

Headlines were dominated by waterfowl and larids, with a strong Siberian flavor. A scattering of vagrant warblers, bunches of beached Horned Puffins, and lingering montane invaders were also recorded. The continued increase in semi-hardy and even non-hardy species, an ongoing theme in recent winter seasons, has become so routine as to escape attention, or nearly so. An entire suite of shorebirds, formerly very rare on the eastside, has become annual winterers. Species such as Sora, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Western Tanager, once accidental, are now regular winter visitors to Washington, and Barn Swallow "spring" migration begins in late January. Red-shouldered Hawks, Anna's Hummingbirds, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Black Phoebes, and Western Scrub-Jays continue their expansion northward and eastward. As Mlodinow's wife quipped: "We won't have to retire to California, California will retire to us."

Indeed, this winter's weather was almost California-like. December averaged about 5° F above normal. January and February both had "average" temperatures, but this is deceiving, because the lack of cloud cover led to remarkable daytime highs as witnessed by 64° F in Olympia on 18 January and 68° F in Astoria on 23 February. December and January's precipitation was about 75% of normal, and February's was only about 30% of normal.

**Abbreviations:** F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). "Eastside" and "westside" indicate locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

### LOONS THROUGH RAILS

Yellow-billed Loons again were present in good numbers, with 5 in Washington and 3 in Oregon. Most unusual, 13 Pacific Loons lingered on the eastside into early Jan, and one at Brewster, Douglas 15 Feb provided a very rare late-winter eastside record (R. Koppenderayer). A tally of 122 Eared Grebes at Birch Bay, Whatcom 5 Feb was w. Washington's 2nd highest ever (SM, JB, CCx). Clark's Grebe numbers were above average, with 6 each in w. Washington and w. Oregon. There were two pelagic trips, 2 Jan off Newport and 19 Feb off Westport, both yielding low numbers of usual winter tubenoses: there were no albatrosses and only 64 Northern Fulmars in total (BT, GG). A Pink-footed Shearwater, extremely rare during winter, was at Cape Meares, Tillamook 18 Dec (PP). A Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater passed Anacortes, Skagit 2 Jan (H. Armstrong); both species are rare in the Puget Trough, especially at such a late date. Manx Shearwaters

# Oregon & Washington



67 km and 30 km off Westport 19 Feb provided the Region's first winter records (D. Ward, B. Shelmerdine, †SM). A Leach's Storm-Petrel, very rare in winter, visited O.S. 4 Dec (PtS, RS).

Per usual, several American White Pelicans were found on the westside, with singles at Bellingham 17 Dec (G. Bletsch, B. Kuntz) and Kirkland, King 10 Jan (C. Park, MFM). There were 5 Brown Pelicans this winter, including an extremely rare late-winter bird near Florence, Lane 20 Feb (S. Wright). A count of 1000 Double-crested Cormorants at F.R.R. 12 Jan far exceeded any prior Willamette Valley winter tally (S. McDonald). For the 6th consecutive winter, Great Egrets visited e. Washington, with 11 along Hanford Reach, Benton 3 Feb (H. Newsome) and one near Union Gap, Yakima 28 Jan (M. Roper). Another was in e. Oregon at Wickiup Res., Deschutes 17 Dec (C&MM); e. Washington had its first winter record merely 16 years ago. Equally inconceivable a decade ago would have been the 145 Greats at Ridgefield 6 Dec (JE). Thirteen Cattle Egrets were scattered among four Washington and two Oregon locations into early Jan, the best winter tally in more than

### Steven Mlodinow

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

### David Irons

2690 Adams Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97405  
(llsdirons@msn.com)

### Bill Tweit

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



This Giant Canada Goose (subspecies *maxima*) was Washington's first record of a non-introduced individual; it was photographed in Yakima 4 December 2004. Another was seen in Walla Walla County later during the winter, and there is evidence that this subspecies may be a regular-but-rare migrant in the state's eastern half. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

a decade. Turkey Vultures, very rare in Washington before mid-Feb, flew over Poulsbo, *Kitsap* 15 Dec (BSW) and Longview, *Cowlitz* 8 Jan (Mark Miller).

The season's sole Emperor Goose wintered at Creswell, *Lane* (DDW). A Blue Goose at Fir I., *Skagit* 2 Feb (BS) and 2 others in *Skagit/Snohomish* 5–27 Feb (E. Casey, SM, DP) added to about 20 prior Washington records. A Snow Goose × Ross's Goose hybrid visited the Kent Ponds, *King* late Dec–early Jan (G. Toffic, DD, KA). Ross's Geese had another good winter, with 14 in Oregon and 3 in Washington, including a gaggle of 10 at Sauvie I. 25 Feb (DMa, IT). Three interior westside Brant, all from the Willamette Valley, was fairly typical. A congregation of 1515 Trumpeter Swans near Clear L., *Skagit* 15 Feb eclipsed previous Regional tallies (SM, JB, J. Starfire); just 30 years ago, only 100 wintered in all of w. Washington (A.B. 29: 731). Echoing this increase, the Airlie, *Polk* Trumpeter Swan flock grew to an Oregon record 54 birds (J. Geier). Washington's 2nd Bewick's Swan returned to Fir I., *Skagit* 13–16 Jan (†SM), and what appeared to be a different individual was near Allen, *Skagit* 5 Feb (CCx, vt. SM, ph.

JB). The Whooper Swan that wintered the past two years on the California side of Stateline Rd., *Klamath/Siskiyou* made a rare Oregon appearance 27 Feb (C. Kisling).

A Falcated Duck at Coburg, *Lane* 2 Jan+ may have been the bird seen last winter at ER.R., which was Oregon's first (D. Stone). Another Falcated appeared at the Samish Flats, *Skagit* 27 Feb, exactly where Washington's 3rd had been found three years ago (†DP). A Gadwall × Mallard hybrid was also present 18 Dec–18 Jan at the Kent Ponds (vt. SM, ph. KB). Eleven eastside Eurasian Wigeons was better than average. A swarm of 90,000 Mallards near Edison, *Skagit*

15 Feb was exceptional for the westside (SM, JB, J. Starfire) and highlighted a shift of dabblers from eastside to west over the last few years (BF). A Mallard × Northern Pintail, nearly annual in the Region, visited Crockett L., *Island* 12 Dec (DD, SM), and another wintered at Wenatchee/E. Wenatchee (D. Beaudette). Wintering Cinnamon Teal are increasing, as evidenced by an Oregon seasonal record 70 wintering at Svenson I., *Clatsop* (MP, D. Bailey). The star of the Kent Pond waterfowl extravaganza was a Baikal Teal 12 Dec–1 Feb (vt. CW, ph. KB). Washington had two previous reports of this species, one likely valid (Dungeness, Jan 1920) and one likely not (Anacortes, Jun 1979). Importantly, Alaska has enjoyed a surge of Baikal Teal, with 7 in the Aleutians over the last three falls/winters (D. Gibson), paralleling a dramatic rebound in this species' world population (Delaney and Scott 2002, *Waterbird Population Estimates*). An exceptional 16 Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were detected, including a rare eastside bird at Moses L., *Grant* 10–21 Jan (ph. DSc). Equally impressive were 10 Common Teal × American Green-winged Teal hybrids, including one on at

Moses L. 10 Jan (DSc).

A Washington record 3900 Greater Scaup rested on the Columbia R. at Priest Rapids Pool, *Grant/Kittitas* 4 Dec (SM, BF, ST), and 6790 scaup were counted there via aerial survey 13 Dec (RH, J. Tabor); assuming a similar proportion of Greater, that flock contained over 6000. The total number of Greater Scaup wintering along the Columbia R. likely exceeds 12,000, or about 2.5% of the North American population. This is even more amazing when one considers that as recently as 1984–1985, an eastside tally of 150 Greater Scaup was noteworthy (A.B. 39: 189). The Tufted Duck × scaup hybrid returned to the Columbia R. near near Maryhill, *Klickitat* 1–5 Jan (AS, ES, SJ). Three Tufted Ducks this winter included eastside singles at Potholes Res., *Grant* 13 Feb (ph. DSc) and Vantage, *Kittitas* 20 Feb+ (ph. DG); there are nine previous e. Washington records. Harlequin Ducks, very rare e. of the Cascades, were near Vantage, *Kittitas* 20–25 Feb (DG) and McNary Dam 18–21 Feb (CC, JC). Surf and White-winged Scoters are very rare in winter on the eastside. A White-winged was at Vantage 5 Dec (SS, MF), and a Surf was at Pelton Dam, *Jefferson* 28 Dec (M. Roening). A Surf Scoter, rare in the Willamette Valley, visited Corvallis 10 Jan (J. Simmons). Long-tailed Ducks again showed well on the eastside, with 7 detected; much more surprising was one high in the Cascades at Trail Creek Res., *Linn* 11 Dec (C&MM). A Bufflehead × goldeneye hybrid returned for its 4th consecutive winter to Wenatchee, *Chelan* (EH), while an equally unusual Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye hybrid graced Kingston, *Kitsap* 15 Jan (M. Hobbs, B. Bell). A single Barrow's Goldeneye spent its 4th consecutive winter at Willamina, *Yamhill*, where quite rare (Q. Nice). A stunning 10,000 California Quail were tallied in Burns 26 Dec (*vide* HN).

Three Osprey, very rare during winter in Washington, were found on the westside in Feb. Red-shouldered Hawks are becoming regular during winter in e. Oregon, where singles visited Powell Butte, *Crook* 22–26 Jan (CG) and Terrebonne, *Deschutes* 26 Feb (KO); 3 in sw. Washington was typical of recent years. Washington's 3rd winter Swainson's Hawk was near Eltopia, *Franklin* 18

**SA** The recent split of Canada and Cackling Goose dramatically increased interest in "white-cheeked geese." Observers went beyond identification to species and often reported subspecies of both Canada and Cackling Geese. This has already caused much confusion, but in the long term, such careful attention promises to shed much light. Single *maxima* Canada Geese near Yakima 4 Dec (ph. DG) and Ice Harbor Dam, *Walla Walla* 15 Jan (†DG) provided Washington's first records since a failed introduction program in the early 1970s. Though kept in captivity, this species has potential as a genuine vagrant. Indeed, an observant hunter harvested 11 very large Canada Geese in the Columbia Basin between 1985 and 2001, mostly from family groups numbering up to 6 birds (DSc). Details noted on these birds strongly suggest they were *maxima*, and this race may well be a somewhat regular vagrant to e. Washington. A collection of 215+ *occidentalis* Canada Geese at Brady, *Grays Harbor* 19 Feb was quite unusual n. of Willapa Bay and were probably migrants (SM). Seven *fulva* Canada Geese, rarely reported in Washington, overwintered again at Warm Beach, *Snohomish* (SM). Surprising were 2 apparent nominate-race Cackling Geese, which would be the Region's first, at Brady 19 Feb (vt. SM); the identification was supported by several outside sources (P. Bannon, B. Deuel, CCx). Finally, the Cackling Goose race *minima* has been variously labeled "rare" and "uncommon" on the eastside. This winter, 17 were recorded in *Grant* and *Yakima*, with a maximum of 8 at Selah, *Yakima* 15 Dec (DSc, DG).

Feb (BF); the 2nd was last year in nearby *Benton*. Two Ferruginous Hawks near Ewan, *Whitman* 12 Feb were about three weeks early (G. Sheridan), while one found dead at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 27 Feb yielded a very rare westside record (RG, B. Tice). Ten Washington and 2 Oregon Gyrfalcons was about average, but one wintering as far s. as N.S.C.B. was rather unusual (TR), and one at Owyhee Res. 12 Jan was *Malheur's* first (C. Weisse). W. Washington had but one Prairie Falcon, and numbers were subpar in w. Oregon as well. For the 4th consecutive winter, Soras were detected in w. Washington, with singles at Kirkland, *King* 27 Jan (MFM) and Belfair, *Pierce* 19 Feb (K. & S. Graham); much rarer was one in e. Washington at Toppenish N.W.R., *Yakima* 19 Dec (D. Brown).

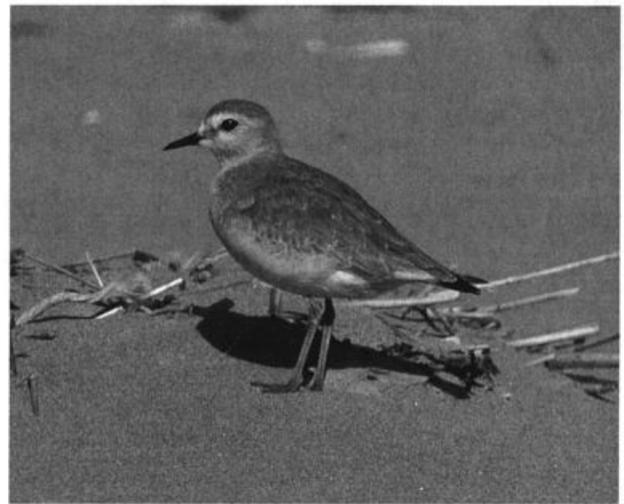
### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Pacific Golden-Plovers, not annual during winter, visited F.R.R. 2 Jan (DI, NS), Tillamook Bay 21 Feb (E. Scattaregia), and, for the 4th consecutive year, wintered at Tangent, *Linn* (RG). Fifty Snowy Plovers were counted on Midway Beach, *Pacific* 31 Jan, tying the Washington record set last winter at the same location (CW); also notable were 38 at Sillcoos Beach, *Lane* 1 Feb (D. Lauten, K. Castelein). A Washington winter record 100 Semipalmated Plovers gathered at O.S. 3 Feb (DD). Washington's 4th Mountain Plover visited Oysterville, *Pacific* 24–27 Feb (ph. K. Brennan, †J. Buchanan); most Regional records have been Nov–Feb from the outer coast. Washington's 2nd winter American Avocet was at Blaine, *Whatcom* 5 Jan (J. A. & H. MacKenzie). A Lesser Yellowlegs visited Stanwood, *Snohomish* 8 Jan (SM), making it five consecutive winters for Washington, which had only one record during the 1990s; in Oregon, where more regular, 2 overwintered at F.R.R. (LM, DI). Marbled Godwits are increasing Regionwide. An Oregon winter-record 64 were at Coos Bay 19 Dec (TR). Rare away from the outer coast during winter, 4 Marbled Godwits wintered at Port Susan Bay, *Snohomish* (SM, TA), while 2 others visited Port Townsend 16 Dec (R. Sikes). A Spotted Sandpiper inhabited Bennington L., *Walla Walla* 2–12 Dec (M&MLD) and Bingen, *Klickitat* 4 Jan (SJ); formerly considered casual during winter on the eastside, they have been recorded there four of the last five winters. Least Sandpipers are also increasing as eastside winterers; this year, 18+ were found, with a maximum of 7 at W.W.R.D. 31 Dec (SM, BF, CB); on the westside, 300 at Westport 31 Jan set a Washington winter record (CW), and nearly as unusual were 300 at F.R.R. 5 Jan (LM). Dunlin now also winter annually on the eastside, but this winter's maximum of 30 at Moses L., *Grant* 2 Jan was poor by recent standards (DSc). Two Long-billed Dowitchers, a species still not

annual e. of the Cascades, were at Moses L. 10 Dec–2 Jan (DSc).

Seven Pomarine Jaegers off Westport 19 Feb provided a high count for mid-winter (BT). Washington's 9th winter Franklin's Gull appeared near Carnation, *King* 6 Jan (EH). A tally of 18 Mew Gulls at Hood R. 9 Jan likely set an eastside record (SJ). Exceptional eastside winter concentrations of California Gulls included 620 at Lower Monumental Dam 22 Jan (M&MLD) and 525 at McNary Dam 31 Dec (SM, BF, CB). There were four Iceland Gulls this winter in Washington, bringing that state's total to 13! Singles visited Renton, *King* 8 Dec (vt. S. Pink, †DD, J. Flynn), Tacoma 23 Dec (†SM, DD), W.W.R.D. 31 Dec (vt. SM, BF, CB), and the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* 8 Feb (†BS, B. Mulrooney); the *Clallam* bird looked like a classic ad. of the nominate race—can Kumlien's ever be such an exact match? The W.W.R.D. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned for its 5th consecutive winter 6 Feb (M&MLD). Single Slaty-backed Gulls at Renton 11 Dec (vt. SM, ph. JB, †KA) and Port Gardner Bay, *Snohomish* 18 Dec (†DD) added to six prior Washington records, all but one of which was 30 Dec–11 Mar. The Western Gull at Moses L., *Grant* lingered through 4 Dec (DSc). Glaucous Gull numbers continue to rebound, with 22 in Washington and 12 in Oregon. The count of 221 Black-legged Kittiwakes off Westport 19 Feb was above normal (BT), but only 4 were off Newport 2 Jan (GG). Washington's 6th Red-legged Kittiwake flew past Ft. Canby S.P., *Pacific* 10 Jan (†T. Guy).

The assemblage of 128,000 Common Murres at Cape Meares, *Tillamook* 18 Dec was among the largest ever during winter (PP). Washington's 12th Thick-billed Murre flew past Port Townsend 23 Dec (†S. Mills); after a 12-year hiatus, Washington has had 4



Washington's fourth Mountain Plover was found 24 (hear 26) February 2005 near Oysterville by Kirsten Brennan while she was surveying shorebirds on Willapa Bay. Surprisingly, most of the Region's records are from November through February on the outer coast. Photograph by Aaron Martin.

Thick-billeds in the past three years. A stunning 2460 Ancient Murrelets were counted between Protection I. and Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* 20 Dec (CW, BLB). Perhaps related to the Horned Puffin influx, a Parakeet Auklet was inshore at Tillamook Bay 21 Feb (†M. Scattargia, C. & A. Hinkle); there are only about 20 records from Oregon during the past 30 years, mostly of beached dead birds. From early Jan onward, dozens of dead and dying Horned Puffins appeared on Oregon beaches. Apparently healthy birds were at Fogarty Creek S.P., *Lincoln* 12 Jan (R. Bjerre) and near Florence, *Lane* 25 Jan (P. Sherrell) and 20 Feb (DI, J. Brown); oddly, only one appeared in Washington, a dead bird near Surfside, *Pacific* 24 Jan (L. Bierma, S. Clark). The cause of this influx remains mysterious, and excess mortality was not noted in other alcids.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove takeover of Oregon continued, with 2 wintering at Pilot Rock, *Umatilla* (CC) and singles at Tigard, *Washington* 13 Feb (J. Wrinn) and Merrill, *Klamath* 24 Feb (J. Van Moorhem). Ten Snowy Owls was fairly typical for a non-invasion year, with a peak of 5 near Moses L., *Grant* 27 Dec (DSc). Oregon's 3rd Northern Hawk Owl, and first in 22 years, was near

**SA** The Puget Sound region is infamous for its hybrid gulls; nonetheless, they have received little scrutiny. Glaucous-winged Gulls are the dominant large gull there. Herring and Western Gulls are typically scarce. Indeed "pure" Glaucous-wingeds outnumber "pure" Westerns by about 500:1. On 8 Feb, a careful examination of 1500–2000 large gulls in Renton, *King* revealed that apparent hybrids or backcrosses constituted 25% of the flock, including 10% Glaucous-winged Gull × Herring Gull, 10% Glaucous-winged Gull × Western Gull, and another 5% that defied labeling (CCx). A similar survey in Tacoma 21 Feb consisted of approximately 20% apparent hybrids, but Glaucous-winged Gull × Western Gull hybrids clearly predominated (CCx, JB, SM, DD). To what degree these proportions apply elsewhere in the Puget Trough is unknown. Otherwise, a few Glaucous-winged Gull × Glaucous Gull hybrids were detected in w. Washington, and a rare Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull hybrid visited Renton 8 Feb (CCx).

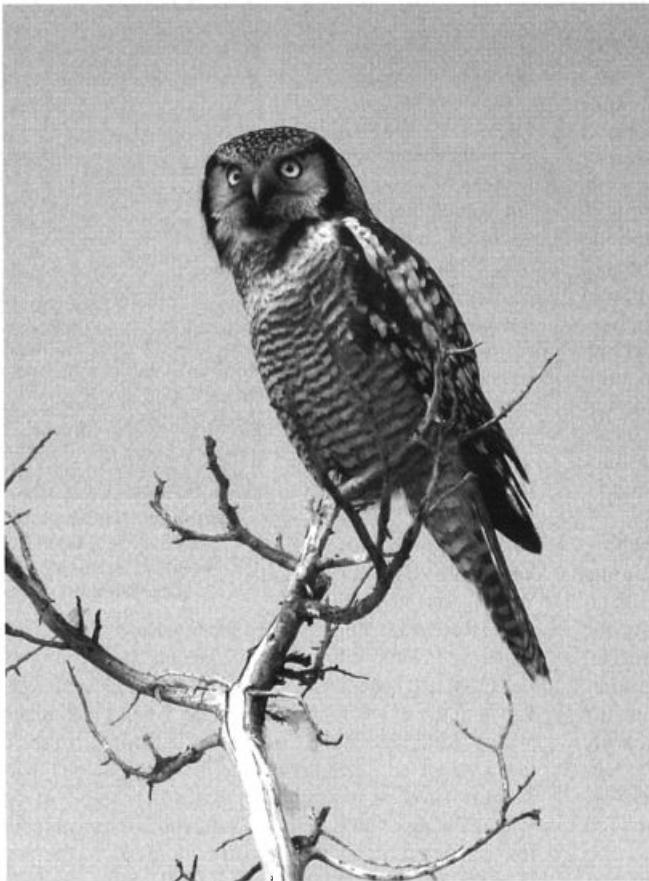
Elsewhere, the eastside's first Glaucous-winged Gull × Herring Gull hybrid was near Cold Springs, *Umatilla* 31 Dec (SM, BF, CB); the lack of earlier records was most likely due to lack of observer attention to large gulls there.

Bend 3 Feb+ (C. Vaughn). Single Burrowing Owls near Othello, Adams 7 Jan (BF) and W. Richland, Benton 23 Jan (T. Clarke) were the only ones detected in e. Washington, while 5 in w. Oregon was better than average. Rare in e. Washington away from Klickitat, an Anna's Hummingbird wintered in Cowiche Canyon, Yakima (DG). Five Costa's Hummingbirds visited Oregon; of Oregon's approximately 20 winter records, nine were during the last two years. A Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird visited Seattle 11 Dec (D. Harville), and 4 more were noted in w. Oregon during Dec/Jan; mid-winter *Selasphorus* are casual in Washington and very rare in Oregon. Single Rufous Hummingbirds at Dungeness, Clallam 30 Jan (K. Wiersma) and Ocean Park, Pacific 31 Jan were six weeks early (*fide* MP) and were followed by 6 more scattered through w. Washington in mid-Feb (*fide* MP). Williamson's Sapsuckers, very rare during winter, were at Walla Walla mid-Nov-19 Jan (M&MLD), Kennewick, Benton 28 Jan-1 Feb (DR), and Klamath Falls 8 Jan+ (J. Van Moorhem). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, now virtually annual in Oregon, was at John Day, Grant 4 Nov-4 Jan (ph. C. & M. O'Leary).

Rare w. of the Cascades, a Red-naped Sapsucker visited Silverton, Marion 6 Jan (J. Reid). Three Red-breasted Sapsuckers were found e. of the Cascades, where barely annual, including one far e. in N. Richland, Benton 24 Feb (M. Lilga).

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Washington's first winter *Empidonax* was a Least Flycatcher at Kent, King 5 Jan (†KA); the Region's previous winter record was from Tillamook in Dec 1992. Washington's 7th Black Phoebe was at Vancouver L., Clark 12-21 Feb (K. Perrilo, ph. E. Bjorkman); most of Washington's records have been from the sw. during winter. This species continues to expand its range in w. Oregon, where singles wintered as far n. as Yamhill and Polk. More than 10 Say's Phoebes lingered into Dec and Jan on the eastside, at least double the norm, while one at Kent 6 Dec+ furnished only the 4th true winter record for w. Washington (CW); in w. Oregon, 4 Say's was fairly typical. A Tropical Kingbird lingered in Astoria through 17 Dec (MP); there are only seven prior winter records, five of which came from the preceding four years. A Hutton's Vireo near Walla Walla 18-22 Dec furnished Washington's



Oregon's third Northern Hawk Owl, a most cooperative bird, spent much of the winter near Bend, Deschutes County, delighting throngs of Oregonians (and a few folks from Washington and California as well). This image was taken on 23 February 2005. The last Oregon record was in 1983. Photograph by Steve Berliner.

easternmost record (ph. M&MLD). Loggerhead Shrikes were unusually prevalent in e. Washington, with at least 8 detected, more than twice the norm; the only westside bird was near Lebanon, Linn 29 Dec (RG). After their strong showing this fall, Blue Jays remained numerous, with 37 in Washington and 17 in Oregon, including maxima of 7 at Cheney, Whitman 29 Dec (M. Moskwik) and 5 at Pullman, Whitman 28 Feb (D&TW); surprisingly, only 3 were detected on the westside. In Washington, flocks of 30 Clark's Nutcrackers at Kettle Falls, Ferry 13 Dec (L. Dubbels) and 60 at Rose Cr., Whitman 29 Jan (D&TW) were away from their normal haunts. In w. Oregon, wayward nutcrackers were at Brownsmead, Clatsop 5 Dec (MP) and St. Helens, Columbia 6 Dec (I. Larson). A long-staying Black-billed Magpie, very rare on the westside, wintered at Monmouth, Polk (RG).

Two Tree Swallows near Tenino, Thurston 1 Jan provided a very rare mid-winter Washington record (BS); even rarer were up to 30 at F.R.R. 22 Dec-2 Jan (D. Arendt, LM). Prior to 2001, Barn Swallows were rare winter visitors, mainly in Dec. During the ensuing three years, there were early to mid-Jan incursions involving dozens of birds. This

winter, Barn Swallows were present throughout the season, with Washington totals of 66 in Dec, 58 in Jan, and 148 in Feb; maxima included 50 at Vancouver L., Clark 21 Feb (J. Gatchet) and 45 at Tennant L., Whatcom 5 Feb (H. Flores). On the eastside, 3 were in Washington and 4 were in Oregon; e. Washington had only two winter records prior to 2003. Two Black-capped Chickadees made a most unusual mid-Columbia Basin appearance at Potholes S.P., Grant 1 Jan+ (SM, RH, DSc, BF, BSc). The Mountain Chickadee irruption quickly subsided in Dec, though a few remained in the lowlands through the season, with a maximum of 20 at Potholes 6 Feb (G. Sheridan). Two Chestnut-backed there 1 Jan+ were a first for Grant (RH, BSc, BF, DSc, SM), while 2 Chestnut-backed at Bridgeport 12-13 Feb were the 3rd and 4th for Douglas (PtS, RS). At least 4 White-breasted Nuthatches lingered in the Tri-Cities/Walla Walla area, where they are normally very rare, and the 2 on Vashon I. remained until mid-Feb (E. Swan). Three Rock Wrens, rare on the outer coast, were at Port Orford, Curry 22 Dec, with at least one wintering (L. Miller).

As has become the case with other semi-hardy eastside birds, an unusual number of Western Bluebirds lingered into Jan, including 15 near Lyle, Klickitat 9 Jan (AS, ES) and a Washington winter-record 24, near Dixie, Walla Walla 25 Dec (M&MLD). Western North America's first Redwing graced Olympia 21 Dec+ (G. Revelas); Redwings breed into e. Siberia and have a strong westerly component to their fall migration, making them a prime candidate for vagrancy to w. North America via 180° misorientation. The Region's 3rd winter Gray Catbird visited Lost Creek Res., Jackson 4-6 Dec (N. Barrett, J. Houle); catbirds are extremely rare on the westside at any season. The Sage Thrasher at Lummi Flats, Whatcom lingered until 13 Dec, providing Washington's 3rd winter record (J. Duemmel). Remarkably, a Northern Mockingbird at Edmonds, Snohomish 28-29 Dec yielded the season's sole sighting (A. Winskie). As American Pipits are rare during winter in e. Washington, a tally of 30 near Walla Walla 12 Dec was noteworthy (M&MLD), but even more so was a Washington winter record 250 near Wishram, Klickitat 9 Jan (AS, ES). No longer annual on the westside, 4 Bohemian Waxwings visited Seattle 26 Dec (EH).

Now virtually annual during winter, a

Nashville Warbler visited Eugene 14 Dec (NS). Washington's 2nd **Cape May Warbler** graced a Spokane feeder early Jan+ (†C. McCormack, ph. T. Munson, ph. G. MacDonald), 30 years after the first was recorded in Bellingham. The **Black-throated Blue Warbler** near Bonneville Dam, *Multnomah* lingered until at least 27 Dec (SJ), and another attended a Portland feeder 8 Jan+ (S. Sterne), furnishing Oregon's 3rd and 4th winter records. Not annual during winter, single Black-throated Gray Warblers visited Vancouver, *Clark* 28 Dec (S. Hagen) and Tillamook 18 Dec (*fide* O. Schmidt). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Seaside, *Clatsop* 29 Jan+ (S. Warner) was the Region's 2nd to winter and Oregon's 6th overall. Rare away from the outer coast, a Palm Warbler lingered through 22 Jan at Edmonds, *Snohomish* (DD), and another visited Skagit W.M.A. 2 Feb (TA); 22 on the Port Orford C.B.C. 26 Dec set an Oregon C.B.C. record (*fide* J. Rogers). Very rare during winter, a Black-and-white Warbler appeared in Richland, *Benton* 1 Jan (†R. Johnson); there are approximately 45 Washington records. Washington's 2nd winter **MacGillivray's Warbler** appeared near Bayview, *Skagit* 2 Jan (†K. Kemper). Common Yellowthroats, not annual after Dec in Washington, were at Skagit W.M.A. (SS, MF) and Seattle, both 16 Jan (J. Bragg); only 3 were reported this winter from Oregon. Single **Wilson's Warblers** at Lyon's Ferry, *Franklin* 4 Dec (M&MLD) and Bridgeport, *Douglas* 11 Dec (M. Spencer) yielded e. Washington's first winter records. Westside Wilson's included individuals near Edison, *Skagit* 2 Jan (P. DeBruyn, G. Walker) and N. Portland 11 Dec–2 Jan (J. Rakestraw); of Washington's 19 winter records, 12 were from the last seven years. A **Western Tanager** at Richland, *Benton* 9 Dec furnished e. Washington's 2nd winter record (BW, NL), while in w. Oregon, singles visited McMinnville, *Yamhill* 9–25 Dec (F. Schrock), Salem 16 Feb (P. Swenson), and Milwaukie, *Clackamas* throughout the winter (D. Hopp); Oregon had but six prior winter records and Washington 10.

An American Tree Sparrow, rare in w. Oregon, stopped at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 13 Dec (RG). Four Chipping Sparrows, rare during winter in Oregon, were at Baskett Slough 2 Jan (RG). Single Clay-colored Sparrows at Finley N.W.R., *Benton* 23 Jan (R. Robb) and near Snohomish 31 Jan–8 Feb (CCx) were the only ones detected. Fifteen Savannah Sparrows at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 4 Feb highlighted an excellent winter for this species on the eastside (RH). A Red Fox Sparrow at Nisqually, *Thurston* 4 Feb added to about 17 prior Washington records (†B. Shelmerdine); almost as rare was one at Corvallis 31 Jan (HH). Three Slate-colored Fox Sparrows in w. Washington added to the ev-

idence that they winter annually in the Region. Utterly unexpected was a **Thick-billed Fox Sparrow** of one of the larger-billed races (i.e., not *fulva*) near Snohomish 26–28 Feb (†SM, DD); as this subspecies group migrates early, this bird may have been a "spring overshoot" rather than a winterer. Sixteen Swamp Sparrows was better than average for Washington and included 2 in e. Washington, where now annual. Harris's Sparrow numbers were up a tad, with 8 on the westside and 13 on the east. Slate-colored Juncos were unusually prevalent, with record tallies of 7 (plus 2 *cismontanus*) at Wahluke Slope, *Franklin* 4 Dec (SM, BF, ST) and 6 on the Lummi Flats, *Whatcom* 14 Jan (CW). Oregon's 8th record of McCown's Longspur was provided by one at Lower Klamath N.W.R. 1 Jan–15 Feb (J. Fairchild, C&MM); all but two of Oregon's records are from *Klamath*. Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks lingered at Newport, *Lincoln* through 12 Dec (L. Osis) and Coos Bay through 19 Dec (L. Topits), while another visited Cape Meares, *Tillamook* 28 Dec (M. Tweelinckx); there were approximately seven previous Oregon winter records. Equally rare during winter, a Black-headed Grosbeak graced Roseburg, *Douglas* 2 Feb (D. Worsley).

The feedlots at Othello, *Adams* provided record tallies of 15,000 Red-winged and 3000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds 8 Jan (RH) and 800 Brown-headed Cowbirds 20 Feb (BF), plus a near-record 69 Tricolored Blackbirds 21 Feb (BF); these were not just winter records, but top counts for any time of year, demonstrating the importance of feedlots and dairies to wintering blackbirds throughout the Region. A Tricolored near Sundale 11 Feb was *Klickitat*'s 2nd (†SJ, †D. Gadow, C. Flick). Per usual, single Rusty Blackbirds were near Conway, *Skagit* 1–29 Jan (R. Merrill) and in *Kittitas* 28 Jan (S. Downes). A tally of 375 Brown-headed Cowbirds near Sylvania, *Snohomish* 27 Feb furnished a w. Washington winter record (SM); this species' winter numbers are rapidly increasing. This winter's Bullock's Oriole lingered through 21 Dec at Astoria, *Clatsop* (MP). A swarm of 3000 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches was near Heppner, *Morrow* 8 Jan (CC, JC). Not annual w. of the Cascades, a Gray-crowned remained at Marrowstone Pt., *Jefferson* through 4 Dec (BN), and one visited the Lummi Flats, *Whatcom* 1 Dec (W. Weber). More Purple Finches than normal wandered into the Columbia Basin, with a maximum of 7 at Selah, *Yakima* 18 Dec (D. Brown). Pine Grosbeaks pushed far s. and w. of their usual Oregon haunts. Flocks of 15+ at Santiam Pass in the Cascades 1 Jan (D. Tracy) and near Paulina, *Deschutes* 4 Feb (M. Feiger) were at locations where this species is quite rare, and 6 at Hart Mt., *Lake* 19 Dec were at a spot where the species is not de-

tected annually (C&MM). Common Redpoll numbers were up, with 915 in n.-cen. *Okanogan* in late Dec (K. Kemper) and 65 at Newhalem, *Skagit* 17 Dec (G. Bletsch, B. Kuntz), providing eastside and westside maxima, respectively; the most southerly was one at Burns, *Harney* 24 Dec (J. Carlson). A Washington record 150 Lesser Goldfinches were along Cherry Orchard Trail, *Klickitat* 9 Jan (AS, ES).

**Addenda & corrigenda:** Washington's first Blue Goose was found at University of Washington's Burke Museum, having been collected in Bothell, *King* 9 Sep 1936; it also furnishes the earliest fall record. The hybrid goose that appeared in N.A.B. 58: 423 was erroneously identified as a Greater White-fronted Goose × Canada Goose. More detailed evaluations by authorities led to three suggestions: Emperor × Cackling/Canada, Snow × Cackling/Canada, and Snow × Greater White-fronted (B. Deuel, H. Lehto, M. O'Brien, M. Ogilvie, D. Sibley). The orange legs and pink-and-black mottled bill made Emperor Goose × Cackling/Canada Goose the leading candidate, and Emperor × *B. h. minima* is a hybrid known to have occurred in the wild. A male Costa's Hummingbird × Anna's Hummingbird hybrid appeared in Bend, *Deschutes* 12 May 2004 (T. Janzen, DMA, J. Withgott). Outside review of the Red Fox Sparrow reported near Monroe 14 Feb–4 Mar 2004 revealed that it was erroneously identified, and the bird was most likely an intergrade between Red Fox Sparrow and Sooty Fox Sparrow, a cross that is not rare in parts of s. Alaska (T. Tobish).

**Initialed observers** (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Tom Aversa (Washington), Jessie Barry, Casey Beachell, Keith Brady, Wilson Cady, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Cameron Cox (CCx), Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (Crook), Greg Gillson, Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston, Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Mandell (DMA), Mary Francis Mathis (MFM), Larry McQueen, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig & Marilyn Miller, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Kimdel Owen, Michael Patterson (Clatsop), Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk (Coos), Steven Schlick, Barbara Schonewald (BSc), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Andy & Ellen Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom, Sam Terry, Iain Tomlinson, Dennis Vroman (Josephine), Brad Wagoner (BSW), Diane & Tom Weber, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. ☉