

The ornithological "main event" this fall in both states was a multi-species irruption of montane birds. This phenomenon's cause was likely, in part, very poor forest conditions in northeastern Washington, Idaho, central-interior British Columbia, and parts of Alberta. By contrast, the Cascades seemed in fair shape, though cone crops were apparently poor. The irruption was heralded by large numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches appearing at eastside desert oases in late August. Later, Mountain Chickadees poured into the lowlands, Brown Creepers were fairly common in the deserts, and Clark's Nutcrackers appeared at unlikely locations. Recorded in smaller numbers away from expected locations were Northern Pygmy-Owl, Boreal Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Steller's Jay, Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak. While some of the latter were quite close to core range, suggestive of more local movements, others occurred across a broad front, and more than one phenomenon may have been in play. Conspicuous by their presence in near-normal numbers were Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills; interestingly, not a single wayward Pygmy Nuthatch was detected. A huge invasion of Blue Jays and a westside increase in Purple Finches (neither is a conifer-loving species in our Region) were probably unrelated to other irruptions.

The fall months were generally a bit warmer than normal. August was among the wettest on record, and September and October rainfall were above average as well. The Region dried out in November, when precipitation was generally half of normal.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos); O.C.N.M.S. (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor); Nisqually (N.W.R., Thurston); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, near Florence, Snohomish); 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" designation locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Red-throated Loon passage at Boiler Bay, Lincoln peaked at 6000 on 3 & 18 Nov, while Pacific Loons topped out at 34,000 there 18 Nov (PP). On the eastside, a Red-throated was at John Day Dam 7 Nov (HN), and Pacific Loons showed well, highlighted by 12 at McNary Dam 7 Nov (M&MLD). Ten Yellow-billed Loons, well above average, included an early one at Midway Beach, Pacific 18 Sep (E. Hunn), an interior westside bird at Bonneville Dam 29 Oct–13 Nov (IT,

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JF), and an eastside bird at John Day Dam 28 Oct (T. Herzig); this species is very rare away from marine habitats and typically arrives in mid-Oct. A gathering of 104 Eared Grebes at Utsalady Bay, Island 6 Nov yielded the highest w. Washington tally in 26 years (SM, DD). Seven westside Clark's Grebes was subpar but included an early one at Edmonds, Snohomish 8 Sep (DD).

After a decade of increase, Laysan Albatross numbers seem to be subsiding, with 2 off Westport 19 Sep the only ones recorded (BT); the same trip produced 569 Black-footeds (BT). Northern Fulmar numbers were low, with the 1200 off Newport 16 Oct furnishing the only offshore count >100 (GG), but a remarkable 3500 passed Boiler Bay, Lincoln 17 Oct (PP). A total of 23 Flesh-footed and 954 Buller's Shearwaters was normal; as typical, 84% of the Buller's were noted in Oct. Pelagic tallies of Sooty Shearwaters were high, averaging about 4400/trip and peaking at 25,600 off Westport 8 Aug (BT); from shore, 100,000 were recorded at Seaside 16 Aug (MP). Some 27 Short-tailed Shearwaters were off Newport 2 Oct (GG), and 2000 passed Boiler Bay 24 Nov (PP). Continuing recent trends, Manx

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Washington's fourth Lesser Black-backed Gull fed on newly released fingerlings at Sun Lakes in eastern Washington 8–16 (here 12) October 2004. The state's first record came in 2000, and, given continent-wide trends, a steady increase in records of this species is expected in the Region. Photograph by Tom Munson.

Shearwaters were off Coos Bay 15 Aug (†TR), at Ft. Canby, *Pacific* 1 Sep (†TG), and off Newport 2 Oct (GG). A fine collection of tubenoses appeared in the Puget Trough, where none is annual: a Short-tailed Shearwater and a Short-tailed/Sooty at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 4 Nov (BSW), a Short-tailed/Sooty off Seattle 27 Nov (BSW), a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel at Bainbridge I. 2 Oct (BSW), and single Leach's Storm-Petrels at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 11 Oct (T. Peterson, DD), Nisqually 11 Nov (BS), and Tolmie S.P. 11 Nov (BS). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels continue to be of concern; they were absent from almost half the offshore trips, and all but two counts were <10.

American White Pelicans continued to increase; 1120 at Potholes Res., *Grant* 6 Sep (BF, SM, M&MLD, DSc) was a state record count for Washington, while in the Willamette Valley, flocks of 44 and 68 frequented F.R.R. and the Portland area, respectively, 21 Aug–1 Oct. In w. Washington and the Oregon coast, where rarer, singles visited Fir I., *Skagit* 5 Sep (TA) and Clatsop Spit 28 Aug (M. Marsh). A Brown Pelican in the mts. at McKenzie Pass, *Lane* 2 Sep was unprecedented (DDW), while a count of 2100 at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor* 10 Sep was Washington's highest since 1974 (CW), and an above-average 11 wandered into the Puget Trough 20 Aug–29 Oct. Washington's 3rd frigatebird was about 85 km off Westport 7 Sep (†H. Beecher), while one off Newport 21 Aug was about Oregon's 12th (J. Jabousek). A Washington-record 302 Great

Egrets was counted at Pothole Res. 6 Sep (BF, SM, M&MLD, DSc). After an absence of more than two years, Snowy Egrets reappeared in Washington, with up to 2 at Ridgefield 6 Aug–5 Sep (†B. Clemons, ph. TA); 3 were also found in nw. Oregon, where rare, 3 Aug–30 Oct. After years of decline, Cattle Egret numbers rose sharply this fall, with 8 on the westside and 35 on the east, including a maximum of 13 near College Place, *Walla Walla* 8 Nov (M&MLD); only 3 were in Oregon. Over the past decade, this species' center of vagrancy has shifted from westside to east and from Oregon to Washington. Five eastside Green Herons, 16 Aug–25 Oct, was exceptional. Two White-faced Ibis at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 2–23 Aug (M. Reid) and an unidentified *Plegadis* ibis at P.S.B. 3 Oct (ST, SM) added to eight previous fall/winter Washington records; nearly as rare was one at Redmond, *Deschutes* 8 Aug (K. Owen).

A Greater White-fronted Goose x Cackling Goose hybrid visited Sauvie I. 13 Nov (DMa); though hybrids of this sort are not new to the Region, most have been relatively large, whereas this bird was nearly the size of *B. h. minima*. Indeed, an apparent Canada x Greater White-fronted was at Sequim, *Clallam* 27 Aug (RH).

The season's lone Emperor Goose inhabited Creswell, *Lane* 10 Nov+ (DDW). Single Blue Geese at P.S.B. 9–14 Oct (vt. SM) and Fir I., *Skagit* 27 Oct (R. Lawson, K. Stewart) added to 18 previous Washington records. Errant Ross's Geese included an early bird at P.S.B. 30 Sep (SM) and more typical individuals near Windust Park, *Franklin* 16 Nov (CW) and Finley N.W.R. 11 Nov+ (NS). A subpar 4 Eurasian Wigeons were on the eastside 11 Nov+. An American Black Duck appeared at Kirkland, *King* 31 Oct–19 Nov (ph. A. Martin). The introduced Everett population was extirpated about five years ago, with only Mallard x American Black Duck hybrids present subsequently. Prior Washington reports not originating from this population include two from the 1940s and one from Battleground, *Clark* in 1985. A tally of 240 Cinnamon Teal at Ridgefield 19 Aug set a w. Washington record (TA); this species' numbers usually peak in Jun. The only Common Teal reported was at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 25 Oct+ (GG, HN). An apparent Redhead x scaup hybrid at Sun Lakes, *Grant* 13 Nov (ph. DSc) was the Region's first. A male *v-nigra* Common Eider, molting into eclipse plumage, graced Port Angeles 3–13 Aug (ph. M. Shephard); perhaps it was the same bird that visited Crescent City, California in Jul. The Region had no confirmed Common Eider records, though a flock was reported from the s. Puget Trough during the 1906–1907 winter (*Condor* 8: 57). Scoter movement at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* peaked 17 Oct, with 22,000 Surf and 2500 White-wingeds (PP). Eastside numbers of Surf and White-winged Scoters were unremarkable. Thirty-nine Surfs were detected 24 Sep–14 Nov, including an alpine visitor on Mt. Ranier 21 Oct (A. Wagar). Nineteen White-wingeds were noted 15 Sep–14 Nov. A subpar 4 eastside Long-tailed Ducks were found 16 Oct–5 Nov, while one at Dexter Res., *Lane* 30 Nov was very rare for the s. Willamette Valley (D. Farrar). The Wenatchee Buffle-



There are few thrills in birding like finding a pelagic bird inland. This Ancient Murrelet was one of two that frequented Bonneville Dam along the Columbia River 6–14 (here 8) November 2004. There are fewer than a dozen interior records of the species from the Oregon & Washington Region. Videocapture by Robert Stansell.

head x Common Goldeneye hybrid returned for its 4th winter 30 Nov (D. Beaudette). Barely annual in se. Oregon, 12 Red-breasted Mergansers visited Chickahominy Res., Harney 27 Oct (C. & M. Miller).

Red-shouldered Hawks continued to expand. In e. Oregon, an unprecedented 19 were found, including 10 in Klamath 10 Sep (KS). Not annual in e. Washington, one inhabited Conboy N.W.R., Kllickitat, the source of almost all e. Washington records, 9–29 Sep (KK, SJ, JE), while 2 were in sw. Washington 5 Sep+, and one wandered n. to Monroe, Snohomish 10 Oct (†SM, DD). Four Swainson's Hawks stopped near Eugene 17–20 Sep (DI), while singles visited F.R.R. 13 Sep (M. Paris) and Baskett Slough, Polk 31 Oct (B. Young); they are rare on the westside, and the latter was a month late. A Harlan's Hawk at Ridgefield 6 Oct was three weeks early (JE). A Ferruginous Hawk near Kittitas 19 Sep was three weeks late and nw. of usual range (SM, CB). Three Gyrfalcons was below average but included an early and southerly bird that toured s. coastal Coos 26 Sep+ (TR). A subpar 4 Prairie Falcons visited the westside, including singles at Tenmile Cr., Coos 20 Aug (K. Castelein, D. Lauten) and Nisqually 31 Aug (S. Nord) that were a month early.

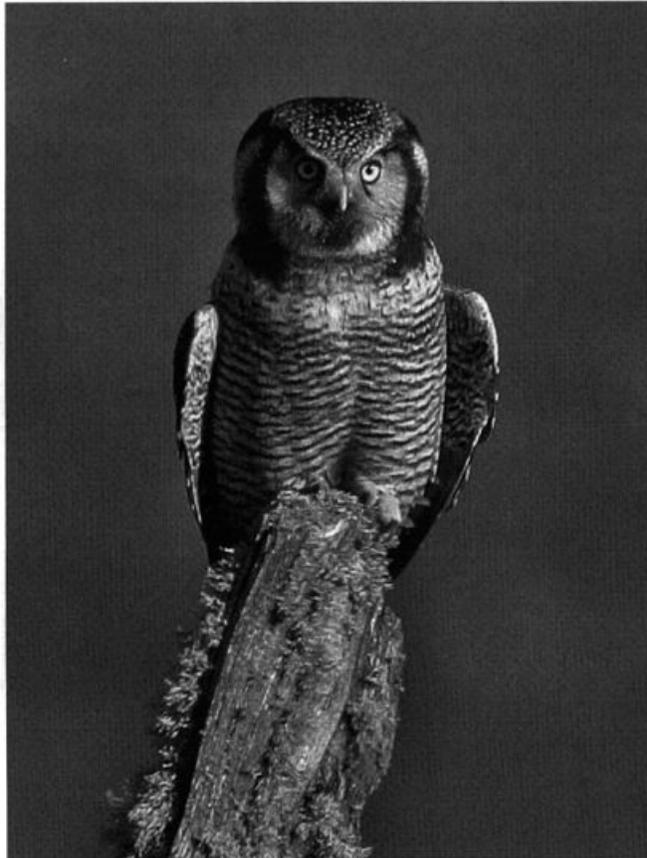
Black-bellied Plovers lingered in e. Washington, with 5 at Potholes Res. 1 Nov (DSc) and 3 at W.W.R.D. 5 Nov (M&MLD), the latter tying the e. Washington late date. For the 5th consecutive fall, American Golden-Plovers showed poorly on the westside, with a pitiful 14 detected 29 Aug–16 Oct, but on the eastside, 6 were noted 7 Sep–12 Oct. The Pacific Golden-Plover total was 53, the best since 2001, with a peak of 15 at O.S. 18 Sep (SS). Twelve golden-plovers remained unidentified. Westside breeding Black-necked Stilts remained at Baskett Slough, Polk to 16 Aug (R. Gerig) and at F.R.R. to 25 Aug (L. McQueen). Lesser Yellowlegs showed well, exemplified by a westside-record 126 at P.S.B. 19 Aug (J. & K. Wiggers) and 160 at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla 11 Sep (SM, CB). After three autumn seasons with 70+ Solitary Sandpipers, this year's tally returned to normal, with 25 on the eastside and 16 on the west, almost all before 22 Aug, excepting late birds at Y.R.D. 1–2 Oct (BL, NL) and S. Prairie, Pierce 9 Oct (CW). Also notable was one on Mt. Adams 8 Aug at approximately 1300 m (S. McDougall). A gathering of 21 Willets at Toke-

land 10 Oct was the largest in years (C. Chappell), while singles appeared in the Puget Trough, where not annual, near Warm Beach, Snohomish in mid-Aug (M. Reid) and Bainbridge I., Kitsap 20–21 Sep (BSW). A Wandering Tattler, barely annual in the Puget Trough, visited Nisqually 27 Aug (PtS, RS). The first fall eastside Whimbrel since 2001 graced Lind Coulee, Grant 3–4 Sep (DSc). A surprising 8 Long-billed Curlews appeared on the interior westside 1

land 21 Aug was only Oregon's 11th away from the outer coast (A. Frank). A flock of 400 Surfbirds at Yachats, Lincoln 3 Aug was Oregon's 2nd largest ever (WH).

Oregon's only sighting of the declining Red Knot was at Gold Beach, Curry 26 Aug (DM), while one at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla 11–15 Sep (SM) was on the eastside, where very rare. Thirty-six eastside Sanderlings eclipsed last year's fine total; most were 15 Sep–15 Oct. Washington's 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers (42 westside, 18 eastside) was subpar; all but 2 were in Aug, with a maximum of 12 at P.S.B. 12 Aug (SM, DD). In Oregon, one eastside and 7 westside Semipalmateds were detected 1 Aug–17 Sep. Washington's first Little Stint visited Y.R.D. 5–13 Aug (NL, ph. TMu); there are six previous records from the continent's interior. A stunning 24 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found 28 Aug–7 Nov, with a maximum of 5 at P.S.B. 7 Oct (TA, SM); other noteworthies included an early juv. at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific 28 Aug (†AR) and single eastside birds at Y.R.D. 1 Oct (NL, BL) and Soap L. 3–17 Oct (ph. DSc, ph. TMu). There are about 20 eastside records. Twenty-six Rock Sandpipers at Westport 31 Oct was the Region's highest count in more than 20 years (S. Mills). Stilt Sandpipers appeared in near-record numbers, with 54 in e. Washington and 19 in w. Washington, including maxima of 16 at Philleo L., Spokane 26 Aug (JA) and 11 at Othello, Adams 21 Aug (BF), the highest counts since 1997; unlike recent years, most were gone by early Sep, but one at W.W.R.D. 5 Nov was record late (M&MLD).

Only 5 appeared in Oregon. Buff-breasted Sandpiper had a fabulous fall, with 25+ in Oregon and 17 in Washington, 26 Aug–11 Sep; maxima included 13 at N.S.C.B. 26–28 Aug (DDW, TR) and 10 at O.S. 4–11 Sep (MF, SS). Six at Crockett L., Island 28 Aug were in the Puget Trough, where very rare (SM, CB, KA). Recently, the Region has averaged about 6 per year. Twelve Ruffs in Washington and 4 in Oregon was unprecedented; highlights included 4 at O.S. 17–18 Sep (SS, PtS, ph. RS), 2 ads. at P.S.B. 5 Sep (†TA), and a late bird at Bay City, Tillamook 11 Nov (L. Redmond); others were 25 Aug–10 Oct. Only 5 eastside Short-billed Dowitchers were detected, all 4–30 Aug; westside numbers seemed normal. Rare in the Puget Trough, 2 Red Phalaropes visited Edmonds, Snohomish 26 Nov (DD). Off-shore numbers of Red and Red-necked



This Northern Hawk Owl graced Salmo Mountain in northeastern Washington 1 (here) through 17 October 2004, furnishing roughly the 19th report for that state. Photograph by Tom Munson.

Aug–3 Sep. One eastside and 3 westside Hudsonian Godwits, 29 Aug–18 Sep, brought the Regional total to roughly 54 records, 20 of which have been during the last three years. After last year's inexplicable absence, Bar-tailed Godwits resumed their upward trend, with 2 ads. 6–15 Aug and 3 imms. 6 Sep–30 Oct. Rare on the eastside, up to 4 Marbled Godwits were at Y.R.D. 24 Aug–6 Sep (fide NL), and one visited W.W.R.D. 1 Aug (MD, MLD). Improvements to shorebird habitat at F.R.R. continued to attract migrant Marbled Godwits, formerly quite rare in the Willamette Valley, with one or 2 there 18–27 Aug (B. Bender). Not annual on the eastside, single Ruddy Turnstones visited Potholes Res. 17 Aug (DSc) and Wickiup Res., Deschutes 21 Aug (J. Meredith). A Black Turnstone in n. Port-



Washington's seventh Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was also the first cooperative one to appear in the state, and it was enjoyed by many near Moses Lake 10 (here 13) September through 10 October 2004. Its bright rose sides suggested an adult, but its brownish scapulars (and perhaps part of the mantle) indicate an immature. Photograph by Keith Brady.

Phalaropes remained disturbingly low, averaging 5 and 22 per trip, respectively.

South Polar Skua numbers remained high, with a seasonal total of 50. Similarly, offshore Pomarine Jaeger counts were above long-term averages, with a peak of 104 off Westport 19 Sep (BT). Two Pomarine Jaegers were in the Puget Trough, where rare: Edmonds, *Snohomish* 30 Sep (DD) and P.N.P. 6 Nov (VN). Rarer yet was *e.* Washington's 3rd Pomarine Jaeger at Soap L., *Grant* 3 Oct (†DSc). Additionally, 5 Parasitics appeared on the eastside 22 Aug–19 Sep, and unidentified jaegers were noted 15 Sep and 15 Oct; the eastside has recently averaged about 2 Parasitics per year, mostly during Sep. Equally notable were interior-westside Parasitics at Portland 13 Sep (D. Leal) and F.R.R. 14 Sep (DI). A Long-tailed Jaeger was noted along the Columbia R. at Stevenson, *Skamania* 21 Aug, where casual (†M. Bartels), and one was in the Puget Trough at P.N.P. 10–11 Sep (VN), where not annual. Offshore, the seasonal total of 59 was mediocre.

Twenty-four Franklin's Gulls, an average tally, strayed from their *e.* Oregon haunts, including 11 in *w.* Washington, 10 in *e.* Washington, and 3 in *w.* Oregon. The lone Little Gull, providing the 3rd record for Washington's outer coast, was a fresh juv. near Tokeland, *Pacific* 7 Aug (SM, G. Toffic). Two Heermann's Gulls at Hood R. 21 Oct added to eight previous eastside records, all late Sep–early Nov (SJ, CF), while south-bound passage at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* peaked at 6000 on 17 Oct (PP). Long overdue was Washington's first Black-tailed Gull at North Cove, *Pacific* 3 Aug–30 Oct (ph. CW). Mew Gulls typically arrive on the eastside during early Oct, so singles at McNary Dam 3 Aug (CC, JC) and Klamath

Falls 9 Sep (J. Dunn) were notable, while 6 at Hood R. 19 Nov furnished an exceptional eastside count (SM, IT). Washington's 4th Lesser Black-backed Gull frequented Sun Lakes, *Grant* 8–16 Oct (ph. DSc, ph. TMu). Three Western Gulls visited *Grant* and *Yakima* 14 Oct–26 Nov (DSc, BF, AS); Westerns are rare on the eastside away from Klickitat and the Tri-Cities area. Five Glaucous Gulls, somewhat typical of recent falls, were found 17 Oct+. A goodly 13 Sabine's Gulls visited the eastside 4 Sep–10 Oct, while 3 were in the Puget Trough 11–21 Sep, and 4 were in interior *w.* Oregon, the most interesting of which was high in the Cascades at Big L. near Santiam Pass 27 Sep (L. Goodhew). Offshore, the total of 345 was about average. Rare in the Puget Trough, a Black-legged Kittiwake visited Samish I., *Skagit* 28 Oct (CW), and 2 were at Marrowstone Light, *Jefferson* 19 Nov (Pts, RS).

Good numbers of Elegant Terns appeared on the Oregon coast, with a maximum of 145 at Gold Beach, *Curry* 6 Sep (DM) and 3 reaching as far *n.* as Seaside 2 Sep (MP); Washington's sole Elegant was at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 23 Aug (†DD), providing a very rare Puget Trough record. An Arctic Tern, very rare on the eastside, graced W.W.R.D. 18 Sep (†SM, CB); almost as rare were interior-westside records from Timothy L., *Clackamas* 1 Sep (N. Wallwork, E. Specht) and Dexter Res., *Lane* 11 Sept (Michael Miller). Offshore, Arctics appeared on only two pelagic trips, totaling merely 20 birds, a poor showing. Eastside Common Tern numbers were record high, with 316 reported from Washington alone, mostly 21 Aug–19 Sep, and highlighted by 66 in *e.* Klickitat 18 Sep (SJ); this species was formally considered uncommon on the eastside. Has its sta-

tus changed, or was it previously overlooked? In the Puget Trough, 900 Commons at P.N.P. 21 Sep was unusual (SM). Four Forster's Terns in *w.* Washington during Sep was above average, and one at John Day Dam 17 Nov was record late for the eastside (M&MLD). Single Black Terns, not annual during fall on the westside, were at Nisqually 23 Aug (S. Nord) and L. Sammamish, King 25–27 Aug (M. Hobbs).

Washington's 11th Thick-billed Murre swam off Lime Kiln, *San Juan* 19 Oct (†W.B. Tyler); all but one of Washington's prior records were Dec–Feb. Washington's 7th Long-billed Murrelet graced Nisqually 27 Aug (†K. Brady, †S. Nord, †JP). An Oregon-record 137 Marbled Murrelets passed Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 25 Aug (PP). Now nearly annual, single scrippsii Xantus's Murrelets were off Westport 21 & 28 Aug (BT). Extremely rare inland, 2 Ancient Murrelets frequented Bonneville Dam 6–14 Nov (SJ, CF), and one was found dead at Little Pend Oreille N.W.R., *Stevens* (ph. L. Langelier). Cassin's Auklets, rare in the Puget Trough, were off Port Townsend 7 Aug (B. McGarry) and P.N.P. 10 Sep (VN). Offshore, Cassin's Auklet numbers continued to rebound, averaging 32 per trip in Aug and Sep, when local breeders are present. The top tally of migrants was 1000 off Newport 16 Oct (TG). A Tufted Puffin at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln* 21 Nov was about two months late (A. Heyerly).

For the first time since 2001, Snowy Owls appeared in Nov, with singles at Pasco, *Franklin* 20–22 Nov (C. Swanson) and near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 26 Nov+ (M. Breece). A Northern Hawk Owl at Salmo Mt., *Pend Oreille* 1–17 Oct was about the 19th for Washington, the last of which was in 2001 (MH, C. Hedges, ph. TMu). More than the usual number of Northern Pygmy-Owls wandered downslope from their breeding grounds, mid-Oct+; the exact magnitude of the flight was hard to judge but seemed about double normal and weighted more towards the westside. Five Burrowing Owls in *w.* Oregon 30 Sep+ was above average. A Great Gray Owl, rare on the westside, graced Scott L., *Lane* 12 Oct (B. Winters). Boreal Owls were in good numbers at traditional sites, including a record 9 at Mt. Salmo 24 Sep (G. Sheridan). Much more unusual were 2 on Mt. Ranier's *e.* slope at Eatonville (elev. 250 m), *Thurston* 3 Nov (D. Bailey), plus singles in *Lincoln* at Mondovi early Oct (*vide* JA) and Davenport 1 Oct (ph. A. Potter). Washington had only three previous lowland records.

A roost of 3000+ Vaux's Swift at Monroe, *Snohomish* 20 Sep tied the Washington record (B. Bell); Oregon's peak was a heftier 25,000 at Eugene during mid-Sep (M. Paris). A very late *Archilochus* hummingbird visited Colville, *Stevens* 4 Oct (†W. Cur-

rent), and a Black-chinned, three weeks tardy, was in Spokane 22 Sep (MDC). Continuing their spread into e. Washington, wayward Anna's Hummingbirds were at Spokane 1-5 Oct (MDC), near Glead, *Yakima* 9 Nov (M. Knight), and Selah, *Yakima* 15 Nov (DG). Single Costa's Hummingbirds inhabited Sherwood, *Washington* 19 Nov+ (C. Sheridan) and North Bend, *Coos* 23 Nov+ (B. Griffin); Oregon averages about one per fall. A Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird at Selah 13 Nov was the latest *Selasphorus* ever in e. Washington (M. Strate), the last Rufous having usually departed by early Sep. About six weeks late were single Rufous Hummingbirds at Hillsboro, *Washington* 14 Nov (D. Manzer) and Astoria, *Clatsop* 29 Nov (B. Barnett).

Rare for w. Washington were 2 Lewis's Woodpeckers at Bass L., *Skamania* 9 Sep (KK) and one near Porter, *Grays Harbor* 3-7 Nov (R. Dubois); in w. Oregon, where more numerous, the total of 6 was distinctly subpar. A Williamson's Sapsucker at Duffy L., *Linn* 16 Aug was just w. of Oregon's Cascade crest, where nearly annual during early fall (F Schrock). A juv. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker visited Hood Park, *Walla Walla* 7 Oct, precisely where Washington's 4th occurred last winter (†M&MLD); another graced Moses L., *Grant* 12 Sep (ph. DSc). Other state records have been from winter. A Red-naped Sapsucker near Brookings, *Curry* 26 Sep was very rare for the outer coast (DM). Hairy Woodpeckers appeared in the Columbia and Great Basins during early Sep, with three- to fourfold normal numbers detected into Oct; they are not annual in the Columbia Basin and are rare in the Great Basin. No movement into the westside was noted. A single Black-backed Woodpecker, rare in sw. Oregon, was at Game L., *Curry* 28 Oct (J. Rogers, R. Nawa). Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flickers appeared early, starting with a record-early bird at Vantage 12 Sep (SM, CB).

Seven Least Flycatchers were detected at Columbia Basin vagrant traps 6-18 Sep, with a maximum of 3 at Washtucna, *Adams* 6 Sep (SM, BF, M&MLD). A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher at Corvallis 4 Nov was a month late (H. Herlyn). Black Phoebes continued their range expansion, with one at Bonanza, *Klamath* 19 Sep (KS), 11 in the Willamette Valley, and outer coast records n. to Fiddle Cr., *Lane* (B. & Z. Stotz). Adding to 12 previous w. Washington fall records were single Say's Phoebes at Seattle 30 Aug (ST) and Marymoor Park,



Fall "eastern" vagrants typically appear in Washington from late August through mid-September. Breaking with this trend was this splendid Black-throated Green Warbler at Washtucna 13 and (here) 14 November 2004. The two previous Washington records come from June and July. Photograph by Patrick Sullivan.

King 16 Sep (M. Hobbs); 3 in w. Oregon 27 Oct-24 Nov was subpar. An Ash-throated Flycatcher near Lynden, *Whatcom* 29 Sep was about the 16th for w. Washington (†P. DeBruyn). Another at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 13 Nov was n. of normal w. Oregon haunts and about two months late (R. Gerig). Fairly typical of recent falls, 13 Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds were detected 20 Oct+; one at Coupeville, *Island* 27-28 Nov furnished a very rare Puget Trough record (C. Pearson), and another at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 27 Nov called somewhat like a Couch's (†BN, J. Mullaly). The maximum was 3 at Seaside 5 Nov (S. Warner). A Western Kingbird near Royal City, *Grant* 25 Sep was record late for e. Washington (MF), while one at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 19 Sep was very rare for the outer coast and about six weeks late for w. Washington (N. Ball). Washington's 7th Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and 4th in 15 months, frequented Moses L., *Grant* 10 Sep-10 Oct (T. Pieper).

A Red-eyed Vireo at Naselle, *Pacific* 3 Oct was record late for Washington and was on the outer coast, where rare (AR). Increased numbers of Steller's Jays wandered downhill from their breeding areas on the eastside, but none travelled far; on the westside, numbers seemed normal. Clark's Nutcrackers were on the move, generally not in large numbers, but certainly at widely scattered

locations, with even more in the lowlands than during the fall 1996 irruption. The first strays were 8 at Stacker Butte, *Klickitat* 4 Sep (BT) and 4 flying over the Columbia R. at Bingen, *Klickitat* 7 Sep (SJ), followed shortly by one at Malheur 8 Sep (SM, BF, DSc), providing that heavily birded refuge with its first nutcracker in eight years. Other notables included an Oregon record tally of 100+ near Sisters, *Deschutes* 31 Oct (P. Bernardi, M.A. Sohlstrom), Clark's first at Silver Star Mt. 28 Sep (W. Cady), Whitman's first at Rose Cr. 20 Nov (T&D Weber), one in Seattle 5 Nov (J. Bettesworth), one in Eugene 6 Nov (B. McKenzie), 5 at Mary's Peak, *Benton* 24 Oct (P. Bailey), and singles on the outer coast at John's River, *Grays Harbor* 1 Oct (PtS, RS) and Florence, *Lane* 1 Nov (D. Pettey). A Black-billed Magpie, not annual on the westside, was on Sauvie I. 4 Oct (N. Dietrich). The Dayton, *Yamhill* roost peaked at 100,000 Barn Swallows 1 Oct (F. Schrock).

Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Prineville Res., *Crook* 4 Sep and another at nearby Powell Butte 3 Sep (CG) continued a recent pattern of records in cen. Oregon well n. of their traditional *Lake* and *Klamath* breeding sites. Rare w. of the Cascades, a Rock Wren was in Seattle 11 Nov (ST). Very rare on the westside, a Canyon Wren was at Table Mt., *Skamania* 9 Nov (C. Abruzzese). Bewick's Wrens, which had been swarming across the Columbia Basin, seemed to retreat somewhat this summer/fall, excepting one far ne. at Colville, *Stevens* 15 Sep (MH); records along the e. slope of the Cascades continued to accrue, with 2 at 1500 m near

SA Blue Jays burst into the Region 27 Sep+, with 47 in e. Washington, 37 in e. Oregon, and 3 in w. Washington. Washington averages roughly 4 per year and Oregon fewer. Maxima included 15 at Dayton, *Columbia* 20 Nov (M&MLD), 7 near Pendleton, *Umatilla* 10 Oct (CC, JC), and 7 in the Grande Ronde valley, *Union* 12 Oct (Trent Bray). In all likelihood, the final tally of birds in this irruption will exceed the record irruption of 1976-1977, which brought 51 birds to Washington.

SA Chickadees, nuthatches, and creepers were among the most conspicuous of this season's montane invaders. A total of **279** Mountain Chickadees (126 eastside, 153 westside) was reported from Washington's lowlands—at least two- to threefold more than in any previous irruption on record and perhaps *fiftyfold* normal. Oregon had somewhat smaller numbers, but 28 or more (all 4 Oct+) was still well above average. Presaging this invasion, a Mountain Chickadee appeared at Mary's Peak, *Benton* 8 Aug (T. & D. Robinson). The real movement into the lowlands began during early Sep, when several appeared at *Harney* migrant traps, followed shortly by a few in se. Washington during mid-Sep, and then a widespread movement across e. Washington during late Sep, and onto the westside during early Oct. Some decline seemed evident by mid-Nov, but plenty were still present at season's end. Perhaps most remarkable were 30 on the outer coast at Tokeland, *Pacific* 10 Oct (PtS, RS); the peak non-montane eastside tally was 18 at Potholes S.P., *Grant* 28 Nov (DSc). Most, if not all, appeared to be of the westernmost race *baileyae*, which ranges from sw. Yukon and sw. Alberta to California. Much of Washington's Columbia Basin is without Black-capped Chickadees, and unlike their Mountain brethren, Black-capped seem disinclined to wander extensively in this Region. Thus, singles at Washtucna, *Adams* (about 60 km from their nearest breeding location) 25 Sep and 14 Nov were remarkable (BF). Chestnut-backed Chickadees, also mostly sedentary, were found mid-Oct–mid-Nov in *Yakima*, *Chelan*, and *Walla Walla* (AS, DS, MD), just downslope from known breeding locations; one a bit farther afield in Bridgeport furnished *Douglas's* 2nd record 27 Oct (M. Spencer). Red-breasted Nuthatches abounded. In retrospect, w. Washington numbers (where a fairly common resident) were up as early as Jul. By late Aug, a full-scale irruption was taking place into the Columbia Basin and Great Basin, where this species is usually seen in small numbers (up to 10 at a time) during fall migration. In the Columbia Basin, counts were three- to fivefold higher than normal in late Aug–late Sep, with maxima of 60 at Harrington, *Adams* and 55 at Sprague L., both 28 Sep (CW). The increase did not seem as great in the Great Basin (DE, CG). Thereafter, numbers dropped, and by November's end were near normal. White-breasted Nuthatches also strayed. Despite being close to breeding populations in the Blue Mts., the Walla Walla Valley and Tri-cities had only a handful of records prior to this year, when at least 6 were noted early Oct–mid-Nov (M&MLD, S. Dietert). Similarly unusual was one at Northrup Canyon, *Grant* 3 Oct (T. Pieper). On the westside, this species is now extremely rare n. of *Cowlitz*, but 2 frequented Vashon I., *King* 6–13 Nov (E. Swan), and one graced Port Townsend 13 Nov (J. Andeson, T. LeLievre); the subspecies of these westside vagrants was not determined. Brown Creepers, oft ignored as they are so widespread, appeared at threefold their usual level in the Columbia Basin (DSc), where typically a scarce migrant.

Bumping L., *Yakima* 13 Aug (CW) and one at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 25 Aug (DS). Somewhat overdue, Washington's first **Northern Wheatear** was reported from Nisqually 4 Sep (†D. Flood, †J. McCoy, †P. Koyama) and awaits Washington B.R.C. review. A Swainson's Thrush at Eugene 24 Oct was roughly three weeks late (TM). A **Sage Thrasher** on the Lummi Flats, *Whatcom* 30 Nov+ furnished only the 2nd w. Washington fall/winter record (ph. H. Flores). Seven Bohemian Waxwings near Redmond, *Deschutes* 3 Oct were about six weeks early and somewhat s. of their usual range (I. Samowitz), while *Tillamook's* first was at Mt. Hebo 6 Nov (W. Gross).

Washington's 15th **Tennessee Warbler** was at Washtucna, *Adams* 5–6 Sep (†M&MLD, †SM). A tally of 95 Orange-crowned Warblers at Wenatchee Confluence S.P., *Chelan* 3 Sep was just shy of the Washington record and included a dull *celata* (SM); the status of *celata* is poorly known in the Region, but it is likely a scarce migrant. A Nashville Warbler, rare during fall in w. Washington, visited South Prairie, *Pierce* 3 Oct (CW). Washington's 13th **Northern Parula** inhabited *Ocosta*, *Grays Harbor* 11–21 Aug (TA, †H. Opperman); this bird may have actually summered here. Though annual during spring in Oregon, single parulas at Page Springs, *Harney* 25 Sep (S. Shunk) and Malheur 27 Sep (JG) were that state's first for fall since 2000. Yellow Warblers on 6 Nov at Skagit W.M.A. (B. Levine) and Florence, *Snohomish* (SM, DD) were about a month late. A Chestnut-sided Warbler near Burns 26 Sep was roughly Oregon's 47th (DE). Washington's 12th **Magnolia Warbler** was at Davenport, *Lincoln* 28 Sep (vt. CW, †JA). Adding to roughly 37 Oregon records, single Magnolias were on the outer coast at Seaside 23 Sep (†MP) and N.S.C.B. 28 Sep (TR); amazingly, there was only one

previous coastal record. Washington's 9th **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Davenport 26 Sep (BW, †JA), while 4 in Oregon raised that state's total to about 39: 2 at Malheur 25 Sep were somewhat expected, but one near Bonneville Dam 17 Nov+ (IT, JF) and another in n. Portland 29 Nov (IT) were later than usual and provided *Multnomah's* first and 2nd records. Three Black-throated Gray Warblers e. of the Washington Cascades during early Sep was thrice the usual total. Washington's 3rd **Black-throated Green Warbler** visited Washtucna 13–14 Nov (BL, NL, ph. PtS). Oregon's 11th and 12th **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Tillamook 18 Sep (W. Gross) and Page Springs, *Harney* 28 Sep (JG, O. Schmidt). Oregon's 14th **Prairie Warbler** was at Malheur 27 Sep (†AC); all but two prior records were from the outer coast. Palm Warblers are rare away from the outer coast, but this fall 9 were in the Puget Trough, including 3 at P.N.P. 10 Oct (M. Breece), 3 were in the Willamette Valley, and one was on the eastside at Hines, *Harney* 16 Nov (P. Bowers); coastal numbers were near normal. Only one Blackpoll Warbler was detected: at Seaside 3 Oct (MP). Single Black-and-white Warblers were at Hart Mt., *Harney* 29 Aug (BS) and Washtucna 4–8 Sep (DSc, BF, RH). Six migrant Northern Waterthrushes were scattered about the Region 17 Aug–28 Oct; though this species breeds in ne. Washington, it is not found annually on migration. A new record for Washington, 135 Common Yellowthroats were near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 24 Sep (CW), while one below McNary Dam, *Umatilla* 25 Nov was about six weeks late for the eastside (SJ). Oregon's 9th **Canada Warbler** frequented Malheur 11–25 Sep (C&M Miller). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Vantage, *Kittitas* 16 Sep furnished Washington's 2nd latest date ever (TA). Oregon's 17th Summer Tanager visited Fields, *Harney* 11 Sep (†SM,

†BF, DSc). A Western Tanager at Corvallis 28 Nov was about six weeks late (M. Hunter).

A **Spotted Towhee** of the *oreganus* subspecies at Yakima 13 Nov was only e. Washington's 2nd away from *Klickitat* (ph. DG). Continuing a peculiar recent trend, American Tree Sparrows have declined precipitously in w. Washington but increased in w. Oregon. Only one was detected in w. Washington, while for the 5th consecutive year one appeared in sw. Oregon, where formerly considered extremely rare, at Floras L., *Curry* 6 Nov (TR). Single Clay-colored Sparrows at Sun Lakes, *Grant* 3 Sep (SM) and Windust Park 4 Sep (SM) furnished a normal total for Washington; 6 were in w. Oregon 9 Oct–11 Nov and 3 in e. Oregon 4 Sep–10 Oct. Fall migrant Clay-colored have increased dramatically since 1998, with most eastside records occurring during Sep and westside ones during Oct/Nov. A Brewer's Sparrow at Othello, *Adams* 12–14 Nov was about two months late, setting a Washington record (BF). Migrant Savannah Sparrows were unusually abundant, with tallies of 1000 at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 19 Sep (N. Ball) and 400 near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 24 Sep (CW) both exceeding the previous Washington record. Western Washington's 3rd **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and first for fall, was at Kingston, *Kitsap* 22 Oct (ph. BSW). A migrant Vesper Sparrow, now noteworthy anywhere in w. Washington, was on Fir I., *Skagit* 19 Sep (SA), while one at Cape Blanco 1 Nov was about a month late and unexpected for *Curry* (T.J. Wahl). A Lark Sparrow on Fir I. 4 Sep (R. Merrill) furnished w. Washington's first fall record since 1996. Single Red Fox Sparrows graced Ebey I., *Snohomish* 2 Oct (vt. SM) and Tenino, *Thurston* 13–19 Nov (†P. Hicks, B. Sundstrom), adding to 16 prior Washington records. A Washington-record 100 Sooty Fox Sparrows were packed into one square km at the Elwha R. mouth,

Clallam 3 Oct (SM, ST). Swamp Sparrows showed well, with 11 in Washington 9 Oct+ and 17 in Oregon 25 Sep+, including 8 total on the eastside. A White-crowned Sparrow with black lores (subspecies *leucophrys* or *oriantha*) visited the Columbia Hills, *Klickitat* 18 Oct (SJ, CF); *oriantha* is a local breeder in both the se. and ne. corners of Washington, while *leucophrys* is unrecorded in the Region. Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared in above-average numbers, including a Washington-record 350 near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 20 Sep (KA); a Golden-crowned at Sun Lakes, *Grant* 23 Aug was record early for e. Washington (DSc). After two falls yielding double-digit numbers, "just" 2 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found in Oregon, with singles at Cape Ferrelo, *Curry* 19 Sep (A. Barron) and Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 3 Oct (Paul Sullivan). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 6 Sep was Washington's 5th for fall (†CW, †BT, B. LaBar); in Oregon, which averages 2 per fall, 8 were found, including 5 at Port Orford, *Curry* 8 Sep (L. Miller).

A Bobolink at Tokeland, *Pacific* 11 Oct was about the 23rd for w. Washington (D. Coggswell); the 11 previous fall records span 15 Aug–10 Oct. Roughly annual on Oregon's coast, a Bobolink visited Clatsop Spit 20 Sep (MP). A Tricolored Blackbird had returned to Othello by 19 Sep (SM, CB), and up to 5 were present by fall's end (TA, RH). For the 5th consecutive fall/winter, Tricoloreds visited Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark*, with 2 imm. males 30 Oct (SM, DD, CW) and one ad. male 20 Nov (SM, DMa). The Portland breeding colony, presumed source of these birds, has "disappeared" since 1998; it seems likely that this small colony is still breeding somewhere nearby. Finally, *Walla Walla*'s first Tricolored was near College Place 10 Nov (M&MLD). A Yellow-headed Blackbird, rare on the outer coast, visited O.S. 28 Aug (BN). A Rusty Blackbird, approximately Oregon's 15th, visited Malheur 4 Oct (DE); Washington's Rusty was near Arlington, *Snohomish* 26 Nov (G. Monty). Single Common Grackles at Florence, *Lane* 10 Aug (D. Petty) and Portland 23 Oct (†J. Withgott) added to roughly 35 prior Oregon records. A Great-tailed Grackle at Prospect, *Jackson* 24 Sep furnished the Region's first fall record since 1999 (N. Barrett). Washington's 2nd Orchard Oriole was at Ocosta, *Grays Harbor* 20 Sep (†KA); the previous record was from Dec 1991. A Bullock's Oriole, rare for the outer coast and about two months late, was at Astoria, *Clatsop* 17 Nov (MP).

A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, not annual in westside lowlands, was at Marrowstone Pt., *Jefferson* 28 Nov+ (T. Schooley). Pine Grosbeaks were definitely on the move. Twenty-six were found at eight w. Washington lowland sites, mostly 31 Oct+. In the Co-

lumbia Basin, one was at Richland, *Benton* 17 Nov (NL), while in the w. Cascade foothills 20 were at Table Mt., *Skamania* 9 Nov (C. Abruzzese); these are all Washington locations at which the species is very rare. In Oregon, 6 near Prairie City, *Grant* 23 Nov were quite far south (W. Bowers), while 30 at LaGrande, *Union* was a goodly count for Oregon (Trent Bray). Purple Finch numbers were up in w. Washington, highlighted by 85 at Skagit W.M.A. 28 Oct (CW). Only one was found e. of its normal range, at Vantage, *Kittitas* 19 Sep (SM, CB). No unusual movement of Cassin's Finches was noted. Westside Red Crossbill numbers seemed fairly typical in Washington but were distinctly up in Oregon, especially on the outer coast; a few more than normal wandered into the Columbia Basin, and elevated numbers were also reported from e. Oregon. The fall was fairly typical for White-winged Crossbills, with four sightings of up to 10 birds scattered across the Cascades and ne. Washington. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin numbers seemed mundane throughout Washington, but Pine Siskins were more numerous than normal in Oregon. Evening Grosbeaks made no news in Oregon, but in Washington, they were widespread in small numbers throughout the westside from late Aug into mid-Nov, and a few individuals wandered into the Columbia Basin—overall, the best numbers in about a decade. Finally, 930 House Sparrows were counted in a half-acre feedlot near Othello 5 Sep, perhaps a record concentration for this oft-ignored species (SM, BF).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Scott Atkinson, Tom Aversa (WA), Casey Beachell, Michael D. Carmody, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder (*Umatilla*), Judy Corder, Mike and Merry Lynn Denny (M&MLD), Don DeWitt (DDW), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (*Clark*), Duncan Evered, John Fitchen, Mike Fleming, Catherine Flick, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), Greg Gillson, Jeff Gilligan, Denny Granstrand (*Yakima*), Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, Mark Houston, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Mandell (DMa), Tom Mickel (*Lane*), Don Munson, Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Michael Patterson, Jason Paulios, Phil Pickering, Alan Richards, Tim Rodenkirk (*Coos and Curry*), Steven Schlick, Doug Schonewald (DSc), B. Shelmerdine, Kevin Spencer, Dan Stephens (*Chelan*), Andy Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, Sam Terry, Iain Tomlinson, Dennis Vroman (*Josephine*), Brad S. Waggoner (BSW), Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. ☛

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