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oregon-washington region

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The season was rather wet until mid-July, when summer finally arrived and sunshine became more than a vague memory. The weather undoubtedly depressed land-bird breeding success: A western Washington bluebird project banded only 100 birds compared to 151 last summer (Sam Agnew). The cool, late spring was undoubtedly responsible for very late dates for several northern migrants such as Golden-crowned and Harris's sparrows and Lapland Longspur. The spring's motif of interior birds displaced westward—Eastern Kingbirds and a Black-chinned Sparrow, among others—also continued. And who knows what forces were responsible for a stream of Gulf of Alaska seabirds that continued from the spring: Mottled Petrel and Red-legged Kittiwakes were the summer contribution.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (*Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., OR*); Fields (*Fields, Harney Co., OR*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney Co., OR*); O.R.B.C. (*Oregon Rare Birds Committee*); O.D.F.W. (*Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA*); O.S.U. (*Oregon State University*); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR*). Eastside/Westside refer to the portion of the Region east/west of the crest of the Cascades.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Pacific Loon in breeding plumage on Lemolo L., *Douglas, OR*, 15 Jul (R. Maertz) was very unusual on freshwater in summer. Possibly marking the beginning of a 2nd

Willamette Valley breeding colony, a W. Grebe summered at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk, OR* (BTi, RG). Three pairs of Clark's Grebe at F.R.R. all summer (K. Beal) suggested continued breeding at the species' only Westside colony. Pelagic trips in July—two off Westport, WA (TRW), and one off Depoe Bay, OR (G. Gillson)—found very low numbers of N. Fulmar, averaging fewer than 30 per trip, extremely low numbers of Pink-footed Shearwater, averaging only four per trip, and moderately low numbers of Sooty Shearwater, about 1100 per trip. The only Short-tailed Shearwater was one found dead at Newport, *Lincoln, OR*, 11 Jun (O.D.F.W., *vide* HN). Three Manx Shearwaters, now of annual occurrence in Washington, were off Westport 10 Jul (†B. LaBar); one in Admiralty Inlet 3 Jun (†G. Lasley, B. Sundstrom) was only the 2nd record from inland waters. Three **Mottled Petrels** were found dead on Washington beaches (C. Thompson, *vide* T. Hass); summer records are unprecedented.

American White Pelican continues to wander the Westside: one at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk, OR*, was last seen 10 Jun (RG), two were at Crockett L., *Island, WA*, 18 Jun (B. Merrick), one was on the Columbia R. near Portland 18 Jun (J. Cowan) and 25 Jul (*vide* D. Baccus), and two were at Blaine, *Whatcom, WA*, 17 Jul (SM). One Great Egret pair was observed nesting again this year at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark, WA*, with unknown success (J. Engler). Great Egret was also reported nesting on a Columbia R. island just n. of Richland, *Franklin* (*vide* DR), apparently a new e. Washington location. Breeding continues at heronries around Coos Bay, OR, a recently established Westside locale. Snowy Egrets were at



Sequim Bay, *Clallam, WA*, 23–25 Jun (L. Newberry, *vide* BB) and Rock I., *Franklin, WA*, 6 Jun (†S. Atkinson); they have become annual vagrants to Washington. Summer records of Black-crowned Night-Heron on the Westside continue to accumulate: there were 3 Oregon reports (TR, B. Combs, BTi, RG) and one from Washington (*vide* BN). The White-faced Ibis found this spring near Othello, *Adams, WA*, remained until 30 Jun (RH). An injured Ross's Goose at Bandon, OR, 28 Jun and later (RL) was a first Coos record. The single Am. Black Duck at Everett, WA, 6 Jun (SM) hopefully represents the last remnant of an inadvertent introduction. Up to two pairs of Redhead at F.R.R. in July (D. Irons) continue to fuel suspicions of local breeding—their only Westside nesting. A pair of Ring-necked Duck nesting near N. Spit of Coos Bay, OR, was at the s. edge of the species' range.

White-tailed Kites continued to provide evidence of range expansion: a pair nested for the 2nd year at Nestucca Bay N.W.R., OR (F. Schrock); one was seen much of the period and suspected of breeding at

Millacoma Marsh, Coos, OR (TR); Curry had its first nesting pair along the Rogue R. (CD), with young ready to fledge at the end of the period; and one was near Toledo, Lewis, WA, 13 Jun (C. Chappell). An imm. N. Goshawk near Alsea, Benton, 23 Jun was a rare Oregon Coast Range fledgling (TS). There were only 2 reports of Red-shouldered Hawk n. of their usual range: one in Philomath, Benton, OR, 19 Jul (TS) and an adult near Brownsville, Linn, OR, 17 Jul (RG, BTi). A very late Merlin was at Minto Brown Park, Marion, OR, 11 Jun (RG).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

The many Yellow Rails near Klamath Marsh N.W.R., Lake, OR, 23 Jun (KS) indicated the notable size of this isolated population. An Am. Golden-Plover at Bandon, Coos, OR, 5 Jul (DL, KC) was very early, while a Pacific Golden-Plover at Crockett L., Island, WA, 26 Jun was about a month early, establishing a record arrival date (SM, DD). On an annual mid-June survey of the Oregon coastal Snowy Plover population, a count of 52 was low compared to recent years; some mortality was documented as a result of the New Carissa spill (M. Stern, O.D.F.W.). American Avocets are less than annual in w. Washington, so one at American Camp, San Juan, 17 Jun was a good find (S. Vernon). Bar-tailed Godwits, including adults, are being found with increasing frequency in the Region, but there are still few June/July records; one at Bay Ocean Spit, Tillamook, OR, 26 Jun–9 Jul (JG, GL, S. Jagers) topped the previous fall's early date by almost 2 weeks. Nine Solitary Sandpipers this July were more than normal; three at Potholes, Grant, WA, 21 Jul (JA) was the peak count. Casual on the Oregon outer coast in mid-June, four Willets were at Bandon, Coos, 18 Jun (DL). A Wandering Tattler at Cow Lakes, Malheur, OR, 22 Jun (R. Manwaring) represented about the 7th record from the Eastside and the first for a bird not clearly southbound. An above-average total of 125 Semipalmated Sandpipers was reported: 107 from Washington and 18 from Oregon; the peak tally was 20 at Crockett L., WA, 17 Jul (SM, DD). Nine Pectoral Sandpipers during July was also better than normal; a maximum of four were at Two Rivers, Walla Walla, WA, 17 Jul (DR). A Dunlin at Crockett L., WA, 24 Jul was a very early migrant (SM, PtSu), while one at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific, WA, 12 Jul (R. O'Brien) and four at O.S. 15 Jun may have been oversummering (TA). Adult Stilt Sandpipers are very rare in the Region, but two were on Whidbey I., WA, this summer: one at Crockett L.

20 Jul (SM) and another near Freeland 20–24 Jul (SM). A juv. Wilson's Phalarope along Gap Rd., OR, 16–17 Jul (J. Harding, RG, BTi) established a probable first Linn breeding record.

A **Pomarine Jaeger** found sick near Halfway, Baker, OR, 28 Jun was astonishing for the interior in mid-summer (M. Hammer). The Parasitic Jaeger at Bayview, Skagit, WA, 6 Jun (CK) was a late record for Puget Sound. A sub-ad. **Laughing Gull** was reported from the S.J.C.R. 31 Jul (†MP); this would be the 3rd Oregon record if

SA Reminiscent of the days when fishery agencies "controlled" populations of mergansers and cormorants to reduce predation on fish, the burgeoning Caspian Tern population in the lower Columbia R. ended up on the wrong side of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) this summer. Diet studies of the approximately 8000 pairs breeding on Rice I. in 1997 and 1998 indicated that they consumed millions—maybe as many as 22 millions—of salmon smolts as the fish migrated downstream past the colony (D. Craig, O.S.U.). Since several of the Chinook and Steelhead stocks in the Columbia and Snake basins are listed under the ESA, this predation acquired additional significance. Federal agencies attempted to decoy the terns downstream to a colony site where their diet would be more mixed. At least 1200 pairs made the switch to the new colony, bred successfully, and consumed fewer salmon per individual. That left almost 7000 pairs breeding at the Rice I. site (O.S.U.). Plans for summer 2000 are to attempt to exclude terns from Rice I. and to encourage some portion of the population to leave the lower Columbia entirely. Meanwhile, in Puget Sound, a new colony appeared on a waste disposal site in Tacoma; about 500 pairs attempted to breed there (D. Norman, M. Tirhi, Washington Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife). This location will be "cleaned up" in the near future. The only previous breeding locations in Puget Sound were at Everett and Swinomish Channel; terns were excluded from the Everett site and have vacated the Swinomish Channel site. Homelessness appears to be a chronic affliction for Caspian Terns in the Pacific Northwest.

accepted by the O.R.B.C. The 2nd-summer **Little Gull** at the N. Spit of Coos Bay 7 Jul (†DL) was unseasonal and less than annual in Oregon. A colony of 250 Ring-billed Gulls on Miller Sands in the mouth of the Columbia R. (fide HN) establishes another Westside breeding location. Unusual summer numbers of Black-legged Kittiwake followed good spring counts and included 40 at S.J.C.R. 5 Jun (JG) and one at Cattle Pt., San Juan, WA, 11 Jun (FS); however, only one was at Grays Harbor in July (TRW). An imm. **Red-legged Kittiwake** near Tatoosh I., Clallam, 28 Jun–5 Jul (†TiW) represents only about the 5th Washington record. Three Sabine's Gulls off Cattle Pt., WA, 7 Jun (FS) and one inland at Brownlee Res., Baker, OR, 19 Jun (T. Bray, M. Rose) were unexpected summer records.

The Arctic Tern breeding colony in Everett, WA, was at least two pairs strong this summer (J. Flavin), and three were late at S.J.C.R. 5 Jun (JG). Black Terns, apparently unconcerned by Caspian perils, may be establishing a 2nd Westside breeding colony. Up to five birds were at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR, during the period, and on 5 Jul an adult was seen feeding an immature, apparently confirming breeding (BTi, RG). One at Monroe, Snohomish, WA, 6 Jun (SM) was the only other Westside report away from F.R.R.

The Oregon population of Com. Murre had its first successful breeding season in a decade (RL), apparently in response to colder ocean temperatures and improved productivity. In Washington, in addition to the colony at Tatoosh I., 100+ appeared to be nesting on White I., Clallam, 30 Jul (BB). A 24 Jul pelagic trip off Westport encountered 2685 murrelets with many chicks (TRW), additional evidence of a good breeding season. Unfortunately the good conditions did not result in improved counts of Cassin's Auklets and Tufted Puffins; totals of eight and two, respectively, were seen during two July trips off Westport (TRW).

DOVES THROUGH MOCKINGBIRDS

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** at the isolated oasis in Fields was Oregon's 2nd (†M). How long until Washington has its first? The Malheur Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained until 4 Jun (PaSu), and another was singing near Ironside, Malheur, during late June (MD, MLD)—a fairly typical season for this rare visitor to s.e. Oregon. Common Poor-wills are accidental in w. Washington, so one at Mt. Hardy Burn, Skagit, 26 Jun was exceptional (JW). The Costa's Humming-

bird at Bend, OR, remained until 28 Jun (D. Tracy). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds seem to be scarce but regular summer visitors to s e Oregon, but their status in n.e. Oregon is poorly known; thus a male and three females near Flora, *Wallowa*, 19 Jun (AC) and a female at Richland, *Baker*, 11 Jul (S. Lindsay) were noteworthy. Washington does not yet have any accepted Broad-tailed records. Lewis's Woodpecker was formerly a fairly common breeder in the Willamette Valley, but breeding was last recorded in 1977 after a rather steep decline, and the species is now quite rare during summer anywhere n. of *Douglas* on the Westside. Consequently, one at Gresham, *Multnomah*, 6 Jul was noteworthy (D. Bailey, D. Helzer). A White-headed Woodpecker near Nisqually, *Thurston*, added to the handful of w Washington records (†R. Kirkham).

This summer's 12 Least Flycatchers was the 2nd best total ever for the Region. Nine were on the Eastside—six in Washington and three in Oregon—and three were in w. Washington, where barely annual: Fortson Mill Ponds, *Snohomish*, 12 Jun (SM, DD); Whatcom Co. Line Ponds 4 Jul (SM, CK); and Ft. Lewis, *Pierce*, 6–9 Jul (BTw, S. Mills). An **Eastern Phoebe** near Rogue R., *Jackson*, 10–22 Jun was only Oregon's 5th (†B. Clemens). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at the Sandy R. delta, *Multnomah*, 26 Jun was in n w Oregon, where rare (B. Altman), and one at Wenatchee, WA, 15 Jun was n. of its breeding range on the Eastside (EH). Exceptionally rare for summer on the outer coast were W. Kingbirds at Pt. Grenville, *Grays Harbor*, WA, 24 Jun (P. W. Smith) and Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR, 13 Jun (MP). On the Westside, E. Kingbirds are mostly found at a few nest sites in *Multnomah*, *Snohomish*, and *Skagit* and are very rare anywhere farther west. This spring's influx translated into many more summer reports than normal, including four from areas where this species is casual: Cape Blanco, *Curry*, OR, 1 Jun (TJW); Tatoosh I., WA, 14 Jun (R. Paine, TiW); Cape Blanco 22 Jun (TJW); and near Freeland, *Island*, WA, 26 Jun (SM, DD).

Four Plumbeous Vireos, all from s.e. Oregon, seems an unusually high total, but this species' status is still being determined. A Red-eyed Vireo was found again in Luckiamute Landing, *Polk*, w. of this species' few known nesting areas in Oregon (K. Sparkman); *Polk's* first was recorded here last year. The Olympic Peninsula's first nesting Red-eyed Vireos were near Sequim 30 Jun (BN). A mixed Scrub × Steller's Jay pair produced three young in Spanaway, *Pierce*, WA (SA, ph. R. Sullivan). A Pygmy Nut-

hatch near Mt. Hardy, *Skagit*, WA, 26 Jun was on the Westside, where casual (JW). Two Purple Martins at Bingen, *Klickitat*, WA, 9 Jul provided a very rare Eastside record (SJ). More than 2000 Bank Swallows together at Columbia N.W.R., *Adams*, WA, 21 Jul may well be a Regional record-high concentration (RH).

Rock Wrens w. of the Cascades in Washington are rare during any season, especially during summer, so one carrying food at Silver Star Mt., *Clark*, was notable (W. Cady). A Mt. Bluebird near Bellingham, WA, 18 Jun provided a very rare summer record from the Westside lowlands (*fide* G. Walker). Veeries are casual on the Westside, except near Newhalem, *Whatcom*, WA, where they have been recorded several times in past summers; this year, about four were found at 2 sites near Newhalem on 12 Jun (TRW) and at least four were still present 4 Jul, including an adult carrying food (SM, CK). A Wrentit near Lebanon, *Linn*, OR, 22 Jun (K. Bettinger) is probably the northernmost record for the Cascade foothills and provides evidence of this species' continuing range expansion. There were seven reports of N. Mockingbird, all from Oregon, including a nesting pair at Bully Creek Res., *Malheur*, 23 Jun (F. Zeilemaker).

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Virginia's Warbler had been considered a casual vagrant to Oregon, but last summer several pairs were found in the s.e. corner of the state; this summer a singing Virginia's Warbler near Ironside, *Malheur*, July 5 (J. Gatchett) reinforced the evidence that this species is a local but regular breeder in the southeast. A N. Parula was at Fields 7 Jun (K. Aldrich); there are about 40 Oregon records. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** near Nile, *Yakima*, 3 Jul was Washington's 12th (ph. M. A. Ruthrauff); most previous Washington records are also from mid-summer. In Oregon, three Chestnut-sided Warblers added to approximately 35 previous records: Malheur 5 Jun (D. Herr), Fields 5 Jun (AC, SR), and near Sisters, *Deschutes*, 4 Jul (S. Shunk). Oregon's 6th **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Malheur 13 Jun (AC, HN et al., ph.). A Black-and-white Warbler at Malheur 9 Jun was the only report of this regular vagrant (PP). An Ovenbird at Fields on 11 Jun (M) and another there 17 Jun (R. Smith) add to the approximately 40 Oregon records. Several Am. Redstarts were at their usual spot near Newhalem in *Skagit/Whatcom*, WA (D. Beaudette, CK), the only regular Westside locality. Three at Fortson Mill Ponds, *Snohomish*, WA, 6–28 Jun (SM, DD,

S. Pink) suggested that a small colony may exist there as well. A N. Waterthrush at Salt Cr., *Lane*, OR, 4 Jul (R. Robb) was at the only regular Westside location, but one at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, OR, 12 Jun (PP) was on the outer coast, where very rare.

A **Summer Tanager** at Malheur 13 Jun was about the 7th for Oregon (†AC, HN). A scattering of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was typical for summer: this year a pair was in Portland 7 Jul (P. Blair); one was in Seattle 22–23 Jul (C. Cretin); and six others were in e. Oregon (*fide* HN). An **Indigo Bunting** near W. Richland, *Benton*, 19–31 Jul was only Washington's 7th (BW); about half of the previous reports were also from the Eastside in summer. Brewer's Sparrow is generally considered a vagrant in w. Oregon, but there has been suspicion of breeding near the Cascade crest, especially in the southwest. This summer two were near Central Park, *Jackson*, where they now seem to be regular, and one with a brood patch was banded near Grants Pass, *Josephine* (D. Vroman); two more were at Trailbridge Res., *Linn*, 14 Jun (RG), and one near Astoria 9 Jun was on the outer coast where casual (MP). A Clay-colored Sparrow at N. Spit, Coos Bay, 9–11 Jun was likely a very late spring migrant (DL); the only other report was of four singing males at the traditional Spokane colony 17 Jun (EH). A **Black-chinned Sparrow** near Markam, *Clackamas*, 12 Jun was Oregon's 7th record and the first away from *Klamath* and *Jackson* (SR, D. Philpot, T. Janzen). A Black-throated Sparrow at Woodway, *Snohomish*, WA, 5 Jun was left over from this spring's remarkable invasion to the Westside (G. Toffic); the only reports from e. Washington's small and fluctuating population came from near Wapato, *Yakima*, 19 Jun (AS) and near Vantage, *Kittitas*, 16 Jun (EH). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Trailbridge Res. 14 Jun was away from the few known nesting locations for this species in w. Oregon (RG). A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Vantage, *Klickitat*, WA, 3 Jun provided a very rare summer record and was likely part of the late spring migration (TA), but one at Gearheart, *Clatsop*, 20 Jul defies explanation and was probably Oregon's first for July (T. Thornton). A **Harris's Sparrow** near Dot, *Klickitat*, WA, 2 Jun was likely also a very late migrant and was almost unprecedented for June in the Region (SJ). **Lapland Longspurs** are rare spring transients on the Westside, with only a few records as late as mid-May; one at Ten Miles Beach, *Lincoln*, 1 Jun (RB) and another at Yaquina Bay, OR, 3 Jun were unprecedented (D. Copeland).

