



This Northern Wheatear in Parksville attracted much attention during its two-week stay (here 8 October 2005). The only previous Regional record was also from Vancouver Island—in 1970. Photograph by Mike Yip.

one was discovered at Rocky Point B.O. 22 Sep (JG, GD, GLM). Townsend's Warblers are lingering later and in greater numbers in recent years; this trend was particularly noticeable this year, with the species remaining rather widespread on Vancouver I. into late Nov (GLM). A Blackburnian Warbler furnished the

2nd Vancouver I. record in Courtenay 8 Sep (†JF) and just the 10th Regional record. By far the rarest of the warblers found this fall was a male Pine Warbler at a Lilloet feeder 29 Nov (vt. IR, VR), a 2nd provincial record. Also rare on Vancouver I., a male American Redstart was banded at Rocky Point B.O. 28 Aug (ph. DA, GD), only the 2nd local record.

Clay-colored Sparrows were much more prevalent than usual along the coast this fall, with singles at the lighthouse at Cape Scott 29 Sep (JB), Rocky Pt. 25 Sep (GLM), Iona 5–6 Sep (†MT) and 11 Oct (ph. PC), and Blackie Spit, White Rock 7 Nov (†DTy). A few Lark Sparrows wandered to the coast, with singles at Columbia Beach, Parksville 28 Aug (JF) and at Sayward estuary 25 Sep (CVN). Another great find was a Baird's Sparrow at Holden Creek, Nanaimo R. estuary 9 Sep (†GLM). There is one previously confirmed record for the province; however, a specimen of questionable provenance from 1889 is still extant. An ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was very late in Tofino 14 Nov (RC, SB). Common Grackles at a feeder in Arras furnished a new provincial high total, with 93 present 15 Aug (MP).

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## Oregon & Washington



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“**W**et” described the fall. August, normally a very dry month, saw well-above-normal rainfall, and this persisted into November, which was a bit drier. Most of the Region experienced near-normal temperatures throughout the season. Though the season provided an

abundance and broad spectrum of unusual records, seabirds and shorebirds captured the headlines. The most unusual seabirds were mostly seen by CSCAPE researchers aboard NOAA vessels well offshore, who tallied three first Oregon records (if one extends the 200-nmi [368-km] offshore boundary a tad), two of which were Regional firsts. Shorebirds, on the other hand, were accessible to all. Common and uncommon species alike occurred in unprecedented numbers, and a number of rarities were detected, including a first for the Lower 48 states.

**Abbreviations:** FR.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); P.T. (Puget Trough); W.V. (Willamette Valley); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). “Eastside” and “westside” indicate east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

An ad. and an imm. Blue Goose enlivened P.S.B. 15 Oct (ph. SM, BT), and another vis-

ited Fir I., Skagit 3–5 Nov (R. Lawson); Washington has only 23 records, many of which are from the last five years in *Snohomish* and *Skagit*, perhaps representing returning birds and their progeny. The only errant Ross's Geese were near Bend 24 Nov (CM, MM) and N.S.C.B. 29 Nov (TR). The sole Emperor Goose flew over Mattawa, Grant 5 Nov, furnishing e. Washington's first record (†D. Bader); except in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California, this species is exceedingly rare e. of the Cascades/Sierras. Black Brant at Sprague L., Adams 4 Nov (fide BF) and Lyle, Klickitat 25 Sep (†SJ) added to five previous e. Washington records. Rare away from salt water on the westside, a Black Brant was in w. Eugene 30 Oct+ (SMg), and a surprising 9 were at Scoggins Valley Park, Washington 6 Nov (J. Hayes). Rare in the Region, an apparent Greater White-fronted Goose × Canada Goose hybrid inhabited Royal L., Grant 25 Oct (RH). Two Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*), rare in the P.T., stopped at Auburn, King 2 Nov (CW). A Lesser Canada Goose (*B. c. parvipes*) and a Cackling Goose at Lind Coulee, Grant 27 Aug were about two months early and may have

summered locally (SM, ST). Two *minima* Cackling Geese at Moses L., *Grant* 7 Nov provided further evidence that this taxon is regular in e. Washington (DSc). Early were 3 Trumpeter Swans at Fir I., *Skagit* 11 Sep (JW, KW), a Tundra Swan at Sheep L., *Whitman* 20 Aug (JA), and 3 Tundras at Lyman, *Skagit* 5 Sep (G. Bletsch); both species typically do not arrive until late Oct or Nov.

The Falcated Duck returned to Coburg, *Lane* 18 Nov for the 3rd straight year (P. Patricelli). Only 2 eastside Eurasian Wigeons were detected: Moses L., *Grant* 19–27 Nov (DSc) and Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 22 Oct (H. Horvath); the eastside had been averaging 5 per fall of late. On the westside, a Eurasian Wigeon at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 1 Sep was record early (BN). An unprecedented 11,000 Green-winged Teal congregated at P.S.B. 23 Nov (TA). No Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal were detected, and the only Common Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrade was at Nisqually 22 Nov (CW). Only recently established as a local breeder, at least five broods of Ring-necked Duck inhabited N.S.C.B. 2 Aug (TR). Single Harlequin Ducks visited Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 5 Sep (M. Willison) and Rook's Park, *Walla Walla* 14 Sep (G. Shoemaker); Harlequins are exceptionally rare on the lowland eastside. Coastal scoter flights were sub-par, with peak counts at Boiler Bay of 13,000 Surfs 18 Oct and a measly 800 White-wingeds 6 Nov (PP). Eastside Surf Scoter numbers were unremarkable, with 37 detected 23 Sep–7 Nov, but eastside White-winged Scoter numbers were dreadful: 2 near Usk, *Pend Oreille* 27 Nov (GS) and one at Hood R. 26 Oct (SJ). A Black Scoter, very rare away from salt water, enlivened Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue R. 25 Nov (J. Harleman). A Long-tailed Duck at Miller L., *Klamath* 17 Oct was the only one detected on the eastside (MM); the eastside averages about 7 per fall. Three Spruce Grouse near the aptly named Grouse Creek Campground, *Chelan* 28 Aug were at the exceptionally low elevation of 800 m (†P. Flores). Wild Turkeys are increasing in our Region, the latest evidence of which was 8 dispersing birds that provided *Franklin's* first record at Lyons Ferry 3 Sep (SM, BF, RH).

Coastal flights of Red-throated and Pacific Loons were poor, with peak counts at Boiler Bay of 2000 Red-throateds 6 Nov and 18,000 Pacifics 27 Oct (PP). A Pacific Loon at Richland, *Benton* 31 Aug was about six weeks early for the eastside (NL, K. Criddle). A very early Yellow-billed Loon at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 4 Aug+ (C. Karlen) and one at Oak Bay, *Jefferson* 24 Oct (M. Dufort) represented the worst fall showing since 1999. The Vancouver L. Clark's Grebe flock had dwindled from 28



Research vessels off the southern Oregon coast turned up a host of rarities, including at least 11 Murphy's Petrels between 31 October and 2 November 2005. This bird was 296 km west of Cape Foulweather, Oregon on 31 October. The majority of records of this species from the northeastern North Pacific are from April through June, making these sightings all the more surprising. Photograph by Rich Pagen.

this summer to 18 on 22 Aug (ST) and 2 on 15 Sep (K. Knittle). At F.R.R., 15 Clark's were present 3 Aug (L. McQueen). Away from summering areas, 23 westside Clark's Grebes was an exceptional count and included 2 early migrants at Seaside, *Clatsop* 21 Aug and 4 there 6 Sep (S. Warner).

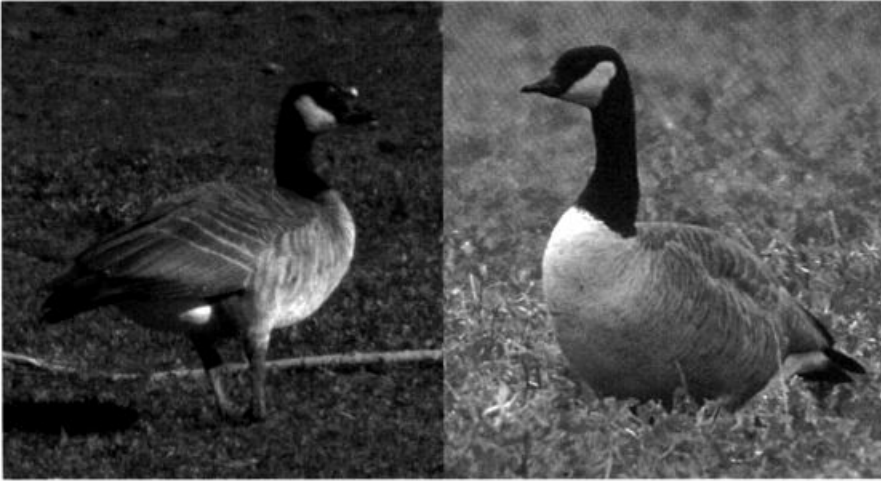
Two very different pictures of seabird distribution were generated this fall. As usual, there were five Oregon and nine Washington over-the-shelf pelagic trips, all but one of which were on or before 1 Oct (GG, BT). Farther offshore, CSCAPE cruises covered waters out to 300 nmi off both Washington and Oregon during mid-Aug, briefly in mid-Sep, and for several days in late Oct and early Nov (PPy, TS). Public pelagic trips generally encountered normal to below-normal numbers, with very few rarities noted. In contrast, the mid-Oct CSCAPE cruise found a very high density of seabirds along the Oregon coastal shelf break 22 Oct (PPy), including some impressive rarities. Public pelagic trips reported only 2 Laysan Albatross: off Charleston 10 Sep and off Westport 11 Sep. Black-footed Albatross averaged 30 per trip, with a peak of 110 off Newport in Aug, less than half of average. An imm. Short-tailed Albatross, Oregon's 7th, was found dead near Bandon, *Coos* 3 Sep (ph. K. Iding); Oregon has fewer than 10 modern-day records, most Sep–Dec. A Northern Fulmar off Port Angeles 1 Aug was two months early for Washington's interior marine waters, where it is rare at any time (M. Shepard). On the public pelagic excursions,

fulmar numbers were below average, with about 100 per trip. On the other hand, the CSCAPE trip encountered an estimated 3000 Black-footed Albatross and 45,000 Northern Fulmars near Heceta Bank 22 Oct. On 2 Nov, 77 Laysan and 38 Black-footeds were counted well off the Oregon coast (TS). The late Oct/early Nov CSCAPE cruises also uncovered a remarkable diversity of *Pterodroma* 267–313 km offshore from Tillamook Head to s. of Cape Meares. The Mottled Petrel total topped 20, adding to just 13 prior Oregon records (ph. RP, ph. L. Morse, TS). Three Cook's Petrels 20–22 Oct were Oregon's first (ph. PPy, RP); the only prior Regional record is of a beached bird in Washington 15 Dec 1995. Thirteen Murphy's Petrels were found 31 Oct–2 Nov (ph. RP, TS), adding to just three previous Oregon records (all dead and dying birds on beaches); these were particularly surprising, as most ne. Pacific records are from spring. Among the tubenose hordes near Heceta Bank, the Region's first and North America's 2nd Parkinson's Petrel was well observed and photographed 22 Oct (PPy, RP, JCa). Public pelagics tallied only 7 Flesh-footed Shearwaters; the Region averages about 20 per fall. Buller's Shearwater numbers were also low, averaging 30 per trip, while Sooty Shearwater numbers were extremely variable, from a goodly peak of 67,000 off Westport 20 Aug to a pitiful 150 or fewer per trip off Oregon. From shore, however, a stun-



This Brown Booby, photographed near Salmon Bank, San Juan County 25 August 2005 furnished Washington's fifth record of the species and was the last of this summer's "invasion" that brought at least three into Oregon/Washington waters. Photograph by J. Grettenberger.

ning 300,000 were off Clatsop Beach 17 Sep (MP). A surprising 400 Short-tailed Shearwaters passed Boiler Bay 4 Nov (PP). A Short-tailed, rare in the P.T., was at Freeland, *Island* 15 Nov (P. Koyama). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel off Westport 7 Aug was Washington's 4th (†SM, †D. Froehlich); previous Regional records are mostly mid-Jul–mid-Sep. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel numbers were variable, with a fine count of 842 off Newport 13 Aug but otherwise numbering 45 or fewer, about



Among birders in Oregon and Washington, there is increasing interest not only in separating Cackling Goose from Canada Goose but in identifying individual geese to subspecies. These Cackling Geese are pale enough to be of the nominate subspecies, but the number of such pale Cacklings that have been found during the past year in the Pacific Northwest suggests that this identification is probably incorrect and that most of these birds are probably instead pale *taverneri*. Left image: this early Cackling Goose at Lind Coulee, Washington 27 August 2005 was with a Canada Goose of subspecies *moffitti*. Photograph by Steven Mlodinow. Right image: this pale-breasted Cackling Goose was with more typical *taverneri* in Yakima County, Washington 20 November 2005. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

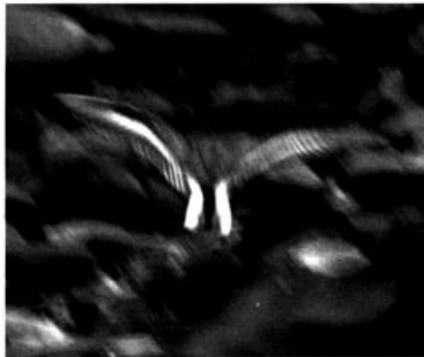
half of average. A Fork-tailed, very rare in the P.T., was at Jeff Head, Kitsap 25 Sep (BSW). Manx Shearwaters maintained their Regional presence, with 2 reported at Tierra del Mar, Tillamook 5 Sep (WG).

CSCAPE observers recorded a Red-tailed Tropicbird 420 km w.-nw. of Cape Blanco, Curry 26 Aug and noted "probable" Red-taileds 344 km off Cape Blanco 16 Sep and 481 km w.-nw. of Cape Arago 21 Oct. The Region has only one previous tropicbird record, a Red-billed on 18 Jun 1941! Leftover from this summer's warm-water extravaganza, a Brown Booby frequented the waters between Lopez I. and Salmon Bank, San Juan 21–25 Aug (†A. Nousek, ph. J. Grettenberger); this furnished the Region's 3rd record for 2005 and 7th overall. Numbers of American White Pelicans away from traditional haunts continued trending upwards. Up to 100 were at FR.R. during Aug (DF), and 200 at Wickiup Res., Deschutes 7 Aug were also exceptional (J. Johnson), while 2 at Roseburg 7 Oct were quite rare for Douglas (A. Parker). A Brown Pelican, about the 3rd ever for the eastside, visited Wickiup Res. and other nearby Cascade lakes 10 Aug–late Sep (G. Clowers, J. Meredith). On the coast, the Brown Pelican maximum was a goodly 2430 in Grays Harbor 6 Aug (PtS, RS, SM), but there was only one sighting in the P.T., of 2 rather late birds in Seattle 17 Nov (T. Billo).

The continuing range expansion of Great Egret was best evidenced by 235 in n. Portland 7 Oct (A. Frank). A Snowy Egret near Coburg, Lane 25 Nov was quite rare for the W.V. (MM). Amazingly, the Region had but

one Cattle Egret, and it was 200 km off Cape Arago 21 Oct (PPy). A Black-crowned Night-Heron, very rare on Washington's outer coast, was at O.S. 13 Aug (PtS, RS), while 2 visited Westport 17 Sep (PtS, RS, DSc). Fairly typical for fall, eastside Green Herons were at Bingen, Klickitat 3 Aug (SJ) and Malheur 18 Sep (DR).

Organized raptor survey routes in the W.V. produced Northern Harrier counts two to three times recent norms. The only Red-shouldered Hawks in Washington were at Ridgefield, with one there 31 Oct–8 Nov and another 17 Nov (JE). Five in e. Oregon was typical of recent years. Very rare away from Cascade hawkwatching sites, an unprecedented 3 Broad-winged Hawks were found in lowland Washington: Keystone, Island 17 Aug (†J. Flynn); Lyons Ferry, Franklin 10 Sep (†SM, †DSc, BSc, BF); and near Cusick, Pend Oreille 18 Sep (ph. T. Munson, M. Houston).



This Temminck's Stint visited Ocean Shores, Washington 9–13 (here 10) November 2005; this flight shot shows the extensively white outer rectrices typical of the species.

Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

In Oregon, 2 were found: at Baskett Slough, Polk 7 Sep (HN) and Steens Mt., Harney 17 Sep (DR). A fairly typical 6 Broad-wingeds passed the Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch 7–15 Sep (K. Woodruff). An astonishing 6 Swainson's Hawks were found in w. Oregon 5–26 Sep (*vide* HN); not long ago, this species was considered extremely rare on the westside. Harlan's Hawks at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant 4 Sep (BF, SM) and Washtucna, Adams 10 Sep (DSc) bested the previous fall early date of 27 Sep. A Ferruginous Hawk, very rare on the westside, enlivened Mehama, Marion 17 Sep (J. Lundsten). Prairie Merlins (*F. c. richardsoni*), rare in the Region, were noted in Duvall, King 7 Oct (ph. KA) and Skagit W.M.A. 15 Oct (SM, BT). Five Gyrfalcons included an early bird at O.S. 2 Oct (L. Moss). It was another sub-par fall for w. Washington Prairie Falcons, with the sole sighting involving an early individual at Kent, King 26 Aug (K. Armbruster). In the W.V., however, this species was unusually conspicuous, with at least 7 birds, including early individuals near Brownsville, Linn 22 Aug (J. Fenske) and at FR.R. 28 Aug (DI). A Sandhill Crane at Sequim, Clallam 4 Aug had either summered locally, an exceptionally rare event on the Olympic Pen., or was about a month early (M. Hobbs).

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS

Very rare on the eastside, ad. Black-bellied Plovers were near Wallula, Walla Walla 6 Aug (M&MLD) and at Reardan, Lincoln 10 Aug (M. Frobe); juvs. at Moses L., Grant 7 Nov (DSc) and Soap L., Grant through 10 Nov (TA) bested the eastside record-late date of 5 Nov set just last year. A group of 130 at FR.R. 1 Nov approximated the W.V. record (DI). Pacific Golden-Plovers showed well, with 75 detected through 12 Nov, including top counts of 12 at O.S. 17 Aug and 2 Sep (JP, KB, PtS, RS). Also following recent trends, American Golden-Plover numbers were low on the westside, with 27 found 27 Aug–22 Oct, but relatively high on the eastside, with 5 noted 10 Sep–16 Oct; the maximum was 5 on Fir I., Skagit 18 Sep (ST). Prudent observers left 61 other golden-plovers unidentified. An exceptional 58 Snowy Plovers at the Siltcoos R. outlet 23 Nov set a Lane record (C. Burns). Three Black Oystercatchers near Rockport, Skagit 17 Sep were "up the creek" (about 65 km so), an utterly unprecedented event in this Region (†F. Krause). A Black-necked Stilt near Lowden, Walla Walla 21 Oct was record late for Washington (G. Shoemaker). Three American Avocets, rare on the westside, graced Nisqually 10 Aug (JP, KB), while 2 visited N.S.C.B. (R. Namitz, TR), and one was at Bandon, Coos 21 Aug–11 Sep (DL, KC).

Solitary Sandpipers seemed omnipresent throughout Aug. and this fall's 144 far surpassed 2001's record of 80; 107 were on the eastside, with a maximum of 14 at Potholes Res./Moses L., *Grant* 14–15 Aug (DSc, BSc). Willets, not annual in the P.T. or W.V., appeared at four P.T. sites 4 Aug–11 Nov and at F.R.R. 14 Aug (DI, SMg). Nearly as rare in the P.T., a Wandering Tattler visited Everett 20 Aug (S. Dang). Three interior westside Long-billed Curlews during early and mid-Aug was about average. Hudsonian Godwits appeared in the Region for the 4th consecutive fall, with singles at Westport 14 Sep–11 Oct (ph. L. Schwitters) and O.S. 18–25 Sep (†MB, ph. MW). Likely a record, about 9 Bar-tailed Godwits enlivened the Region this fall. Most were along Washington's outer coast, but very rare P.T. records were provided by 2 on Fir I., *Skagit* 12 Sep–9 Oct (W. Weber, †H. Armstrong) and one in Tulalip Bay, *Snohomish* 18 Oct (†M. Reid). One of Tokeland's Bar-taileds remained through at least 25 Nov, the 2nd latest ever (M. Bartels), while one at Brookings 16 Oct was Oregon's 19th and *Curry's* first (ph. J. Arneson, D. Munson). A Marbled Godwit, rare on the eastside, was at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 2 Sep (SM, BF, RH, BLB). Red Knots seem to have abandoned the Oregon coast; the only sightings were 2 at Bandon 21 Aug (DL, KC) and 12 at Port Orford, *Curry* 15 Sep (L. Miller). A startling 60 Sanderlings were encountered on the eastside, including rare ads. at Potholes Res. 2 Aug (DSc) and Soap L. 16 Aug (TA), and a record-late individual at W.W.R.D. 20 Oct (M&MLD).

Unprecedented numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers poured across Washington through 7 Sep, with a final tally of approximately 283, 45 of which were on the westside. The peak occurred 16 Aug, when 60 visited Potholes Res. and 118 were at Soap L. (TA). A more typical 13 were reported from Oregon. Western Sandpipers also showed well, with an e. Washington record 3500+ at Potholes Res. 27–29 Aug (DSc, SM). The **Red-necked Stint** lingered until 2 Aug at Dungeness Bay (R. Lawson). Besting that was the Lower 48 states' first **Temminck's Stint** at O.S. 9–13 Nov (PtS, ph. RS). Least Sandpiper numbers were also up, with a Washington-record 6090 on the Long Beach Pen., *Pacific* 18 Oct and a surprising 3730 still there 17 Nov (J. Buchanan). An Oregon-record 225 Baird's Sandpipers enlivened Thief Valley Res., *Union* 16 Aug (TB). Another shorebird appearing in record numbers was Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, with 33 tallied 6 Sep–27 Oct, including now-annual eastside birds at Lind Coulee, *Grant* 6 Sep (AR) and *Sprague L.* 14 Oct (T. Little). The maximum was 9 at P.S.B. 15 Sep (SM);

oddly, this species was formerly more common in Oregon, but only 3 of this fall's total were from that state.

Adding further spice to the dramatic shore-bird season were Washington's 8th and 9th **Curlew Sandpipers** at *Ocosta, Grays Harbor* 11–13 Sep (†B. Shelmerdine, C. Sidles, ph. B. Schmoker) and P.S.B. 26 Sep (†DD, †S. Pink); almost as rare in Oregon, this species turned up at Nehalem, *Tillamook* 18 Oct (ph. A. Frank, WG), and a very late bird visited Florence, *Lane* 24 Nov (†Maitreya). A Washington tally of approximately 336 Stilt Sandpipers shattered counts from previous falls. The eastside maximum was a Regional-record 82 at Potholes Res. 3–4 Sep (DG, DSc), and the westside maximum was a westside-record 24 at P.S.B. 11–14 Aug (SM, DD); also noteworthy were 51 gathered at Philleo L., *Spokane* 18 Aug (JA) and exceptionally late records of one at Soap L. 16 Oct (DSc, D. Paulson) and 4 at W.W.R.D. 20 Oct (M&MLD). Interestingly, only 13 were found



This juvenile Curlew Sandpiper was at Bottle Beach near Westport, Washington on 10 September 2005. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

in Oregon. E. Washington's 4th **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** graced Reardan 28 Aug (JA, ph. T. Munson); **Buff-breasted**s were present in near-normal numbers on the westside, with 8 noted 31 Aug–25 Sep. Ruffs were present in above-average numbers, with 6 detected, including a very late bird at O.S. 7–14 Nov (PtS, ph. RS). A goodly 17 Short-billed Dowitchers visited the eastside 13 Aug–5 Sep. Single Red Phalaropes at Philleo L. 17–18 Aug (MW, GS), Sheep L., *Whitman* 17 Aug (GS), and Soap L. 10–12 Oct (MB) were the first for the eastside since 2000. Offshore counts of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes were unremarkable. A tally of 26,000 Wilson's Phalaropes at L. Abert, *Lake* 5 Aug reaffirmed the importance of se. Oregon's alkaline lakes as staging grounds for this species (T. Seager). Three Wilson's at Marysville, *Snohomish* 21 Oct were

five weeks late and the latest ever in w. Washington (DD).

The South Polar Skua total of 48 was below average. Pomarine Jaeger numbers were also poor, about 5 per trip. Public pelagic trips tallied a dismal 30 Long-tailed Jaegers, mostly off Oregon. The CSCAPE cruise, however, found high numbers of Long-taileds: 45 ads near the President Jackson Seamount, 340 km off Cape Blanco, *Curry* 13 Aug and an astounding 500 juv. and subad. birds 92–212 km off n. California and s. Oregon on the late dates of 19–21 Oct! Unprecedented were 3 Long-taileds in Bellingham Channel, *Whitcom* 11 Sep (ph. BT); this species is not annual in the P.T. On the eastside, jaegers appeared in better-than-average numbers Parasitics were at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 25 Sep (S. Dougill) and along the Columbia R. at White Bluffs 11 Sep (S. Downes). Far more interesting, however, was a Parasitic joining southbound raptors at Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch 11 Sep (M. Spencer). Among the 4

unidentified eastside jaegers was a very late individual at *Sprague L.* 4–7 Nov (†BF, ph. MW). Franklin's Gulls showed poorly away from their e. Oregon haunts, with only 8 in e. Washington, 2 in w. Washington, and 2 in w. Oregon. Little Gulls remained conspicuous by their absence after their heydeys of the 1980s and 1990s. Utterly unprecedented for the eastside were 4200 Bonaparte's Gulls at Klamath Falls 22 Oct (KS) A Mew Gull at Soap L., *Grant* 16 Aug was record early for e. Washington

(BT). A Washington-record 12,000 Ring-billed Gulls congregated near Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 17 Oct (M&MLD). Thayer's Gulls at Lyle, *Klickitat* 4–11 Oct (SJ) and Bank's L., *Grant* 16 Oct (DSc) were probably the earliest ever for e. Washington. Last fall's **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Washington's 4th, returned to the Coulee Lakes, *Grant* 1–16 Oct (DSc). Offshore, Sabine's Gulls were among those species that showed poorly, with an average of 11 per trip. On the eastside, however, a goodly 15 Sabine's Gulls were detected 2 Sep–9 Oct; 5 more visited the W.V., 15 Sep–early Oct, but only 3 were in the P.T. Four Glaucous Gulls, a bit low for recent years, were noted 10 Nov+. A well-described Ivory Gull at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 23 Oct will be Washington's 2nd if accepted by the W.B.R.C (†G. Kridler); most Lower 48 records have



Eastern Washington's fifth Buff-breasted Sandpiper visited Reardan, Lincoln County 28 August 2005. Remarkably, three of the prior records of the species were from this location. Photograph by Tom Munson.

been late Nov–mid-Mar.

Eastside Common Tern numbers were down this year, with 119 reported 19 Aug–6 Oct. Arctic Tern numbers were above normal in early to mid-Aug, with about 30 per trip off Westport and 150 recorded by CSCAPE 110–147 km off Cape Lookout 16 Aug. Only single Forster's Terns were found on the Westside, near Union, *Mason* 18 Aug (R. Rogers) and Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 27 Aug (DR). A Long-billed Murrelet at Port Angeles 15 Nov would be about the 8th for Washington if accepted by the W.B.R.C. (†B. Bell). Now essentially annual, 2 *scrippsi* Xantus's Murrelets were off Westport 14 Aug (BLB). CSCAPE observers reported *Synthliboramphus* murrelets n. to Washington waters, including 6 possible Craver's Murrelets 283–298 km off Cape Disappointment, *Pacific* 16 Aug; this species is unrecorded in the Region. Ancient Murrelet numbers were exceptionally low this fall. Local Cassin's Auklet numbers were very poor, averaging only 7 per pelagic trip until n. populations appeared in Oct. Tufted Puffin numbers remained abysmal, with only 13 reported all season.

Band-tailed Pigeons are not known to breed on the eastside, but they have occurred with some regularity of late near Trout L., *Klickitat*. This fall, Band-taileds were found there on four occasions Aug–Sep, including 20 on 22 Aug (KG); much rare farther e., one visited Kennewick, *Benton* 20–24 Oct (S. Doss). A 2nd Eurasian Collared-Dove joined the bird at Washtucna, *Adams* 20 Aug (BF), and that number grew to 3 on 8 Sep (AR), with at least one remaining through 22 Nov (RH). Additionally, one was near Loomis, *Okanogan* 12 Sep (ph. D. Swedberg), and 6 inhabited Davenport, *Lincoln* (C. Janett, JA); Washington had only four records before this year. In Oregon, the Eurasian Collared-Dove invasion temporarily stalled, with one lingering through early Sep at Cape Blanco, *Curry* (TJW) and another at Baker City, *Baker* 21 Nov (D. Shorey) the only ones detected. Thirty Snowy Owls, 14 Nov+, represented the best fall since 1996; interestingly, only 3 were

on the eastside. The most southerly were singles near Bandon, *Coos* 19 Nov (S. Brown) and N.S.C.B. 29 Nov (TR). A Northern Hawk Owl, now almost annual in Washington, was near Hart's Pass, *Okanogan* 6 Sep (†J. Hoekstra); most records have been mid-Oct–early Mar. Rare but annual on the westside, a Burrowing Owl was at Cape Blanco 25 Sep–4 Oct (TJW), and another returned for at least the 5th consecutive year to Halsey, *Linn* 20 Oct (R. Campbell). Perhaps due to diminished observer effort, only one Boreal Owl was reported this fall, at Darland Mt., *Yakima* 15 Oct (DG).

### GOATSUCKERS THROUGH FINCHES

This was the fall for migrant Common Poorwills. Singles visited Kennewick, *Benton* 5 Sep (DR) and 3 Oct (R. Coler, S. & S. Klipper), but far more unexpected was one in nw. Oregon at Salem 13 Oct (D. Craig). A Washington-record 4000 Vaux's Swifts roosted in Monroe, *Snohomish* 12 Sep (P. Koyama). In Oregon, roosts in Portland and Eugene contained 10,000–12,000 Vaux's each, 1–18 Sep (DDW, A. Frank). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Winston, *Douglas* 16 Sep provided an extremely rare fall westside record (K. Knowles). Anna's Hummingbird has slowly been filling in the gaps in its w. Washington range and has been appearing ever more often as a vagrant in e. Washington. This fall, an astounding 12 were found in e. Washington away from *Klickitat*, mostly 2 Oct+, with 8 in *Yakima* (DG), one in *Kittitas* (D. Harvill), one in *Adams* (BF), and one in *Benton* (NL, BW). It seems that colonization of *Yakima* is imminent. In Oregon, an Anna's at Ontario, *Malheur* in Oct was nearly 150 km e. of any prior state record (*vide* S. Peterson). Six Costa's Hummingbirds this fall was likely an Oregon record; 3 were in *Deschutes* and 3 were on the westside. If accepted by the W.B.R.C., a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Washtucna, *Adams* 20 Aug would furnish Washington's 5th record (†BF). Equally rare were w. Oregon Broad-taileds at Waldport, *Lincoln* 9 Aug (ph. K. & J. Ciotti) and Portland 15 Aug (J. Withgott). Three Lewis's Woodpeckers in w. Washington, 23 Sep–11 Oct, was the highest fall tally there since 1998. Acorn Woodpeckers at Vancouver, *Clark* 13–15 Sep (ph. R. Richardson) and Ridgefield 16 Sep (A. Stutte) furnished w. Washington's 2nd and 3rd records and first since 1978. Nearly as unusual were e. Oregon Acorn Woodpeckers away from *Klamath* at Tumalo, *Deschutes* 2 Sep (D. McCartney) and Camp Sherman, *Jefferson* 14 Sep (S. Shunk).

A phenomenal 75 Hairy Woodpeckers were found in a burn near Winthrop, *Okanogan* 11 Sep (S. Schlick, M. Fleming).

A record 9 Least Flycatchers were detected in Washington this fall; this bounty included a lingering summering bird at Davenport, *Lincoln* through 4 Aug (G. Bletsch) and exceptionally rare westside migrants at S. Prairie, *Pierce* 28 Aug (CW) and Tacoma 19 Sep (†PtS, RS). A Dusky Flycatcher near Florence 24 Aug was very rare for the outer coast (B. & Z. Stotz). A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher at Washtucna, *Adams* 3 Oct was the latest ever for e. Washington (BF). Far more interesting was an apparent Cordilleran Flycatcher, the first on the westside away from the Siskiyou Mts., near Cape Blanco, *Curry* 10 Nov (vt. TJW); the tentative identification is based on spectral analysis of call notes from the videotape (A. McCallum). Washington's 6th Eastern Phoebe was found at Washtucna 3 Sep (RH, †BLB, †SM); most prior records were May–Jun. Black Phoebe continued its range expansion. Washington's 9th was at N. Cove, *Pacific* 10 Sep (†D Faulkner, †L. Semo). In Oregon, it is now essentially expected n. to Portland and the Columbia R. mouth. On the eastside, it is occurring with increasing regularity in the Klamath Basin: 2 were at Merrill 14 Sep, and another was in Klamath Falls 6 Nov (KS). Four Say's Phoebes in w. Washington this fall, 21 Aug+, added to 14 prior fall records, 8 of which have been since 2002. Oregon's 4, however, was sub-par for that state, the 2nd consecutive such year. Ten Tropical Kingbirds, 8 Oct+, were near average. Four coastal Oregon Western Kingbirds 4–11 Sep were about a month late for the westside. An Eastern Kingbird, very rare during fall on the westside and rare anytime in the W.V., visited Sherwood 12 Sep, yielding *Washington's* first record (DR).

Loggerhead Shrikes visited Cape Blanco, *Curry* 5 Sep (TJW) and Brownsville, *Linn* 20 Oct (R. Campbell), an average fall for the westside. A Cassin's Vireo at Morse Cr. Bluffs, *Clallam* 6 Nov was about six weeks late (J. Mullaly). Blue-headed Vireos invaded, visiting Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 4 Sep (†CW, †RTS), Washtucna 8 Sep (†AR), and Wilson W.M.A., *Benton* 11–24 Aug (†T. Snetsinger, J. Geier); Washington has two accepted records and Oregon about nine, with three total from the westside. Most preceding records have been 8 Sep–5 Oct. Another Hutton's Vireo was recorded in w. *Klickitat*, this one near Husum 28 Nov (KG); though there are very few records of Hutton's from e. Washington, the recent spate from w. *Klickitat* suggests that there may be a small resident population there. Washington's 4th Philadelphia Vireo

adorned Washtucna 20 Aug (†BF). Blue Jays repeated last fall's invasion, albeit on a much smaller scale. Nineteen were found in Washington and 3 in Oregon, mostly during Oct on the westside. The Region averages about 5 per year, with eastside records typically predominating. Western Scrub-Jays resumed their range expansion. On the westside, a number were found in *Clallam*, *Kitsap*, *Snohomish*, and *Skagit*, just n. of that species' current westside range. On the eastside, one at Moses L. was well away from any prior records (V. Dawson), while 2 at W. Richland, *Benton* 25 Sep were a bit less unexpected (C. Soderquist, K. Edwards), and 3 at Ft. Simcoe 11 Oct were in *Yakima*, where becoming annual (P. Freeborn). A Black-billed Magpie, extremely rare in w. Washington, was at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 25 Nov (W. Hoffman). In w. Oregon, where slightly less rare, a magpie lingered in Portland into Oct (J. Gilligan), and 2 inhabited Salem late Aug into Oct (J. Thomas).

A tally of 130 Horned Larks at Olympia 8 Oct tied the recent w. Washington record (J. Buchanan). Purple Martins continue to show signs of a Region-wide increase, with an Oregon record 200+ at Florence through much of Aug (B. & Z. Stotz). A swarm of 4000 Bank Swallows between Basin City and Connell 6 Sep was a Washington record (AR). Enormous numbers of Barn Swallows again staged near Dayton, *Yamhill*, with 100,000+ on 13 Sep (F. Schrock). Extremely rare in the lower Columbia Basin, a Black-capped Chickadee inhabited Washtucna, *Adams* 7 Sep (S. Downes). After last year's huge invasion, Mountain Chickadees seemed content to stay put, with one in *Snohomish* 17 Nov providing the only lowland report (R. Sandelin). Rare w. of the Cascade crest, a Rock Wren inhabited Cispus Pass, *Lewis* 11 Aug (KG). Most unusual were one juv. and 2 ad. Winter Wrens at Ephrata, *Grant* 17 Aug (TA); despite being far away from their usual eastside montane breeding areas, they likely bred locally. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** are showing signs of range expansion. A rare W.V. record was provided by one at *Wilson W.M.A.*, *Benton* 10 Aug (M. Dossett), and Washington's 8th graced *Ocosta*, *Grays Harbor* 20 Nov, fitting this species' pattern of late fall/winter vagrancy (†P. Flores, G. Oliver); on the eastside, records well n. of this species' *Lake* and *Klamath* breeding grounds accrued from *Prineville*, *Crook* 8–10 Aug (MM) and near *Powell Butte*, *Crook* 16 Aug (CG); *Crook* has had six or seven records since its first merely two years ago. A Mountain Bluebird, very rare during fall w. of the Cascades, was along the Elk R., *Curry* 19 Oct (L. Miller). Gray Catbirds, very rare anywhere on the westside,

were near *Florence* 4 Sep (AC) and at *N.S.C.B.* 15 Sep (TR), providing the 2nd and 3rd outer-coast records. On the eastside, a catbird at *Bend* 26 Nov was about two months late (S. Smith). Oregon's sole Northern Mockingbird visited *Cape Blanco*, *Curry* 15 Sep (L. Miller); in Washington, 3 were found on the eastside and one on the west, representing an average fall. A gathering of 60,000 European Starlings at *Iowa Beef*, *Walla Walla* 13 Oct was the largest ever reported for Washington (M&MLD). The Region's first *Sprague's Pipit* appeared near *Cape Blanco*, *Curry* 1 Oct (vt. TJW); there are no California records of *Sprague's Pipit* n. of the *Farallon Is.*

Oregon's 3rd **Blue-winged Warbler** brightened *Malheur* 20 Sep (DF, CW). Single *Tennessee Warblers* at *Sprague L.*, *Lincoln* 7 Sep (†TA) and *Othello*, *Adams* 18 Sep (BF) added to 17 previous Washington records, most of which were late Aug–early Sep. In Oregon, where annual, *Tennessees* visited *Prineville*, *Crook* 28 Aug (CG) and *Malheur* 20 Sep (AC). Apparent nominate *Orange-crowned Warblers* visited *Potholes S.P.*, *Grant* 8 Sep (†DSc) and *Wenatchee* 9 Sep (†SM); though these dates seem early, one of Washington's few specimen records is from 3 Sep (*Birds of Washington State*, Jewett et al. 1953). A *Nashville Warbler*, not annual as a fall migrant in w. Washington, visited *Seattle* 30 Sep (KA). More than a month tardy was a *Nashville* lingering in *Eugene* through 13 Nov (D. Clark) and one at *N.S.C.B.* 16–18 Nov (TR). Oregon's and the Region's 7th fall *Virginia's Warbler* visited *Fields* 20 Sep (TR). Nearly annual during recent autumns, a *Chestnut-sided Warbler* was detected at *Astoria* 17 Sep (MP). Washington's 12th *Magnolia Warbler* graced *Ocosta*, *Grays Harbor* 1 Sep (†TA); most have been early Sep–early Oct. Washington's 10th **Black-throated Blue Warbler** inhabited *Wapato*, *Yakima* 16–21 Oct (AS, ph. DG), while one at *Malheur* 28 Sep was in se. Oregon, where annual (DF). Four *Black-throated Gray Warblers* e. of Washington's *Cascades*, 8 Sep–1 Oct, was about twice the norm. *Black-throated Grays* on the westside at *Newcastle*, *King* 14 Nov (H. Jennings) and *Millacoma Marsh*, *Coos* 22 Nov (TR) were five–six weeks late. Though nearly annual in w. Oregon, a **Prairie Warbler** at *Malheur* 19 Sep (ph. CW) was only e. Oregon's 3rd. Very rare on the eastside, a *Palm Warbler* was found at *Hatfield L.*, *Deschutes* 17 Sep (K. Tran). Four more *Palms* were found in the

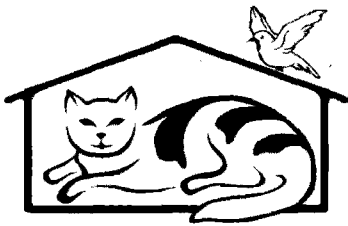
W.V. and P.T., where rare, 24 Sep–7 Nov *Blackpoll Warblers* at *Kahlotus*, *Franklin* 2 Sep (†SM, †BLB, BF, RH), *Kennewick*, *Benton* 8 Sep (†NL, DR), and *Vantage*, *Kittitas* 29 Sep (†TA) added to 17 previous Washington records, most of which have been late Aug–early Sep; the 29 Sep bird was Washington's latest ever. Surprisingly, only one was found in Oregon, at *Malheur* 17 Sep (TR). A *Black-and-white Warbler*, barely annual in Washington, visited *Vancouver* 17 Sep (†S Hagen); Oregon had 4, 7 Sep–14 Oct, a bit above average. An *American Redstart* at *Auburn*, *King* 27 Nov+ was a rare w. Washington migrant and record late for Washington by more than a month (CW, RTS) another at *Seaside*, *Clatsop* 15 Aug was in w. Oregon, where not annual (MP). Washington's 2nd *Prothonotary Warbler* was discovered at *Burbank*, *Walla Walla* 20–21 Oct (M&MLD, ph. DG); the first record was in Sep 1970 in nearby *Richland*. An *Ovenbird* at *Puget I.*, *Wahkiakum* 28 Nov+ was Washington's 20th but only 4th for fall (ph. KB). *Northern Waterthrushes* often elude detection during fall migration, but this season 4 were found, including very rare westside birds at *Skagit W.M.A.* 23 Sep–20 Oct (H. Armstrong) and *Tenino*, *Thurston* 8 Oct (P. Hicks). A *MacGillivray's Warbler* at *Brookings* 7 Nov (S. Chambers) and a *Wilson's Warbler* in *Portland* 24 Nov (K. Ranta) were about a month tardy. The *Yellow-breasted Chat* at *Kent*, *King* lingered through 21 Aug (CW) while on the eastside very late migrants were at *Othello* (BF) and *Rock L.*, *Whitman* (T. & D. Weber), both 17 Sep. Washington's first *Scarlet Tanager* visited *Washtucna* 2 Oct (†M&MLD).

Extremely rare in Washington away from its *Blue Mts.* breeding grounds, a *Green-tailed Towhee* was seen at *Washtucna* 20 Aug (†BF). Rare in w. Oregon, an unprecedented 4 *American Tree Sparrows* were detected during Oct, including record-early birds at *Clatsop Spit* 6 Oct (AC) and *Gearhart*, *Clatsop* 9 Oct (D. Bailey). It was a banner fall for *Clay-colored Sparrows*, with a total of 15 detected, including a Washington-record 8; the maximum was 4 at *Lyons Ferry*, *Franklin* 4 Sep (CW, RTS). The 7 eastside birds were all early Sep, and most westside birds were early Oct+. Two *Brewer's Sparrows* visited w. Oregon. One at *FR.R.* 1–2 Sep was in the W.V., where regular (DI); another was on the outer coast, where not annual, at *Lincoln City* 25 Sep (PP). Fall migrant *Vesper*



This Acorn Woodpecker at a Vancouver feeder 13-15 (here 13) September 2005 furnished western Washington's first record of the species since September 1978. Photograph by Rebecca Richardson.





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Sparrows had become less than annual in w. Washington, but this year there were 10, 26 Aug–5 Oct, plus a bird above treeline at Ptarmigan Ridge 9 Sep (J. Duemmel). Four w. Oregon Lark Sparrows, 31 Aug–3 Nov, were supranormal. Adding to approximately 23 prior Oregon records were single Lark Buntings at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 13 Aug (ph. B. Young) and Fort Rock, *Lake* 14 Aug (R. Cheek); antecedent records are largely from mid-May–late Sep. A Red Fox Sparrow at Spokane 5 Oct was about the 19th for Washington (†MW). An apparent *altivagans* Fox Sparrow was near Monroe, *Snohomish* 20 Nov (ph. SM, DD); this enigmatic race of Fox Sparrow is thought to winter s. of our Region. A Sooty Fox Sparrow visited Malheur 19 Sep (CW); though not mentioned as occurring in e. Oregon in *Birds of Oregon* (Marshall et al. 1998), Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) list two records from Apr, and two additional specimens reside at University of Puget Sound, both collected during Apr in *Deschutes* (SM). Swamp Sparrows showed well again, with 11 in Washington 28 Sep+, including one on the eastside. The fall's Harris's Sparrow tally was a miserable 3 but included an early bird at Olympia 27 Sep–19 Oct (KB). A remarkable 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrids were detected, with singles near Conway, *Skagit* 15 Oct (BT, SM), Seattle 15 Nov (ph. KA), and near Monroe, *Snohomish* 20 Nov (ph. SM, DD). A Slate-colored Junco at Lyons Ferry 10 Sep was record early for Washington (BF, DSc, RH, SM). Three Lapland Longspurs at Midway Beach, *Pacific* 26 Aug were among the earliest ever for the Region (M. Ahlness). Prior to 2000, Oregon had only about nine records of Chestnut-collared Longspur. Subsequently, more than 20 have been reported. This year "only" 2 were found, at Clatsop Spit 3–5 Oct (S. Warner, MP). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Washtucna 3 Sep was only Washington's 6th for fall (BSW, †SM, †BLB). Two in Oregon were about average, with one at Seaside, *Clatsop* 25 Aug (MP) and a late bird at Newport 3 Nov (R. Filby). A Black-headed Grosbeak at Baker City, *Baker* 27 Nov was two months tardy (H. Haid). Oregon's 4th *Blue Grosbeak* graced Brookings, *Curry* 20–26 Sep (B. Stewart, ph. D. Munson).

A Bobolink at Kent, *King* 23 Oct was about the 24th for w. Washington, and excepting a winter record, the latest ever (CW); another at N.S.C.B. 23–25 Sep was on the Oregon coast, where nearly annual (R. Namitz, TR). Still very local in Washington, a Tricolored Blackbird returned to Othello by 1 Sep (SM), and 2 were there 22 Oct (RH). In w. Washington, Tricoloreds again inhabited Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark*, with one there 29 Oct (CW,

RTS, SM) and 2 there 26 Nov (SM, D. Paulson). Tricoloreds are also somewhat local in Oregon, and one at F.R.R. 13 Aug was just *Lane's* 4th (Paul Sullivan). Representing an average fall, 3 Rusty Blackbirds were in Washington 7 Oct–13 Nov. A Hooded Oriole at North Bend, *Coos* 27 Oct was the first during fall since 1994 (B. Griffin). A Bullock's Oriole, rare for the outer coast and about two months late, was at Astoria 27 Nov (M. Yowell, MP)

A flock of 250 Black Rosy-Finches on Steens Mt. 27 Sep likely set an Oregon record (TR). A Cassin's Finch, rare on the westside, graced Goat Ridge, *Lewis* 10 Aug (KG), and 2 were along the Cispus R., *Lewis* 12 Aug (KG). Lesser Goldfinches continued to show signs of range expansion in Washington, with one at Walla Walla 9–16 Nov providing a first county record (M&MLD).

**Addenda:** Two *Least Terns* at O.S. 22 May 2005 furnished Washington's 3rd record (ph. †M. Hooley). A worn male Northern Cardinal near Gig Harbor, *Pierce* 23 Jul+ casts serious doubts as to the provenance of the female found nearby this spring (B. Morse, KB).

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