

# Oregon–Washington



## Steven Mlodinow

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

## Alan Contreras

795 E. 29th Avenue  
Eugene, Oregon 97405  
(acontr@mindspring.com)

## Bill Tweit

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

The Region had another fabulous and fun fall, with rarities, range expansions, and irruptions, but two stories vie for top billing: Warblers and Seabirds. The Region had 26 species of warblers this fall, perhaps not that impressive to our friends in California, but almost certainly unprecedented in the Pacific Northwest. Most appeared in southeastern Oregon, and perhaps increased effort there partly explains this fall's bonanza. Perhaps even more astounding are the data from a N.O.A.A. Southwest Fisheries Science Center cruise (under the auspices of Dr. L. Ballance) that passed through Washington and

Oregon several times, spending seven days during August, ten days during September, five days during October, and two days during November in our waters. Xantus's Murrelets have been rumored to spend the nonbreeding season well off our shores, and this fall's cruises certainly supported that hypothesis—but which Xantus's subspecies predominates?

Beyond the above headlines, there was still much to cheer about. There were 34 records of 28 species that warranted boldface type, including two first Regional records, six second state records, and three third state records. The most amazing of the lot was the first Eurasian Hobby record for the contiguous United States.

Regarding the weather, it was a tale of two falls. The first half of the fall was warm and quite dry, especially away from w. Washington. The latter half was very wet, especially in November, and temperatures generally remained moderate.

**Abbreviations:** F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney.); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos); O. S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor); P.N.P. (Pt. No Pt., Kitsap); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark.); Y.R.D. (Yakima R. delta, Benton, WA). "Eastside" and "westside" indicate the eastern and western slopes of the Cascade crest, respectively.

## LOONS THROUGH GROUSE

Peak loon counts from seawatches in Lincoln included 3000 Red-throats 25 Nov, 23,000 Pacifics 16 Nov, and 1000 Commons 9 Nov (PP). Single Red-throats at Wenatchee, Chelan 29 Nov (DB) and Wickiup Res., Deschutes 18 Sep (KO) were on the eastside, where very rare. Seven westside Yellow-billed Loons, from 17 Oct onward, was a bit above average. A concentration of 600 Red-necked Grebes at Marrowstone Point, Jefferson 20 Oct may have set a Regional record (S MacKay), while a gathering of 67 Eared Grebes at Utsalady Bay, Island 10 Nov provided a new high count for w. Washington (SM). Thirteen westside Clark's Grebes, from 23 Sep onwards, was about average.

Oregon's 2nd and the Region's 4th Shy Albatross was at Perpetua Bank 7 Oct (TS); previous records were all Sep-Jan. The NOAA researchers found 10 Laysan Albatrosses off the Oregon coast between 24 Oct and 2 Nov (MF). Only 3 were found on regular pelagic trips: one on Perpetua Bank, Lincoln 6 Oct and 2 there 7 Oct (TS). Northern Fulmar numbers were moderately low, with generally fewer than 200 per trip except in the 2nd half of Aug, when counts ranged up to 1000. Fulmar are rare away from the outer coast, so one near Sequim, Clallam 13 Oct was noteworthy (SM, DD). NOAA researchers encountered 12 Mottled Petrels off Oregon, including 6 birds 37–55 km off Tillamook 1 Nov, 3 birds about 276 km off Cape Arago, Coos 2 Nov, two birds about 368 km off Cape Blanco, Curry 20 Oct, and a single 309 km w. of the Chetco R mouth, Curry 24 Oct (MF, C. Oedekoven); there were only about 12 previous Regional records of live birds, all Nov-Apr. A Dark-rumped Petrel was 423 km off Pt. St. George 10 Sep (RRw, MF), this bird would just have been within Oregon if the boundary was extended that far to sea. There is one previous Regional record: a bird found 497 km off Cape Arago, Coos 19 Oct 1986 (Pyle et al 1993, in *Western Birds*), but to the south, approximately 13 have been recorded in California, spanning late Apr to late Aug. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were excellent, averaging 440 per trip, with a large peak of 2536 off Westport 22 Sep (BT). Only 16 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found, a poor total for the amount of effort. Buller's Shearwater numbers were unimpressive, averaging 33 per trip and peaking at only 190 off Westport 22 Sep (BT). Sooty Shearwater numbers continued to improve: both the average of 3000 per trip and the peak of 10,000 off Westport 22



This nominate Xantus's Murrelet landed on a research vessel about 29 km off Cape Blanco, Oregon, on 20 October 2001. N.O.A.A. researchers encountered unprecedented numbers of Xantus's Murrelets off the Oregon and Washington coasts this fall; most were of the nominate race. Photographs by Michael P. Force.

Sep (BT) were increases over the recent past. The onshore peak count of 250,000 off Clatsop Spit 5 Sep (MP) was phenomenal for recent years. A respectable total of 56 Short-tailed Shearwaters was reported from pelagic trips, primarily from late Sep onward. Manx Shearwaters were off Westport 4 Aug (BLa) and at O. S. 10-16 Aug (†PtS, BSh); almost all records have been Apr-Oct. A well-described **Black-vented Shearwater** seen from Boiler Bay 11 Nov would represent the 2nd or 3rd Oregon record if accepted (†PP). A **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** off Westport 6 Sep provided Washington's 2nd record (†RTS, †BLa); the first was also off Westport on 23 Jul 1984 (Tweit and Paulson 1994, in *Washington Birds*).

Brandt's Cormorant movements peaked at 3300 at Boiler Bay 28 Sep (PP). Some impressive concentrations of American White Pelicans remained in the westside's interior after last summer's irruption, including 102 lingering through Aug and Sep in the Portland/Ridgefield area (D. Mandell, HN) and 98 at Hyatt L., *Jackson* 26 Aug (P Trail); the only reports from the outer coast were of 5 at Tillamook 9 Sep (JG) and one at O. S. 5 Oct (K. Wolgemuth). Brown Pelicans arrived late but in numbers, with large concentrations remaining much later than normal, including 610 at Coos Bay 20 Nov (SM). A few, as has become the norm, wandered into the Puget Sound area, totalling 6 birds 23 Sep-3 Nov. Another Brown Pelican near McMinnville, *Yamhill* 30 Oct provided a very rare interior westside record (*vide* T. Love). A tally of 127 Great Egrets at Ridgefield 13 Sep may well be the highest ever for w. Washington (JE). Snowy Egrets continue to increase in the Region as evidenced by 3 in Washington and one in nw. Oregon this fall: one at Blaine, *Whatcom* 22 Aug-10 Sep (†WW, J. Duemmel), 2 at Ridgefield 9-11 Oct (†JE), and one in Portland 19 Oct (I. Tomlinson). Cattle Egrets had another poor showing this fall, with

only 9 reported, primarily from the eastside: 2, Burbank, *Walla Walla* 19-31 Nov (*vide* BL) and singles near Brewster, *Okanogan* 6 Nov (H. Stout), Wenatchee, *Chelan* 8 Nov (†DB), Prescott, *Walla Walla* 9 Nov (MD), near Silvana, *Snohomish* 17 Nov (J. Osmundson, DD), near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 17-31 Nov (DD), Davenport, *Lincoln* 17-19 Nov (JA), and Coos Bay 25-31 Nov (TR, TS). A Green Heron at Yakima 12-16 Nov furnished a rare e. Washington record (R. Repp). Washington's 2nd **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was a juv. at Wenatchee 24 Sep (†DB); the first came from Walla Walla during May-Jun 1993 (Tweit and Skritez 1996, in *Washington Birds*). An imm. *Plegadis* ibis, presumably a White-faced, was at Bingen, *Klickitat* 2-22 Oct (S. Johnston, WC); despite recent spring irruptions, White-faceds remain extremely rare during fall in Washington.

At least 2 Emperor Geese were at Sauvie L./Ridgefield from 14 Oct onward (S. White, †TA); this species is almost annual among the huge wintering Cackling Goose (*B. c. minima*) flocks along the lower Columbia R. The Emperor Goose at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, now 2 years old, remained through the fall (BN). The only errant Ross's Goose this fall was near Vancouver L., *Clark* 24 Nov (SM). Brant, rare on the westside interior, were at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 9 Oct (M. Kleinbaum), Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 23 Oct (HN), Ridgefield 30 Oct (*vide* JE), and Junction City, *Lane* 12 Nov (P. Sherrell). Despite earlier reports of their demise in this column, at least one phenotypically pure American Black Duck survives at Everett, *Snohomish*—a female on 14 Oct (†EH, MB). Surf Scoters were present in excellent numbers on the eastside, with 26 in e. Washington and 7 in e. Oregon, mostly during mid- and late Oct; the first was found near Orondo, *Douglas* 26 Aug (DB), and the maximum was 13 at Rock L., *Whitman*, 14 Oct (CS). White-winged Scoters had a similar showing during the

same time frame, with 27 in e. Washington and 3 in e. Oregon; the maximum was 6 at Sprague L., *Adams* 14 Oct (BF, CS). A total of 920 Black Scoters flew s. past Boiler Bay 20 Nov (PP); this is an exceptional count, especially for so far south. The only eastside Long-tailed Duck was at Bridgeport, *Douglas* 15 Aug into Oct (M. Spencer, R. Hendrick); this bird had likely summered locally.

White-tailed Kites continue to increase in the Region, highlighted by a maximum of 28 at Finley N.W.R., *Benton* 8 Oct (PV, MC). Red-shouldered Hawk numbers also continue to increase. Unprecedented, 9 were found in e. Oregon: 5 in *Harney* plus 2 at Tumalo Res., *Deschutes* 22 Aug (SS) and 2 at Sparks L., *Deschutes* 10 Sep (AJ). In Washington, one at Conboy L., *Klickitat* 12 Sep provided e. Washington's 3rd record (†JE), while one at Skagit W.M.A. 27 Sep was the state's northernmost ever (†TA, SG); others were at Pierce N.W.R. 19 Sep (M. Hayes), Ridgefield 20 Oct (WC), and Brady, *Grays Harbor* throughout period (ph. RS, †TA). Two Broad-winged Hawks were found, both away from hawkwatches: Timberwolf Mtn., *Yakima* 9 Sep (AS) and near Lebanon, *Linn* 30 Sep (B. Thackaberry). Swainson's Hawks are very rare on the westside, especially during fall, so one at W. Eugene, *Lane* 30 Aug was noteworthy (LM, D. Arendt). Harlan's Hawk (*B. j. harlani*) numbers seem to have been increasing over the last decade, highlighted this fall by a maximum of 6 in the Kittitas Valley 1 Nov (TA). Ferruginous Hawks, very rare on the westside, were at Eugene, *Lane* 3 Sep (AJ), Finley N.W.R. 7 Sep (R.&S. Maulding), *Linn* 15-16 Sep (J. Fleischer), and Mt Hood 26 Oct (J. Olson). A Rough-legged Hawk near Gordon, *Whitman* 25 Aug was more than a month early (RH). A pale male Merlin, probably *F. c. richardsonii*, was at Hanford, *Benton* 29 Nov (BL). The most amazing bird of this stunning fall was an ad. **Eurasian Hobby** snapping up dragon-

flies in Seattle 20 Oct (KA, vt. P. Cozens); there are only about 6 other records from North America, all from Alaska. Washington falconers felt there was very little chance that this bird was an escapee (B Anderson). A Gyrfalcon was near Floras L., Curry 21 Oct (DL, KC) and was refound at the New R mouth, Coos 17-18 Nov (TR); Gyrs are extremely rare in sw. Oregon. The only other Gyrfalcon was at Samish Flats, Skagit 11-31 Nov (BL, NL). Approximately 8 westside Prairie Falcons included an early individual at Tangent, Linn, 29 Aug (J. Fleischer). Two Greater Sage-Grouse at FEALE, Benton 17 Nov were at a location where they had been thought extirpated (NL, BL), however, there have been a couple reports from this location over the past two years.

### PLOVERS THROUGH AUKLETS

One hundred golden-plovers, subpar, were reported from the westside, with Pacifics reportedly outnumbering Americans by 2:1; however, the picture is far from clear as, at times, the same flock of plovers was identified differently by different observers. Indeed, almost no golden-plovers were left unidentified, a condition that arouses great anxiety on the part of this column's authors. Rare on the eastside, single American Golden-Plovers were at Joseph, Wallowa 19 Sep (F&S Conley), Richland, Baker 15 Nov (E. McVicker), and Othello, Adams 21 Sep (BF). A Black-necked Stilt at Othello 29 Sep was among the latest ever for Washington (SM, CB). An American Avocet near Othello 22 Oct was exceptionally late for e. Washington (BF), and one at L. Abert, Lake 11 Nov was similarly delayed in e. Oregon (SS). Avocets on the westside, where rare, included one at Mollala, Clackamas 13-24 Aug (ES) and 3 near Florence, Lane 20 Sep (TM, AM). An unprecedented 73 Solitary Sandpipers were reported, mostly from the eastside, with a Regional record tally of 15 at Lind Coulee, Grant 12 Aug (SM, DD). Willets are very rare in Washington away from the outer coast, so singles at Blaine, Whatcom 25 Aug-3 Sep (C. Blake) and Kennedy Creek, Mason 15 Oct (PtS, RS) were noteworthy. A Whimbrel at L. Kahlotus, Franklin 11 Aug was in e. Washington where very rare (SM, DD), while one at Davis L., Deschutes 5 Aug was in e. Oregon where rare (M. Hunter, D. Horgan). Two Long-billed Curlews were near Brownsville, Linn 21 Aug (HH), and one was at Alvadore, Lane 26-27 Aug (M. Decker, D. Brown); they are rare on the westside away from the outer coast Bar-tailed Godwits had an excellent showing again this fall. At least 3 were at Tokeland: an ad 1 Aug-23 Oct (ph. RS, PtS), with a 2nd ad. 23 Oct (JG), plus a juv. 16 Oct into Dec (BS). Juvs. were also at Blaine, Whatcom 14-22 Sep (†J. Duemmel, vt. SM) and Empire, Coos 3-31 Nov (TR) Marbled Godwits were unusually numer-

ous in w. Washington, including a record tally of 850 at Tokeland 7 Oct-15 Nov (EH, TA) and away from the outer coast, a maximum of 60 near Sequim, Clallam 24 Sep (TA). A Hudsonian Godwit at Blaine 26 Aug was about the 24th for Washington (†C. Blake, L. Dunlap); most previous records have been late Aug-early Oct.

A concentration of 120 Red Knots at O. S. 13 Aug may represent a Regional record high count for fall (S. MacKay), and one at Y.R.D. 4 Sep was in e. Washington, where very rare (NL). Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers seemed roughly normal, with about 56 reported in Washington, including a maximum of 14 at Othello, Adams 15 Aug (BF); 2 at Othello on 29 Sep furnished a Regional record late date (SM). A concentration of 5000 Least Sandpipers at N.S.C.B. would have been noteworthy at any time but was especially so on the late date of 2 Nov (TR). Eleven Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in Oregon from 4 Sep to 22 Oct, including a maximum of 3 at Fernhill Wetlands, Washington 14 Oct (E. Knight), was well above average; Washington had only 2 Sharp-taileds: one at O. S. 8 Sep (BW) and a record-late bird at Brady, Grays Harbor 30 Nov (ph. PtS, RS). A Curlew Sandpiper was at N.S.C.B. 1 Oct (TR, vt. DL); there are fewer than 20 Regional records. Stilt Sandpipers were scarce, with only 17 reported; singles at Othello and Scootney Res., Adams 13 Oct were exceptionally late for the eastside (BF, DR, PB). Fifteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers 13 Aug-16 Sep was well above the recent average of about 3 per fall; especially noteworthy was one on the eastside, where extremely rare, at Redmond, Deschutes 24 Aug (K. Owen), and singles in the Puget Trough, where very rare, near Nisqually, Thurston 6-10 Sep (BSh) and at Samish Flats, Skagit 25 Aug (†MB). The maximum was 3 at O. S. 7-15 Sep (†R. Lawson, BW). Four Ruffs this fall was about average: Necanicum estuary, Clatsop 24 Aug (TT), Agate L., Jackson 31 Aug (H. Sands), near Tillamook 7-16 Sep (W. Gross), and Bandon, Coos 9 Sep-1 Oct (D. Heyerly, TR, DL, KC).

South Polar Skua numbers were the highest in at least 15 years; a tally of 21 off Westport 22 Sep broke the old Washington record of 17 and exceeded most seasonal totals for the last decade (BT). Jaeger counts also improved substantially this fall: Pomarines averaged 25 per trip with a peak of 147 off Westport 22 Sep (BT). The onshore high count of Parasitic Jaegers was a stunning 25 at P.N.P. 19 Sep (VN), but offshore numbers were average. A Parasitic Jaeger at Klamath Falls 13 Sep was on the eastside, where rare (D. Haupt). Long-tailed Jaeger numbers were better than they have been for a decade, with a peak of 126 off Newport 25 Aug (GG) and an average of 16 per pelagic. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger, extremely rare on the eastside, was at L.

Lenore, Grant 25 Aug (vt. SM, CB). Washington's 3rd Laughing Gull was an imm. at Wenatchee, Chelan 4 Sep (†DB); previous records were from the outer coast 14 Aug 1982 and 1 Sep 1975 (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). The pattern of Franklin's Gull occurrences in the Region continues to change; numbers remain down in the Puget Trough, where only 3 were found 16 Aug-22 Oct, but elsewhere on the westside, numbers are remain higher than normal, with 4 reported 18 Sep-13 Nov. Five were also found on the eastside, where rare, 12 Aug-14 Oct. The only Little Gull was at P.N.P. 18-27 Sep (VN). A Heermann's Gull at Fernhill Wetlands, Washington 23 Oct was inland, where very rare (HN, D. Albright) A juv. Mew Gull at L. Lenore, Grant 25 Aug was likely the earliest ever for the eastside (SM, CB) California Gull numbers were up this year, with peak tallies of 20,000 in Lincoln 22 Nov (PP) and 15,000 at O. S. 1 Aug (PWS). A Glaucous Gull at Ocean City, Grays Harbor 5 Aug was more than two months early (ph. D. Hayden); only 3 others were seen 16 Nov+. An astonishing 16 Sabine's Gulls were found on the eastside 7-29 Sep, with maxima of 4 at LaGrande, Union 14 Sep (TB) and 4 at Sprague L., Adams 17 Sep (JA). Offshore, Sabine's Gull numbers were above average as well, with about 75 per trip; three outings had counts exceeding 200 (GG, BT, BLA) Approximately 15 Forster's Terns were reported in w. Oregon 16 Aug-20 Sep, with a maximum of 12 at F.R.R. 20 Sep (DDW). A Forster's at Edmonds, Snohomish 22 Oct was the only one in w. Washington (DD); notably, this species is roughly annual in the Puget Trough, with most records being surprisingly late from early Oct to early Nov.

Common Murre numbers reflected another successful breeding season, peaking off Westport 13 Aug at 2480 with lots of juvs. (TRW). An oiled Thick-billed Murre was found near Newport, Lincoln 25 Aug, representing Oregon's 4th record, the 9 previous Regional records have mostly been from winter, but two were from Sep. A Long-billed Murrelet 19 km w. of Pomeroy, Garfield 13 Aug furnished Washington's 6th record and the first from the Region's eastside (\*WSU Museum).

A juv. Ancient Murrelet at Chief Joseph Dam, Douglas 10-14 Aug was on the eastside, where extremely rare (ph. M. Scuderi, R. Fischer), the date is also early for anywhere in the Region Pickering totalled 15,000 Cassin's Auklets moving past Boiler Bay, Lincoln 6 Oct, perhaps setting an Oregon record. However, the Aug-Sep offshore counts of fewer than 20 per trip, prior to the arrival of n. migrants in Oct, indicated continuing depression of local breeding. And Tufted Puffin numbers stank, as they have for more than a decade, averaging 0.5 per trip.

**SA** Mostly due to N.O.A.A. research, more Xantus's Murrelets were found in the Region this year than ever before. From public birding pelagic trips, only *S. h. scrippsi* were found, including a pair 29 km w. of Garibaldi, Tillamook 16 Sep (CR, S. Russell), one 40 km off Boiler Bay 10 Aug (†GG), and 2 off Westport 4 Aug (†BLa). Additionally, 2 Xantus's of unknown race flew past Boiler Bay 2 Oct (†PP). Researchers' pelagic efforts located 35+ *S. h. hypoleucus*, 4 *scrippsi*, and 6 unidentified Xantus's Murrelets off Oregon from mid-Aug into late Oct (MF, RRw). In Washington, 2 *hypoleucus* were 66 km w. of Leadbetter Point 6 Sep, and pairs of *scrippsi* were 156 km w. of Westport 13 Aug and 110 km s. of Destruction I. 5 Sep (RRw). Eight unidentified Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelets were also found off Washington 13 Aug–5 Sep (RRw).

Michael Force, who has conducted several late summer and early winter oceanographic surveys off Oregon and Washington, noted that "of the 106 Xantus's Murrelets I've seen off Oregon and Washington, at least 90% of them were *hypoleucus*. Most of these were beyond 90 km from shore. As one moves farther south, *scrippsi* begins to predominate. It would appear that *hypoleucus* leapfrogs over *scrippsi*, particularly far from shore." There were only three previous Regional reports of *hypoleucus* scattered between Jun and Sep.

### PIGEONS THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

Band-tailed Pigeons are very rare on the eastside during fall, so one at Malheur 14 Oct was noteworthy (AC, R. Hoyer). The season's only Snowy Owls were singles near Spokane 9-19 Nov (JA, WC) and Eugene, Lane 23-24 Nov (DDW, M. Nikas). Burrowing Owls on the westside were at Baskett Slough, Polk 15 Oct-Dec (K. Sparkman) and Medford, Jackson 26 Oct (N. Barrett), representing a typical fall. Great Gray Owls nested again at Havillah, Okanogan as evidenced by 2 young found with their parents in late Aug (BSu); actual nesting records from Washington are few. Another Great Gray at Wenaha Tucannon Wilderness 19 Sep provided a first Columbia record (MD). During Sep-Oct, 8 Boreal Owls were reported from traditional locations, 4 in the Cascades and 4 in the Blue and Wallowa Mts. The Eugene Vaux's Swift roost peaked at 15,000 on 25 Sep (B. Newhouse). A **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at Gearhart, Clatsop 6-14 Oct provided Oregon's 2nd record (ph. S. Hinton); the

first was in Grant in Sep 1998. More Lewis's Woodpeckers than usual were found in w. Oregon, with a maximum of 10 near Perrydale, Polk 11 Sep (BTi); only one was in w. Washington, near Brady, Grays Harbor 27 Sep (J. Paulios). A sapsucker in advanced molt at Hood Park, Walla Walla 13 Oct (†MD, †S. Steinberg) bore several characteristics of Yellow-bellied, but the timing of the molt was more typical of Red-naped, and the bird may well have been a hybrid between the two species. Three Red-breasted Sapsuckers at Frenchglen, Harney 13-14 Oct were a rare find in the e. third of Oregon (SS, M. Kocher, P. Blatt, H. Blank).

A Willow Flycatcher at Washtucna, Adams 30 Sep provided e. Washington's 2nd latest fall date (BF, RH, SM). A rash of Least Flycatchers broke out at Washtucna, with one on 8 Sep (CC, JC), 3 on 9 Sep (BF, RH), and 2 on 15 Sep (BF); another at nearby Hooper 30 Sep furnished Washington's latest record (BF, RH, SM). Previously, only 8 Least Flycatchers had been found during fall in Washington, half of which were at Washtucna. Black Phoebes continue to push northward, with singles at Willamina, Yamhill 20 Oct (C. Karlen, J. Dippolo) and Dayton, Yamhill 18 Nov (FS). Another at Redmond, Deschutes 16 Sep-9 Oct was in e. Oregon, where very rare (KO, SS). Six westside Say's Phoebes this fall was near the average (about 5 per year). Ash-throated Flycatchers are very rare on the Oregon coast, so singles at Langlois, Curry 11 Aug (TJW) and Cape Blanco, Curry 3 Nov (HN) were noteworthy; the latter bird was also about two months late. Twelve Tropical Kingbirds this fall brought the Regional all-time total to nearly 100, over half of which were found during the last 5 years. The 10 Oregon Tropicals were 4 Oct-18 Nov, and Washington's records consisted of singles at O. S. 28 Oct-6 Nov (KA, RTS, BT, vt. SM) and Stanwood, Snohomish 12-24 Nov (†DD, †DB, ph. PB); the Stanwood bird provided only the 2nd Washington record away from the outer coast and Olympic Pen. Oregon's 2nd **Cassin's Kingbird**—and first since Aug 1935—graced a farmyard near Canby, Clackamas from 10 Oct into Dec (ES, TS, R. Hoyer); there are but two nw. California records, one from May and one from Oct (Harris 1996, Northwest California Birds). A Western Kingbird at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor 6 Oct was a month late for Washington and on the outer coast, where very rare in fall (†PtS, RS). An Eastern Kingbird near Corvallis, Benton 29 Aug provided a very rare fall westside record (E. Eltzroth).

Rare for the Oregon coast was a Loggerhead Shrike at N.S.C.B. 8-31 Nov (TR). Only 6 Blue Jays were found, all 18 Oct+, with an individual at McKenzie Bridge, Lane 18 Oct (L.&T. Brown) providing the only westside record; the Region has recently averaged about 8 per fall. Three

Western Scrub-Jays at Sisters, Deschutes 11 Sep (SS) and one at Frenchglen, Harney 29 Sep (TJ) were beyond this species's current but ever expanding range. A Pinyon Jay in Cascade-Siskiyou N.M., Jackson provided a very rare westside record (P. Trail). A Purple Martin at Wenatchee 16 Aug provided Chelan's first record (†DB). A congregation of 20,000 Barn Swallows near Dayton, Yamhill 15 Sep was remarkable but below last year's total (FS). A Rock Wren at O S 28 Oct (G. Gerdt) provided heavily birded Grays Harbor with its 2nd record, while one at Astoria, Clatsop 10-16 Sep was on the Oregon coast, where very rare (S. Warner). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Lone Ranch S.P., Curry 24 Sep was on the Oregon coast, where also very rare (DM). A Veery at Rattlesnake Ridge 22 Sep provided Benton's first record (DR, PB); migrant Veeries are very rarely noted in the Region. A Swainson's Thrush in Josephine 6 Nov was more than a month late (DV). Late Gray Catbirds were noted at several locations including Wenatchee, Chelan 26 Sep (DB), Lyons Ferry, Franklin 30 Sep (BF), and Malheur 25 Oct (T&K Steele). Eight Northern Mockingbirds this fall was above recent norm of about 6 per fall; Washington records included singles at Edmonds, Snohomish 5 Nov (DD), Skagit W.M.A. 18 Nov (E. Peasley), and near Stanwood, Snohomish 25 Nov (H. Ballash, M. Roening). A Brown Thrasher at Astoria, Clatsop 4-6 Nov was about Oregon's 22nd (†MP). Following closely on the heels of two records this spring, Oregon's 7th **Phainopepla** was near Eugene, Lane 30 Aug (†C Downs).

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Tennessee Warbler** at Mt. Pleasant, Skamania 4 Sep was about the 11th for Washington (†WC), most previous records have been late Aug-mid Sep. In Oregon, where annual, Tennessees were at Riley, Harney 13 Sep (AJ), near Redmond, Deschutes 27 Sep & 9 Oct (KO), and Page Springs, Harney 13 Oct (SS). Northern Parulas at Malheur 1-2 Oct (WW, M) and near Brookings, Curry 6 Oct (DM) added to 50+ previous Oregon records, most of which are from May-Jun. A Yellow Warbler at Moolack Beach, Lincoln 23 Nov was more than a month late (Tanya Bray). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Seattle 19 Sep was Washington's 15th (†KA), and one at Malheur 16 Sep added to approximately 40 Oregon records (D. Bailey); most previous records have been May-Jun, and the Seattle bird was only the 3rd during fall in Washington. A **Magnolia Warbler** at Wenatchee, Chelan 2 Oct was only Washington's 11th (†DB). Oregon's 13th **Cape May Warbler** was at Malheur 12 Sep (AJ) and was followed shortly by another at Frenchglen, Harney 28 Sep (S. Wright). Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were at Malheur 23 Sep (GL), Riley 30 Sep-3 Oct

(D Heyerly), and Frenchglen 6 Oct (N. Strycker); there are more than 30 previous Oregon records, but none since 1998. A movement of 2000+ Yellow-rumped Warblers at Wenatchee 2 Oct may well have set a Washington record (DB). Two Hermit Warblers at Snow Mtn., Grant, OR 15 Aug were e of the Cascades, where very rare (CM). A Palm Warbler at Pendleton R. Parkway, Umatilla 20 Oct was on the eastside, where very rare (A. Skirvin). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Malheur 12 Sep added to about 10 previous Oregon records (AJ) An unidentified "Baypoll" was at Spokane 14 Oct (†CS); there are no Washington records of Bay-breasted and only about 13 Blackpoll records, none after 20 Sep. Blackpoll Warblers at Malheur 12 Sep (M. Rudolph) and Fields, Harney 22 Sep (TR) were in se. Oregon, where now annual, but one at Brookings 9 Oct (AC) was on the outer coast, where still very rare. Seven Black-and-white Warblers in Oregon 5 Aug-21 Oct was well above the norm. A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Halfway, Baker 9-20 Nov was Oregon's 8th and the latest by about one month (ph. M.&D. Hammar). Even rarer was Oregon's 3rd **Worm-eating Warbler** at Winchuck St. Wayside, Curry 2 Nov (†DM, K. Goldwater); previous records were from Malheur during Jun and Sep. A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported by an experienced observer at Fields, Harney 14 Sep (D. Bailey), but details have not yet arrived; if accepted, this would represent a first Regional record. Look for more info in an addendum to the winter 2001-2002 column. A concentration of 310 Wilson's Warblers at Washtucna, Adams 8 Sep is surely a Washington record high count (CC, JC), while a lone Wilson's at Wenatchee 20-26 Nov provided e. Washington's latest ever (DB). A **Canada Warbler**, Oregon's 7th, was at Malheur 8 Sep (S. Steinberg, AC, HH, FM); four of the previous records were 4 Sep-4 Oct. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Astoria, Clatsop 15 Aug provided a very rare record for the n. Oregon coast (L. Cain).

Continuing the recent onslaught of **Summer Tanagers**, Oregon's 13th-15th were near Beaverton, Washington 28 Sep (†W. Wenger), Portland 13 Oct (JG), and Bend, Deschutes 17-25 Nov (DT, J. Meredith). A Western Tanager at Port Townsend, Jefferson 8 Nov (TA) was quite tardy, but one at Seattle 27 Nov was almost two months late (TA). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, very rare during fall, were at Astoria, Clatsop 26 Aug (MP), Portland 26 Sep (M. Houck), and Riley, Harney 8-12 Oct (N. Strycker, TM, J. Carlson). Extremely rare for the Oregon coast was a Green-tailed Towhee at Newport, Lincoln 28 Sep (R. Cheek). An American Tree Sparrow near Cape Blanco 6 Nov was Curry's 3rd (TRW); others in w. Oregon included one at Newport 31 Oct (HN) and 2 at Baskett Slough, Polk 11-31 Nov (M. Ratzlaff). Clay-colored Sparrows had another

exceptional fall, with approximately 12 in sw. Oregon 9 Sep-26 Nov, and 2 in Washington: Hooper, Adams 22-24 Aug (†BF) and Woodland, Cowlitz 24-31 Nov (SM); Oregon has had 28 Clay-colored Sparrows during the last four falls compared with about 32 total prior to 1994! Is this a change in observer awareness, or a sign of population increase and/or range expansion? Another *Spizella* that has been increasingly reported from the westside is Brewer's Sparrow. This fall singles were near Tillamook 4 Aug (W. Gross) and F.R.R. 22 Aug-2 Sep (LM). Rare for the outer coast were single Lark Sparrows near Bandon, Coos 24 Aug (DL, KC) and at Pistol R., Curry 2 Oct (DM). A Red Fox Sparrow was at Merlin, Josephine 2 Nov (†DV); 3 others were reported from Oregon without documentation. Swamp Sparrow numbers were above average, with at least 20 in w. Oregon and 5 in Washington. White-throated Sparrows were also present in good numbers, as highlighted by a maximum of 15 at Millacoma Marsh, Coos 17 Nov (TR, DL, KC). Eleven Harris's Sparrows in Oregon plus 5 in Washington provided an excellent Regional fall total. A concentration of 6 Golden-crowned Sparrows at Sacajawea S.P., Franklin 17 Nov was exceptional for the eastern third of Washington (DR). Oregon's 9th **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was near Cape Blanco, Curry 9 Oct—the 3rd consecutive Oct for that location (TJW)! Shortly thereafter, others were found at N.S.C.B. 26 Oct (TR) and Lost Creek Res., Jackson 9 Nov (†DM).

Bobolinks, now annual on the Oregon coast, were at Lone Ranch, Curry 9 Sep (DM) and N.S.C.B. 5 Oct (DL, KC). Rusty Blackbirds, rare but regular in Washington, were near Nisqually, Thurston 20-23 Nov (BSh), near Vancouver L., Clark 24 Nov (vt. SM), and at Brady, Grays Harbor 25 Nov (†PtS, RS). Washington's 7th **Common Grackle** was at Two Rivers Pk., Benton 8 Aug (†DR); amazingly, this was Washington's first in fall. Oregon's 5th **Orchard Oriole** was at Newport, Lincoln 13-16 Oct (†R. Smith, †R. Freeman, FS). Gray-crowned Rosy- Finches have become very rare in w. Washington's lowlands over the last decade, so one in Seattle 21 Oct was noteworthy (EH, N. Hunn, vt. SM). Two Purple Finches at Sullivan L., Pend Oreille 5 Sep were well e. of their usual haunts (TA). White-winged Crossbills were widely reported in mountainous areas of ne. Washington, with maxima of 45 at Salmo Peak, Pend Oreille 5 Sep (TA) and 35 near Rogers L., Okanogan 24 Sep (C. Wright). The only report from w. Washington was of 3 at Johnson Ridge, Snohomish 11 Nov (KK). Common Redpolls staged a major invasion, with flocks of 20+ widely reported across Washington 4 Nov+, including a relatively high percentage from the westside. Westside maxima included 40 at Lummi Flats, Whatcom 11 Nov (HO, J. Edwards) and 40

at Stanwood, Snohomish 18 Nov (DB). The southernmost westside reports included 2 at Detroit Flats, Marion 23 Nov (J. Livaudais), one in Portland 22 Nov (A. Shalas), and 2 others in Portland 29 Nov (I. Thomlinson). On the eastside, redpolls were found as far s. as Bend, Deschutes. Among the Common hordes was Washington's 13th, and w. Washington's 2nd, **Hoary Redpoll** at Lummi Flats, Whatcom 11 Nov (†HO, J. Edwards).

## Addenda

For the 6th consecutive summer, a Yellow-billed Loon was found in Washington: Diamond Pt., Clallam 16 Jun 2001 (ph. RS, PtS)! A Thayer's Gull at Dungeness, Clallam 16 Jul 2000 furnished an extremely rare summer record (ph. DP). The Red-shouldered Hawk at Naselle, Pacific 21 May 2001 was rejected by the Washington B.R.C. An Ovenbird was found dead in Seattle 17 Jun 2001 providing Washington's 17th record (\*Univ Puget Sound Slater Museum, DP).

## Initialed observers (subregional editors in bold-face):

Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, **Tom Aversa** (WA), David Beaudette, Phil Bartley, Casey Beachell, Trent Bray, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Marcia Cutler, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (Clark), Bob Flores, Michael Force, Steve Gerstle, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, **Denny Granstrand** (Yakima), Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, Tim Janzen, Alvaro Jaramillo, Ken Knitter, Bruce Labar (BLa), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Gerard Lillie, Maitreya (M), David Mandell (DMA), Frank Mayer, Larry McQueen, Alison Mickel, **Tom Mickel** (Lane), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Hal Opperman, Kimdel Owen, Michael Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Craig Roberts, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Richard Rowlett (RRw), Floyd Schrock, Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Bill Shelmerdine (BSh), Tim Shelmerdine, Steve Shunk, P.W. Smith (PWS), Elmer Specht, **Dan Stephens** (Chelan), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), **Paul Sullivan** (PaS, E. OR), Ruth Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom (BSu), Charles Swift, Todd Thornton, Bill Tice (BTi), Paula Vanderheul, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Wayne Weber, Bob Woodley

