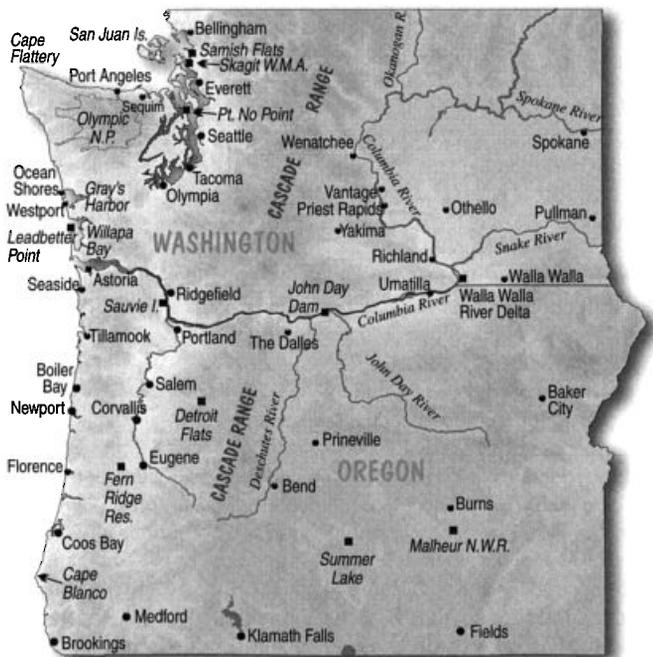


# Oregon & Washington



## Steven Mlodinow

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

## David Irons

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

After the warm dry winter, March delivered normal precipitation and slightly cooler-than-average temperatures. April and May were very wet, with most of the Region experiencing greater than 125% of the usual rainfall. Temperatures rose as well, averaging 2° F above normal in April and more than 6° F above normal in May.

The number of rarities this spring was not exceptional, but the quality was high, with three potential new species and one new subspecies for the Region. Interestingly, the big-name vagrants came mostly from Beringia or the Southwest/South.

**Abbreviations:** F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR); Nisqually (Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston, OR.); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); P.N.P. (Point No Point, Kitsap, WA); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, near Florence, Snohomish, OR); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, OR); W.V. (Willamette Valley, OR); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla); Y.R.D. (Yakima R. delta, Benton, WA). "Eastside" and "westside" denote locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

### LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The peak tally of Red-throated Loons at Boiler Bay, Lincoln was a paltry 800 on 20 Apr, while the Pacific Loon maximum was an equally anemic 8000 on 27 Apr (PP). A Yellow-billed Loon at Shilshole Bay 6 Mar (P.

Hicks) and a late-staying bird through 23 May at Oak Bay, Jefferson (D. Mulholland) were the only ones detected.

**SA** Up to 100 *Aechmophorus* grebes inhabited Vancouver L., Clark mid-Apr+, including 10 Clark's 30 Apr (BT, SM, JB); *Aechmophorus* grebes are unknown as breeders in w. Washington, and this is the 2nd largest gathering of Clark's ever noted there, following a similar gathering at Vancouver L. Jun 2001. Simultaneously, a W.V. record-high 575 *Aechmophorus* gathered at F.R.R. 5 May (DI). Elsewhere on the westside, only 6 Clark's were detected, 20 Apr–20 May. In e. Washington, a mixed pair and a pair consisting of a Western and a Clark's × Western hybrid were noted among 40 pairs of *Aechmophorus* at n. Potholes Res., Grant 30 May; of the 150 *Aechmophorus* present, 3 appeared to be hybrids (SM). There are only two previous Regional records of Western Grebes mated with Clark's.

Formerly extremely rare in spring, a Flesh-footed Shearwater was detected in the Region for the 5th consecutive year: a bird six weeks early off Newport 19 Mar (GG). A total of 63 American White Pelicans, rare on the westside, were found at four W.V. locations, with a maximum of 36 at Eugene 23 Mar (S. McDonald). Two Brown Pelicans at Depoe Bay, Lincoln 21 Mar were a month early (D. Stein). Great Egrets were unusually numerous in the W.V. throughout the season, including 13 at Ankeny N.W.R., Marion 29 May (SD), a sign of continued range expansion. The Cattle Egret noted at F.R.R. 9 Apr (SMg) and near Junction City, Lane 18 Apr (DI) were probably one and the same; this species is very rare in spring. Generally rare on the eastside, 2 Green Herons at the Deschutes R. mouth 7 May (J. Pendleton), and one at Bingen, Klickitat 4 May (SJ) were at locations where now somewhat regular. Following up on reports of 7 "White-faced Ibis" at Nisqually 27 May, careful observers discerned a Glossy Ibis among the lot 30 May, furnishing the Region's first record (ph. KB, †JP, †B. Shelmerdine); this follows a pattern of steadily increasing vagrancy in w. North America, including six accepted records from California, two of which were from n. California during late May (fide G. McCaskie). Other stray White-faced Ibis included 8 at LaPine, Deschutes 8 May (CM), 20 at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla 30 May (SS, MF), and singles in Grant, WA and Yakima 7–19 May—a typical spring for recent years.

A Blue Goose remained at Stanwood, Snohomish through 5 Mar (JB, CCx). A Snow Goose at Soap L., Grant 31 May was six weeks late for the eastside (DSc). A Blue × Canada/Cackling Goose at Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark 3 Apr furnished a first Regional record (SM, BT, BLB). The spring roster of wandering Ross's Geese included 11 in e. Washington, 2 in w. Washington, and one in

w. Oregon, all 5 Mar–19 Apr, about average for the last decade; the top tally was 9 at McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla 13 Apr (M&MLD). Rare in the Puget Trough, 11 Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) visited Nisqually 3 Mar (CCx), and one stopped near Snohomish 8 May (SM). On the heels of the first Regional report this winter, 6 apparent Richardson's Cackling Geese (*B. h. hutchinsii*), seemingly a family group, were at Nisqually 3 Mar (ph. CCx); this taxon may prove to be a rare-but-regular visitor to the Region. Rare on the eastside, a *B. h. minima* visited Conboy N.W.R., Klickitat 6 Apr (JE). Rare away from saltwater, single Brant adorned Baskett Slough, Polk 26 Mar (R. Lockett) and F.R.R. 19 Apr (SMg). An apparent Dark-bellied Brant × Black Brant (*B. b. bernicla* × *B. b. nigricans*) was in Padilla Bay, Skagit 16 Apr (CCx, JB, vt. SM); given increasing hybridization of these taxa in Siberia and the known migration of some Russian *nigricans* to North America (K. Litvin), such a bird is not entirely unexpected.

Twenty Tundra Swans near Ellensburg, Kittitas 14 May were three weeks late (DP). Thirteen eastside Eurasian Wigeons represented the lowest total since 1999, with a maximum of 5 at Philleo L., Spokane 30 Mar (G. Sheridan); the eastside averaged only 7–8 annually during the 1990s but almost 19 per year subsequently. On the westside, 129 at the Samish Flats, Skagit 1 Mar approached the Regional record (JB, CCx). Single Blue-winged Teal × Cinnamon Teal hybrids inhabited F.R.R. 26 Apr (DI) and Wenas L., Yakima 29 May (PtS, RS). Oregon's 3rd Garganey graced Tangent, Linn 15 May (ph. R. Campbell, J. Fleischer); the Region now has seven records, four of which occurred mid-Apr—mid-May. Last winter's Baikal Teal, Washington's 2nd, was refound near Kent, King 1–19 Apr (CCx). Seven Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal, last 19 Apr, was a subpar total but included rare eastside singles near Yakima 19 Mar (DG) and Corfu, Grant 22 Mar (BF). Amazingly, 9+ Common Teal × Green-winged Teal were reported. The only Tufted Duck was a winter holdover at Vantage, Kittitas through 7 Mar (m.ob.). An ad. male *v-nigra* Common Eider inhabited Tatoosh I., Clallam 26–28 Apr (B. Painert, ph. T. Wootton). Could this have been the same bird that provided Washington's first record 160 km to the e. eight months earlier? Two Harlequin Ducks near Grand Ronde, Polk 15 May were in the Coast Range, where very rare, but where the species has bred before (RG). Two White-

winged Scoters, not annual during spring on the eastside, visited Vantage 6 Mar (Paul Sullivan). For the 5th consecutive spring, Long-tailed Ducks were detected on the eastside, with 2 at Vantage 25–28 Mar (S. Downes).

Washington's Red-shouldered Hawk for the spring was at Kalama, Cowlitz 5 Mar (J. Gilligan, G. Lillie). Five westside Swainson's Hawks, 14 Apr–22 May, exceeded expectations, while one near College Place, Walla Walla 5 Mar was five weeks early (M&MLD). A Rough-legged Hawk at Paulina, Crook 23 May was nearly a month tardy (K. Smith). Oregon's 2nd Crested Caracara was near Langlois, Curry during late Apr



Oregon's second Crested Caracara spent several days in late April 2005 (here) near Langlois, Curry County, adding to a rapidly building list of Pacific Coast records that extends as far as Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It seems increasingly likely that these records are of wild birds. Photograph by Dave Ledig.

(TR, ph. D. Ledig, vt. O. Schmidt); Oregon's first lingered near Gold Beach, Curry Feb–Apr 1990. Three Gyrfalcons across the Region included a late-staying bird at N.S.C.B. through 11 Apr (TR). An estimated 50 Yellow Rails at Klamath Marsh N.W.R. 13 May suggests the continued health of this population (T. Janzen); the species was considered extirpated in Oregon until 2 were detected near Ft. Klamath Jun 1982. Two Common Moorhens near Hines, Harney 27 May+ added to 12 previous Oregon records, about half of which come from Harney in May (J. & B. Carlson). A swarm of 18,000 Lesser Sandhill Cranes, more than half the Pacific Flyway population, congregated near Corfu, Grant 6 Apr (BF). A pair of Sandhills at Calispell L., Pend Oreille 29 May suggest-

ed that breeding may once again be taking place in ne. Washington (GS, CC).

## PLOVERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Black-bellied Plover at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla 31 May–3 Jun was only the 3rd e. Washington spring record since 2000 (SM). Single American Golden-Plovers near Brady, Grays Harbor 22–23 Apr (PtS, RS) and P.S.B. 7 May (DD, SM) represented a typical spring, whereas 9 Pacific Golden-Plovers was supranormal and included 2 early individuals at N.S.C.B. 31 Mar (TR) and 4 late birds at Crockett L., Island 31 May (J. Meyer, H. Jennings). A Snowy Plover at the Kirtland, Jackson 23 Apr was only the 3rd ever for interior w. Oregon (C. Brumitt). Now nearly annual in w. Washington, 2 Black-necked Stilts visited Nisqually 27 Apr (S. McCartan), and singles appeared at Ridgefield 17 Apr (S. Murray) and near Brady 22 Apr (PtS, RS); there were only seven w. Washington records prior to 2000. In w. Oregon, nesting Black-necked Stilts returned to F.R.R. by 3 Apr (J. Maloney), and 8 others were noted at four additional sites, 23 Apr–29 May; numbers have also increased in w. Oregon, with breeding first noted during 2000. The sole westside American Avocet graced Hoquiam, Grays Harbor 23–24 Apr (T. Schooley).

A tally of 175 Greater Yellowlegs at Baskett Slough, Polk 18 Apr was among the Region's highest ever for spring (HN). Solitary Sandpiper numbers were near normal, with 33 on the westside and 6 on the eastside, mostly mid-Apr–early May; the maximum was 6 at Finley N.W.R. 28 Apr (HH), and an intriguingly late bird inhabited potential breeding habitat at Dry Canyon, Pend Oreille 30 May (GS, CC). A Wandering Tattler at Lost L. near Santiam Pass 22–23 May was unprecedented (K. Carter, S. Christensen); another was one in the Puget Trough, where merely rare, at Tulalip Bay, Snohomish 18 May (M. Reid). Very rare in e. Washington, a Willet visited Richland, Benton 24–25 Apr (BW). Often undetected in recent years, 3 Upland Sandpipers at Bear Valley, Grant 27 May provided hope that this species continues to breed in Oregon (M. A. Sohlstrom). A Long-billed Curlew was found at American Camp, San Juan 6 May (H. Flores), and up to 3 stopped at F.R.R. 22 Apr–3 May (D. Farrar, R. Robb, L. McQueen); they are rare on the westside away from the outer coast.

Single Marbled Godwits, rare in Washington away from the outer coast, were near Stanwood, Snohomish 16 Apr (SM, JB, CCx),



This second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull brightened up eastern Washington's Coulee Lakes 2 (here) through 17 April 2005. It was almost certainly the same bird that appeared there in October 2004. Photograph by Doug Schonewald.

Port Angeles 10 May (J. Mullaly), and Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 19 May (RH). Two Black Turnstones in a cornfield near Brady surprised a number of observers 30 Apr. An assemblage of 150 Surf-birds at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 21 Mar set a Washington spring record (BSW). Two Red Knots, very rare on the eastside, stopped at Summer L., *Lake* 14 May (JS). A superb 8 Semipalmated Sandpipers 29 Apr–18 May included very rare spring eastside birds at Redmond, *Deschutes* 30 Apr (K. Owen), and Grandview, *Yakima* 7 May (DG). Peak Western Sandpiper migration was highlighted by 36,000 flying past the New R., *Coos* in one hour 20 Apr (TR). Four Baird's Sandpipers appeared near Corfu, *Grant* 23 Apr, dwindling to one by 30 Apr (AS); the Region averages about 5 per spring. For the first time since 1999 there were no spring Pectoral Sandpipers. A congregation of 600+ Dunlin at W.W.R.D. 13 Apr was e. Washington's largest ever (M&MLD). Oregon's 3rd spring Stilt Sandpiper visited Summer L., *Lake* 27 May (M. LaFaive). Very rare during spring, a Ruff was near Brady 4–5 Apr (ph. RS, PIS). A Short-billed Dowitcher, very rare during spring on the eastside, was at Cow L., *Adams* 14 May (GS).

A Parasitic Jaeger off Keystone, *Island* 27 May was in the Puget Trough, where very rare during spring (R. Rogers). A Franklin's Gull at English Boom, *Island* 23 Apr was about three weeks early and on the westside, where not annual during spring (SM, DD); 32 Franklin's at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 28 May was a record-high count for Washing-

ton (BF, SM). For the first time since 1988, the Region had no Little Gulls Feb–May. A Heermann's Gull at Brookings, *Curry* 7 Apr was Oregon's earliest-ever northbound bird by 11 days (DM). A Common (Mew) Gull startled observers at Everett 3 Mar (vt. SM, DD, S. Pink); expert opinion considered it consistent with the e. Russian race *kamtschatschensis* (O. & M. Ujihara) but also stated that the cen. Russian *heinei* could not be eliminated (J. King). Though reported previously, this is apparently the first Regional record of a Palearctic Mew Gull to be thoroughly documented and reviewed. A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Sun Lakes, *Grant* 2–8 Apr and reappeared at nearby L. Lenore 17 Apr (DSC); it was almost certainly the same bird that appeared there last Oct, furnishing Washington's 4th record. A stunning 16 Glaucous Gulls were encountered this spring through 15 May. Single Sabine's Gulls visited Kirtland, *Jackson* 11–13 Apr (C. Brumitt) and F.R.R. 6 May (JS); there are only seven prior spring records away from marine waters. A Black-legged Kittiwake over farmland at Monteseano, *Grays Harbor* 20 Mar was quite surprising, despite its proximity to the coast (CW, RTS).

A Caspian Tern at Two Rivers Park, *Benton* 15 Mar was record early for e. Washington (D. Rockwell). Virtually unprecedented was a Forster's Tern over Padilla Bay, *Skagit* 27 Mar (CCx, JB, SM); there are only six prior w. Washington records of northbound Forster's, mostly late May/early Jun, and so this bird may well have overwintered locally.

A Black Tern returned to Ridgefield, Washington's only known breeding location, 8 May (D. Hayden), with up to 9 present by season's end (P. Hicks). An extremely early Black Tern, very rare on the outer coast, visited Lincoln City 12 Apr (T. Snetsinger); another was in the Puget Trough, where rare during spring, at Nisqually 23 May (S. McCartan). A flight of 880 Pigeon Guillemots passed Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 19 May, furnishing one of Oregon's highest counts ever (PP). A tally of 400 Marbled Murrelets there 20 Apr was also exceptional (PP). Single Horned Puffins, now seemingly annual during spring/summer on the cen. Oregon coast, passed Boiler Bay 20 Apr and 22 May (PP).

Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos along Pike Cr., *Harney* 28 May (DH) and Malheur 28–30 May (KT) furnished a typical spring haul. Extremely rare in far e. Washington, single Band-tailed Pigeons visited Kennewick, *Benton* 27–28 Mar (R. Weeks) and Mead, *Spokane* 7–15 May (ph. J. Christensen). Washington's 5th and 6th Eurasian Collared-Doves were at Ocean Park, *Pacific* 3–7 May (ph. R. Schuver) and Washtucna, *Adams* 29 May+ (vt. SM, RH, BF, DSC). In Oregon, collared-dove sightings included 4 at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 16 May (TJW) and one at Frenchglen, *Harney* 29 Apr (J. Dillon); Oregon has about 24 previous records, roughly 75% of which were during the preceding 15 months. The only lingering Snowy Owl was at Davenport, *Lincoln* 27 Mar (SS). Oregon's 3rd Northern Hawk Owl remained near Bend through 30 Mar (D. Kook). A Burrowing Owl at American Camp, *San Juan* 23 Apr was only the 6th (and 4th for spring) for w. Washington during the last 25 years (R. Fuller).

A Whip-poor-will sang repeatedly at Frenchglen, *Harney* 14 May (H. Ward, D. Hazenton); audio-recordings appear to support the identification. If accepted by the Oregon B.R.C., it will provide the first Regional record. Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Vancouver, *Clark* 15 May (KK) and Concrete, *Skagit* 31 May–1 Jun (ph. B. Bridge) added to eight prior w. Washington records, all but two of which have been from *Clark* and *Skamania*. An Anna's Hummingbird, rare in e. Washington away from *Klickitat*, visited Dixie, *Walla Walla* 28 May (SM, CW, BF, RTS). Washington's 6th Costa's Hummingbird intermittently graced a feeder in Lyle, *Klickitat* 2–15 May (†K. Kagarise); three of the five prior records were from spring. In Oregon, Costa's at Bonanza, *Klamath* 14 May (J. Van Hulzen) and Bend 22 May (J. Moodie) yielded a typical spring. After three superb springs, westside Calliope Hummingbird numbers returned to long-term norms, with none in Washington and 7 in Oregon 11 Apr–25 May. Washington's 3rd and 4th Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were

in *Walla Walla* at College Place 25 May (M&MLD) and *Dixie* 28 May+ (†SM, †CW, BF, RTS). A male Allen's Hummingbird at Grants Pass, *Josephine* 14 May was very rare inland (DV). A Lewis's Woodpecker, very rare in w. Washington, visited *Anacortes, Skagit* 10 May (D. Crow). Six Red-naped Sapsuckers w. of the Cascades, 7–22 Apr was about twice normal.

### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A singing Willow Flycatcher in *Othello, Adams* 24 Apr (†BF) and one at *Columbia N.W.R., Grant* 3 May (†RH) were exceptionally early; most arrive in late May. This spring's Least Flycatcher tally included a nesting pair in *Hardy Canyon, Yakima* 28 May+ (ph. RS), furnishing only Washington's 3rd, and the Region's 5th, documented breeding record; 3 more were on the eastside 27 May+. A Gray Flycatcher near *Wenas, Yakima* 19 Apr tied Washington's record-early date (J. Kozma); a concentration of 12 migrant Grays near *Kittitas* 11 May was unprecedented for Washington (CW). On the westside, 6 Grays in Oregon (but none in Washington) 21 Apr+ was above average and included 3 at *Detroit Flats, Marion* 7 May (SD). Black Phoebe range expansion continued. On the eastside, singles visited *Malheur* 13 Apr (F. Crase) and *Bend* 17 Apr (D. Tracy). On the westside, a pair attempted to nest near *Dayton, Yamhill* for at least the 3rd straight year (F. Schrock), while singles at *Tillamook* 8 (S. Shunk) & 26 May (E. McVicker) and at *Elkton, Douglas* 22 May (A. McCallum) were away from established populations. To the n., Washington's 8th and northernmost Black Phoebe stopped near *Auburn, King* 26 Apr–16 May (R. Becker, J. Simms, ph. RS). Eleven w. Oregon Say's Phoebes (2 Mar–11 Apr) was above average, while 6 in w. Washington (11 Mar–7 Apr) approached the record; outer-coast sightings included singles at *Cape Blanco, Curry* 5 Apr (TJW) and *Aberdeen, Grays Harbor* 6 Apr (TA). Western Kingbirds showed exceedingly well on the Westside, with maxima of 10 at *Cape Blanco* 29 Apr (TJW) and 6 at P.N.P. 26 May (BSW). Barely annual in w. Oregon, an Eastern Kingbird graced *Cape Blanco* 26 May (TJW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at *Coos Bay* 14 May was about the 20th for Oregon and the 5th for *Coos* (T. Gaskill, ph. J. Chatt).

Matching last year's excellent showing were 5 Loggerhead Shrikes in w. Oregon (26 Mar–20 Apr) and 3 in w. Washington (19 Mar–8 Apr). A Hutton's Vireo at *Trout L., Klickitat* 24 Apr added to about six previous e. Washington records (J. Essley, P. Moyer); a pair inhabited the same location May 2003. A record-early Red-eyed Vireo was singing at *White Salmon, Klickitat* 25 Apr (†P. Moyer). Blue Jays lingering after this winter's inva-

sion included 25 in Washington and 6 in Oregon, with westside singles at *Port Hadlock, Jefferson* through 9 May (D. Johnson) and *Dallas, Polk* through 3 Apr (B. Tice). Given the possibility of post-irruption breeding, 4 at *Prineville, Crook* through 16 May (CG), 4 at *Prescott, Walla Walla* 7 May (M&MLD), and one in *Dayton, Columbia* 28 May (SM, RTS, BF, CW) were of interest. An apparently northbound Western Scrub-Jay at P.N.P. 1 May was at a location where this species is still quite rare (BSW). The Clark's Nutcracker flock at *Rose Cr., Whitman* numbered 60+ on 2 Apr (M&MLD) but dwindled to 4 by 24 May (T. Weber).

A swarm of 4000 Tree Swallows at *Kent, King* 15 Apr was exceptional (CW). A colony of 8–12 Bank Swallows at *Dewatto, Mason* 1 May added to the rapidly growing list of known westside breeding locations (M. Hrudkaj). A Purple Martin at *Moses L., Grant* 28 May was only e. Washington's 4th away from the *Bingen* vicinity (RH). In Washington, Mountain Chickadees staged a



Band-tailed Pigeons are exceptionally rare in far eastern Washington, and most are found in spring. This one at *Mead, Spokane County* 7 May 2005 may have been as far northeast as one has ever been detected in that state. Photograph by J. Christensen.

small spring return migration, late Mar–late Apr, following their fall irruption. The top lowland count was 20 at P.N.P. 24 Apr (BSW), and the latest was one there 19 May (BSW). In Oregon, only 4 were detected. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee at *Potholes S.P., Grant* lingered through 3 Apr (DSc) and was joined by a White-breasted Nuthatch, very rare in the *Columbia Basin*, 26 Mar (M&MLD).

A House Wren at *Tulalip Bay, Snohomish* 9 Apr was record early for w. Washington (SM), while 50 at *Ridgefield* 30 Apr provided a w. Washington record tally (SM, BT, JB). Formerly unknown in *Crook*, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at *Prineville* 15 May was the 3rd there in the past two years (P. Low). Seven westside Mountain Bluebirds was supranormal and included a late bird at P.N.P. 4 May (V. Nelson) and a very rare outer-coast individual at *New R. bottoms, Curry* 4 Mar (D. Pitkin). Also very rare on the outer coast, a

Townsend's Solitaire was near *Oysterville, Pacific* 30 Apr–1 May (J. Gilligan). Veeries, very rarely seen on migration, visited *Fields, Harney* 16 May (D. Smith) and *Windust Park, Franklin* 28 May (SM). Olympia's cooperative Redwing lingered through 14 Mar (G. Revelas). A Gray Catbird, extremely rare on the westside, graced N.S.C.B. 27 May and was Coos's first (TR). Four Northern Mockingbirds in Washington was above average, but 4 in Oregon was subpar; all were 20 Apr+. Sage Thrashers appeared on the westside for the 6th consecutive spring, with singles at *Cape Blanco, Curry* 10 Apr (TJW), *Eugene* 23 Apr (D&AH), and *Nehalem, Tillamook* 30 Apr (D. Mandell); most records are from mid-Apr–mid-May. A Brown Thrasher near *Midway Beach, Pacific* 23 Apr was about Washington's 10th and somewhat early (†D. Froelich, M. Dufort); most Regional records have been late May–late Jul. A very tardy Bohemian Waxwing at *College Place, Walla Walla* 15–18 May was 10 weeks late (M&MLD).

### WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

This spring's Tennessee Warbler visited *Malheur* 28 May (KT). A Washington-record 120 Orange-crowned Warblers inhabited *Leadbetter Point, Pacific* 18 May (CW). Nearly annual during May/June, a Northern Parula adorned *Malheur* 27 May (AC). A Magnolia Warbler near *Dixie, Walla Walla* 29 May was Washington's 11th and only the 2nd for spring (†CW, RTS).

Washington's 2nd Cape May Warbler dallied in *Spokane* through 8 Apr (A. Sherrodd). A wintering Black-throated Blue Warbler lingered in *Portland* through 5 Mar (S. Sterne), while another in *Eugene* 6 Apr likely had wintered locally (SMg) and was *Lane's* first and about the 40th for Oregon. A Washington-record 5000 Yellow-rumped Warblers flew n. past P.N.P. 23 Apr (BSW). Another 1000 inundated *Ridgefield* 30 Apr, about 40% of which were Myrtles; only one or 2 were hybrids (SM, BT, JB). A Black-throated Gray Warbler, very rare e. of the Washington Cascades during spring, was at *Wenatchee, Chelan* 3 May (D. Beaudette). Four northbound Palm Warblers, 3 Apr–5 May, was exceptional, but one singing in appropriate breeding habitat at *Tiffany Spring, Okanogan* (elev. 2200 m) 29 May was unprecedented (†G. Conti). Four Black-and-white Warblers, all in Oregon 16–27 May, represented a typical spring. An Ovenbird,

nearly annual during late May/June, graced Malheur 20 May (D. Robberson). A Wilson's Warbler at Nestucca Bay, Tillamook 22 Mar was either three weeks early or had wintered locally (D. Grafe). Three Yellow-breasted Chats in w. Washington 15 May+ b-speaks this species' continuing comeback there, while one near Hart's Pass at 1700 m 31 May defied explanation (KK, MH, MB). A tally of 56 chats near Kittitas 25 May was unprecedented for Washington (CW). A Western Tanager at Portland 10 Mar had probably wintered locally (GG).

A Green-tailed Towhee in Eugene 29 May was a W.V. first (Maitreya); prior w. Oregon records are almost exclusively from the Siskiyou Mts. or near the Cascade crest. Apparently unprecedented during spring in Washington were 150 Chipping Sparrows along Grey Rock Trail, Yakima 23 May (JP). Two Clay-colored Sparrows near Molson, Okanogan 22–31 May (AS, ES) and 3 near Spokane 26 May (M. Woodruff) were likely on territory, while one wintering at Finley N.W.R. remained through 5 Mar (JS). Brewer's Sparrows were recorded in w. Oregon for the 8th consecutive spring, with singles at Sandy R. delta, Multnomah 11 Apr (I. Tomlinson) and 23 Apr (D. Mandell) and at Corvallis 24 Apr (HH); most have been during Apr. Very rare in w. Washington away from its tiny breeding range, stray Vesper Sparrows visited Tokeland, Pacific 22 Apr (PtS, RS), Brady, Grays Harbor 24 Apr (PtS, RS), and Coupeville, Island 19 May (S. Ellis). Western Washington's 9th spring Lark Sparrow graced Mt. Vernon, Skagit 15 May (T. Becker). Rare w. of the Cascades, Slate-colored Fox Sparrows inhabited Leque 1., Snohomish 25 Mar (CCx) and Woodland, Cowlitz 3 Apr (BT, BLB, SM). One hundred Lincoln's Sparrows at Copalis, Grays Harbor 24 Apr was unprecedented for Washington (J. Anderson). Three Swamp Sparrows in Mar, all on the west-side, were local winterers, but one in Seattle 5 Apr provided a rare record of a northbound migrant (D. Froehlich, S. Terry). A goodly 7 Harris's Sparrows were detected, all in Washington, including a late bird at P.N.P. 13 May (BSW). The Region's 3rd spring Chestnut-collared Longspur was near Corvallis 15 Mar (HH); previous records were from May. A Snow Bunting at Westport 23 Apr was three weeks late (M&MLD); Washington has but two later spring records. Potentially representing the Region's first record, a female Northern

Cardinal briefly adorned Gig Harbor, Pierce 7–8 May (ph. F. Desler, I. Desler); arguing for natural provenance is the time of year, its sex, and the lack of unusual wear. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed exceptionally well, with 11 in Oregon 21 May+ and one in Washington near Long Beach, Pacific 21–23 May (A. Richards).

Tricolored Blackbird numbers continued to increase in Washington. "Winter" numbers at Othello, Adams peaked at 100 on 27 Mar (SS). More notably, 318 birds (including 100+ pairs and many fledged young) were at



Black Phoebes are rapidly expanding their range northward in the Pacific Northwest. This bird at Auburn, King County from 26 (here 27) April through 16 May 2005 was Washington's eighth, six of which have been during the last eight years. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

a newly found breeding colony near Texas L., Whitman 29 May (BF, SM, DSc, RH); summer flocks had been seen nearby since 2002. Washington's 4th Great-tailed Grackle returned to Liberty L., Spokane 6–24 Apr (R. Dexter), while 4 in e. Oregon, 15–29 May, was better than usual and included a northerly bird at Madras, Jefferson 21 May (CG). A Baltimore Oriole, about the 31st for Oregon, visited Tierra del Mar, Tillamook 24 Apr and was nearly three weeks earlier than any previous spring record (W. Gross).

Stray Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches adorned Larch Mt., Multnomah 7 May (I. Tomlinson), while 3 paused at Saddle Mt., Clatsop 25 May (MP); they almost never wander during spring. Remnants from last fall's influx, 7 Pine Grosbeaks remained at

Santiam Pass through 7 Apr (P. Low). Both Purple and Cassin's Finches appeared in above-average numbers in the Columbia Basin into Apr (RH, BF). Additionally, a Purple Finch along the Twisp R., Okanogan 31 May (KK, MH, MB) and a Cassin's Finch at Hooper, Whitman 29 May (RH) were well out of place for such a late date. Extremely rare w. of the Cascades, a Cassin's Finch visited Mary's Peak, Lane 13 May (N. Strycker).

A White-winged Crossbill inhabited Spokane 22–31 Mar (M. Frobe), and 12 visited Carnation, King 6 Mar (M. Taylor); they are very rare away from the mts. Rather late were Common Redpolls at Potholes S.P., Grant 10 Apr (DSc, BSc) and near Yakima 11 Apr (J. Kozma), but one on the Oregon coast at Bay City, Tillamook 11 Apr was both late and at an unusual location (M. Simper). Numbers of Pine Siskin seemed up nearly Regionwide after early Mar.

**Corrigenda:** Alas, the 137 Marbled Murrelets at Boiler Bay 25 Aug 2004 was nowhere near the Oregon record: Surveys between Newport and Florence in the 1990s tallied greater than 1000 individuals on three occasions, with a maximum of 1245 on 27 Jun 1992 (C. Strong, D. Fix); also 350 were seen from the Siuslaw R. mouth during early May of either 1984 or 1985 (fide D. Fix). The following were not accepted by the Washington B.R.C.: Spotted Redshank at Blynn last Jul, and due to concerns about provenance, the Pink-footed Geese from Nov 2003–Apr 2004 in Grays Harbor.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): **Tom Aversa** (WA), Marv Breece, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Mike and Merry Lynn Denny (M&MLD), Don DeWitt (DDW), Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), Bob Flores, Michael Fleming, **Chuck Gates** (Crook), **Roy Gerig** (Linn, Marion, Polk), Greg Gillson, **Denny Granstrand** (Yakima), Hendrik Herlyn, Dan and Anne Heyerly (D&AH), Randy Hill, Mark Houston, **Stuart Johnston** (Klickitat), Ken Knittle, Bruce LaBar (BLB), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Sylvia Maulding (SMG), **Tom Mickel** (Lane), Craig Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), **Bob Norton** (Olympic Pen.), **Michael Patterson** (Clatsop), Jason Paulios, Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, **Tim Rodenkirk** (Coos), Stefan Schlick, Barbara Schonewald (BSc), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Ryan T. Shaw, Gina Sheridan, Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, John Sullivan, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, Khanh Tran, **Dennis Vroman** (Josephine), Terry J. Wahl, Brad S. Waggoner (BSW), Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. 🐦

**SA** An influx of Red Crossbills into w. Oregon began in late Mar and was especially apparent in the s. Willamette Valley and along the n. coast. During late May, unprecedented numbers arrived. On 21 May, at least 395 passed near Mt. Pisgah's summit (DDW) and 375 were northbound at Cape Lookout, Tillamook (J. Danzenbaker). Eclipsing these counts was a staggering 2000 headed n. past Cascade Head, Tillamook 25 May (PP). Interestingly, w. Washington observers noted only a modest increase in numbers.