

Oregon & Washington



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)

The summer was exceptionally odd. Most dramatic was a host of changes wrought by an overly warm Pacific Ocean (see S.A.). However, there was a plethora of peculiar finds: eastside birds gone west, westside birds gone east, a diverse array of lingerers from spring, late northbound shorebirds, early southbound shorebirds, and a few mega-rarities. It is hard to conceive of a single factor that would unite these disparate trends. The weather was also odd. June's rainfall was a mosaic varying from extreme drought to near deluge. July was more uniformly dry, with much of the Region receiving less than half of normal rainfall. Temperatures were unremarkable.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, Snohomish, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA); W.V. (Willamette Valley, OR); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA.). Eastside and westside indicate east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

Red-throated Loon migration usually subsides by mid-May, so 52 flying northward past Cape Flattery, Clallam 4 Jun were noteworthy (SM, DSc). Utterly inexplicable was a build-up of mostly alternate-plumaged Pacific Loons at Dungeness Bay, Clallam that began during late Jun and peaked at 300 birds 29 Jul (J. Mullaly, RR); such numbers typically do not arrive until Sep, and unusual numbers were not noted elsewhere. A Yellow-billed Loon inhabited Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 25 Jun+, furnishing the Region's 8th summer record during the past decade (K. & D. Cawthon). Single Eared Grebes, not annual during summer on the westside, visited N.S.C.B. 7-10 Jun (TR) and Bellingham, Whatcom 11 Jul (DD, SP). The drawdown of F.R.R. for dam reconstruction caused *Aechmophorus* grebes to abandon their only westside breeding colony for the first time since it was established in 1993. Echoing the summer of 2001 (and unrelated to events at F.R.R.), Vancouver L., Clark again hosted nonbreeding *Aechmophorus* grebes, with 162 Western and 28 Clark's Grebes there 5 Jul (WC); Westerns typically avoid fresh water during summer in w. Washington, and the Clark's count was w. Washington's highest ever. A Clark's on Port Gardner Bay, Snohomish 12 Jun furnished w. Washington's first summer record away from Vancouver L. (SM), while a surprising 3 were detected along the Oregon coast.

A Laysan Albatross, very rare during summer, cruised off Westport 25 Jun (SMi). Perhaps related to the warm seas, a Black-footed Albatross approached Cape Flattery, Clallam 24 Jul (SM); it was Washington's first from shore and came within a km or so of being the first for the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Rarer yet was the Region's 2nd summer record of Short-tailed Albatross since 1889, a subad. over Heceta Bank 14 Jul (D. Ainley). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was over Heceta Bank 14 Jul (D. Ainley), and a Short-tailed Shearwater was off Coos Bay 8 Jul (P. Pyle); neither is annual during summer. This summer's haul of Manx Shearwaters included one about 35 km w. of Pt. Grenville, Grays Harbor 5 Jun (SMi), another about 70 km off La Push, Clallam 7 Jun (SMi), and one off Westport 23 Jul (B. LaBar). Anomalous for this summer was a goodly count of 400 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels 10 km off Newport 2 Jul (RL). American White Pelicans flooded w. Oregon, with 90+ noted, including maxima of 30 at Baskett Slough, Polk 26 Jun+ (C. Karlen) and 46 at F.R.R. 31 Jul (TM); 6 others were detected on Oregon's outer coast and in w. Washington, where still rare. A congregation of 1185+ ad. Great Blue Herons on Padilla Bay, Skagit 25 Jun was likely a Washington record (SM). Three Black-crowned Night-Herons at Ridgefield 22 Jul (P&RS) and 2+ at F.R.R. 4 Jul+ (DI, J.

SA Ocean conditions were highly abnormal this year. Indeed, they resembled those of a strong El Niño event—except there was no El Niño. Wind-driven upwelling, responsible for generating most of the biological productivity in our coastal currents, was absent from early spring until midsummer. No upwelling meant little phytoplankton and unusually warm surface waters, resulting in poor fish runs and high mortality among piscivores, reflected by extremely large numbers of beached birds. A record 181 ad. murre, all starved, were encountered along 7.5 km of beach near Newport in Jul (RL), and in s. Washington, counts of dead murre were four- to six-fold the five-year average (J. Parrish). Dead Brandt's Cormorant totals in s. Washington were 50 to 80 times those of previous years. Oregon's murre did not reproduce at all (RL). Even in Washington, where some breeding did take place, patterns were disrupted. Murre on Tatoosh I., *Clallam* initiated breeding nearly a month late, the longest delay in 15+ years (J. Parrish). Undoubtedly, 6000 Common Murres flying n. past Tatoosh I. 4 Jun—a number approximately equal to the entire Washington breeding population—were related to breeding failures farther s. (SM, DSc). Typically, alcids with a more inshore distribution, such as Marbled Murrelet, do not fare as poorly during warm water events. However, only 3 Marbleds were encountered during surveys in the Coast Range near Salem, where 40–60 is the norm (G. Licata).

The warm ocean's effects were evidenced by pelagic trip results (G. Gillson, BT). Northern Fulmars and Pink-footed Shearwaters averaged fewer than 100 per trip, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels about 30 per trip, well below long-term and recent norms. Leach's Storm-Petrel, a warmer water species, was slightly more numerous than typical, with over 50 per trip. Excepting an unremarkable 7 South Polar Skuas, *Stercorarius* were almost absent offshore, with 4 Pomarines off Westport 9 Jul the only report. Totals of Cassin's Auklets (20 per trip) and Rhinoceros Auklet (40 per trip) were also well below average. On the other hand, Washington's first Jun record of **Xantus's Murrelet** was supplied by 2 *scrippsi* off Westport 25 Jun (†SMI); almost all records are mid-Aug-mid-Oct.

Warm waters off our coast often push birds into the more consistently productive Puget Trough. This year was no exception. Four Brown Pelicans were detected there 8 Jul+; the first typically appear in mid-Aug. Jaegers are not found most summers in the Puget Trough. This year, a Pomarine at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 23 Jul provided the Puget Trough's 3rd summer record (SM). A Parasitic Jaeger, detected about every other year here, was at Penn Cove, *Island* 27 Jul (SE). Three other jaegers remained unidentified. Similarly, a juv. **Sabine's Gull** at Nisqually 23–26 Jul furnished an extremely rare summer Puget Trough record (†E. Kraig); most Sabine's Gulls away from the outer coast are found early Sep–early Oct, and Regonwide juvs. do not usually appear before mid-Aug. Another early juv. was on the coast at Seaside, *Clatsop* 23 Jul+ (N. Maine). Ancient Murrelets, not annual during summer in the Puget Trough, were off Dungeness Spit 15 Jul (NB) and near Vashon I., *King* 16 Jul (BSW). A Cassin's Auklet, not annual at any time in the Puget Trough, was off Dungeness Spit 9 Jun (RR).

Finally, a pair of **Brown Boobies** may well have been related to the warm seas, with singles at Bellingham Bay, *Whatcom* 9–12 Jul (†H. Flores) and one 30 km off Reedsport, *Douglas* 24 Jul (†C. Hinman). Washington has three previous records and Oregon one; all but one have been from Oct.

Abernathy) added to speculation that they breed on the westside. Stray White-faced Ibis were widely scattered, with up to 2 at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 2–12 Jun (M&MLD), one at Nisqually 15 Jun (B. Sundstrom, P. Hicks), another near George, *Grant* 19 Jun (DSc), and a late bird at Potholes Res., *Grant* 17 Jul (A. Martin).

Four Greater White-fronted Geese, a species not annual in summer, summered on the westside. Washington's 5th summer Snow Goose lingered at Soap L., *Grant* through 11 Jun (DSc, BSc). A Ross's Goose at Burns, *Harney* through 7 Jun was the Region's 4th during the last seven summers (RCH). A **Trumpeter Swan** visited Crocker L., *Jefferson* 4 Jun (BN), and perhaps the same bird graced nearby Foulweather Bluff, *Kitsap* 15–16 Jun (BSW, D. Watkins); Washington has but two prior summer records, excluding released birds. Almost as rare was a Tundra Swan at Wenas L., *Yakima* 9 Jun (P&RS). Three pairs of Mandarin Ducks plus a lone male inhabited Kent, *King* this spring, leading to a female with brood at Kent/Auburn 21 Jun–6 Jul (M. Breece); this species could easily become established in the Region. Gadwall continue to conquer the westside. A summer-record 360 ads. were at P.S.B. 12 Jun (SM), and a brood at South Bend furnished *Pacific's* first breeding record (SM, ST, MF). *The Breeding Birds of Washington State* (1997) shows no nesting records for the outer coast, but Gadwall have

bred in neighboring *Grays Harbor* since at least 2001 (P&RS). A **Eurasian Wigeon** at Bay City, *Tillamook* 11 Jun was only the Region's 4th during summer (K. Owen); amazingly the three antecedent records were all from the eastside. Both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, scarce westside breeders, raised broods at P.S.B. (SM). The Common Teal × Green-winged Teal hybrid at P.S.B. 1–25 Jun yielded only the Region's 2nd

Multnomah (IT). Clark's first nesting Ring-necked Ducks inhabited Post Office L. (SM, MF, ST), while four broods were raised at N.S.C.B. (TR). Six Greater Scaup at Priest Rapids Pool 18 Jun were on the eastside, where rare but increasingly regular during summer (SM, CB). Seven broods of Lesser Scaup, another scarce westside breeder, were detected in *Island* and *Snohomish* (SM, TA), while two broods at South Bend, *Pacific* provided the outer coast's first breeding record (SM). Two **Harlequin Ducks** at Moses L., *Grant* 5 Jun furnished what was likely the 2nd eastside summer record away from the mts. (DSc); their appearance coincided with male post-breeding dispersal. A female-type Harlequin on the Columbia R. near Carson, *Skamania* through 9 Jun was equally odd (J. & T. Anderson), while 221 Harlequins between Port Angeles and Klachopis Pt., *Clallam* 3 Jun was probably a Regional record (SM, DSc). A **Red-breasted Merganser** at Paterson Slough, *Benton* 4 Jul furnished the eastside's 3rd summer record (BL, NL).

The Olympic Pen.'s 2nd White-tailed Kite visited Sequim, *Clallam* 18 Jul (†S. Abella). An ad. White-tailed Kite with 3 young was near Reedsport, *Douglas* (W. Hoffman); there are still precious few Oregon nesting records. A **Swainson's Hawk** over Portland 21 Jun was only the 4th ever during summer on the westside (WG). Even rarer was the Region's 4th summer **Rough-legged Hawk** near Hampton,



These Wilson's Phalaropes, with a Long-billed Dowitcher, were two of at least 16 raised at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, Washington (here July 30 2005). Wilson's Phalarope is one of a cadre of "interior" species expanding their ranges into western Oregon and Washington. Photograph by Steven Mladinow.

summer record and may have been the same bird present there last summer (SM). For the 5th consecutive summer, several pairs of Redheads inhabited E.R.R. and likely bred (LM); elsewhere on the westside, where not annual after early Jun, 4 summered at Ridgefield (WC), as did 4 at Vanport Wetlands,

Lake 5 Jul (*vide* D. Tracy). An apparently territorial Merlin in n.-cen. *Garfield* 9 Jun provided additional tantalizing evidence of nesting in the Blue/Wallowa Mts. (M&MLD). In the Puget Trough, Merlins have started utilizing suburban habitats for breeding; the first such nest was in Bellingham, *Whatcom* in 2001, and B. Anderson reported nests this year in *Skagit* (Mt. Vernon, Cedro Woolley, and Anacortes) and *Snohomish* (L. Stevens and Marysville). Two California Quail, extremely rare on the out-



About 20 Arctic Terns were confirmed nesting on Dungeness Spit, Clallam County, Washington (here 24 July 2005); the species was also reported there last year. Prior to the discovery of this colony, the only Washington breeders had been in Everett, where the intermittent colony nested in an industrial area. Photograph by George Gerdtz.

er coast n. of *Coos*, were at Newport 15 Jun (RL). Utterly baffling were 2 Sandhill Cranes flying northward at 3000 m near Lillian Falls, *Kittitas* 14 Jul (L. Schwitters); these birds were well away from and high above any known breeding sites.

PLOVERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An American Golden-Plover at Potholes Res., *Grant* 17 Jul was about six weeks early for the eastside and only the 3rd ever there during summer (†DSc). Rarer yet was the eastside's 3rd Pacific Golden-Plover at Potholes Res. 13 Jul (†DSc); the two previous such records were from early Sep. Far more typical were single Pacifics at Seaside, *Clatsop* 28 Jul (MP) and N.S.C.B. 30 Jul (TR). Oregon's 4th Lesser Sand-Plover, and the first since 1986, adorned Seaside/Gearhart, 16–18 Jul (DMA); it was of the expected nominate subspecies. Black-necked Stilts continued to cement their bridgehead in the W.V., breeding at F.R.R. (LM), Baskett Slough, *Polk* (RG), and Hunsaker Rd., *Marion* (RG). The last northbound Greater Yellowlegs were 5 at P.S.B. 10 Jun (SM), while the first southbound bird was at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 15 Jun (P&RS); 4 near Troutdale, *Multnomah* 12 Jun could have been north- or southbound (IT). A late Lesser Yellowlegs was at P.S.B. 1 Jun (SM, DSc), while the first southbound bird was detected there 16 Jun (SM); careful coverage of small isolated patches of shorebird habitat, such as P.S.B. and Iowa Beef, are providing a

better understanding of shorebird migration dates. A Solitary Sandpiper at Kent, *King* 28 Jun was three weeks early (D. Swayne); 5 more 24 Jul+, all in Washington, represented a typical summer's yield. A Willet summered at Tokeland, *Pacific* (TA); they are not annual during Jun. Three Whimbrel at Baskett Slough 10 Jul provided the W.V.'s first summer record (E. Knight). Showing well, 4 Long-billed Curlews were detected on the westside away from the outer coast 6 Jul+; one or 2 is typical. An apparently late

northbound Marbled Godwit was at Twin, *Clallam* 3 Jun (DSc, SM), while apparently summering birds included one at Ft. Canby, *Pacific* 16 Jun (TA) and 9 at Astoria, *Clatsop* 13 Jun (MP). On the eastside, where rare, apparently very early southbound birds included one at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 18 Jun (C&MM) and 2 at W.W.R.D. 24 Jun (P&RS); less unexpected were singles at Summer L., *Lake* 25 Jul (R. Ettinger) and W.W.R.D. 10 Jul (M&MLD). The eastside's 2nd summer Ruddy Turnstone visited at Othello 24 Jul (BF).

Two Red Knots at P.S.B. 10 Jun were apparently extremely late northbound migrants (SM), while a basic-plumaged knot at Dungeness Bay 2–4 Jun was also noteworthy (SM, DSc). A total of 5 Sanderlings visited Potholes Res. 16–26 Jul (DSc); the eastside averages a Sanderling every other summer. An astonishing 195 Semipalmated Sandpipers included 178 in Washington and 17 in Oregon, with 166 on the westside and 29 on the east. The first was discovered at N.S.C.B. 22 Jun (TR). Ad. passage peaked 2 Jul, when 24 were noted in *Island* and *Snohomish* (SM), while peak juv. passage included a Washington-record 44 at P.S.B. 21 Jul (SM, SP, DD) and, in Oregon, 8 in *Curry* 24 Jul (TR). Washington's first fully documented Red-necked Stint adorned Dungeness Bay 28 Jul–2 Aug (†B. Boekelheide); all previous Regional records are of ads., mostly late Jun–mid-Jul. An early Least Sandpiper stopped at W.W.R.D. 15

Jun (P&RS). Washington's 4th White-rumped Sandpiper graced Iowa Beef 18–19 Jun (†SM, CB, †P&RS); previous Regional records have been from late May and early Jul. Southbound Baird's Sandpipers were unusually numerous, with 13 in Washington and 4 in Oregon 15 Jul+. The Region's only northbound Pectoral Sandpiper of 2005 was a late bird at P.S.B. 1–4 Jun (SM, DSc); 5 southbound ads. in Washington and 4 in Oregon included 2 early individuals over the open ocean off Coos Bay 8 Jul (P. Pyle). The latest northbound Dunlin, at P.S.B. 4 Jun, was about two weeks late (SM, DSc). Two southbound Dunlins were again noted about two months ahead of "schedule": one at P.S.B. 25–26 Jun and a 2nd bird there 26 Jun (SM). This seemingly regular early pulse has been almost entirely late Jun–mid-Jul. A very rare summer Stilt Sandpiper visited N.S.C.B. 20 Jul (TR); fewer than 10 percent of Oregon's Stilt Sandpiper records are of ads. Oregon's first summer Ruff adorned Bandon, *Coos* 18 Jul (KC, DL); the previous early fall date was 11 Aug. A Long-billed Dowitcher at N.S.C.B. 12 Jun was presumably late heading northward (TR). For the 3rd consecutive year, Wilson's Phalaropes bred at w. Washington's only known nesting site, P.S.B., with 10 territorial males fledging 17+ young (TA, SM); they also continued to breed at several W.V. locations. A Red-necked Phalarope at W.W.R.D. 17 Jun was late for a northbound migrant and early for a southbound one (P&RS); there are very few mid-Jun Regional records.

Utterly unprecedented were 49 South Polar Skuas between about La Push and the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, *Clallam* 5–12 Jun (SMi); all were within 100 km of shore but near the shelf edge or beyond. Skuas usually do not appear before mid-Jul. Franklin's Gulls lingered near Wallula through 25 Jun, when the maximum of 13 was recorded (P&RS). Another stopped there 13 Jul (M&MLD). Much rarer was a westside bird at Bellingham, *Whatcom* 23 Jun (V. Burgett). A Mew Gull at Pt. Whitney, *Jefferson* 16 Jun furnished a very rare Jun record (RR), while an unprecedented 31 were near Megler, *Pacific* 3 Jul (SM, MF, ST); the first "fall" arrivals usually appear as singles in early or mid-Jul, and this flock may well have summered. Not annual during summer, a Herring Gull visited the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* 3 Jun (SM, DSc). The Region's 4th and 5th summer Thayer's Gulls graced Keystone, *Island* and Dungeness Bay, both 2 Jun (SM, DSc). A Western Gull at W.W.R.D. 10–13 Jul was apparently a first for the eastside during summer (†M&MLD). Five Glaucous-winged Gulls were found in the Columbia Basin, where not annual during summer.

Two Caspian Terns were again flying over Snoqualmie Pass, elevation 1000 m, 11 Jun (J Meyer); their occurrence over this alpine habitat remains unexplained. A Common Tern, very rare during summer on the eastside, visited Summer L., Lake 28 Jun (C&MM). After last year's rumored nesting, approximately 20 pairs of Arctic Terns inhabited Dungeness Spit this summer, with two confirmed nests and 3+ fledged young (NB, G. Gerdt); one wonders if this is the Everett colony relocated to more serene environs. A Forster's Tern was at Bybee L., *Multnomah* 3 Jun (A. Frank), and 10 visited Baskett Slough, *Polk* 24 Jun (L. Fink); Forster's are rare during summer on the westside, especially after early Jun. Oregon's 12th (and Coos's first) Least Tern stopped at Bandon 25 Jun (KC, DL); most Regional records are coastal, late May–mid-Aug. Black Terns managed to nest successfully at F.R.R. despite the low water levels (D. Farrar) but did not breed at Ridgefield, where the spring's aggregation of 9 dwindled to only one in Jul (SM, JE). Researchers off the w. Olympic Pen. again encountered Ancient Murrelets. This year,

19 ads. without young were detected at nine locations 30+ km offshore of *Jefferson* and *Clallam* 5–11 Jun (SMi). Additionally, an ad. with 2 chicks was near Lopez I., *Island* 12 Jun (ph. R. Baird). Washington's first Horned Puffin since 2002 was about 75 km off Little Hogsback, *Grays Harbor* 5 Jun (SMi); most of the Region's summer records are from nearshore waters.

Rare on the eastside, a Band-tailed Pigeon visited Bend 30 Jun (C&MM), and 13 flew over Trout L., *Klickitat* 11 Jul (SJ). Washington's 6th Eurasian Collared-Dove remained at Washtucna, *Adams* through 3 Jul, while additional birds were near Issaquah, *King* in early Jun (ph. F. Trousdale), on San Juan I. 10 Jun–9 Jul (ph. B. Jensen), at Horn Rapids, *Benton* 4–7 Jul (†DR), and Vantage, *Kittitas* 11 Jul (†EH). Singles in Oregon at Malheur 2 Jun (M. Lovell) and near Salem, *Marion* 14 Jun (J. Carrothers) brought that state's total to about 30. A White-winged Dove visiting Newport 7 Jun furnished Oregon's 9th record and the 4th since 2000 (ph. R. Filby); most are from Aug–Oct. The summer's Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Fields, *Harney* 2 Jun (TR). Great Gray Owls were found in the Blue Mts. of *Walla Walla* and *Asotin* (MD,

MLD, P. Tan); the first nesting record from the Blues was in 2002, but active searching has revealed that this species is more numerous there than previously realized. A widespread increase in westside Common Nighthawk reports suggested recolonization, especially in the W.V.

An Anna's Hummingbird at Hyak 21 Jul, just e. of Snoqualmie Pass, was probably a first for the Washington Cascades (D.



This Eurasian Collared-Dove furnished Washington's sixth record when found in May (here 30 June) 2005 at Washtucna, Adams County. By summer's end, the state had ten records, one of which was this bird's companion, which arrived in August. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

Harvill). A Costa's Hummingbird on Little Groundhog Mt., *Lane* (elevation 1700 m) 19 Jun was utterly without precedent (TM, A. Mickel); Costa's are found about every other summer in Oregon, mostly on the eastside at lower elevations. Multiple Calliope Hummingbirds again inhabited Saddle Mt., *Clatsop*, which suggests that they breed in Oregon's Coast Range (MP). Washington's 4th Broad-tailed Hummingbird remained at Dixie, *Walla Walla* until 9 Jul (ph. P. Murray). In Oregon, Broad-taileds have yet to be confirmed as breeders, but 2 males at Adel, *Lake* 29 Jun—a location that has hosted this species before—suggests they breed nearby (RG). A Lewis's Woodpecker at Ridgefield 22 Jul was only w. Washington's 2nd during summer since 1980 (P&RS). Black-backed Woodpeckers nested successfully at Takhlakh L., *Skamania* (elevation 1500 m) 4–8 Jul, while a single American Three-toed Woodpecker was also present 4 Jul (M. Roening); neither species is detected annually in w. Washington, but both may be resident in small numbers in *Skamania*. For the 4th consecutive summer, a Yellow-shafted Flicker x Red-shafted Flicker integrade graced the Region, with one in Everett 19 Jun (CB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Fifteen Least Flycatchers was supranormal, even for recent years; noteworthy records included a singing bird at Conboy N.W.R. 12–19 Jun (K. Glueckert) and a very rare westside bird at Ankeny N.W.R. 28 Jun (JW). Returning territorial birds at Dixie, *Walla Walla* 3 Jul (M&MLD) and Cold Springs N.W.R., *Umatilla* 17 Jun (C. Corder) were well away from this species' usual summer range.

A Gray Flycatcher, extremely rare during summer on the westside, visited Waldo L., *Lane* 24 Jun (R. Robb). A Dusky Flycatcher at Sun Lakes, *Grant* 3 Jul was apparently a lost mid-summer wanderer (DSc, BSc). A count of 52 Pacific-slope Flycatchers between South Bend and Lebam, *Pacific* 12 Jun was exceptional (J. Paulios). Still rare during summer in the W.V., single Black Phoebes graced Eugene 10 Jul (R. Robb) and Sauvie I. 22 Jul (J. Crowell). W. Washington's first and 2nd summer Say's Phoebes visited Morse Cr. Bluffs, *Clallam* 1 Jun (J. Mullaly) and O.S. 26 Jul (CW). A stunning 7 Ash-throated Flycatchers were detected in nw. Oregon, while Ash-throateds at Marymoor

Park, *King* 15–16 Jun (M. Hobbs, ph. H. Flores) and Seattle 19 Jun (†J. Bragg) added to 16 previous w. Washington records.

A Loggerhead Shrike at Cape Arago, *Coos* 22 Jul was virtually unprecedented for summer on the westside (JW). A Plumbeous Vireo adorned Malheur 7 Jun (†RCH); this species is nearly annual in se. Oregon late May–mid-Jun. A Hutton's Vireo, extremely rare in e. Washington, was at Trout L., *Klickitat* 11 Jul (SJ), where also recorded in Apr 2005. An early southbound Warbling Vireo at Horn Rapids, *Benton* 9 Jul illustrated how quickly some w. molt-migrants depart their breeding grounds (NL, BL). A Blue Jay near Langley, *Island* 9–20 Jun yielded Washington's 4th summer record and the first since 1996 (*vide* SE). A Black-billed Magpie at Ridgefield was w. Washington's first since 1980 (C. Ledford, B. Clemons), while 2 others inhabited Portland 21 Jun+ (B. Burley). Two Purple Martins at Ellensburg, *Kittitas* 1 Jun (BF), plus singles at Toppenish, *Yakima* 15 Jun (P&RS) and Moses L., *Grant* 20–21 Jun (DSc, BSc), added to only four previous e. Washington records away from the Bingen vicinity; could this surge in eastside records be related to the booming westside popula-

tion? A highly atypical montane Purple Martin colony using natural snags persisted at Goose L., *Skamania* 21 Jun, with at 8 birds occupying two or more nests (P&RS). Bank Swallows continue to colonize the westside. New colonies were located along the Nisqually R., *Thurston* 14 Jun (K. McAllister) and near Stillwater, *King* 5 Jun (EH), while a westside-record 200+ inhabited a colony near Concrete, *Skagit* 30 Jun (TA).

A Canyon Wren, very rare on the westside, was at Beacon Rock, *Skamania* 15 Jul (N. Pulcinella), while 2 were on Wind Mt., *Skamania* 14 Jul (SJ); both sites have harbored this species before, suggesting that Canyon Wrens may be resident in small numbers in *Skamania*. A Bewick's Wren near Oroville, *Okanogan* 6 Jul was e. Washington's northernmost ever and only about 10 km from interior British Columbia, which has no records (TA)! A pair of Western Bluebirds, *Island's* first, successfully nested during Jul near Coupeville (SE). Two Veeries were at their only westside breeding location, County Line Ponds, *Whatcom* 15 Jun+ (G. Heleker). Douglas's first Gray Catbird, rare on the westside, turned up at Canyonville 4 Jul (K. Sands). Five Oregon Northern Mockingbirds included 3 at Olex, *Gilliam* 23 Jun (A. Ahlgrim). In Washington, one visited Seattle 7 Jun (M. Egger), and a pair fledged 2–3 young at Horn Rapids, *Benton* during Jul (DR); Washington had but four previous breeding records. An utterly lost Sage Thrasher at Hosmer L., *Deschutes* (elevation about 1300 m) 17 Jul was in the Douglas-fir zone (WG)! A very early American Pipit stopped at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* 13 Jul (NB); the first lowland sightings are usually in mid-Aug.

A true jaw-dropper was the Brewster's Warbler banded near Provolt, *Josephine* 11 Jul (DV); the Region had only four Golden-winged and three Blue-winged Warbler records and none of hybrids. A territorial Nashville Warbler near Crow, *Lane* 11 Jun was n. of that species' known breeding range in the Coast Range (DI). A tally of 106 Yellow Warblers along Coppei Cr., *Walla Walla* 19 Jun was unprecedented for Washington (SM, CB). Chestnut-sided Warblers appeared at Tierra del Mar, *Tillamook* 12 Jun (W. Gross), New R., *Coos* 13 Jun (TR), and Corvallis 16 Jun (J. Simmons); Chestnut-sideds seem more prone than other "eastern" vagrants to occur in such pulses. Washington's 6th summer Myrtle Warbler visited Sentinel Bluffs, *Grant* 1 Jun (SM, DSc); this subspecies has now been found in four consecutive summers. Oregon's 10th Black-throated Green Warbler adorned Plush, *Lake* 7 Jun, fitting the pattern of late-spring occurrences in se. Oregon (†B. Proebsting). A Black-and-white Warbler, barely an-

nual in Washington, visited Quartz Creek Campground, *Kittitas* 11 Jun (*fide* DG); 5 were located in Oregon, which averages one or 2 per summer, including a pair near Sisters, *Deschutes* 18 Jun+ (Paul Sullivan, J. Meredith). The American Redstart's core breeding range in the Region is in ne. Washington. However, an isolated, well-established colony at County Line Ponds, *Whatcom/Skagit* contained 7+ ads (TA), and 5 ads. (and one nest) were at the recently discovered and even more distant breeding site at Trout L., *Klickitat* (SJ, K. Glueckert). Additional apparently lone territorial males were scattered across the Region. The only Ovenbird was at Malheur 11 Jun (RCH). The core range of Northern Waterthrush is ne. Washington, though a small population has persisted in s.-cen. Oregon since the 1970s, and breeding has been suspected in ne. Oregon. This summer, 2 singing Northern Water-



Washington's fourth Broad-tailed Hummingbird remained near Dixie, *Walla Walla* County 28 May through 9 July (here) 2005, leading to speculation that it nested nearby. Photograph by Peter Murray.

thrushes at Trout L. 29 May–19 Jun were well away from established sites (SJ, P. Moyer), and 2 were in ne. Oregon near Troy, *Walla Walla* 1 Jul (SE). None, however, were found in s.-cen. Oregon (TM). A tally of 116 Common Yellowthroats at Kent, *King* 26 Jun approached the Washington record (CW). Continuing the upward trend, 3 Yellow-breasted Chats were noted in w. Washington.

Two Clay-colored Sparrows at their traditional Spokane site 28 Jun yielded the summer's only sighting (M. Woodruff). *Multnomah's* first Black-chinned Sparrow appeared in a Portland yard 11 Jun (J. Gilligan); there are only about 10 prior Oregon records and only one away from *Klamath/Jackson*, a bird in *Clackamas* in Jun 1999. A Black-throated Sparrow, rare and irregular in Washington,

was at the Hanford Site, *Benton* 20 Jun (*fide* H. Newsome). A concentration of 155 Savannah Sparrows at Ridgefield 3 Jul was most unusual for summer (SM, MF, ST). The Region's first summer Slate-colored Junco near Frenchglen, *Harney* 7 Jun was about six weeks late (V. Arnold). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed well again this summer, continuing a Regional trend that began in 2000: 3 were in nw. Washington, 6 in w. Oregon, and 2 in e. Oregon. The summer's Indigo Bunting visited Denman W.M.A., *Jackson* 3–12 Jun (J. Hostick). The only Tricolored Blackbird detected in Washington was at Washtunca, *Adams* 12 Jun (DG). Washington's 3rd Orchard Oriole was found at Sentinel Bluffs, *Grant* 18 Jun (†SM), while that state's 5th Hooded Oriole visited Seattle 13 Jun (†C. Conolly, †R. Brown); all Washington records of Hooded are from the period late Apr–late Jul. The only eastside Great-tailed Grackle visited Malheur 3 Jun (T. Bray), but 3 at Lakeside 22 May–17 Jun was a *Coos* first and exceptionally rare for the outer coast (*fide* TR). Two Cassin's Finches near Mt. Hardy, *Skagit* 12–18 Jul were on the w. slope of the Cascades, where rare (K. Kemper, B. Kuntz, G. Bletsch), but one w. of the mts. in Portland 29 Jun was virtually unprecedented for summer (WG).

Addendum: An apparent Pink-sided Junco × Oregon Junco intergrade frequented a Moses L., *Grant* feeder late Dec 2004–Mar 2005 (ph. DSc); Pink-sided Junco and integrades with other Dark-eyed Juncos were previously unrecorded in the Region.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Tom Aversa (Washington), Nigel Ball, Casey Beachell, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny (M&MLD), Dennis Duffy, Steve Ellis, Joe Engler (Clark), Mike Fleming, Chuck Gates (Crook), Roy Gerig (Marion and Polk), Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Wink Gross, Mark Houston, Rich Hoyer (RCH), Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston (Klickitat), Bill LaFramboise (Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Roy Lowe, Larry McQueen, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig & Marilyn Miller (C&MM), Scott Mills (SMi), Harry Nehls (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Michael Patterson, Jason Paulios, Steve Pink, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk (Coos and Curry), Russell Rogers, Barbara Schonewald (BSc), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Noah Strycker, Patrick & Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), Sam Terry, Iain Tomlinson, Dennis Vroman (Josephine), Jan Wiggers, Keith Wiggers, Brad Waggoner (BSW), Jay Withgott, Charlie Wright. 🐦