oregon-washington



Steven Mlodinow

4819 Gardner Ave. Everett, Washington 98203 (SGMlod@aol.com)

Bill Tice

750 **W**ood St. Falls City, Oregon 97344 (Polkman@navicom.com)

Bill Tweit

P.O. Box 1271 Olympia, Washington 98507 (Sebnabgill@aol.com)

eteorologists had predicted another extremely wet winter with some colder temperatures for good measure. Fortunately for those living in the Region, temperatures were close to average, and precipitation, though above normal, was well shy of last winter's dreary record. Indeed, the lack of any hard freezes or significant snow made winter seem mild westside, and the eastside was also milder than usual. Trends this winter were few, with the most notable being a suite of highly unusual lingering birds in se. Washington, including Western Tanager, Common Yellowthroat, Anna's Hummingbird, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Least Sandpiper. Winter pelagic birding continued to yield more than its share of rarities, including Short-tailed and Shy Albatrosses. Finally, and happily, the parade of rarities of 1999 continued through the winter, including Washington's first Arctic Loon and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane); R.N.W.R. (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla); Y.R.D. (Yakima R. delta, Benton WA). Eastside and westside = east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A tally of 2000 Red-throated Loons at Deception Pass, Island, 26 Feb may represent a Regional winter record (B. Bell); one at Priest Rapids Res., Grant/Yakima, 5-6 Feb was on the eastside, where less-than-annual (PtS, GT). Washington's first Arctic Loon was at Priest Rapids Res. 16 Jan+ (AS, †DG, †H.&J.A. MacKenzie, †BW, †KB, †R. Lawson, †E. Hunn, vt. SM); it provided one of few North American records away from Alaska and the first inland. Yellow-billed Loons at Wallowa L., Wallowa, 12-13 Feb (CC, JS) and Priest Rapids Res. 12 Feb (BTw) were on the eastside, where extremely rare. Westside Yellow-billeds had an average showing, with singles at Port Orford, Curry, 30 Dec (CD, NW), Sequim Bay, Clallam, 5 Jan-10 Feb (GK), and Pt. Wilson, Jefferson, 22 Feb (SP, JF). Fifteen Clark's Grebes (ten in w. OR, five in w. WA) were $2-3 \times$ the normal winter total. A research cruise off the Oregon coast on 13 Dec yielded a Regional record 94 Laysan Albatross, up from 70 last year, and a Short-tailed Albatross ±21 nmi off Curry, about the 5th for Oregon and 7th for the Region during the last 50 years (†MF). Other Laysans included seven off Depoe Bay 5 Feb (GG), six off Westport 22 Jan (TRW), and one riding a ship into Charleston Harbor, Coos, 21 Dec (fide D. van Dyke). The Procellariiform of the season, however, was the Region's 3rd Shy Albatross off Wesport 22 Jan (†BTw, †BL, ph. J. Powell); previous records are from the Quillayte R. mouth 1 Sep 1951 and at Heceta Bank 5 Oct 1996 (Mlodinow 1999, Birders J. 8:131-141; see Cole's lead paper). A N. Fulmar, rarely seen from land, was off Heceta Head, Lane, 20 Dec (R. Robb), A Mottled Petrel ±14 nmi off Cape Blanco 13 Dec is only about the 11th Regional record of a live bird, all Dec-Apr (MF). Two Am. White Pelicans wintered at F.R.R. (m. ob.), one was at Portland 20 Feb (P. Osburn), and another was in the vicinity of R.N.W.R. 27 Jan-19 Feb (RK, EA); they are rare on the westside but seem to be increasing and occurring year round. On the eastside they are fairly common breeders but rare during winter; this winter more than usual were present: two at Y.R.D. 1 Dec-17 Jan, eight at Two Rivers Co. Park, Benton, 21 Jan (BW, DR), and three at Vernita Bridge, Grant, 6 Feb (BF). Despite cooler ocean temperatures, Brown Pelicans were again reported in numbers: six at Charleston 5 Dec and one 15 Dec (TR); seven at Boiler Bay, Lincoln, 2 Dec and three there 26 Dec (PP); and one at Dungeness Spit, Clallam, 21 Feb (fide BN).

Great Egret numbers seemed higher than usual with a maximum of 70 at F.R.R. 27 Dec (S. McDonald); singles at Sunnyside W.M.A., Yakima, 23 Jan-20 Feb (fide B. Marshall), near Selah, Yakima, 3-8 Jan (DG), and in Snohomish, throughout period (DB, DD) provided records for e. Washington and the Puget Sound, where rare during winter. Cattle Egrets appeared in near-normal numbers in Dec, but survived for an unusually long duration, with two at Myrtle Pt., Coos, 3 Dec-8 Jan (DL,KC), one at Scappoose Bottoms, Columbia, OR, 6-31 Dec (RK), one near Salem, Marion, 11 Dec+ (J. Lundsten), one at Woodland, Cowlitz, 15 Dec-25 Jan (EA), and perhaps the same bird at R.N.W.R. 4 Feb (R. Morgan). Out-of-place Blackcrowned Night-Herons were near Port Townsend, Jefferson, WA, 18 Dec-20 Jan (R. Wagner) and at Newport, Lincoln (fide R. Bayer); they are local on the westside. More Turkey Vultures than normal wintered in Oregon. One at Seattle 28 Jan provided a rare mid-winter record for Washington; returning birds were widespread by mid-Feb on the westside (fide D. McRae).

Emperor Geese staged a minor invasion, with one at Clatsop Spit, Clatsop, 18 Dec (MP), two at Winchester Bay, Douglas, 22 Dec (MD), one at Keystone, Island, 30 Dec (KK), one at Port Angeles, Clallam, 5 Jan+ (R. Hoffman), and three at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, 18 Dec (J. Harding), with two remaining there until the end of the period (C. Roberts); about three per winter is typical for the Region. Ross's Geese are rare but ever increasing in Washington and w. Oregon. Single white-morph birds were at Sauvie I., Multnomah, 6 Dec (RK), Finley N.W.R., Benton, OR, 15 Dec+ (L. Fitts), R.N.W.R. 16-19 Dec (D. Friesz, TA), and McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla, 11 Feb (MD,MLD). Additionally, a blue morph was reported without details from Sauvie I., 19 Dec+ (RK) and at nearby R.N.W.R. 15-23 Jan (PtS); they are exceptionally rare in the Region away from Klamath. Intermittent reports of a single Black Brant from Sauvie I., R.N.W.R. and Woodland may all refer to the same individual (M. LaFaive, RK, D. Friesz); Brant are rare away from saltwater. Additionally, four in Yamhill 30 Dec were that county's first (T. Love). Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to increase, as evidenced by 610 near Bow, Skagit, 10 Jan (SM). Nine Eurasian Greenwinged Teal and three hybrid Eur. × Am. (all from the westside) were treble the recent norm; this increase is likely due in part to increased observer effort. A Mallard × N.

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Pintail was at McNary N.W.R. 2 Feb (MD, MLD). A Tufted Duck at Warrenton, Clatsop, 14 Jan was about the 27th for Oregon (†T. Thornton), while another near Stevenson, Skamania, was about the 40th for Washington (WC). A count of 350 Black Scoters at Yaquina Head, Lincoln, 23 Jan is one of the highest Regional tallies (PaS). The only eastside Long-tailed Duck report came from Wanapum Dam, Kittitas, 29 Jan–12 Feb (P. Mattocks). A Barrow's Goldeneye was near Coos Bay, Coos, 19 Dec (DL); they are rare on the s. Oregon coast.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

An Osprey near Madras, Jefferson, 19 Feb provided an extremely rare winter eastside record (T. Bray), while singles at Woodland, Cowlitz, 15 Jan (PtS), Alton Baker Park, Lane, 11-29 Jan (fide TM), and Kent, King, 10 Feb (R. Orness) were in areas where rare in winter; Ospreys are somewhat regular winter visitors only to extreme s. Oregon. Eight Red-shouldered Hawks in w.-cen. and nw, OR and two in sw. WA are historically excellent counts but are about average for the last five years. The Washington records were both from R.N.W.R., an imm. 2 Dec-22 Jan (†TA, JE) and an ad. 19 Feb (BL). A Ferruginous Hawk near Dallesport, Klickitat, 29 Jan provided an extremely rare winter record for Washington (D. Brown). Eleven Gyrfalcons, an above-normal winter total, included two from Oregon: Amity, Yamhill, 18 Jan (W. Matthewson) and near Corvallis, Benton, 29 Jan (PV, M. Cutler). Prairie Falcons at Samish Flats, Skagit, Fir I., Skagit, and near Snohomish, Snohomish, represented a better-than-average winter for w. Washington (KA, DD). A Sora at Two Rivers Co. Park, Benton, 18 Dec (DR) and another at Wallula, Walla Walla, 2 Jan (BTw, CC) were likely the first for winter on the eastside. Two Sandhill Cranes were near Stanwood, Snohomish, 18 Dec-29 Jan (GT, S. Terry), rare during winter in n. Washington.

Surveys revealed 26 Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter Point, Pacific, and 15 at Midway Beach, Grays Harbor, 25 Jan, about the same as last winter (D. Jaques, J. Dragon, D. Williamson). Oregon's 8th Mountain Plover, first found in Nov, remained throughout at Dunes Overlook, Douglas (DL, AC). Now almost annual during winter in Oregon, a Lesser Yellowlegs was at F.R.R. 1-2 Jan (D. Bailey). Long-billed Curlews, rare away from the coast during winter, were near Eugene, Lane, 4 Jan (S. Maulding) and along 7 Mile Lane, Linn, 10 Jan (J. Fleischer). A Marbled Godwit was near Sequim, Clallam, 11-20 Dec (BN); they are less-than annual away from the outer coast during winter. Rare winter Red Knots were found at Dungeness Bay, Clallam, 20 Dec (GGe, PtS, J. Acker) and Fort Flagler, Jefferson, throughout the period (NB). Sanderlings are unusual in the Willamette Valley, so one at R.N.W.R. 29 Jan was noteworthy (K. Knittle). Three Least Sandpipers, 30 Dunlins, and three Long-billed Dowitchers, all rare during winter in e. Washington, overwintered at Y.R.D. (BW). Eight more Leasts were at Potholes Canal, Franklin, 21 Feb (BF). Additional Dunlin sightings included 117 at W.W.R.D. 31 Dec-2 Jan (MD, MLD), 200 at W.W.R.D. 21 Feb (BF), 57 at Moses L., Grant, 17 Jan (BF), and 20 at Potholes Canal, Franklin, 21 Feb (BF); the previous e. Washington winter record was 70 at Y.R.D. 1 Jan 1982 (Paulson 1993, Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest). Another eastside Long-billed Dowitcher was at Moses L., Grant, 17 Jan (BF). A Shortbilled Dowitcher was on the Coquille Valley CBC, 2 Jan (fide AC); they are nearly annual during winter. A Red Phalarope was near Vashon I., Pierce, 18 Dec (BL); they are rare during winter and very rare anytime in the Puget Sound. A Parasitic Jaeger off Oregon 13 Dec provided an extremely rare winter record (MF). Western Washington's 4th winter Franklin's Gull was near Sequim 4 Dec (A. Knue, Mdo), while e. Washington's 2nd was at W.W.R.D. 24 Feb (MD, MLD). For the 10th consecutive winter a Little Gull was at American L., Pierce, 17 Dec-13 Jan (PtS). Heermann's Gulls, though not particularly numerous this fall, lingered late again this winter at Coos Bay 19 Dec (fide TR); Orcas I. and Shaw I., San Juan, 15 Jan (SM, GR, RR); Tacoma, Pierce, 18 Dec-27 Feb (BL,MDo); and Edmonds, Snohomish, 1 Dec-30 Jan (DD). An impressive congregation of 3370 Mew Gulls ±20 mi inland at Monroe, Snohomish, 21 Dec emphasizes the importance of farmland to this species (SM, DD). An Iceland Gull at Tacoma, 8-24 Jan, was about Washington's 8th and the first adult (ph. GR, RR, †BL). Long overdue, the Region's first Lesser Black-backed Gull was at W.W.R.D. 6 Feb-3 Mar (†MD, MLD, ph. J. Nestler). Washington's 5th Slaty-backed Gull, first found in Nov, remained at Tacoma until 6 Feb (BL, ph. MDo). Despite the spate of rare large gulls, Glaucous Gulls occurred in poor numbers, with only 22 reported. An unidentified Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelet ±20 nmi off Curry 13 Dec was probably a Xantus's and furnished one of few winter reports from the Region of this species pair (MF)-Xantus's is annual during fall (Jul-Oct), but there are no accepted Regional records of Craveri's.

DOVES TO TANAGERS

SA As is true for much of the country, Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to make news in Washington and Oregon. Finally, Washington received its first report-a bird seen well at Spokane, Spokane, 2 Jan (†M. Houston, G. Kuiper, L. Hagen). Additionally, the photograph of a bird seen at College Place, Walla Walla, 11 Jan 1996 also recently came to light (WOSNews 65:7). Though not definitive, it is suggestive of the species. In Oregon, a flyby was reported from Oregon City, Clackamas, 23 Dec (†R. Fergus); if accepted, it will furnish a 3rd record, the first two coming from Portland in May 1998 and Fields, Harney, in June 1999. For an excellent summary of this species' expansion across North America, see Romagosa and McEneaney (1999, N. Am. Birds 53:348-353).

It was another poor winter for Snowy Owls, with only five reports: near Moses L., Grant, 15 Dec-19 Feb (BF); near Harrington, Lincoln, 15 Jan (JA); Terrace Heights, Yakima, 12 Feb (M. Sundquist); near Davenport, Lincoln, 15 Feb (JA); and near Ellensburg, Kittitas, in Feb (fide AS). A Northern Hawk Owl near Chelan, Chelan, 30 Dec-5 Jan, was about the 11th for Washington (M.&D. Spencer); most have been late Nov-late Feb. Single Burrowing Owls were at Bayocean Spit, Tillamook, 18 Dec (J. Harding) and near Salem, Marion, throughout winter (SD), an average winter total for w. Oregon. A Great Gray Owl near Springfield, 24-26 Jan, provided only the 2nd lowland Lane record (fide TM), while one near Pullman, Whitman, 29 Feb, was also at an unusual location (MK). Anna's Hummingbirds in Bend, Deschutes, 3 Feb (D. Tracy, J. Williamson) and Yakima, Yakima, 10 Dec+ (DG) provided rare eastside winter records. The Grants Pass, Josephine, Costa's Hummingbird returned for its 4th winter 17 Dec (DV); there are only about eight other winter records. An Allen's Hummingbird at New R., Coos, 9 Feb was about two weeks early (TR). A Red-naped Sapsucker was at Bend, Deschutes, 30 Jan (J. Lear); they are rare in winter away from Klamath. A hybrid Red-naped × Red breasted Sapsucker was at R.N.W.R. 19 Dec, where Red-napeds would be unusual at any season (†TA). A Black Phoebe at Milwaukie 2 Jan+ was n. of that species' usual range and was a Clackamas first (T. Ewert, M. Kay). Four Say's Phoebes in w. Oregon represents a typical winter's total: near Corvallis, *Benton*, 22 Dec (*fide* T. Bray); near Silverton, Marion, 26 Dec (SD); near Salem 1 Jan (PaS); Basket Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, 12 Feb (PV). One at Asotin Slough, *Asotin*, 2 Jan, provided a rare mid-winter record for e. Washington (MK).

There were only three Blue Jays this winter: Twickenham, Wheeler, early Dec (L. Belknap), Sisters, Deschutes, throughout period (SS), and Tampico, Yakima, 10 Nov-31 Jan (DG). Two W. Scrub-Jays were at Prineville, *Crook*, throughout (D. Tracy, J. Williamson) and one was at Marysville, Snohomish, 20-21 Feb (DB)—more signs of this species' continuing expansion. A wayward Black-billed Magpie, found last fall at Port Angeles, Clallam, remained until 25 Jan (BB). Despite the mild winter, relatively few migrants seemed to linger on the westside. The exception was swallows. A smattering of Tree Swallows were present throughout w. OR and sw. WA all winter, but one at American L., Pierce, 27 Dec, was farther n. and somewhat more unusual (JE). Two Violet-green Swallows were in Port Orford, Curry, 1 Jan, and six were along Euchre Creek, Curry, 20 Jan (NW). Barn Swallows were reported from six w. Oregon locations. In Washington, where rare during winter, Barn Swallows were at R.N.W.R. 1-25 Jan; American Lake 27 Dec (IE); Everett, Snohomish, 24 Feb (DB); and Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston, 23 Feb (S. Nord). Western Bluebirds are rare in w. Washington during winter and on the Olympic Peninsula at any season, so six in Clallam 11 Feb and 11 at Squamish Harbor, Jefferson, 18 Dec were noteworthy (M. Milzac, S. Downes). Northern Mockingbird reports were near normal, with five from sw. Oregon and one from w.-cen. Oregon. An Am. Pipit was near Desert Aire, Grant, 12 Feb (BTw); they are rare in winter in e. Washington.

Nine Orange-crowned Warblers on the eastside near Toppenish, Yakima, 19 Dec set a Regional record high count for winter (MD, MLD); since winter birds are much rarer on the eastside, this record is particularly unexpected. A Nashville Warbler, rare in winter, was at Bandon, Coos. 1-5 Jan (CD, DL, KC). Palm Warblers are uncommon on the outer coast during winter but rare elsewhere; this winter one returned to Portland for its second winter 19 Dec+ (J. Cornelius), and singles were at Everett 28 Jan+ (D. Beaudette) and at Port Orchard, Kitsap, 31 Dec (PtS). Wilson's Warblers were at Port Orford 30 Dec (CD, NW), Seattle 1 Jan (†BS), Renton, King, 16 Feb (C. Haynie), Blanchard, Skagit, 20 Feb (S. Wechsler), and Skagit W.M.A., Skagit, 26 Feb (S. Dang); they are normally rare during winter, especially as late as Feb. Four Com. Yellowthroats for Oregon was an average winter total: at Millacoma Marsh, Coos (TR), s.

Marion (SD), Brownsmead, Clatsop (MP), and Sauvie I. (P. Osburn). Singles at Everett 19 Feb (DB) and Seattle 26 Feb (J. Chapman) were in w. Washington, where rare during winter; rarer yet, one at Lost I., Franklin, 17 Jan provided e. Washington's first winter record (DR). A **Western Tanager** along Mill Creek Rd., Walla Walla, 10 Dec was likely also an e. Washington winter first (MD, MLD).

SPARROWS THROUGH REDPOLLS

American Tree Sparrows, rare in w. Oregon, at Favetteville, Linn, 21 Dec+ (GG) and near Canby, Clackamas, 2-9 Feb (E. Specht) were noteworthy. Another was at Miller I., Klamath, 15 Jan+ in se. Oregon (KS). A Chipping Sparrow, rare but regular during winter, was near Albany, Linn, 27 Dec (M. Cutler). The regional boom in Clay-colored Sparrow reports continued this winter with singles at Millacoma Marsh, Coos, 2 Dec+ (TR); near Tillamook Bay, Tillamook, 18 Dec (fide OS); near Albany 26 Dec (M. Cutler); Sauvie I. 31 Dec-12 Feb (M. Marsh); and Brookings, Curry, 8 Jan (DM). There are only about 30 previous winter records. A rare winter Lark Sparrow was at Salem, Marion, 18 Dec (K. Sparkman). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Walla Walla 14 Jan (MD, MLD); they are rare Jan-Mar in e. Washington. Sixteen Swamp Sparrows reported from w. Oregon and eight from w. Washington is about normal, but one at Bend, Deschutes, 2 Jan (CM, MM) was on the eastside, where not annual. White-throated Sparrows were again present in above-average numbers, with 31 reported from Washington and an Oregon maximum of 11 at Millacoma Marsh, Coos, (TR). Harris's Sparrow reports were about average, with seven from Oregon and eight from Washington. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows occurred in below-normal numbers in w. Washington, but pugetensis Whitecrowneds were abnormally common (SM), perhaps a reflection of the relatively bland weather. A total of 258 Golden-crowned Sparrows near Vancouver, Clark, 30 Dec likely provided a Washington record (TA). Oregon's 5th Painted Bunting was a male photographed at an Idlewild, Douglas, feeder during Christmas week (T. Walker); previous records are from Jun and Oct in se. Oregon and from late Nov in sw. Oregon (Gilligan et al. 1994, Birds of Oregon).

A Bobolink at Graysmarsh, Clallam, 20–21 Dec furnished the 2nd Regional winter record (†S. Atkinson, ph. RS), the first coming from Coos 10 Dec 1979 (Contreras 1998, Birds of Coos County, Oregon); there are few winter records from anywhere in North America. A count of 300 Tricolored Blackbirds at Lower Klamath N.W.R. mid-Jan+ was exceptional (KS). A tally of 91 W. Meadowlarks at

R.N.W.R. 19 Dec was excellent for Washington during winter (JE). A Yellowheaded Blackbird was at F.R.R. 28 Dec (A Asche, M. Mafia), but they are rare during winter on the westside. A Hooded Oriole in Brookings, Curry, 29 Dec provided only about the 7th Oregon winter record (K Goldwater). The Com. Redpoll influx of Nov tapered off somewhat through the winter Reports from the westside, where rare, included 25+ near Santiam Flats/Detroit L, Marion/Linn, 5 Dec (SD), one at Elma, Grays Harbor, 5 Dec (PtS), and one in Eugene, Lane, 6-7 Jan (B. Combs). Peak eastside counts included 250 near Enterprise, Wallowa, 12 Dec (PaS). Single Hoary Redpolls were near Tonasket, Okanogan, 22 Dec (†GGe, †VN) and Winthrop, Okanogan, 1 Feb (†KB, B Morse); there are about 10 previous Washington records.

ADDENDA

The following rarities were submitted without documentation: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Tricolored Blackbird (in Washington), Common Grackle, and Red Fox Sparrow

Several highly unusual records from summer and fall 1999 have come to light A **Mottled Petrel** found dead at Pacific, WA, 3 Jul, added to the impressive list of Apr–Aug 1999 vagrants from Beringia (C. Richardson, *Burke Museum). Three Glaucous Gulls at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 3 Jun were unprecedented for summer (PP, *Oregon Birds* 26:123–127) A **Northern Hawk Owl** at Stevens 16 Oct was only about the 10th for Washington, and the earliest ever by six days (†R. Roundy) Five pairs of **Gray-headed Juncoes** in Oregon Canyon, *Malheur*, 22 Jun, represented Oregon's 4th overall and first breeding record (MD, *Oregon Birds* 26:128–129).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in **boldface**): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Eric Anderson, Tom Aversa, Nigel Ball, David Beaudette, Bob Boekelheide, Keith Brady, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craid Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Michael Donahue, Collin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), Bob Flores, Michael Force, Jim Flynn, George Gerdts (GGe), Grea Gillson, Denny Granstand, Kraig Kemper, Merlene Koliner, Gene Kridler, Ray Korpi, Bruce LaBar, David Lauten, Allison Mickel, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Peninsula), Michael Patterson, Phil Pickering, Steve Pink, Gene Revelas, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, Russell Rogers (WA), Rick Romea (RR), Owen Schmidt, Stephen Shunk, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PtS). Paul Sullivan (PaS), Ruth Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom, Greg Toffic, Paula Vanderhuel, Dennis Vroman, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Bob Woodley.