

Antoniazzi (Prince George), Helen Antoniazzi, Jack Bowling (weather summary), Jan Bradshaw, John Brighton, Doug Brown, Richard J. Cannings, Russell Cannings, Chris Charlesworth, Chris Dale, Gabe David, Gary Davidson (Kootenays), Molly Donaldson, Dan Dunlop, Jerry Etkorn, Gordie

Gadsden, Todd Heakes, Donna Heard, Marlene Johnson, Elsie Lafreniere, Marilyn Kamp, Nancy Krueger, Steve Lawrence, Derrick Marven, Morva McMahon, Mike McMann, Guy L. Monty, Laure Neish, Mark Phinney (Peace River), Phil Ranson (Cariboo-Chilcotin), Randy Rawluk, Greg Ross,

Ian Routley, Bill Sampson, Chris Saunders, Chris Siddle, Kathy Smith, Rick Toochoin (Vancouver), Jim Turnbull, Dick Webster, Gwyneth Wilson. ☪

Donald G. Cecile, 7995 Wilson-Jackson Road, Vernon, British Columbia V1B 3N5, (dcecile@telus.net)

Oregon & Washington

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Emperor Geese "invaded" for the first time since 2001–2002, with 8 detected, all in w. Oregon, including 3 at Astoria 22 Feb (MP) and 2 at Eugene 12 Feb (C. Haskell). Prior to 1995, there were but two westside Blue Goose records, yet this year one was found again among the hordes of Snow Geese on Fir I., Skagit 12–25 Feb (CCx, SM, JB); these Snow Geese breed on Siberia's Wrangel I., and over the past decade, small numbers of Blue Geese have occurred annually at both Wrangel I. (K. Litvin) and that population's wintering areas in Skagit/Snohomish. As many as 10 peculiar geese, all of similar lineage, have appeared during late winter/early spring over the past few years in e. Washington's Columbia Basin (see N.A.B. 58: 423 and 59: 317). Careful study has revealed that these are hybrids, or backcrosses, between Snow (or Blue) and Canada Geese. This winter's birds appeared more like Blue Goose × Canada Goose hybrids than Snow × Canada: one near Moses L., Grant 16 Feb (ph. MB) and 2 at McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla 25 Feb (ph. SM, BF, M&MLD). Ross's Geese showed poorly away their normal se. Oregon haunts, with only 4 singles found, all on the westside; the Region has averaged 10 per winter over the past five years. Three interior westside Black Brant represented an average winter: Eugene, through the winter (S. Maulding), Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark 13 Jan (P&RS), and near Corvallis 31 Jan (M. Monroe). For the 2nd consecutive year, an apparent intergrade Brant, thought to be Black Brant × Dark-bellied Brant (*nigri-*

cans × *bernicla*), appeared in the Puget Trough, this one at Useless Bay, Island 31 Dec (ph. SM); in 1997, five mixed colonies of *bernicla* and *nigricans* were found in Siberia, and *nigricans* banded in Siberia have appeared in North America (Kear 2005, *Ducks, Geese, and Swans*; N.A.B. 59: 133). Two Greater White-fronted × Canada/Cackling Goose hybrids stopped near Moses L. 16 Feb (MB), while a Greater White-fronted Goose × Cackling Goose visited McNary N.W.R. 25 Feb (SM, BF); there is only one prior Regional record of this cross. Two Dusky Canada Geese (subspecies *occidentalis*) at Nisqually 15 Jan–7 Feb were in the P.T., where very rare during winter (T. Leukering, CCx, SM). Five *minima* Cackling Geese, rare in e. Washington, were at McNary N.W.R. 25 Feb (BF, SM, M&MLD), and 8 visited Moses L. 26 Feb (SM, DSc), these birds were likely migrants, and one wonders where they spent the winter.

Trumpeter Swans continue to thrive, with 1500 near Clear L., Skagit 12 Feb (B. Boyd) and an Oregon-record 62 at Airle, Polk 9 Jan (JG). It was a banner year for Bewick's Swans, with an ad. and an imm. near Mt. Vernon, Skagit 2 Jan (DD, ph. SM), a different ad. near Bow, Skagit 7 Jan (†SM, M. Axelson), an ad. on Fir I. 25 Feb (JB, †CCx), and an ad. near Centralia, Lewis 26 Feb (vt. BT); 4 or 5 birds were involved, adding to only three previous Washington records, the first of which was in 2002. This change appears real, not just a reflection of increased observer effort. A gathering of 300 Wood Ducks at Springfield, Lane 8 Feb was exceptional (LM). The male Falcatid



Steven Mlodinow | David Irons
Bill Tweit

During December, most of the Region was 2–4° F below normal, except coastal regions, which were slightly warmer than average. The first few weeks were very dry (though in many places, very foggy), and then the rain began. From mid-December through January, the Region was drenched, Seattle having its third wettest January ever, while precipitation in Oregon was 86% above normal. February was a touch drier than typical and had near-normal temperatures, allowing birders to return to the field.

The season's main event went almost unnoticed. From Sora to Pacific Golden-Plover to Williamson's Sapsucker to Western Tanager, species considered mega-rarities during the winter season a decade ago are now almost greeted with yawns. The absence of northern species from this list, along with these overwintering birds, implies a real and climate-related phenomenon.

Abbreviations: FR.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane), N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor); P.T. (Puget Trough), W.V. (Willamette Valley), W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla). "East-side" and "westside" indicate locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

SA In these pages, we've detailed the northward range expansion of many species, but one has escaped mention: Cackling Goose. Cackling Geese were rare winterers in our Region until the mid-1970s, when thousands (apparently mostly *B. h. taverneri*) suddenly appeared in the W.V. (B. Jarvis). In the late 1980s, these were joined by approximately 20,000 *B. h. minima* (almost the entire population at that time), which had abruptly shifted their wintering grounds from California to the W.V. and lower Columbia R., possibly due to drought in California (B. Jarvis). By the late 1990s this population had exploded to approximately 250,000 (*Birds of Oregon*, Marshall et al. 2003). In 1990, several hundred Cackling Geese started wintering about 160 km farther n. at Nisqually, with the flock increasing to about 1500 by the year 2000 (P&RS); this winter, the flock was approximately 60% *minima* and 40% *taverneri* (SM). About 800 Cacklings, with a similar mix, appeared 80 km farther n. in Kent, King this winter as well (SM, JB, CW), and a flock of 30 *taverneri* plus one *minima* was near the Canadian border at Ferndale, Whatcom 19 Feb (SM, JB, CCx). It seems likely that within a decade Cackling Geese will be wintering throughout the P.T.

Duck returned to the Eugene area for the 3rd straight winter, spending most of Dec in Coburg (P. Patricelli) and then reappearing in nw. Eugene 5 Feb (R. Robb). *Klamath* has traditionally attracted numbers of Eurasian Wigeon unheard of elsewhere on the eastside. Ten were found there 25–26 Feb (DI); elsewhere on the eastside, the season's total of 17 was above normal. A swarm of 250,000 Mallards, approximately one percent of the North American population (Wetlands International, 2002. *Waterbird Population Estimates*), was on Samish Bay, *Skagit* 2 Jan (SM, DD). A Blue-winged Teal, not annual during winter, visited Tillamook 21 Dec (KT). Oregon's 2nd Baikal Teal was shot by a hunter on Sauvie I. 17 Dec. (*vide* J. Riutta); ironically, the first met a similar fate near Corvallis in 1974. Only 5 Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal and 2 Common × Green-winged Teal intergrades were detected, well below recent norms. Canvasback numbers were supra-normal in w. Oregon, as demonstrated by a flock of 250+ at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington* 6 Jan, which about doubled the previous W.V. record (S. Pinnock). A huge flock of *Aythya* ducks in Priest Rapids Pool, *Grant/Kittitas* contained 4820 Redheads and 1000 Ring-necked Ducks 12 Jan (RH). Two Tufted Ducks this winter was about par: one in Kent, *King* 8–22 Jan (JB, SM) and one at Meares L., *Tillamook* 11 Feb+ (B. McDermott). Continuing recent trends, enormous numbers of Greater Scaup were found along the Columbia R. A gathering of 10,000 scaup at Priest Rapids Pool 12 Jan (RH) likely contained about 9000 Greaters, while 4800 Greaters were identified across from Government Camp, *Hood River* 5 Jan (SJ). Approximately 5% of North America's Greater Scaup and 2% of the continent's Redheads appear to winter along the Region's stretch of the Columbia R. A *King Eider* enlivened Waldport, *Lincoln* 5–17 Dec (S. Lockyear, AC); Oregon has but eight accepted records, the last from 1999. An astonishing 80,000+ Surf and 35,000+ White-winged Scoters passed Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 30 Dec (PP, D. Tracy). On the eastside, where not annual during winter, a White-winged Scoter inhabited Potholes Res., *Grant* 5–11 Dec (DSc), and 2 were near Vantage, *Kittitas* 10 Feb (P&RS). A tally of 1335 Common Goldeneye in Priest Rapids Pool 12 Jan was exceptional (RH). Five eastside Long-tailed Ducks represented the worst winter showing since 1999. Though Banks L., *Grant* attracts more Red-breasted Mergansers than elsewhere on the eastside, 76 there 19 Dec was unprecedented (RH).

A late pulse of 2500 Red-throated Loons passed Lincoln City 2 Dec (PP). Rare during winter on the eastside after mid-Dec, a Pacific

Loon stopped at Kennewick, *Benton* 2 Jan (R. Johnson). Only 5 westside Yellow-billed Loons were found, but one at Washburn I., *Okanogan* 5–21 Feb yielded a very rare eastside record (†R. Hendrick, M. Spencer). Seventeen westside Clark's Grebes furnished a fine seasonal total and included a maximum of 3 at Tacoma 17 Dec (CW); one at Richland, *Benton* 1 Jan made an extremely rare eastside winter record (BL, NL). A Northern Fulmar, extremely rare in the P.T., was near Anacortes, *Skagit* 5 Feb (DP). A windstorm 28 Dec drove several dark shearwaters into the P.T., where very rare, including 3 Short-taileds at Seattle (ST), 3 Short-tailed/Sooty at Richmond Beach, *King* (DD), and 2 at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 28 Dec (DD). Winter Brown Pelicans have become almost annual in Oregon, but not in Washington, so one at Long Beach, Pa-



Prior to 1993, there were but three Oregon–Washington winter records of Western Tanager. Subsequently, Western Tanagers have become nearly annual in winter. This year's contribution was this male at Eugene, Oregon on 17 January 2006. Photograph by Barbara Combs.

cific 6 Jan was quite unexpected (C. Flick, S. Fletcher); in Oregon, 3 were in *Lincoln* and *Clatsop* during early Jan. Pelagic Cormorants up the Columbia R. at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 14 Jan (P&RS) and near the mouth of the Sandy R., *Multnomah/Clark* 12 Jan–6 Feb (S. Shunk, WC) were unprecedented so far inland. Extremely rare on the eastside during winter, an *American Bittern* enlivened Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 5 Dec and 19 Jan (RH). Great Egrets again appeared on the eastside this winter, with singles at Pasco, *Franklin* 17 Dec (DR), Kennewick, *Benton* 20 Jan (DR), and Casey Pond, *Walla Walla* 12 Feb (M&MLD). Two Cattle Egrets were at Port Orford, *Curry* 23 Dec (*vide* TR); this species is nearly annual during winter, typically as holdovers from fall, so these 2 were quite surprising inasmuch as the fall's only Cattle Egret was 180 km offshore! A tally of 90 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Moses L., *Grant* 4 Dec was utterly unprecedented for winter in Washington (DSc). Turkey Vultures are very rare in Washington before mid-Feb, but this year nw. Washington had one during Dec and 7 in Jan, and 2 were near Yakima 8 Jan (*vide* D. MacRae), providing only the 3rd Dec/Jan

record for e. Washington. Wintering Turkey Vulture numbers in Oregon continue to increase as evidenced by 16 wintering near Eugene (DH).

Osprey, very rare during winter on the eastside, were at Redmond, *Deschutes* 21 Dec (S. Dougill) and Bend 21 Dec (S. Dougill). A tally of 68 Bald Eagles near Fort Rock, *Lake* 5 Jan was a goodly count for anywhere on the eastside, especially this area devoid of large lakes (CM, MM). Washington's only Red-shouldered Hawk remained near Rochester, *Thurston* 31 Dec–18 Feb (ph. GG, P. Hicks), while one near Klamath Falls 25 Dec–23 Jan was in se. Oregon, where now nearly annual during winter (D. Haupt, F. Lospalluto). Huge numbers of raptors wintered in *Umatilla* and *Walla Walla*, including 210 Red-tailed Hawks near Umapine, *Umatilla* 19 Jan (M&MLD) and 108 along Frog Hollow Rd., *Walla Walla* 21 Jan (M&MLD). Swainson's Hawks overwintering near Alvadore, *Lane* (F. Chancey, ph. DH) and at Ankeny N.W.R. 9 Feb (ph. KT) provided the 2nd and 3rd Oregon winter records for a species once considered absent from North America in winter. Ferruginous Hawks were unusually numerous and widespread this winter. Sixteen were near Fort Rock, *Lake* 5 Jan (CM, MM), while an amazing 4 were found on the westside, where very rare: *Airlie*, *Polk* 8 Jan+ (JG), near Perrydale, *Polk* 16 Jan (J. Gatchet, M. Ratzlaff), near Monmouth, *Polk* 9 Feb (J. Harding, B. Thackaberry), and New R. bottoms, *Curry* 26 Feb+ (D. Pitkin). In ne. Oregon and se. Washington, migrant Ferruginous were numerous by mid-Feb, about two weeks early, with the first occurring in *Walla Walla* 2 Jan (M&MLD, C. Johnson) and near Benton City 5 Feb (BW). A tally of 53 American Kestrels near Umapine 19 Jan was exceptional (M&MLD). A Prairie Merlin (subspecies *richardsoni*), very rare in the Region, visited Soap L., *Grant* 25 Feb (†DSc). Only 6 Gyrfalcons were found in Washington, about half the norm, while 3 in Oregon was near average; the most southerly was at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 26 Dec (TJW). Three Prairie Falcons in w. Washington was a tad above average, while they were again present in above-average numbers in the W.V. A species that has recently attained "annual-during-winter" status in Washington is Sora, with singles near Wiser L., *Whatcom* 18 Dec (D. McNeely) and at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor* 2 Jan (P&RS). The oft-ignored American Coot collected in staggering numbers at Priest Rapids Pool, where they feasted on Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), with 23,300 tallied 12 Jan (RH). A Sandhill Crane was near Fall City, *King* 8 Dec–1 Jan (EH, A. Bauer), 2

flew past Seattle 17 Dec (J. Bragg), and one was near Bellingham in late Dec (*vide* T.R. Wahl); Sandhills are very rare in n. Washington during winter.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Washington's 7th winter Pacific Golden-Plover inhabited the Samish Flats, *Skagit* 24 Dec–12 Feb (MB); now annual during winter in Oregon, one graced Halsey, *Linn* 26 Dec (M. Nikas, R. Armstrong). Ever-increasing numbers of Snowy Plovers are wintering at Midway Beach, *Pacific*, with a Washington-record 60 there 26 Feb (MB). Another species that has recently attained "annual-during-winter" status in Washington is Lesser Yellowlegs; one was at Crockett L., *Island* 6 Feb (DP). In Oregon, where more established as a winter visitor, Lesser Yellowlegs adorned Turner, *Marion* 11 Dec (R. Gerig) and F.R.R. 23 Feb (S. McDonald). Two Marbled Godwits graced Port Washington, *Clallam* 19 Dec (S. Atkinson), and one was near LaConner, *Skagit* 8 Jan (*vide* G. Bletsch); this species is rare during winter away from the outer coast. Now nearly regular during winter on the eastside, up to 6 Least Sandpipers inhabited Moses L., *Grant* through 14 Jan (DSc), and one visited Benington L., *Walla Walla* 4 Jan (M&MLD). The Region's first winter Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found on Fir I., *Skagit* 5 Dec (C. Wise, L. Kittleson). Good numbers of Dunlins were again noted in the Columbia Basin, with 82 at W.W.R.D. 25 Feb (BF, SM) and 40 at Moses L. 5 Dec (DSc). The Region's first winter Curlew Sandpiper visited Charleston, *Coos* 18–22 Dec (AC, ph. DH). There were several winter wrecks of Red Phalaropes, resulting in large numbers on the coast, such as 641 on the Grays Harbor C.B.C. (*vide* B. Morse), 1000 at Coos Bay 24 Dec (TR), and 2841 on the Port Orford C.B.C. 23 Dec (*vide* J. Rogers). Interestingly, many of these fell prey to Snowy Owls. Top inland tallies were 21 at Forest Grove, *Washington* 27 Dec (M. A. Sohlstrom) and 23 at F.R.R. during late Dec (S. Maulding). Most notable, however, was the eastside's first winter Red Phalarope near Umapine, *Umatilla* 23 Dec (ph. C. Freese).

Six Mew Gulls near Wallula, *Walla Walla* 25 Feb was a record for the far eastside (SM, M&MLD, BF), while 18 at Hood River 2 Dec matched last year's record high count established at the same location (SJ). Washington's 5th Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Wallula 25 Feb (ph. BF, ph. SM); all but one of Washington's records are from the eastside. Washington's 9th Slaty-backed Gull was at Renton, *King* 8–18 Feb (†CCx, ph. JB). A goodly 33

Glaucous Gulls were detected, with a maximum of 6 at Wallula 30 Jan (M&MLD). An apparent Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull hybrid visited Tacoma 18 Feb (JB, CCx, SM). A winter storm blew a Black-legged Kittiwake into farmland near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 5 Feb (T. O'Brien). A Cassin's Auklet, very rare in the P.T., was near Restoration Pt., *Kitsap* 31 Dec (†W. Palsson). Two dead Parakeet Auklets washed up along the beach near Newport 6 Feb (Bob Loeffel); this species is not quite annual in Oregon, and most records are of dying or dead birds found after Dec.

Eurasian Collared-Doves exploded across e. Washington, while inexplicably disappearing from Oregon: 11 were near Moses L., *Grant* 17 Dec–8 Jan (ph. RH), up to 3 were in Mansfield, *Douglas* 7 Jan–12 Feb (vt. BT, BLB, K. Brown), 2 remained through the winter at Washtucna, *Adams* (BF), one was in Davenport, *Lincoln* 29 Jan (GS), and one was in Sprague, *Lincoln* 2 Feb (T. Munson); 35 col-

ington and 14 in Oregon; maxima included 10 at O.S. 10 Dec (P&RS), 8 on the Waterville Plateau, *Douglas* 25 Feb (DSc), and 8 at Skagit W.M.A. 20 Feb (TA). The southernmost was in *Klamath* 8 Feb (MM). Thirteen Burrowing Owls in e. Washington was well above normal, while in w. Oregon, only one was found: Perrydale, *Polk* 15 Dec (G. Lindeman). A Barred Owl, very rare in the Columbia Basin, resided in Kennewick, *Benton* 31 Dec–16 Feb (DR).

Anna's Hummingbirds continued to spread across the Region. At O.S., the C.B.C. formerly yielded one or 2 per count, but last year there were 11 and this year 24 (B Morse). In e. Washington, where rare away from *Klickitat*, singles were Clarkston, *Asotin* 29 Dec+ (C. Vande Voorde) and Ellensburg, *Kittitas* through late Jan (C. Caviezel). Now annual during winter in *Deschutes*, 4 Anna's wintered in Bend (CM, D. Tracy); they had not been recorded there prior to 1995 (MM).



These Bewick's Swans (an adult and an immature) near Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Washington 2 January 2006 were two of as many as five different Bewick's Swans detected in Oregon and Washington this winter. Heavily birded Skagit County has had five or six Bewick's Swans during the past three winters but no previous reports, suggesting that the recent surge in records is more than the result of increased observer effort. Note the relatively short, thick neck of the adult, a mark that could be useful for separating Bewick's from Whistling Swans. Photograph by Steven G. Molinow.

lared-doves have now been recorded in Washington, only 4 of which were seen prior to Jan 2005. A White-winged Dove near Burns, *Harney* 2–6 Dec was just the 2nd for e. Oregon and the 2nd for winter in the state (ph. R. Muser); most records have been from fall along the coast. Snowy Owls staged their first major invasion since 1996, with 74 in Wash-

Costa's Hummingbirds seem to have become annual winter visitors to Oregon; this winter one inhabited Florence, *Lane* 16 Dec–4 Jan (*vide* D. Pettey), while another first found in Nov remained at North Bend, *Coos* until 27 Jan (B. Griffin). A very rare mid-winter *Selasphorus* was at L. Forest Park, *King* 12 Dec (EH). Rufous again returned early, with sin-

gles at Geumes I., *Skagit* 25 Jan, Maury I., *King* 5 Feb, and Lady I., *Clark* 6 Feb (WC); the “traditional” arrival time has been early Mar. Similarly, an Allen’s Hummingbird in Bandon, *Coos* 24 Jan was about three weeks early (DL, KC).

Formerly accidental during winter in Washington, Williamson’s Sapsuckers were detected for the 5th consecutive winter, with singles at Conboy L., *Klickitat* (K. Glueckert) and Walla Walla 18–19 Dec (M&MLD). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, now virtually annual during winter in Oregon, visited Sublimity, *Marion* 17 Jan (J. Liesch). Red-naped Sapsuckers inhabited Seattle 17–30 Dec (A. Slettebak) and Finley N.W.R. 3–6 Feb (C. Jimenez, N. Strycker); this species is rare w. of the Cascades at any time and anywhere in the Region during winter. Similarly rare e. of the Cascades, Red-breasted Sapsuckers visited Holliday S.P., *Grant*, OR 14 Dec (C. O’Leary, M. O’Leary) and Grand Coulee, *Grant*, WA 21 Feb (S. Chaffee).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Black Phoebes again wintered in the W.V. n. to *Polk* and on the coast to *Tillamook* (M. Simper). The Kent Say’s Phoebe returned for its 2nd winter, noted 26 Dec+, and another was on Puget I., *Wahkiakum* 1 Jan (R. Koppen-drauer); Say’s remain extremely rare during winter in w. Washington. In w. Oregon, where more numerous, a near-average 6 were detected. Another Say’s at Potholes S.P., *Grant* 5 Dec provided a rare e. Washington Dec/Jan record (DSc). Loggerhead Shrikes were unusually prevalent this winter, with 4 in e. Washington (RH), 3 in w. Oregon, and 5 in ne. Oregon’s *Gilliam* 7–8 Jan (Paul Sullivan, C. Karlen). A Hutton’s Vireo near Husum, *Klickitat* 24 Feb continued a string of sightings from w. *Klickitat*, implying that this species may indeed be resident here (KG); prior to five years ago, this species was considered accidental in e. Washington. Fifteen Blue Jays—6 in e. Washington, 2 in w. Washington, 4 in e. Oregon, and 3 in w. Oregon—was more than normal but far short of last year’s massive incursion. Extralimital Western Scrub-Jays implied continued range expansion, with one e. to LaGrande, *Union* 26–30 Dec (M. Penninger, T. Bray) and one n. to Cle Elum, *Kittitas* 15 Dec (M. Hobbs).

Far more Tree Swallows than normal lingered through Dec (28 in Oregon and 10 in Washington), with a few lasting into early Jan before the vanguard of northbound birds appeared a little early, in late Jan; 6 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. 11 Dec provided an extremely rare eastside winter record (J. Meredith). Violet-green Swallow sightings, very

rare during Dec/Jan, included one at Nisqually, *Thurston* 4 Jan (P&RS) and 5 at Eugene 8 Jan (J. Sullivan). For the 5th consecutive winter, northbound Barn Swallows arrived in Jan. The magnitude of this year’s incursion, however, was not as great. Per usual, a few Barn Swallows lingered into Dec, with 4 in Washington and Oregon each. Only one was found 1–18 Jan, but in late Jan, 73 were detected, including 47 near S. Bend, *Pacific* 30 Jan (CW). Fifty-one were reported in Feb, but as birders have become accustomed to seeing this species during winter, some undoubtedly went unmentioned. Still rather noteworthy on the eastside, sightings from there included one at White Salmon, *Klicki-*

Rarely identified in the Region, but perhaps of regular occurrence, an Orange-crowned Warbler apparently of the nominate subspecies visited Klamath Falls 9 Dec (ph. M. Iliff). For the 9th winter of the last 10, Nashville Warblers were detected, with singles at Coos Bay 4 Dec (TR) and Tillamook 17 Dec (J. Gilligan). Still extremely rare during winter, a Yellow Warbler enlivened McMinville, *Yamhill* 11 Dec (F. Schrock). A congregation of 350+ Yellow-rumped Warblers in a small apple orchard near Royal City, *Grant* 26 Feb set an e. Washington winter record (SM, DSc). The Region’s 2nd winter Black-throated Green Warbler adorned Klamath Falls 9–22 Dec (ph. M. Iliff).

SA Starting in late Dec, there was an unprecedented surge in Townsend’s Warbler reports from w. Oregon and sw. Washington. On 1 Jan, the Eugene C.B.C. broke its all-time record for Townsend’s Warblers by 48 individuals (141 total), tripling its 25-year average of Townsend’s Warbler/observer-hour. This prompted Irons to query Oregon observers via Oregon Birders Online (OBOL) to better quantify the incursion. About 300 Townsend’s Warblers were reported during a three-week period in Jan. Several involved groups of 8–12 birds attending suet feeders. On 8 Jan, Irons found 59 Townsend’s during a short walk around his s. Eugene neighborhood, including one pure flock of approximately 30 birds. While the epicenter of this event did, indeed, seem to be *Lane*, it was not limited to that county, and in addition to the Oregon reports, 22 Townsend’s visited a Vancouver, *Clark* yard for several days in Jan (K. Kohlschmidt). Careful scrutiny of these flocks produced a Townsend’s Warbler × Hermit Warbler hybrid at Oregon City, *Clackamas* 3 Jan (†A. Ahlgrim), plus apparently pure Hermit Warblers at Astoria 18 Dec (MP), Eugene 4 Jan (M. Rudolph), and Corvallis 10 Feb+ (R. Armstrong). Oddly, there appeared to be a relative dearth of Townsend’s Warblers in Washington’s P.T.

tat 7 Jan (P. Moyer), one along Stonecipher Rd., *Walla Walla* 5 Feb (M&MLD), one at Potholes S.P., *Grant* 12 Feb (DSc), 2 at Washburn I., *Okanogan* 12 Feb (D. Stephens), and 3 at Wanapum Dam 20 Feb (S. Downes). A tally of 80 Horned Larks near Snohomish 17 Feb was exceptional for w. Washington (CCx). The isolated *plumbeus* Bushtit population persisted at Potholes Res., *Grant*, with 20+ there 8 Jan (DSc). Bewick’s Wrens at Bend 16 Dec (K. Boddie) and n. of Sisters, *Jefferson* 6 Feb (C. Gates) were rare for these cen. Oregon locales. For the 5th consecutive winter, Western Bluebirds were found in w. Washington, with 22 at four locations; numbers were also elevated in w. Oregon (*vide* HN). Four Mountain Bluebirds near Alderdale, *Klickitat* 28 Dec–27 Jan furnished a very rare winter Washington record (KG). American Robins were even more abundant than usual during mid- to late Feb, with the westside maximum of 20,000 between Coburg, *Lane* and Peoria, *Linn* 19 Feb coinciding with a passing cold front (DI). Northern Mockingbirds showed poorly for the 4th consecutive winter, with only 3 detected, including one wintering at Eugene (AC), one at N.S.C.B. 10 Dec (TR, DL, KC), and one at Touchet, *Walla Walla* 27 Jan (M&MLD). Fifty American Pipits in *Walla Walla* 25 Feb provided an exceptional eastside winter tally (M&MLD).

A tally of 15 Palm Warblers on the *Curry* coast 23 Dec was exceptional (J. Rogers). Washington’s first winter American Redstart lingered in Auburn through 2 Dec (MB). The Puget I., *Wahkiakum* Ovenbird remained until 1 Feb, providing Washington’s first winter record (G. Exum). Common Yellowthroats, formerly very rare after Dec in Washington, are now nearly annual. This year, one visited Kent, *King* 1 Jan (CW). Formerly a “megararity” in winter, Wilson’s Warblers have become annual. This year, singles visited Seattle 8 Dec (M. Vernon), Brownsmead, *Clatsop* 29 Dec (MP), and Eugene 13 Jan (G. Morsello). For the 8th consecutive winter, a Western Tanager graced the Region, this one at Eugene 17 Jan (ph. B. Combs).

A Spotted Towhee of subspecies *oregonus* at Umatilla 25 Feb was apparently a first for e. Oregon (SM, BF); in Washington, this subspecies occurs regularly to cen. *Klickitat* (Jewett et al. 1953, *Birds of Washington State*), and it would be surprising if *oregonus* did not occur e. to *Sherman* in Oregon. An American Tree Sparrow, rare in w. Oregon, remained in White City, *Jackson* 11 Dec+ (J. Livaudias). Five Clay-colored Sparrows, all from the westside, was about twice the recent norm. Rare in w. Oregon during winter, a Chipping Sparrow was in Springfield, *Lane* 30 Jan+ (R. Robb). Thirteen Savannah Sparrows at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 12 Feb was

exceptional for the eastside during winter (M&MLD). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Coos Bay 18 Dec furnished the Region's 6th winter record (T. Shelmerdine). A Sooty Fox Sparrow at Umatilla 10 Dec added further evidence that this subspecies group may be of regular occurrence in e. Oregon (ph. D. Herr). A tally of 112 Sooty Fox Sparrows near Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 3 Jan was exceptional for Washington (P&RS). It was a slow winter for Swamp Sparrow and an abysmal one for Harris's Sparrow. There were but 9 Swamps in Washington and Oregon each, including 3 on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 3 Dec (B. Waggoner, D. Watkins) and 7 throughout the season at Millacoma Marsh, *Coos* (TR). The Region had only 5 Harris's Sparrows, about 20% of normal. A flock of 14 Golden-crowned Sparrows at Umatilla 25 Feb was exceptional for the far eastside (BF, SM). A *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrow at Umatilla 25 Feb (SM, BF) was apparently the first recorded in e. Oregon, despite being a regular visitor to Washington's Columbia Basin and fairly common e. to cen. *Klickitat*. Oregon's first winter Chestnut-collared Longspurs were 2 in *Benton* 12 Feb (R. Moore). A flock of 800 Snow Buntings near Joseph, *Wallowa* 16 Jan likely set an Oregon record (J. Carlson, Paul Sullivan).

Washington maxima for Tricolored Blackbirds included 12 near Corfu, *Grant* 24 Feb (BF) and 10 at Othello, *Adams* 12 Feb (BF); 3 were found again Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark* 14 Jan, the only known location for Tricoloreds in w. Washington (SM, B. Deuel). Eastern Washington's 2nd winter Bullock's Oriole adorned Moses L., *Grant* 17 Dec (†L. Cooke), while the 8th for w. Washington visited Florence, *Snohomish* 21 Jan (M. Dufort); despite being nearly annual in Oregon, Washington had not had a winter Bullock's since 1998.

Crook's first Purple Finch was located on the Prineville C.B.C. 31 Dec (*fide* CG) and was followed by 5 in Prineville 18 Jan (CM, MM). The season's sole report of White-winged Crossbill was of 2 on Mt. Spokane 25 Jan (GS, CC, JC). A flock of 50 Common Redpolls at Enterprise, *Wallowa* 16 Dec. (M. Marsh) and 6 in Portland 26 Feb (P. Johnson) were unusual for a non-invasion year. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were nearly absent from the Region. The Lesser Goldfinch at Walla Walla remained through 19 Dec (M&MLD), while one in Bellingham, *Whatcom* 27 Feb+ (MB) furnished only the 4th record for the heavily birded P.T. A gathering of 80 Evening Grosbeaks near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 22 Dec provided w. Washington's highest winter count in 10+ years (SM, DD).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): **Tom Aversa** (Washington), Jessie Barry, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Cameron Cox (CCx), Mike and Merry Lynn Denny (M&MLD), Dennis Duffy, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), Roy Gerig (Polk, *Marion*), Greg Gillson, Kevin Glueckert, Dan Heyerly, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, **Stuart Johnston** (*Klickitat*), Bruce LaBar (BLB), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise David Lauten, Larry McQueen, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), **Craig and Marilyn Miller** (*Deschutes, Jefferson, Lake*), Harry Nehls (Oregon), **Bob Norton** (Olympic Pen.), **Michael Patterson** (*Clatsop*), Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Dennis Rockwell, **Tim Rodenkirk** (*Coos, Curry*), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Gina Sheridan, Patrick and Sullivan (P&RS), Sam Terry, Khanh Tran, **Dennis Vroman** (*Josephine*), Terry J. Wahl, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. ☺

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

David Irons, 2690 Adams Street, Eugene, Oregon 97405, (lidsirons@msn.com);

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

Northern California



Luke W. Cole | Scott B. Terrill
Michael M. Rogers | Steven A. Glover

A very wet late December and early January Regionwide included the worst storm in 30 years to hit Humboldt County. Winter also brought a number of ex-

citing rarities, including the state's first Snowy Owl since 1978. Following the state's first Slaty-backed Gulls last winter, careful gull surveys by Jaramillo and others turned up an astonishing 10-12 Slaty-backed this winter.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.C.F.S. (Coyote Cr. Field Station); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco rather than State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to Pt. Reyes B.O. and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

GEESE THROUGH SHEARWATERS

An imm. and 3 ad. Emperor Geese were reported from Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*

14 Dec (†Mike McVey). A group of 5 Snow Geese in Diamond Valley 2 Dec (ph. TEa) was thought to mark only the 2nd record for *Alpine*. Following 3 in fall, another coastal blue-morph Snow Goose was found, this time at College L., *Santa Cruz* 10 Dec (DLSu, ph RgW). A lone Ross's Goose with a domestic goose flock at Camanche Res. 9 Feb (KMz) was a first for *Calaveras*. "Extraordinary counts" of *minima* Cackling Geese were reported in *Humboldt*, with 123 at s. Arcata Bottoms 20 Dec (EE, JTz) and 81 on the Centerville Beach to King Salmon C.B.C. 1 Jan (*fide* SWH); perhaps this is related to the increased numbers wintering in the Willamette Valley in Oregon (*fide* DFX). An Aleutian Cackling Goose (subspecies *leucopareia*) at 900 m elevation along Stumpfield Mt. Road 17-23 Jan (JTz, m.ob.) was apparently *Mariposa's* first Well-documented family groups of Trumpeter Swans were found 3 km se. of Durham, *Butte* 23 Dec-6 Feb (up to 3 ads. and 3 imms.; JHS, †BED, †DEQ, ph. DWN et al.) and 7 km n. of Willows, *Glenn* 15-17 Jan (2 ads. and 6 imms.; †CLU, vt. LLu, JLx).