



**Steven Mlodinow**  
**David Irons**  
**Bill Tweit**

This spring brought a potpourri of exciting events. Migrants were numerous, and rarities abounded. Wintering birds lingered rather late, only to mix with migrants, which came and left a week or two early. More importantly, the conditions off our coast remained abnormal. Pacific oceanographers are using the term arrhythmia to explain this phenomenon, and they noted that these recent large-scale “changes in the timing of upwelling may favor particular seabird or salmon species, changing the make-up of animals along the coast.” Some of these changes seemed quite evident this spring, partly because of extensive offshore coverage: in addition to three organized pelagic trips (from Newport 25 March and from Westport 28 April and 19 May), there were observations from a cruise ship off Oregon 3 May (JG, OS, R. & N. Armstrong), a NOAA research vessel 8-11 May (SMi, TG), a survey in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary 8 May (CW), and a fishing vessel 15-16 May (BT). The spring was dry, averaging about 75% normal precipitation on the westside and 50% normal on the east. The season was also warm, especially March, when the Region averaged 5° F above normal, among warmest 10% of Marches during the past 112 years.

**Abbreviations:** Finley (Finley N.W.R., *Benton*); F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*); Lower Klamath (Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Klamath*); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, *Snohomish*); P.T. (Puget Trough); W.V. (Willamette Valley); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*). *Eastside* and *westside* indicate e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

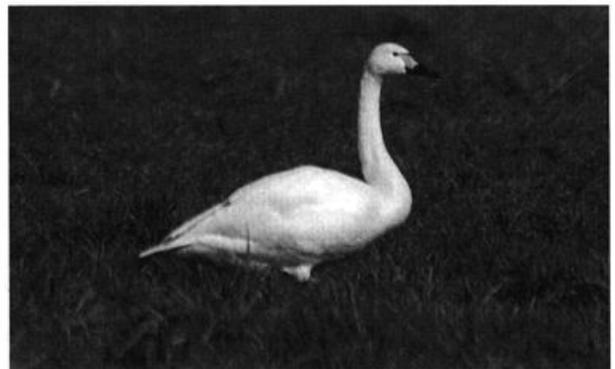
## WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Greater White-fronted Geese abounded

across the Region. A likely w. Oregon record 7615 flew over Finley 27 Apr (WDR), while tallies of 555 at P.S.B. and 460 at Crockett L., Island 29 Apr were probably record highs for the P.T. (SM, N. Bonomo, RM). Additionally, 3600 at Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat* 23 Apr was exceptional (JE). Two Greater White-fronted Goose x Snow Goose hybrids were near Merrill, *Klamath* 11 Mar (DI). Fairly typical for spring, 3 Emperor Geese were found through 9 Apr. Single Blue Geese at Harney Basin 24 Mar (A. Sohlstrom), P.S.B. 8 Mar (SM), and Fir I., *Skagit* 20 Apr–6 May (RM, SM, BSW) were at locations where small numbers are now expected, though the latter bird was a month late. Two Blue Geese at Othello 10 Apr, however, provided a very rare e. Washington record (RH). Snow Geese dawdled this year, highlighted by 1000 at Fir I. through 7 May, a goodly three weeks late for such numbers (M. Axelson). Later yet was one near Wilson Cr., *Grant* 18 May (TL). A Ross's Goose x Snow Goose hybrid visited Carnation, *King* 4 Mar (ph. T Mansfield), while another led 2 imm. around Fir I. 8 Mar (SM, R. Caniff, V. Baranyuk). Ross's Geese have been recorded a number of times at Siberia's Wrangel I. Snow Goose colony, and hybrids have been noted there as well, though no mixed pairs have been detected (V. Baranyuk); 50% of Wrangel's Snow Geese winter in California's Central Valley, the likely source of these errant Ross's. Excellent numbers of stray Ross's Geese were detected, with 7 in w. Oregon, 2 in w. Washington, and 21 in e. Washington, 12 Mar–30 Apr; peak passage was late Mar/early Apr. A Black Brant, very rare on the eastside, graced Lower Klamath 17 Mar (F. Mayer). Two Barnacle Geese wandered near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 27 Mar+ (T. O'Brien); Barnacle Geese, undoubtedly escapees from captivity, have been noted several times in Washington.

Trumpeter Swans tarried again this year, the latest remaining at Graysmarsh, *Clallam* through 12 May (J. Coyle) and near Snohomish into Jun (SM, G. Toffic); the last have typically departed by mid-Apr. Similarly tardy was a Tundra Swan at Calispell L., *Pend Oreille* 25 May (TL). The Satsop, *Grays Harbor* Bewick's Swan reappeared 3-16 Mar (ph. P&RS), while another that had mostly wintered in California crossed into Oregon at Lower Klamath 9 Mar (C. Kisling). The *Lane*

Falcated Duck remained until 12 Apr (D Brown). Eastside Eurasian Wigeons were generally scarce, with 11 in Washington and 6 in Oregon, excepting 15 at Lower Klamath 10 Mar (DI); a similar concentration was found in the Klamath Basin last Mar. On the westside, Eurasian Wigeons lingered unusually late, with one at Ridgefield into Jun (BF) and another at Vanport Wetlands, *Multnomah* through 21 May (JG). A near-normal 10 Eurasian Teal were noted through 4 May, eastside singles, where annual of late, visited Corfu, *Grant* 29 Mar–10 Apr (RH), Othello 29 Mar (RH), and Grandview, *Yakima* 10 Apr (W. Terrell). Eleven Eurasian Teal x Green-winged Teal intergrades were reported through 10 May; given that these sightings stem from just a few observers, the actual number of such birds present in the Region is likely greater. A Tufted Duck was on the eastside, where now nearly annual, at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 10-16 May (C&MM), while one on the westside at Nehalem, *Tillamook* through 21 May was three weeks late (M. Simper); 3 others, all in w. Oregon, rounded out another excellent spring for this species. A White-winged Scoter adorned S. Twin L., *Ferry* 30-31 May (G. Gumm); four of the six antecedent e. Washington spring records are from mid- to late May. Now an annual eastside spring visitor, a Long-tailed Duck graced



This Bewick's Swan at Satsop, Grays Harbor, Washington was present 3-16 (here 4) March 2007 and was likely the same bird present there in December 2006. This subspecies has been found annually during recent years in the Oregon & Washington region. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

*Madras, Jefferson* 17 Apr (C. & M. Miller) Another Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid was detected, this one at Penn Cove, Island 29 Apr (SM, N. Bonomo).

An Arctic Loon lingered off P.N.P. 8-18 Apr, about the 7th for Washington and the first after Mar (VN, †CCx, ph. P&RS). A goodly 15,000 Pacific Loons passed Ft. Canby, *Pacific* 21 Apr (CW), while one near Wanapum Dam 18 Mar provided a very rare eastside spring record (S. Downes). Loon counts at Boiler Bay were fair, with maxima of 1500 Red-throateds



A Long-billed Murrelet found in December 2006 at Point No Point, Kitsap County, Washington led to a definite "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" over the subsequent six months, and the bonanza included this Arctic Loon, which was present from 8 to 18 (here 14) April 2007. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

1 Apr and 17,000 Pacifics 11 May (PP). An above-average 6 Yellow-billed Loons included a slightly late bird at Cape Arago, Coos 13 May (R. Namitz). On the westside, Clark's Grebes again attended their F.R.R. breeding colony, and 10 inhabited Vancouver L., Clark 26 May (SM, JW, BF). The 13 Clark's noted elsewhere on the westside included 2 stragglers at Pacific City, Tillamook 25 May (RHyl) and tardy singles at Ankeny N.W.R., Marion 28 May (J. Epstein) and Yaquina Head, Lincoln 25 May (RHyl); nonbreeders typically have departed by 15 May.

An excellent 5 Laysan Albatross were found off Oregon 25 Mar–16 May. A deceased Mottled Petrel was at Clatsop Beach 22 Mar (DB), adding to 2 found in Clatsop this Feb; these birds' demise was likely related to this spring's alcid die-off. A concentration of 1000 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Coos Bay 16 May was exceptional for spring (BT). Three Flesh-footed Shearwaters 15–16 May was fairly typical for spring (BT). A passage of 115,000 Sooty Shearwaters at Ft. Canby, Pacific 31 May was extraordinarily early (TG); such numbers are usually not encountered until Aug. Seven Manx Shearwaters from Boiler Bay to Pt. Grenville, Grays Harbor 1 Apr+ has become, amazingly, somewhat typical spring fare. Remarkable counts of 1000+ Leach's and 200+ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off s. Oregon 3 May (JG) provided a great backdrop for a Black/Markham's Storm-Petrel off Golds Beach, Curry (†JG, †OS) and North America's 2nd Ringed Storm-Petrel off Coos Bay (†JG, †N. Armstrong) the same day. A flock of Blacks inshore at Seaside, Clatsop 8 Sep 1983 provided the only other Regional record. See Pyle et al. 2005 (*North American Birds* 60: 162–163) for information regarding North America's first

Ringed, or Hornby's, Storm-Petrel, found among California's Channel Islands 2 Aug 2005.

Westside American White Pelican numbers were unexceptional, with a maximum of 20 at F.R.R. 17 May (D. Schrouder), plus 7 scattered across w. Washington in late May. A Brown Pelican at Yaquina Head, Lincoln 12 Mar was about a month early (CA). Brown Pelicans again entered the P.T. early, with one at Port Angeles 12 May (T. Noyes) and 3–4 around Port Townsend 15 May (B. Marston, R. Rogers); the first usually appear in Jul. The Coos Bay Great Egret rookery, first noted in 1988, sported a record 65 nests 30 Apr (TR). A Snowy Egret at Wallula, Walla Walla 20 May yielded Washington's first spring record since 2002 (M&MD); Washington has about 46 records, all since 1975. Glossy Ibis continue to spread northwestward across the continent, with 2 at Malheur 30 May (†JG, †OS) providing Oregon's 2nd record, the first coming from Malheur last spring.

Snohomish's first White-tailed Kite was near Snohomish 25 May (DD); this species seems to be slowly expanding its westside range. Three of Washington's wintering Red-shouldered Hawks lingered into spring, with the last seen 27 Mar. Swainson's Hawks were exceptionally rare on the westside prior to 1997, but numbers subsequently increased sharply, now averaging 2–3 per spring. This year, 5

were found in w. Washington and 3 in w. Oregon, 19 Apr–15 May. A Swainson's at Bonanza, Klamath 17 Mar was about a month early (J. VanMoorhem). Rough-legged Hawks remained later than normal, with the last appearing at Rock L., Whitman 5 May (D. Weber) and P.S.B. 6 May (SM, BSW). For the 3rd consecutive spring, a Crested Caracara graced Oregon. One visited Floras L., Curry 22 Mar, a site that has provided two of Oregon's five previous records (R. McKenzie); this, or another caracara, was about 30 km away at Myrtle Point, Coos 21 Apr (R. Brooks). An extraordinary 4 Prairie Merlins (subspecies *richardsoni*) were on the westside from Portland northward, 18 Apr–6 May; this subspecies may prove annual in small numbers on the westside, perhaps occurring more as a migrant than winter resident. An unremarkable 6 Gyrfalcons were found through 18 Mar, all but one in Washington. A Yellow Rail at Ridgefield 6 May would provide Washington's 3rd record, if accepted by the B.R.C. (†E. Scattergia, C. Hinkle, A. Hinkle); notably, Yellow Rails arrive at their s. Oregon breeding grounds in late Apr/early May.

## SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Sixteen Black-bellied Plovers were tallied from five e. Washington sites, where not annual during spring, 3 May+; the maximum was 8 at Wilson Creek, Grant 18–20 May (TL). Crook's first American Golden-Plover visited Powell Butte 19 May, providing only the 4th eastside record of a northbound bird (CG); single Americans at Brady, Grays Harbor 26 Apr (TA) and Sauvie I. 12 May (JW) represented a typical spring for the westside. The Skagit Pacific Golden-Plover was last seen 11 Mar (GB); otherwise this spring was unremarkable for Pacifics, with 5 on the westside, 21 Apr–13 May. Two other golden-plovers remained unidentified. The P.T.'s 4th Snowy Plover adorned P.S.B. 30 May (R. Fuller). Black-necked Stilts are now firmly entrenched as a W.V. breeder; pairs were noted at seven or more sites, with nesting evidence from at least four. The greatest concentration was at F.R.R., with 28 birds recorded from late Apr+ (D. Farrar). Western Washington had a goodly 6 stilts, 29 Apr–9 May. Five westside American Avocets 25 Apr+ was about average.

**SA** White-faced Ibis irrupted Regionwide for the first time since 2001, with 77 in Washington and 63+ in w. Oregon. Washington's maxima were 44 at Columbia N.W.R., Grant 1 May (RH) and 21 at Ridgefield 19 May (D. Hayden), while w. Oregon's high count was 40 at F.R.R. 28 Apr (P. Sherrell). The northernmost bird visited Ferndale, Whatcom 24–26 May (J. Bird), and 18 at New R., Coos 14 May furnished the only outer coast sighting (TR). This irruption occurred in conjunction with drought in the species' breeding range, as have past incursions (Tweit and Flores, 2006. *Washington Birds*). Interestingly, this spring's invasion began a week or two earlier than usual, and virtually all birds had departed by May's end.

Thirty westside and 6 eastside Solitary Sandpipers, mostly 17 Apr–5 May, was unremarkable; the maximum was 5 near Banks, Washington 5 May (GG). A Willet at Kennedy Cr., Mason, found 12 Aug 2006, remained until 7 Apr (J. Buchanan); this species is not annual in the P.T. Fourteen Whimbrels near Merrill, Klamath 12 May was among the highest spring tallies ever for the eastside (DI, KS), while a lone Whimbrel graced Creston, Lincoln 25 May (K. Knittle, MB, M. Houston). A superb 9 Long-billed Curlews visited the W.V./P.T., where rare, 7 Apr–20 May. Thirty Marbled Godwits at Dungeness Bay, Clallam 26 Apr (BN) yielded an excellent count for the P.T., while 2 others inhabited Marchs Pt., Skagit 20–23 Apr (P. Webster, RM); this species is not annual during spring in the P.T./W.V. Four Marbleds in e. Washington 3–25 May was twice the norm. Five Red Knots at Dungeness Bay 20 May were in the P.T., where not annual during spring (SM, BSW). A Sanderling, not annual during spring on the eastside, adorned Soap L., Grant 25 May (MB). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers, 9–19 May, was near normal. A congregation of 800 Least Sandpipers at Klipsan Beach, Pacific 16 Mar (MP) was unusual for such an early date and well exceeded the Washington winter record of 300. Ten Baird's Sandpipers, mostly 1–11 May, was about twice the long-term norm but typical of recent years. Four Pectoral Sandpipers, 17–24 May, was also about average. A Ruff graced the Region for the 3rd consecutive spring, with one at Ridgefield 21–23 May (BF). A Short-billed Dowitcher, not annual on the eastside, enlivened Little Houston L., Crook 19 May (CG). The westside's first *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitcher brightened P.S.B. 17 May (SM); the two antecedent Regional records are both from e. Washington (Paulson 1993; *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*). A Wilson's Phalarope at Richland 2 Apr was about three weeks early (B. Clarke). In w. Washington, Wilson's were unusually numerous, highlighted by 28 at P.S.B. 28 May (SM); in w. Oregon, two nests at Finley 18 May provided Benton's first breeding record and added to a growing list of W.V. breeding sites (R. P. Moore).

South Polar Skuas arrived early again, with lone ads. off Coos Bay 16 May (BT) and Westport May 19 (B. LaBar) furnishing the first May records since 2004; most spring/early summer skua records have been of ads. Otherwise, jaegers were not numerous, with about 12 Pomarines, 41 Parasitics, and 31 Long-tailed Jaegers reported offshore. All but one of the Long-taileds were at the Continental Shelf edge off s. Oregon 3 May (JG). In the P.T., where not annual during spring, a Parasitic



A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared in Shoreline, King County, Washington 23–27 (here 26) April 2007, providing about the seventh Washington record. Spring vagrant Yellow-bellieds are quite rare along the Pacific coast, where two to three are found annually, almost entirely from October through March, and peaking in November/December. Photograph by Ryan I. Merrill.

visited Dungeness Bay, Clallam 20 May (BSW, SM). Spring Franklin's Gulls are not quite annual on the westside and average about 5 per year in e. Washington. This spring, stray Franklin's included 2 at Reardan, Lincoln, WA 12 May (TL) and singles at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, OR 17 May (D. Rymal), F.R.R. 23 May (R. Robb), and Ft. Canby, Pacific 31 May (TG). A Little Gull passed P.N.P. 1 May (VN); this species is not quite annual during spring, and nearly all recent sightings are from P.N.P. Two Heermann's Gulls at Port Angeles to 16 Mar were holdovers from winter (BN, J. Mullaly); Washington's first spring sightings are usually during early or mid-May. Washington's 2nd Black-tailed Gull materialized among a small group of Ring-billed Gulls in farmland near Corfu, Grant 12 May (RH); this species' pattern of occurrence in North America remains utterly enigmatic. A Lesser Black-backed Gull inhabited Moses L., Grant 18–23 Mar (DS, ph. RM); this is probably the same bird that furnished Washington's 6th record at Moses L. in Mar 2006. An astounding 32 Glaucous Gulls, all but 3 on the westside, was more than quadruple normal. Maxima included 8 near Brady, Grays Harbor 11 Mar (CW) and 8 in Clatsop 26 Mar (JG, S. Finnegan, B. Stites). Most had left by 10 Apr, but an exceptionally late bird lingered at Yaquina Bay through 25 May (RH, CA, W. Hoffman).

A Least Tern on N.S.C.B. 30 May provided the Oregon 8th record (DL, KC); about half of the Region's records are from late May/early Jun. Caspian Terns arrived early again. One at the W.W.R.D. 17 Mar was but two days shy of the e. Washington record early date (M&MD), while one at Bandon, Coos 10 Mar

was about two weeks early for the westside (R. Namitz). Black Terns returned to their sole consistent westside nesting location, F.R.R., 30 Apr (D. Schrouder); elsewhere on the westside, 6 in the W.V. from Baskett Slough to Ridgefield, 12–26 May, was near normal. Western Washington's 8th and 9th spring Forster's Terns enlivened Post Office L., Clark and Vancouver L., Clark 26 May (BF, JW, SM). In w. Oregon, where nearly annual during spring, 3 graced Lebanon, Linn 12 May (J. Harding). Marbled Murrelets remained exceptionally numerous in Admiralty Inlet this spring, highlighted by 500 off Pt. Wilson, Jefferson 22 Apr (SM, BSW). Further circumstantial evidence of Ancient Murrelets breeding on the Olympic Pen. was provided by 52 between La Push and Cape Alava 31 May (RM). Parakeet Auklets appeared again in stunning numbers, though not quite matching last spring's 60: Washington had 3 off Grays Harbor and 20 off Clallam/Jefferson, all between 20 and 50 km from shore during the first half of May (SMi), and Oregon had 5 off Lincoln and 2 off Clatsop 9–11 May (SMi).

A decade ago, Band-tailed Pigeons were considered vagrants to the eastside, but recently numbers have been found in e. Klickitat, and 40 at Snoqualmie Pass 23 May suggests that this species is a normal part of e. Kittitas's avifauna (TA); a Band-tailed at Klamath Falls 16 Apr was the only other eastside report (J. Van Moorhem). White-winged Doves at Canby, Clackamas 7 Mar (*vide* HN) and Cape Blanco 17–18 May (TJW) added to 11 prior Oregon records; there have now been eight Oregon records since 2000. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now so numerous in e

**SA** During Mar, beached bird surveys detected a dramatic die-off among some larger alcids. Most affected were Rhinoceros Auklets, Horned Puffins, and Tufted Puffins. Starting in late Feb, informal tideline searches from Coos through Clatsop found carcasses of Horned Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets on nearly all beaches surveyed. This die-off reached its apex around 22 Mar, when 286 Rhinoceros Auklets, 97 Horned Puffins, and 18 Tufted Puffins were found on Clatsop beaches (MP, DB). The sole Mar pelagic trip, off Newport 25 Mar, encountered nearly 500 Rhinoceros Auklets and an Oregon-record 7 live Horned Puffins, though several appeared to be ailing (GG). Six more live Horned Puffins were seen from land in Oregon 4 Mar–1 Apr, and one passed Cape Flattery 3 Apr (CW). Two to 3 Horned Puffins, living and dead, are found in Oregon during a typical year, and this species is not annual in Washington.

This year's event seemed similar to last year's in that there were large numbers of live Parakeet Auklets offshore and dead Rhinoceros Auklets onshore. This year's occurrence was even more extensive, however, involving Horned and Tufted Puffins, plus a few Thick-billed Murres and Mottled Petrels. Furthermore, one wonders if this winter's incursion of Thick-billed Murres into the P.T. was related. These events seem related to the oceanic arrhythmia, but why certain species suffered and why the mortality seemed limited largely to Oregon remains mysterious.

Washington that many observers have stopped reporting them. Most "new arrivals" were found late Apr–late May. Collared-doves appeared at a record six locations in w. Washington, where still rare, including 2 on the Olympic Pen. at the Region's nw. tip. We prognosticate that the Region will be fully colonized within a decade.

This spring's Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Fields 20 May (D. Robberson); virtually all recent Regional records are from se. Oregon 28 May–15 Jun. Amazingly, a Flammulated Owl in Ritzville, Adams 14 May furnished Washington's first spring record away from breeding habitat (B. Lyle). A few Snowy Owls lingered from last winter's "echo invasion," including one at Peone Prairie, Spokane 28 Apr that was about a month late (H. Ferguson, C. McCormack). A Northern Hawk Owl brightened Driveway Butte (elevation ~ 1600 m), Okanogan 29 May (†T. Paprocki); one wonders if this species occasionally breeds in the state. A Great Gray Owl, not annual in w. Washington, was on Geumes I., Skagit 12 Mar (W. McDougal). The status of Long-eared Owl on the westside is poorly understood, but most records are from Nov–Mar, so one in Kent, King 22 May was unexpected (RM).

Unprecedented numbers of Black Swifts passed along the Coos coast 16–23 May, with an Oregon record 248 along the New R. 16 May and 211 there 22 May (TR). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Wapato, Yakima 15 Apr was two weeks early (AS), while singles at Mt. Pleasant, Skamania 21 Apr (WC) and Lorane, Lane 30 Apr (fide T. Mickel) yielded rare westside records. Oregon's Costa's Hummingbird for the spring visited Veneta, Lane 4 May (fide T. Mickel). A Calliope Hummingbird at College Place, Walla Walla 8 Apr was also two weeks early (M&MD). On the westside, Calliopes appeared in record numbers, with 5 in Washington, 15 Apr–8 May and approximately 30 in Oregon, 15 Apr–6 May. A stunning 129 Rufous Hummingbirds were banded at two houses on cen. Whidbey I. 14 May (M. Myers). A Lewis's Woodpecker, not annual in w. Washington during spring, visited P.N.P. 12 May (BSW, VN). An Acorn Woodpecker at Oakville, Grays Harbor 12–16 May was about

the 5th for w. Washington (ph. P&RS); after approximately 15 years of being restricted to a small portion of Klickitat, Acorn Woodpeckers have, since 2005, popped up at seemingly random locations statewide. Rare w. of the Cascades, an exceptional 7 Red-naped Sapsuckers were detected 1 Mar–27 Apr, including one on the outer coast, where very rare, at Astoria 10 Apr (TG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Shoreline, King 23–27 Apr was approximately Washington's 7th and the latest by five weeks (C. Turner).

## PASSERINES

A Western Wood-Pewee at Toppenish, Yakima 26 Apr was about ten days early and was e. Washington's earliest ever (RH). This spring's Least Flycatchers included an early bird at Coppei Cr., Walla Walla 19 May (M&MD), plus singles at Upper Klamath L. 28 May (KS, D. Heyerly, M. A. Heyerly) and Fields 28 May (AC). A Gray Flycatcher at Steigerwald L., Clark 6–14 May provided w. Washington's 7th record, all but one of which have been during May (†WC). In the W.V., Gray Flycatchers are annual during spring, but 4 during 1–4 May was supranormal. Dusky Flycatchers, not annual in w. Washington, were noted at Kirkland, King 2 May (†RM, N. Bonomo) and in Skagit near Nehalem 5 May (GB, H. Armstrong); most lowland w. Washington records are from mid-May. This species is more regular in w. Oregon, but 10 there 24 Apr+ was exceptional, and one at Astoria 22 Apr was on the outer coast, where very rare (MP). For the 7th consecutive year, a Black Phoebe appeared in Washington, with one on Puget I., Wahkiakum 18 Mar furnishing the state's 11th record (†BT, R. Shaw). An unprecedented 11 Say's Phoebes were in w. Washington, 5 Mar–6 Apr, while 10 in w. Oregon was about average. Singleton Scissor-tailed Flycatchers adorned Fields 20 May (D. Robberson) and Malheur 21–26 May (DS); this species is now annual in Oregon.

Three westside Loggerhead Shrikes, 25 Mar–12 May, was fairly typical. Single Plumbeous Vireos inhabited Malheur 19 (OS, †DS) & 24–26 May (TR, DI), representing an average spring; in our Region, this species oc-

curs almost exclusively in se. Oregon mid-May–mid-Jun. A Warbling Vireo in Corvallis 6 Apr was at least two weeks early (WDR). A Blue Jay remained on Fidalgo I., Skagit through Apr (M. Smith, R. Hamerly), while 5 appeared in e. Washington 5–15 May—not an unusual spring for this species. Western Scrub-Jays were found n. to P.N.P. (VN, BSW) and e. to Prosser, Benton (NL, BL). A group of 6–10 Bank Swallows were at a potential nest site along the Columbia R. near St. Helens 12 May (JW), while Clallam's first Bank Swallow visited Dungeness Bay 20 May (SM, BSW) and Kitsap's first passed P.N.P. 25 May (BSW, VN), all likely evidence of continuing westside range expansion. Two Chestnut-backed Chickadees in Yakima 18 Mar were e. of their normal range, where not annual (R. Repp). The only lowland Mountain Chickadees brightened Sherwood, Washington 8 Mar (D. Robberson) and Redmond, King 12 Mar (P. Cozens). Two Juniper Titmice occupied Langel Valley in e. Klamath 27 Apr (KS); local efforts at distinguishing Juniper from Oak Titmice suggest the former may occur farther w. than previously appreciated.

Lone Rock Wrens appeared at Tarboo Bay, Jefferson 11 May (F. Krause), Bullard's Beach, Coos 12 May (K. Tran), Corvallis 15 May (J. Geier), and near Florence, Lane 13 May (B. Combs). Traditionally, this species has been considered very rare in the P.T./W.V. and extremely rare farther w., but sightings across the westside have been increasing. Several Varied Thrushes dawdled on the eastside lowlands, the last of which was about three weeks late at Sun Lakes, Grant 6 May (S. Downes). Mountain Bluebirds exploded into the westside lowlands, with 32+ in Washington and 6 in Oregon, 18 Mar–11 May, including an extraordinary 10 on the outer coast at Hobuck Beach, Clallam 2 Apr (CW); the lowland westside averages about 4 per spring. It was also an extraordinary year for Townsend's Solitaires in the westside lowlands, with the award for most bizarre going to a solitary approximately 60 km off Westport 15 May (BT). Two solitaires at Corvallis 22 May were about three weeks tardy (T. Snetsinger). Single Gray Catbirds visited Malheur 27 May (Paul Sullivan)

and Roaring Springs Ranch, *Harney* 31 May (RHy); migrant catbirds are rare in e. Oregon and typically found in late May. Six Northern Mockingbirds in Oregon was somewhat subpar, but 6 in Washington was above average. Peak occurrence was 1-16 May; surprisingly, none were on the eastside. Sage Thrashers seem to have become rare-but-annual spring vagrants to the westside, evidenced by one at Westport 29 Apr (B. Bell, R. Lawson) and 2 at Marymoor Park, *King* 3 May (M. Hobbs). The Eugene Brown Thrasher remained until 21 Mar (D. Turner). Rather unexpected was a Bohemian Waxwing at N. Baldy (elevation about 1800 m), *Pend Oreille* 25 May, two months after the last migrants have typically departed (TL); there are a few nesting records from similar habitat in the n. Cascades.

A Tennessee Warbler visited Milwaukie, *Clackamas* 20 May (J. Allinger); though annual during northbound migration, most records are from se. Oregon 20 May–15 Jun. Single Northern Parulas enlivened Malheur 13 May (D. Evered) and Fields 28 May (AC); the Region averages about one per spring, usually at the se. Oregon oases. This spring's Chestnut-sided Warbler was near Lakeview, *Lake* 29 May (J. Harding). Three different Magnolia Warblers visited Malheur 17-28 May (OS, M&MD), roughly thrice the spring norm for Oregon. Oregon's 11th Black-throated Green Warbler graced Finley 25 Apr (WDR); this record is extremely early for anywhere in the West—even in California, most spring vagrants are found mid-May–mid-Jun (Dunn and Garrett 1997; *Warblers*). Salem's wintering Hermit Warbler disappeared after 10 Mar (J. Vincent). The wintering Palm Warbler at Renton, *King* remained until 27 Mar (L. Rutter), while migrants were near Sequim, *Clallam* 1-3 Apr (S. Atkinson, CW) and at Cape Blanco 4 May (TJW); this species is rare away from the outer coast, and northbound migrants are not found annually. The Region's first northbound Blackpoll Warbler since 2003 visited Malheur 27 May (D. Hale). A Black-and-white Warbler enlivened Windust Park, *Franklin* 27 May (CW); Washington averages about one per year, with records widely scattered throughout the seasons. Oregon had a subpar 2 Black-and-whites, with singles at Portland 5 May (J. Leaptrott) and Frenchglen, *Harney* 27 May (AC). A Worm-eating Warbler at Malheur 15 May would provide Oregon's 3rd record if accepted by the B.R.C. (D. Evered). A Northern Waterthrush, extremely rare during spring in w. Washington, graced Rattlesnake L., *King* 30

May (*vide* M. Donahue). The recolonization of w. Washington by Yellow-breasted Chats seemed to accelerate suddenly, with 11+ birds, including 6+ at Ridgefield/Shillapoo Bottoms 26 May+ (SM, BF, JE). The Summer Tanager wintering at Alvadore, *Lane* remained through 5 Apr (J. & G. Jacobson), while a Summer Tanager at Malheur 27 May (m.ob.) was about the 19th for the state, most of which have occurred mid-May–mid-Jun. A Regional record 450 Western Tanagers streamed over P.N.P. 9 May (VN, BSW).

An American Tree Sparrow at Marymoor Park, *King* 12 Apr was record late for w. Washington (M. Hobbs), while one at Port Orford, *Curry* 14-18 Mar was in sw. Oregon, where not annual (L. Miller). A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow remained at N. Bend,



Tricolored Blackbirds continue to expand their range in eastern Washington. In early May 2007, up to 22 descended on a feeder in College Place, Walla Walla County (one male, photographed on 3 May, shown here). Tricolored Blackbirds were first recorded in Walla Walla County in November 2004. Photograph by MerryLynn Denny.

*Coos* through 26 Mar (B. Griffin), whereas one at Steptoe Butte, *Whitman* 29 May+ was at a location where one summered last year (M. Woodruff). Another Clay-colored at Bennington L., *Walla Walla* 15 May was in e. Washington, where nearly annual as a spring migrant (M&MD), but one at N.S.C.B. 29 May may have been the first spring migrant ever detected in w. Oregon (DL, KC). Single Brewer's Sparrows at Redmond, *King* 10 Apr (J. Tubbs) and P.N.P. 25 & 28 May (BSW) added to about 12 w. Washington records; most have been 2 Apr–5 Jun. A superb 6 Vesper Sparrows were found away from their restricted breeding range in w. Washington, 2-28 May; the recent spring average has been about 2. Seven Lark Sparrows at Cape Blanco 10 May (TJW) were on the s. Oregon coast, where annual, but one at Cascade Head, *Tillamook* 19 May was in nw. Oregon, where not annual (PP). A Black-throated Sparrow returned to its traditional breeding location near Vantage, *Kittitas* 31 May (TA), and 2 inhabited a new site near Prosser, *Benton* 20 May (S. Wierenga), hinting that e. Washington might have

another good summer for this scarce species. As often happens when numbers are high on the eastside, several Black-throateds were found on the westside, including 3 in Oregon 8-22 May and 2 in Washington 13-27 May. Western Washington's 7th Sage Sparrow enlivened Marymoor Park, *King* 29 Mar–2 Apr (M. Flint); five of the antecedent records have been in spring, four in Mar. An apparent *altivagans* Fox Sparrow was at Nisqually, *Thurston* 19-20 Mar (ph. P&RS); this mysterious subspecies and/or hybrid swarm is probably a scarce migrant in our Region. A Red Fox Sparrow (subspecies group *iliaca*), annual in the Region, visited Bellingham 9-11 Apr (G Heleker, ph. MB). Most wintering Swamp Sparrows seem to have departed by mid-Mar. Migrants are not annual and are found mostly on the westside, mid-Mar–mid-Apr. This spring, 4 apparent northbound birds appeared on the westside, the latest of which inhabited Finley 28 Apr, furnishing Oregon's 4th latest record (WDR). Even rarer on the eastside, northbound Swamp Sparrows visited Crow Butte, *Benton* 15 Mar (DR) and W. Richland 30 Mar–1 Apr (NL). A goodly 6 Harris's Sparrows were found through 6 May. Golden-crowned Sparrows tarried throughout the Region; Oregon's latest was at Bend 28 May (RHy), and Washington's were in Jun. A Washington-record 3000+ White-crowned Sparrows filled fields near Quincy, *Grant* 22 Apr (DS). Single Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrids graced Seattle 22 Apr (†A. Grenon) and Portland 25 Apr (ph. S. Finnegan). A Slate-colored Junco (subspecies *hyemalis*) at Skagit W.M.A. 11 May was record late for Washington (TA). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 3 in Oregon and 2 in Washington, 21 May+, was about half the norm. A Lazuli Bunting in Yakima 11 Apr was Washington's earliest for spring since 1913 (*vide* DG); the first usually appear around 1 May. An Indigo Bunting visited the same Mukilteo, *Snohomish* feeder that harbored one last winter/spring but was noted this year only 24-26 Apr (I. Beegle, DD). Washington has about 19 records. Annual in Oregon during spring, an Indigo Bunting visited Paulina, *Crook* 19 May (CG).

Tricolored Blackbirds continued to cement their footholds in Washington. At Wilson Cr. *Grant*, a maximum of 48 was tallied 14 Apr (E. Kane), while 50 inhabited Othello, *Adams* 18 Apr (BT). Tricoloreds were also noted near Texas L., *Whitman* in mid-Apr, where they have bred previously (D. Weber), and up to

22 visited a feeder in College Place, Walla Walla throughout early May (M&MD). Just south in Oregon, a new colony of 250 ads. was discovered near Umapine, Umatilla 20 May (MD). A Rusty Blackbird near Othello 28 Mar furnished the Region's first spring record since 2004 (AS); most Rusties are found mid-Oct–late Jan. Washington's 14th Common Grackle, and first since Jan 2003, was near Sequim, Clallam 22-30 Apr (ph. SM, vt. BSW); most of Washington's records have been Mar–Jul, and this was only w. Washington's 4th. Now annual during spring in Oregon, single Common Grackles inhabited Malheur 12 May and Fields 16 May (S. Dowlan). Washington's 4th Great-tailed Grackle returned for its 5th consecutive year to Liberty L., Spokane 13-30 Apr (R. Dexter). Great-tailed Grackles arrived in Oregon during the 1980s, occurring almost entirely in the se. portion of the state. Times are a-changing, and 6 of this spring's 9 Oregon Great-taileds were on the westside, almost all during May. Washington's 8th Hooded Oriole returned to Seattle 12 Apr–23 May (C. Conolly). A Baltimore Oriole, now a nearly annual northbound migrant in Oregon, inhabited Malheur 25 May+ (D. Herr). Astoria's wintering Bullock's Oriole lasted until 9 Mar (MP). Exceptionally early were Bullock's at Longview, Cowlitz 27 Mar (M. Green) and near Moxee, Yakima 7 Apr (*fide* DG); the first usually arrive late Apr/early May. Additionally, Bullock's

Orioles seem to be increasing throughout w. Washington, highlighted by a w. Washington record 31 at Ridgefield/Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark 26 May (SM, BF, JW). Washington's 2nd Scott's Oriole was near Selah, Yakima 12-17 Apr (†S. Hall); the first was in sw. Washington, Feb–Apr 1980!

Five wintering Pine Grosbeaks lingered in the Oregon Cascades at Todd L., Deschutes through 17 Mar (S. Dougill), and one remained in Portland until 15 Mar (W. Gross); amazingly, Oregon Pine Grosbeak breeding records are very few, and are all from the Willowa and Blue Mts. A Pine Grosbeak in Edmonds, Snohomish 30 Apr was a goodly month late for the westside lowlands (DD). Red Crossbills, following the pattern of recent years, burst across the Region in late May/early Jun, with a high count of 600 at Cascade Head, Lincoln 28 May (PP); additionally, singles appeared in the Columbia Basin, where-rare, at Vantage 1 Jun (SM) and Washtucna, Adams 3 Jun (G. Sheridan). Lesser Goldfinches again flung themselves across Washington, a sign of continuing range expansion, with singles at Battle Ground, Clark 7 Apr (J. Danzenbaker), P.N.P. 9 May (VN, BSW), and Walla Walla 19 May (G. & R. Shoemake); indeed, Lessers have probably re-established themselves in Clark, where extirpated in 1991, and the Walla Walla bird was that county's 4th, all in the past three years.

**Initialed observers** (subregional editors in boldface): Cindy Ashy, Tom Aversa (Washington), David Bailey, Range Bayer (Lincoln), Gary Bletsch, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder (Spokane), Cameron Cox, Mike & MerryLynn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (Crook), Roy Gerig (Polk, Marion), Jeff Gilligan, Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Rich Hoyer (RH), Stuart Johnston (Klickitat), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Terry Little, Ryan Merrill, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig & Marilyn Miller (Deschutes, Jefferson), Scott Mills (SMi), Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Clarence and Marilyn O'Leary (Grant), Michael Patterson (Clatsop), W. Doug Robinson (Benton, Linn, Marion), Tim Rodenkirk (Coos, Curry), Owen Schmidt, Doug Schonewald, Kevin Spencer (Klamath), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick & Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), Dennis Vroman (Josephine), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, Charlie Wright. ☉

**Steven Mlodinow**, 4819 Gardner Avenue Everett, Washington 98203, (SGMlod@aol.com);  
**David Irons**, 2125 Hayes Street Eugene, Oregon 97045, (Ildirons@msn.com);  
**Bill Tweit**, P.O. Box 1271 Olympia, Washington 98507, (Sebnabgill@aol.com)

## Northern California



**Scott B. Terrill**  
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)  
**Michael M. Rogers**  
(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)  
**Steven A. Glover**  
(Doves to Wrentit)  
**Ed Pandolfino**  
(Thrashers to Finches)

This spring offered an interesting mix of unusual birds. There was a nearly unprecedented influx of nearshore Horned Puffins in the Region. This species occurs far offshore in winter, but it is unclear why so many individuals wandered into inshore waters this year. Most dead birds examined were emaciated, indicating a lack of food. The only other period with similar numbers of Horned Puffins was May–June 1975, when over 200 were recorded in the state. There were also late Ancient Murrelets

and, just after the end of the season in June, there were very unusual reports of Thick-billed Murres and Parakeet Auklets. It is tempting to speculate that the incursions of these four alcids, all Alaskan breeders, in spring and early summer were related.

Unusual numbers of desert and Great Basin breeding sparrows (Brewer's and Black-throated) were noted north and west of their normal range. In addition, Black-chinned Sparrows showed up north and west of more typical breeding locations. Much of the desert southwest and the high desert of the Great Basin experienced a severe drought this winter and spring. Much of these areas supported virtually no primary productivity, and breeding birds were essentially absent. During such years, it is likely that migrant species such as the sparrows continue to move in an effort to locate more favorable breeding conditions. Noteworthy vagrants included the rare-in-spring