bill & Zannah Stotz, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Paul Sullivan (PaSu), Dan Svingen, Terry Wahl, Keith & Jan Wiggers, Bob Woodley
—*Bill Tweit, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507 and Jeff Gilligan, 25 NE 32nd Ave., Portland, OR 97232.*

Middle Pacific Coast Region

DAVID G. YEE, STEPHEN F. BAILEY, DAVID FIX, AND DANIEL S. SINGER

Our more common seabirds were scarce this season, but some rarer species, such as South Polar Skua, were often found in numbers. Starting in October, wintering waterfowl numbers in the Region were the highest in a decade, due to the breaking of the drought, great productivity on the breeding grounds, and better management. Amazing was the discovery of a breeding population of Black Rails in the Sierran foothills of the Sacramento Valley. Even in our heavily birded Region, there is still so much to be learned.

Thrushes invaded the Region, and it also appeared to be a good fall/winter flight year for owls, Cedar Waxwing, and Pine Siskin. It was a modest season for true rarities among passerines, but many of our more regular occurring vagrants continued to be found in high, often record-breaking, numbers.

Abbreviations: C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr. Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*canyon*); F.I. (*South-east Farallon Island, S.F.*); G.G.R.O. (*Golden Gate Raptor Observatory*); H.S. (*Hayward Shoreline, Alameda*); S.F. (*San Francisco*). All records from F.I. and Palomar should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory.

Loons to Pelicans

An ad. Yellow-billed Loon off Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, was still in *full alternate plumage* Nov. 7 (†SFB). Very few have shown alternate plumage in California, but one did at the same location Oct. 10, 1987 (*Western Birds* 23:100).

Pink-footed, Buller's, and Sooty shearwaters were often scarce. Flesh-footed Shearwaters showed in good numbers, with eight–ten at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, Oct. 8 (RS, DLSh) and one–five on 12 other trips (DLSh, m.ob.). *Monterey's* and the N. Pacific's 2nd Greater Shearwater off Pt. Pinos Oct. 1–2 (DLSh, ph. JMD, †m.ob.) was most obliging on the 2nd day. However, strong winds then scattered the shearwater rafts, frustrating Oct. 3rd's amazing boatload of California's birding elite. A dark shearwater, apparently a Sooty, over S.F. Bay Sept. 7 (†SCR) flew from *San Mateo* into *Santa Clara*. This was the first shearwater for the Bay in either county. The 300 Short-tailed Shearwaters on *Monterey Bay* Nov. 27 (DLSh) was our highest count since December 1986.



Two views of a Greater Shearwater off Pt. Pinos, California. Second record for Monterey County and the North Pacific Ocean. Photograph/J. Michael Danzenbaker.

