

White-crowned Sparrows are rarely found in winter as far n. as the cen. interior, where an imm. was found in P.G. 12 Dec (TH). Harris's Sparrows rarely stray as far as the outer coast, but one individual was in Tofino 2, 9 & 28 Dec (AD). Very rare in winter in the Peace R. area, a Red-winged Blackbird looked out of place at Arras 15 Dec (MP). An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird provided a first winter record at Vanderhoof 1 Jan (SK, LL, NK, TH). Both rare in winter, a Rusty Blackbird and a Brown-headed Cowbird were visiting a feeder in Nanaimo 1 Dec (GLM). Kelowna's male **Great-tailed Grackle** first discovered in May 2000 furnished a first Canadian C.B.C. record 15 Dec (ph. DGC) and remained through the period for its 2nd consecutive winter (m. ob.). Casual in winter on the outer coast, a Bullock's

Oriole was in Tofino 3 & 9 Dec (AD). The recent uninterrupted series of mild winters has allowed House Finches to flourish. New record C.B.C. tallies included: 53 at P.G., 161 at Quesnel, and 203 at Williams L. A female-type Evening Grosbeak, rare in Whse., was at a Riverdale feeder through Jan (RE).

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# Oregon–Washington



species had first or second winter records, and 16 species of warblers were found this winter, better than some autumn seasons. Irruptive species formed a remarkably diverse group, including Emperor Goose, Barn Swallow, and Common Redpoll. Also, many kudos to the observers who put in time researching and documenting subspecific identification, tallying sparrow reports, or otherwise going beyond the call of duty. This Region is truly seeing a boom in observer effort and knowledge. The weather this winter was generally warmer and wetter than normal through January, but became cool and dry in February

**Abbreviations:** F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., 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" refer to locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

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**T**his winter was perhaps even more extraordinary than the fall that preceded it. Rarities abounded, including two first Washington records. Perhaps more noteworthy, however, was the impressive array of lingerers and irruptions. Four non-vagrant

## LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Seven Yellow-billed Loons this winter was above recent norms. Two Clark's Grebes represented a paltry winter total, with singles at Bay Center, *Pacific* 18-20 Jan (SM, DD, TP) and Coquille, *Coos* 18 Feb (TR). A Northern Fulmar inside Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 24 Feb was as close to being inland as this species ever comes (J. Sullivan). Eight American White Pelicans at Sauvie I. 1 Dec provided the only westside record this winter (J. Pendleton)

Brown Pelicans are very rare during winter, so 6 at Coos Bay 16 Dec (TR) and 2 near Florence 17-20 Dec (V. Arnold, D. Farrar) were noteworthy; much rarer was one in the interior westside at Jackson Bottom, *Washington* 6 Dec (S. Pinnock). Single Great Egrets were at Orondo, *Douglas* 25-26 Dec (DB), Richland, *Benton* 29 Dec (M. Lilga), and WWRD. 5-12 Jan (MD); they are very rare during winter in e. Washington. Five Cattle Egrets in Washington and one in Oregon survived into winter, with the latest at Burbank, *Walla Walla* 21 Jan (D. Bagley).

One of the winter's many excitements was an invasion of Emperor Geese, the largest since 1989-90: 4, Coos Bay 5 Jan (TR); 3, Florence, *Lane* 4 Jan (D. Pettey); 3, Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* 17 Dec (EH, J. Acker); and singles at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln* 24-28 Dec (T. Morse), Bandon, *Coos* 26 Dec (TR), Ridgefield throughout period (WC), and near Bruceport, *Pacific* 18 Jan to 20 Feb (vt. SM, DD, TP). "Stumpy," the Port Angeles Emperor, remained for its 3rd winter (AS).

Not annual in the Region, a Blue Goose was on Fir I., *Skagit* 22 Dec (†E. Level). Ross's Geese numbers continue to increase, with 5 in w Oregon and 4 in Washington. Rare away from saltwater, Black Brant were at F.R.R. 1 & 27 Jan (S. Maulding, J. Sullivan) and Ridgefield 26 Dec & 24-28 Feb (DE, EA, S. McFall). A concentration of 900 Trumpeter Swans at Mt. Vernon, *Skagit* 13 Jan provided evidence of continued population growth (TA) A drake **Falcated Duck** on the Samish Flats, *Skagit* 21 Feb into Mar provided Washington's, and the Region's, 3rd record (†TA, S. Gerstle, vt. S. Pink). Previous records include a bird shot in *Pacific* 3 Jan 1979 and a male near Sequim, *Clallam* 3 Jul 1993 (*Washington Birds* 3: 19 and 7: 11). Notably, the Samish Flats has harbored the Region's largest concentrations of Eurasian Wigeon, with a record-shattering **160** found there 1 Mar (RTS). Also present on 22 Feb were 4 Common Teal and 2 Common x Green-winged Teal (PtS, RS)! On the eastside, 11 Eurasian Wigeon constituted an above-average winter tally. Six Common Teal were reported in addition to those seen at the Samish Flats, with a maximum of 3 at Creswell, *Lane* 6 Jan (DDW); at least 4 hybrid teal were also reported. A tally of 1500 Ring-necked Ducks at Jackson Bottom, *Washington* 12 Dec may be the highest ever for the Region (HN) Westside Tufted Ducks included singles at Astoria, *Clatsop* 2 Jan (TT) and Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 15-20 Feb (P. Hicks, †B. Fischer), representing an average winter. Very rare for e. Oregon, however, was a Tufted at

Redmond, *Deschutes* 6 Feb (KO). The only eastside Surf Scoter was one at E. Wenatchee, *Douglas* 8 Dec (DB), while the only eastside Long-tailed Ducks were near Vantage, *Kittitas*, where 4 were found on 9 Jan, increasing to 8 by 18 Feb (S. Downes, S. Ray). Scoter numbers were up on the Oregon coast, with maxima of 20,000 Surf at Seaside, *Clatsop* 23 Dec (MP), 15,000 White-wingeds in n. *Lane* 17 Dec (PP), and 300 Blacks at Seaside 23 Dec (MP). A Com. Goldeneye x Bufflehead at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 2 Dec—22 Jan was a surprise (†DB).

Osprey are very rare during winter in Washington, so one at Longview, *Cowlitz* 19 Jan was noteworthy (L. & J. Goodhew). A careful survey of *Lewis* and *Thurston* revealed 35 White-tailed Kites 21 Jan, furnishing further evidence of increase in the Region (R. Orness). Now annual in w. Washington, a Red-shouldered Hawk was at Ridgefield 18-26 Feb (K. Knittle), while the ad. at Brady, *Grays Harbor* was last seen 5 Dec (TA). Fleischer found 129 Red-tailed Hawks in *Linn* on 17 Feb, a remarkable number. Ferruginous Hawk numbers were up everywhere. In e. Oregon, where 2 per winter is the norm, at least 7 were reported. In e. Washington, where not annual during winter, one was near Prosser, *Benton* 9 Feb (AS, ES), and another was near Hanford, *Benton* 26 Jan (PB). In w. Oregon, where not annual during any season, one was near Rickreall, *Polk* 9 Jan—Feb (JF) and one was at Agate L., *Jackson* 12 Feb (J. Linch). Fleischer found 110 American Kestrels in *Linn* 17 Feb. A Prairie Merlin (*F. c. richardsoni*) near Sequim, *Clallam* 19 Dec was well described (†TA); this race may be annual in Washington. A count of 9 eastside and 7 westside Gyrfalcons was well above the norm. Similarly, 12 westside Prairie Falcons was better than average. A Sora near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum* 14 Jan provided a very rare winter record (K. Stewart).

### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Pacific Golden-Plovers are not annual during winter, so one at Tangent, *Linn* 23 Dec—1 Jan was noteworthy (T. Snetsinger). An American Avocet at Coos Bay throughout the period furnished a very rare westside winter record (TR). Lesser Yellowlegs now winter annually in Oregon, but this winter's 6 was extraordinary. A Spotted Sandpiper was near Pasco, *Franklin* 3 Jan, likely last winter's bird returning (L. Ness). Marbled Godwit numbers remained exceptional this winter. Rare away from the outer coast, 30 were at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* 17 Dec (EH, J. Acker), and one was at Blaine, *Whatcom* 23-28 Feb (J. Kintner). On the outer coast, a Regional record 950 were tallied at Tokeland, *Pacific* 18

Jan (SM, DD, TP). **Bar-tailed Godwits** were finally recorded during winter, and not just in Washington, but in Oregon as well, with an overwintering juv. at Tokeland (m. ob.) and a bird lingering at Coos Bay to 7 Dec (TR, DL, KC). Eighteen Least Sandpipers, rare during winter on the eastside, were at Othello 2 Feb (BF), and another was at Y.R.D. 24 Dec—3 Jan (BL). A nominate **Rock Sandpiper** was at OS 13 Feb, likely last winter's bird returning (†BW). For the 4th consecutive winter, Dunlin were found at multiple locations in e. Washington, with high counts of 160 at Scootney Res., *Adams* 24 Feb (RH) and 85 at W.W.R.D. 5 Jan (MD, MLD); Dunlin were formerly considered very rare during winter on the eastside. A Red Phalarope at Long Beach, *Pacific* 3 Jan provided a very rare winter record (MD, MLD).

Franklin's Gulls were near Auburn, *King* 3 Dec (MB) and Brady, *Grays Harbor* 5 Dec (TA); there are only 6 previous winter Washington records. The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** returned for the 3rd consecutive winter to *Walla Walla* 6 Dec—8 Feb (MD), it made a brief excursion to Richland, *Benton* 11 Jan (BW, NL, RF, PB) and still represents Washington's only record. Only 14 Glaucous Gulls were reported, well below the long-term average. Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were at John Day Dam 1 Dec (D. Bailey) and W.W.R.D. 13-14 Jan (K. Turley, MD, MLD), there are fewer than 10 records for e. Washington. Kittiwakes are rare from Port Angeles east, so 2 at Sequim Bay, *Clallam* 24 Feb were noteworthy (G. Kridler). After a 12-year wait, Washington's 9th **Thick-billed Murre** was found about 48 km off Westport 17 Feb (†EH, †PB, †SM). All but one of the previous records lie between 6 Dec and 19 Feb, with the outlier falling on 22 Sep.

Oregon's 5th **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was at Joseph, *Wallowa* throughout the winter (F. Conley, †PaS). Fourteen Snowy Owls were reported, roughly average for a non-invasion winter. A grand total 8 Burrowing Owls in w Oregon was about three times the norm. In e. Washington, 2-3 Burrowing Owls per winter is normal, but a survey of *Grant* and *Adams* in mid-Dec revealed 19 (C. Conway)! Birders only reported 3-4, so perhaps such numbers are typical. Single Great Gray Owls, very rare on the westside, were on Samish I., *Skagit* throughout the period (D. Thompson) and at Olympia 13 Dec (D. Logan). Anna's Hummingbirds are becoming almost annual on the eastside. This season, one wintered at Kennewick, *Benton* (R. & N. Gregory), a pair wintered at Bend, *Deschutes* (DT), one was near Yakima 28 Dec—30 Jan (DG), and

another was in Yakima 10 Dec—10 Feb (DG). Unprecedented, 4 Anna's were found in *Clallam*, likely evidence of continuing range expansion (*vide* BN). A male Costa's Hummingbird was at Beaverton, *Washington* 14 Dec—Feb (B. Tollbom); there are now about 10 winter records for Oregon. A female *Selasphorus* hummingbird at Brookings, *Curry* 15 Dec was felt to be a Rufous (DM), while a male at Astoria, *Clatsop* 23 Dec was more definitively so (B. Barnett); Rufous Hummingbirds are very rare during Dec—Jan in Oregon. Four Allen's Hummingbirds at New River, *Curry* 9 Feb were a couple weeks early (TR).

Lewis's Woodpeckers were unusually numerous in the Willamette Valley, with a maximum of 7 at F.R.R. 7 Dec (DDW). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Odell L. 9 Dec provided a rare *Klamath* winter record (B. Newhouse), but 2 near LaGrande, *Union* 23 Dec and one at Trout L., *Klickitat* 28 Dec (*vide* R Rogers) were in ne. Oregon and se. Washington, where extremely rare during winter (TB). Washington's 3rd **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Kent, *King* 30 Dec—5 Jan (†D. Swayne, †TA, vt. CW); the first two records spanned mid-Dec—mid-Feb. Two more Yellow-bellieds in Oregon added to that state's 15 records: one at Bay City 15 Dec—26 Jan (D. Luthoff, B. Wong, J. Taylor) and another at Adrian, *Malheur* 17 Feb (TS). Eastern Washington, typically bereft of sapsuckers during winter's chill, was awash in *Sphyrapicus*, including 8 pure Red-breasteds and 2 apparent Red-breasted x Red-naped hybrids; most were recorded in Feb.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Washington's 4th **Black Phoebe** overwintered near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum*, having apparently been present since Oct (m. ob.); two of the three previous records were also during winter. Say's Phoebes are normally quite rare in e. Washington during winter until mid-Feb, when spring migrants return. This winter, 5 were found during Dec, and one was at Chelan Falls 4 Jan (DB). Seven Say's Phoebes in w. Oregon was a bit better than usual. Oregon's 2nd **Cassin's Kingbird** survived at Canby to 19 Dec (DVB). Mid-winter Loggerhead Shrikes are rare in e. Washington, so 2 wintering at FEALE (BL, NL), plus singles wintering at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* (RH) and lower Crab Creek, *Grant* (BF), were noteworthy. Northern Shrikes were virtually absent from the westside (m. ob.), whereas numbers seemed near normal e. of the Cascades (NL).

The Region's only Blue Jays were singles at

Irrigon, *Morrow* 31 Jan (MD), Spokane throughout period (JA), and near Sunnyside, *Yakima* 1 Dec—5 Jan (K. Turley). A Western Scrub-Jay at Chelan 13 Jan was well away from any known breeding area (DB). Even more so was a bird at Chief Timothy S.P., *Asotin* 17-28 Feb (C. Swift, †D. Johnson, ph. RS) which proved to be either *woodhouseii* or *nevadae*, neither of which has been recorded in Washington previously. For a brief but useful discussion of Western Scrub-Jay races, see *Western Birds* 32: 186-187. The long-staying Black-billed Magpie, very rare in w. Oregon, survived the winter in Monmouth, *Polk* (B. Tice).

Other swallows were not present in extraordinary numbers. Five Jan reports of Tree Swallow from w. Oregon was a bit better than average, though a concentration of 20 at Port Orford, *Curry* 13 Jan was noteworthy (TR). Also, a Rough-winged Swallow at the Winchuck R., *Curry* 2 Feb (J. & L. Goodhew) and 2 Cliff Swallows at Ridgefield (DF) provided very rare mid-winter records.

A White-breasted Nuthatch was at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 31 Jan (TA); they are vagrants in w. Washington away from *Clark* and *Skamania*. Bewick's Wrens at Troy, *Wallowa* through the winter (F. Conley) and at Northrup Canyon, *Grant*, WA 11-12 Jan (MD, MLD) were well away from their usual haunts. Western Bluebirds were more numerous in w. Oregon than normal this winter (HN), and 9 near Elma, *Grays Harbor* 5 Dec provided a very rare winter record for w. Washington (TA). Only 2 Mountain Bluebirds were found on the westside this winter: Ebey's Prairie,

*Island* 15 Dec (*vide* B. Merrick) and near Burlington, *Skagit* 17 Feb (P. Kline, KK). Eight Northern Mockingbirds in Oregon and 4 in Washington was well above average. A Sage Thrasher along Crab Creek Rd., *Grant* 6 Feb provided Washington's first winter record in at least nine years (BF). Rare for the westside, a Bohemian Waxwing was at Mud Bay, *Thurston* 24 Dec (K. McAllister).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Single Tennessee Warblers were in Eugene, *Lane* 12-14 Dec (†DI) and Astoria, *Clatsop* 16 Dec (†MP); there are only about seven previous Oregon winter records. Nashville Warblers are very rare during winter, but 3 were found this winter: Eugene 8-30 Dec (DI), Siletz Bay, *Lincoln* 2 Feb (B. Tice), and Eugene 22 Jan—Feb (†M. Rudolph, †DI); notably, the latter bird was likely *V. r. ruficapilla*. A Yellow Warbler, extremely rare during winter, was at Central Point, *Jackson* 9 Feb (N. Barrett) Washington's 7th **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Vancouver, *Clark* 7-14 Dec (ph. J. Weideman); four of the previous six records were Nov—Mar. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Eugene 7-14 Dec furnished the Region's first winter record and only about the 9th overall (†DI). A Hermit Warbler, not annual during winter, was at Eugene 15 Jan (†DI); even rarer, a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler was there 8-14 Jan (†DI) Washington's first, and the Regions 4th, **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*albilora*) was at Twisp, *Okanogan* 8 Dec—23 Jan (D. Dunn, R. Murray, vt. SM); it likely succumbed to the attentions of a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Eleven

**SA** Barn Swallows irrupted into the Region this winter. Strange words these, especially during a winter with a redpoll invasion. In December, 2 Barn Swallows were found. These alone would have been noteworthy. But in early Jan, more appeared, and by mid-January, Barn Swallow reports were widespread on the westside. By the end of the month, 47 had been found in Oregon and 62 in Washington. During February, 11 more were found in Oregon and 29 in Washington. For perspective, note that only 26 Barn Swallows had been found in Washington during the previous eight winters (and notably, these were scattered throughout the winter, not concentrated in December as one might expect). Few of this winter's Barn Swallows lingered at any one spot, but impressively, a number survived early February's snow and hail. Maxima from this winter include 15, Spencer I., *Snohomish* 13 Jan (DP), 13, Skagit W.M.A. 13 Feb (TA), 10, Deep R., *Wahkiakum* 19 Jan (DD, SM, TP), and 10, Port Orford, *Curry* 13 Jan (TR). Barn Swallows also invaded n. California, where numbers first appeared in late December and early January, but few were found before then (S. Glover, pers. comm.).

"Where from?" and "why?" are questions that spring to mind. Barn Swallows are very rare during winter even as far south as *San Diego* and *Orange*, California (Unitt 1984, Hamilton and Willick 1996). The sudden appearance in mid-winter argues against these birds being holdovers from fall, an argument strengthened by Barn Swallows' appearance a week or two prior in n. California. Many Pacific Northwest storms originate from the south, but such a weather system would have had to, in theory, start in Mexico. Still, a weather anomaly seems the most likely cause.

Palm Warblers at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 29 Dec provided an extraordinary winter count (TJW) A Black-and-white Warbler, extremely rare during winter, was found dead in Portland 4 Dec (S. Hagen). Oregon's 2nd winter record of **MacGillivray's Warbler** came from Eugene 29-30 Dec (N. Bjorklund, M. Makarushka). A Common Yellowthroat at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 1 Dec provided e. Washington's first winter record (DB). Another was at Everett 10 Jan (SM), though almost annual recently, yellowthroats are very rare during winter in w. Washington. Four Wilson's Warblers added to Washington's previous 12 winter records, and 3 Wilson's were also in Oregon. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were Ashland, *Jackson* 7 Dec (S. Kies) and Florence, *Lane* 27 Dec—28 Jan (P. Shore, D. Pettey); there are only 3 previous Oregon winter records.

A **Scarlet Tanager** at Brookings, *Curry* 7-8 Dec was Oregon's 5th, the first during winter (DM) **Western Tanagers** at Blaine, *Whatcom* 30 Jan (J. Kintner), Tacoma 15-17 Feb (ph. L.A. Rose), and Tacoma 2 Feb (ph. D. Adams) added to Washington's five previous winter records, while one at Florence, *Lane* 17 Dec added to only three previous Oregon winter records (H&D Lown). Rare in w. Oregon, 2 American Tree Sparrows wintered at Baskett Slough, *Polk* (S. Maulding), and one was at Wilson St. Wildlife Area 2 Dec (S. Burgett); a tally of 100 near Enterprise, *Wallowa* 10-28 Feb provided an excellent count for e. Oregon (P. Barnardi). Surprisingly, only one was found in w. Washington: near Sequim, *Clallam* 26 Jan (BTw, SM). Chipping Sparrows are barely annual during winter in w. Oregon, so tallies of 10 near Amity, *Yamhill* late Jan—Feb (C. Karlen, RG) and 7 near Independence, *Polk* 22 Dec—5 Jan (RG) were impressive; singles near Corvallis, *Benton* 1 Dec (M. Cutler) and at Corvallis 2 Jan (HH) were also noteworthy. A Chipping near Lyle, *Klickitat* 1 Dec provided Washington's 8th winter record (RTS, MDo). Clay-colored Sparrows, now annual during winter, were at Woodland, *Cowlitz* through 22 Jan (BTw, ph. RS), Bandon, *Coos* 4 Jan (TR), and near Albany 15-17 Jan (M. Nikas, TB). A Vesper Sparrow, extremely rare during winter on the eastside, was near Pendleton, *Umatilla* 5 Jan (CC, JC). On the westside, where very rare in winter, single Vesper Sparrows were at N S C B. 16 Dec (TR), Bandon, *Coos* 3 Jan (B. Fawver, J. Thomas), and Luckiamute Landing, *Polk* 9 Feb (RG). A Lark Sparrow, rare away from sw. Oregon during winter, was at Salem, *Marion* 20 Dec (RG). A **Black-throated Sparrow** at Brookings, *Curry* 24 Jan was extraordinary (DM, K. Goldwater); this species is very rare at any time on the westside, and

there is only one previous Regional record after Sep—a bird in *Whatcom* during the winter of 1987-1988. As many as 4 **Sage Sparrows** wintered at FEALE, *Benton*, providing Washington with its first Dec and Jan records (BL, NL). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at White City, *Jackson* 15 Dec provided the Region's 5th winter record. Very rare during winter in e. Washington, lone Savannah Sparrows were at Kennewick, *Benton* 29 Dec (DR) and Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 19 Jan (BF).

The status of Fox Sparrow races is still being worked out in the Region. Members of the Slate-colored group were at Richland, *Benton* 28 Dec—Feb (RF, BL, NL, BW), Everett 10 Jan (vt. SM), Blynn, *Clallam* 26 Jan (BTw, SM), and Edmonds, *Snohomish* 17 Feb (†DD); this taxon appears to be an uncommon migrant and very rare winterer in se. Washington and apparently a very rare migrant and winterer in the w. Washington lowlands, making this winter's sightings even more noteworthy. Well-documented Red Fox Sparrows were at Canby, *Clackamas* 17 Jan (†D. van den Broek, †I. Thomlinson) and Skinner's Butte, *Lane* 27 Feb (†DI); this taxon seems to be rare but annual in Oregon and very rare in Washington. Swamp Sparrow numbers remained low, with 5 in w. Washington and about 8 in Oregon; however, one at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla* 1 Jan provided an extremely rare eastside winter record (CC, JC). Irons undertook the arduous task of tallying Oregon's winter White-throated Sparrows, with a final count of 176, about 90% of which were on the westside; Irons notes that this number reflects a decade-plus-long trend of increasing numbers. The Oregon maximum was 15 at Millacoma Marsh, *Coos* throughout the period (TR), and the Washington maximum was a state record 9 near Monroe, *Snohomish* 1 Jan (SM, DD). Geier likewise counted Oregon's Harris's Sparrows, normally not a difficult task, and arrived at 23 on the eastside and 15 on the westside, with a maximum of 5 at Vale, *Malheur* in early Feb (E. Marple); this total is two to three times normal. In Washington, 13 eastside and 3 westside Harris's was also above normal. A *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrow was at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla* 24 Jan (SM, MD, NL, TA); this race is probably very rare in far e. Washington.

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** near the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* 20 Dec provided Washington's 2nd winter record (ph. B. Davies), while singles at Medford, *Jackson* 31 Dec (N. Barrett) and Seaside, *Clatsop* 10 Jan (S. Warner, MP) added to about four previous Oregon winter records. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Boring, *Clackamas* was almost as

rare (D. Bradshaw). An ad. male **Painted Bunting** in Seattle 10 Feb into Mar was the first for Washington (L. Hotaling, V.B. Brede, R. Lawson, ph. KA, †C. Kahle), and debate regarding its origins will likely provide excellent entertainment at the next W.B.R.C. meeting; Oregon has five records, two of which were ad. males, and one of which was from winter. **Dickcissels** at White City, *Jackson* 1 Dec (J. Hostick) and Malheur 9 Dec (DE) added to nine previous Oregon records, only two of which were during winter.

Four Tricolored Blackbirds at Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark* 2-20 Feb provided w. Washington's 2nd record (vt. SM, DD, RTS) Rusty Blackbirds, rare but regular in Washington, included 2 at Othello, *Adams* 2 Dec (BF) and one at W.W.R.D. 12 Dec (PtS, RS). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds near Astoria, *Clatsop* 9-18 Feb provided a rare record for the outer coast (MP, TT) Five Great-tailed Grackles were at Ontario, *Malheur* 26 Dec (F&M Zeillemaker), with 4 remaining through 16 Feb (D. Heyerly, A. Esche) Two **Orchard Orioles** at Brookings, *Curry* 15 Dec—Feb added to only about six previous Oregon records, one of which comes from Brookings during winter (DM). Bullock's Orioles are very rare during winter, so one at Seaside, *Clatsop* 23 Dec—10 Jan was noteworthy (S. Warner). A **Brambling** at Burns, *Harney* 30 Dec—Feb added to eight previous Oregon records (J. Green, L. Hammond), while one at Bridgeport, *Douglas* 23 Dec added to 13 prior Washington records (†MD, MLD) A Purple Finch in N. Richland, *Benton* 26 Jan made for a rare record for far e. Washington (C. Simonen), while a Cassin's Finch near Eugene, *Lane* 30 Dec provided a very rare lowland westside record (DI, T. Love). Pine Grosbeaks were unusually evident in Washington, with maxima of 55 near Winthrop, *Okanogan* 22 Dec (ST, SM, MB, RTS) and 51 at Cle Elum, *Kittitas* 26 Jan (A. Grenon, MDo); up to 4 were at Skagit W M A 15 Dec—Feb (A. Knue, MDo), providing a very rare lowland westside record. Twenty-five White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Spokane during Jan constituted the season's lone report (M Vial, R. Dexter).

A flock of 100+ Lesser Goldfinches between Dallesport and Maryhill, *Klickitat*, 31 Dec set a new Washington record and provided evidence for continued growth of Washington's still relatively local population (BTw).

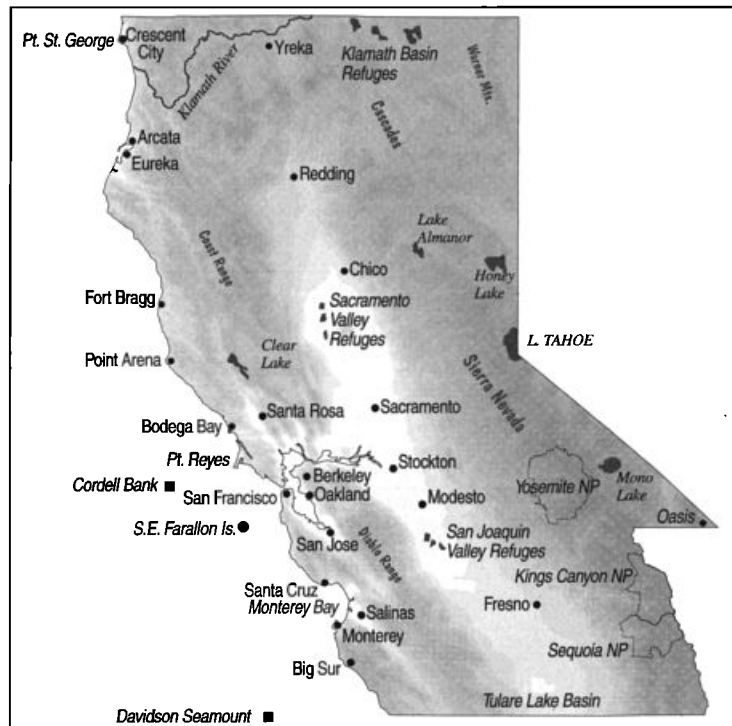
### Addendum

A **Red-necked Stint** at Siltcoos Beach, *Lane* 6 Sep 2001 added to six previous Oregon records, all of which were Jun—Aug († D. Pettey). A Rose-breasted

# Middle Pacific Coast

**SA** Redpolls irrupted in a fashion not seen in over a decade. More than 7100 Commons were reported Regionwide, including 800+ in w. Washington and over 350 in Oregon. On the eastside, greater than 90% were n. of 47° 00' N, and on the westside, over 95% were from Seattle north, with virtually none w. of the Puget Sound. Western Oregon records included 6 at Portland throughout the winter (TS), while in e. Oregon, the most southerly records involved a single bird at Chiloquin, Klamath 1 Dec (W. Stone) and 15 at Malheur 14 Jan—Feb (CM, MM). Numbers peaked in late Dec and were sustained into mid-Feb on the westside and through Feb in the east. Maxima included 2000, near Blue L., Grant in mid-Feb (D. Kuehn) and 1300 near Usk, Pend Oreille 24 Feb (M. Moskwik).

**Hoary Redpolls** were also widely reported, with 6 convincingly documented: Cle Elum, Kittitas in early Jan (ph. C. Thoreen), Ellensburg, Kittitas 3 Jan (†S. Downes), Electric City, Grant 5-20 Jan (ph RS, †PtS), Wenatchee, Chelan 19 Jan (†DB); Davenport, Lincoln 27 Jan (†AS, DG), and Elk, Spokane 26-27 Jan (†M. Moskwik). There are only approximately 13 prior Washington records.



Grosbeak from Sammamish, King 8-9 Jun 2001 was inadvertently left off of last summer's tally (ph. M Dossett).

**Initialed observers** (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Eric Anderson, Tom Aversa, Phil Bartley, David Beaudette, Trent Bray, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Michael Donahue (MDo), Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (Clark), Duncan Evered, Ruth Fischer, Bob Flores, Dan Friesz, Roy Gerig, **Denny Granstrand** (Yakima), Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, David Irons, Kraig Kemper, **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, **Tom Mickel** (Lane), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Pen.), Kimdel Owen, Michael Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Ted Peterson, Phil Pickering, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Ryan T Shaw (RTS), Tim Shelmerdine, **Dan Stephens** (Chelan), Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Paul Sullivan (PaS), Ruth Sullivan, Sam Terry, Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, David Tracy, Bill Tweit (BTw), D. van den Broek (DVB), Terry J. Wahl, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright.



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The winter season started out wet, with substantial rainfall over much of the Region in December. The next two months were drier, however, and late February was described as “balmy” in some areas. Multiple wintering Emperor Geese were unusual but part of a phenomenon that spanned the west coast from Oregon to Santa Rosa Island in southern California. A large movement of Common Redpolls into regions to the north eventually led to California’s first record in twenty years, remarkably this bird did not show up in the extreme northeast of the state, but at a backyard feeder in the northern Central Valley! Another widespread phenomenon was an unprecedented number of Barn Swallows in December and early January. Where these birds came from and where they were going remains a mystery. As in 1999, large numbers of piscivorous species including grebes, pelicans, cormorants, and gulls were inland at Clear Lake in Lake County during the period. Over 50,000 birds were feeding on unusual concentrations of introduced fish, resulting in a notable display of opportunistic foraging.