

# oregon-washington region



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**A**lthough the oceanographers insisted that the 1997 El Niño conditions had not reached the Pacific Northwest by fall, the seabirds certainly acted as if it were here. Numbers of Sooty Shearwater, phalaropes, jaegers, Cassin's Auklet, and Tufted Puffin at sea were very low. The congregation of species that were found in unusual numbers onshore or in Puget Sound included Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Brown Pelican, Pomarine Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, and Elegant Tern. The wet weather continued into October, then dried considerably in November. Other than excellent numbers of Tropical Kingbird and a White-winged Crossbill invasion, there was little landbird excitement. Vagrant warblers were very scarce, and corvids staged no irruptions.

**Abbreviations:** O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA); P.N.P. (Point No Point, Kitsap Co., WA); S.J.C.R. (south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla Co., WA).

## LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Many fewer than normal Pacific Loons were reported from inland locations. Reports included one at Two Rivers Park, *Benton*, WA, Sept. 30 (DR); one at Richland, *Benton*, WA, Oct. 14 (BW); one on Alkali L., *Grant*, WA, Oct. 21 (DBe); one at Roslyn L., *Clackamas*, OR, in mid-October (TJ); one on Silver L., *Spokane*, WA, Oct. 24–26 (JA); one at John Day Dam Nov. 5–9 (PaSu); and one at Bend, OR, Nov. 11 (TC). At least six Yellow-billed Loons were reported, a slightly above-average fall total: an early one at Westport, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Sept. 8 (TB); an

adult near Protection I., *Jefferson*, WA, Oct. 26 (RS, ph.); an adult at Pt. Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA, Oct. 27 (*fide* RR); an immature at Olympia, WA, Nov. 10 through the period (BT, m.ob.); an adult at Kalaloch, *Jefferson*, WA, Nov. 9 (*fide* BN); and one at Brookings, OR, Nov. 19 (DM).

Unusually high numbers of Red-necked Grebes were found on inland waters: one at Diamond L., *Douglas*, OR, Aug. 25 (KG); one at Two Rivers Park, *Benton*, WA, Sept. 30 (DR); one to two at Forest Grove, *Washington*, OR, Oct. 10–Nov. 2 (m.ob.); two at Roslyn L., OR, Oct. 11–12 (SD); two at Vancouver, WA, Oct. 11 (WC); one at Monmouth, *Polk*, OR, Oct. 12 (R. Gerig); one at W.W.R.D. Oct. 18 onward (M& MLD, m.ob.); one at Two Rivers Park, WA, Oct. 24–29 (DR); one at Vancouver L., *Clark*, WA, Nov. 9 (WC); one at John Day Dam Nov. 9 (PaSu); and one at Philomath, OR, Nov. 15 (AF). Clark's Grebe reports included an adult and two immatures at Fern Ridge Res. Sept. 11 (S. Maulding), indicating successful nesting there, and 6 other

sightings on the westside from Oct. 17 on.

Black-footed Albatrosses were among the tubenose species found in normal numbers on pelagic trips; high counts were 35 off Coos Bay, OR, Sept. 13 (PaSu) and 385 off Westport, WA, Aug. 9 (TW). No Laysan Albatrosses were reported this fall. Northern Fulmars were also fairly numerous, averaging about 500 per trip off Westport with high counts of 1019 off Westport Sept. 7 (TW) and 650 off Coos Bay Sept. 13 (PaSu). A **Mottled Petrel** found freshly dead at Pacific City, *Tillamook*, OR, Oct. 22 (D. Pitkin) furnished an unexpected fall record. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were also near normal, averaging 180 per trip off Westport, with a peak of 757 Aug. 29 (TW). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were scarce: three were off Depoe Bay, OR, Oct. 18 (m.ob.), and two were off Westport Aug. 29 (TW). Buller's Shearwater numbers were not overwhelming, with peak counts of 442 off Depoe Bay, OR, Oct. 18 (GGi, MH) and 203 off Westport Sept. 6 (TW), averaging less than 50 per trip off Westport.

Sooty Shearwater numbers improved slightly from the record low numbers of last fall, but were still far below the long-term average. Westport pelagic trip totals averaged 850, with a peak of 1714 Sept. 8 (TW). Oregon peak counts were 672 off Depoe Bay Oct. 18 (GGi, MH) and 1000 off Boiler Bay Oct. 26 (D. Eshbuagh). Only one appeared in Puget Sound, at P.N.P. Oct. 15 (VN). The only Short-tailed Shearwater reports were one at S.J.C.R. Oct. 12 (MP) and one off Westport Sept. 6 (TW).

In offshore waters, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels appeared in moderate numbers: 31 off Tillamook Bay, OR, Aug. 30 (MH, GGi), and an average of almost 140 per trip off Westport in August, with a peak of 202 Aug. 29 (TW). The usual handful of fall Leach's Storm-Petrel reports included 16 off Westport, WA, Aug. 2 (TW); one off Tillamook, OR, Aug. 23 (GGi, MH); one from shore at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, OR, Aug. 28 (S. Hootman); two from shore at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, Nov. 20 (AC); and one inside Puget Sound at Edmonds Nov. 20 (TP).

Sight reports of an ad. **Brown Booby**

**SA** Extraordinary numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels appeared in Puget Sound, where the species is normally accidental. There is no record of any previous incursion of this magnitude. Birds were first noted on Oct. 11, when Nelson recorded over 80 flying by P.N.P. at one time, with hundreds estimated going past during the day, and 22 were off Edmonds (SM). The next day a maximum of 60 was counted at P.N.P. during one 5-minute period, diminishing to 15 Oct. 13, and a couple on Oct. 14. From Oct. 12–17, storm-petrels were found s. to the Tacoma Narrows and n. to Whidbey I. Peak daily totals were recorded in Puget Sound off Seattle, where 500–1000 were reported Oct. 13–14 (m.ob.). Even though storm-petrels had disappeared by Oct. 18, there were no reports of movements out of the Sound.

Elevated numbers were present during this time period in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as well. Two were at Neah Bay Oct. 11 (*fide* BN). An Oct. 12 boat survey from Dungeness to Pt. Wilson noted more than six (R. Risling), and one was seen inside Sequim Bay Oct. 14 (G. Kridler, *fide* BN).

discovered along the s. shore of Protection I., *Jefferson*, Oct. 18 (†VN *et al.*), and sporadically present through Nov. 9 (PtSu, RS), represent the first report for this species in Washington.

Usual numbers of Am. White Pelicans in fall on the westside included two at Fern Ridge Res., OR, through the period (S. Johnson); seven over Bainbridge I., *Kitsap*, WA, Oct. 15 (*fide* RR); three over Blake I., *Kitsap*, WA, Oct. 16 (*fide* RR); and one at Olympia, WA, Oct. 20 (S. Richardson). Puget Sound also held record numbers of Brown Pelicans, with reports from throughout the sound. They totaled at least 90 birds in Puget Sound and 300+ along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Reports from the extreme reaches of the Sound included eight s. of Eagle Cr. in Hood Canal Sept. 17 (T. Tynan, *fide* BT) and 32 in Eld Inlet, *Thurston*, Sept. 27 (BS). The first Puget Sound reports were four at P.N.P. Sept. 15 (VN); their numbers increased rapidly through September, remained high through Oct. 15, and dropped rapidly thereafter. Both adults and first-year birds were present in Puget Sound. The last report of numbers in the Strait of Juan de

Fuca was 13 at Protection I. Oct. 19 (BB). They were present in large numbers on the Oregon coast later than typical; 100+/day were still reported even on the n. coast at the end of the period. Extremely unusual Columbia R. reports included one at McNary Dam Oct. 13 (MD), one at John Day Dam Oct. 16 (R. Friend), and one at Portland Nov. 24 (D. Leonard).

The 125 Great Egrets at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, Aug. 18 (JE) provided an indication of the increasing numbers in the Region. Numerous Snowy Egrets were reported from coastal areas n. of their regular range: up to ten in *Lincoln*, OR, estuaries in August and September (DB, KM, PaSu, R. Bayer); one at Florence, OR, Aug. 21 (DH, PSh); and one at Bay Center, *Pacific*, WA, Sept. 28–Oct. 15 (J. Hadley, R. Robinson, B. Bell). The Cattle Egret flight was almost non-existent on the westside. One was early at Elma, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Sept. 17–Oct. 15 (BT, T. Schooley, m.ob.); one was at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap*, WA, Nov. 14 (*fide* RR); one was at Seattle Nov. 15 (*fide* RR); one was at Lincoln City, OR, Nov. 15 (DLu, D. Pederson); six were at Scappoose Bottoms, *Columbia*, OR, Nov. 24 (J. Morawski); and two were at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, Nov. 26 (JE). Interior counts were substantially higher; at least 45 were reported from Nov. 6–23 at several Washington locations, including Bridgeport, *Douglas*; Banks L., *Grant*; Pullman and Dusty, both in *Whitman*; Stateline Rd., *Walla Walla*; and one Oregon location near Hermiston, *Umatilla* (JA, M&MLD, CC).

A **Whooper Swan** near Airlie, *Polk*, Nov. 27 and beyond (L. Spring *et al.*) furnished the first w. Oregon report. Although westside spring records of Ross's Goose have shown a strong increasing trend, fall records are still rare: One was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR, Oct. 19 (M. Kleinbaum, SD). The now resident Emperor Goose at the mouth of the Sandy R., *Multnomah*, OR, was present through the period. The Nov. 4 Canada Goose survey of the lower Columbia R., from Portland to Longview, found over 100,000 birds; 1500 were the threatened "Dusky" race (JE), which is an increase over the last few years. Almost three-quarters of the total were "Cackling" Geese.

Details of an eclipse male **Garganey** photographed at Gold L., *Lane*, OR, Aug. 20 (MH), and another male at W.W.R.D. Sept. 26 (MD), will be examined by state Rare Bird Committees; these are the 2nd and 3rd fall Regional reports for this species. Sea ducks in the interior included six Old-

squaws, 57 Surf Scoters, 20 White-winged Scoters, and a very rare Black Scoter at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA, Oct. 28 (BW). The Surf Scoter tally is well above normal.

#### KITES THROUGH PHALAROPES

White-tailed Kite numbers were relatively strong in w. Oregon, with small numbers scattered inland and along the coast. Seven near Airlie, *Polk*, Nov. 28 (BTi) represented a good concentration for that area. None was reported from w. Washington for the 2nd consecutive season. Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase, both in numbers and in frequency in inland and coastal areas of n.w. Oregon. At least 16 were found in n.w. Oregon. Interior reports also show strong increases. In addition to the first e. Washington record, an adult at Madame Dorian Park, *Walla Walla*, Sept. 26–Nov. 8 (MD, †AS), singles were at Paisley, *Lake*, OR, Aug. 16–Sept. 2 (PaSu); near Fort Klamath, *Klamath*, OR, Aug. 26 (F. Toldi); at Malheur Sept. 21 and beyond (AC); and near Klamath Falls, OR, Sept. 21 (K. Spencer). The hawk watch on Chelan Ridge, *Chelan*, in the Washington Cascades reported "a few" **Broad-winged Hawks** passing from Sept. 5 to Oct. 11 (D. Rossman). This is noteworthy as there are fewer than 10 records for the state, but more significantly this may provide an indication of the route of the birds observed annually in California. A small number of Gyrfalcon reports cited two on the westside, including an Oregon bird at Netarts Bay Nov. 28 (B. Stark), and two in the interior.

American Golden-Plover reports from the westside totaled 140+, primarily from w. Washington. Singles at Auburn, WA, Nov. 2 (PtSu, RS) and Coos Bay, OR, Nov. 4 (DLA, KC) were very late. Five were reported from e. Washington (BW, JA, DR). The Pacific Golden-Plover tally was smaller, about 70. Peak counts included 18 at O.S. Aug. 17 (PtSu) and 12 on the Skagit flats, *Skagit*, WA, Oct. 12 (SM). Late reports included one at Bandon, OR, Nov. 2 (HN) and one near Elma, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Nov. 5 (TA). The Solitary Sandpiper tally was 45 in the interior and 13 on the west slope, an average number.

An Upland Sandpiper at O.S. Sept. 6 (†SM) provided the 5th fall record in the 1990s; there were no fall records in the 1980s. Three Hudsonian Godwits were reported: an immature at W.W.R.D. Aug. 31–Sept. 6 (KK, †AS, m.ob.); one at Blaine, WA, Sept. 11–14 (PtSu); and an adult at Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln*, WA, Sept. 21–22 (†JA). Similarly, three Bar-tailed Godwits

were found: an adult at O.S. Aug. 16 (M&MLD); an adult at Blyn, *Clallam*, WA, Aug. 23–24 (†BN, m.ob.); and one at Bandon, OR, Aug. 25–Sept. 6 (DLA, KC, AC, RH).

The number of Semipalmated Sandpiper reports, 65 from westside areas and 32 in the interior, was the highest in several years. At least 125 Pectoral Sandpiper were found on the westside and 139 in the interior, well below last year's totals. Three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported: at O.S. Sept. 28 (BrL); at Mollala, *Clackamas*, OR, Oct. 1–2 (TJ, E. Specht); and at least one at Dungeness Oct. 4–Nov. 11 (BB, m.ob.). An imm. **Curlew Sandpiper** at O.S. Sept. 7 (†P.W. Smith) furnished Washington's 6th record and the first of a juvenile.

A total of 43 Stilt Sandpipers on the westside and 27 in the interior was somewhat above average. A small flight of Buff-breasted Sandpiper amounted to three at O.S. Aug. 13–30 (TA, m.ob.) and 12 in Oregon, including one near Florence Aug. 18 (AC, RH); two near the Siuslaw R. mouth, *Lane*, Aug. 27–Sept. 13 (AC); two at New River, *Coos*, Aug. 28 (DLA, KC); one at Yaquina Bay Aug. 29 (KG); one at Ona Beach, *Lincoln*, Aug. 30 (R. Krabbe); four at the n. spit of Coos Bay Sept. 7 (GL, JG); and one at Tillamook Sept. 12–13 (R. Smith, M.A. Sohlstrom).

The total of 7 Ruff reports was about average; up to two were at O.S. Aug 23–Sept. 2 (BrL, m.ob.); one was at the n. spit of Coos Bay, OR, Aug. 24–Sept. 7 (R. Maertz, JG, GL); up to two were at Bandon, OR, Aug. 28 (DH, PaSu); one was at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Sept. 19 (AS); and one was at W.W.R.D. Oct. 1 (M&MLD).

For the 8th consecutive year, low numbers of both species of phalaropes were recorded off Westport. The peak count of Red-necked was 244 Aug. 29, and only 18 Reds were found in total on all trips (TW). The count of 3000 Red-necked Phalarope at P.N.P. Sept. 11 (VN) indicated Puget Sound numbers were still good, and one Red-necked remained there as late as Nov. 20 (†VN). A few Red Phalaropes appeared inland, included two in the interior in September, 12 in Puget Sound areas primarily in October, and six in the Willamette Valley in November.

#### JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS

Season totals of 27 Pomarine, eight Parasitic, and only two Long-tailed jaegers off Westport (TW) were very low. Above-average numbers of Pomarine Jaegers in Puget Sound included an adult at Possession Bar,

*Snohomish*, Sept. 24 (BT), and immatures at P.N.P. Oct. 15 (VN) and Protection I. Oct. 24 (*vide* BN). A Pomarine inland on the Columbia R. at McNary Dam Sept. 28 (PaSu) was very rare. No Parasitic Jaegers were reported from the interior, and the Puget Sound peak count was only 17 at P.N.P. Sept. 15 (VN). Two Long-tailed Jaegers were seen from shore, adding to the very small totals on the ocean: one at Pt. Roberts, WA, Sept. 20 (SM) and one late at S.J.C.R. Oct. 5 (MP). South Polar Skuas totaled only six on 10 pelagic trips, probably the lowest fall total ever. The total of 18 reports of Franklin's Gull from Puget Sound was higher than last fall's total, but still below average. Western Oregon had five; two of those were very late dates. Singles were at Bandon Nov. 9 (TJW, JG) and at Coos Bay Nov. 28 (J. Cornelius). Two Little Gulls were reported from Puget Sound: an adult off Seattle Oct. 26 (S. Downes) and a 2nd-year bird at Rosario Head, *Skagit*, Oct. 18–26 (DBe, SM).

The summer movement of Heermann's Gull was impressive, and so were the fall counts: 2000 at Whidbey I., WA, Aug. 3 (SM); 914 at Westport, WA, Aug. 2 (TW); 700 at Everett, WA, Sept. 16 (SM); 550 at P.N.P. Oct. 15 (VN); and 530 at Port Townsend Aug. 19 (G. Kridler). Heermann's Gulls are very rare away from salt water; a surprising number appeared on freshwater in Oregon: one at Portland Sept. 29 (R. Korpi); two at Sheridan, *Yamhill*, Oct. 11; one at Forest Grove, *Washington*, Oct. 12–13 (DLu); and two at Roslyn L., *Clackamas*, Oct. 12 (SD). A W. Gull on the Columbia R. at Bridgeport, WA, Oct. 21 (D. Stephens) was very far upriver. Only one Glaucous Gull was reported, near Corvallis, OR, Nov. 25 (AF). A surprising number of Sabine's Gull were seen from shore and found inland, a relief as the pelagic counts were very poor. They averaged 20 per trip off Westport, with a peak of 70 Aug. 29 (TW). Numbers in the interior totaled about 20, probably a record total. At least seven were on the Columbia R. between W.W.R.D. and the Yakima R. delta Sept. 1–Oct. 10 (BW, m.ob.); one was at Taft Miller Res., *Harney*, OR, Sept. 3 (H. Miller); up to four were at Sprague L., *Adams*, WA, Sept. 6–7 (JA); up to three were on the Priest Rapids stretch of the Columbia R. Sept. 7–28 (AS, M&MLD, m.ob.); two were on Pend Oreille L., WA, Sept. 19 (*vide* RR); one was at Clarkston, *Asotin*, WA, Sept. 21 (MK); and two were at Malheur Sept. 19–20 (AC). Puget Sound held at least six from Sept. 9 (VN) to Oct. 14 (DBe). Six

more were in the Willamette Valley Oct 6–20 (FS, PaSu, AF). On the outer coast, there were more observations from shore than normal: 29 were at Boiler Bay, OR, Sept. 17 (AC) and many were at S.J.C.R. in early October (MP).

Elegant Tern numbers on the outer coast and in Puget Sound remained high through the middle of August, when they abruptly disappeared. About 100 were on the s.w. Washington coast through Aug. 23 (BrL, PtSu, M&MLD). Reports from the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca totaled 23 from Aug. 17 to Sept. 18 (BN, m.ob.). There were no reports from further inside Puget Sound. Oregon coastal numbers were much larger. Counts included 74 at Seaside, *Lincoln*, Aug. 3 (S. Orłowski) and 175 there Aug. 26 (D. Robberson); 50 at Coos Bay Aug. 14 (DLA, KC); 350 at the Rogue R. mouth, *Curry*, Aug. 20–22 (DM, CD), declining to three Sept. 13 (B. Kruse); and 300 at Gold Beach, *Curry*, Aug. 26 (AC, DLA) and 150 in *Curry* Sept. 8 (DM). Arctic Tern numbers averaged 10 per trip off Westport, WA, with a peak of 53 Aug. 23 (TW). There were 16 onshore sightings from the westside and one highly unusual interior record at Black Butte Ranch, *Deschutes*, OR, Aug. 8 (TC). This pattern was similar to the Sabine's Gull pattern—below average offshore counts and above average onshore appearances. There were 7 westside reports of Forster's Tern, a very large fall total for this eastside species, but only one westside report of Black Tern, a pair at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Sept. 17 (BT).

Following a breeding season marked by high mortality, Com. Murres averaged 200+ per trip off Westport, with a peak of 754 Aug. 9, dropping rapidly after that (TW). These counts are similar to recent years' fall counts, but are much lower than those of a decade ago. They moved rapidly into Puget Sound, as evidenced by counts of 550 at P.N.P. Aug. 21 (VN) and 300 at Edmonds, *Snohomish*, Aug. 25 (TP). The count of 56 Marbled Murrelets at Seal Rocks, *Lincoln*, Sept. 28 was a high fall count for that location (KM). Pairs of Xantus's Murrelet found 22 mi off the *Lincoln* coast (R. Lowe) Sept. 4 (*scrippsi* race) and off Westport, WA, Sept. 6 (TW) provided the 3rd consecutive fall records for the Region.

Only ten Cassin's Auklet were found on 7 trips off Westport, until Sept. 20 when a count of 256 indicated the northern populations had arrived (TW). These appear to be record low numbers. Similarly, no Tufted Puffin were found in 8 trips off Westport

(TW). A Horned Puffin at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, Sept. 10 (C. Benesh) furnished the 2nd Oregon report for this year.

No Snowy Owls were reported, which is remarkable following the strong invasion of last winter. Previous invasions have usually had an "echo flight." Two Burrowing Owls near Cape Blanco, *Curry*, OR, Oct. 18 (TJW) were unusual on the outer coast. Great Gray Owls were reported from Sunriver, *Deschutes*, OR, Nov. 29 (D. Hale) and Loon L., *Stevens*, WA, Nov. 15 (G. Marshall). The only Boreal Owl report was from a traditional area near Tollgate, *Umatilla*, OR, Oct. 10 (PaSu).

### SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES

Black Swifts are rare in Oregon in migration a maximum of 15 at Cape Blanco Sept 15–18 (TJW) and one late at Eugene Oct 11 (JG). Oregon's now annual appearance of Costa's Hummingbird was one at Grants Pass Sept. 20–27 (D. Vroman, PaSu). Black Phoebes continue their northward push, especially along the Oregon coast. They are now regular to Coos Bay. Farther north, singles were at Creswell, *Lane*, OR, Nov 3 (S. Nelson), and Astoria, OR, Nov. 9 (MP). Another **Black Phoebe** was at Washougal, *Clark*, Nov. 20+ (WC, m.ob.), for Washington's 3rd record. Say's Phoebes were well scattered over w. Oregon with 9 records from Sept. 15 on; only one was in w. Washington at P.N.P. Aug. 8 (VN). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at S.J.C.R. Sept. 13 (MP) was a rare fall vagrant.

The total of 11 Tropical Kingbird reports in Oregon is almost a 50% increase in the number of records for the state. All the records were coastal, as usual: up to three were near Cape Blanco Oct. 14–17 (TJW, DM, J. Rogers, B. Stewart); one–two were at Coos Bay Nov. 1 on (T. Rodenkirk, DLa., KC), two were at Netarts Bay Oct. 26 (C. Roberts); one was at Siletz, *Lincoln*, Nov. 9 (B. Miller); and one was at S.J.C.R. Nov. 1 (S. Nimetz). Two were reported from Washington: one near South Bend, *Pacific*, Oct. 20 (†H. Gilmore) and one near Sequim Oct. 22 (TA).

Oregon also had a record three **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** reports: an immature at Beaver Cr., *Lincoln*, Sept. 25 (L. Osis, G. Houser), an immature at Cascade Head, *Lincoln*, Sept. 27 (F. Manning), and one at Coos Bay Nov. 4 (DLa, KC et al.). The first 2 reports may be of the same individual. At least 25 Bank Swallows were reported from the westside Aug. 12–Sept. 8, all but two from w. Washington. This number is well above average. An impressive roost of Barn

Swallows was located near Salem, OR, Sept. 20–21 (FS); up to 500,000 were present.

Only 6 reports of Blue Jays were received, indicating a low year: one at Conway, *Skagit*, WA, Oct. 13 (G. Bletsch); one at Walla Walla, WA, Oct. 19 (M&MLD); two at Spokane, WA, Oct. 30 on (JA); one at Baker, OR, Oct. 31 (R. Alanko); one at Bend, OR, Nov. 12 (*fide* TC); and one at Langlois, *Curry*, OR, Nov. 14 (TJW). Bewick's Wren sightings of three at Spokane Aug. 21 (JA) and one at Sprague L., *Adams*, WA, Sept. 18 (PtSu) are part of their continuing range expansion. Extralimital Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included one at Malheur Sept. 19 (M. Smith, *fide* AC); one at Richland Nov. 4 (T. Greager) for the first e. Washington record; and one at Hunter Cr., OR, Nov. 14 for the 2nd *Curry* record (GS). Eight N. Mockingbirds were reported, somewhat above average. Two were in the interior and six were on the westside. The Sage Thrasher photographed near Cape Blanco, *Curry*, OR, Nov. 7 (TJW) was a late date for this coastal vagrant. A sight record of an imm. **Yellow Wagtail** at the mouth of the Siltcoos R., *Lane*, Aug. 31 (HH, RH) will provide the first Oregon record, if accepted by the OBRC.

A Magnolia Warbler at Summer L., *Lake*, OR, Oct. 24 (C. Miller) was one of only two vagrant warblers found this fall. Black-throated Gray Warblers were late at Portland Nov. 13 (JG), and in *Josephine*, OR, Nov. 14 (*fide* E. Pugh). Oregon held the usual scattered coastal Palm Warbler records in ones and twos in October and November, and four were reported from Washington. The earliest reports were one at Hurricane Ridge, *Clallam*, WA, Sept. 25 (TA), one at O.S. Sept. 27 (TB), and two at Tillamook, OR, Sept. 28 (A. Hagen). The peak count was five near Langlois, *Curry*, OR, Oct. 29 (TJW). A Blackpoll Warbler at Bend, OR, Oct. 24 (TC) was the other vagrant warbler noted this fall. The Black-and-white Warbler at Malheur Sept. 10 (D. Evered) was the only report of this rare migrant. Two ad. Am. Redstarts were found feeding two young at County line ponds, *Skagit*, Sept. 11 (B. Kuntz), for one of few documented breeding records in w. Washington.

There were 2 reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a rare annual migrant in Oregon: an imm. male at Catlow Valley, *Harney*, OR, Sept. 27 (JJ, DB) and a male at Hunter Cr., *Curry*, Nov. 14 (GS). An Indigo Bunting at Fields, *Harney*, Oct. 14 (M, TM, J. Carlson) was the only report of this rare migrant.

The Green-tailed Towhee at Upper Mar-

ilyn L., OR, Sept. 20 was one of few records for *Lane* (PSH). American Tree Sparrows are casual on the westside s. of Seattle: singles were at Salem, OR, Nov. 21 on (SD) and near Port Orford, *Curry*, OR, Nov. 20 (C. Rogers). Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Dayton, *Yamhill*, OR, Sept. 12 (PaSu) and at Salem Nov. 25 (R. Freeman, D. Wendt); they are rare but annual in fall. A group of five Black-throated Sparrows at Wapato, *Yakima*, Aug. 2 included three young (AS); Washington breeding records are still noteworthy. Three Lark Sparrows were found in western Oregon where they are accidental: one at Dayton, *Yamhill*, Sept 5 (T. Love), one at Florence Sept. 20 (M. LaFaive), and one at Nehalem Meadows, *Tillamook*, Oct. 5 (R. Freeman). Smaller numbers of Swamp Sparrow were reported in w. Oregon than in some recent years, about four, and they were unreported from Washington for the first time since the fall of 1989. Eleven reports of Harris's Sparrow—all from November except one early at Creswell, *Lane*, OR, Oct. 11 (S. Nelson)—was a relatively low number.

Some very large counts of Lapland Longspur on the outer coast included 115 at S.J.C.R. Oct. 10 (HN); 400 on Sunset Beach, *Clatsop*, OR, Oct. 11 (S. Moritz); 300 at O.S. Oct. 11 (M. Carmody); and 45 at Newport, OR, Oct. 12 (AC, DFa). Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere on the coast and in the Puget Trough and Willamette Valley. The coastal counts were at least 3 times normal, as were the inland numbers. A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at Everett Oct. 18 (†SM) would provide the 5th Washington record if accepted. Rusty Blackbirds were found at Wallula, WA, Nov. 24 (M&MLD) and at Attalia, *Walla Walla*, Nov. 26 (†DR). They have become annual in Washington in recent years. An imm. male Baltimore Oriole at Malheur Sept. 16 (JG) was the first Regional report since 1992.

Red Crossbills were sparingly reported on the n. Olympic Peninsula (BN) and little remarked upon elsewhere in Washington. In Oregon, they were common in the c, and n. Cascades in August and early September, and present in the Coast Range as well (HN). The White-winged Crossbill incursion that began during the summer became very large, at least as large as the spring/summer 1992 invasion. By late August, large concentrations were in the mountains of *Okanogan*, WA (RR), and in the Wallawas of Oregon (D. Heath). Birds were seen w. to the Seven Lakes area of Olympic N.P. Sept. 14 (*fide* BN), and s. in

the Cascades to Gold L., Lane, OR, Aug. 20 (MH). Individuals appeared at low elevations at several locales: two at Davenport, Lincoln, WA, Aug. 17 (KK) and one at the Yakima Training Center, WA, Aug. 31 (AS). Small numbers were present into November in Washington: 60 at Mt. Spokane, Spokane, Nov. 9 (BW) and four at Mt. Rainier N.P., Pierce, Nov. 16 (BrL). Pine Siskins were generally scarce on the n. Olympic Peninsula (BN) and in most of Oregon, as were Evening Grosbeaks. A Lesser Goldfinch near Newport, OR, Aug. 11 was a rarity for that c. coastal location (DFa), and numbers of four to 16 found at Lyle and Maryhill in Klickitat in November (SM, TA) indicated the Washington population remains intact.

### EXOTICS

A Mute Swan was at Sprague L., Adams, WA, Oct. 17 (JA). A Red-breasted Goose that was first seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Nov. 1 was seen at other Willamette Valley locations through the end of the period (H. Brunkal, R. Guadagno). A Ruddy Shelduck was at Stevenson, Skamania, WA, Oct. 4 on (WC).

**Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldfac):** Jim Acton, Tom Aversa, David Bailey, Dave Beaudette, **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Bob Boekelheide, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Tom Crabtree, Mike & Merry L. Denny, Colin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Joe Engler, Darrel Faxon, Anthony Floyd, Greg Gillson, Keith Graves, Hendrik Herlyn, Dan Heyerly, Rich Hoyer, Matt Hunter, Tim Janzen, Jim Johnson, Ken Knittle, Maitreya, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area), Bruce LaBar (BrL), Bill & Nancy LaFramboise, Dave Lauten (DLA), Gerard Lillie, Donna Lusthoff (DLu), Kathy Merrifield, **Tom & Alison Mickel** (Lane), Steve Mlodinow, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton, Mike Patterson, Ted Peterson, Dennis Rockwell, **Russell Rogers** (Washington), Floyd Schrock, Glen Sevey, Bill Shelmerdine, Paul Sherrill (PSh), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Paul Sullivan (PaSu), Ruth Sullivan, Bill Tice (BTi), Terry Wahl, Terry John Wahl (TJW), Bob Woodley.

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# middle pacific coast region



## DON ROBERSON, STEPHEN F. BAILEY, and DANIEL S. SINGER

Unrelated to El Niño, a fuel oil spill at Humboldt Bay November 5 affected thousands of loons, grebes, scoters, and murre, with 500 dead and 485 live birds delivered to the emergency care center.

Landbird migration was generally considered to be poor, with numbers of "eastern" vagrants well down (contrasting sharply with last autumn's strong showing). Numbers of western migrants were also generally low, according to some banding stations, suggesting poor productivity. However, some of the low numbers might

be attributable to unusually fine weather in September and October (except in the northwest, where weather systems produced more typical numbers of vagrants, bucking the trend for the rest of the coast). What was "poor" for observers may have been excellent for the birds themselves; possibly many overflowed our Region without the need for weather-delayed fallouts. Also we received no Central Valley reports this season, and some rarities posted on rare bird tapes or the Internet were never forwarded to us with details. Nonetheless we were treated to some interesting vagrants, headlined by Dusky Warblers from Asia and a scattering of "Mexican" species well north.