

Oregon/ Washington Region

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For the most part, the weather in March and April was cool and unsettled. This was followed by an unusually warm and sunny May. This warm weather could have allowed for an inconspicuous passage of passerines, for several observers commented on the mundane aspect of this spring's small bird migration. Although arrival dates were much as expected, numbers were quite low.

The shorebird migration was characterized by low numbers of the "eastern" shorebirds, such as Solitary, Semipalmated, Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers, and regular numbers of the other species. Rarities included two Black-throated Blue Warblers in Washington, a Cape May Warbler at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, and a Dickcissel in Washington.



Abbreviations: Malheur (*Malheur N. W.R., Harney Co., OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia and Multnomah Cos., OR*); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR*).

Loons to Falcons

The only Pacific Loons in the interior were two at Priest Rapids, *Yakima, WA* Apr. 30 (AS). Only one Yellow-billed Loon was reported, at the S.J.C.R., Mar. 26 (MP), but this was enough to snap a string of 2 springs with no reports. Four Clark's Grebes were reported from the westside through May 14 (GG, SM, DL, DBa) and on the eastside there were 4 May sightings away from known breeding areas (BW, N. Ferrguson, R. Johnson, JA).

Black-footed Albatross were regularly seen on all pelagic trips: >100 were off Newport, OR Apr. 8 (GG) and 214 were off Westport, WA Apr. 22 (TW). Northern Fulmar numbers were high in April, with 1280 off Westport Apr. 22 (TW). Low numbers of Pink-footed Shearwater were reported from all 6 April and May pelagic trips, averaging six per trip with a peak of only 14 May 20 (TW). A rare April record of Flesh-footed Shearwater was off Newport, OR Apr. 9 (GG). Low to average numbers of Sooty Shearwater were off Oregon (GG); 130 May 14 was the high count. In contrast, the Washington counts ranged from 2200–6300 (TW). Eight Short-tailed Shearwaters were fewer than were found last spring; all were on the Mar. 11 trip off Newport, OR (GG). For the 2nd consecutive spring, no

Murphy's Petrel were found on either April trip surveying waters beyond the shelf edge. Maybe the April 1992 occurrence was an anomaly. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were observed in good numbers both on pelagic trips and over nearshore waters. The pelagic trip high counts were 160 Apr. 22 off Westport (TW) and 115 May 14 off Newport (GG). From shore, approximately 200 were seen at the mouth of the Rogue R., *Curry, OR* May 16 (C. Dillingham). Sightings from shore of smaller numbers continued through the 3rd week of May. A Leach's Storm Petrel off Westport May 6 (TW) was unusual for spring over the shelf.

American White Pelican are unusual in spring in w. Oregon: 18 were at Fern

Ridge Res., *Lane* May 8 (B. Combs) and six were at Tillamook Bay May 8 (HN). Brown Pelicans generally arrive in April; the first this year was at the S.J.C.R., May 13 (MP) and none was reported from Washington during the period. Three White-faced Ibis were reported in w. Oregon this spring, where this species is considered a vagrant, with about 20 prior records. On May 1, singles were at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington* and the Fernhill Wetlands, Forest Grove, *Washington* (GG), and a later bird was at Commonwealth L., *Washington*, May 6 (J. Lawes, A. Ross). The Mute Swan that wintered at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla, WA* was last reported Apr. 19 (M&MLD). The first *Benton* record of Ross's Goose was at Richland, WA May 1–9 (BW) and the only other Washington report was at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*, May 5 (BW). Eight Eur. Wigeon were reported from e. Washington from Mar. 4 (J. Wissman) through Apr. 26 (M&MLD), average numbers for this scarce but regular interior migrant. Four Tufted Duck reports is somewhat above average; they included a possible hybrid at Quartermaster Harbor, Vashon I., *King, WA* Mar. 12 (I. Eisenhart), an ad. male near Omak, *Okanogan, WA* Apr. 2 (†S. Johnson), a male at Cascade Locks, *Hood River, OR* Apr. 17 (DBa), and at Bay City, *Tillamook, OR* Apr. 16–30 (SRu, m.ob.). Heartening numbers of breeding Harlequin Duck were located in the n. Oregon Cascades (B.L.M.). Twenty-one were found in the Mollala R. basin, *Clackamas, Apr.* 27 and 34 were in the Quartzville Cr. basin Apr. 28. Three nests had been located in the Mollala basin by the end of the period, and >6 were found in the Quartzville Cr. basin. At least 2 of the nests were in nearly identical locations as in 1994 (SD). A male was seen on the Nestuca R. in the Oregon Coast Range May 10 (SD). Oldsquaw are very rare spring migrants in the interior; four were on Medical L., *Spokane, WA* Mar. 28–Apr. 23 (K. Stewart, JA).

There were "many" White-tailed Kite sightings from the Rogue Valley, *Josephine* and *Jackson*, during March (*vide* RT), but they were poorly reported elsewhere in w. Oregon. However, in Washington there were several reports away from their traditional range; one at O.S., Apr. 26 (C. Anderson), one at Seattle May 8 (MS), and one at Kent, *King*, May 22 (D. Burris). The only Red-shouldered Hawk reports away from *Curry* on the s. Oregon coast were one near Kernville, *Lincoln, OR* Mar. 5 (DF) and one at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark, WA* Mar. 4–17 (B. Feltner, BL). Gyrfalcons were well reported, reflecting above-average winter numbers. The bird that wintered at Finley N.W.R., *Benton, OR* was last reported Apr. 10 (JSi), and in e. Washington they were

found at Moxee, *Yakima*, Mar. 4 (AS), on the Colville Plateau, *Okanogan*, Mar. 15 (SRA), along Dodson Rd., *Grant*, Mar. 18 (L. Cook), and near Leahy, *Douglas*, Mar. 18 (KK, SRA). A Prairie Falcon at Point-No-Point, WA May 1 provided a first *Kitsap* record (VN) and was very late for the westside.

Shorebirds to Alcids

Both species of golden-plover are rare spring migrants on the outer coast: one Pacific was at Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, OR May 6 (MP) and three Americans were at S.J.C.R., *Clatsop*, OR May 13 (SRu). A Snowy Plover on the end of Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, May 8 (D. Stuhr) was one of very few Washington records away from the s. coast. The usual handful of Lesser Yellowlegs records included one very early in the interior at Dodson Rd., *Grant*, WA Mar. 18 (GG) and 3 westside reports at their more typical time: two at Forest Grove, *Washington*, OR Apr. 22 (TJ), three at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR Apr. 25 (TJ), and one at Bay City, *Tillamook*, OR May 4 (HN). Solitary Sandpipers are another uncommon spring migrant: one at the Lower Winchuck R., *Curry*, OR Apr. 21–23 (DM), three at the E.E. Wilson W.M.A., *Benton*, OR Apr. 26–28 (A. McGie), one at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington*, OR Apr. 30 (GG), and one at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR May 11 (TJ). The peak Whimbrel counts were normal numbers from expected locales: >400 on the Skagit Flats, *Skagit*, WA Apr. 25–May 4 (*fide* BK) and 300–500 at the Wilson R. meadows, *Tillamook*, OR May 4–6 (HN, PaSu). Sightings from westside locales where they are rare included one at Ankeney N.W.R., *Marion*, OR Apr. 16 (J. Anderson, m.ob.), three at Kent, *King*, WA Apr. 26 (RR), and 12 at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA May 21 (SM). There were also a couple of Long-billed Curlew reports from unusual westside locales: one in the Cascades at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR Apr. 26 (BB, JLu) and one on Puget Sound at Deer Lagoon, *Island*, WA May 20 (SM). Hudsonian Godwits are accidental in spring; one at Mohoff Pond, Ankeney N.W.R., *Marion*, OR May 10–12 (SD, †BB, m.ob.) was apparently a Willamette Valley first. The Valley also had 2 notable Marbled Godwit records: one at Ankeney N.W.R., *Marion*, May 1 (JLu *et al.*) and one was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, May 9 (B. Tice) for possibly the first county record. Red Knots were not reported in particularly large numbers, with peak counts of 16 at Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, OR May 15 (HN) and 300–400 at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor*, WA Apr. 25 (S. MacKay). Two very unusual inland reports included one at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane*, WA May 20 (MS) and one at Ankeney

N.W.R., *Marion*, OR May 29–30 (JLu). There was but a single Semipalmated Sandpiper report: one at Crockett L., *Island*, WA May 16 (SM); only 2 Pectoral Sandpiper reports: three at Crockett L., *Island*, WA May 20 (SM) and one at O.S., May 22 (B&GR); and only 2 Baird's Sandpiper reports: one in n. Portland, OR Apr. 29 (HN) and one near Canby, *Clackamas*, May 9 (ES). Three Stilt Sandpipers were at Summer L., *Lake*, OR May 12 (C. Miller); they are not reported every spring. Although the pelagic trips did not report good numbers of Red-necked Phalarope, with a peak count of only 250 off Newport May 14 (GG), there were indications of good coastal migration: 30 birds per minute flew past the S.J.C.R., May 7 (MP) and 215 were at Swantown, *Island*, WA May 20 (SM). Only one Red Phalarope was reported, off Westport May 6 (TW).

Pomarine Jaegers were recorded on most of the pelagic trips, with higher numbers in March (10) and April (11) than in May (3–4). There were four coastal reports of Parasitic Jaeger May 7–22, about average, and one Puget Sound report, off the Mukilteo to Clinton ferry May 23 (GT), where they are irregular in spring. Franklin's Gulls are rare on the westside in spring, and most records are from May, so a series of records in imm. plumage at Crescent L. W.M.A., *Snohomish*, WA Mar. 3 (JO), at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR Mar. 4 (TJ), and at the mouth of the Chetco R., *Curry*, OR Apr. 8 (DM) was quite unexpected. Little Gulls were reported from 2 customary locales, with one at American L., *Pierce*, WA through Apr. 15 (PtSu) and two at Point-No-Point, *Kitsap*, WA, also through Apr. 15 (VN). Common Black-headed Gull reports continue to increase in Washington; an adult was at Point-No-Point Mar. 9–20 (†VN). The coastal Bonaparte's Gull migration extended into late May: 500 were at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR May 20 (J. Girke) and a heavy movement was observed along *Clatsop*, OR beaches May 21 (MP). A Thayer's Gull on the Colville Plateau, *Okanogan*, WA Apr. 2 (AS) was an unusual spring record in the interior. Western Gulls are rare on the Columbia R. east of Portland, but are apparently regular. One was at Bonneville Dam Mar. 14 (DBa) and another was farther upriver at Priest Rapids, *Yakima*, WA Apr. 30 (AS). Seventeen Glaucous Gulls were reported from the westside, which is an excellent spring total, but there were only 3 reports from the interior (BW, M&MLD). Black-legged Kittiwakes were only reported from pelagic trips, with a peak of 350 Mar. 11 (GG) and much smaller numbers on the others. Sabine's Gulls were also sparingly reported, with a peak of 24 seen off Westport May 20 (TW).

Early arrival dates for Caspian Tern were at Waldport, *Lincoln*, OR Mar. 19 (JSi) and at Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA Mar 28 (BW). The peak counts of Com. Tern were from Grays Harbor, WA in late May: >200 May 18–20 (B. Morse, TW). They were scarce elsewhere; the only Oregon report was 20 at Garibaldi, *Tillamook*, May 17 (JG). There were an unusual number of on-shore Arctic Tern reports, starting with an incredibly early report from their colony in Everett, WA Mar. 7 (JF). Three pairs were found nesting at Everett May 30 (E. Bird). On the Oregon coast, one was observed from Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, May 6 (PaSu), 20 were seen from the S.J.C.R., May 13 (MP), and 50 were at Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, May 15 (HN). In contrast, only six were found offshore on the pelagic trips

SA The censuses of Marbled Murrelet off Point-No-Point, *Kitsap*, in n. Puget Sound this spring rivaled those from spring 1993 off Everett. There were 700 counted from Feb. 28–Mar. 2, with 400 on the last day (VN). The concentrations off Everett were one–two months later in the spring, but similar in size.

Cassin's Auklet numbers off Westport continue to be pathetic; they averaged just over ten per trip (TW). We assume that these counts continue to reflect dramatic decreases in the local breeding populations

Pigeons to Mimids

Band-tailed Pigeon are rare in e. Washington; one was at Wapato, *Yakima*, Mar. 18 (S. Pink). Spotted Owl breeding was very sparse in both the c. Oregon Cascades and the n. Oregon Coast Range. Of the approximately 40 pairs monitored in the Cascades n. of the S. Santiam R., *Linn*, only 6 were found to be nesting. None of the Coast Range pairs n. of the Alsea R., *Lincoln* and *Benton*, were breeding (SD). Adding to our litany of Barred Owl records from new areas are the following: one heard at Wilhoit Springs, *Clackamas*, OR Mar. 21 (TJ) and one at Mary Young S.P., *Clackamas*, May 8 (TJ, GG). A Boreal Owl heard in the Salmon R. Meadows, *Clackamas*, on the s. flank of Mt Hood Apr. 16 (TJ, ES) provided the 2nd report for the Mt. Hood area. Long-eared Owls are seldom reported from the Olympic Pen.; one was in the Olympic N.E., *Jefferson* (T10N, R24E) Apr. 24 (B. Shelmerdine). Anna's Hummingbirds are not regular in w. Washington away from Puget Sound and Puget Trough, so singles at West Dungeness, *Clallam*, Mar. 27 (SS) and at Crescent L., *Clallam*, May 22 (B. Baldwin) were noteworthy. Similar to last spring, there were 3

westside records of Calliope Hummingbird: one e. of Oregon City, *Clackamas*, OR Apr. 21 (S. Roe), one at Hillsboro, *Washington*, OR May 8 (SW), and one at Seattle May 18–21 (D. Paulson). Lewis' Woodpecker have become very rare in w. Washington; one was at Mount Vernon, *Skagit*, May 8 (*vide* BK).

In Oregon, a newly reported Acorn Woodpecker colony in Hillsboro, *Washington*, may have been there several years (SW) and another "new" colony was reported from the city of Yamhill, *Yamhill* (DL). Both of these are at the n. edge of their Willamette Valley range. The imm. ♀ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Salem, *Marion*, OR remained through Mar. 19 (BB). A White-headed Woodpecker on Orcas I., Apr. 15 (†M. Rowse) furnished a *San Juan* first and one of less than ten w. Washington records. Most of the previous records are also from spring.

Olive-sided Flycatchers appear to be reported from the westside lowlands less frequently than just a few short years ago. Formerly, Lillie saw >10 per spring in Mt. Tabor Park in Portland, where he saw none this year and one last year. In fact, the only report from w. Oregon was at the S.J.C.R., May 8 (HN). They were less common than usual in s. Puget Sound (BT), but were found more commonly n. of there. A very early Willow Flycatcher was at Mt. Tabor Park in Portland Apr. 30 (JG), the earliest Washington bird was 2 weeks later May 13 (P. Hicks). Dusky Flycatchers are only found regularly extending well w. of the Cascade Crest in s. Oregon, so reports of a migrant on the outer coast May 8 at S.J.C.R. (HN) and of seven in the lowlands near Skykomish, *King*, WA May 25 (B. Boyes) were interesting. Gray Flycatchers are not regular anywhere w. of the Crest, so >one present May 4–18 at the Santiam Flats, Detroit Res., *Marion*, OR (BB, m.ob.) was unexpected. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Santiam Flats May 19 (JLu) was unusually far north and at a high elevation. Two Ash-throateds reported from *Curry* on the s. Oregon coast May 13 (J. Blithe) and 22 May (AB) were less surprising. Only two W. Kingbird were found in w. Oregon n. of their usual range, while nine were found in w. Washington. In total, these are roughly average numbers.

Blue Jays remained into the spring after a very extensive winter incursion. One was carrying nesting material at Clarkston Heights, *Asotin*, WA Apr. 3 but was not seen after Apr. 13 (*vide* MK) and two were at Wallula, *Walla Walla*, WA Apr. 9 (M&MLD).

Blue Jays also attempted nesting in 1991 after a strong winter invasion. The Scrub Jay chronicles include one at North Tacoma, *Pierce*, WA Mar. 6–Apr. 6 (W. Peterson, S. Garrett), one at Ft. Lewis, *Pierce*, WA Apr. 3

(*vide* E. Hunn), and one at Knappa, *Clatsop*, OR May 13 (HN). Western Bluebirds are very local breeders in w. Washington; a nest found in e. *King* May 28 (H. Opperman) provided one of very few recent county breeding records.

Five N. Mockingbird reports included one near Spokane, WA from Mar. 7–mid-April (JA), one near Sisters, *Deschutes*, OR Mar. 22–late April (J. Meredith), one in Corvallis, *Benton*, OR Apr. 29–30 (JSi), one at Malheur May 20 (*vide* HN), and one in Harbor, *Curry*, OR May 22 (DM). Sage Thrashers are rare vagrants to w. Oregon; two were at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, Apr. 26 (BB, JLu) and one was there May 4–5 (BB, PaSu). A Brown Thrasher that wintered at Klamath Falls, OR remained into late March (*vide* HN).

Shrikes to Finches

More than 9 reports of Loggerhead Shrike on the westside is probably the highest spring total ever. They included one at Marymoor Park, *King*, WA Mar. 12 (A. Coles), one at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR Mar. 20–21 (PaSu, TJ, ES), one in s. Salem, *Marion*, OR Mar. 27 (CL *et al.*), two at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR (BB), one at Magnuson Park, *King*, WA Apr. 2 (MS), two at Jetty I., Everett, *Snohomish*, WA Apr. 22 (JF), and singles at Santiam Flats May 12 & 21 (JLu, BB). The ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** that wintered on Mercer I., *King*, for Washington's first winter record was last observed Apr. 5 (M. Hatheway). Then, a 2nd male appeared at a feeder in Olympia, *Thurston*, WA Mar. 6–20 (L. Smith, ph.; m.ob.). A ♂ **Cape May Warbler** was at Malheur May 21 (HN *et al.*). The remainder of the warbler news was relatively mundane. Single Palm Warblers, very rare in spring, were at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Mar. 4 (P. Cozens) and at Point-No-Point, *Kitsap*, WA Apr. 20 (VN). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Malheur May 19 (M&MLD). A coastal Am. Redstart along the Winchuck R., *Curry*, OR May 19 (AB) was a vagrant, as were two at Fields, *Harney*, OR May 22+ (JG), while a singing male in the Cascades at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR May 22–23 (JLu) was probably a wanderer from the eastside populations. An Ovenbird was at Malheur May 27 (HN). A singing Yellow-breasted Chat at Kent, WA May 20–29 furnished a *King* rarity (DBe).

A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Malheur May 27 (HN). Indigo Buntings made an exceptional appearance in w. Oregon: a male returned to a feeder for the 2nd consecutive year in Elsie in the Coast Range, *Clatsop*, May 16 (F. Harding), a male was in a Eugene park, *Lane*, May 19+ (*vide* HN) and a male was 4 mi up the Rogue R., *Curry*, May 26+ (C. Dillingham). A **Dickcissel** pho-

tographed at a feeder at Edison, *Skagit*, May 24 (G. Johansen) would provide the 4th Washington record, if accepted by the Records Committee. American Tree Sparrows are very rare on the outer coast; one at Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, May 6 (CL) furnished the 5th coastal Oregon record and the 2nd latest for the state. Two Clay-colored Sparrows had returned to their 1994 breeding site near Spokane, WA May 16 (JA). Out-of-place Brewer's Sparrows included: one at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR Apr. 4 (BB), singles at Seattle, WA Apr. 27 and May 3 (C. Hill, DBe), and a 2nd bird at Santiam Flats May 19 (JLu). Last May there was a record incursion of Black-throated Sparrows into the Region. This spring only one was reported from the entire Region, in Portland, OR May 9–29 (S. Vermilya, *vide* HN). There was one report of Swamp Sparrow, at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, Apr. 26 (M. Roening). A ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** on Soap Lake Rd., *Okanogan*, WA May 27 (†G. Revelas) was the first sighting of this species in Washington since 1975!

Reports of Tricolored Blackbird from e. Oregon, where their status is still in flux, were of a male at Hood River Apr. 8 (PaSu), 20 at Bridge Creek Pond, *Wheeler*, WA May 13 (DL) and a male 5 mi e. of Burns, *Harney*, Mar. 25 (C. Corder) is the farthest east record to date. Yellow-headed Blackbirds, normally very uncommon and local in w. Washington, were relatively numerous this spring; with 28 reports and eight more from n.w. Oregon. One Great-tailed Grackle was at Malheur Apr. 30+ (HN, m.ob.); they are now regular there.

Initialed observers, with subregional editors in boldface: Jim Acton, David Bailey, Alan Barron, **Range Bayer** (*Lincoln*, OR), Dave Beaudette, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Bureau of Land Management, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, Steve Dowlan, Daryl Faxon, John Flavin, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Tim Jantzen, Jim Johnson, Ken Knittle, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area), Bob Kuntz, Bruce Labar, Cindy Lawes, John Lundsten, Donna Lusthoff, Steve Mlodinow, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, John O'Connell, Mike Patterson, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Scott Ray (SRa), **Russell Rogers** (Washington), **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), Skip Russell (SRu), Jamie Simmons, **Dory & Stan Smith** (Olympic Peninsula), Mike Smith, Elmer Specht, Andy Stepnewski, Paul Sullivan (PaSu), Sara Wagner, Terry Wahl, Bob Woodley.

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