

1986

*Autumn Migration, 1985*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

After a hot, very dry summer the Region experienced a cool fall period, starting out dry, becoming abnormally wet in September, then dry in October. Undoubtedly the most significant weather came in November, the coldest on record for many localities. Winter began early in the month, blanketing the Region with snow that never left, and simultaneously bringing early freezeup of most water, driving out waterfowl. There were indications of hardship for birds and of early arrivals and increased numbers of northern species. Paradoxically, there were sightings of very late lingering summer individuals.



ABBREVIATIONS -- Hart Mt. N.A.R. = Hart Mountain Nat'l Antelope Ref., Lake Co., Ore.; Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref, Ore. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES -- A Red-throated Loon appeared at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., Oct. 19 (RN). Single Pacific Loons were reported at Sunnyside, Ida. (PRS), w. of American Falls, Ida., (DT, CHT), and at Malheur (A & MA). Washington had four on Clear L., e. of White Pass, *Yakima* (EC, DG, AS), two near the Yakima R. delta, Richland (REW); one at Central Ferry (NB); one at McNary N.W.R., Burbank (BH, DH); and one on Soap L., *Grant* (JA). Red-necked Grebes were reported to be spreading in s.e. Idaho (CHT). Single Red-necked and Eared grebes appeared at Hood R., Ore., for Anderson's first county sightings. Up to 10 Clark's Grebes were sighted on Moses L, Wash. (DG, PM, m.ob.), and one was at the Yakima delta (REW). The species also was noted at Hart Mt. N.A.R. (WHP). *Deschutes*, Ore., had its first record of the species when three were identified in a large flock of W. Grebes (TC, CM). Single Great Egrets, rare in the American Falls-Blackfoot area of s.e Idaho, furnished 3 sightings (JT), and one to two were

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sighted at the Walla Walla R. delta near Wallula, Wash., Aug. 26-Oct. 19 (BH). The species produced 1092 young this year at Malheur and Snowy Egrets there showed an increase this year with 410 young. At least 2 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested again this year in the Malheur Basin (CDL). One Cattle Egret at Kootenai N.W.R., Ida., Nov. 3 made the 2nd record there (LDN), and two appeared near College Place, Wash., Nov. 2 (NB). A single bird was at Tranquille, B.C., Oct. 28 (WT). A Green-backed Heron appeared at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla*, Ore., for the only report (IG). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron along the Salmon R., 25 mi n.w. of Salmon, Ida., provided that area's first record (HR), and one at Swan L., Vernon, B.C., was noteworthy (PR). White-faced Ibises established an all-time record at Malheur, producing 3318 young. A near-certain indication of re- colonization by the species in

the Warner Valley between Adel and Plush, Ore., was the observation of 143 adults and 26 immatures Aug. 7 (WHP).

WATERFOWL -- Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., reached a peak of 1000 Tundra Swans. An ad. Trumpeter Swan made a surprise appearance at Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 13 (BH, LMcC). Three Trumpeters, thought to be victims of lead shot poisoning, were picked up in the Coeur d' Alene R. drainage of n. Idaho (JN) for the first record in that area since 1914. A Ross' Goose was seen at Stratford, Wash., in October (DG, EM, BW, m.ob.), and 32 flew over Hart Mt. N.A.R., Nov. 3 (WHP). Columbia N.W.R., Wash., reported a peak of 10,000 Canada Geese in mid-November. One "Cackling" Goose accompanied Canadas on the Snake R., w. of Clarkston, Wash., Nov. 9 (LL). An ad. Brant at Stratford Oct. 13 was a rarity (BW) and an ad. **Barnacle Goose** there Oct. 12-13 (BW, m.ob.) was considered by most observers to be wild (Why?—K.K.). Canada Goose and Mallard numbers were down drastically at Metcalf N.W.R., Mont., and the duck population at Minidoka N.W.R. was the lowest in 30 years although Canada Geese there reached 2000. The fall duck migration at Malheur was the worst in recent history. Other than the 3000 Mallards using refuge grain fields in late August, no concentrations of ducks occurred there. By contrast, ducks at Columbia N.W.R. peaked at about 40,000 in mid-November. Mallard numbers at Kootenai N.W.R. continued their downward trend. Single Eur. Wigeons appeared near Helena, Mont., for a latilong first (JJ), on Flagstaff L. in Oregon's Warner Valley (WHP), and at Bend, Ore. (TC, CM). "Thousands" of Am. Wigeons were at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wash., in September. A brood of four young Ring-necked Ducks at Hart Mt. N.A.R., Aug. 10 provided the first breeding record there (WHP). Single female Greater Scaup were identified at Walla Walla (DH) and at Klamath Falls, Ore. (SS). The Pack R. delta, Pend Oreille L., n. Idaho had 300-400 of this species Nov. 28 (BM). One to two Oldsquaws were sighted in the Pasco-Walla Walla area (BH, DH, B.M.A.S., m.ob., TG) and at Coulee City, Wash. (JA). Okanagan Landing, B.C., had two (MCo, PR). Kootenai N.W.R. had one for the 2nd record there. A female plumaged bird at Springfield, Ida., was notable (JT *et al.*). A Black Scoter on a pond w. of Wapato was *Yakima's* first, and the 3rd for e. Washington (DG, AS).

A Surf Scoter at Kootenai N.W.R., Oct. 3 was the refuge's first (LDN), and one appeared at Robinson L., extreme n. *Boundary*, Ida. a few days later (JM). Three females shot on the Pend Oreille R., n. Idaho, provided the first record in that latilong since 1970 (JM). One was identified at Libby Dam, *Lincoln*, Mont., for the latilong's first (JH, BC, MS), and a female at Malheur was the 3rd there (MA). In s. Idaho a male appeared at American Falls, a female was sighted near Eagle Rock s.w. of there (CHT), and a female showed up at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco, for the first there (TR, BV). Eastern Washington had a few sightings, mostly in the s.c. part, and Trail, B.C., had three birds (ME). A total of 17 Surf Scoters was sighted in *Walla Walla*, Wash. (BH, DH, m.ob.). A White-winged Scoter at Robson, B.C., Nov. 3 was apparently that area's first (ME), and one at Hayden L., n. Idaho, was noteworthy (PH). A few White-wingeds appeared in e. Oregon and Washington, s.e. Idaho, and at Libby Dam. Several hundred Red-breasted Mergansers spent October on the Snake R. below American Falls. The only others reported were six on the Snake R. near Asotin (C.B.) and three near Central Ferry, Wash. (NB).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES -- A phenomenal 90 Turkey Vultures circled over Armstrong, B.C., Sept. 7 (JG). Malheur counted 79 on its late August raptor transects. The nest at Kootenai N.W.R. that fledged two Bald Eagles this summer was demolished by strong winds, but the parent birds replaced it in October in the same tree. Migrating numbers of this species were down markedly there, as were they in the Libby area. Five N. Goshawk sightings were reported. Swainson's Hawks continued their decline at Malheur. Three Ferruginous Hawks lingered until Nov. 30 in Fort Rock Valley, *Lake*, Ore., at the n. edge of their wintering range (CM). A Rough-legged Hawk broke the all-time record for early fall appearance at Malheur, arriving Aug. 21 (MA, SH). In the Nov. 10 snowstorm in the Walla Walla area, 77 Rough-leggeds were counted (B.M.A.S.). Golden Eagle numbers at Malheur remained low, as there has been no build-up of jackrabbit numbers. Two Peregrine Falcon and 3 Gyrfalcon sightings were reported. Two to three thousand Sandhill Cranes stopped at Chapperon L., w. of Vernon, B.C., Sept. 15 (MC, RH *et al.*). The peak movement of Greater Sandhills out of Malheur was Sept. 22. Counts of migrating cranes leaving the refuge

totalled 4292; about 1.2% were Lesser Sandhills. Peak staging population of Greater Sandhills at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., reached 2900, down from last year (ECB)

**S.A.**

Foster parent Sandhill Cranes fledged 11 Whooping Crane chicks at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida. About 23 older Whooping Cranes were thought to be surviving as of migration time. An all time high of nine summered at Grays Lake

SHOREBIRDS -- Black-bellied Plovers were noted migrating through the w. part of the Region Sept. 9-Oct. 16. Eight were at Kootenai N.W.R. on the latter date for a rare sighting (LDN). At least 30 Lesser Golden-Plovers accompanied Black-bellied Plovers

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at American Falls Res, Oct 12 (CHT), and single birds were sighted at the Walla Walla R. delta and near the state line s. of Walla Walla (BH *et al.*). One to two Semipalmated Plovers stopped in the Lewiston, Ida., vicinity (PP, MK, WH, OM); Fortine, Mont., had four (WW); and one was sighted at Wenas L, n.w. of Yakima (AS). Latest sightings of the species were Oct. 14 at Malheur (CDL) and Nov. 12 near Central Ferry (NB), both late dates. At least 20 Black-necked Stilts were found w. of Potholes Res., Moses Lake, Wash., Aug. 4 (PM), and two to three appeared at the Yakima delta in August (REW). Five Greater Yellowlegs along the Columbia R. shore at Brisco, B.C., Sept. 26 were catching and eating the fish chased toward them by Com. Mergansers (LH). One Greater Yellowlegs lingered at Vernon until Nov. 10, very late (JG, MCo). Two Lesser Yellowlegs were migrating through Brisco Aug. 19 (LH). The lake at Reardan, Wash., had a surprising 150 Aug. 17 (BW). A Solitary Sandpiper at Cow L., *Boundary*, Ida. was noteworthy (PRS), as was one along Dodson Road, Columbia N.W.R. (BMo). Singles appeared at Malheur (MA), the Yakima delta (REW), and in the Klamath Falls vicinity (SS). Reardan

had three (BW); *Grant*, Wash., seven; Tumalo Res., Ore., three (TC); Springfield, Ida. four (CHT, CW); and Somers, Mont., three (EH). The only Willet reported was at Kamloops, B.C., where the species is rare (CR). Mann's L., Lewiston, had a Marbled Godwit Aug. 27 (C.B.) and single birds were observed near Hart Mt. N.A.R., July 12-13 and Aug. 1 (WHP). Three appeared at Rajneeshpuram, Ore. (SDR), and the Yakima delta hosted up to seven (BH, REW, TG, SM *et al.*). Two **Black Turnstones** reported at Ochoco L., Sept. 8 would apparently provide e. Oregon's first record (VT, DL). The only Red Knots were one that showed up at the Walla Walla delta (DH) and another at Ochoco L., Ore. (BC). Sanderlings could almost have been called common at American Falls Res., Lewiston, Malheur, and the Yakima and Walla Walla deltas. Two at Hood River made latilong firsts (DA); singles were observed at Bend and at Haystack Res., s. of Madras, Ore. (MR). Semipalmated Sandpipers were supposedly the most common shorebirds at Fortine, with up to 34 (WW), and a few were sighted at Cold Springs N.W.R. (CC) and at the Walla Walla delta (BH, DH). A single bird was found at Dodson Rd., Grant, Wash., and 50 were in the Kalispell-Somers, Mont., area Aug. 13 (EH). A White-rumped Sandpiper reported at Dry L. near Fortine Aug. 29 would be n.w. Montana's first (WW). Baird's Sandpipers were moving through the Region Aug. 13-Oct. 14; a surprising concentration of 35 was at Bend Aug. 14 (TC). The largest groups of Pectoral Sandpipers were of 70 at Ochoco L. (TC), 50 at Cascade Res., Ida. (HR), and 32 s. of Klamath Falls (SS). The only Dunlins reported were near Hart Mt. N.A.R. (WHP), three at Lewiston (CV), and two at Bend (TC). Up to 45 Stilt Sandpipers were spotted at the Walla Walla R. mouth (BH, DH) and 25 appeared near Somers, Mont. (EH). Singles were found at American Falls Res. (CHT), up to four appeared at Reardan, Wash. (JA), and one to two appeared at Wenas L. (DG, AS). Surprising were up to seven at Swan L., Vernon (MCo, PMcA) and one at Kamloops (RH). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers made rare stops at Vernon Sept. 3 and at Commonage, s. of Vernon, Sept. 12 (MCo, PR, PMcA). Five Short-billed Dowitchers were noted near Klamath Falls (SS), three at Hood R., Ore. (DA), one at Reardan (JA), and one at American Falls Res. (CHT). One at Dry L., Fortine, was noteworthy (WW). Long-billed Dowitcher numbers reached 1000 at Malheur Sept. 27 (CDL). A winter-plumaged Red Phalarope was identified at the Walla Walla delta Oct. 4 (DH).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- A Pomarine Jaeger at McNary Dam near Umatilla, Ore., in early September was a rare find (CC, MC). A Parasitic Jaeger at Sandpoint, Ida., Sept. 22 was the latilong's first, and a surprising four jaegers of unknown species were sighted at nearby Sunnyside the same day (PRS). Up to five Parasitic Jaegers were sighted in the Walla Walla R. delta-McNary Dam area, also in September (TG, REW, BH, SM, B M.A.S.) and one was at Swan L., Vernon, Sept. 7 (PR). At Malheur, jaegers thought to be Parasitics were present most of September with a phenomenal 15 at mid-month (CDL, MA) The species is reportedly becoming a regular fall migrant at American Falls Dam (CHT). The Walla Walla delta had a Franklin's Gull (BH) and a Mew Gull (BH, L & JG). The Tachie R. delta n.w. of Fort St. James, B.C., also had a Mew Gull Aug. 29, and two first-winter Ring-billed Gulls the previous day for probably the first record there (GRAE). Single Thayer's Gulls appeared at Vernon (MCo, PR, JG) and Sandpoint (PRS), and up to six visited Ice Harbor Dam e. of Pasco (BH). Many sightings of first-year birds of this species near American Falls Dam indicated they are regular fall migrants there (CHT). A nearly adult-plumaged W. Gull was photographed as it stayed around American Falls Dam Aug 19- Nov. 10 (CHT) and one was carefully identified at Ice Harbor Dam e. of Pasco, Wash., in late November (BH). The only Glaucous Gull was one at Richland, Wash., Nov. 28 (PEW) The Walla Walla delta was visited by Glaucous-winged Gulls (BH, B.M.A.S.) and a Sabine's Gull (BH). One of the latter at Sandpoint was the latilong's first (PRS). Single Sabine's were photographed at Libby Dam (JH, KC, MS) and at American Falls Dam (CHT), and one was sighted on 2 dates at McNary Dam, Ore (CC, MC, TG). Moses L. also had a visit from one (EH) as did the Walla Walla delta (BH). Twenty Com. Terns were sighted at Sandpoint Sept 22 (PRS), up to eight appeared at the Walla Walla delta (BH), and one was seen at Malheur Oct. 22 (CDL). Over 100 were near American Falls Dam in September (CHT). Three Forster's Terns lingered at Creston, B.C., until Sept. 14 (GD, LV), three were at Lewiston Sept. 18 (CV), and one was at Sandpoint Sept 22 (PRS). The Walla Walla delta had a Black Tern as late as Sept 30 (BH).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- Jefferson, Ore, had its first Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Haystack Res., Sept. 3 (BC) Swan L. had a Com. Barn-Owl Aug. 26 (PR). The only Snowy Owl reports were of one at Robson Nov. 12 (MB) and one at Fortine (WW). An owl survey of *Ferry, Pond Oreille*, and *Stevens*, Wash., included one pair and four individual Barred Owls and at least 13 male, four female, and two imm. Boreal Owls (Be, BW). One Boreal was located at Harrison L., w of Bonners Ferry (CN). A Barred Owl was heard in the Blue Mts of n.e. Oregon Oct. 26 (MC). Two imm. Great Gray Owls were found in *Benewah*, Ida. (D & CG), and two were reported in n c Oregon (B.M.A.S.). A canyon in the Peola, Wash., area yielded another (MJP). An injured Long-eared Owl picked up at Bonners Ferry was apparently the latilong's first (KE). A dead imm. **Black Swift** at Frenchglen provided s.e Oregon's first record; the bird showed no external evidence of having been brought in on a car grill (CDL). A Black Swift was with Vaux's Swifts at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla*, Ore., Sept. 8 for a latilong first (TG). Malheur had 2 Red-breasted Sapsucker sightings (M & AA, TC, CDL). A Gray Flycatcher was sighted in Navarre Canyon 10 mi s.w. of Chelan, Wash.; an Ash-throated Flycatcher appeared at Colockum Cr., 10 mi s.e. of Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 2, and an immature of this species was at Vantage, Wash., Sept. 9 (EH).

JAYS THROUGH FINCHES -- Blue Jays frequented Woodland Park at Kalispell, Mont. (EJ), and one appeared in Lewiston Orchards, Ida. (NN). In British Columbia lone birds visited Lavington (WC), Nakusp (JS), and Robson (MB). Two Clark's Nutcrackers visited a Umatilla, Ore., yard Aug. 1 for a very unusual place and date (MC). Possibly a family group of four Black-capped Chickadees along the Link R. near Klamath Falls suggested breeding in that area (SS). A few Boreal Chickadees along Trout Cr. in the Selkirk Mts. of *Boundary*, Ida., Aug 13 indicated probable breeding there (CHT). The species appeared at Hayden L., Ida. Aug. 7 for the latilong's first record (PH) A Winter Wren in the Elkhorn Mts. s.e. of Helena provided the latilong's first record (LMcE). A Varied Thrush showed up in the Helena Valley, where the species is rarely seen (GH), and a

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very late one was sighted near Stevensville, Mont, Nov 27 (C & SC) Bohemian Waxwings apparently had scarcely arrived before the period's end; the only report was of four in Richland Nov 22 (REW). Vernon had a very late Cedar Waxwing nest with four young Sept. 5 (JB, JG). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at Panhandle L. near Newport, Wash., Sept. 11 (EL). Malheur banded a Black-throated Gray Warbler Aug. 19 and two were sighted there Oct. 12 (C.B.) A carefully-examined **Blackpoll Warbler** at Richland Sept 2 apparently made the first acceptable record for Washington (REW, PW). A warbler that hit a window near Missoula, Merit, in late August was identified in hand as a **Blackpoll Warbler** for w. Montana's first fall record (PLW). Malheur had one Sept. 13 (MSm). An imm. Am. Redstart in Richland Aug. 16 was REW's first ever there, and he had an ad. male there Sept. 10 A N. Waterthrush at the Walla Walla R. delta Aug. 24 was a real surprise (BH, DH), and one at Haystack Res., Sept. 3 was the 2nd for *Jefferson*, Ore. (BC). Single White-throated Sparrows were sighted at Vernon (JQ), Malheur (TC), College Place, Wash. (RL), near Spokane (JA), and at Troy, Mont. (KB). An imm. Harris' Sparrow frequented a Kootenai, Ida. feeder for apparently the first fall record for the latilong (PRS). Hart Mt. N.A.R. recorded its first Harris' Nov. 11-17 (WHP), and two birds w. of Oroville, Wash., supposedly provided the first record in that latilong (KBr). The species apparently has become a regular but scarce migrant through the Region, with every state and British Columbia reporting a few. A **Smith's Longspur**, apparently Idaho's and the Region's first, was well seen on Michaud Flats between Pocatello and American Falls Res., Nov. 14 (CW, CHT). The same place had a McCown's Longspur Nov. 23 (JT, CHT) and up to 15 Lapland Longspurs Nov. 11-23 (CHT). An imm. Lapland Longspur was sighted on Round Top Mt., n.e. *Pend Oreille*, Wash., Sept. 29 (BW, Be). A few Laplands showed up at Knutsford, Vernon, and Creston, and three appeared on Steens Mt., *Harney*, Ore., Oct 20 (MA). Two Rusty Blackbirds at Robinson L., 15 min. of Bonners Ferry, Ida., Oct. 5 were the latilong's first (JM). Large numbers of White-winged Crossbills invaded the n rim of the Region and the Cascade Mts. as far s. as *Klamath*, Ore. Common Redpolls were reaching e. Washington and Oregon m

November. They were "numerous" in *Walla Walla* and "invaded" Burns, Ore. Six Hoary Redpolls were reported with Com Redpolls at Vernon Nov. 1 (JQ). A pair of Lesser Goldfinches was sighted at Malheur Oct. 12 (PS, C.B.).

CORRIGENDUM -- The Ancient Murrelet picked up near Elkford (*AB* 39:80) was interior British Columbia's 3rd, not the first (LH).

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, David Anderson, Anne & Merle Archie, Nigel Ball, Eugene C. Barney, John Baumbrough, Blue Mt. Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), Ken Brunner (KBr), Kay Burk, Mae Burrows, Chuck & Suzi Campbell, Wayne Campbell, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Mary Collins (MCo), Barb Combs, Bobbie Couvillion (BCo), Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Tom Crabtree, Emily Cragg, Gary Davidson, G.R.A. Ebel, Maurice Ellison, Ken English, Margaret Flerchinger, Dale & Carole Goble, Larry & Jacque Good-hew, Danny Granstrand, Tony Greager, James Grant, Jean Habeck, Larry Halverson, Bill Hayes, Winnie Hepburn, Steve Herman, David Herr, George Holton, Rick Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, John Jancic, Elly Jones, Kay Kasperon, Merlene Koliner, Earl Larrison, Susan Lattomus, Louise LaVoie, Ruth Lepiane, C. D. Little-field, Donna Lusthoff, Phil Mattocks, Pat McAllister (PMcA), Larry McCloskey (LMcC), Lawrence McEvoy (LMcE], Opal McIntyre, Craig Miller, Ed Miller, Bob Moate, Jean Monks, Margaret Morris, Bob Morse (BMo], Shirley Muse, Larry D. Napier, Ron Neu, Nora Nicely, John Nigh, Craig Norris, Bill O'Connell, Peggy Pedigo, W. H Pyle, John Quirk, Phil Ranson, Swami Deva Rashid, Tim Reynolds, Clara Ritcey, Mike Robbins, Hadley Roberts, Max Robertson (MRo), Paul R. Sieracki, John Sloan, Mark Smith (MSm), Andy Stepniewski, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Marjorie Swanson, Dan Taylor, Verda Teale, Wait Tennant, Joel Tinsley, C.H. Trost, Linda VanDamme, Carole Vande Voorde, B. Vogel, Cheryl Webb, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Pat & Robert E. Woodley, Philip L. Wright

Autumn Migration, 1985

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Eugene S. Hunn, and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.



August was warm and dry. An Upland Sandpiper, two Hudsonian Godwits, one Bar-tailed Godwit, and two Curlew Sandpipers appeared August 17-23, perhaps associated with a strong front that came ashore the night of the 17th. September was a bit cool with average precipitation. October was cold and wet. The arrival of three Tropical Kingbirds on southern Vancouver Island October 22-26 followed the strong front of October 22. November was dry and very cold with monthly average temperatures 8-9°F below par at Portland and Seattle and dropping to 25° sub-par from November 20 on. Four Gyrfalcons turned up November 9-16 with Common Redpolls not far behind, November 17, as if they had early warning of the big freeze. We welcome detailed reports from M. Hearne and S. Johnston for the Queen Charlotte Islands, at the poorly-documented northern edge of our Region.

ABBREVIATIONS--Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Is.; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia River; V.I. = Vancouver Island. Place names in *italics* are counties.

PENGUIN THROUGH HERONS -- An ad. Humboldt Penguin Aug. 27-Sept. 4 off Willoughby Rock, *Grays Harbor*, Wash. (S. Speich, S. Jeffries, P. Martin) must have been ship-assisted. Two were reported off V.I. some years back. The summering Yellow-billed Loon at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, Ore., was found dead Aug. 15 (Hatfield Marine Science Center, *vide* HN). Two others arrived in late fall. The one seen Oct. 24 at White Rock, B.C. (JW), may have been the same bird seen off Pt. Roberts, WhatCom, Wash., Nov. 10+ (H & JM *et al.*). Another appeared Nov. 9 at Sequim Bay, *Clallam*, Wash. (DS). Although Clark's Grebes nest in e. Washington and Oregon, they are rare among the numerous wintering W. Grebes of the bays and coast. Three single birds were noted in s. Oregon, at Heceta Head, Lane, Aug. 21-24 (†SH, MH), at Gold Beach, *Curry*, and at Coos Bay Nov. 12 (VT, *vide* HN). Two were in the San Juan Is, Nov. 9 (TW) for one of very few w. Washington records. We received reports (more or less complete) from 17 offshore trips this fall, 14 of those between Aug. 25 and Sept. 21, with none after Oct. 6. Homeports ranged from Brookings, Ore., at 42°N, to Bamfield on southern V.I. at 48°30'N. There were no surprises among the tubenoses. Black-footed Albatrosses were at par with 111 Aug. 25 off Grays Harbor, Wash. (TW), the high count. Northern Fulmars were abundant, especially off Ram-field, V.I., where 6000 were tallied Sept. 5 (*vide* VG). Pink-footed Shearwaters were also numerous, with 773 off Grays Harbor Aug. 30 (TW) the peak count. One to two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were picked out among these flocks on 6 Grays Harbor and 2 Bamfield trips. Buller's Shearwaters continued the gradual upswing first noted in 1983. They were first noted Aug. 31 off Grays Harbor and peaked there at 123 Oct. 6 (TW) A trip out of Newport, *Lincoln*, Ore., Oct. 5 reported 150 (SH) Short-tailed Shearwaters were scarce, reported on just 2 trips Three were seen off Grays Harbor Sept. 8 (TW) and at least one was off Tillamook Bay, Ore., Sept. 15 (*vide* HN). Two or more were reported from shore at Florence, Lane, Ore., in an unusual inshore concentration of 75 N. Fulmars Nov. 2 (DF, SH, VT). A Buller's Shearwater was seen there with a few N Fulmars Nov. 5 (DF). The only Leach's

Storm-Petrels were three off Grays Harbor Aug. 10 (TW). Fork-taileds were abundant off Bamfield, V.I., with a high count of 1760 Aug. 29 (*fide* VG). The 660 off Grays Harbor Aug. 10 tapered off rapidly to just one to four from there after Aug. 30 (TW, ESH). Four Am. White Pelicans strayed W this fall. Two were at Surrey, B.C., Sept. 25 (P. Jones), a single was nearby in Vancouver Sept. 28-Oct. 14, and one was on Agate L., near Medford, Ore., Oct. 25 (OS, *fide* MM). They are of less-than-annual occurrence in the Region. Brown Pelicans had another good year from our perspective. There were several V.I. reports, with six as far n. as Pachena Pt. on the w. coast Aug. 29 (MS, *fide* DK). High counts included 83 over Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, Wash., Aug. 29 (B. Paine *et al.*), 285 at Grays Harbor in late September (M. Price), and 1500 at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 28 (PP) Of those at the S.J.C.R., 30-35% were judged adult. A strong S movement was noted Nov. 5-16 at Florence, Ore. (DF, SH, S. Gordon). Single Great and Snowy egrets reached s. Washington; the Great Egret was on the Palix R., *Pacific*, Aug. 24+ (B. & G. Ramsey, m.ob.) and the Snowy--the 3rd for w. Washington-- was seen at Camas, Clark, Oct. 1-2 (†W. Cady). For the first fall in many years no Cattle Egrets were found. Black-crowned Night-Herons have established a few winter roosts w. of the Cascades. The Stanwood, *Snobomish*, Wash., roost has steadily grown, with 17+ there Sept. 11+ (C. Howard, m.ob.).

SWANS THROUGH CRANES -- Tundra Swans arrived Oct. 24 at Renton, King, Wash. (J. Sanford), and Nov. 2+ elsewhere. Anomalous early sightings were of 46 Sept. 13 over Ashland, Ore. (MM), and of one Sept. 19 at Delta, B.C. (H & JM). Trumpeters were first noted Oct. 28 at Kent, *King*, Wash (R. Hazard) and Oct. 29 in the Q.C.I. (P. Slobodvian, *fide* SJ). After Nov. 9 they were widespread. The Greater White-fronted Goose migration was on time and heavy this September. High counts were of 65 Aug. 30 at Grays Harbor (PWM), 250 on Sauvie I., Sept. 3 (HN), and 100 at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 15 (H Vander Pol, *fide* VG). Many of these w. slope migrants apparently cross over to the Klamath basin near Diamond L. on the Cascade crest n. of Crater L., as DF and R. Menke counted 1000+ there Sept. 26 flying SE and noted smaller flocks Sept 4-Oct. 3. A blue-phase Snow Goose turned up Nov. 10-15 at Dungeness, *Clallam*, Wash. (D & SS, ph.). It was either an escape or far w. of its usual

haunts, as no blue-phase birds are known from the Siberian populations that normally winter here. The Ross' Goose at Ankeny N.W.R., Ore., Nov. 16-23 (*fide* EE) like- wise was far w. of its normal route. Three Tufted Ducks were reported, an imm. male in Seattle Oct. 19-Nov. 8, another male at Iona I., B.C., Oct. 22 (AS), and a female in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 13-20 (BK *et al.*). A female King Eider Nov. 17+ at Vancouver provided the 7th local record (JH, †BK). Single Oldsquaws at Delta, B.C., Aug. 3 (RC) and off

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Protection I, *Jefferson*, Wash., Sept 18 (ESH *et al.*) apparently summered. The Capitol L., Thurston, Wash., fall concentration of Barrow's Goldeneyes reached 2000+ Nov. 6, exceeding previous years' counts by 500+ (G. & W. Hoge). The Turkey Vulture parade through southeastern V.I. was record-setting. The total passage was estimated at 1884 Aug. 12-Nov. 10, with daily counts of 82-343 during the peak movement Sept. 17-25. A 2nd peak occurred Oct. 2-3 with the passage of 225 more (*fide* VG). Rogue Valley, *Jackson*, Ore., observers also monitored this migration, counting 525 vultures Sept. 2-29, with peaks of 200- Sept. 19 and 105 Sept. 25 (*fide* MM). Black-shouldered Kites continued to consolidate their position in Oregon and s. Washington. Thirty-two were seen in Oregon, with immatures reported among the 15 in the Rogue Valley (*fide* MM) and at Nehalem, *Tillamook* (B. Bellin *et al.*, *fide* HN). An immature photographed near Elma, *Grays Harbor*, Wash. (F. Bird)--one of 7 sightings in s.w. Washington--may have been raised by the pair that wintered w. of Hoquiam last year. *Accipiter* reports were up from previous years with the usual ratios holding: 131 Sharp-shinned reports, 117 of Cooper's, and 24 of Goshawks. The Oregon Red-shouldered Hawk population is holding its own. Four birds were seen on the Curry coast, including immatures at the mouths of the Winchuck and Pistol rivers (m.ob. *fide* RE), likely locally-reared. Two others were n. on the coast at Coos (P. Sullivan, *fide* HN) and Tillamook bays (JG, *fide* HN). Another immature was in- land near Medford (OS, T. Wicklund, *fide* MM) and one to three were reported near Eugene (m.ob. *fide* SH). A concentration of 37 buteos Nov. 18 in a field near Coburg, *Linn*, Ore., included one to two *barlani* Red-tailed Hawks and seven

Rough-legged Hawks (†DI, †DF, †SH). Rough-leggeds arrived nearly simultaneously in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon Sept. 27-29. HN described it as a "very good year" for this species in w. Oregon. We received 97 reports each of Merlins and Peregrine Falcons, roughly comparable to the previous several years, allowing for increased observer density. Both species seemed decidedly less abundant in Oregon than to the n., as Oregon observers accounted for 14% of Merlin and 9% of Peregrine reports, versus 24% of Accipiter sightings. The Merlin migration was strongly concentrated in September, with that month accounting for 47% of the fall sightings. Peregrine reports were more evenly distributed throughout the fall season. Four Gyrfalcons appeared in the short span of Nov. 9-16, all gray or brown birds: Nov. 9, C. Saanich, V.I. (AS, *fide* DK); Nov. 12, Iona I., B.C. (BK); Nov. 13, Dungeness, Wash. (†SS); and Nov. 16, on the Lummi Flats, WhatCom, Wash. (BS, M. Scuderi). This suggested a good flight year. TW watched a gray Gyr--without jesses--fly by on Bellingham Bay, Wash., Aug. 18, an exceptionally early date for a wild bird. Prairie Falcons, as usual, were reported from the Cascade crest area in Washington--a migration path--and from the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon--a regular wintering area. One at Sheridan, *Yamhill*, Ore. (R. Gerig, *fide* HN), escaped the pattern. Mountain Quail are indigenous residents only from the Columbia R. s., yet they are seldom remarked upon. DF reported a brood Aug. 10, a flock of six Sept. 23, and a calling bird Oct. 17, all in the Diamond L. Ranger District, Douglas, Ore. Sandhill Cranes were first noted at Sauvie I., Sept. 7 (RSm, *fide* HN), where flocks built to 100 by Sept. 15 (S. Jagers, *fide* HN), and to several hundred at nearby Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, Wash., Oct. 6 (S. Saul, F. Hanson). A few lingered there through November (HN).

SHOREBIRDS -- Several uncommon migrants were re-ported in exceptional numbers. Vancouver, B.C., observers had record totals of Lesser Yellowlegs and Baird's and Stilt sand- pipers. Buff-breasted and Semipalmated sandpipers broke records both at Vancouver and in coastal Oregon. These five species are all common intermountain and Great Plains migrants. Red-necked Phalaropes were exceptionally abundant in s. British Columbia and in Puget Sound. By contrast, Red Phalaropes went virtually unreported,

while Ruffs were below par Three Am. Avocets in mid-August on Agate L. near Medford, Ore. (*fide* MM), were not far from avocet breeding sites in the Klamath Basin. Four **Upland Sandpipers** were on Sea I., Richmond, B.C., Sept. 7 (\*DG) and another was described from Westham I., nearby at Delta, Sept. 15 (†LH, †A. Schutz) for the Vancouver area's 6th and 7th records. Another was seen briefly Aug. 17 at Victoria (\*E. Davidson). The species nests in c. British Columbia. Rare godwits include single juv. **Hudsonian Godwits** Aug. 21, at Mud Bay, Delta, B.C. (†JH), Aug. 23-Sept 10 at the S.J.C.R. (JG, ph.), and Oct. 18-27 at Bandon, Ore. (†RE, †AB, †DI, m.ob.); and single **Bar-tailed Godwits** Aug. 20 at Ocean Shores (†M. Carmody, †J. Skriletz) and Sept. 17-19 at Dungeness, Wash. (†ESH *et al.*, SS). Oregon observers saw three **Curlew Sandpipers**. One first seen July 27 remained at Bandon until Aug. 2 (OSc, ph.). A molting adult was at Tillamook Aug 17-18 (AC, MH, ph., m.ob.) and a juvenile was there Aug. 20- 24 (OSc, ph., JJ, ph., m.ob.). One to four juv. Wilson's Phalaropes were at Iona I., Aug 4-14 (RC, m.ob.) with singles at Surrey, B.C., Aug. 8 (RC *et al.*) and at Florence, Ore., Aug. 14 (SH, MH)

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- High counts of jaegers included 83 Pomarines Oct. 6 off Grays Harbor (TW) and five Long-taileds Sept. 5 off Reedsport, *Umpqua*, Ore. (DI). A total of just 21 Long-taileds was tallied on all pelagic trips reporting, somewhat below par. Five S. Polar Skuas Aug. 25 off Grays Harbor was the high count, but only nine were noted on 8 Washington trips. Three off Tillamook Bay Sept. 14 (JJ, ph, *fide* HN) provided the only Oregon sightings. Franklin's Gull numbers were "the lowest in many years" around Vancouver, B.C., and the six (including one adult) Oct. 20 at Everett, Wash, was the largest concentration (BS). Depending on how you count them, there was either one ad. Little Gull in the Region Aug. 25-Nov. 17 or a dozen. Single birds were noted on various dates about Victoria Aug. 25-Nov. 17 (*fide* VG), at Iona I., B C, Sept. 9 and Nov. 9 (*fide* DK), and at Everett, Wash., Sept 20- Oct. 20. The bird had at least 3 days between any 2 separated sightings, so we favor the minimalist hypothesis. In the wake of last year's **Iceland Gull** invasion we have received reports of at least three adults and one immature in the Vancouver, B.C., area, of another adult and immature



on V.I., and even of a suspected Iceland x Thayer's hybrid! Of the descriptions studied, the three adults seen at Iona I. and Vancouver Nov 4-19 (†BK, †WW, DP, ph.) matched the description of *kumlieni*. However, identification rests wholly on the amount and distribution of black, gray, and white in the wing tips, a feature that appears to vary substantially among individuals. Glaucous Gulls were few. The first report was of one Oct. 13 at Clallam Bay, Wash. (ESH *et al.*). Others were in Masset, Q.C.I., Nov 12 (MHe, PH, SJ), about Victoria Nov. 9+ (m.ob. *fide* VG), at Delta, B.C., Nov. 24 (BK, JH), and at Eugene, Ore., Nov. 9 & 14 (J. Carlson, T. Mickel, *fide* SH). All were immatures. Something about the seas off Bamfield attracts Sabine's Gulls. As usual MS had by far the highest totals with 2100 Aug 28 This declined to 325 by Sept. 5. By comparison, the best count elsewhere was of 43 off Grays Harbor Aug. 25 (TW). The latest were two off Grays Harbor and three off Tillamook Bay Sept 15. There were 800 Caspian Terns Aug. 4 at Yaquina Bay, Ore (D. Lustoff, *fide* HN), with 120 still at the S.J.C.R., Aug. 30 (HN) Three there Sept. 25 were the last reported (HN). Common Terns were at 10-50% of 1984 numbers at most locations reporting. The high count was of 355 at Victoria Aug. 13 (RS, M & VG). Late stragglers were singles Nov. 4 at Florence, Ore (SH, DF, VT) and Nov. 9 at Seattle (D. Hutchinson, D. Norman), and two Nov. 8 at Victoria (*fide* VG). TW's assessment of the Arctic Tern situation was "awful, terrible!" He had two off Grays Harbor Aug. 30 and none on his 6 other trips. Ten off Grays Harbor Sept. 15 (ESH *et al.*) was the high count. One at Florence Nov. 4 was exceptionally late (SH, DF, VT). The only Forster's Terns noted were four at Sauvie I., Sept. 14 (RS, *fide* HN) and one at Florence Sept. 15 (SH, MH, AC). Four Black Terns also drifted W: with singles noted Sept. 2 at White City,

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*Jackson*, Ore. (*fide* MM). They were also noted Sept 9 at Victoria (\*M Edgell), Sept. 14, at Ocean Shores (ESH *et al.*), and Oct. 23 at Nehalem, Tillamook, Ore, (HN). A **Thick-billed Murre** was reported Aug. 29 w. of Pachena Pt, V.I. (†MF *et al.*). The species nests at the n. tip of V.I. (*fide* DK) but is very rarely seen southward. Oregon pelagic trippers got close looks at a pair of

**Xantus' Murrelets** Aug. 31 off Reedsport, *Umpqua* (†DI, SH, DF, m.ob.) and another was photographed off Tillamook Bay Sept. 14 (JJ). All three were of the n race *scrippsi*. Last, but certainly not least, a **Kittlitz's Murrelet** in basic plumage appeared in Victoria harbor Nov. 24- 26 (RS, TZ, ph., m.ob.). This furnished the 2nd record s. of Alaska. The first was of one Jan. 2, 1974 at Friday Harbor, San Juan I., Wash. (Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*). Resident alcids generally remained below pre-El Nino levels. Cassin's Auklet and Tufted Puffin numbers were judged "not good" and "low!" respectively by TW. However, Oregon pelagic boats reported 400 Cassin's Sept. 8 off Brookings and "good numbers" off Tillamook Sept. 14 (JJ *et al.*, *fide* †HN). As usual, Victoria reported the only large numbers of Ancient Murrelets, 3000 Nov 2 off Victoria and 1500 there Nov. 16 (RW, KT, *fide* VG). A Tufted Puffin off Protection I., Sept. 18 (ESH *et al.*) was the last noted.

DOVES THROUGH CHICKADEES -- A Mourning Dove that spent most of September at Skidegate, Q.C.I. (M. Morris, *fide* SJ), was unusual there. A juv. Flammulated Owl taken in for rehabilitation near Ashland, Ore. (*fide* MM), provided one of very few Regional records of this east-slope species. Snowy Owl sightings suggested an echo flight on the heels of last year's invasion. The first report came from Victoria of one Nov. 5 (R. Crowther, *fide* VG) and of a 2nd Nov. 11 (J & RS, *fide* VG). November 11 brought an immature to Delta, B.C. (R. Phillips), then an adult Nov. 30 (LH). By the end of November there were three each on the Lummi, Samish, and Skagit flats in n w Washington (*fide* TW) and two at Ocean Shores (B. Harrington-Tweit, G. Walter), with one s. to the S.J.C.R. (L. Craig *et al.*, *fide* HN). A Burrowing Owl drifted w. of the Cascades to turn up on the beach at Florence, Ore., Oct. 13 (DF), as did the Long-eared Owl found at Sea I., B.C., Sept. 12 (KE). Seven Barred Owls were reported in s. British Columbia and n.w. Washington. Migrant Short-eared Owls returned to southern V.I. by Sept. 19 (R. Baird, *fide* VG), to Arlington, Wash., by Sept 29 (A. Schultz, J. Leatherman), and to Vancouver, B.C., by Oct. 14 (BK). Two sighted well offshore out of Grays Harbor Oct 6 (TW) were far from the nearest mouse. Our few Com. Nighthawks had departed by Sept. 17, date of the last reports from the San Juan Is. and Seattle in Washington

and from the Rogue valley of s. Oregon (MM). A **Common Poorwill** Sept. 20 at Mowich Park high in the s. Cascades of Oregon provided one of few w. side records (DF). Victoria area birders saw the last Black Swifts Sept. 22 (L. Roberts, *fide* VG) and the last Vaux's Swifts Oct. 13 (KT, CH, *fide* VG). The last Selasphorus hummingbird lingered until Nov. 18 at Harbor on the s. extremity of the Oregon coast (*fide* RE). Five Lewis' Woodpeckers at Gold L., Lane, near the crest of the Oregon Cascades may indicate a high country migratory path (AP, *fide* SH) Elsewhere singles strayed to s.w. British Columbia at Sea I, Sept. 11-12 (KE) and at Vancouver Nov. 14 (BK). Another was at Philomath, *Benton*, Ore., Nov. 24 (DE, *fide* EE). The Red-naped Sapsucker, another migratory woodpecker nesting e of the Cascade crest, turned up Sept. 28 on San Juan I., Wash. (ML), for a first county record, and Oct. 1 at Langford on V.I. (G. Briggs, *fide* VG). Flycatcher departures were as follows: Olive-sided, Sept. 15 near Portland, Ore. (B. O'Brien); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 25, Richmond, B.C. (PSp); Willow, Sept. 27, Skagit flats, Wash. (SA, MGu); Hammond's, Sept. 26, Seattle, Wash. (SA, MGu); and Western, Sept. 20, Ocean Shores, Wash. (SA, MGu). A **Least Flycatcher** Sept. 1 at Cape Blanco, Curry, Ore. (†SH, MH), provided a first fall record for the Region. Strays from e. of the Cascades included six Say's Phoebes between s.w. British Columbia and s.w. Oregon, with one late straggler Nov 14-26 near Corvallis, Ore. (DE, *fide* EE). Also straying W were an Ash-throated Flycatcher Aug. 17 at Cape Blanco (JR, CO, *fide* RE), and three W. Kingbirds between Sept. 14 and Oct. 18 in coastal Washington and Oregon. Three Tropical Kingbirds appeared Oct. 22-30 at Torino and Ucluelet on V.I.'s west coast for our annual late fall visitation. A good count of Eur. Skylarks in C. Saanich, V.I., Nov. 30 totalled 108 (A. MacLeod, D. Stirling, *fide* VG). The single-brooding swallows departed by mid-September with the exception of two late Tree Swallows at Richmond, B.C., Oct. 27 (H & JM) and a late Cliff at Kent, Wash., also Oct 27 (ESH, BM). That left flocks of Violet-green and Barn swallows, such as the 300+ over Sauvie I., Sept. 17 (DF). A substantial passage involving 30-40 individuals of the normally scarce Bank Swallow was noted at Victoria and Vancouver Aug. 23-Oct. 3 (*fide* VG, DK). One to two were noted as well at Kent, Wash., Aug. 17-Sept. 15 (BM, m.ob.). A **Blue Jay** Nov 15-22 at Gibsons, 35 km n.w. of Vancouver, B.C., furnished our only report. Ten Boreal Chickadees

on Mt. Baker's Ptarmigan Ridge in early September were at that species' s.w. limit (DG).

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Western Blue- birds were noted only in the Rogue valley, with 50 Oct. 8 the high count (A. Briggs, *fide* MM), and on southern V.I., where the high count of 18 Oct. 22 (A. Barber, *fide* VG) was also the latest report. Single Mountain Bluebirds turned up on San Juan I., Wash., Nov. 3 (F. Sharpe), and at W. Vancouver, Nov. 6 (L. Taylor). The last Swainson's Thrushes were seen at Seattle, Sept. 26 (SA, MGu), on V.I., Sept. 29 (J. Tatum, *fide* VG), and near Eugene, Ore., Oct. 2 (SH). A Gray Catbird Aug. 15 near Emigrant L., *Jackson*, Ore. (R. Storey, *fide* MM), was well to the s.w. of known nesting areas in e. Oregon. The only N Mockingbird reports came from the far s. of Oregon. Singles were at Harbor Oct. 26 and at the Pistol R. mouth Oct. 27 (DI, SH), and Oct. 27+ at Central Point, *Jackson* (*fide* MM). A Sage Thrasher was at Tillamook Bay Oct. 23 (HN). An imm. **Yellow Wagtail** was at Burnaby Lake, B.C., Oct. 6 (†BK, †DJ) for the first Regional record. The day before, MF had reported an imm. **Red-throated Pipit** (†) at the same location The pipit furnished a first provincial and 2nd Regional record Four Bohemian Waxwings Aug. 19 at Rainy Pass, *Skagit*, Wash (TW), and flocks of six Aug. 15 and Sept. 20 in the mountains just n. of Vancouver, B.C. (JI), suggested a S extension of their normal Canadian nesting range. Sightings Oct. i at Portland, Ore. (S. Jones, *fide* HN), Oct. 13 n.e. of Mt. Rainier (P. Iacobazzl, D. Lester), and in the lowlands at Edmunds, Wash., Nov. 30 (D. McCabe), may have foretold a good winter's movement Two flocks of Cedar Waxwings, five Sept. 8 and eight Nov. 11, at Queen Charlotte City, Q.C.I., may have furnished the first records for the Q.C.I. Northern Shrikes returned a few days early this fall, with single immatures noted at Surrey, B.C, Sept. 24 (JW, J. Evans) and at Tillamook, Ore., Sept. 27 (JG, *fide* HN). A Solitary Vireo Oct. 27 at Lone Ranch Beach, *Curry*, Ore (DI), was nearly a month later than its nearest rival. Warbling Vireos were last seen Oct. 5 at Vancouver, B.C. (BK). The Red-eyed Vireo slipped away unnoticed after Aug. 28, when one was at Colwood, V.I. (JGa, *fide* VG). Eleven Nashville Warblers were reported Sept. 4-24 in s.w. British Columbia and n.w Washington. Warbler departures may be briefly summarized as follows: Yellow, Oct. 5; Black-throated Gray, Oct. 12, with one

Nov. 11 at Eugene, Ore. (AP, *fide* SH); Hermit, Sept. 12, MacGillivray's, Sept. 18, with one Oct. 19 at Toketee Ranger Station, c. *Douglas*, Ore. (DF); Com. Yellowthroat, Oct. 12; and Wilson's, Oct. 10. Just five Palm Warblers were reported, four on the Oregon coast Sept. 28-Nov. 18, and one at Masset Nov 12 (†S) for the first Q.C.I. record. Seven N. Waterthrushes Aug. 13-Sept. 13 in s. British Columbia was unprecedented. The one at Colwood, V.I., Aug. 21-22 (JGa, M & VG, RS) was the 3rd for the Victoria reporting area, while the six about Van-

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couver more than doubled the number of historic sightings there (*fide* DK; specimen from Port Coquitlam to UBC Museum). A fine male **Hooded Warbler** Aug. 29-Sept. 28 at Harbor, *Curry* (†RE, †AB, m.ob.), provided Oregon's 4th record.

TOWHEES THROUGH CROSSBILLS – Reports of Green-tailed Towhees came from the Cascades of Lane (MR), *Douglas* (DF), and *Jackson*, Ore., with several w. to near Mt. Ashland, Jackson, Sept. 14 (MM) also the latest reported. Nine Am. Tree Sparrows were reported, a good number. One Oct. 29+ at Saanich, V.I. (†Z, ph., VG, m.ob.), was the first, followed by four in the Vancouver, B.C., area Nov. 13+ (*fide* DK), three Nov. 20 at Masset, Q.C.I. (†MHe, PH), and one n. of Seattle, Wash., Nov. 30 (DB). Two Clay-colored Sparrows turned up in late October on the s. Oregon coast. One was found at Harbor Oct. 25 (†SH, †DI, DF) and the 2nd 2 days later at Bandon (†AB, †DI, †RE, †SH, †MR). These were the 4th and 5th state records. One to two Vesper Sparrows at Seattle Sept. 5-13 were unusual there (K. Aanerud, m.ob.). A few stray Lark Sparrows were reported, as usual. One Aug. 30 at Vancouver, B.C., was the 2nd ever for that area (†BK, DJ, *fide* DK); and the latest report, of one Oct. 7 at the Elk R. mouth, Curry, Ore., was a county first (JR, CO, *fide* RE). An imm. **Black-throated Sparrow** Sept. 25-28 at Harbor, Ore. (†RE, †AB, m.ob.) was thought to provide the first fall record on the coast n. of c. California. Two Swamp Sparrows were noted, one on Sauvie I., Ore., Nov. 11 (JJ, *fide* HN), and the other at

Pt. McNeill, VA., Nov. 18 (†S). The summering **Chestnut-collared Longspur** remained at the S.J.C.R. through Sept. 29 (*fide* HN). Early Snow Buntings were reported at Richmond, B.C., Oct. 7 (KE) and at Everett, Wash. Oct. 12 (D. McNeeley), the earliest ever for Washington. Flocks of 30-50 were seen near Victoria, Bellingham, and Ocean Shores during November, with five s. to Yaquina Bay, Ore., Nov. 10 (T. Schonerdyne, *fide* HN). Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds Aug. 23-Sept. 30 were typical. One Nov. 23 at Edmunds, Wash. (D. McCabe), was late. Four Rusty Blackbirds were reported in s. British Columbia Oct. 11+, with a female photographed Nov. 23 at Saanich, V.I. (†Z, KT, *fide* VG). There are very few records in this Region s. of Canada. A "Bullock's" N. Oriole Nov. 30 at Sutton Beach, Lane, Ore. (B. Sharp, *fide* HN), was nearly 3 months late in leaving. A noteworthy influx of Com. Redpolls to the Vancouver, B.C. area began Nov. 17 (T. Freebairn) with 40 at Richmond by Nov. 24 (H & JM). The "dickey bird" event of the fall was the White-winged Crossbill incursion. This began in mid-July with reports in the N. Cascades. By Aug. 16, White-wingeds were reported in the c. Oregon Cascades in Lane and Douglas, with numbers to 40 there throughout September (*fide* HN, SH). Meanwhile, they were reported in the hundreds at Manning P.P., B.C., and on Mt. Baker and at Rainy Pass in Washington. They spread w. to Strathcona P.P. in the high mountains of central V.I. and to Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mts. of Washington. Some were noted at sea level near Seattle Aug. 15 (DB) and in Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 26-31 (BK). None, however, was noted in the Q.C.I. Similar late summer movements were recorded in 1974 and 1978.

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*The Winter Season, 1985-86*

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ **Thomas H. Rogers.**

December in the Region was bitterly cold, although only a little colder than the exceptionally cold November. December precipitation, although decidedly deficient, added to the persisting November snows, and below-freezing temperatures kept a continuous snow cover. January, normally the winter's coldest month, was warmer than both November and December, causing rapid melting. Precipitation was highly variable; in many places it fell as rain. February temperatures were generally normal or somewhat higher and the month was very wet. The severe cold and snow were reported as causing hardship on gallinaceous birds in the Walla Walla, Washington, area and made pheasants at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oregon, easy prey for hawks and owls. Yard feeders were heavily used and attracted unusual visitors. Heavy late-winter rains caused some flooding at Malheur but provided ideal waterfowl conditions. John Hill blamed a decided lack of birds at Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge, Rupert, Idaho, on the severe winter. Some areas reported record-early arrivals. Larry Malone reported an extreme dearth of birds in the Big Snowy Mountains south of Lewistown, Montana. He attributed this to the drought of the last two years. Highly noteworthy was the southern surge of Common Redpolls, accompanied by a few Hoary Redpolls. White-winged Crossbill numbers were also extraordinary and other "northern" and "mountain" finches appeared in good numbers. We note with deep regret the passing of Jim Grant, who not only has done an outstanding job reporting for southern interior British Columbia for many years but also was

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highly respected for his extensive contributions to biological knowledge and natural history education, His life remains an inspiration to many.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL -- A Yellow-billed Loon, photographed, appeared at Okanagan Centre, B.C., Dec. 2 & 30 (PR). A Red-necked Grebe was on the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., Dec. 14 (C.B.). A W. Grebe on the Columbia R. at Marcus, Wash., Jan. 11 apparently made the first winter record for that area (VB, BO). Montana's first wintering record of an Am. White Pelican was of one near Townsend from at least mid-January to mid-February (JB, DC, GH *et al.*). Unusual sightings of a few pelicans were made below McNary Dam e. of Pasco (CC, MC) and near Wallula, Wash. (REW, WH, BH, DW), and on American Falls Res. near Pocatello, Ida. (CHT). About 20 Double-crested Cormorants wintered at the Yakima R mouth, Richland, Wash. (WH, REW), and an imm. bird was sighted on the Snake R. e. of Clarkston Jan. 11 and Feb. 25 (C B., RN). Waterfowl numbers were in general low because of frozen waters. The Jan. 12 Thompson-Shuswap swan count in the Kamloops, B.C., vicinity found 110 Tundra Swans and an amazing 57 Trumpeter Swans (RH). The mid-winter survey at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., recorded 33 Trumpeters, down from last year's 51 (CDL). At least one pair of Mute Swans wintered on Okanagan L., B.C. (PR). A Ross' Goose was killed on the Snake R. near Pocatello, and Idaho Falls, Ida. had one (CHT). A Brant was shot on the Ft. Hall, Ida. bottoms Dec. 9 (CHT). Wintering Canada Geese at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., numbered 7000 (JRR). Two Wood Ducks wintered at Helena, Mont., where the species is a rarity (GH). Mallards peaked at Columbia N.W.R. at 30,000 in early December but had decreased to 1200 by mid-February. An unusually large concentration of 1000 Mallards was noted near Incheleum, Wash., Jan. 5 (VB). Frenchglen, Ore., had 24 Gadwalls Dec. 18. The only Eur. Wigeons were one on the Columbia R. near Wenatchee, Wash., Jan. 19 (RO) and one on the Snake R. below American Falls Dam in Idaho Feb. 9 (BN). An ad. male **Tufted Duck** on the Columbia near Wenatchee Jan. 17-19 was

e. Washington's first (PM, BJ, RO *et al.*). A female Greater Scaup was with Lessers near Pocatello Feb. 23 (CHT). Two female Oldsquaws spent January on Kalamalka L. s. of Vernon, B.C. (PR) and a single bird was seen in December at Lewiston, Ida., and Wawawai, Wash. (JP, DP, PS, MK). A Black Scoter on a pond 10 ml s. of Union Gap Nov. 10 was apparently e. Washington's 3rd (DG, AS). A female White-winged Scoter at Cascade Locks, Ore., Nov. 17 was only the 2nd there for the observer (DA). The Snake R. at Idaho Falls had an unusual concentration of 117 Com. Mergansers Dec. 21 (EC). Two to three Red-breasted Mergansers appeared on the Columbia R. near Northport, Wash., Jan. 11 and Feb. 1 (VB, BO, JT) and a very few were sighted in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C. (PR, ME)

VULTURES THROUGH GULLS -- A remarkably early Turkey Vulture flew over Panhandle L., w. of Newport, Wash., Feb. 24 (EJL). Bald Eagles wintered in good numbers. A pair returned to last year's nest at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida, in late February (LDN). There were at least 4 N. Goshawk sightings. A dark hawk observed at close range near Athalmer, B C., Dec. 29 was believed to be a Swainson's (IJ, SR). A Ferruginous Hawk was sighted near Milton-Freewater, Ore., Feb. 6, well n. of its normal wintering range (TC, CM). An ad. Golden Eagle along the Columbia R. below Northport, Wash., Jan. 11 was noteworthy (VB, BO). An Am. Kestrel spent most of the period at Kootenai N.W.R., for a rare winter sighting there (LDN). Two Peregrine Falcon and 5 Gyrfalcon sightings were reported. Malheur N.W.R. had a sighting of two Gray Partridges for one of only a few records there in recent years (BE). Deschutes County, Ore., had its first Wild Turkeys when some of the flock from Jefferson County appeared at Sisters (MBS). Seven N Bobwhite came to a feeder near Walla Walla Dec. 27 (AL). A Mountain Quail was found along Mall Cr Road s e of Walla Walla Feb. 8 (TG). Unusual was the sighting of a Virginia Rail on Columbia N.W.R., Dec. 21 (JRR), and one wintered at Vernon for the 3rd year (MCo). A pair of Greater Sandhill Cranes arrived near Burns, Ore., Feb. 13 (*vide* CDL). Two Greater Yellowlegs lingered at Lewiston, Ida. Dec. 14 (PS, JP, DP, MK). Okanagan Landing, B.C., had a Mew Gull in mid-January (JG), single birds visited the Pasco and Richland, Wash., city dumps Dec. 4 (NB), and one to

two were on the Columbia River at Richland, Wash, Jan. 19-Feb. 1 (REW). The Pasco dump had a Thayer's Gull Dec. 4 (NB). Up to 12 Thayer's, five Glaucous-winged, and three Glaucous gulls wintered at the Kelowna, B.C., dump and a California Gull appeared there Feb. 21 (PR). Up to six Glaucous Gulls were sighted in the Pasco-Richland-Wallula area Dec 4-Feb. 16 (m.ob.) and The Dalles, Ore., had one Jan. 19 (CC) An imm. Glaucous was at Wolf Lodge Bay on Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. Dec. 14 (S.A.S.). Eight Glaucous-winged Gulls were at the Pasco dump and two at the Richland dump Dec. 4 (NB)

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Malheur had 2 winter records of Com. Barn-Owls, one Dec. 9 and one Feb 10. A Flammulated Owl obtained in the Missoula area last summer as a helpless fledgling was in good health but not yet ready for release (JH). Great Horned Owls suffered high losses in the Helena vicinity, six becoming road casualties and one the victim of a trap (VY). Single Snowy Owls appeared near Invermere, B.C., Dec. 30 (RR); in the Fortine, Mont. area, Dec 20 (WW); and near Boardman, Ore., Jan. 25 (CC, MC). Northern Pygmy-Owls were decidedly scarce in the Okanagan but the Helena area had many more sightings than usual. The Pocatello area also had a good number of sightings. Single Great Gray Owls were found s. of Tetonia, Ida., Feb. 15 (JT, DF) and in Haskell Basin in the Whitefish, Mont., area (KL). A Boreal Owl found dead in a net at Vernon Dec. 24 made the only report for the species (JG). Helena had two sightings of N. Saw-whets (NN, CJ, ST). An Anna's Hummingbird ran into a window at Camp Sherman in the Bend, Ore., vicinity Feb. 28 (LR) and a male visited a Zillah, Wash., feeder Dec. 12-25 (DG, AS).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH MIMIC THRUSHES -- A Belted Kingfisher along the Kootenay R., Jan. 30 (LH) provided the first winter record for Kootenay N.P. A female Williamson's Sapsucker was sighted near Sacheen L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash, Nov. 23 and Dec. 1 (JS). The only Blue Jays reported were one at Turah, 10-15 mi e. of Missoula, during November (JK) and one at a Robson, B.C., feeder Dec. 1-Feb. 23 (GD, LV). Common Ravens continued to flourish in s.e. Oregon. A roost site near Buchanan supported 1168 in

January and another near Frenchglen had 169 in December. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee, rare in s.e. Oregon, appeared along the Middle Fork of the John Day R. downriver from Bates Feb. 5. A small colony exists in the Long Cr. District of Malheur N.F. (MA, AA). Two Bushtits along the Snake R. near Twin Falls Feb. 15 were Trost's first in s. Idaho in about 4 years (CHT, CW). A flock of 15 was observed near Frenchglen, Ore., Dec. 18 (CDL). A Bewick's Wren was sighted at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., Dec. 18 (DG, AS) and one to two wintered along Asotin Cr., Asotin Co., Wash. (m.ob.). Pullman, Wash., had one Nov. 3 (IP). The species' numbers were normal at Walla Walla Marsh Wrens wintered in reduced numbers at Malheur. A Rock Wren was seen near Frenchglen Dec. 18 (CDL). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was near Fortine Jan. 6 for supposedly the latilong's first winter record (WW) and one was seen at Asotin Slough, Asotin Co., Jan. 18 (MK, LL, PP). Joseph Creek W.R.A. yielded four W. Bluebirds Jan. 11 (C.B.). Good numbers of this species wintered in the Okanagan Valley (PR). It was one of the better winters for Townsend's Solitaires in the Malheur area, with 97 counted among the junipers near Frenchglen. A Hermit Thrush visited a Yakima feeder Jan. 13 (JM). Pocatello had 3 sightings of single Varied Thrushes in December and February (JJ, BN, CHT). The valley around Fortine had several

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sightings of this species for the first winter records there (WW) and two to three wintered at feeders m Libby, Mont. (DH). A N Mockingbird wintered at Kamloops, B.C. (PR), and a Brown Thrasher wintered at a Lumby, B.C., feeder (m.ob.).

PIPITS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- The only reports of Water Pipits were of one at Malheur Dec. 18 (CDL) and Jan. 1 (MA, AA). Bohemian Waxwings appeared in flocks of hundreds and even thousands in many places. Their numbers were especially high in the Okanagan. The usual sprinkling of Cedar Waxwings occurred at a few places, with the exception of Bend, where up to 10,000 waxwings, 90% Cedars, appeared

for a few days in mid-February (TC). At Malheur 10-20 N. Shrikes wintered and seven Loggerhead Shrikes remained in the Blitzen Valley there. Three Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at Washington State University's Research Station near Wenatchee Feb. 17 (PM) and one showed up in Penticton, B.C., shortly before the Christmas Bird Count (PR). Two Chipping Sparrows photographed in the Okanagan Jan. 21 furnished the first winter record there (PR). Osoyoos, B.C., had a Swamp Sparrow Feb. 16 (PR). A very few White-throated and White-crowned sparrows visited feeders at Missoula, and Harris' Sparrows were becoming regular at feeders there (PLW). A White-throated Sparrow and a White-crowned Sparrow wintered at a Vernon feeder (PR). Harris' Sparrows wintered m record numbers in the Thompson R.-Okanagan valleys, B.C., with at least 30 present (PR). Harris' Sparrows were also seen frequently in the Richland, Wash., and Umatilla-Hermiston, Ore., areas (REW) and at Walla Walla (SM). One was at Frenchglen for the first winter record there (CDL). A very few appeared elsewhere in e. Washington and Oregon and s. Idaho. Lapland Longspurs appeared in the Pocatello area, a large flock being sighted on Michaud Flats during November and a few w of that city Jan. 7 (CHT, CW). Southern interior British Columbia had several sightings of one or two Lapland Longspurs (GD). A rare occurrence was of one Lapland visiting a Prineville, Ore., feeder Dec. 17-Jan. 3 (CS) and a very few appeared at feeders at Libby (BC, C, MS). At least three Laplands were with Horned Larks n. of Prescott, Wash., Dec. 29 (BH). Snow Buntings were sparsely reported except at Vernon where flocks up to 150 appeared, and in the Wycliffe, B.C., area, where 150 wintered (MVW). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were sighted at Malheur Dec. 21 (GI) and one visited a Richland feeder Dec. 6 (REW). Coldstream, B.C., had a visit by three Rusty Blackbirds Dec. 16 (PR) and Pasco, Wash., had one in Fishhook Park Jan. 11 (BH, LM, DW, JN). Some 2000 Brewer's Blackbirds wintered at a feedlot near Princeton, Ore. A Com. Grackle was with a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds on Michaud Flats w. of Pocatello Dec. 22 but was not seen after that month (CHT). Six Brown-headed Cowbirds fed in a Coldstream feedlot with Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds and starlings Dec. 16 (PR).

FINCHES -- A **Brambling** was photographed as it frequented a feeder at Scotch Cr., Shuswap L., B.C., Dec. 26-Jan 10 (SR, PR). The largest aggregation of Rosy Finches was s.e. of Twisp, Wash., Feb. 15 (PM). Most noteworthy were groups of up to 50 of this species at feeders at Libby in February (EE, AS, MS). Only a few Pine Grosbeaks were reported, the largest group being of 30 in the Bull L. vicinity, Lincoln Co., Mont (DH). A small flock of Purple Finches was carefully identified at Cheney, Wash., in February (FBH, BN), and one visited a Umatilla feeder Dec. 14 (MC). Cassin's Finches wintered in more than usual numbers in e. Oregon and Washington. Red Crossbills were reported in good numbers in many localities White-winged Crossbills staged a major incursion into the lowlands of the Region. Libby had up to 100 at feeders (DH) and e. Washington reported numerous sightings. One even got to Umatilla for a first there (MC). Virtually every reporting locality had Com. Redpolls, mostly in high numbers. Those in the Klamath Basin were the first verifiable ones in 100 years (SS). Those in Bend provided only the 2nd county record (IC) and two at Odell, Ore., reportedly made only the 2nd record there (NE). Hoary Redpolls were reported in the Okanogan (PR), in Grant Co., Ore. (BH), and in the Walla Walla area, including Oregon just s. of the state line (BH, JN, DHe). A redpoll near Milton-Freewater, Ore., was suspected to be of this species (REW). Wintering Pine Siskins were quite plentiful at several localities in n.w. Montana and e. Washington and in Kootenai N.P., B.C. American Goldfinches visited feeders, usually in abundance, at Libby, Kalispell, Missoula, and Idaho Falls. Evening Grosbeaks appeared to stay mostly in s. British Columbia, extreme n.e. Washington, and n.w. Montana.

OBSERVERS CITED -- David Anderson, Anne Archie, Merle Archie, Nigel Ball, Jim Bird, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Vernon Byrd, Casperson (C), Eddie Chew, Don Childress, Mary Collins (MCo), Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Bobbie Couvillion, Tom Crabtree, Gary Davidson, Nadine Eccles, Brad Ehlers, Maurice Ellison, Esther Enders, Dave Finkelnburg, Denny Granstrand, Jim Grant, Tony Greager, Warren Hall, Larry Halverson, Bill Hayes, Della Hermsmeyer, David Herr (DHe), John Hill, George Holton, Rick Howie, Judy Hoy, Frances B. Huston, Gary Ivey, Ian Jack, Joe Jeppson, Cedron Jones, Merlene Kolinier, Earl

J. Larrison, Louise La Vole, Audrey Lehman, Kris Lierboe, C. D. Little field, Larry Malone, Phil Mattocks, Larry McCloskey, Joan Miller, Craig Miller, Shirley Muse, Larry D. Napier, Jim Nestler, Ron Neu, Bruce Newman, Norma Nixon, Barbara North, Bill O'Connell, Ruth Ortiz-Torres, Deanna Palmer, Jeff Palmer, Ian Paulsen, Peggy Pedigo, Phil Ran- son, Sandy Rathbone, Ruth Reed, James R. Rees, Lou Rems, Steve Rovak, Art Sheldon, Mary B. Smith, Spokane Audubon Society, Christy Steck, Andy Stepniewski, John Stewart, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Marj Swanson, Joel Tinsley, John Trapp, Charles H. Trost, Linda Van Damme, Cheryl Webb, Winton Weydemeyer, Robert E. Woodley, David Wright, Philip L. Wright, Vince Yannone

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*The Winter Season, 1985-86*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ **Michael P. Force, and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.**

The record-setting cold of November lasted into the first few days of December. Temperatures moderated abruptly at the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, B.C., weather stations, but the trend was for below seasonal norms for the duration of the month. Precipitation was far below normal for all areas during December with Vancouver, B.C., recording its driest December ever. This was the result of a high pressure ridge over most of the province that set the conditions for 16 days of heavy fog, hampering observers' efforts considerably. January as a rule was warmer and wetter than usual; the Seattle weather station set or tied record high temperatures for four days that month. On January 18 a strong winter storm lashed the Oregon and Washington coasts. The resultant high winds (up to 90 mph coastally) and heavy rains caused much local flooding and property damage. High numbers of Red Phalaropes, a Laysan Albatross and Pomarine Jaeger seen from shore were all related to this weather system. February's temperature at Vancouver, B.C., was slightly below normal despite record highs at the end of the

month. Unseasonably cold temperatures mid-month warmed to an amazing 18.4°C (65°F) on February 27, setting the stage for an early spring. In the account that follows, Christmas Bird Count data have been omitted except where appropriate.

ABBREVIATIONS -- C.B.C. = Christmas Bird Count; † = details on file; \* = specimen; V.I. = Vancouver Island; S.J.C.R. = south jetty Columbia River, Oregon. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Of the ten Yellow-billed Loons reported, one was as far s. as Yaquina Bay, Ore. (D. & C. MacManiman), where one wintered last year, and one was a victim of the Port Angeles oil spill (Burke Museum) providing one of four Washington specimens. The remainder of sightings were concentrated in the Vancouver, Victoria, Puget Sound-San Juan Island areas (v.o.). The Active Pass concentration of Pacific Loons in British Columbia's Gulf Is. was estimated at 2000+ Jan. 25 (J & RS) declining to only 200 Feb. 9 (BW). Fifty Red-necked Grebes sighted from Spanish Head, Lincoln, Dec. 28 were considered extraordinary for the Oregon coast (MH, SH). Eared Grebes continued to be reported in lower numbers than in previous years with the decline particularly noticeable in the Victoria area. With the elevation of Clark's Grebe to species rank we can expect a gradual clarification of its status in our Region. This winter the only records were from the c. and s. Oregon coast, all of single birds: Dec. 7, Rogue River Estuary, Gold Beach (AG, (E, MR), Jan. 18, Alsea

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Bay, Waldport (JC, D Peterson), Jan 20 to mid-February, Boiler Bay viewpoint, *Lincoln*, (JC, VT *et al.*). On Jan. 19 a Laysan Albatross passed a land-based observer at Boiler Bay viewpoint near Depoe Bay, Ore. (PP, no details). The bird had obviously been blown in during the previous day's intense wind and rainstorm, providing an unusual winter record. The only N. Fulmar report of the season was of six washed up on Sunset Beach, Ore., Dec. 4 (HN). One Buller's

Shearwater and six Short-tailed Shearwaters were also found, the former providing a rare winter record. On Dec. 10 one Short-tailed Shearwater was well seen close off the bow of the MV Coho in Juan de Fuca Strait (JS, MC). Two at the n. jetty of the Siuslaw R., Dec. 27 (MH, OR, SH) and one at Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach, Jan. 24 (TC) were the only other reports received, both from Oregon. Five hundred Fork-tailed Storm- Petrels recorded on the Lincoln City, Ore., C.B.C. on Dec. 28 (DFi, SH) was an amazing winter concentration. Brandt's Cormorants Were found in their usual high numbers in the southern V.I.-Gulf Islands area but the 4280 on the Sooke C.B.C. set a new Regional and Canadian high for this species. Wintering Great Egrets were concentrated along the s. Oregon coast with few in the Willamette River Valley (HN). No Cattle Egrets were observed in British Columbia or Washington, continuing the trend noted in the fall report. If there were any around, November's cold cleared them out. Certainly surprising, then, was one sighted at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, Feb. 3+ (BB, W. Johnson *et al.*). A roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons on the Skagit Flats, *Skagit*, peaked at eight birds Jan. 19-20 (MS, BS). At Reifel Refuge, near Vancouver, B.C., three (one adult, two immatures) made it through the winter. The adult is believed to have been present for its 3rd consecutive year (JI *et al.*).

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swans were widely reported in small flocks in w. Washington; five at Ocean Shores were the first there in several years (G & WH). Farther s., 37 were tallied at Loomis Lake on the Long Beach Peninsula (J. & G. Knule *et al.*). In Oregon 16 near Airlee, *Polk*, was the largest flock reported from that state this season (ME, BS). A flock of Greater White-fronted Geese at Sauvie Island, Ore., plus scattered individuals throughout the Willamette Valley, continued a trend first noted 3 or 4 years ago as this species slowly regains its wintering status in w. Oregon. Three hundred Snow Geese reported from Sauvie Island during the winter (DB *et al.*) were unusual. The single Ross' Goose seen at Ankeny N.W.R., *Polk*, in November was joined by another Dec. 13 (Bob Jarvis, *vide* EE, no details). Other sightings of this species in the Willamette Valley were probably attributable to these birds. An **Emperor Goose** first discovered at Dungeness Jan. 20 (K. & M. Gruebel) remained in the area until the end of the period (v.o.). This was the 2nd



year in a row this species had been recorded from the n. coast of the Olympic Peninsula (see AB 39:342). A flock of 12 "Dusky" Canada Geese, wearing red neckbands, seen Dec. 27 at Tokeland had been banded at their Copper River delta, Alaska, nesting grounds (TB *et al.*). Another marked individual was seen on L. Sacajawea near Longview (FB). Apparently 10% more ducks and geese than normal wintered mw., Oregon and some species were 25% above average. Many dabblers (Mallard, N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal) appeared in healthy numbers (State and Federal Wildlife biologists, *fide* HBN). Very few Eur. Green-winged Teal were reported this winter (are observers giving up on this form?). One in Saanich, V.I., Feb. 17 (VG), 2 reports from Iona Island, Dec 7 and Feb. 22, and one at Eugene for at least the 3rd winter in a row (SH, DI) were the only ones reported. A hybrid Eurasian x American Green-winged Teal was studied at Reifel Refuge on the Ladner C.B.C. (BK, WW). Unlike the Eur. Wigeon, this form and its hybrids do not appear to be increasing in the Region. Two Am. Black Ducks were seen at Beach Grove, Boundary Bay, Delta, on Feb. 9 in an area where two wintered last year (BK, GA). A male Cinnamon Teal had returned to Ocean Shores by Feb. 26 (JS) and two female-plumaged Blue-winged Teal were studied at the Forest Grove ponds Dec. 11 (DFi, VT).

#### S.A.

Eurasian Wigeons continue to increase. To find a Eurasian Wigeon is not hard. Almost every Am. Wigeon flock has at least one Eurasian in it. Even a small wintering flock of about 60 Americans at Vancouver's Jericho Park contained four males and one female all winter. In Oregon, the number of reports received indicates at least as many as last winter if not more (*fide* HN). A careful count of 1500 wigeon at the Samish Flats on Feb. 17 revealed 37 Eurasians (28 male, nine female), the high seasonal count for the Region (BHT). Twenty-eight were tallied on the Victoria C.B.C. for a new

for this winter's high count for the Vancouver area (BK). Coincident with these high counts were increases in the number of reported hybrids. The Samish Flats flock contained three, another three were found on the Victoria C.B.C., and singles were at Vancouver, B.C., and at Bear Marsh, Lincoln. All were males, with some showing an even mix of Eurasian and American feathering scattered throughout the plumage while others were more clear-cut (American head with Eurasian body and vice versa). Nesting must surely be occurring

Redheads were reported from favored winter locations in British Columbia and Washington with 12 at Ocean Shores Feb. 16 (BS). One on Capital Lake, Olympia (G & WH) and two nearby on American L., Tacoma (WWi) were in areas where rarely reported. Four Tufted Ducks were reported from the Region this winter. The first was a female at Lost Lagoon, Stanley Park, Dec. 8+ with two present Feb. 13 (BK†). An ad. male was seen Dec. 30 on the Long Beach peninsula, Wash., where one was present last winter (P. & B. Webster) and a first-year bird visited Green Lake, Seattle, Feb. 10-16 (M. Nixon). An imm. male **King Eider** at Cape Arago, Ore., Dec. 19 "for about a week" (L. Thornburgh *et al.*) provided the 5th record for the state. The female King Eider reported in the fall summary remained faithful to its Stanley Park location throughout the period and was seen by numerous observers.

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES -- A Turkey Vulture over Corvallis, Ore., Feb. 24 was on schedule for a spring mi-grant (D. McGie). Winter reports of Ospreys are few so the sighting of one near Eugene Jan. 17 was of interest (TM). About 26 Black-shouldered Kites were reported from w. Oregon, down slightly from previous winters (*fide* DFi). In Washington two were seen on the Ocean Shores game range Dec. 18 and Jan. 11 (G & WH). One seen near Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, Feb. 17 may have been one of the pair which was resident here the last year (H. Spitzer, A. Scales). Two seen in February on the Columbian White-tailed Deer N.W.R., Wahkiakum, were behaving as though territorial (FB). Northern Harriers were in good numbers in Oregon until about late

January, then tapered down to a few in favored localities (HN). Reports of nine N. Goshawks were received' two in Oregon, three in Washington, two on southern V.I., and two on the Fraser Delta on dates-spanning the reporting period. Three were listed as immatures, one as an adult, and the others did not mention ages (v.o.). The only raptor survey conducted this winter was on the Samish and Skagit Flats, *Skagit*, on 3 dates in late January and early February (D. MacRae, A. van der Geld). On Jan. 28 they found 31 Red-tailed Hawks, eight Rough-legged Hawks, 14 N. Harriers, and one Cooper's Hawk A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was seen on several dates in January and February at Boundary Bay, Delta (BK† *et al.*), and one wintered on the Lummi Flats, near Bellingham (BHT, TW). The Red-shouldered Hawk continued to consolidate its range

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in s. Oregon as it becomes more common in coastal floodplain pasture edge (DFi). One was seen near Harbor, *Curry*, Jan. 3, near the n. edge of this species' range (DFi, DR) and another was seen Jan. 1 on the Port Orford C.B.C., where expected (DFi). Far n. was an adult at Drift Creek, Siletz Bay, for only the 2nd Lincoln record (DI, SH). Merlin reports were up slightly, being more widely reported than usual from w. Washington. Gyrfalcon and Peregrine Falcon sightings were widespread with reports coming from traditional waterfowl concentrations. One of each species was trapped by Washington Game Department personnel in the Dungeness area and fitted with radio transmitters. Two Prairie Falcons from the s. Willamette R. Valley and another at Med- ford were in areas where a few are recorded every winter (DFi *et al.*). According to C.B.C. data, Virginia Rails and Am. Coots were hit hard by the November freeze in s. British Columbia. Virginia Rails were very hard to find in the Vancouver area all winter (MF *et al.*) and the Victoria C.B.C. could find only one! They were mentioned as being common on the Oregon coast, however (DFi). Several coastal British Columbia counts posted record lows for Am. Coots. Numbers at Reifel Refuge were down by about 75% (JI). Interestingly, normal numbers of coots were noted from areas s. of here. The only Sora reported was one on the Port Orford C.B.C., Jan.

1, being DFi's first in winter. The Sauvie Island, Ore., Sandhill Crane population reached 150 Jan. 26 (S. Erickson), and hundreds were at nearby Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., Jan. 1 (E. Norwood). Both locations encompass a regular wintering area for this species.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS -- The first winter record of a **Lesser Golden-Plover** for Washington was obtained Feb. 8 at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* (C. Provost†). Subspecific identification is not possible from the details received, but all west coast sightings in winter have been of the Siberian form *fulva*. Thirteen Snowy Plovers Jan. 6 near Siltcoos Creek were on the Oregon coast, where a few can be found every winter (C. Bunce). A Willet that made it through the winter (and an oil spill!) at Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, was in a now-traditional wintering location. A Long-billed Curlew studied at Dungeness, Wash., Jan. 18 (V. Timm, M.J. Cooper) was far from the traditional flock at Tokeland, *Pacific*, which numbered 21 on Jan. 21 (G & WH). No Marbled Godwits or Willets were reported from this area, a regular wintering locality for these species in the past. The sole Regional report for Red Knot was of one all winter at Siletz Bay, Ore. (m.ob.). One to 10 W. Sandpipers were found at 4 locations n. of the Columbia R. during December, with none reported beyond that month (v.o.). The shore-bird highlight of the season was the coastal fallout of Red Phalaropes after the Jan. 18 storm. Hundreds were on the Willapa Bay N.W.R., Pacific, with at least one in full alternate plumage Jan.19-21 (R. Widrig, M. Jordan). Twelve were in the Westport boat basin Jan. 19 (J. & M. Haseltine). In Oregon hundreds were along the *Lincoln* coast (DP, JC), plus 75 in Tillamook Bay (B. Schelmerdine) and 200 at the S.J.C.R., both Jan. 20. Numbers declined sharply thereafter; most coastal birds were gone within a week. Up to 40 at Boiler Bay were the only ones reported after mid-February (PP *et al.*). Singles were inland to Salem Jan. 18 (BB) and the Monmouth sewage ponds Jan. 19 (RG). A Pomarine Jaeger at the Boiler Bay viewpoint, Ore., Jan. 19 was a product of the previous day's storm (PP). Two birds, one of each color phase, seen from the Ocean Shores jetty Feb. 21 (G & WH) were at an area where previous winter sightings have been made. A single bird was found washed up at Bay- ocean Beach, *Tillamook*, Ore., Feb. 26 (HN). The only Little Gulls reported were singles in

Seattle, Dec. 3 (J. Zook) and Jan. 19 (Brian Pendleton, no details). One thousand Bonaparte's Gulls at the Colman Dock, Seattle, Feb. 1-7 (D. Lindstrom) was an impressive winter concentration. On Feb. 23 BHT's count of gulls attracted to the smelt run along the Cowlitz River between the mouth of the Toutle and the Columbia included 3300 Glaucous-winged, 400 each of Herring and Thayer's (about 80% adult for both species), and 1000 Mew (greater than 70% adult), plus small numbers of California and Ring-billed and a first-year Glaucous. Surprisingly, the Glaucous-winged count was free of intergrade Glaucous-winged x Western types. A careful check of the gull roost on the Kennydale log booms, Lake Washington, revealed about 40 Thayer's Gulls and 30 Herring Gulls Jan. 10 (PM). A Glaucous Gull visited this site Feb. 2 & 7 (EH, PM). Of the approximately 26 Glaucous Gulls reported throughout the Region, none was noted as adult

**S.A.**

For the 3rd year in a row, birds fitting the description of kumlieni **Iceland Gulls** have been seen in the Vancouver and Victoria areas, either in the Hartland Ave landfill, Saanich or the Sea/Iona Island areas s. of Vancouver. This winter there was

first-year bird at the Hartland landfill Jan 11 (K. Taylor, C. Harper). This recent increase in sightings is not easily explained by the usual "increase in observer effort." Dedicated gull-watchers have for years scanned the multitudinous flocks of Thayer's, without discovering Icelands with any regularity. A handful of old records does exist, however. Most of the Vancouver birds have had primaries very similar to Figures 213 and 214 in Dwight, *The Gulls (Laridae) of the World, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull.*, 52 63-402, 1925. Essentially, they were small, white-winged gulls, the gray markings were so reduced in size and extent. For additional comparison, a small Glaucous Gull (presumably a female *barroviannus*) seen in the Richmond landfill was slightly smaller than the Herring Gull it was standing next to but was easily identifiable based on overall structure, i.e., heavy

A mind-boggling concentration of gulls (mostly Glaucous-winged and Thayer's) occurred along the lower Fraser River Dec. 1. As far as the eye could see in either direction were gulls, the majority roosting on ice floes, conservatively estimated at over 30,000. The unusual amount of ice in the river and the close proximity of the 2 largest landfills in the area, combined with the first day of above-freezing temperatures in over 2 weeks, contributed to the largest concentration of gulls either observer had ever seen (MF, BK). Equally impressive were the 2500-3000 Black-legged Kittiwakes reported at the Ocean Shores jetty, Feb. 21. Present at 10:30 a.m., this flock, the largest kittiwake flock G & WH had ever seen, shrank to 100 birds by 11:00 a.m.

ALCIDS THROUGH OWLS -- The high count of Marbled Murrelets s. of the V.I. area was of 60 at Boiler Bay, Ore., Jan 26 (D. Lusthoff, VT). The **Kittlitz's Murrelet** first reported in November remained in the Ogden Pt./Victoria Harbour area until Dec. 30, much to the delight of many observers. It was absent during January despite intensive coverage, reappearing at its original location Feb. 2+ (TZ ph., m.ob.). The 25± Ancient Murrelets at Boiler Bay Jan. 18 to mid-February were probably storm-related (PP *et al.*). An interesting mid-winter movement of Ancient Murrelets was noted Jan. 20 off Saanich, V.I., where 500, in groups of up to 35, were seen heading N (VG). An increase in Band-tailed Pigeon and Mourning Dove sightings in Oregon during early February may have indicated an early start to spring migration (HN). A pair of Band-tailed Pigeons in Discovery Park, Seattle, was nest-building Feb 17 and incubating a single egg by Feb. 25 (DB)! Reports of Snowy Owls suggested an echo flight year with the highest counts coming from the Skagit Flats, an important raptor wintering area. Nine tallied here Feb. 2 was the high count for the entire Region (MS). Washington had a total of 22 reports, with 73% of these from the Skagit/Samish Flats area (m.ob.). One to two

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*Kittlitz's Murrelet at Victoria, B.C., Dec. 8, 1985. Besides the extensively white face that distinguishes this species from Marbled Murrelet in winter plumage, note also the very short bill. Photo/Tim Zurowski.*

at Ocean Shores throughout the period (G & WH *et al.*) and two at Leadbetter Point, Jan. 12 (M. Brady) furnished the only outer coast reports. One at the S.J.C.R., Dec. 21 (SH *et al.*) disappeared when the coastal storm flooded its favored area. A Snowy Owl seen here Feb. 7 was possibly the same bird returning (V. Brown). One was on Sauvie Island, Feb. 8 & 14 (N. & C. Bonin). Only seven to eight wintered in the lower Fraser Valley (DK *et al.*). Were N. Pygmy-Owls actually scarce this winter or just un-reported? There was only one report from Oregon and two



*Barred Owl at Mercer Island, Wash., Feb. 17, 1986. Photo/Robert Ashbaugh*

each from Washington and British Columbia. All were during February except for the one on the Terrace C.B.C., Dec. 22 on the n. British Columbia coast. Single Barred Owls were reported from 3 Vancouver areas (*vide* DK) and from traditional locations around Seattle. One was photographed on Mercer I., Feb. 17 (W. Crill, R. Ashbaugh). The status of a Great Gray Owl seen in s. Langley, B.C., during the White Rock C.B.C., Jan. 5 is questionable (G. Ryder). The bird was sighted very near where one escaped last year which the owner was prohibited from recapturing. It's very possible that this bird remained undetected within the dense woodlots of this rarely-birded area. The only Long-eared Owl report was of one heard calling on the Forest Grove C.B.C., Dec. 22 (*vide* HN). In western Oregon Short-eared Owls were said to be scarce all winter (HN) and it was considered to be another poor year around Fern Ridge Res. (DFi). However, there were more than usual at the Nisqually N.W.R. this winter (G & WH). In the Fraser Delta they were in slightly above average numbers on the Ladner C.B.C. but almost absent everywhere else (*vide* WW). Nine N. Saw-whet Owls were recorded on the Tillamook C.B.C., Dec. 27 (*vide* DFi). Six seen in w. Washington (*vide* PM) and three from southern V.I. (*vide* DFr) were the only others reported.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH JAYS -- Following the long November freeze, numbers of Anna's Hummingbirds were reduced in some areas. Victoria's C.B.C., however, tallied a new Canadian high for the species--26. An Anna's Hummingbird nest hatched 2 eggs Feb. 14 in Medford (*vide* M. Paczolt), for one of less than 5 nests for the state. Two Rufous Hummingbirds at Federal Way, Wash., Feb. 21 were the first spring migrants reported (P. Fredrickson) Two **Red-naped Sapsuckers** seen during the Seattle C.B.C., Dec. 29 were new to the count and provided one of the few winter records for the Region. Plummeting winter temperatures traditionally drive Red-breasted Sapsuckers into the relative warmth of the lowlands, but this winter many perished upon their arrival. At Reifel Refuge, in B.C., JI and GA reported picking several birds off the trees, and warming them up in their hands. Nine were brought in frozen to an animal care facility near Vancouver, B.C. This is one more than Vancouver's entire C.B.C. total (*vide* MF)! Freeze mortality was also noted among N. Flickers at Reifel Refuge. JI found four dead inside Wood Duck boxes in late November-early December. The Roseburg, Ore., Black Phoebe did not show for what would have been its 5th winter (DFi). One seen on the Port Orford C.B.C., Jan. 1 was not surprising as this species continues to increase from central *Curry s.* (DFi). The 3rd winter record of Say's Phoebe for *Curry* was of one along the lower Winchuck R., Jan. 25 (RE). The first Tree Swallows reported were in the n. Willamette R. Valley Feb. 23, when a warm, wet storm passed over the state. They were then quite scarce well into March (HN). In the s. British Columbia mainland, Puget Sound, southern V.I. areas, arrival was uniformly Feb. 25-27. Violet-green Swallows followed a similar pattern. A Blue Jay visited a feeder near Vancouver, Wash., Dec. 6-20 (E. & N. Baird) and another spent the winter in a residential section of Gibsons, just n. of Vancouver, B.C. (G. Smith).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS -- The first con- firmed **Boreal Chickadee** for Vancouver, B.C., was discovered Dec. 22 during the C.B.C. (Mts. J.E. James, *vide* D. Brown†). Apparently the bird had been visiting the feeder sporadically for several weeks. It was last reported Jan. 1. The 5th record for V.I., and only

the 2nd for the Victoria area, of a **White-breasted Nuthatch** was obtained on the Sooke C.B.C., Dec. 28 (R. Williams *et al.*). The bird patronized a feeder throughout the rest of the reporting period, being seen by many. Winter and Marsh wren numbers were down 30-50% (Bewick's Wren less so) in s.w. British Columbia and V.I., probably a result of the November freeze (C.B.C. data). Western Bluebirds were reported from traditional wintering localities in Oregon. The first spring arrivals at Fort Lewis, Wash., were on time around Feb. 20 (J. Beall). A male **Mountain**

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**Bluebird** spent the month of December in s Vancouver for one of the few winter records for the area (J. Foster *et al.*, C. Risley†). Five Townsend's Solitaires were reported from the Region with two in Oregon, one in Washington, and two on southern V.I. (v.o.). Hermit Thrushes appeared to be unaffected by the cold weather with reports coming from many areas. DFi mentioned high numbers in coastal Oregon. A N. Mockingbird that visited feeders near Vancouver, Wash., during December was also recorded on the Sauvie Island C.B.C. (*vide* HN). Fall reports of Bohemian Waxwing suggested a winter influx. But it failed to materialize--unless one happened to be in Terrace or Kitimat on British Columbia's n. coast. A coastal invasion there was clearly evident with Terrace recording 3037 on their C.B.C., Dec. 22 (*vide* WW). Nine at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Dec. 3 (GA) and one in Victoria, Feb. 17-18 (P. Becker) were the only others reported. Northern Shrikes were widely reported as usual. In w. Oregon, numbers appeared normal (DFi) and remained that way all winter in all areas (HN). A **Loggerhead Shrike** seen well on the Tillamook Bay C.B.C., Dec. 21 was a county first (DFi† *et al.*) and provided an unusual Regional winter record. The usual numbers of hardy winter warblers were reported, mostly from Oregon. Single Orange-crowneds were on southern V.I. (*vide* DFr) and at Bellevue, Wash., Feb. 12 (B. Meilleur). Yellow-rumped Warblers were common on the Oregon and Washington coasts in Wax Myrtle thickets where expected, but in the s. Willamette R. Valley DFi believed numbers were down as a result of the November freeze. A flock of 11 at Reifel Refuge Jan. 8 surprised observers there (JI *et al.*). A bright male

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** graced a Medford, Ore., feeder mid-December to Jan. 30. The bird was attracted to a peanut butter mixture and probably would have stayed longer were it not for a windstorm that passed through the area. This represented the 11th record for Oregon (C. & H. Loveness *et al.*, *vide* HN).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES -- The Am. Tree Sparrow was reported from 4 locations in Washington, mostly singles except for a wintering flock at the Marysville sewage ponds that peaked at six birds Jan. 30 (BHT *et al.*). Two birds in s. Saanich, V.I., throughout the period (G. Crowther *et al.*) furnished one of just a handful of records for southern V.I. Three spent the winter at Jericho Park in Vancouver (J. Vanderlinde *et al.*). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were found in Oregon this winter, both during C.B.C.s: one in Florence Dec. 27 (DFi†, SH *et al.*) and another at Sauvie Island also Dec. 27 (DBa, RF, details?). There are now about a dozen records for the state. A few wintering Savannah Sparrows were found as usual. One at the Marysville sewage ponds Feb. 6 was noted as being less yellow, bigger-billed, and flatter-headed than the usual breeding Savannahs of the area (PM). The 5th record of Swamp Sparrow for Vancouver, B.C., was obtained at Reifel Refuge Dec. 27 (JI†, G. Sunderland) in almost the exact spot and on the same date as the first one in 1979. The bird was very hard to find in the extensive cattail marsh, but a brief sighting as late as Feb. 2 (GA) suggested it probably wintered. White-throated Sparrow numbers were well below the wintertime norm in Oregon (*vide* HN). Two reports from Washington, one from Ladner, B.C., and 4 from the Victoria area, mostly of one to two birds, indicated low numbers throughout the Region. On the other hand, the nine Harris' Sparrows seen in the Vancouver, B.C. area was the highest number there since 1972 (v.o., *vide* DK). Washington observers reported only four individuals, while in Oregon they were in above-normal numbers with many reports received (*vide* DF). Small flocks of Lapland Longspurs were reported s. of British Columbia. The 14 at Ocean Shores Feb. 8 & 21 was the largest number reported (R. Egbert, G & WH). Fifty Snow Buntings at Manzanita Beach Feb. 17, 75 at Nehalem Bay Jan. 14 (both *vide* HN), and 67 on the Tillamook Bay C.B.C., Dec. 21 (SH *et al.*) were all unprecedented counts. Forty Snow Buntings in Delta, s. of Vancouver, B.C. (JI, R Phillips *et al.*) throughout

the winter and another 40 at Dungeness, *Clallam*, Dec. 20 (D & SS) were the highest seasonal totals reported from those areas. A flock of up to 21 W. Meadowlarks wintered on the Martindale Flats in n. Saanich, V.I. (v.o.), and more than usual wintered in the Ocean Shores area of Washington (G & WH). Two reports were received for Yellow-headed Blackbird, a rare winter visitor. One was seen in early January in Seattle (*vide* PM), and another was in w. Delta Jan. 28, providing one of the few winter records for the Vancouver area (GA). The Martindale Flats blackbird flock contained a Rusty Blackbird Dec 12 (DFr), and another seen just s. of there Jan. 19 may have been the same bird (TZ). Purple Finches were more numerous than usual this winter in s.w. British Columbia and n.w. Washington. Almost all coastal British Columbia C.B.C.s recorded extremely high numbers (*vide* WW). Red Crossbill reports were widespread in Oregon and southern V.I. In Washington, they were common only in the southern Cascades. On Jan. 29-31 two males collected there were in full breeding condition (MD, CW,\* Burke Museum). Only the s. Cascades of Washington contained large numbers of White-winged Crossbills from last summer's invasion. Flocks of 100 and 200 were seen just e. of Snoqualmie Pass Jan. 20 (M. Breuninger), dozens were on Mt. St. Helens Jan. 3 (S. Bachhuber), and similar numbers were noted in the Wind River Ranger District Jan. 29-31 (MD, CW). Some trickled down into the Coast Range in Oregon where flocks of up to 80 were reported in areas of heavy Douglas-fir cone production (*vide* HN). An interesting sea-level sighting of White-winged Crossbills was made on Protection Island, Wash., Dec. 20 when a flock of 16 was described (BHT†, T. Schooley). Fairly large flocks of Common Redpolls were present all winter at Reifel Refuge, peaking at 100 birds Jan. 23 & 26 (BK, WW); 129 on the Ladner C.B.C. was a record total. Farther s., 18 were tallied on the Bellingham C.B.C., a few were with siskins at Green Lake, Seattle, Jan. 24 (MC), and a single was seen at Nisqually N.W.R., Jan. 3 (D. LaCasse). An ad. female made it s. to a Portland feeder Dec. 25 to mid-February, but was absent most of January (D. & J. Kobb *et al.*). Lesser Goldfinches were present in their usual small numbers in the Willamette Valley. Up to 20 were seen in a 2-week period during early December in Corvallis (A. McGie). Evening Grosbeaks were nowhere numerous. The largest flock was of 45 at Sooke, V.I., Dec. 29 (TZ). Two 3 Eur. Tree Sparrows in the Vancouver, B.C., area created the expected arguments regarding

their origin. One visited a feeder in N. Vancouver at least Oct. 30-Jan. 20 (C. Littler, BK† *et al.*). A 2nd one was discovered at Lost Lagoon, Stanley Park, Dec. 22 (BK†) and remained through at least Jan. 31. The two birds could be distinguished by bill color: one was mostly black while the other was mainly yellow with a dark tip (BK *et al.*, ph. P. Yorke). Both localities are within 2 mi of the Vancouver docks, and the birds were certainly ship/sailor assisted.

EXOTICS -- A situation that requires watching is the expanding Mandarin Duck population in winter at Stanley Park's Lost Lagoon. The compilers of the Vancouver CBC included it in the official count results for the first time. Four males and three females were located Dec. 22, and vanished as early as mid-February. Two escaped Barnacle Geese continued to wander around n. Puget Sound and Willamette Valley refuges, the latter individual believed to be the same one as last winter (ME *et al.*). Monk Parakeets were not reported from their traditional Portland roost, but instead, one was at Tacoma, Feb 2 (E. Newbold).

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*Spring Migration, 1986*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

The spring season's weather can best be described as erratic, as to both timing and distribution. Water supplies appeared adequate; no flooding was reported. March in the Region was notably warm and in most areas dry, resulting in an early migration in more southerly parts. Waterfowl movement was reportedly accelerated in some places because of early thawing of ponds. April was, in general, cool and dry. May had about normal temperatures

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and mostly light to normal precipitation, although the last week was very hot, reaching temperatures in the 80s and even the low 100s in a few localities. Some areas, principally more mountainous ones, noted a delayed migration, with mountain species lingering late. Several observers reported lower numbers of individuals than normal.

ABBREVIATIONS--C.G. = Campground; G.M.A. = Game Management Area; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; W.R.A. = Wildlife Recreation Area. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS: -- An ad. Com. Loon stopped at Beulah Res., n.w. *Malheur*, Ore., Apr. 12, and a subadult appeared at a gravel pit pond near Burns, Ore., Apr. 26+ (M & AA, GI). Twin Lakes near Preston, Ida., hosted 110 migrating Com. Loons in late April-early May (CHT). A care- fully described winter-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon at Sunnyside, near Oreille L. in n. Idaho Apr. 26 was the latilong's first (NB, PRS). A Red-necked Grebe nest at Bull L. near Stryker, Mont., furnished only the 3rd record of breeding in that locality (WW). Beulah Res. had a Clark's Grebe Apr. 12; the species was described as not difficult to find at Malheur N.W.R., Ore. (M & AA). Four Clark's Grebes accompanied W. Grebes at Moses L., Wash., Apr. 26 (MK, J & Dr, CVV, LLV). What was apparently a mated pair of a Clark's and a W. Grebe was noted with at least 15 other Clark's on N. Potholes Res. near Moses L., May 25 (BHT, FM). At least 3 Am. White Pelican nesting colonies were active on islands in Malheur L., Malheur N.W.R., by late May (GI). Up to 43 of the birds stopped on Desert W.R.A., w. of O'Sullivan Dam, Grant, Wash., Apr. 29-May 11 (BHT, FM, DP, TS). American Falls Res. in s. Idaho had 1800 of this species in late May; they were suspected of coming from the Great Salt L. nesting colony to feed on chub (CHT). Up to 42 migrating Am. White Pelicans were noted at Vernon and Osoyoos, B.C., Apr. 20-May 18 (DC, MC) and 12 were sighted at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wash., Mar. 1 (B.M.A.S.). Five frequented the Pack R. flats n. of Sandpoint, Ida. Apr. 13 (PRS). A Double-crested Cormorant at Ellensburg, Wash., Mar. 17 was unusual (Y.A.S.) A Least Bittern was reported at Malheur N.W.R., May 26 (GI). Great Blue Herons have started a heronry on the Walla Walla R. near Lowden, Wash., where there were believed to be 6 active nests (B.M.A.S.). Several dozen Great Egrets were observed at Malheur May 9 (SM, PD, JJ). Possibly the first sighting of the species for Yakima, Wash., was of one at East Selah May 17 (AS, SS), and one at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., May 4 was apparently the 2nd ever there (RDC). In s. Idaho a few were reported at Market L., Mud L., and American Falls Res. Snowy Egret numbers in this area were still low, not yet having recovered from the DDT problems of the 1970s (CHT). Single Snowy Egrets appeared at Whitman Mission, Walla Walla, Wash., May 23-25 (DH, CS, BH, FH) and at Umatilla N.W.R., *Umatilla*, Ore., May 18 (BH, FH). One at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., May 8+ was noteworthy (CC, SC, CP, m.ob.). Cattle Egret numbers, at 13, were up a bit

at the American Falls Res. colony (CHT). One to two of these birds appeared in the Burns, Ore. vicinity Apr. 30-May 4 (CDL, CCA, M & AA). Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers remained low at the 3 colonies visited in s. Idaho; flight rate was 36/ hour at American Falls Res., May 26 (CHT).

WATERFOWL -- An ad. "Bewick's" accompanied a "Whistling" Tundra Swan at Jamieson L., Grant, Wash., Mar. 30 (BK, LH, JM). The largest numbers of Tundra Swans were 325 at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., and 350 over Asotin, Wash. Hayden L., Ida. had an apparently authentic sighting of three Trumpeter Swans Mar. 19 (PHu). A Greater White-fronted Goose at Huston L., Prineville, Ore. (TC), was note-worthy, as were six in the Silvies R. valley n. of Burns (M & AA). A surprising number of Snow Geese, 150, was at St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 17 (BO, CO), and 47 were at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida. Apr. 7 (RG). A Snow Goose near Walla Walla apparently provided the first spring record there (MCo). Six "Blue" Snow Geese stopped at a pond near Mortdovi, Wash., Mar. 9 (JA, WH) and one or two appeared near Burns (M & AA). Three Ross' Geese at Huston L., May 11 were apparently the first for that area (TC), and one at Oden Bay on Pend Oreille L. was presumably the latilong's 2nd (PRS, RDC, NB). A blue-phase Ross' was sighted near Burns Mar. 22 (M & AA). Waterfowl pair counts at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., were very high, in part because of some new marsh projects. Conversely, the waterfowl migration at Metcalf N.W.R. was less than normal. Canada Goose numbers at Columbia N.W.R. rose to 5000 in April but dropped to 30 at the period's end. Canadas took over 6 Osprey nests along the Kootenai R. in n.w. Montana and the species was "extremely successful" at nesting at Kootenai N.W.R. The mill ponds at Burns had a flock of 60 "Cackling" Geese Mar. 29 (M & AA). Vernon, B.C. had a male Eur. Green-winged Teal Mar. 26 (PR). A pair of Cinnamon Teal at Odell, Ore., was perhaps the first for the county (NE). A sprinkling of Eur. Wigeons occurred in s. interior British Columbia, n. Idaho, e. Oregon, and e. Washington, the largest group three males and a female near Reardan Mar. 15 (JA). Two male Harlequin Ducks were sighted on the E. Fork of the Hood R., s. of Hood River, Ore., May 11 for perhaps a latilong first (DAA). The only Oldsquaws reported were two at Riske Cr., B.C., May 25 (PR). A



pair of Surf Scoters appeared on Millcreek L. e. of Walla Walla Apr. 20 (SM). Metcalf N.W.R. had a visit by a surprising 15 White-winged Scoters in late April (*vide* CP). A female Red-breasted Merganser at Malheur N.W.R., Apr. 5 was very unusual (M & AA).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES -- Ospreys were nesting in the Salmon, Ida. vicinity (HR). Bald Eagle roost counts in the Harney Basin around Malheur N.W.R., Mar. 10 resulted in a record peak of 180 migrating birds. A pair again nested at Libby Dam, *Lincoln*, Mont., with two nestlings evident (DH). The wintering pair at Kootenai N.W.R. hatched two young Apr. 14 but the nest on the Kootenai R. near Bonners Ferry, Ida. appeared to be unsuccessful (RDC). A nest of the species found last year in *Pend Oreille*, Wash., was not active, probably because of a house too close (SZ). Total falcons (besides Am. Kestrels) reported were Merlin five, Peregrine Falcon four, Gyrfalcon three, and Prairie Falcon two. Ruffed Grouse drumming counts in *Pend Oreille* were back up to average after the record low of 1985 (SZ). No more than

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five male Sage Grouse were found at the leks of Creston, Wash. (CR, S.A.S.). The Omak, Wash., Sharp-tailed Grouse lek had up to 18 birds (m.ob.) and the Yakima Firing Range, Wash., 35-40 (Y.A.S.). The numbers of this species on 4 dancing grounds in the Kamloops, B.C., vicinity totalled 30+ (DJ). The only Wild Turkeys reported were two hens at Cause Cr., up the Snake R from Asotin, Wash. (IP, C.B.). Two Virginia Rails were observed at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Mar. 29 (J & DP) for the only report. Migrating Sandhill Cranes were noted in good numbers in e. Washington and s. interior British Columbia, the largest concentration 2000 at St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 15. Six pairs appeared in the upper Blackfoot Valley n.e. of Missoula, Mont., where they are becoming more common (AB). A flight of 30 over Coeur d'Alene, Ida., Apr. 23 was unusual (SHS). The first of the older Whooping Cranes returned to Grays L., Ida. Mar. 31; seven are summering there. Fifteen Whooping

Crane eggs were successfully placed in Sandhill nests there May 27 (ECB).

SHOREBIRDS -- Shorebird sightings in the Region are usually sparse because of high water levels, so the following observations were of interest. A Black-bellied Plover at Oden Bay G.M.A., May 17 supposedly made the first spring record for the latilong (RDC, PRS). Two were observed near Burns May 5 and the species arrived at Summer Lake W.M.A., s.c. Oregon, May 8 (GI). Singles appeared at Metcalf N.W.R., May 8 (CC, SC) and near Granger, Wash., May 31 (AS). A remarkable 12 Semipalmated Plovers stopped at Hatfield L., Bend, Ore., May 3 (CM). In Oregon one was near Burns May 3 (M & AA) and one was at Summer Lake W.M.A. May 7 (GI). Oxford Slough, Preston, Ida. had one May 3 and another May 18 (CHT). In Washington single birds appeared at East Selah Apr. 19 (CD, DG) and s. of Ellensburg May 23 (BR) and three were sighted at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wallula (FH). The only Black-necked Stilts reported were one at Metcalf N.W.R. (*vide* CP) and six near McNary, Ore., May 17 (TG). An Am. Avocet at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 19 was a rarity (RDC). A few Greater Yellowlegs were sighted at Asotin, Wash. (C B.). A Greater and two Lessers appeared at Huston L., May 11 and one of the latter was at Bend the same day (TC). Two Solitary Sandpipers visited the Burns mill ponds May 3 (M & AA) and one appeared at Robinson L., *Boundary*, Ida., May 7 (JMo). A Willet at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland, Wash., was Woodley's first in spring and his 2nd ever there. Upland Sandpipers were back in Logan Valley e. of Seneca, Ore. (AC, CCA, JL) and in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane, Wash. (KW). At least 12 were back at Kleinschmidt Flat e. of Ovando, Mont., in late May (AB). A Whimbrel was sighted in pastureland s. of Thorpe, Wash., May 17 (DP, BHT). Nine Marbled Godwits stopped at the Walla Walla R. mouth Apr. 30 (TG) and two were observed at Malheur Apr. 27 (P.A.G.). Three of the species, rare in Montana w. of the Continental Divide, were sighted at Brown's L. near Ovando (JB). Two Ruddy Turnstones were observed at Malheur May 14 and one was there May 20-23 (GI). One was photographed at Bear River N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho about May 11 (GDe) and one at the Hood R. mouth in Oregon May 17 apparently furnished the county's first record (DAA). Sanderlings appeared at Malheur in late

April (JG, GI). A flock of 20+ W. Sandpipers was sighted at Metcalf N.W.R., May 5 (CC, SC) and a flock again there May 8 (CP). Bend had a Dunlin May 3 (CM) and British Columbia had visits from three at Kamloops Apr. 25 (WWe) and one at Kelowna May 18 (MC). An outstanding find was a male **Ruff** in nearly full breeding plumage near St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 27 (JA, B & GR, TW, RW). A Short-billed Dowitcher at White L. w. of Okanagan Falls, B.C., May 18 was a rarity (GD, MF). Six appeared at Burns May 3 (M & AA).

GULLS AND TERNS -- Noteworthy Franklin's Gull sightings were: 15 at Creston, B.C., May 16 (MF); one at Riske Cr., B.C., May 24 (PR); one at Vernon May 18 (WWe); one at Metcalf N.W.R., Apr. 19 (CC); two over Hardy Gr., n.w. of Yakima, May 24 (DB); one at Soda L., Columbia N.W.R., *Grant*, Wash. (BHT FM); two at the Walla Walla R mouth May 18 (TG), one near Salmon, Ida., May 1 (HBR); and four at Kootenai N.W.R., May 22 (RDC). An adult and an imm. Bonaparte's Gull were sighted at Metcalf N.W.R., May 5 (CC, SC). Two subadults were over pastureland near Thorpe, Wash., May 17 (BHT, DP) and three appeared at Wenas Res. n.w. of Yakima May 23 (CD, DG). The species was migrating through Malheur Apr. 13-May 20. Vernon, B.C., had the only Mew Gull report, one Mar. 17 (PR) Kelowna was visited by 2000 California, one Thayer's, one Glaucous-winged, and two Glaucous gulls Mar. 25 (PR) and one Glaucous was seen at Osoyoos, B.C., Apr. 14 (DB). Single Glaucous Gulls also appeared at Lower Monumental Dam s of Kahlotus, Wash. and at Wallula in April (BH). Two imm Glaucous Gulls stopped at Kootenai N.W.R., May 16-17 for apparently the first spring record there (NB, RDC, PRS) A Western Gull in breeding plumage arrived at the identical spot near American Falls Res. where one, almost surely the same bird, has been seen the last 2 years (CHT, m.ob.). A Caspian Tern at Osoyoos May 31 was unusual (DC, KV), as were two at Oden Bay G.M.A., May 17 (RDC, PRS). A small colony of Forster's Terns has established itself at Columbia N.W.R. as a result of marsh improvement (JRR). Three of this species were sighted at Oden Bay G.M.A., May 17 (RDC, PRS).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- At least two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in Blackfoot, Ida. (JT), and a window kill occurred in nearby Firth (CHT). The only Band-tailed Pigeon report was of one at Fields, Ore., May 24 (GI). Common Barn-Owl numbers in the Walla Walla area were believed to have declined, perhaps due to a series of harsh winters (SM) The Davenport, Wash., cemetery provided a resting place for two Flammulated Owls May 17 (JA, WH, AW). This made the latilong's first spring record and only its 2nd ever. Singles of this species were sighted at Panhandle L. w. of Newport, Wash (EJL) and at Blewett Pass, *Chelan*, Wash. (GG, EH). Single Spot- ted Owls were heard in *Skamania* and *Kittitas*, Wash., in late May (GG, EH, PM). Several Boreal Owls calling on territory for extended periods in the Creston-Salmo, Kamloops and Penticton, B.C., area were a new discovery, suggesting breeding there (RH, DC, GD, LV, BK). Four nights of surveys in the Selkirk and Purcell Mts. of Boundary, Ida., found two Great Horned, two Barred, 15 Boreal, and nine N. Saw-whet owls (NB, RDC, PH, PRS). Panhandle L. had three Boreal Owls (EJL), Sherman Pass one (BS, MS), and Salmon N.F. one (LHa) A road-killed Boreal in Glacier N.P., Mont., provided w. Montana's first specimen (JJo) and the species responded to taped calls at and w. of the Idaho-Montana line in the Lolo Pass vicinity (DHo). The only Great Gray Owl noted was one calling in the Smith Cr. drainage, *Boundary*, Ida. May 14 (PRS) Vaux's Swifts returned in great numbers to the Walla Walla vicinity in May, hundreds roosting in a chimney on Whitman College campus (B.M.A.S.). A male Black-chinned Hummingbird, always rare in the Tri-cities area, stayed at Richland May 18+ and a female appeared separately May 31 (REW). A male Anna's visited a feeder at the Boise-Cascade C.G., n.w. of Yakima, May 24-27 (EJL, Y.A.S.). Supposedly the same Costa's Hummingbird returned to Bend Apr. 20 for the 4th year (G & CR) Two displaying male Calliope Hummingbirds near Odell, Ore, May 11 were apparently the latilong's first (DAA). A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was reported near Fields, Ore., May 21 & 25 (*fide* GI). Very few Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported, except for the Sun Valley, Ida. area, where they were described as plentiful (WHS). What was suspected of being a Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid was studied at the Davenport cemetery Apr. 5 (BH *et al.*). An albino Pileated Woodpecker, apparently mated with a normally-colored bird, visited a Libby, Mont. feeder throughout the period

(DH). A Least Flycatcher was identified at Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Malheur N.W.R., May 23 (M & AA) and one was calling at Malheur the next day (AC). Up to 17 Gray Flycatchers were found near Oliver, B.C., May 18-30 for apparently Canada's 2nd record. Photographs were obtained and songs compared

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to tapes (DC *et al.*). More expected were sightings near Glenwood, Wash. (BJ, EH, PM), along the s. fork of Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima (LD, CD, DG), and among junipers near Pocatello, Ida. (CHT). Highly unusual was the finding of a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** near Spencer, Ida. May 24-25 (AM, SR). The only Ash-throated Flycatchers reported were five or more near Lyle, Wash., May 25 (EH, PM *et al.*).

JAYS THROUGH MIMIC THRUSHES -- Colfax, Wash., had a Blue Jay February to May 11 (JB, FB), and the one that wintered at Robson, B.C., was still there May 26 (LV). A Scrub Jay appeared in White Salmon, Wash., May 25-26 (EH, PM *et al.*). A Boreal Chickadee was sighted at Panhandle L., Mar. 18 (EJL). A Canyon Wren heard 3 mi up the Kootenai R. from Bonnets Ferry May 17 was apparently the first for that area (RDC). Two pairs of Bewick's Wrens were observed at Malheur May 6 (CDL). The species was not observed in the Walla Walla vicinity after the spring season (SM). House Wrens appeared to be on the increase in the Richland area, suggesting potential competition with Bewick's (REW). Bluebird nest box projects in w. Montana produced a total of five fledglings in 1974, increasing to 5,519 in 1985. Of this, Mountain Bluebirds accounted for 4,761 and W. Bluebirds, 758 (AA, DHr). Results for this year were still incomplete. In the Okanogan Valley, Wash., 249 young W. Bluebirds and 26 young Mountain Bluebirds have thus far been banded (GB). A W. Bluebird was sighted at Richland in early March; the species, rare there now, is said to have nested in that vicinity before the coming of the Eur. Starling (REW). A W. Bluebird in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity was the first in the past 20 years (WW), and a pair that appeared at Helena, Mont., was last seen May 2 (ASc). One was sighted near Eureka, Mont., and

later a pair was examining a nest box n. of there at the Canadian border (DH). Western Bluebird sightings 20 mi n.w. of Salmon Apr. 4 and May 1 were Hadley Roberts' first since 1978 and his 2nd and 3rd ever. Three Gray Catbirds appeared at Sunnyside Dam on the Yakima R., May 24 (EH, PM, AS). Southeastern Oregon was treated to an unusual number of N. Mockingbird sightings, at Fields (KC), Frenchglen (TC), Hines (TC, JG), Summer Lake (CM), and Malheur (TC, m.ob.). The Brown Thrasher that wintered at Lumby, B.C., was last seen Mar. 3 (MC).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- A singing Philadelphia Vireo, seen well at Panhandle L., Apr. 23, made that vicinity's 3rd record (EJL). A Red-eyed Vireo, rare in s. Idaho, was seen at Market L. about May 24 (BJa). A **Cape May Warbler** photo-



*Male Cape May Warbler at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters, Ore., May 23, 1986. Fifth Oregon record. Photo/Tim Crabtree.*



*Male Bay-breasted Warbler at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters, Ore., May 25, 1986. Sixth Oregon record. Photo/Jim Johnson.*

graphed at Malheur May 23 was Oregon's 5th, and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** there May 25 made the state's 6th (AC, TC, JG, m.ob.). Black-throated Gray Warblers arrived at Summer Lake W.M.A., Ore., May 11 and a male was reported at Malheur May 25 (GI). Four Hermit Warblers along Wicky Cr., n. of Trout Lake, Wash., May 25 included one with coloration suggesting hybridization with Townsend's Warbler (EH, PM *et al.*). Malheur had two Hermits May 15 (*fide* GI) and a female Black-and-white Warbler May 16-17 (MA, TC). A remarkable total of 30 Townsend's Warblers was observed on the N., Middle, and S. Forks of the Teton R., e. of Choteau, Mont., May 27-29 (LT). A singing N. Waterthrush foraged along Potholes Res. near Moses Lake May 25 (FM, BT). A well-seen singing Mourning Warbler appeared at Panhandle L., May 2 (EJL).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES -- A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Malheur May 30 (GI). A male Indigo Bunting accompanied a flock of Lazulis near Pocatello May 5 (CW). Clay-colored Sparrow numbers in general looked satisfactory with the exception of the Spokane Valley near the Idaho line, where very few were found. Boardman, Ore., reported a big



*Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters, Ore., May 30, 1986. Photo/Owen Schmidt.*

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[Page 502 which should finish the Northern Rocky Mountain-Intermountain Region Spring Migration Field Notes, is missing! from internet. Page 503 was accidentally scanned twice]

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*Spring Migration, 1986*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

*/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.*

Spring came early in the Northwest. Late February to mid-April was warm and dry. Thereafter the season was cooler and much wetter than usual. The Vancouver (B.C.), Seattle, and Portland weather stations averaged about 5°F warmer than usual during March. May temperatures were normal, but about one-third more rain fell than the long-term averages. There were numerous earlier-than-ever sightings in the first one-half of the season, and some noticeable grounding of migrants by late April storms. An analytical advantage of a narrow, north-south aligned Region is that a chronological mapping of arrivals will often reveal an ordered progression of spring migration, and equally as interesting, often it will not.

ABBREVIATIONS -- S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS TO IBISES -- In addition to the usual concentration of Pacific Loons in Active Pass, V.I., totaling 700-1000 present Mar. 28-Apr. 14 (RP, BG), there were 800 off Grays Harbor May 10 (BHT *et al.*) and 500 around Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., May 14 (DSO, MP, G. Sunderland). Six Yellow-billed Loons were reported, a normal number. including sightings

Apr. 28-30 at the Chetco R. mouth, Ore. (RE *et al.*) for the first Curry County record, and a late individual May 22 off Waldron I., Wash. (F. Sharpe). The usual few Clark's Grebes were reported, all from Oregon: Mar. 10-mid-April at the Chetco R. mouth (RE, JR), Apr. 26 at the Bay City sewage ponds, Tillamook Co. (DL, PMu, B. Wong), and May 23 on Dexter Res., Lane Co. (SH). A high count of 200+ Black-footed Albatrosses was made May 17 off Newport, Ore. (SH *et al.*). The highest-ever count of Black-footeds off Westport, Wash., in 25 trips during May over 19 years, has been 111 individuals (TW). Perhaps related to these high numbers were the unusual sightings from shore of two imm. Black-footeds May 6 at Newport (J. Dant, BvH), and one May 10, off nearby Boiler Bay (DFi, SH, JGi, D. Irons). A much rarer **Laysan Albatross** was observed Mar. 15 off the w. coast of V.I., about 40 mi s.w. of Cape Beale (P. Lambert, ph.). Following last spring's extraordinary counts of N. Fulmars, the pelagic trip totals this year returned to normal, with fewer than 20 off Westport May 10 (BHT *et al.*) and about 50 off Newport May 17 (SH *et al.*). By far the most exotic procellariid of the season was a bird identified as a **Murphy's Petrel** (*Pterodroma ultima*) seen Apr. 10 about 35 nautical mi off the mouth of the Columbia R., Ore. (†TW, †Larry Spear). Details will be published in a paper treating this and closely related species in the N. Pacific. Counts of 25 Pink-looted Shearwaters and 30 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels May 17 out of Newport (SH *et al.*) were normal numbers. Only two Fork-taileds were seen from shore; last year's dramatic incursion was definitely not repeated. In 1978 and 1980 there were spring records of one to two Brown Pelicans in the Region. Since 1982 up to 2 dozen pelicans, presumably non-breeders, have arrived along the coast in late May. This year the first was found in Victoria, V.I., on the extremely early dates of Mar. 1-7 (M & VG *et al.*). The

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next was an immature at Yaquina Bay, Ore, May 8 (*vide* HN) Sightings of groups of three immatures were made at Brookings, Ore., May 15 (RE), at Newport May 16 (S. Gordon), and at the Ocean Shores jetty, Wash., May 24 (JGa). By May 28 there were 18 immatures at the S.J.C.R. (HN). The 2000+ Brandt's

Cormorants gathered in Active Pass, V.I., Mar. 17-27 (AMa, E Lofroth, T. Geernaert) represented an increase back to normal numbers. In contrast to the widespread reports of successful Great Blue Heron rookeries, the Colquitz R. heronry, southern V.I., was abandoned after 2 summers of heavy predation by Bald Eagles (*vide* DFr, RP). The winter roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons in Stanwood, near the Skagit flats, Wash., has increased steadily since 1981, reaching 31 birds this winter. By Mar. 14 only three remained and the last of these departed Apr. 4 (TMa, *vide* IU). The last of the three Black-crowned that wintered at Reifel Refuge, near Vancouver, B.C., departed Apr. 17 (JI). An ad. **White-faced Ibis** appeared in the town of Ocean Shores May 10+ (R. & F. Carlson *et al.*, m.ob.) for the 4th record for w. Washington. The bird was found injured later in the month, was captured by the Game Dept., and died in captivity.

SWANS TO QUAIL -- An imm. Trumpeter Swan from the small wintering flock near Airlie, Polk Co., Oreg. was found shot Mar. 6 (C. Henny, L. Blus, \*Oregon State Univ.). Heavy fog on Apr. 20-21 concentrated over 800 Greater White-fronted Geese into the southern V.I. area (M & VG *et al.*) Elsewhere small flocks were reported over the s. Willamette Valley and along the outer coast of Oregon and Washington during late April (DFi, VT, DP, LF). The large wintering population of Snow Geese at the Skagit flats, Wash., departed for Wrangel I. some-what earlier than usual. The last few were seen there Apr. 14 (TMa, *vide* IU). A **Ross' Goose** was closely observed Apr. 12 at Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (†FB) for the 5th record for w. Washington. Another Ross' Goose appeared Feb. 5 at Finley N.W.R., Ore. (KB), perhaps one of the birds seen earlier this winter at nearby Ankeny N.W.R. It stayed through Apr. 13 (KB, †KR *et al.*) The Emperor Goose found this winter on Dungeness spit stayed with Brant there to Apr. 5 (D & SSm *et al.*). Nine "Dusky" Canada Geese, with red neck-bands, were seen Mar. 26 within a large migratory flock of Canadas near Blenkinsop L., Saanich V.I. (L. Roberts). There were reports of five "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal this season, slightly fewer than usual. Two of these spent March and April in Saanich, V.I. (†VG *et al.*). The others were sighted only once. The first Blue-winged Teal were reported Apr. 16 & 20 at Reifel I., B.C. (JI) and Finley N.W.R., Ore. (AMc). Widespread arrival was

not until early May. The first few Cinnamon Teal were noted Mar. 5 at Reifel I. (R. Phillips) and Mar. 15 at Ocean Shores (DB, BMo, BP), with widespread arrival in late March. Three hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon were noted during April at Beacon Hill Park, Victoria (RSa *et al.*). A male Redhead x scapua hybrid was seen Mar. 15-Apr. 23 in Stanley Park (†BK). The first-year male Tufted Duck was present on Green I., Seattle, Feb. 10-Mar. 30 (B. Meilleur, C. Wood). One of the two female Tufted Ducks stayed at Stanley Park to Apr. 8. Two different males were present there in April (†BK) and one stayed through May 31 (BK *et al.*). The female King Eider also wintering at Stanley Park was last seen Apr. 9 (BK, L. Taylor). A large gathering of 14,000 Surf Scoters was observed Mar. 30 along the n. shore of Barkley Sound, near Ucluelet, on the w. side of V.I. (M. Shepard). Following sightings of a few scattered single birds, there were first arrivals or migratory groups of Turkey Vultures noted from all reporting areas of the Region Mar. 17-24. A pair of Black-shouldered Kites at Finley N.W.R. was present through- out the season and behaving as if territorial. The similarly- acting pair near Skamokawa, Wash., in February could not be found there Mar. 15 (FB). A migrating Swainson's Hawk was seen well April 25, 1985, near Sequim, Wash. (†Gene Kridler), for one of few spring records for w. Washington. Two pairs of Golden Eagles were nesting along the w. side of San Juan I. during May (ML). The 29+ Merlins reported was about the normal number, and 27+ Peregrines was higher than the average of the last several years. Following a sighting by DFi, a group led by Dan Fenske found a Peregrine eyrie on a cliff face in the s. Oregon Cascades. The radio-tagged female Gyrfalcon stayed around Dungeness spit, Wash., until March 1 (D & SSm). Other late Gyrfalcon reports were of singles in the Vancouver, B.C., area Mar. 24 (MP) and around Puget Sound Apr. 5 (B. Anderson, *fide* DP). An ad. **Mountain Quail** was seen May 19 near the top of Mt. Tuam, at the s. end of Saltspring I., n. of Sydney, V.I. (S. Johnson, P. Frank). This is the first report from the Gulf Is, and the first for the southern V.I. area since April 1983 (AB 37:904).

SHOREBIRDS -- The highest count reported for Black-bellied Plovers was a relatively low 400 at Boundary Bay, Delta, B.C., Apr. 22 (WW). Only four Lesser Golden-Plover were reported, also fewer than

usual. Of these, one was a male *fulva* seen Apr. 26-27 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP, JE, LF), and the other three, subspecies not reported, occurred May 3-5 at Rathrevor Beach, Parksville, V.I. (J. & G. Anderson), Delta, B.C. (B & MM), and Ocean Shores (M. Scuderi). The 2000 Semipalmated Plovers tallied May 3 in the Ocean Shores area was the observers' largest-ever count for Washington (DP, JE). The only other concentration noted was of 200 at Tillamook, Ore., Apr. 30- May 14 (HN). Very early Killdeer nests, each with 3 eggs, were located Mar. 15 on Bainbridge I., w. of Seattle (I. Paulsen) and Mar. 20 on Blackie Spit, Surrey, B.C. (J. Williams). The lone sighting of a Black-necked Stilt at the Medford sewage ponds May 17 (PMu, LW) was in striking contrast to the 2 previous invasion years for this species in w. Oregon. Fifteen Am. Avocets were noted, as if in partial place of the stilts. One seen Apr. 30 at Dungeness (†D. & D. Doss) and 10 May 3 in Auburn (TB *et al.*) provided about the 14th & 15th records for w. Washington. Another at Sea I., May 25 (†AS, GA) was about the 14th for the Vancouver, B.C., area. The 100 Greater Yellowlegs at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., Apr. 16 (JI), 60 at Banks, just w. of Portland, Ore., Apr. 20 (VT), and 45 at Ocean Shores Apr. 26 (DP, JE) represented normal high counts. There were about one dozen reports of Lesser Yellow-legs, all typically of one to three birds. About 19 Solitary Sandpipers were reported, a normal number, with four at Banks, Ore., Apr. 25-28 (T. Shelmerdine, DA) the only group. The first Wandering Tattlers noted were six on schedule Apr. 26 at the Ocean Shores jetty (PM *et al.*) and one Apr. 27 at Boiler Bay, n. of Newport, Ore. (N. Letleby). Whimbrels also arrived on schedule Apr. 22-27 throughout the Region. The 17 Long-billed Curlews at Tokeland, Wash., Apr. 12 (TB, P. Knopp) were presumably wintering birds. Only one could be found there Apr. 20 (CC). There were 3 sightings of one to three Long-billed Curlews in the Vancouver area, where it is a rare transient. The 236 Marbled Godwits grounded at Ocean Shores by a storm Apr. 26 (DP, JE) set a record high count for the Region. About 140 were present the next day (DP, LF, PM *et al.*). Two Ruddy Turnstones Mar. 9-15 at Ocean Shores were unusually early (B. & G. Ramsey, DB, BMo, BP). One was still there Mar. 21 (G & WH) and another was on Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Wash., Mar. 17 (J. Skriletz). The seasonal high count was of 50 Ruddies along the beach at Ocean Shores May 3 (DP, JE). A Black Turnstone at Ankeny N.W.R., Ore., May 13 (BB, JA, ph.) provided the first inland spring

sighting for w. Oregon A very large gathering of 850+ Surfbirds was noted on a small island near Port Alberni, V.I. (DFr *et al.*). This location is at the head of Alberni Inlet in the mountainous center of the island. The 3000 Red Knots on threatened Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, Wash., May 3 (GG) furnished the high count for the season. Counts of 500-550 Red Knots were obtained Apr. 26 also at Bowerman Basin (CC), May 3 at nearby Grass Creek (DP, JE), and May 10 at Bottle Beach, on the opposite shore of Grays Harbor (BHT). Flocks of 200-250 were found Apr. 20 (CC) and May 10 (R. Droker) on the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash. Thirty were seen at Newport, Ore., May 10 (SH *et al.*),

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17 at Dungeness, Wash, May 10 (M. Moon), and elsewhere in the Region only five individuals were reported. Clearly the mud flats of Grays Harbor are of primary importance in the final staging of the N migration of the Red Knot (see also AB 37:905). Reports of flocks of W. Sandpipers were much more wide-spread than for the Red Knot, but the numerical dependence upon Grays Harbor was almost as extreme. Peak numbers of Westerns this season at Bowerman Basin were 300,000 present Apr. 24-25 (M. Finger, *fide* CC). Elsewhere the high count reported was 16,000 on Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C., May 4 (CH). About 1000 Least Sandpipers at Tillamook, Ore., Apr. 30 (HN) furnished the high count for this species. A Baird's Sandpiper noted Mar. 28 in Delta, B.C., was extremely early (†AS). Three Baird's, also early, were found nearby at Iona I., B.C., Apr. 9 & 14 (MF, MB, WW). The only other Baird's reported was at Ankeny N.W.R., Ore., Apr. 22 (†BB). The 17 Pectoral Sandpipers reported were about half last year's total, but still twice the average of the preceding 5 years. The 48+ Wilson's Phalaropes found May 13 at Ankeny N.W.R. (BB, JA) made an exceptionally high count. Twenty were still there the next day, but only four remained May 28 (BB). About 24 Wilson's were reported elsewhere, all but two during May.

JAEGERS TO PUFFINS -- A Parasitic Jaeger off the Ocean Shores jetty Apr. 11 was the earliest ever for

Washington (G & WH). Ten Parasitics were seen off that jetty May 17 (G & WH). A Pomarine and a Long-tailed Jaeger, the rarest jaeger here in spring, were found on the pelagic trip out of Newport, Ore., May 17 (SH *et al.*). An ad. Little Gull molting into breeding plumage was observed Apr. 18 & 22 with Bonaparte's Gulls at West Pt., Seattle (DB, M. Carmody). It or another Little Gull was seen May 3 off Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C. (†BK). These were the 8th and 9th Regional spring records. Bonaparte's Gulls arrived on schedule in late March-early April. An imm. Heermann's Gull observed Mar. 8 on the dock at Rocky Pt., Sooke, V.I. (BW, AMA *et al.*) provided the first March record for the Victoria area. Whether this bird was a very early arrival of the contingent that summers in the Region, or a previously-undetected wintering bird, cannot be determined. Another imm. Heermann's was at the S.J.C.R., May 28 (HN). The last Herring Gulls noted were two May 3 on the beach at Ocean Shores (DP, JE) and one May 10 at Harbor, s.w. Oregon (RE). The last Thayer's Gull reports were Apr. 19-27. The only **Iceland Gull** report was of a first-year bird seen Mar. 16 at Iona I., B.C. (†BK). Eight Glaucous Gulls were reported, back down to the 1978-1983 spring season average. The 50+ Sabine's Gulls found May 17 out of Newport made a very high spring count for the Region (SH *et al.*). The earliest Caspian Tern reported this season was, surprisingly, on Puget Sound at Totten Inlet, near Olympia, Wash., Mar. 29 (J. Buchanon, *fide* BHT). The next day one was noted at Copalis Beach, Wash. (C. Sheridan). Thereafter the species was widespread as usual, reaching Victoria, V.I., May 1 (RSa) and Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C., May 2 (MF, L. Vandamme). Common Terns passed through as usual during May, with 500 at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 3 (DP, JE, GG) & 23 (G & WH), and 100 at Gilbert Beach, Richmond, B.C., May 4 (DSO, MP, L. Lawrenson) the high counts. The 44 pairs of Marbled Murrelets noted Apr. 15 from a boat along Alberni Inlet between Bamfield and Port Alberni, V.I., made a high concentration (DFr *et al.*). The usual spring gathering at West Pt., Seattle, peaked this year with a count of 21 birds present May 24 (DB). The **Kittlitz's Murrelet** found last fall at the Ogden Pt. breakwater in Victoria was last seen Apr. 12 (RSa). On Apr. 1 the wings were noticed to have become brownish (M & VG). Counts of about 50 Cassin's Auklets on trips out of Westport, Wash., May 10 (BHT *et al.*) and Newport, Ore., May 17 (SH *et al.*) were equal to the highest ever for May trips here. On the morning of Apr. 27,

following very heavy rain the previous day and night, there were 48 Tufted Puffin standing by burrows on the rocks off Pt Grenville (PM *et al.*) This local high count is presumably due to the burrows being temporarily flooded and ocean feeding restricted so more of, or all, the birds were visible. Tufted Puffins appeared not to be nesting at Cape Meares, Ore., this year, but were doing so at the Haystack Rock colony at Cannon Beach (HN).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- At 20+ mi due west out of Newport, Ore., May 17, a Rock Dove circled the boat and flew on (SH, BB *et al.*). Seven Monk Parakeets at the colony near the Portland airport were building 3 nests Mar 24 (DA). A Com. Barn-Owl nest with at least one nestling visible was found Apr. 26+ in a cavity about 4' below an active Osprey nest near Elma, Wash. (DP *et al.*). The last reports of Snowy Owls were of two Mar. 15 at Ocean Shores (DB, BMO, BP) and one in April on a rooftop in Campbell River, V.I. (D. Turnbull] The survey for Spotted Owls in s.w. British Columbia was continued this year (*vide* DK). The confidential report to the B C Wildlife Branch was said to indicate that an active nest was located. Barred Owls were reported from 7 localities, none in Oregon, but as usual, nesting was documented only at Discovery Park, Seattle (DB). The first Com. Nighthawk was noted May 25 at Richmond, near Vancouver, B.C. (W. Diakow), and widespread arrivals were reported May 28+. Flocks of 1000-1500 Vaux's Swifts were seen Apr. 23 in Salem, Ore. (BvH), in early May over the Palace Theatre, Silverton, Ore. (R. Freeman), and May 12-14 roosting in the chimney of the Majestic Theatre, Corvallis, Ore. (A. Cromack *et al.*). A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** found May 7 in W. Vancouver (†CH, E. Parsons) provided the 3rd documented record for the Vancouver, B.C. area. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** photographed May 17 at Pitt Meadows was the first for the Vancouver, B.C., area (W. Robinson). A female Calliope Hummingbird was also found May 16-19 in Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†BK) for one of just a few spring records there. A male Calliope spent Apr. 30-May 6 at a feeder in Eugene (T & AMi, *vide* SH), where the species has become almost regular. Reports of first arrivals of Rufous Hummingbirds were Feb. 27-Mar. 11 in Oregon, Mar. 2-9 in Washington, and Mar. 8-22 in s.w. British Columbia. These dates ranged from slightly

early to about average. Allen's Hummingbirds were noted as usual at Cape Blanco and Port Orford, Curry Co., Ore (JR, D. Rogers, SH, DL). A Red-naped Sapsucker sighted Apr. 10-14 in Corvallis (D Hall, ph.) furnished one of few Oregon records w. of the Cascades. There were 5 other reports Apr. 18-May 10, from V.I., n.w. Washington, and s.w. British Columbia, where the species is also a rare transient. Three Black-backed Woodpeckers were present at a burn in the n. Oregon Cascades n.e. of Breitenbush Apr. 18 (BB). Olive-sided Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees often arrive quickly throughout the Region. This year the first Olive-sided reported was in Seattle Apr. 30 (SA). Otherwise first arrivals in Oregon, Washington, and southern V.I. were May 3-10, but were not until May 23 in the Vancouver, B.C. area. First arrival dates of W. Wood-Pewees were May 3-10 in Oregon and May 18-25 on V.I. and on s.w. mainland British Columbia. First arrivals of Hammond's Flycatchers throughout Oregon, Washington, and the Vancouver, B.C., area were concentrated Apr 17-20. In contrast, first reports of W. Flycatchers were Apr 13-27 in Oregon, Apr. 20-27 in Washington, Apr. 26 on southern V.I., and May 3 in s.w. mainland British Columbia. Single birds identified as Dusky Flycatchers, rare in the Region n of s. Oregon, were found May 4-7 on Skinner's Butte, Eugene (SH), May 18 in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†BK), May 21- 29 at Lighthouse Park, W. Vancouver, B.C. (MF, †BK *et al.*), and May 29 on the U.W. campus, Seattle (†SA). A **Gray Flycatcher** was on Skinner's Butte, Eugene, May 4-6 for a first Lane County record and about the 5th record for w. Oregon (†SH *et al.*). A Black Phoebe also on Skinner's Butte May 4 was most unusual, and well n. of its regular range (T & AMi) A March movement of Say's Phoebes into the Region has become

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regular This year single birds were in Sechelt, B C, Mar 15 (G Smith), near Monmouth, Polk Co., Ore., Mar. 17 (JA, A. Banks), and in Seattle Mar. 29-30 (DB). Western Kingbirds staged another impressive movement into the Region this May. Between Apr. 26 and May 3 there were six individuals sighted on the n. Oregon coast (SH *et al.*) and from Apr. 28 to May 15, about 13 along coastal Curry County (RE *et al.*). Four



were in the Vancouver, B.C., area May 1-22, 12 were in Washington, primarily along the coast and around Puget Sound, May 3-24, an incredible 30 were counted in Chilliwack, B.C., May 22 (J. Hunter), and two reached southern V.I., May 27 (RSa). Between Salem and Finley N.W.R., closer to the breeding range in the Region, there were reports of about 15 individuals Apr. 27-May 4, and the species was stated to be unusually numerous (BB *et al.*).

SKYLARK TO SHRIKES -- The 4th annual spring census of Eur. Skylarks on the Saanich Peninsula, V.I., located 31 singing males at 10 locations out of 22 surveyed (AMa, BW). This compares to 42 & 45 singers at 26 & 18 locations in 1985 & 1984. The observers point out that this spring was much rainier than usual, particularly on weekends, and that this could have affected the census effort. However, the decline may be real, as several major sites used in previous years were entirely vacant this season. An incomplete count of 12+ pairs was obtained May 17 for the satellite colony at American Camp, San Juan I., Wash. (ML), which compares reasonably well with the few recorded censuses of that population (*Auk* 91:832, 1974). A pair of Purple Martins at a nest box on Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., Apr. 6 (DFi, T. Lund) was earlier than usual, as were several seen Apr. 14 at Johnson Marsh, Ft. Lewis, Wash. (J Beall). Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrived on schedule Mar. 26-30 throughout Oregon, Washington, and southern V.I. The first Cliff Swallows were noted Mar. 29 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Ore. (BB), on the Samish flats, Wash. (SA), and at Quicks Bottom, southern V.I. (J & RSa). Likewise, Barn Swallows arrived on southern V.I. (B. Hays, K. Morgan) and several Oregon locations (AMc, VT, DFi) Mar. 25-29. The Blue Jay wintering at Gibsons, B.C. was last seen Mar. 22 (G. Smith). A Canyon Wren observed Mar. 15+ at the Toketee Ranger Station, e. of Roseburg, Ore., and another there Apr. 26 (DFi) added to the list of typically east-side species recently found in that area. A few Wrentits were noted at their outpost in Finley N.W.R., Ore., Mar. 22 (EE *et al.*) and May 17 (AMc). A pair was also still resident on the w. slope of the s. Oregon Cascades at Toketee R.S. (DFi). An ad. **Black-backed Wagtail** found May 11 on the Ocean Shores Game Range (†Jeff Wisman) furnished the 2nd documented single-person sight record for Washington. The first one was of an ad

male seen May 17 of last year, along the Columbia R. n. of Chelan (*AB* 39:329). The back and nape of the 1985 bird were black, whereas the back of the 1986 bird was dark gray vs. a black crown and nape. Thus separate birds were involved. The latest N. Shrike reports were Apr. 17-19 at Discovery Park, Seattle (DB) and Apr. 28 at Kelso, Wash. (BK).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS- Very early arrival dates were set for Solitary Vireos: Mar. 29 just s. of Bellingham, Wash. (SA), Apr. 1 in Eugene, Ore. (SH), Apr. 2 on San Juan I., Wash. (CC, M. Sacca), Apr. 3 in Portland (RSm), Apr. 4 in Corvallis, Ore. (EE), and Apr. 5 in Saanich, V.I. (AMa). Arrival of Warbling Vireos was on schedule Apr. 30-May 5 throughout the Region. A Red-eyed Vireo found May 14 near Corvallis (†D. Middleton) was somewhat early. One seen in W. Vancouver, B.C., May 26 (AP) marked the normal arrival time. A **Tennessee Warbler** closely observed May 4 on the Nisqually N.W.R. (†E. Spragg, †T. O'Connell) was the 8th for Washington. Another was seen May 13 in Oaks Bottom, Portland (†HN). This species is remarkably scarce here considering the proximity of its breeding range in central British Columbia. However, over the years the vast majority of descriptions and photographs of birds believed to be Tennessee Warblers have proven to be of Warbling Vireos. Arrival of Orange-crowned Warblers was noted Mar. 18-29 at Oregon locations, and Mar 26-30 elsewhere. In contrast to most species so far mentioned, the first arrival dates of the Black-throated Gray Warbler indicate a much more gradual pace to the forward edge of the migration. First reports were at Bandon, Ore., Mar. 28 (VT), Eugene Mar. 30 (T & AMi), Portland and Corvallis Apr. 3-4 (RS, EE), Vashon I., Wash., Apr. 9 (C. Elder), Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 21 (GA), and Saanich, V.I., Apr. 26 (K. Taylor, C. Harper) Hermit Warblers arrived in Oregon Apr. 23-30. A **Blackpoll Warbler** seen May 26-27 in Saanich (B. Gates, H. Van Der Pol, T. Zurowski, ph., m.ob.) was the 4th for V.I. and the first in May. A Black-and-white Warbler found May 25 near Philomath, Ore. (†T. Finnell) furnished only the 3rd spring record for the Willamette Valley. The 2nd was of a singing male found May 23-24, 1985, at Scoggins Valley Park (JE, JGa). A Palm Warbler, presumably a wintering bird, was noted in Florence, Ore., Mar. 1 (JGi, M. Koninendyke). An imm male Am. Redstart, still a rare

vagrant in most of the Region, was sighted in Wilshire Park, Portland, May 28 (JE). The first MacGillivray's Warblers were reported from several Oregon localities Apr. 14-19 (TMi, DFi, R. Gerig), but arrival was not observed n. of the Columbia R. until May 3-10. Arrival of Com. Yellowthroats was early throughout the Region. First reports were Mar. 22 at Ankeny N.W.R. (BB) and Mar. 28 in Saanich, V.I. (A. Porcher). Five males were seen Mar. 30 near Seattle (DB), three Mar. 31 on San Juan I., Wash. (R. Wright), and 20 at Pitt Meadows, B.C., Apr. 6 (WW). Following a single Wilson's Warbler Mar. 29 at Arizona Beach near Port Orford (PMu, LW), first reports in Oregon were spread Apr. 13-23. Thereafter arrival n. to s.w. British Columbia was Apr. 30- May 5.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES -- Arrival of W. Tanagers throughout the reporting areas of the Region was Apr. 28-May 4. That of Black-headed Grosbeaks was May 1-4 in Oregon, May 10-12 in V.I. and Vancouver, B.C. A male Lazuli Bunting at Toketee R.S., e. of Roseburg, Ore., Apr. 13+ was earlier than usual (DFi). Arrival elsewhere in Oregon was Apr. 30-May 9. A Chipping Sparrow had returned by the early date of Mar 29 to Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash. (G. Walter), and a Vesper Sparrow seen Apr. 2 at the Montlake fill in Seattle (BS) was very early also. The first record for V.I. of a **Brewer's Sparrow** was obtained May 25 in Saanich (†MM, m.ob.). A **Lark Sparrow** found May 27-30 in Ambleside Park, W. Vancouver (†A & HP, T. Plath, MB) provided only the 3rd record for the Vancouver, B.C. area. Only six migrant White-throated Sparrows were noted. Five were in Oregon, one in British Columbia, and all Apr. 18-May 4. The White-throated that wintered in Beaverton, Ore., was last seen May 11 (K. Kearney). The 16 reports of Harris' Sparrows were more than usual, with one at a feeder in Richmond Beach, Wash., from late November to May 7 (DB). Groups of five to seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds were re-ported from the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds (VT, DL), Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (S. Ericson), and the Kent, Wash, sewage ponds (M. Hatheway, T. Mallory), but no evidence of nest-building was obtained. The small colony of Tricolored Blackbirds at St. John's landfill in Portland was active again this spring (JGi *et al.*). First reports of N. Orioles were from Oregon Apr. 30-May 6, and from southern V.I., May 10. A male "Baltimore" N. Oriole was well

described from Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, May 27-June 6 (†SH) for one of few Regional records of this form. Red Crossbills were abundant on southern V.I. and throughout w. Washington, with several broods being fed during May. Several large flocks of White-winged Crossbills were still present. There were 35 along the Gray Wolf R., Olympic Mts, Wash., Mar. 2 (CC), 100 just e. of the Cascade crest at Lake Easton S.P., Wash., Mar. 15 (BS), and 20+ at Silvertip camp

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ground, Skagit Valley, B.C., May 4 (MM). Scattered sightings of one to three White-wingeds were noted Apr. 2-3 on San Juan I., Apr. 9 at Cape Flattery, Wash., May 30 in Lakewood, near Tacoma, and throughout the season in the Cascade Mts. near Packwood, Wash. (all CC), and Apr. 5 in the Coast Range e. of Kernville, n. of Newport, Ore. (JGi, J. Johnson) and May 24 at Lost L., near Mt. Hood, Ore. (DA). Pine Siskins were extremely abundant in the Cascades of s. Washington and n. Oregon (CC, HN). An estimated 3000+ siskins were present at Callaghan Creek, n.e. of Squamish, B.C., Apr. 26 (D. Jensen, DK), and small flocks were widely reported on southern V.I. (*vide* DFr).

INITIALED OBSERVERS, with **sub-Regional editors in boldface**. -- Dave Anderson, Jon Anderson, Gerry Ansell, Scott Atkinson, Dave Beaudette, Barb Bellin, Mike Bentley, Fred Bird, Kay Bisbee, Thais Rock, Chris Chappell, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Jim Erckmann, **Richard Erickson**, Joe Evanich, Linda Feltner, **David Fix** (DFi), **Mike Force**, **Dave Fraser** (DFr), John Gatchet (JGa), B. Gates, George Gerdts, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Margaret & Vic Goodwill, **Bill Harrington-Tweit**, Chris Harris, **Steve Heintl**, Glen & Wanda Hog., Bruce van Housen, **Eugene Hunn**, John Ireland, Brian Kautesk, **Doug Kragh**, Mark Lewis, Donna Lustoff, Alan Macleod (AMa). Tom Madsen (TMa), Al McGie (AMc), Barb & Mike McGrenere, Tom & Alison Mickel (T & AMi), Bob Morse (BMo), Pat Muller (PMu), **Harry Nehls**, **Dennis Paulson**, Bob Peterson, Allen & Helen Poynter, Michael Price, Roy Prior, Jim Rogers, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J & RSa), Dory & Stan Smith (D & SSm), Richard Smith (RSm),

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*The Nesting Season, 1986*

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

**Thomas H. Rogers**

June weather was unseasonably hot and very deficient in precipitation nearly everywhere in the Region. July, by contrast, turned cold and wet, in fact colder than June! For the most part the summer season appeared to be good for nesters, with food and water generally adequate. Some exceptions are mentioned later.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref, Burns, Ore. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES – A Com. Loon in non-breeding plumage near Burns, Ore., June 2 made a rare record (GI) The only reports of the species' nesting came from Lincoln and Flathead, Mont. Four ad. Red-necked Grebes and a nest with eggs were found at Davis Res. near Cascade, Ida. for the most southerly nesting record for s.e. Idaho (JM). A pair nested again

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at Silver L., near Island Park, Ida. (CHT), as did another pair at Bull L. near Stryker, Mont., where they are rare (WW). Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 120 W. Grebes June 6. An estimated 290 pairs of W. Grebes and 460 pairs of Clark's Grebes nested at

Malheur, but both species had a poor year as high winds destroyed most of their nests. In Grant, Wash., Potholes Res. had one Clark's (ZB, EC), and Moses L. provided two to three (JG, EH, GG, PM *et al.*). Several appeared on American Falls Res., Ida. in July (DMT). American White Pelican young approaching flight stage at the period's end totaled 125 on Malheur and 120 on nearby private land. Seven appeared on Potholes Res., June 20 (PL) and five at the Walla Walla R. mouth s. of Pasco, Wash., July 19 (DHr, CW, REW). Ninepipe N.W.R. had 26 Am. White Pelicans June 6 (PLW). In Idaho no nesting was known, but the birds continued abundant; more than 1800 were counted on American Falls Res. in June, where they were robbing Double-crested Cormorants. The colony of the latter there yielded dawn flight counts of 1300-2000 per hour. Double-crested Cormorants established a new record at Malheur with 982 pairs and an estimated 1681 young produced. Great Blue Herons also broke a record at Malheur, with 682 pairs producing 1817 young. Great Egrets there were up 30% from last year with 631 pairs producing 1417 young. At least one pair nested again at the American Falls Res. colony and several pairs were reported at Mud L., w. of Hamer, Ida. Snowy Egret numbers at Malheur dropped 53% from last year's record high, with 113 pairs producing 193 offspring. The species' numbers appeared stable in s.e. Idaho. A well-described **Little Blue Heron** at American Falls Res. near Springfield July 13 was apparently Idaho's first (DMT). Cattle Egrets have increased in s.e. Idaho; up to 59 were counted on the Springfield Bottoms (DMT, CHT). A new colony of this species has appeared on the Snake R. near Bruneau, Ida. up to 10 adults and a nest with three young were present for apparently the first nesting record for w. Idaho (JM). These birds increased to 6 pairs at Malheur and brought off 14 young. A molting ad. Green-backed Heron was sighted July 23 at the same location on the Snake R. near Pocatello where one was seen last year; breeding was suspected (CHT). One of this species at Ninepipe July 3 furnished Montana's 2nd record w. of the Continental Divide (PLW). Black-crowned Night-Herons at Malheur dropped from their big high of 1985, but still had 493 pairs, producing 1123 young. Their numbers appeared stable in s.e. Idaho. White-faced Ibises continued to increase. At Malheur a record 2095 pairs reared 4925 young. In s.e. Idaho, Dan Taylor counted up to 800 at American Falls Res. and Bear River N.W.R., Montpelier estimated over 3000

nesting pairs (GD). This may reflect the flooding at Great Salt L.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS -- Trumpeter Swans at Malheur had a good year but the count of fledged young was not yet available. At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., five birds summered and one young was fledged. A Snow Goose was sighted s.e. of Burns July 9 (CDL). Canada Geese had their best year since 1983 at Malheur with 1611 young reared. The species did well again at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. with 135 fledging, and nesting success was good in *Pend Oreille* and *Stevens*, Wash. The species was also on the increase in the Salmon, Ida. area. Nesting success for Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal at Kootenai N.W.R. was low. Production was low for most duck species in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity. The same was true for *Pend Oreille* and *Stevens*, Wash., where low water levels were blamed. Fortine and other *Lincoln*, Mont., areas had broods of Com. Goldeneye as did *Pend Oreille*, Wash. At Klamath Falls, Ore., 22 Com. Goldeneyes and 12 Buffleheads June 12-13 were large numbers for non-breeders (PL). A brood of four downy Bufflehead chicks at McCall furnished s.w. Idaho's first breeding record (JD, AL, JM). A female Hooded Merganser at Big L., n. of Columbus, Mont., July 18 was noteworthy (EHa). A Red-breasted Merganser on Osoyoos L. in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C., was a summer rarity (PL). The June raptor count at Malheur found 41 Turkey Vultures, up from last year's 26. One was sighted June 8 just n. of Kamloops, B.C., where the species is very rare (RRH). One found in the Salmon, Ida. vicinity July 13 was unusual, and 2 Osprey nests there appeared to be successful (HBR). The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R. fledged one young (LDN) as did a pair on the *Pend Oreille* R. in n.e. Washington (SZ). The pair that nested at Libby Dam, *Lincoln*, Mont., brought off two young (DH). A Bald Eagle was sighted near Cusick, Wash., July 14 (EJL) and an adult at L. Chatcolet. St. Maries, Ida. June 22 was unusual (PL). Northern Harriers showed a substantial increase at Malheur, correlated with an increase in the small rodent population. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported along the Snake R. near Swan Valley, Ida. July 23 by an observer familiar with the species (DSS). An active Swainson's Hawk nest in the Frenchtown valley w. of Missoula, Mont., provided the latilong's first breeding record (PLW). Two Ferruginous Hawks, possibly

paired, were sighted June 7 near Boulder, Mont.; the species is rare in the Boulder-Helena area (G & NN). Buteos, especially Ferruginous and Red-tailed hawks, had very high production, associated with the outbreak of voles, at Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco (TDR). Golden Eagle nest surveys in *Pend Oreille* and *Stevens*, Wash., indicated very poor success. Of 7 nests, only 2 were active, each with one young (SZ).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS -- Six ad. and three imm. White-tailed Ptarmigan were found at Burrough's Mt., Mount Rainier N.P., July 9 (A & SS). Malheur reported a Sage Grouse hen with three chicks at Double-O Station and two females near Frenchglen (CDL). Wild Turkey young totalled 47 in the Wenas Cr. area n.w. of Yakima, Wash. (TB). The birds were introduced there 3 years ago by the department of game. At least five Yellow Rails were heard in the Ft. Klamath, Ore., area (PL, JC, SSu). Nesting success of Greater Sandhill Cranes improved at Malheur where predator control was initiated. Sandhills were "numerous" and increasing in the Lemhi Valley and around Salmon, Ida. (HBR). One was observed at Mara Meadows, a known nesting site, near Enderby, B.C., June 17, and two were sighted in late July near Rollings L., e. of Lumby, B.C. (RRH). The Narrows at Malheur had a Snowy Plover June 5 (AA, MA) and one was found near Mud L., Hamer, Ida., June 8 (DF). A few returning Semipalmated Plovers were moving through

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the Region in late July Black-necked Stilts nested for the first time at Columbia N.W.R, Othello, Wash. (JRR). One at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab was the first ever there and for the latilong (TDR). Two Am. Avocets near Missoula, Mont., June 1 were suspected of breeding; this would be a latilong first. The same place had 13 of the birds June 12 (DHo). Three adults and two imm. Solitary Sandpipers at 2 different locations in the mountains s. of Lavington, B.C., July 17, provided a southern breeding record for the species (RRH). Upland Sandpipers were discovered at 3 localities in Valley, Ida. a flightless chick provided the first positive documentation of breeding in s w Idaho

and the only recent one for the state (JM). Up to eight Uplands were observed at the traditional nesting site in the Spokane Valley. Two breeding pairs were believed present, but no nests or young were found. The Washington Department of Game conducted a study of the species there during the summer (KW). Four were again observed in the Logan Valley e of Seneca, Ore. (PL). Four Marbled Godwits at the Walla Walla R. mouth July 19 provided the species' only sighting (DHr, CW, REW). A breeding-plumaged Red Knot on Springfield Bottoms July 31, and two there a few days later, provided Ida- ho's 5th and 6th records (TF, CHT, DMT, DF). A Baird's Sand- piper at Wenas Res., n.w. of Yakima, was noteworthy (EH) as was a Short-billed Dowitcher there (DG). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Columbia N.W.R. was remarkable for June 20 (PL). At least two Stilt Sandpipers still in breeding plumage appeared at Springfield Bottoms July 26 (CHT, CW). One at Folsom L., Whitman, Wash., July 9 was the county's first (BO).

GULLS AND TERNS -- A new colony of Franklin's Gulls was established on Knox Pond at Malheur and about 480 pairs nested on private land in n. Malheur L., producing 665 young. Klamath Falls had two one-year-old Bonaparte's Gulls June 12-13 (PL). An aggregation of 30 postbreeding Mew Gull wanderers appeared in Wells Gray Provincial Park, B.C., July 24 (RRH). California Gulls produced 776 young and Ring-billed Gulls, 1046 in the Malheur area. A one-year-old Herring Gull appeared at the Walla Walla mouth June 18-19 (PL). The Western Gull at American Falls Res. had achieved full ad. plumage (EHa, SSc, CHT). Caspian Terns continued to do well at Malheur, with 560 young produced, a 14% increase over 1985. Common Terns were again present on Pocatello area reservoirs. More common than Forster's, they apparently were nesting (CHT). No Forster's Tern colonies were found on Malheur, but a colony of 10 pairs was discovered 25 mi s. of Frenchglen in the Catlow Valley. Forster's nested for the first time at Columbia N.W.R. (JRR). Single Forster's and Caspian terns visited Hatfield L., Bend, Ore, in July (TC). Black Terns appeared to be doing well in s e Idaho. Ten were at Springfield Bottoms July 26 and many were flying over the colony at Oxford July 12 (CHT). Eighteen pairs summered at Kootenai N.W.R.; 15 nests were found there.

CUCKOOS, OWLS -- A Yellow-billed Cuckoo stayed around Rupert, Ida. until late July (WHS). Two were heard in Blackfoot, Ida. in early June (JT), and two were heard along the Snake R. between Tilden Bridge and American Falls Res., July 26 (CHT, CW). Two well-described Black-billed Cuckoos were observed near Red L., n.w. of Kamloops, in early July (EM). The reintroduction of Burrowing Owls into s. interior British Columbia is thus far a success. Two pairs returned to the Osoyoos release site and had fledged one young each by July 6, and another was noted at a 1985 release site at Cache Cr., Aug. 6 (SC). A Burrowing Owl at the Helena airport in mid-June was the first seen in the Helena Valley since 1981 (GH). Three adults and two imm. Barred Owls were sighted in July in the Little Naches area n.w. of Yakima (SS). An adults and three fledged imm. Great Gray Owls were observed at Kamloops July 9 (EM). Two adults and two nestlings were found in the Nicola L., Merritt, B.C., vicinity (RB), and another adult and a dead fledgling were found in that area (BD), both in early July. A pair of Great Grays raised three young near Sunriver, the farthest n. they are known to nest in the Oregon Cascades (TC). Fort Klamath had a Great Gray June 12 (PL). Four nestling Long-eared Owls, their nest accidentally destroyed by logging near St. Maries, Ida. were hand reared and released (JTa). Owl numbers in the Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area, *Ada* and *Onyhee*, Ida., were down precipitously, especially for Long- eared, with only 5 pairs compared to 63 in 1980 (JM). Short- eared Owls were abundant in the Malheur area and on the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, presumably in response to an increase in small mammal populations. Cathedral Park, s. of Keremeos, B.C., hosted a Boreal Owl July 6 (DC, RC), and several sightings of the species were obtained in the Salmo Mt area of n. *Pend Oreille*, Wash. (BB, JG, EMi, JP). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard June 17 in Colorado Gulch s.w. of Helena (G & NN) and one was calling at Horsethief Meadows e. of Mt Hood in n. Oregon (DAA). Nestlings of this species, made homeless by logging near St. Maries, were hand reared and released (CS).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- Common Nighthawk numbers at Fortine, Mont., were

higher than for several years but still were far below those of 40-60 years ago (WW). After an increase in 1985, these birds again decreased at Malheur for reasons unknown. A Com. Poorwill calling at midnight June 21 added that species to the bird list for Kootenai N.P., B.C. (LH, RRH). One was heard at Calamity Butte, 30 mi n.e. of Burns, in June (MA), for the only other record. Up to 50 Black Swifts were sighted in July in the Kamloops-Clearwater area, B.C. (CH, RRH). A pair of Black Swifts, presumed to be breeding, was again sighted near Cabinet Gorge, *Bonner*, Ida., July 23 (DF). White-throated Swifts attempted to nest under the freeway bridge over Latah Cr. at Spokane but apparently were deterred by repair work (S.A.S.). Richland's male Black-chinned Hummingbird stayed around until early July. Then a female appeared July 18 (REW). A female was identified near Lookout Mt., e. of Mt. Hood, July 6 (DAA). An albino of the species, except for dark wings and tail, visited a Nile, Wash, feeder (J & JW). A female along Morgan Cr. n.w. of Ellis, Ida, was noteworthy (HBR). A male Costa's Hummingbird was back at Bend for the 3rd year (PL). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Helena latilong's first and Montana's 11th, visited a feeder in Colorado Gulch (G & NN). About 20 Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted along the S. Fork of the Boise R. below Anderson Ranch Dam, *Elmore*, Ida. (DMT) Two localities in the Libby, Mont., area had sightings of single birds (DH), and Calamity Butte had up to six in July (MA). A Red-breasted Sapsucker and a nesting Williamson's Sapsucker were spotted in the Clear L. area, Mt. Rainier N.P., June 1 (BR, Y.A.S.). A Williamson's Sapsucker was noted on Ulysses Mt, 20 mi n.w. of Salmon (HBR). Three sightings of the species in The Dalles, Ore., area were Anderson's first there. At Calamity Butte, Williamson's seemed to be giving way to Red-naped Sapsuckers as nesters; only 2 nests of the former were found, compared to 5 of the latter species (MA). Eight pairs of Three-toed Woodpeckers were sighted between Crescent Lake and Bend, Ore. (RG). One in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown was at the e. limit of its range in Montana (LKM). The Dalles area had a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers (DAA) and the species was reported near Lost L., Mt. Rainier N.P. (A & SS). A nesting pair at Stanley L. near Stanley, Ida., added the species to the list for Sawtooth N.R.A.' (LHa). Willow Flycatchers hit a record 71 on the breeding bird survey in the s. Blitzen Valley at Malheur, but the species continued its downward slide at Panhandle L. in Idaho. A Least

Flycatcher was singing at White Mud L., 6 mi e. of Colville, Wash., June 23 (PL). Canada's first confirmed breeding record for the **Gray Flycatcher** was of a nest with one young and 3 unsuccessful eggs at Oliver, B.C., July 27 (SC).

SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMIDS -- Seven Purple Martins were observed June 13 at the Region's only known breeding locality at Chiloquin, Ore. (PL). Some 1500 Bank Swallows

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gathered in late July along the Blitzen R at Malheur for a record concentration there (CDL). The increasing population of Com. Ravens in the Fortine area was taking a toll of the eggs and young of smaller species (WW). Several Boreal Chickadees along Smith Cr., n. *Boundary*, Ida., July 26 indicated breeding there (DF). A Winter Wren sang at Golway Gulch, 10 mi n.e. of Salmon, July 19 (HBR). The species is rare in that area. A new location for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was discovered near Malin, Ore. (*fide* PL). Two W. Bluebirds at Mara Meadows, Enderby, B.C., June 17, were supposedly near the species' n. limit (PL). A pair of W. Bluebirds apparently nested at a box at the Canadian border n of Eureka, Mont. An adult and two immatures were there June 22 (DH). Three pairs of W. Bluebirds used nest boxes in the valley around Fortine for Wedemeyer's first record of nesting there since 1935. The Mountain Bluebird population there is also building as the result of nest boxes. The latter species was also reported as abundant at nest boxes at Eureka, Mont. A bluebird trail n. of Coeur d' Alene, Ida., continued to show increased success, with 88 fledged, about equally divided between Western and Mountain bluebirds (BW). Two trails in n Idaho, one on a mountain ridge on the Montana border n.e. of Prichard and the other at Pinehurst, fledged 128, about 75% Mountain Bluebirds (CHa). Two Sage Thrashers sang at Calamity Butte, elevation 6695 ft, June 28-July 3, leaving when it snowed (MA)! A Gray Catbird at Fields, Ore., June 10 was noteworthy (HN). The singing N. Mockingbird at Malheur attracted no mate but remained at least until June 19 (CDL). A nest with

three imm. N. Mockingbirds was found near Melba, Ida., June 17 (AL, VM, LP), and a family of two adults and two fledged young was sighted s. of Grandview, Ida. (JD), for apparently the 2nd and 3rd state breeding records--a previous record exists for *Oneida* (LP). A N. Mockingbird that stayed near Kalispell, Mont., in May and June was joined by a 2nd bird. The two acted as if nesting (JR). Malheur had a Brown Thrasher June 6 (TC) and the N. Fork of the Big Lost R. n.e. of Ketchum, Ida. had two to three July 3-4 (RS)

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Two Sprague's Pipits appeared at Big Lake, n.e. of Columbus, Mont., after an absence of a year (EHa). "Many" Loggerhead Shrikes were noted in s.e. Idaho, where they apparently had good breeding success (JS, DMT, CHT). A singing **Gray Vireo** was reported along Kinney Cr., s. of Pocatello, Ida., June 18 (EHa). Later that day a bird responded to a Gray Vireo song tape with an identical song (JT, JTr). This would be the state's first record. Four Red-eyed Vireos were observed along the Imnaha R., s. of Imnaha, Ore., June 21 (M & AA). A female Tennessee Warbler was closely examined near the N. Fork of the Big Lost R., July 3 (RS). An ad. male Chestnut-sided Warbler showed up at Malheur June 15-18 (CDL, PL). Two N. Waterthrushes were again seen along the Little Deschutes R. near Gilchrist, Ore., June 13-14 (JC, PL). Malheur hosted a singing male Black-throated Blue Warbler June 23-24 (CDL). A pair of Black-throated Gray Warblers near Frenchglen July 8 strongly indicated nesting there; the area has very few summer records for the species (CDL). A male Black-throated Green Warbler at Malheur June 15 provided the 2nd record there (CDL). Kamiak Butte e. of Colfax was favored by a male **Hooded Warbler**, e. Washington's first, June 15-21 (D & JP, PL)

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES -- A male W. Tanager in Richland July 25 was apparently an early migrant (REW). Two male Blue Grosbeaks were singing at the trout farm along the Portneuf R. n.w. of Pocatello July 27 and a female came to a tape, indicating breeding there (CHT). In June a singing male was near Buhl, Ida. a known nesting spot for these birds (DF, JS). A **Dickcissel** near Radersburg, Mont., June 16 was a latilong first, and only the Region's 2nd (JH). A pair of Green-tailed Towhees was feeding three

well-grown immatures at Wenatchee Guard Station in s.e. Washington's Blue Mts., July 9(WKH) Baird's Sparrows were back at Big Lake, Mont, after their absence during last year's drought (EHa). A male White-crowned Sparrow sang at 4000 ft elevation at Lac le Jeune, s of Kamloops, July 5 (RRH). At least 215 male Bobolinks were recorded at Malheur in early June; 2 new nesting areas were found there. The birds were described as plentiful in the Almo, Ida. area (WHS), and at least six occupied the Toppenish N.W.R., Wash., colony June 22. The colony near Cusick, Wash, was active; the species was regular at Weydemeyer's Fortine ranch, and was seen occasionally near Polson, Mont. (LK). Unusual was one near Hayden, Ida. June 22 (PL). A singing male Scott's Oriole at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab was a first for that site and for the latilong (LP, MW). Common Grackles were still nesting in s.e. Idaho: a female was seen carrying feces from a conifer in Soda Springs June 3, and two birds were sighted in Ashton June 14 (CHT, CWe). A Great-tailed Grackle appeared 21 mi s.w. of Malheur headquarters June 1 (MJ) and three were sighted on the refuge June 1-7 (TC). Reporters' consensus of opinion seemed to be that Brown-headed Cowbird numbers were increasing or at least steady. Adult and imm. Purple Finches were reported at a Libby feeder (DH) and apparently valid sightings were made of a male and two females of this species at Coeur d' Alene, Ida (PH). A male White-winged Crossbill was sighted at Lost L., n w of Mt. Hood in Oregon (DAA). A very few Lesser Goldfinches were seen at Lyle, Wash. (EH, PM).

ADDENDA -- Two Snowy Plovers were sighted at Dry L., s of Nampa, Ida. May 19 (DMT, SCT). A N. Mockingbird was seen at Coeur d' Alene May 23 (RI, KM). A Hoary Redpoll was studied at length and photographed along State Line Road, Umatilla, Ore, in late January-early February (OS, JGi, TC, MS *et al.*).

OBSERVERS CITED -- David A. Anderson, Anne Archie, Merle Archie, Tom Bass, Rick Bonar, Bob Brokkaw, Zee Butler, Dick Cannings, Rob Cannings, Steve Cannings, Jim Carlson, Tom Crabtree, Emily Cragg, Bob Davis, Gerry Deutcher, John Doremus, Dave Finkelnburg, Tom Fitch, John Gatchett, George Gerdts, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Rebecca Goggins, Denny Granstrand, Clarence Hagerman (CHa), Lucinda

Haggas (LHa), Larry Halverson, Edward Harper (EHa), Chris Harris, John Hartman, William K. Hayes, Della Hermsmeyer, David Herr (DHr), Denver Holt (DHo), George Holton, R.R. Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, Richard Ila, Gary Ivey, Marv Jess, Lynn Kelly, E.J. Larrison, Al Larson, Peter Legg (PLe), Paul Lehman, C.D. Littlefield, Larry K. Malone, Jeff Marks, Vicki Marks, Phil Mattocks, Eric McAlary, Ken McIntyre, Ed Miller (EMl), Larry D. Napier, Harry Nehls, Gene & Norma Nixon, Bill O'Connell, Deanna & Jeff Palmer, Leon Powers, James R. Rees, Tim D. Reynolds, Hadley B. Roberts, Jean Robocker, Bill Ryan, Martha Sawyer, Owen Schmidt, Charles Schultz, Susan Scott (SSc), W.H. Shillington, John Shipley, Spokane Audubon Society, Andy & Susan Stepniewski, Donald S. Starks, Steve Summers (SSu), Robert Sutherland, Joe Taggart (JTa), Daniel M. Taylor, S.C. Taylor, Joel Tinsley, C.H. Trost, Judy Trotter (JTr), Bill Walker, Cheryl Webb (CWe), Winton Weydemeyer, Mark Wheeler, Joe & July Will, Kim Williams, Charles Woodley, Robert E. Woodley, Philip L. Wright, Yakima Audubon Society, Steve Zender

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*The Nesting Season, 1986*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

It was another dry summer. For five of the last six years here June has been slightly wetter, and July much dryer, than the long-term averages. This year both months were dry. Rain during June at the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver weather stations totalled about half the long-term averages. July rainfall was up to 87% of normal, but it was concentrated in the first ten days and overall the month felt much dryer. Much of the population changes and local range extensions noted in the following column would fit an hypothesis of a drier Pacific Northwest, at least during the nesting season.

Read about Rock Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Lazuli Buntings, Brewer's Sparrows, gallinaceous birds in general, and others, with this in mind.

ABBREVIATIONS -- S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS -- A large aggregation of Pacific Loons apparently summered at the S.J.C.R. Counts were of 200 June 29 (JJ, DR) and 65 July 5 (PL). An ad. Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was found July 5 on Lightning L., Manning P.P., B.C., a most unusual location (MSh *et al.*). About 35 summering Com. Loons were noted June 30 along coastal WhatCom Co., Wash. (PL), and 20 were counted at nearby Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C., July 21 (Frank Walker). Groups of one to four Common and Red-throated loons were scattered coastally throughout the season as usual. Single Red-necked Grebes, rare in summer, were found June 26 at La Push, Clallam Co., Wash. (FS), and July 1 on Penn Cove; Whidbey I., Wash. (PL). The usual aggregation of W. Grebes summered in Birch Bay and Bellingham Bay, WhatCom Co., Wash. (PL, TW). Only 2 pelagic trips were reported this season: July 2 to LaPerouse Banks, off s.w. V.I. (MSh *et al.*), and July 26 to Grays Canyon off Westport, Wash. (TW *et al.*). The 522 N. Fulmars seen July 26 was a high count for any season, and was the

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highest so far for 16 July trips off Westport Likewise, the 168 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport provided the highest-ever July total. The 20,415 Sooty Shearwaters found July 26 also made a relatively high count for this early in the migration. Counts of five Black-looted Albatrosses July 2 and 95 July 26, and of two Flesh-looted Shearwaters July 26, were normal numbers for these species. There were 150 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels at the La Perouse Banks, and 117 Fork-tailed and 54 Leach's storm-petrels over Grays Canyon; these were high counts. Both Fork-tailed and Leach's were noted during July at known breeding sites on Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I. (MF), and Tatoosh



I., at the n.w. tip of Washington (BP). An Am. White Pelican was an unusual visitor to the Victoria area June 6-18 (Stan Baker, Molly Lyons, m. ob.). Numbers of Brown Pelicans seen at the S.J.C.R. remained at 10-20 birds from late May through mid-June (HN, JJ, DB). By July 2-4 there were 50-70 present (HN, PL). Eight had reached Tatoosh I. by July 18 (BP, Tim Wooten). Double-crested Cormorants nested in normal numbers on Mandarte I., B.C. (ML, FS), and Protection I., Wash. (about 100 nests--SSp), with apparently normal success. However, Double-crested were absent from the previously-occupied Bird Rocks and Williamson Rocks, in the San Juan Is., Wash, and only 4 nests were present this year on Colville I. (ML, FS). There were about 639 Pelagic Cormorant nests on Protection I and 98 at Port Angeles, Wash., with normal fledging success (SSp) About 200 Pelagic Cormorant nests, the same number as last year, were noted on Smith I., Wash., but a much-reduced total of only 92 nests was counted on Colville I., Williamson Rocks, and Hall I. (ML, FS). Most troubling, with the large oil spill last December at nearby Port Angeles in mind, was that by the end of the season no Pelagic chicks had been seen at any of the latter 4 colonies (ML).

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS -- A Great Egret arrived at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Ore., on July 9, about 6 weeks early (TM). Another was found July 13 on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, for only the 9th documented sighting for the Vancouver, B.C., area (†TC, Bill Hunter). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron, of unknown geographic origin, was seen at Pistol R, coastal Curry Co., June 14 (SH *et al.*). An adult and an imm. Black-crowned were back to a regular wintering area at Smith L, Portland, by July 2 (Mike Houck). A pair of Canada Geese (probably *moffittii* from the description) seen June 24 with one nestling on San Juan I. established the first nesting record for that county (ML). The nest was just above the high tide line on rocky marine shore. Single broods of N Pintail at the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds July 10 (EH *et al.*), of Green-winged Teal at Gold L., Lane Co., Ore., July 4 (SH), and of Blue-winged Teal at Ocean Shores July 17 (G & WH) provided scarce nesting records for those areas. A brood of Gadwalls on Nisqually L., Ft. Lewis, Pierce Co., Wash. (JBe), marked the spread of this species to another new nesting locality. A pair of Ring-necked Ducks, one of several species of diving duck for

which nesting records are scarce in the Region, was noted June 5 & 19 on Killibrew L., Orcas I., Wash. (SA, FS), and a brood was found on Chambers L., Pierce Co., Wash. (JBe) Single male Ring-necked Ducks were seen June 8 at Iona I., B C (BK), July 6 on Twenty Minute L., Manning P.P. (WW), and July 20 at the Nehalem sewage ponds, Ore. (JG), but no evidence of nesting was obtained. A male Canvasback, with no young, was seen July 30 at the Auburn ponds, near Seattle (BS) Greater and Lesser scaup were reported from 6 lakes, sewage ponds, or protected bays throughout the Region, but no nesting was noted. A male Tufted Duck June 7-8 at Iona I., B.C., furnished the 3rd June record for the Vancouver area (†WW, BK). A male Black Scoter m W Vancouver, B.C., June 4 & 28 (†BK, JH, PL) and another June 30 at Blaine, Wash. (PL), were rare summer sightings. Broods of Barrow's Goldeneye, a regular but seldom-reported breeder in the mountains of the Region, were noted at the Diamond Lake sewage ponds, e. Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi) and on Silver L., s.w. of Hope, B.C. (DK, TC, DD). Several broods of Ruddy Ducks were found July 10 at the Kent ponds, Wash (EH), and July 31 on Nisqually L., Pierce Co., Wash. (GW).

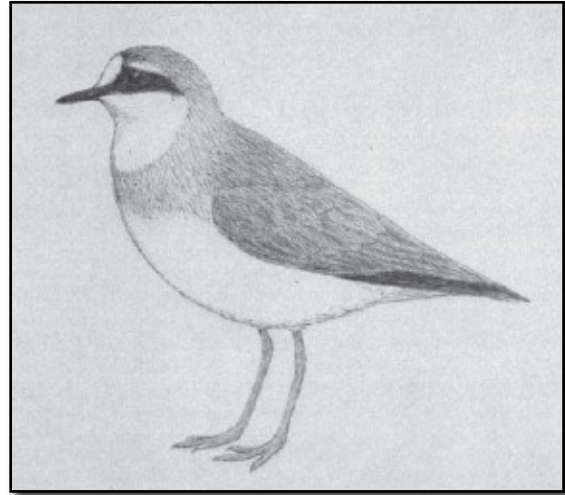
OSPREY THROUGH QUAIL -- Numerous Osprey nests were reported from throughout the Region, and good nesting success was indicated. The Washington Dept. of Game counted 59 occupied Bald Eagle territories with 67 young eagles in the San Juan Is. this summer (*vide* ML). These were the highest- ever counts for the area of both occupied territories and young birds per pair. An ad. female N. Harrier fed a recently-fledged young bird in the fields near the Kent sewage ponds, Wash., July 12- 14 (Thais Bock, PM) for the only actual report of breeding this season. However, pairs of N. Harriers were seen repeatedly at Ocean Shores and Bowerman Basin (G & WH) and near Sequim, Wash. (D & SSm), and two immatures were noted at False Bay, San Juan I., July 30 (ML). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks nested near Melrose, w. of Roseburg, Ore. (DI). The site was in the dry foothills of the Coast Range. This was one of surprisingly few breeding records reported over the years. A Cooper's Hawk nest in Saanich, V.I. (BW), was the only one reported. An ad. Cooper's and two immatures were seen in Victoria July 25 (J & RSa). An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was north to Fern Ridge Res.,

Eugene, Ore, by the early date of July 21 (SH). Single Merlins were reported July 17-29 from N. Saanich (AM) and w. of the Goldstream estuary (Barbara Begg), V.I., and Dungeness, Wash. (D & SSm) A pair of Merlins was noted July 25 at Beaver Pt., Saltspring I., B.C. (ML). This is a rare nesting species just to the north of these locations. The Peregrine Falcon eyrie in the s. Oregon Cascades fledged two young (DFi). There were Peregrine re-ports from 12 other locations, some for throughout the season An adult and five young White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen July 25 near the summit of Granite Mt. for one of very few records from King Co., Wash. (TP). A single ptarmigan was sighted June 22 near Butte Camp on the s. slope of Mt. St Helens, which is at the very s. edge of their range in the Cascades (DA). This bird must have either survived the blast and mudflows of the 1980 eruption, or recolonized the area from a nearby mountaintop. Numerous broods of the introduced population of Wild Turkey on San Juan I., Wash., were noted this season (ML). These birds have become quite tame and can often be seen in fields and farmyards. Northern Bobwhites were readily located at their established location in Thurston and Pierce counties, Wash. (GW, PM). Single adults were seen July 19 near Philomath, Benton Co., Ore. (Lorne Fitts, *vide* ME), where the species has been reported in the past (AB 37:1020), and s.w. of Hood River, Ore. (DA). A recent analysis of introduced species in Oregon by JE concludes that neither of these locations represent self-sustaining populations (*Oregon Birds* 12:174, 1986). During June 7-22 three male Mountain Quail were closely observed at an overgrown gravel pit on the edge of a clearcut 2 min. of McCleary, in Mason Co., Wash. (PM, BMO, JSK). This site is reasonably close to other locations where small numbers have been found over the last 15 years. A single Mountain Quail was seen June 15 at Mile 11, Butler Main, Sooke, V.I. (AM, Harold Hosford).

SHOREBIRDS -- The only reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers were of singles on the Iona I., B.C., ponds June 20-21 (RP, BK), at Tillamook Bay, Ore., June 18 (HN), and at Bandon, Ore., July 14+ (SH *et al.*). A **Mongolian Plover** graced the Bandon, Ore., shoreline July 11-29 for the 3rd record for the state (Larry Thornburgh, m. ob., †Alan Barron). At least one pair of Snowy Plovers brought off a chick at their embattled

northern outpost on Catala spit, Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WH). One of the Snowies nesting at this location had been born and color-

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*Mongolian Plover at Bandon, Ore., July 12, 1986.*  
*Drawing/ Alan D. Barron.*

banded in California (Gary Page), which is a good sign for the future recovery of this breeding population. The first few Greater Yellowlegs appeared on schedule June 18-25 at Victoria (RSa), Tillamook (HN), and Eugene (SH). First arrivals at other locations were spread through early July, and the 12 at Tillamook June 29 was the high count (JJ, DB). The earliest report and the high count for Lesser Yellowlegs was the 20 seen June 27 on the Roberts Bank jetty, Delta, B.C. (BK, PL). Two Solitary Sandpipers spent the season again at the Gold Lake bog, e. Lane Co., Ore. (SH *et al.*). They became very agitated upon approach, but no nest or fledglings were observed. Elsewhere the first fall migrants appeared at the Diamond Lake sewage ponds, Douglas Co., Ore., July 22 (DFi) and near Enumclaw, Pierce Co., Wash., July 26 (DBe). The first few Willets returned to Tokeland, on Willapa Bay, Wash., by July 3 (PL) and to Yaquina Bay and Bandon, Ore., July 16 (JE, HN). A Wandering Tattler found June 6 on Iceberg Pt., Lopez I., Wash., was late (SA). The first

returning migrants were noted July 15 on Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I. (MF), and July 20- 24, slightly later than usual, at Victoria, San Juan I., Tatoosh I., and Bandon (RSa, ML, BP, Tom Crabtree). Movement of Spotted Sandpipers into areas in which they did not breed was first reported July 18-20 at Olympia, Seattle, and San Juan Is., Wash. (JBU, DBe, ML). High counts for Whimbrels were of 120 at Ocean Shores July 3 (PL) and at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., July 4 (PL, BHT), 23 along Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C., July 19 (Rob Catchpole), and 30 at Tillamook July 30 (Dave Hoffman). Three Long-billed Curlews at Yaquina Bay June 8 and July 4 apparently summered (Verda Teale); the eight at Leadbetter Pt., July 4 could have been recent arrivals or summering individuals (PL, BHT). A Marbled Godwit was found June 23 along Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C., where it is a rare migrant (H & JM). Five others were found June 11-July 4 at Dungeness and Willapa Bay, Wash., and Tillamook, Ore. Three Ruddy Turnstones at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 27 were early (G & WH). The first flocks noted were at Bandon, Ore., July 14 (DI), and 50 at Dungeness, Wash., July 21 (D & SSm). Arrival of Black Turnstones and Surf-birds throughout the Region was noted on schedule July 14-22. Single Red Knots June 21-23 in Delta (RP, BK *et al.*) and June 27 at nearby Blackie Spit (PL) were rare summer visitors to the Vancouver, B.C., area. Three Red Knots in basic plumage were also at Leadbetter Pt., July 4 (PL), and one to two were at Tillamook July 12-20 (JG, OS). The first small flocks of migrants arrived July 19 at Delta and July 27 at Blackie Spit (both BK). The first Semipalmated Sandpiper of the season at the famed Iona I. sewage ponds appeared June 29 (DSO, MF *et al.*). One to four were present until July 5, then 69 were counted July 6 (IMP), 200 Semipalmateds were there July 18 (BK), and 120 were still present July 31 (MF *et al.*). Elsewhere the high count was of eight at Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin, V.I., July 19 (KT). Three adults were seen in Washington, at Dungeness and San Juan I., July 1 & 17 (PL, ML). The first of three adults found in Oregon was June 29 at Tillamook (JJ, DBa *et al.*) and the only immatures reported for the Region were four along the Oregon coast July 23-29 (HN, JJ, OS, JE). Counts of over 1000 W. Sandpipers were obtained July 3-17 at Iona I. (RP, DK *et al.*), July 4 at Leadbetter Pt. (BHT, PL), and July 12 at Tillamook (JG, OS). One of the Westerns at Tillamook had been color-banded last winter in Peru. Fewer than usual Least Sandpipers were reported this season. The high counts were of only 200

at Tillamook July 12 (JG, OS) and Bandon July 16 (HN).

#### S.A.

Among the swarm of peep at Iona I., B.C., was a well-marked ad. **Rufous-necked Stint** July 3-4 (BMa, RP, †RC, DK, DJ, MP, H & JM) for the first well-documented record since 1978. The excellent description and sketch by RC indicated that the bird was separable from a Little Stint by 1) a completely orange throat, with some white around the base of the bill only, 2) dusky spots or streaks present only below, not within, the orange throat

Two early Ruffs were noted July 19 on Reifel I., Delta, B.C. (John Ireland). As usual the only large flocks of Short-billed Dowitchers were on the large bays along the Washington coast, with 3000 at Willapa Bay July 4 (BHT, PL) and "several thousand" on Grays Harbor July 17 (G & WH). Elsewhere there were 200 at Tillamook July 16 (HN, JE) and 50+ on Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin, V.I., July 16-19 (RSa, BW, Jeff Gaskin). Small flocks of Long-billed Dowitchers were widely scattered during July, with high counts of 25-37 at Cowichan Bay, V.I., Iona I., B.C., and the S.R.C.R., Ore. Up to eight juv. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen July 15+ at the Diamond Lake sewage ponds, and breeding at the s. end of Diamond L. was suspected (DFi, DI, MH, MSa).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS -- The first June records for Franklin's Gull in the Vancouver, B.C., area were of one adult at Iona I., June 7 (†BK, JH), and two adults at Pt. Roberts, Wash., June 20 (†BK, Leona Haggart). A juv. Franklin's at Iona I., July 31 was the first of the regular fall migrants (MF, RP *et al.*). An ad. **Little Gull** in breeding plumage was seen July 23 off Clover Pt., Victoria (†VG, KT). It or another Little Gull was observed Aug. 3 at West Pt., Seattle (Rob Thorne). Surely the increasing numbers of Little Gulls found here late in spring and early in the fall are nesting at undiscovered sites in the Canadian north. Groups of one to 10 Bonaparte's Gulls were widely scattered in the Region during June, with a higher concentration in

the Vancouver, B.C., area. Numbers increased steadily through July, and flocks of several hundred were widely reported by late July. Heermann's Gulls moved N into the Region during July as usual. Ring-billed Gulls arrived from the east during June, with W movement noted through the Columbia Gorge (HN). An estimated 8000 California Gulls had arrived at Ocean Shores, Wash., by July 27 (BMo, TW). Not all of these traveled down the several river valleys. A flock of 28 flew from east to west across 4900' Naches Pass July 30 (DBe). Widespread nesting failure by Glaucous-winged Gulls was observed in the San Juan Is., Wash. (ML, FS). Hundreds of adults were present on Bird Rock, Williamson's Rock, and Colville I., but no chicks.

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The first Com Tern of the season was an adult at Iona I, June 27 (PL, BK). Fifteen adult and 45+ one-year-old Com. Terns were at Dungeness, Wash., July 1-2 (PL) and 40+ were there July 14 (DBe), for higher than usual numbers this early in the season. A one-year-old Forster's Tern was seen with Commons at Dungeness July 2 (†PL) for the 5th w. Washington record. At least 3 pairs of Arctic Terns nested again on the 40+ acre gravel lot by the Everett, Wash., harbor (BS, EH). This lot is contained within the U.S. Navy's home port expansion plans for Everett. A thorough census of the San Juan Is., Wash., found 645 ad Pigeon Guillemots this July (ML, FS). Sucia I. hosted 139 of these, Stuart I. 90, Matia I. 86, Speiden I. 70, and Davis Bay, Lopez I., 65. Hopefully this census will be repeated in the future. The first fledgling was noted Aug. 15. **Marbled Murrelets** were observed 30 mi inland on Mary's Peak, on the e. side of the Coast Range, Ore. (Kim Nelson, Will Wright, Brad Fiero). On each visit Apr. 28-June 26 they saw and heard several of these birds on the e. slope of the peak (*fide* ME). No nests or fledglings were found, and a paper is in preparation. The first fledgling this season was seen off Sucia I., San Juan Co., Wash., July 22 (ML, FS). The count of 156 Cassin's Auklets at sea off Westport July 26 was a rebound to normal numbers following 3 seasons of low counts (7 July trips 1983-1985, 59 total Cassin's Auklets-- TW) The count of 1727 Rhinoceros Auklets seen July 26 (TW *et al.*) was the highest count out of Westport for any season and was more than triple the average trip total for July.

Another high alcid count was the massed flock of 1600 Tufted Puffins seen at once from Triangle I., V.I., in mid-July (MF). At least six **Horned Puffins** were observed July 6-23 at Triangle I. (MF). One was seen entering a burrow July 14 and another was defending a ledge July 16, but no actual indication of breeding was noted. The Triangle I. Horned Puffin site was occupied every season during the 1970s, and is the southernmost site on the West Coast where actual breeding evidence has been obtained (Canadian Field-Nat. 93:84, 1979)

OWLS THROUGH MARTINS -- Recently there have been widespread reports of Boreal Owls in e. Washington, at sites above 5000' in Englemann Spruce. In addition, an imm **Boreal Owl** was photographed July 2 near the Porcupine Creek camp-ground, about 7 mi up the Robinson Creek trail, n.w. of Mazama, in the N. Cascades of Washington (Tom Parsons). Another Boreal Owl was calling July 10 in Cathedral Lakes Park, just n.e. of Manning P.P. in the Cascades of s. British Columbia (*fide* DK). An adult and two imm. N. Saw-whet Owls were seen July 12 on the lower slopes of Granite Mt., King Co., Wash. (TP), and a road-killed immature found July 13 on Ft. Lewis, Pierce Co., Wash. (GW) provided further evidence of local nesting. Common Nighthawks were more numerous than in recent years at several regular locations in Pierce, Thurston, and Whatcom counties, Wash. (GW, BHT, TW). Up to 10 Black Swifts were again seen this season at Salt Creek Falls, Lane Co., Ore., but still no evidence of nesting was noted (m. ob., *fide* SH). A male **Costa's Hummingbird** was seen June 1 on a ceanothus-covered hillside just e. of Medford, Ore. (†HN). There are more than a dozen records of this hummingbird in Oregon now. Most have been in late spring and summer, and at feeders. A Calliope Hummingbird, rare w. of the Cascades, was seen along the Swift Res., e. of Cougar, in Skamania Co., Wash., on the annual solstice census on Mt. St. Helens (*fide* DA). None was found at Thorn Prairie, e. Douglas Co., Ore., June 1 (DFi, DI), where they have nested in some summers. A pair of **Red-naped Sapsuckers** was feeding young July 20 near Colonial Creek campground, on Thunder Arm, along the upper Skagit R., Whatcom Co., Wash. (TW). This is about 20 mi w. of the Cascade crest, and well within typical Red-breasted Sapsucker habitat. Active nests of Three-toed Woodpeckers were recorded at Manning P.P. (DK, WW), Naches Pass, King Co, Wash

(DBe), and Lower Marilyn L, e. Lane Co, Ore (Kit Larson, *vide* SH). Pileated Woodpeckers were widely reported in the usual small numbers. No Olive-sided Flycatchers were heard this season in the Toketee R.D., e. Douglas Co., Ore., by an observer living and working in the area (DFi). Elsewhere, however, the species was reported to be in its usual numbers. Willow Flycatchers continue to do well in the Region. Normal numbers were re- corded on several of the U.S.F. & W.S. Breeding Bird Surveys in Washington, and more than usual were found near Tacoma (CC). The first record of the **Least Flycatcher** for Manning P.P. was provided by one found June 22 at Alison Pass, 1350 m (DK, D & EJ). A Dusky Flycatcher was seen and heard July 19- 20 in the Royal Creek basin, n.e. of Mt. Deception, Jefferson Co., Wash. (†CC). This site is on the dry n.e. side of the Olympic Mts. The last of the spring movement of W. Kingbirds was one noted June 6-7 at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C. (John Knezekevich, m.ob.). An E. Kingbird observed June 1-12 in Saanich, V.I. (KT *et al.*) and two at the Montlake fill, Seattle, June 7-8 (Elise Cole, DBe, DW) were unusual for those localities. The small colony of Horned Larks discovered in 1984 (AB 38:1055) on a natural prairie on Ft. Lewis, Pierce Co., Wash, was absent this season, based on 5 visits to the area (GW). Five male and six female Purple Martins were seen on the dolphins at the head of Cowichan Bay, Duncan, V.I., June 14-24 (RSa), up from 2 pairs last year. Twenty or more pairs, up from 15, nested on Ft. Lewis, Wash., in martin houses and wood duck boxes (GW). Fifteen fledglings were banded at boxes in Olympia (*vide* Kelly McAllister). Isolated pairs nested successfully at outposts on San Juan I. (ML, FS) and Bainbridge I. (Ian Paulsen) The Washington Dept. of Game has begun a monitoring program for Purple Martins, hopefully to include all known nest sites in the state.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Single Rock Wrens, typically east-side birds of relatively dry areas, were found .singing June 1 near Naches Pass, King Co., Wash., June 12 on Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mts., and June 22 atop Snoqualmie Mt., King Co., Wash. (all DBe). Two were singing on Saddle Mt., Clatsop Co., Ore., June 25 (HN), and three were at 8000' on Mt. Thielsen, e. Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi). At the e. edge of their range in British Columbia, six Bewick's Wrens were observed in Manning P.P., June

22 (DK). Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen and heard singing July 19-20 about a mile apart along upper Royal Creek in the n.e. Olympic Mts. of Washington (CC). This dry, rain-shadow site is considerably west (or south, depending on the subspecies) of the known breeding range. Three active nests of Mountain Bluebirds near Naches Pass June 1, and three additional males in the area, established a first breeding record for King Co., Wash. (DBe). At least 105 pairs of W. Bluebirds, up from 51 last year, nested on Ft. Lewis, Wash., this season, and over 400 fledglings were banded (GW) The Corvallis, Ore., bluebird trail experienced its 2nd highest production of young in 10 years, with 180 fledglings (EE). Numerous Hermit Thrushes were heard, and one seen, this season in the Coast Range near Melrose, w. Douglas Co., Ore. (DI) This is n. and w. of the range for the species as described in Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*. The record of a Veery heard at Pitt Meadows, just e. of Vancouver, B.C., on July 8, 1982 (AB 36:1010) was not considered acceptable by the Vancouver Bird Records Committee, and should be deleted. In most summers since 1980 there has been a small northward movement of N. Mockingbirds. This season individuals were north to Oysterville, Pacific Co., Wash., June 15 (DW), Alaksen N.W.A., Delta, B.C., June 16-18 (Rob Butler *et al.*), Ucluelet, on the w. coast of V.I., June 17 (Eric Tull, Brook Glibbon), and Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I., July 19-23 (Al Burger *et al.*, ph. MF). A singing Red-eyed Vireo returned June 5+ to Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., near the s. edge of its breeding range w. of the Cascades (SH). Please delete the record of a Red-eyed Vireo

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found last summer w of Elsie, Clatsop Co, Ore (AB 39 955), at the request of the observer. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** sighted June 22 at Burnaby L. provided the 3rd record for the Vancouver, B.C., area (†Allen & Helen Poynter). The only previous spring record was June 19, 1979. An imm. male Am. Redstart was singing at Brookings, Curry Co., Ore., June 14 (SH, JG, JJ, Eric Pozzo). Two male Am. Redstarts were seen at McDiarmid Meadows, Manning P.P., possibly a potential breeding site, June 21 and July 6 (DK, SC, BMa, WW). At least one N. Waterthrush was at the Salt

Creek site, e. Lane Co., Ore. (see AB 37:1022) throughout the season (m.ob., *fide* SH), and a male was seen June 28 at nearby Gold Lake bog for the first sighting there (SG). Six N. Waterthrushes were noted June 21 in Manning P.P., on the w. edge of the species' breeding range in s. British Columbia (DK, SC, BMa

**S.A.**

Hermit Warblers were found regularly and were almost common along the e. side of the Olympic Mts. this year. Nine were seen June 2 at the Mt. Walker viewpoint, just s. of Quilcene, Jefferson Co. (JSk). One male was found on Fuzzy Top, in Capitol Forest, s.w. of Olympia (JBu). An extensive survey for the Univ. of Washington Burke Museum found Hermit Warblers at over a dozen sites between Shelton and Quilcene (Chris Wood). Most interestingly, a collected series of

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES -- Many more Lazuli Buntings than usual were found in Pierce Co. (BHT, GW), Thurston Co. (JSk), and Lewis Co. (CC), Wash., and in Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi). Among the numerous Lazulis near Roseburg, Ore., was a male **Indigo Bunting**, found in late July for a first Douglas County record (DI, MH, Meredith Jones). The Indigo was apparently paired with a female Lazuli and was observed feeding a fledgling bunting and a young Brown-headed Cowbird. Following last summer's discovery of breeding Brewer's Sparrows in e. Lane Co., Ore., the observation of 15+ imm Brewer's July 25-Aug. 3 at the nearby Diamond Lake sewage pond was not so surprising (†DI, DFi, MSa, MH). An equal number of Chipping Sparrows and about six Vesper Sparrows were also in the flock. Good breeding success for Vesper Sparrows was noted on San Juan I. (ML, FS) and Ft. Lewis (GW), Wash., but the species was unreported from southern V.I. *Apugetensis* White-crowned Sparrow was observed July 19 along the upper Skagit R., B.C. (DK, TC, DD). This is a seldom-reported location, but is not far from the regularly observed population at the s. end of Ross L., Wash. Brewer's Blackbirds were much more abundant than usual in the Toketee R.D., Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi) and in Pierce and Thurston counties, Wash. (GW). The

male "Baltimore" N. Oriole was last seen at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., June 13 (SG). Twenty N. Orioles, many more than usual, were present in Fort Steilacoom Park, near Tacoma, Wash. (CC). A first-year male was noted in a blackberry thicket on Mt. Dallas, San Juan I., July 30, for the first confirmed San Juan County record (ML, ph.). Elsewhere the species was well reported, from the e. side of southern V.I., the e. side of the Puget Sound trough, and in the Willamette Valley. An imm. male Hooded Oriole was present for a few days around June 6 at a feeder in Florence, Ore (Margaret Markley *et al.*), for the 2nd Lane County record. Red Crossbills were abundant in all reporting areas of the Region, coastal, lowland, and mountain. A few White-winged Crossbills remained with the Reds near Mt. Rainier (CC). A pair of White-wingeds was seen June 25 near White Pass, Wash. (G & WH), and four were observed June 29-July 4 at Gold L, e. Lane Co. (TM, SG). Pine Siskins also continued very abundant in Washington (BHT, GW, CC). Among few lowland breeding records of Evening Grosbeaks are the pair and four fledglings at a feeder in Olympia July 16+ (Ilse Allen) and an immature noted in Corvallis June 29 (E & ME).

INITIALED OBSERVERS, **with subregional editors in boldface** -- David Anderson, Scott Atkinson, David Bailey (DBa), Jock Beall (JBe), Dave Beaudette (DBe), Joe Buchanan (JBu), Richard Cannings, Sydney Cannings, Chris Chappell, Terry Cox, Dave Dunbar, Elsie & Merlin Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, **David Fix** (DFi), **Mike Force**, **Dave Fraser** (DFr), Jeff Gilligan, Vic Goodwill, Steve Gordon, **Bill Harrington-Tweit**, **Steve Heintz**, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Janet Hudson, **Eugene Hunn**, Matt Hunter, Dave Irons, Dale & Evelyn Jensen, Jim Johnson, Brian Kautesk, **Doug Kragh**, Paul Lehman, Mark Lewis, Bruce MacDonald (BMa), Hue & Jo Ann MacKenzie, Alan MacLeod, Tom Mickel, Bob Morse (BMo), **Harry Nehls**, Bob Paine, Ted Peterson, Roy Phillips, Michael Price, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J & RSA), Martha Sawyer (MSa), Owen Schmidt, Fred Sharpe, Michael Shepard (MSh), Jeff Skriletz (JSk), Dory & Stan Smith (D & SSm), Daphne Solecki (DSo), Steve Speich, Bob Sundstrom, Keith Taylor, **Terry Wahl**, George Walter, Wayne Weber, Dale Wesley, Bruce Whittington.

*End 1986*

1987

*Autumn Migration, 1986*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

Autumn in the Region continued the “on again off again” weather pattern of the summer. August was, almost without exception, unusually hot and dry. Most of the reporting localities had less than 0.25 inches of rain, some of them had none at all. September turned cool and wet after the first week. October temperatures were about normal but precipitation was again low, with the majority of localities receiving less than 0.5 inches, resulting in a very pleasant month. November conditions were about normal except for an unseasonable cold snap the second week, temporarily freezing some waters. Relatively little snow fell and it was mostly gone at the end of the period. The erratic weather did not appear to change the migration pattern, except as noted in the species accounts. Winter berry supply appeared sparse, at least in the Libby and Missoula, Montana, areas and at Spokane, Washington. Buteo numbers were impressive in some areas and the shorebird migration showed high numbers and diversity. A scarcity of "northern" finches seemed evident, although Evening Grosbeaks showed good numbers in a few localities.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- A Red-throated Loon on Pend Oreille L., at Sunnyside, Ida. Nov. 2 was the latilong's first; nearby was a Pacific Loon, vagrant in that latilong (PRS). A Yellow-billed Loon was photographed in the Pack R. Flats near Sunnyside Nov. 15 for the latilong's first fall record and its 2nd ever (PRS). Single Pacific Loons were sighted on Clear L., up the Tieton R., w. of Yakima, Wash., Oct. 26 (AS, SS); at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland, Wash., Nov. 16 (REW); and at Hat Rock S.P., e. of Umatilla, Ore. (TG, REW). In Idaho, four appeared at Massacre Rocks S.P., Power Co., Nov. 7, at least three were near Springfield (CHT), and another was sighted on American Falls Res., Nov. 13 (BJa). At least 30 Red-necked Grebes frequented Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida., Oct. 4 (JFG), and a vagrant was on the Snake R. at Clarkston Wash., Oct. 18 (IP, JP). Two sightings of this species were made at Richland, where it is very uncommon (TG, REW). Some 1500-2000 Eared Grebes spent September-November on Soap L., Grant Co., Wash. (RF). Moses Lake, Wash., had about 80 grebes identified as Clark's through October (RF), and the species was noted at Wallula, Wash., Oct. 4

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*From an earlier season: Yellow-billed Loon on Pend Oreille Lake, Idaho, March 1986. Photo/Paul Sieracki*

(DH, JJ, SM). Clark's were sighted at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., Sept. 13 (TC), and one was with W. Grebes at Hood River, Ore., Oct. 12 (DAA, DL, VT). Sightings of Am. White Pelicans were sparse. Eastern Washington reported a few; the largest numbers were 20 on the North Potholes, Grant Co., and 18 on the Columbia near Brewster. A stray Double-crested Cormorant showed up at Messiter, n. of Blue River, B.C., Oct. 26 (CR). Great Egrets numbered 50+ in the North Potholes Oct. 9 (RP, JT). Nesting pairs numbered 10 to 12 there this year (RF). A flock of 54 Snowy Egrets on the Snake R. below Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., indicated good nesting success in that area (CHT). A Snowy Egret along the Coeur d' Alene R., Kootenai Co., was n. Idaho's first (JN). Cattle Egret sightings continued to increase, with birds in the Shuswap and Vernon, B.C., areas (PR, SR); at Clarkston (MK *et al.*), near Mazama (WM, BS), Rock Island (BJ, CV), Richland (REW), and Walla Walla, Wash. (CS, JJ, SM), and near Umapine, Ore. (DH, JJ, SM). A disabled one picked up near Eureka, Mont., made a latilong first (\*Montana State Univ.--WW). A flock of 60 was near Springfield, Ida., Aug. 11; they nested at the e. end of American Falls Res. and have been increasing slowly for several years in that area (CHT). Single Green-backed Herons appeared at L. Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 29 (BJ); at College Place, Wash., Sept. 6 (SM, DH, JJ, JTo); near Yakima Aug. 25 (BB); and at Fields, Ore., Sept. 18 (CM). Rare sightings were of an adult and two imm Black-crowned Night-Herons at Lewiston, Ida. (WH, C.B.).

WATERFOWL -- The early November cold snap was believed responsible for the grounding of 1300 Tundra Swans--around 500 is normal--at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. Three Trumpeter Swans stopped at the Albion, Wash., sewage pond Nov. 19 (JP, IP, CVV). A few Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from s. interior British Columbia, e. Washington, and Idaho. About 12 Ross' Geese again appeared at Metcalf N.W.R. (*vide* CP) and two were with Snow Geese at the entrance to American Falls Res. (CHT). Canada Goose numbers at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., peaked at nearly 3000 in late October. The early November freezeup drove out the 22,000 Mallards at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., but milder temperatures and rain created open water, causing a return of 28,500, the highest count since 1978. Freezeup Nov. 29-30 then forced most waterfowl out again. The November storm brought a peak of 20,000 ducks to Metcalf N.W.R. Peak numbers for some of the waterfowl on n. Idaho's lakes were: Canada Goose 3474, Wood Duck 620, Mallard 10,205, Am. Wigeon 9675, Canvasback 900, Redhead 16,500, and Lesser Scaup 12,300 (I.F.G.). More than 60 Wood Ducks fed under Russian olive trees along Winchester Wasteway Wasteway, w. of Moses Lake, Wash. (JT). Impressive were the 75 found at Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida., Sept. 22 (JFG). A pair of Am. Black Ducks was identified near Rexburg, Ida., Nov. 9 & 16 (DHU). A rare visitor to Hood River Co., Ore., was a male N. Pintail at Cascade Locks Nov. 11 (DAA). Turnbull N.W.R. counted 1240 Gadwalls Sept. 19. The only Eur. Wigeons reported were single birds at Odell, Ore. (DAA), on Patterson L., Okanogan Co., Wash. (LHo, WM), and at Walla Walla (SM). A notable concentration of 5000 Canvasbacks, accompanied by several thousand other ducks, was on the Wanapum Dam pool of the Columbia River near Vantage, Wash., Nov. 14 (RF). A wounded Greater Scaup found at American Falls Res., Nov. 2 (KS, CHT) and one on nearby Springfield Ponds Nov. 18 (KS, JTi) furnished the only reports. Two Harlequin Ducks were spotted at Fontaine Flats along Highway 410 n.w. of Yakima Aug. 18 (BR) and a female was on the Salmon R. near Shoup, Ida., Nov. 8 (BJ). Springfield Ponds hosted another female Harlequin Nov. 15-23 (CW, CHT, m.ob.) and up to four Oldsquaw Nov. 14-27 (EC, WHS, CHT). Two to three Oldsquaw appeared below Dry Falls Dam near Coulee City, Wash., in early

November (WHa, S.A.S., JA) and one was at Bend, Ore., Nov. 19-27 (TC, CM). A sewage pond at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco, Ida., attracted an imm. Surf Scoter Oct. 24 (EC, TR, BV) and seven were on Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 19 (JA). The Springfield Ponds had one Oct. 25 (CHT *et al.*) as did Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida. (JFG), and Clear L., w. of Yakima, Oct. 26 (AS, SS). A few White-winged Scoters appeared in w. Montana, s. Idaho, and e. Washington. Hooded Merganser numbers reached 195 at Turnbull Oct. 31 (JB). Three reports of single Red-breasted Mergansers came from the Walla Walla-Kennewick-Richland, Wash., area (TG, REW). Ruddy Ducks numbered 3000-5000 on Soap L. and Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., October to early November (RF).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES -- The Frenchtown Valley w. of Missoula had a movement of 40 Turkey Vultures Sept. 12 (DHo). A very late Osprey was at Vantage, Wash., Nov. 24 (REW). Lincoln County, Mont., had Bald Eagle sightings believed to represent 73 individuals, as early as Aug. 16 but mostly in November (DHe). Northern Harrier and Swainson's, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged hawk numbers in the Walla Walla area were "tremendous," with total daily counts of over 200. An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at Paisley, Ore., Sept. 25 was possibly the first for Lake County (ME, EE). Falcon sightings, some probably duplicates were: Merlin 10, Peregrines ix, Gyrfalcon two, and Prairie 17, plus "several" and "common". Gallinaceous birds had a good year in the Kamloops, B.C., area but were down in numbers around Walla Walla. Ring-necked Pheasants were scarce in the Flathead Valley, n.w. Montana, supposedly resulting from an increased raccoon population and reduced cover from the clearing of rights-of-way (JR). Fifteen Wild Turkeys with young were sighted at Wenas Cr., n.e. of Yakima (EH). By far the largest group of migrating Sandhill Cranes seen on the ground was of 600 in Douglas County, Wash., Sept. 25 (RF). Eight Sandhill Cranes fed in an oat field near Windermere, B.C., Sept. 21 (LH), and two adults were seen in a field near Metcalf Sept. 17 (C & SC)--a pair had raised one chick there this summer (CH). A single bird was at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, Wash., Sept. 13 (B.M.A.S.), and 27 were sighted there Sept. 28 (JFG). One at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida., made a rare sighting (LDN). At a ranch near Libby, Mont., one

fed with domestic turkeys for a week in October (DHe). All Sandhill and Whooping cranes had departed Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., by Oct. 10. Foster parent Sandhills there fledged only two Whooper chicks this year from 15 eggs. Predators were believed to have caused the losses. Nine older Whoopers summered there, but migrants stopping in Colorado numbered at least 24 by October's end (EB).

SHOREBIRDS -- Black-bellied Plovers were moving through the Region between Aug. 14 and Oct. 26. The greatest numbers

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sighted were 52 at Springfield Oct 26 (CHT) and 75 at the Walla Walla R. delta Oct. 19 (DG,A S). Six Black-bellied Plovers and one Lesser Golden-Plover stopped at the Missoula, Mont., pulp mill Sept. 12 (DHo). One or two Lesser Golden-Plovers appeared Aug. 31-Oct. 11 at the Walla Walla delta (BB, DG, TG, AS, SS, REW). Near Springfield they appeared Sept. 7-Nov. 2 with 15 on the latter date (CHT). Other November records were of one at Kamloops B.C., Nov. 2 (SRo) and one near College Place Nov. 14 (KK). Kootenai N.W.R. had a peak of 15 Semipalmated Plovers Sept. 15 (RDC). A few were observed at Springfield, Clarkston the Walla Walla delta, and Kamloops. A few Marbled Godwits were sighted at the Walla Walla delta (TG, REW); at Spangle, Wash. (CVV); at Hart Mt. Nat'l Antelope Ref., Harney Co., Ore. (WHP); and at Adel, Ore. (SSu, EE, ME, D & CM). Five at Kootenai N.W.R., Sept. 15 added the species to the refuge list (RDC). A Ruddy Turnstone at Kamloops Sept. 2-6 was the first ever there and the 2nd for the latilong (RH, EM, RR). One of this species, very rare in the Helena, Mont., area, was seen at L. Helena Sept. 6 (DL, GH). One appeared at the Walla Walla delta Sept. 7 (REW) and two were there Sept.13 (TG). A breeding-plumaged Red Knot was at Springfield July 31, and two were there about Aug. 2 (DT). A few Sanderlings were sighted at the Walla Walla delta (BB, AS), Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. (JA), Malheur N.W.R. (MA, EE, ME, D & CM), and Missoula(DHo). Up to 18 stopped at the Springfield Ponds (CHT). Four Semipalmated

Sandpipers were reported at Fortine, Mont., Aug. 20 (WW) and one was at Kamloops Sept. 5 (RR). Hood River had a Least Sandpiper Oct. 25; the species is rare in the county (DAA). Missoula had 165 Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 12 (DHo) and the species was locally abundant in Washington's Columbia Basin, with the highest number, 60, at the Walla Walla delta (REW). Two were discovered in an alpine meadow at Jasper N.P., Alta., Aug. 1 (RCB) and one fed with a Lesser Yellowlegs on Kootenay R. Flats, Kootenay N.P., B.C., where it is very rare, Aug. 8 (LH). A few Baird's were noted at Spangle, Wash. (C.B.) and Turnbull, and one was seen at Malheur (MA). Seven Pectoral Sandpipers along the Pend Oreille R., Bonner Co., Ida., were noteworthy (BM). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the Yakima R. delta Oct. 12, was Woodley's 2nd there in 20 years. A very few Stilt Sandpipers were reported for Kamloops (RR), the Walla Walla delta (DG, AS, TG, REW), the Yakima delta (REW), Reardan, Wash. (JA), Spangle (C.B.), Kootenai N.W.R. (RDC), and Springfield (CHT). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Riske Creek, B.C., Sept. 12 (PR), and at Kamloops Sept. 14 (RH) were decided rarities. Single Short-billed Dowitchers were identified at Missoula (DHo), Reardan (JA), and the Walla Walla delta (DG, AS), and a few were noted at Springfield (DT, CHT) and Bend (TC). Some 400-500 Red-necked Phalaropes were on Soap L., late August to early September (RF). A notable find was of two Red Phalaropes at the Walla Walla delta Sept. 13-14 (TG, REW).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was found at Wallowa L., Wallowa Co., Ore., Sept. 15 (Jbu). Single Franklin's Gulls appeared at the Walla Walla delta and on the Columbia R. to the north, and at Spokane, Wash. Kootenai N.W.R. had two, as well as two Bonaparte's. A very few Bonaparte's were sighted in e. Oregon and Washington. Metcalf had one (C & SC). Up to seven Mew Gulls appeared at Hood River in November; they are regular fall migrants there (DAA). The only others were single birds at Vernon, B.C., Nov. 27 (PR), and at Tumalo Res., providing a first record for Deschutes Co., Ore. (TC). About 180 Ring-billed Gulls lingered at Libby Dam. Herring Gulls appear to be regular fall migrants at Hood River (DAA). One showed up near Asotin, Wash., Oct. 25 (C.B.) and many imm. Herring Gulls at Springfield were accompanied by an imm. Thayer's (CHT). Vernon

had two Thayer's Oct. 11+ (PR). The Pack R. Flats had an imm. Thayer's and an imm. Glaucous Nov. 23, along with a large increase in Herring Gulls (PRS). A W. Gull, apparently the same one that has returned for several years at American Falls Dam, was back at its usual place on tire floats (CHT). Single Glaucous-winged Gulls were seen at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R. e. of Pasco and at Richland. Up to ten Glaucous-wingeds were seen along the Columbia R. in Hood River County (DAA). A lone Sabine's Gull frequented Banks L. in September (S.A.S., JA) and an imm Sabine's was identified at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Beaverhead Co., Mont., Sept. 10 (MCN) for the first in that area. A Caspian Tern at Kamloops Sept. 12 was unusual (Silo) Kootenai N.W.R. had 25 Corn. Terns Sept. 4 (RDC) and three at the Walla Walla R. delta were noteworthy (AS). An ad Arctic Tern at American Falls was s. Idaho's first (CHT, KM).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- At least 15 Com. Barn-Owls were found at Ice Harbor Dam Nov. 8. A Flammulated Owl, rare at Malheur N.W.R., was sighted there Sept. 27 (TC, O.F.O.). One at Turnbull N.W.R. added the species to the refuge list (RW). The only Snowy Owls reported were single birds near Moses Lake and at Rathdrum and Moscow, Ida. A rare sighting was of a N. Hawk-Owl at the latter place Nov. 30 (EJL). A Burrowing Owl at Kamloops made a very rare sighting, for the species has been virtually extirpated there (DJ). Noteworthy Barred Owl sightings were of single birds near Elk City, Ida (KC, KH), near Asotin (C.B.), and along Mill Cr., e. of Walla Walla (RL, CPf, m.ob.). A few Great Gray Owl sightings were obtained in n. and e. Idaho and at Rock Cr. near Ovando, Mont. The species nested in the Sunriver, Ore., area, the farthest north in the Oregon Cascades they have been found (TC). A Long-eared Owl was found in the Sunriver area, where the species is very rare (TC). A Boreal Owl at Fish Cr., Mineral Co., Mont., Nov. 1 was notable (TRy). A N. Saw-whet Owl was sighted appropriately on Halloween at Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, Roberts, Ida., for apparently the first record there (SRE). Rare was a sighting of one at Malheur N.W.R. (TC). Vaux's Swifts roosted in numbers in excess of 3000 in the chimney on Whitman College campus, Walla Walla (SM). An Anna's Hummingbird was at Vernon throughout the fall period (FP, JQ). Four imm. Broad-tailed

Hummingbirds visited Klamath Falls, Ore., feeders Sept. 1 (B & CY). At least one dozen Lewis' Woodpeckers were at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., and another dozen were at Malheur N.W R, Sept. 25-28 (EE, ME, D & CM). Tranquille, B.C., had 22 Aug 26 (CR), and about 15 were sighted n. of Brewster (*fide* RF) Ten were seen in Manashtash Canyon w. of Ellensburg, Wash, Aug. 23, and 10 along the American R., Yakima Co., Wash, Sept. 7 (EH). Niarada, Mont., had four Aug. 20 (EH). Very few were reported elsewhere. A few Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported. Single White-headed Woodpeckers were sighted in 3 localities. A Pileated Woodpecker s. of Helena Sept. 1 was noteworthy, as the species is very rare e. of the Continental Divide in that area (LMc). An imm. Least Flycatcher was identified in the hand at Hart Mt., Sept. 21 (WHP). A Black Phoebe was at Market Lake for Idaho's 2nd record (SFR). A very late Say's Phoebe appeared s. of The Dalles, Ore., Nov. 28 (BW). September 27, was a very late date for a flock of over 50 Violet-green Swallows over the Spokane R. at Spokane (JA).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS -- One or two Blue Jays appeared in the Vernon vicinity in early November (PR), and one was at Nakusp, B.C., Oct. 14-16 (GD). Single birds showed up in Idaho at Idaho Falls Oct. 26 (C & ES) and near Pocatello Oct. 18 (CHT, m.ob.). One or two visited feeders at Stevensville, Mont., all fall (BD, CP), and one frequented a feeder at Eastport, Ida., in late October (JM). Remarkable was the sighting of a Scrub Jay at Twisp, Wash., Sept. 8, the first for the latilong and for n. Washington (DJo). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were showing up in unusual numbers in the lowlands in every state and province of the Region. Particularly notable were groups of up to five at feeders in Bend (TC). One in the Ketchurn-Sun Valley, Ida., vicinity provided a rare treat for birdwatchers (WHS). At least 25 Bushtits were observed at Hood River Oct. 4 (DAA). Bewick's Wren

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appear to be well established in the Asotin vicinity. Single N Mockingbirds visited Malheur Sept 13 (TC)

and Hart Mt, Aug 22-29 (WHP). One was seen near Minidoka N.W.R., Sept. 1 (WHS), and another was at Stevensville in late October (CP). The earliest sighting of Bohemian Waxwings was in the Selkirk Mts., Boundary Co., Ida., Oct. 15 (PRS)T. he largest number reported was 3000 at Vernon Nov. 22 (PR). A very late Orange-crowned Warbler was at Nakusp Nov. 16 (GD). An imm. Magnolia Warbler at Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., Sept. 13 was apparently e. Washington's first (CVV, m.ob.). One visited American Falls Sept. 14 (CHT). A male Cape May Warbler in Colorado Gulch w. of Helena Sept. 13 was Montana's 4th and the latilong's first (G & NN). Another Cape May at Malheur Sept. 13-18 was Oregon's 6th (KT, TW). Malheur also had Oregon's first **Blackburnian Warbler** Sept. 15-18 (CDL, CM, DPa) and a Blackpoll Warbler was there Sept. 27 (TC). A **Blackpoll Warbler** at the Davenport, Wash., cemetery Sept. 20 was apparently the state's 2nd (JA). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed on Asotin Cr., w. of Asotin, Oct. 25 (JP, DP). An imm. N. Waterthrush was mist netted at Hart Mt., Sept. 3 (WHP).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES -- A College Place feeder enticed an imm. Black-headed Grosbeak to stay into late November, remarkably late (SM). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks near Pocatello, Aug. 1 was suspected of having nested nearby (CHT). Sighting of a Lark Sparrow along the Lincton Mt. road near Milton-Freewater, Ore., Aug. 31 was unusual (DH, SM). A well-described Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash., Sept. 14 provided the state's first sighting (WH, MK, JP, DP, CVV). A Swamp Sparrow, no details supplied, was also reported at Sullivan L., Sept. 14 (MK *et al.*). A White-throated Sparrow, Crook County's first, was seen in Prineville, Ore, Sept. 26 (CSt). Golden-crowned Sparrow was described for the Hart Mt. area as an "occasional spring migrant, common fall migrant, and to this date, unrecorded as a winter resident" (WHP). A sprinkling of Harris' Sparrows appeared, the first Oct 10 at Missoula (PLW), the others in November. Twelve to 15 Lapland Longspurs [seemingly early for such numbers) dropped in on the summit of Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash., Sept 7 (LT). Eastern Washington had the lion's share of Snow Bunting sightings with over 400 between Reardan and Davenport Nov. 16 (JA). This species also appeared at Frenchtown near

Missoula, where it is not common (PLW). The only Bobolink reported was one at Kamloops Sept. 4 (SRo). A late Yellowheaded Blackbird was sighted near Wapato, Wash., Nov. 27 (BB, AS). Vernon had a Rusty Blackbird Oct. 11 (PR), and 2 sightings came from the vicinity of Glacier N.P., Mont. (*vide* JR). A few Brewer's Blackbirds lingered in the Eureka vicinity as late as Nov. 29 (DHe). A Com. Grackle visited a Pocatello feeder in late November (EF). The earliest appearance of Rosy Finches was at Smith Cr, Boundary Co, Ida., Oct. 20 (PRS) A few small groups were reported elsewhere. A few Pine Grosbeaks appeared, with the southernmost sighting between Anatone and Fields Springs S.P., Nov. 22 (JP, DP, CVV). Purple Finches were reported at Libby (DHe); Hell's Canyon N.R.A., s.e. of Imnaha, Ore. (JB), Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash. (CD, DG, AS); and in the Klamath Basin area, Ore. (SJ). Few Red Crossbills were reported, the largest number being 67 at Crystal L. in the Snowy Mts. of c. Montana (LM). Common Redpolls had appeared only at Fortine (WW) and at Tungsten Mt., Boundary Co., Ida., (PRS) by the end of the period.

CORRIGENDUM -- AB 40:501. The Cape May Warbler was photographed by Tom Crabtree.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, David A. Anderson, Merle Archie, Eugene Barney, June Bergquist, Bob Boekelheide, Blue Mountain Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), Robert C. Bradley, Joe Buchanan (JBu), Chuck & Suzi Campbell, Canyon Birders (C.B), Keith Carlson, Eddie Chew, Tom Crabtree, Bob Daniels, Gary Davidson, Rich Del Carlo, Christina Duchesne, Elsie & Merlin Eltzroth, Edson Fichter, Ron Friesz, John F. Gatchet, Denny Granstrand, Tony Greager, Warren Hall (WHa), Larry Halverson, Kent Henderson, Cal Henry, Winnie Hepburn, Della Hermsmeyer (DHe), Dave Herr, L. Hoffman (LHo), Denver Holt (DHo), George Holton, Rick Howie, Eugene Hunn, Donnell Hunter (DHu), Idaho Fish & Game Dept. (I.F.G.), Bert Jahn, Bryan Jamison (BJa), Judy Johnson, Don Jole (DJo), Stuart Johnston, Doug Jury, Ken Knittle, Merlene Koliner, Earl J. Larrison, Don LeHeup (DLe), Ruth Lepiane, C. D. Littlefield, Donna Lusthoff, Dave & Charlene MacManiman, Larry Malone, Eric McAlary, Lawrence McEvoy (LMc), W. Meyers, Craig Miller, Bob Moate, Kendrick Moholt,

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*The Autumn Season, 1986*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

**/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Bill Harrington-Tweit**



The season began warm, dry and clear, with nearly continuous light winds from the north through August to mid-September enabling migratory passerines to depart early. Another dry, clear two weeks with continuous northerly winds in early October moved out most of the remaining migrants. In the interim between these two favorable air flows, extraordinary concentrations of passerine migrants were noted September 26-30 in Discovery Park, on the shores of Puget Sound in Seattle. After October 25, heavy rain, one to two inches above normally high levels for fall, hindered field effort, and presumably migration. There was a notable irruption of Clark's Nutcrackers and Mountain Chickadees probably related to cone crop failure in the Cascades, and with Northern Pygmy-Owls possibly being affected as well. Two exciting northern visitors, Slaty-backed Gull and Steller's Eider, generated much travel time by eager observers. The eider was accessible and cooperative and was seen by multitudes, the gull was not. Record numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Ruffs shared the same general direction of origin. Most vagrants this season originated to the east of the Region--Clark's Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit, Forster's Tern, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Waterthrush, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, and record numbers of Bank Swallows and Harris' Sparrows. Their presence here was at least correlated with the westerly airflow

from the generally stationary high pressure zone present for about two months just east of us.

ABBREVIATIONS -- V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES--Major southward movement of Red-throated and Pacific loons was noted Sept. 19 on the Oregon coast (TC, HN) and in the Vancouver, B.C., area (JI). Subsequent high counts were of about 1000 Red-throateds at Reifel I., B.C., Oct. 7 (JI) and 2000+ off Ocean Shores, Wash., Oct. 18 (DP, JEr). The usual few Yellow-billed Loons were found, all Nov. 11-22: singles off Orcas I., San Juan Co., Wash. (John Wingfield), on Beaver Harbour, V.I. (MF, WW, Hue & JoAnne MacKenzie), and on Burrard Inlet, Vancouver, B.C. (*vide* DK). The 25 Eared Grebes found on Cordova Bay, V.I., Nov.30 (Vic Goodwill) made a large concentration. High counts elsewhere were of only two per locality, and only two were seen all season in the Vancouver, B.C., area (MP, FW, Allen Poynter). An adult and two half-grown young **Western Grebes** found Aug. 29+ in a brackish marsh off Reifel I., s.w. B.C., indicated probable nesting in that area (JI). All other known nesting localities in British Columbia are on the s. edge of the interior of the province. Single **Clark's Grebes** were noted Oct. 13-26 in Victoria, V.I. (†B & MMc *et al.*) for the first confirmed record for the province, and Oct. 30 at Tillamook, Ore. (†BO). We received reports of 14 offshore trips this fall, Aug. 16 to Nov. 8, with 6 out of Westport, Wash., to Grays Canyon (TW), 5 from Ucluelet, V.I. (MF), 2 out of Newport, Ore. (HN, SH), and one each from Garibaldi and Manzanita, both Tillamook Co., Ore. (TC). Black-footed Albatross numbers were slightly lower than usual, with the high count of 80 seen off Westport Sept. 13. Northern Fulmars continued last summer's trend of higher than usual numbers, especially off V.I. The high counts were of about 1000 out of Ucluelet Aug. 31, 428 off Westport Sept. 14, and 50+ out of Newport Sept. 17, and a surprising 200+ were seen from the north jetty of the Siuslaw R., Nov. 16 (SH). The 407 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport Aug. 23 and 45 off Garibaldi Sept. 7 represented usual numbers for these areas, but only one to three found on 4 trips out of Ucluelet was unusually low. Hordes of Sooties, a few dozen Buller's, 3 scattered sightings of Short-taileds, and 4 of Flesh-

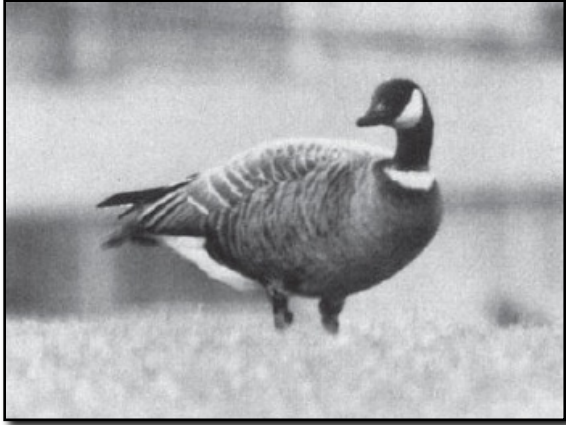
footeds were usual numbers for these shearwaters. The 450 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen over Grays Canyon Sept. 13 provided the 2nd-highest fall count there in 18 years (TW). Elsewhere, 120 were counted out of Ucluelet Sept. 28, and all other reports were of fewer than 27 birds. A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen Sept.14 off Westport was later than normal. Two onshore sightings of this species were most surprising: one Oct. 13 over Cowichan Bay, V.I. (†Colin Butt, †Dave Aldcroft) and one in heavy fog Nov. 2 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (†Fred Bird). Brown Pelicans moved N this season in their now-usual large numbers. Apparently none reached British Columbia, but 500 were counted along the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 20 (CC),

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with 10+ still there Oct. 27-31 (PM, WW). Late reports were of 25+ at Ocean Shores, Wash., Nov. 12 (B & GR), and two at Florence, Ore., Nov. 16 (SH). Northward movement of Brandt's Cormorants was marked by the passage of 200/hr off Cannon Beach, Ore., Aug. 31 (DF), 1000 at the n. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 20 (CC), 1500 off San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 21 (ML), and 3000+ at Cattle Pt., Oak Bay, V.I., Oct. 3 (B. Gates, *fide* MMc). Great Egrets also moved northward, earlier and in greater numbers than usual. Forty-four were at Gardiner, Douglas Co., Ore., Aug. 1 (*fide* M. Sawyer). One reached a regular wintering area at the mouth of the Palix R., on Willapa Bay, Wash., by Aug. 8 (Evelyn Peaslee), and one was north to Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 12 (TW). Thereafter reports of one to three came from 7 Washington localities, of one to six at 9 Oregon localities, plus 12 on Sauvie I., Ore., Sept. 22 (*fide* HN), 40 at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., Ore., Aug. 31-Oct. 2 (DF, SH), and 14 at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Nov. 14 (BO). A **Snowy Egret** graced Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Nov. 1-8 (†TB, m.ob.) for the 4th record from w. Washington. Another was seen Nov. 19 on the Koksilah R. estuary, near Duncan, for the 2nd record from V.I. (†Barbara & Roy Begg). Following last year's absence of Cattle Egrets, this year one or more were in Delta, B.C., Oct. 10-Nov. 9 (Allan Schutz, GA, JI), 25 were counted Oct. 30+ at 4 Oregon localities (Florence, Siletz Bay, Sauvie I., and Clatskanie), and at

least two were in Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in s.w. Washington in late November (*fide* Irene Bachhuber). The first Black-crowned Night-Herons arrived Aug. 23 at their Skagit flats, Wash., winter roost site (Tom Madsen, *fide* Idie Ulsh). One arrived at the roost site on Reifel I., B.C., Sept. 16, and four there Nov. 22+ was the highest count yet for that roost (JI). An imm. *Plegadis* ibis, presumably a **White-faced Ibis**, was present Nov. 2+ at Beaver Harbour, near Port Hardy, at the n.w. end of V.I. (†WW, ph. MF, m.ob.), for only the 6th or 7th record for British Columbia.

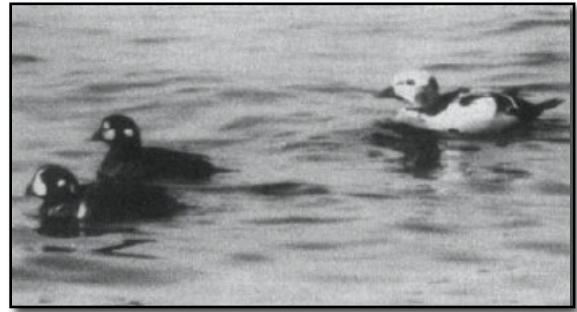
SWANS THROUGH FALCONS -- The first six Tundra Swans of the season flew on S over Ocean Shores, Wash., Oct. 18 (DP, JEr). Arrival was otherwise in early November. Trumpeter Swan arrival was marked by seven birds at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., Oct. 30 (JI) and the high count of 100 was there Nov. 29 (JI). Single ad Trumpeters were south to Tillamook, Ore., Nov. 12 (HN) and Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., Nov. 14 (ph. BO). The Vancouver Island Mute Swan population continues healthy with counts of 50-60 on Cowichan Bay in mid-August (Jerry & Gladys Anderson; WW). The first Greater White-fronted Geese noted were 16 over Naselle, Pacific Co., Wash. (Alan Richards) and six on Sauvie I., Ore. (Jim Johnson), both Aug. 25. Widespread arrival was as usual in early September, with 70 near Salem Sept. 13 the high count (BB). Near-daily counts of Snow Geese at Reifel I. in the Fraser R. delta of s.w. British Columbia showed 1000 present Oct. 8, 4000 Oct. 12, 12,000 Oct. 17, and the season's high of 15,000 there Oct. 25 (JI). A first-year Emperor Goose, still a scarce visitor here, was present on Post Office L., n. of Vancouver, Wash., Oct. 27-Nov. 10 (Larry Price; WC) and at nearby Ridgefield N.W.R., Nov. 26 (SS). Another was seen Nov. 23+ at Ankeny N.W.R. near Salem, Ore., (Joe Silvera, †JA). Escaped and now free-flying Barnacle Geese reappeared at Star L., Kent, Wash., in mid-October and at Ankeny N.W.R., Nov. 8 (†JA, *fide* BB). Among the numerous Canada Geese noted this fall were seven "Dusky" Canadas (*occidentalis*) with red neck bands Nov. 16 & 24 on southern V.I. (Alan MacLeod; Brent Diakow), and an "Aleutian" Canada Goose (*leucopareia*) Oct. 22+ in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†BK, ph.).



*Canada Goose, apparently of the Aleutian race, at Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 26, 1986. Photo/Paul Yorke.*

A neck-banded "Cackling" Canada (*minima*) seen Nov. 1 at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (DL) had been banded as an adult on the Yukon R. delta in 1985 and spent last winter at Finley N.W.R., Ore. Single Am. Black Ducks were found at 3 Victoria locations (J & RSa), and in Beach Grove, Delta, B.C. (BK), in addition to the 12+ regularly found at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (m.ob.). Two imm. male Tufted Ducks were found Oct. 18-Nov. 2 on Green L., Seattle (†EH, BS) and one remained into early December. A female Tufted Duck noted Nov. 9+ at Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., was believed on the basis of plumage irregularities to be the same female present there last winter (†BK *et al.*). Both these localities have become regular wintering sites for Tufted Ducks in the last few years. A female King Eider seen closely Oct. 29 off the w. side of Lopez I., San Juan Co., Wash., provided about the 12<sup>th</sup> state record (†ML). A male **Steller's Eider** was seen Oct. 18 at Pt. Wilson, Port Townsend, Wash., in company with a small group of Harlequin Ducks (Alex & Charlene Ferkovich, ph.). The bird was independently rediscovered Nov. 2 (Hank Vail) and was seen almost daily thereafter for the first record for the state (m.ob., ph. Don Johnson). Migratory gatherings of Barrow's Goldeneyes were of 82 noted Oct. 6 on the sewage ponds at Diamond L., e. Lane Co., Ore. (DF) and 1230 on Capitol L., Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27 (Glen & Wanda Hoge). Numbers gradually decreased at both sites over the next few weeks. The Turkey Vulture migration was again thoroughly monitored on southern V.I. (*vide* MMc) and in Ashland, Ore. (MMo). Total counts were 1260+ on V.I. and 841 in Ashland.

Interestingly, the time of peak movement on southern V.I. was Sept. 21-26, with 200-335 per day, and Sept. 19-28 in Ashland, 400+ mi to the south. These birds must follow the river valleys westward (which would account for the relatively large numbers for this far north), gather at the coast, and move south in late September. There were 28 Black-shouldered Kites reported this season from 8 Oregon locations and 10 from 4 Washington sites, which is now about normal. Concentrations included 11 adults in the Ashland area (MMo) and seven near the Raymond,



*Male Steller's Eider (with two Harlequin Ducks) at Port Townsend, Wash., Oct. 18, 1986. First record for Washington. Photo/Alex Ferkovitch, Jr.*

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Pacific Co, Wash, airport (WW, m.ob.) The only immature noted was at Ocean Shores, Wash., Oct. 21 (Mike Carmody). Our rough Accipiter index showed 100 Sharp-shinned reports, 98 Cooper's, and 16 N. Goshawks, for normal numbers. A similar tally for falcons totalled 85 Peregrines (including 14 imm.) and 87 Merlins, likewise normal numbers for the last few years.

SHOREBIRDS -- Forty Lesser Golden-Plovers at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 15 (TW) and 50 there Sept. 10 (DH) were the high counts. Separation of the forms *dominica* and *fulva* has received more attention each fall, but is still not enough to sort out the migration patterns. Only 19 plovers were specifically reported as *fulva*, and 30 as *dominica*, and for only half of all these was age reported. Examination of available specimens



from the Pacific Northwest indicates that juveniles of both forms are present here, but that almost all adults taken in the fall have been *fulva* (DP). Two Snowy Plovers were north to Dungeness Spit, Wash., July 31, near where six had been seen July 6, but no evidence of breeding was noted (Roger Hoffman). The 250 Semipalmated Plovers seen Aug. 10 along Boundary Bay (BK) furnished a high count for s.w. British Columbia. About 400 Semipalmateds were found Aug. 6 at Tillamook, Ore. (HN) and Aug. 22 near Waldport, Lincoln Co., Ore. (R. Lowe, *vide* HN). On Sept. 8 a **Piping Plover** was noted among the Semipalmateds at Manzanita, Tillamook Co., Ore. (†TC), for the first record for Oregon and the Region. The same bird had apparently been seen there on Sept. 6 by another observer, but not positively identified. Single Am. Avocets, rare migrants here, were found Sept. 5-Dec. 4 at Iona I. (†MF, m.ob.) and Sept. 6-12 at Jericho Park (†BK, m.ob.). From Sept. 14 to Oct. 4, two were present at Iona I (Mark Gawns, Bill Crins, m.ob.). Two Am. Avocets were also found Sept. 27 on the Nisqually N.W.R. (Marty Hanson) and Aug. 13 on Plat I Res., Douglas Co., Ore. (DI, *vide* SH). The Willet noted Oct. 2-3 at Cattle Pt., Oak Bay (KT, J & RSa), furnished only the 12th record for V.I. Twenty-two Solitary Sandpipers reported were slightly more than usual. An interesting sighting of a Wandering Tattler occurred Aug. 23 about 12 mi up the Hamma Hamma R. on the s.e. slope of the Olympic Mts., Mason Co., Wash. (Bill Reichert). Two Wandering Tattlers at Ocean Shores Oct. 18 (Dr, JEr) and one still there Nov. 12 (B & GR) were very late. A **Hudsonian Godwit** spotted Sept. 29 with a Marbled Godwit at Grice Bay, Pacific Rim P.P., provided only the 5th record for V.I. (DK). Another Hudsonian was seen Oct. 4-5 at the end of 112th St. on Boundary Bay (†BK, †MF, MB). Bar-tailed Godwits were noted Aug. 8 on Boundary Bay (†MF, GD), for the 4th Vancouver, B.C., record, and Oct. 11 in Tacoma (†TB) for the first Washington record away from the outer coast. Single Marbled Godwits Aug. 27 at Blackie Spit (†David Martin) and Sept. 4-6 at Beach Grove (LK, JI) provided the only reports this season of this scarce migrant in the Vancouver, B.C., area. Elsewhere, 44 were seen on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Aug. 31 (B & GR, JG) and 70-100 were at nearby Tokeland Oct. 27 to late November (PM; Paul Meehan-Martin, *vide* CC). Despite the high numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers recorded at Iona I. last July, only a few remained into August. A total of 36 Semipalmateds was reported, with seven of these on

Oregon's outer coast, four in the Willamette Valley and on Sauvie I., six around Puget Sound, and none on the Washington outer coast. Three at Reifel I., B.C., Sept. 20 (JI) were the latest. Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported. Fifty at Sauvie I., Ore., Sept. 14 (RSm, *vide* HN) was the high count, and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 18-19 (Dr, JEr, B & GR) and three near Waldport, Ore., Oct. 19 (DL, VT) were later than usual. More Sharp-tailed Sandpipers than ever were reported. All were found Sept. 5-Oct. 9, almost all were in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and 14 noted Oct. 4 on Reifel I. provided the high count (MF *et al.*). Single Curlew Sandpipers were found Sept. 15 on Manzanita Beach, Tillamook Co., Ore. (WC, photo) and Sept. 23 at the S.J.C.R. (†HN, JEv), for about the 7th and 8th records for Oregon. Fourteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted, Aug 22-Sept. 30. This count is back down to the long-term average, following last year's record 66+. At least 21 Ruffs were counted, a new Regional record. Three were at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 6-23, four were in Washington, and the remainder is a conservative estimate of numerous sightings in the Vancouver, B.C., area, mostly by JI at Reifel I. The 400 Long-billed Dowitchers on Sauvie I., Sept. 9 (HN) and 600 on Reifel I., Oct. 4 (MF, WW *et al.*) were high counts. The usual few Red Phalaropes were found with Red-necked phalaropes on the pelagic trips, and a small crash in late November yielded counts of 150-200 at the Siuslaw R. mouth (SH) and at Coos Bay, Ore. (Craig Miller, *vide* HN).

**JAEGERS THROUGH AUKLETS** -- On an exceptionally clear and calm Aug. 23 an all-time high count of 190 Pomarine Jaegers was noted northwest out of Westport (TW). Trips over the same route the weeks before and after found only 20-35, also slightly above average tallies. Parasitic Jaegers were widely scattered as usual at shoreline locations. Eleven at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Aug. 31 (B & GR) and seven at Pt. Roberts, Wash, Sept. 22 (Alfred Lau, BK) were the high counts, and one still at West Pt., Seattle, Nov. 8 (DR) furnished the last sighting. Forty-seven Long-tailed Jaegers, a normal number, were recorded in 5 trips out of Westport, and four were seen Sept 13 out of Newport, Ore. (J. Carlson, *vide* HN). Twenty S. Polar Skuas, an above-average number, were seen on 6 Westport trips, and singles were found out of Garibaldi, Ore., Sept 7 (TC) and Ucluelet, V.I., Sept. 27

(MF, DK *et al.*). Fewer than usual Franklin's Gulls were recorded this fall. About 54 birds, all immatures as usual, were represented, with high counts of 14 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (EH) and four at Spanish Banks, Vancouver B.C. (BK). Five sightings in Oregon included one Sept. 17 at the Monmouth sewage ponds (†RG). Single Little Gulls appeared as usual with Bonaparte's Gulls at 8 locations from Nanaimo, V.I. (DK), south to Everett, Wash., Aug. 13-Oct. 27. Each of these sites is within a short flight for the wandering flocks of Bonaparte's, and the only date on which Little Gulls were seen at 2 locations was Oct. 18, when singles were at Everett (DR) and at Ogden Pt, Victoria (MMc *et al.*). However, on Oct. 6 two Little Gulls were seen simultaneously at the Everett ponds (PM) and three were there together Oct. 11 (EH). High counts of Bonaparte's Gulls were of 6000 at Everett Sept. 25 (RS) and 4500 on Boundary Bay, B.C., Oct. 12 (BK). An adult **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen at Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 27 (†Joe Van Os *et al.*), and probably also Oct. 18 (†Stan Smith), for only the 2nd sighting for Washington. The high count of Heermann's Gulls was of 3000+ on the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 2 (JR). An ad **Slaty-backed Gull** present only Nov. 11-12 near Port Hardy, northern V.I., provided only the 2nd documented record for British Columbia (†MF, ph., †WW, †GA). Force's detailed description included discussion of the slate-gray mantle, black wingtips separated from the mantle on primaries 7 & 8 by white spots, pinkish legs, a magenta orbital ring (at 20m), and a brown-flecked iris appearing dark at a distance but with the pupil clearly visible. In addition to the usual counts of 30-70 Sabine's Gulls on pelagic trips off British Columbia and Washington, single immatures were found Sept. 20-21 on the sewage ponds at Monmouth, Polk Co., Ore. (Lowell Spring, ph. RG, BB) and Sept. 29 on the ponds at Forest Grove, Washington Co., Ore. (Leila Weiland, Pat Muller, *vide* HN). Flocks of 400 Com. Terns at Port Angeles, Wash., Oct 12 (PM *et al.*) and of 200 at Ogden Pt., Victoria, Oct. 18 (B & MMc *et al.*) were later than usual. Twenty-eight Arctic Terns off Westport Aug. 30 (TW) provided the high count. Singles were seen onshore at Spanish Bank, Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 31-Sept 7 (†BK) and on the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds Sept 29 (†HN, JEv). Single **Forster's Terns** were found Oct. 13-18 at Ogden Pt., Victoria (†KT, ph. TZ, m.ob.) for the first record for V.I., and Nov. 9 at the Everett ponds (†Ian Paulsen, Jeff Palmer *et al.*) for the 6th record for w. Washington. Three Black Terns,

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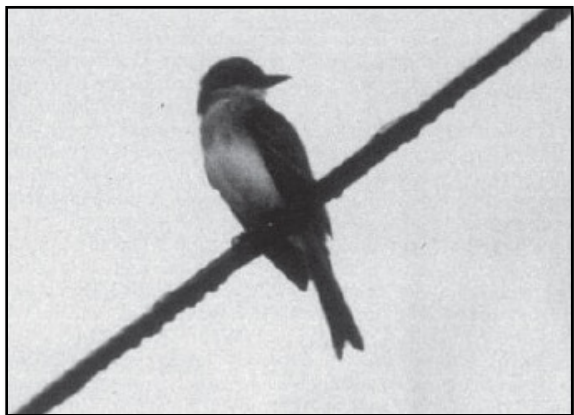


*Forster's Tern at Victoria, B.C., Oct. 13, 1986. First record for Vancouver Island. Photo/Tim Zurowski.*

a scarce but regular migrant, were at Baskett Slough N.W.R., near Salem, Ore., Sept. 12 (†Stephen Dowland, BB) and four were found in w. Washington Sept. 12-27. Four **Parakeet Auklets** were briefly observed Sept. 7 about 20 mi out of Garibaldi, Ore. (†TC, †JG), for one of very few recent records from anywhere in the Region. An average of 36 Cassin's Auklets found on each of 9 pelagic trips out of Ucluelet, V.I., and Westport, Wash., during August and September was still low compared to pre-El Niño totals.

**OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES** -- The only Snowy Owls reported were in Delta, B.C., where two seen Nov. 10 (Roy Phillips) were the first. Single N. Hawk-Owls were found in Garibaldi P.P., Aug. 16 at Helm Creek (†John Tabak) and Sept. 20 at Black Tusk (Peter Ballin *et al.*). These sites are interestingly close and similar to a recent breeding location in Manning P.P. Reports of 33 N. Pygmy-Owls were many more than usual, but no apparent pattern or lowland movement was detected. A Burrowing Owl was found Sept. 15 at the unusual altitude of 6700' on Mt. Hood (Christopher Raithel). There were several reports of Spotted Owls, including an immature found Aug. 15 in the Hoh R.

rain forest, Wash. (EH *et al.*). A late Com. Nighthawk was found roosting in a backyard in W. Seattle, Wash., Sept. 28-Oct. 3 (Greg Parks, ph.). Sixteen Black Swifts over Plat I Res., near Roseburg, Sept. 19 (DF, DI) were the only ones reported from Oregon, and 30 at Prospect L., Saanich, V.I., Sept. 28 (GC) were the latest. Four large migratory roosts of Vaux's Swifts were noted in Oregon: about 1000 in a chimney in Salem Aug. 28 (Christy Galen, *fide* BB), 1000-2000 in Waldo Hall, O.S.U. campus, Corvallis, Sept. 14-30 (Angie Cromack *et al.*, *fide* ME), 1500 in Stayton, Marion Co., Sept. 18 (B. Height, *fide* HN), and 5000-7000 in an Armory incinerator chimney in Roseburg Sept. 18-21 (DF, DI). A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, very rare w. of the Cascades, was seen Aug. 1-7 near Lebanon, Ore. (Bill Thackaberry, †M & EE). A young male Calliope Hummingbird was netted and examined in hand Aug. 1 at Schrieber's Meadow, Mt. Baker, Wash. (Sara Hiebert) and another Calliope was seen Aug. 2 in Mt. Rainier N.P. (CC), for the only reports of this primarily eastside species. The last flycatcher sightings were: Olive-sided, Sept. 20 on San Juan I., Wash. (ML); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 24 in Eugene (SH); Willow, Sept. 22 in Saanich (GC), and Oct. 2 at Heceta Head, Lane Co., Ore. (SH); Hammond's, Sept. 26-30 at Seattle (SA, DR), and Sept. 30 at Vancouver, B.C. (DK); and Western, Sept. 27 at Seattle (SA), Sept. 28 at Metchosin, V.I. (AM, RSa), and Oct. 1 at Portland (DI). A probable Dusky Flycatcher carefully described Sept. 26-27 in Seattle was the latest ever of few w. Washington records (†SA). Single Say's Phoebes strayed west to the Montlake fill, Seattle, Sept. 18 (†DB) and Delta, B.C., Sept. 24 (WW). A Tropical Kingbird was observed Oct.



***Tropical Kingbird at Nehalem Meadows, Ore., Nov. 11, 1986. Photo/Robert O'Brien.***

19, at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (RSm, *fide* HN). Two were found Nov. 4-11 farther north at the Nehalem sewage ponds (†HN, JEv, ph. BO, m.ob.) and one stayed there through Nov. 15. Another Tropical Kingbird was noted Nov. 16 in Tokeland, Pacific Co., Wash. (†EH, Bob Morse) for the 6th record for Washington, all in late fall. Sightings of 97 Bank Swallows at 9 locations in the Vancouver, B.C., area Aug. 5-Sept. 23 (DS, FW *et al.*) were many more than usual. Five were seen on V.I. and one was in Westport, Wash., Aug. 22 (TW, DP). Evidence of fall movement of Steller's Jays was provided by a flock of 45 that flew across Saanich Inlet, V.I., Sept. 5 (Glen Smith, Ron Jakimchuk) and a count of 85 moving south along the Seattle shoreline Sept. 7 (RT). Nineteen Clark's Nutcrackers were reported from sites clearly outside breeding areas, for the largest movement noted since October 1979. Eleven of these birds were found Oct. 10-27, from Skidegate, Queen Charlotte I., Gabriola I., Saltspring I., Richmond, and Victoria to Cape Flattery, Leadbetter Pt., and Toledo, Oregon. Five others were seen Sept. 19+ on Mary's Peak in the Oregon Coast Range w. of Corvallis, where they do not nest (David Marshall, m.ob.). Likewise, the 68+ Mountain Chickadees at lowland sites during October-November constituted a major invasion. High counts were of 25 in Discovery Park, Seattle, Nov. 8 (DH) and 11 on Reifel I., B.C., Oct. 11 (JI, Leona Haggert). Conifer cone crop reports for Washington indicated very little production during 1986, following the bumper harvest of 1985 (CC). Two Bohemian Waxwings were found Oct. 11 at 5200' in the Washington Cascades at Chiwaukum L., 10 mi e. of Stevens Pass, Chelan Co. (Mark Breuninger). This is south of the generally suspected breeding areas. The first N. Shrikes arrived on schedule Oct. 4 in Vancouver, B.C. (MF, GD), Oct. 6 in Seattle (DR), and Oct. 13 at Tillamook, Ore. (B. Shelmerdine, *fide* HN). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen Nov. 27 at Long Beach, Pacific Co., for about the 10th record for w. Washington, and the first ever in the fall (†BO).

VIREOS THROUGH GROSBEAKS -- A Solitary Vireo found Oct. 12 at Cape Blanco, Ore. (Paul Sullivan), was the latest of only two seen in October.

The last Red-eyed Vireos reported were two on Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 30 (JI) and one in Goldstream P.P., V.I., Sept. 2 (Dave Fraser). A male Nashville Warbler seen Nov. 19 along the S. Umpqua R. near Canyonville, Ore., was late and possibly wintering (Merle & Anne Archie). The last Yellow Warblers were seen Sept. 26 in Seattle (SA), Sept. 30 in Vancouver, B.C. (GA, DK), and Oct. 2 at Heceta Head, Lane Co., Ore. (SH). A very well-described **Pine Warbler** was seen Oct. 23 just south of Harbor, s. Curry Co., Ore. (†Alan Barron). Roughly summarizing the description, the bird had brownish upperparts with faint olive on the head and back,

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whitish tailspots, black tarsi, two prominent wingbars, a pale eyebrow line, a small pale neck patch, and ashy-white underparts with no streaking. Seventeen Palm Warblers were noted, slightly more than usual. One at Amphitrite Pt., near Ucluelet, V.I., Sept. 27 (MB) was unusually far north. One other was on southern V.I., three were on the Washington coast, and 10 on the Oregon coast. In addition, singles were found inland at 5500' near Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash., Oct. 1 (†GR) and in Eugene, Ore., Nov. 1 (Paul Sherrell, Dennis Arendt, *fide* SH). Seven sightings of N. Waterthrushes repeated last fall's unprecedented movement. Singles Aug. 18 at Alaksen N.W.A., Delta (DS, FW) and Reifel I. (JI, FW) were the first. Two were seen Aug. 21-23 in Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†DS, MP) and one was (still?) there Sept. 21 (FW, Wayne Diakow). Singles Aug. 26-27 in Bellingham, Wash. (TW) and Sept. 8 in Seattle (†RT) provided the 10th & 11th records for w. Washington; all but one have been in fall and early winter. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was noted Nov. 9 at Comber's Beach, Pacific Rim P.P. (LK, Mark Wynja, †MF *et al.*) for the 2nd record for V.I. A female or imm. **Lark Bunting** was seen closely on Tatoosh I., at the n.w. tip of Clallam Co., Wash., Sept. 17-18 (†Tim Wootton, Bob Paine, Ladd Johnson) for the 5th state and 2nd fall record. The previous fall record was also at Cape Flattery Sept. 2, 1973 (*AB* 28:97). Another female or imm. Lark Bunting was found Sept. 28-30 in Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C. (Bruce MacDonald, †WW, †Dick Cannings, †MF, m.ob.) for the 3rd Vancouver area record. A Grasshopper Sparrow, rare w. of the

Cascades, was seen Sept. 19 at Plat I Res., near Roseburg, Ore. (DF, DI). A Fox Sparrow at the Montlake fill, Seattle, Aug. 31 (KB) was an early arrival in the Puget Sound lowlands. Only two Swamp Sparrows, still rare winter visitors here, were found, and both were immatures. One was at Florence, Ore., Oct. 19 (†SH, Alan Contreras) and the other was near Smith Cr., w. of Raymond, Pacific Co., Wash., Oct. 31 (†WW) for only the 11th record for the state. Twenty-four White-throated Sparrows were seen, a normal number, in as many locations and spread throughout the reporting areas of the Region. Eighteen Harris' Sparrows were more than twice as many in previous years. Two were in Oregon, three in Washington, three on V.I., and a conservatively estimated 10 individuals in the Vancouver, B.C., area. The peak of the Lapland Longspur migration was marked Sept. 21 by flocks of 30 at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash. (KB), and 40+ on Grand Meadow, Indian Heaven Wilderness, Skamania Co., Wash. (SS). A **Common Grackle** sighted Sept. 27-30 in C. Saanich provided the first record for southern V.I. (KT, Charles Harper, ph. TZ, m.ob.). Small groups of up to 30 Red Crossbills were noted on the Oregon coast and in the lowland areas of w. Washington, V.I., and s.w. mainland British Columbia. Pairs were gathering nest material and singing Aug. 30 and Sept 3 at the S.J.C.R. and Tillamook, Ore. (DL, David Hoffman) and feeding broods Oct. 18 in the Washington San Juan Is. (ML). Both Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were absent from the s. Cascades of Washington this fall (CC). Five Com. Redpolls seen Nov. 4 on Reifel I., B.C. (JI), furnished the only report of this irregular winter visitor. Larger numbers than usual of Evening Grosbeaks were noted this fall in the lowlands of w. Oregon (*fide* HN), particularly in the Medford-Ashland area during September (MMo).

INITIALED OBSERVERS, with **(Sub-regional editors in boldface)** -- Scott Atkinson, Gerry Ansell, Jon Anderson, Dave Beaudette, Barb Bellin, Mike Bentley, Thais Bock, Ken Brunner, Joe Buchanan, Wilson Cady, Gift Calvert, Chris Chappell, Tom Crabtree, Gary Davidson, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Jim Erckmann (JEr), Joe Evanich (JEv), **David Fix**, Mike Force, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, **Steve Heinl**, **Eugene Hunn**, David Hutchinson, John Ireland, Dave Irons, Brian Kautesk, Linda Koch, **Doug Kragh**, Mark Lewis, Donna Lusthoff, Alan MacLeod, Barb & **Mike**

**McGrener** (B & MMc), Marjorie Moore (MMo), **Harry Nehls**, Bob O'Brien, **Dennis Paulson**, Mike Price, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J & RSa), Susan Saul, Richard Smith (RSm), Daphne Solecki, Bob Sundstrom, Keith Taylor, Verda Teale, Rob Thorne, **Terry Wahl**, Frank Walker, Wayne Weber, Tim Zurowski.

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*The Winter Season, 1986-1987*

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Winter in the Region was mild and dry, with little snow cover presaging a hot dry summer to follow. Several observers reported low numbers of birds, attributing this to the weather, which did not force birds to concentrate in their search for food, and left much water unfrozen. Reports were numerous of birds that normally do not winter or do so only occasionally or in very small numbers. "Northern" finches were generally scarce, presumably remaining farther north or in the mountains. Sparse cone crops in some lowland areas no doubt were also a factor.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- A Pacific Loon wintered at Vernon, B.C., Dec. 15-Feb. 28 (PR). Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida., had a Pacific Loon and a Red-throated Loon Jan. 2-9 (PH). A Yellow-billed Loon visited Nicola L. in the Brookmere-Aspen Grove, B.C., area Dec. 29-Jan. 20 (RRH, WWe). Three Horned Grebes and a Red-necked Grebe were sighted on Hayden L., Jan. 4 (PH, MM, ES, SHS), and another Red-necked spent December and January there (PH). Red-necked Grebes on the Columbia R. near Orondo, Wash., were also unusual (RF). About 500 Eared Grebes on Soap L., Grant Co., Wash., were mostly forced out by the mid-January freezeup (RF). Three Eared Grebes on Pend Oreille L. at Bayview, Ida., Feb. 16 were suspected of having wintered (DF), and three

wintered on Hayden L. (PH). Two W. Grebes on the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., Jan. 27 were very early (MK, PP) as was one on the Snake at Massacre Rock, Power Co., Ida., Jan. 17 (CHT). Seven Am. White Pelicans frequented Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., in early January, for one of the few winter records there (CDL). Very unusual were two near Wallula, Wash., Jan. 24 (KK), and the wintering of 10 on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia R. n. of Richland, Wash. (RF). Two that lingered around Klamath Falls, Ore., through December were late (SS). Double-crested Cormorants wintered in greater numbers at Malheur N.W.R. than ever before, at least 10-11 remaining. This species wintered in Hood River Co., Ore. (DAA), and small numbers were noted in the Tricities, Wash., vicinity through Jan. 2 (CR, REW). A Great Egret, exceptionally rare in Jefferson County, Ore., and rare anywhere e. of the Oregon Cascade Mts. in winter, was at Madras during January (JH). A Cattle Egret remained at Clarkston until Dec. 16 (MK, LL, RM). Five were sighted n. of College Place, Wash., Dec. 7, and two showed up s. of Walla Walla, Wash., a week later (KK). Eight Black-crowned Night-Herons appeared in the Toppenish, Wash., residential area Dec. 21 (CD, DG), and two were sighted at Glead, Wash., Jan. 30 (ZB) for those localities' first winter records. The species is rare there at any season.

WATERFOWL -- Twenty-eight Tundra Swans were at Sunriver, Ore., Jan. 17+ (DD). An imm. Tundra Swan at the Yakima R. mouth, Wash., Jan. 1 was a rather surprising find (REW). Small numbers wintered in Washington's Columbia Basin. One on the Salmon R. 15 mi. n. of Salmon, Ida., Jan. 9 was also unusual (LH). Malheur had 48 wintering Tundra Swans in the s. Blitzen Valley. Over 500 Tundra Swans and 25 Trumpeter Swans wintered at Kamloops, B.C. (RRH), as did 75 Tundra and 11 Trumpeter swans in the Okanagan Valley, B.C. (SC). Trumpeter Swan numbers at Malheur N.W.R. were up from last winter, with 49 counted Jan. 6. Ten Trumpeters at Cold Springs N.W.R., Hermiston, Ore., Feb. 4 were gone Feb. 8 (KK). A small flock of Greater White-fronted Geese was at Bend, Ore., Dec. 27 (MMo) and one appeared near Parkdale, Ore., Jan. 4 (DAA). This species began arriving at Malheur N.W.R., Feb. 14 and was common near Burns by the end of the spring period. At Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida., 20 arrived Feb.

24 (LDN). The first two migrant Snow Geese to appear at Malheur N.W.R. arrived Feb. 9 but the bulk of the movement was late. Six blue-phase Snow Geese were along Frenchman Hills wasteway Grant Co., Wash., Jan. 4 (RF). Canada Geese were abundant in the n. Columbia Basin, with flocks of 200-2000 common. A record number of Canada Geese, 12,450 plus 50 "Lesser" Canadas, wintered in the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin, Harney Co., Ore. Goose and duck numbers were up at Bend, presumably because of the mild winter. Two male Wood Ducks wintered at Helena, Mont., where they fed with Mallards on food supplied them (GH). Up to 24 Wood Ducks were sighted in the Lewiston, Ida., area in January. Green-winged Teal were common in the n. Columbia Basin; some 600 were on Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., Jan. 4. Mallards were particularly abundant in the Columbia Basin from mid-February on: 15,000-20,000 fed in stubblefields e. of George, Wash., and over 80,000 were along Frenchman Hills and Winchester wasteways, Grant Co., Wash., and in adjacent corn stubblefields. Mixed with them in the latter area were several thousand N. Pintail. Some 7000-8000 Mallards at Kootenai N.W.R. were reduced to one-half that number by the January freezeup. About 10 N. Pintail lingered into December at Kootenai N.W.R., and the species returned Feb. 16 (LDN). Two very early N. Shovelers were on Noxon Rapids Res., Sanders Co., Mont., Feb. 8 (DH). About 800 Gadwall were on Moses L., Grant Co., Wash., Jan.4 (RF), and fifty near Cascade Locks, Ore., Feb. 16 was a very good number there (DAA). The only Eur. Wigeons reported were single males that wintered near Odell, Ore. (DAA), and in Walla Walla (KK); one at Pateros, Wash., Feb. 14 (EH, GG, S.A.S.), and one on Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., Feb. 14 (BB, AS, SSt). Six Ring-necked Ducks wintered on Nicola L., where they are rare in winter (RRH). Two Greater Scaup were identified at the Tricities Dec. 21, and 15 were sighted at John Day Dam on the Columbia R., Ore. (CR). The species was also noted at Wells Dam, s. Okanogan Co., Wash., and Chelan Falls, Wash., in February (EH, GG, S.A.S.). A pair of Oldsquaws was on Hayden L., Jan. 4 (MM, ES, SHS), and one appeared at Vernon Dec. 21 (PR). One found on L.

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Ewauna, Klamath Falls, Nov 28 stayed around until Jan 2 (SS) The Columbia R. in Richland hosted a female Surf Scoter Dec 21 (PEW). A female-plumaged White-winged Scorer was present Feb. 6+ on Siphon Pond near Pocatello (DFi, m.ob.), and one was on Shuswap L., n. of Salmon Arm, B.C., Dec. 21 (SR). A male Barrow's Goldeneye at Cascade Locks, Ore., Dec. 27 was apparently a latilong first (DAA). Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., had 1500 Com. Mergansers Jan. 4 (RF). Noteworthy were three Red-breasted Mergansers at Vernon Dec.2-21 (PR) and four at Trail, B C., during December (ME). One appeared on a pond near Wapato, Wash., Jan. 1 (DG).

VULTURES THROUGH GULLS -- A Turkey Vulture at Hayden L., Ida., Jan. 12 was remarkable (PH) and a very early one was at Panhandle L. near Newport, Wash., Feb. 27 (EJL). As many as 81 Bald Eagles were believed present in Lincoln and Sanders counties, Mont., during the winter (DH). Twenty seven were counted in the Adam's R.-Shuswap L. area n. of Salmon Arm, B.C., Dec. 21 (RRH). The Bald Eagle count at Lower McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., Mont., reached a peak of 236 Nov. 4, and the head of L. McDonald in the park recorded 1575 eagle-use-days, the highest ever there (BRM). A wingtagged Bald Eagle, marked in Glacier N.P. in 1979, returned for the 3rd consecutive year to the Lemhi R. near Salmon, Ida. (LH). Kootenai refuge's Bald Eagle nest site was again active, with incubation under way by Mar. 5 (LDN). A nearly all-white Red-tailed Hawk at Toppenish, Wash., Dec. 30 had been reported as a white Gyrfalcon (BB, DG, CR, AS, REW) and a very dark Red-tailed there Feb. 10 probably was a "Harlan's" (CR). Falcon sightings indicated six Am. Kestrels (and "common" in the Columbia Basin), 21 Merlins, five Peregrines, ten Gyrfalcons, and 19+ Prairie Falcons. Ring-necked Pheasants were very scarce in the Idaho Falls, Ida., vicinity (EC), but conversely increased "dramatically" in the Frenchglen, Ore., area, 185 being counted Dec. 18 (CDL). A male Blue Grouse wintered in the town of Invermere, B.C., visiting feeders and eating sunflower seeds (MY). Several White-tailed Ptarmigan wintered on Silver Star Mt., Vernon, a fully treed area some 40 mi from the nearest alpine habitat (PR). A Virginia Rail at Frenchglen Dec. 18 made Malheur's 2rid winter

record (CDL) and Vernon had two Dec. 7 (PR). Presence of the species at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., was unusual although not unprecedented (CC, SCa, DHo). Three were heard at Caliche L., 30 mi. e. of Ellensburg, Feb. 16 (EH, GG, S.A.S.). Open water springs at Malheur enticed a Sora, seen Dec. 10 (CDL). A Semipalmated Plover was reported near Enderby, B.C., Jan. 11 (no details supplied) (PL). Two Greater Yellowlegs were at Asotin, Wash., Dec. 13 (C.B.), and two appeared along the Clearwater R. at Lewiston Jan. 24 (RG, MK, PS). Two Lesser Yellowlegs accompanied the regular wintering flock of Greater Yellowlegs at Klamath Falls December to early January for the 2nd winter record since 1978 (SS). Most unusual were 21 Least Sandpipers at Malheur N.W.R., Dec. 15-19 (GI). A Dunlin stayed at Tranquille, B.C., Dec. 28-Jan. 20; the species is very rare there (RRH, RR). Up to 13 Long-billed Dowitchers wintered at Klamath Falls until the freezeup in early January (SS). Vernon had a Mew Gull during December (PR) and 37 were at Kamloops Dec. 28; they normally do not winter there (RRH). Eight California Gulls at Harney L., Malheur N.W.R., Dec. 19 were most unusual (CDL). Lewiston had two Herring Gulls Feb. 22 (C.B.). Herring Gulls numbered 2000 at Kelowna, B.C., Jan. 3, and up to eight Thayer's Gulls were there Dec. 2-Jan. 3 (PR). Apparent latilong firsts were a Herring Gull and several Glaucous-winged Gulls at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R., e. of Pasco, Wash., Jan. 24 (KK). Three to four Glaucous-winged Gulls appeared at Kelowna (PR) and four were seen at Kamloops (RRH, PR). A remarkable concentration of gulls at Coeur d' Alene, Ida., Feb. 14 included 30 to 50 Ring-billeds, a few Californias, 350+ Herrings, one imm. Thayer's, one adult and two imm Glaucous-wingeds, and three adult and three imm Glaucous (DF). Hayden L. also had a Thayer's Feb. 17 (PH). Noteworthy were an imm Thayer's and an ad Glaucous Gull at Richland, Wash, Dec 11 (CR) A Glaucous Gull in first-year plumage appeared at Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash. (RF).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS -- A Ringed Turtle-Dove, presumably an escape, visited a Cranbrook, B.C., feeder in late December (MB). A surprising 25 Mourning Doves fed on the snowy ground at Colburn in n. Idaho in mid-February (DF). Two were seen near Frenchglen Dec. 18 for one of very few winter records at Malheur N.W.R. (CDL). An

E. Screech-Owl was reported s. of Lewistown, Mont, Feb. 28 (LKM). Up to three Snowy Owls were sighted in the Reardan-Davenport, Wash., area (JA), and one was reported s.e. of Moses L., Wash. (RF). One appeared in the Bitterroot Valley s. of Missoula, Mont., in December (JS). The only N Hawk-Owl reported was one at Kelowna Jan. 3 (*vide* PR). A Barred Owl was sighted at Asotin in December (C.B.). Two Great Gray Owls spent the winter at Timber L., Kamloops (RB) A single Great Gray appeared at Tetonia, Ida., in December, the usual influx into that area's bottomlands did not occur (CHT). A pair of these birds was observed twice in February at La Pine, Ore. (HH). An estimated 40 Long-eared Owls wintered in the Frenchtown valley w. of Missoula, Mont. (DHo) Seven Boreal Owls were detected Feb. 26 with the help of taped calls on a 2-hour snowmobile run at Lolo Pass on the Idaho-Montana border. The night run was in 6°F weather and 4-6 ft of snow (DHo, RL, PLW). The only N. Saw-whet Owls reported were two heard near Culdesac, Ida., Feb. 14 (C.B.) A White-throated Swift was heard in the Yakima R. Canyon n. of Yakima, Wash., Feb. 16 (CD). An Anna's Hummingbird stayed at Vernon December to February (PR). Fort Simcoe, Wash., had 10 Lewis' Woodpeckers Feb. 14 (BB, AS, SSt) and one at Salmon, Ida., Dec. 18 was very unusual (HBR). A White-headed Woodpecker was in Madras, Ore., in January. The species is extremely rare in that area (IH). Another one spent the winter on Anarchist Mt. near Osoyoos, B.C. (MF), and one was sighted at Fields Springs S.P., s. of Anatone, Wash., Jan. 7 (CV) A Black-backed Woodpecker was observed Feb. 9 about 40 mi. n.e. of Burns (CCa), and one was found at Kaslo, B.C., Jan 9 (LVD). Downriver from Spokane one was seen in January and February (JA). One sighted Jan. 2 at Fortine, Mont., was the first there since 1983 (WW). The albino Pileated Woodpecker returned to the Libby, Mont., feeder that it frequented last winter (DH). The earliest Say's Phoebe appeared in Asotin Feb 10 (BC). A very early Violet-green Swallow appeared at Coeur d' Alene, Ida., Feb. 24 (MM).

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES -- Steller's Jays visited Madras, Ore., where they appear only about once every 5-10 years (IH). A Blue Jay was seen near Frenchglen Dec. 18+ (CDL) and one was sighted at Spokane in January and February (JA). Another stayed in Madras late October to mid-January for the county's first

record (KL). The Bitterroot Valley had one much of the winter (BD). A Scrub Jay in Madras Feb. 14 made the county's first (DHr) and two were in Bend Dec. 15+ (TC, DGI) About 100 Com. Ravens scavenged at Coeur d' Alene's landfill Feb. 16 (DF). Mountain Chickadees appeared in Madras; like Steller's Jays, they are rare there (IH). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee wintered in Bend (TC). A Rock Wren lingered among the rimrocks near Harney L., Dec. 19 (CDL). Single Brown Creepers and Winter Wrens were sighted at Sheep Cr, 20 mi. n. of Salmon, Ida. They are rarely seen in that area in winter (HBR). Bewick's Wrens were found at several spots in the Lewiston-Asotin-Wawawai, Wash., area during the winter (m.ob.). Russian olive thickets along Lower Crab Cr., Grant Co., Wash., hosted a Hermit Thrush Feb. 22 (RF) and one was in Clarkston, Wash., Dec. 1 (GAT). Many of this species wintered in the Yakima Valley (Y.A.S.). Frenchglen had a Varied Thrush Dec. 18 for a rare winter record (CDL). A N. Mockingbird, apparently a latilong first, was sighted at Nicola L., Dec. 29-Jan. 10 (RRH, WWe). One mockingbird wintered near Twin Falls, Ida. (JT, CHT), and another was reported at the Ft. Hall Bottoms (TR). Most unusual was a Sage Thrasher near Harney

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L., Dec 19 (CDL) A Brown Thrasher at Sunriver in early January and later stayed close to where one was found 2 years ago (TC). Fort Hall Bottoms n.w. of Pocatello had a Brown Thrasher Jan. 14 (CHT, m.ob.), and another was reported in Boise, Ida., in January (*vide* CHT). A few Water Pipits seen Dec. 18 at Frenchglen were presumed to have wintered (CDL), and one was sighted near American Falls Res. on the Snake R. in s Idaho Jan. 21 (CHT). Bohemian Waxwings were common to abundant in most localities. Conspicuous exceptions were the Tricities and Missoula areas, where the birds were decidedly scarce. An albino Bohemian was sighted near Windermere and Wilmer, B.C., in early December (OM, DW). Cedar Waxwings were little noted, although a few scattered flocks appeared in e Oregon and Washington. A N. Shrike appeared at Fortine, Mont., where they have been rarely seen in recent years (WW). Malheur N.W.R. still had Loggerhead Shrikes in late December, and one arrived

along lower Crab Cr., Feb. 22 (RF). About 20 N Shrikes wintered at Malheur. A few were reported elsewhere in e. Oregon and Washington.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES -- Wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers were found in Russian olive thickets in e. Washington: two birds near Ephrata and several along the Dodson-Frenchman Hills road (BJ). One remained at Malheur N.W.R. through Dec. 19 (GI) and one was seen at Sunriver Dec. 12 (DD). A female W. Tanager killed by a cat at Kamloops Dec. 27 furnished the 2nd winter record for that area (EMc). A probable female Black-headed Grosbeak was observed near Ft. Hall, Ida., Dec. 21 (TR). Vernon had a Chipping Sparrow Dec. 11 at the same spot where one was photographed last year (PR). A Fox Sparrow was reported at a Libby feeder Dec. 1 (DH) and one visited a Hayden L. feeder during the winter (PH). A Lincoln's Sparrow appeared at McKay Creek N.W.R., Pendleton, Ore., Feb.4 (KK), and one was at Ft. Simcoe Feb. 14 (BB, AS). A well-described Swamp Sparrow was observed along lower Crab Cr., Nov. 27 (EM). A Golden-crowned Sparrow stayed at Vernon during December (PR) and Sunnyside Dam, Parker, Wash., had 10 Jan. 1 (DG). White-crowned Sparrows wintered in unprecedented numbers at Malheur N.W.R.; 24 were noted near headquarters Dec. 19 (CDL). A few Harris' Sparrows were noted in every state and province of the Region. Two at Libby feeders were worthy of special note (DH), as were three that wintered in the Hood R.-Odell area (DAA). The species was described as "getting to be too common to report" in the Missoula vicinity (PLW). A bird identified as a "White-winged" Dark-eyed Junco, which would be a first for Oregon, visited a Bend feeder Feb. 25+ and was photographed (TC, m.ob.). A lone Lapland Longspur was sighted in the Frenchtown valley w. of Missoula (SG), and one plus a Snow Bunting accompanied a flock of Horned Larks on Michaud Flats n.w. of Pocatello Jan. 7 (CHT, CW). Snow Buntings were mostly very sparsely reported. Exceptions were a flock of 300 at Kamloops Dec. 28 (RRH, EMc), 150 at Lincoln, Mont., Feb. 8 (DHo), and a spectacular migrational movement in the open country w. of Spokane Feb. 15, when numbers were conservatively estimated at 10,000 (JA). Red-winged Blackbirds wintered abundantly in the n. Columbia Basin, where flocks of 200-5000 were noted along Frenchman Hills and Winchester Wasteways



(RF). Hundreds wintered in cattle feed lots and at feeders in the Flathead Valley, n.w. Montana (F.A.S.). Ten to 15 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, mixed with large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds, were sighted several times in the N. Columbia Basin, Wash. (RF). One Yellow-headed Dec. 19 at Malheur N.W.R. was also unusual (CDL), and three with Red-wingeds near Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., Dec. 20+ were the first ever for January or February there (CC, SCa, DHo). A Rusty Blackbird and a Brown-headed Cowbird spent Dec. 9-Feb. 21 at Vernon (PR). Rosy Finches were plentiful in e. Washington and s. interior British Columbia. A few appeared in the Moscow, Ida.-Pullman, Wash., area., and one stayed near Fortine, Mont., for 2 weeks in February. A few were seen near Hines, Ore., Dec. 8. Lac le Jeune near Kamloops had 50 Pine Grosbeaks Jan. 15 (RB) Several Purple Finches at Toppenish Dec 22 supplied the first wintering record in that area (BB, CD, DG, CR, AS) Two Purple Finches visited Vernon feeders Jan. 3 (PR). A male Cassin's Finch at the Yakima R. mouth Feb. 8, for the only report, was unusual (REW). House Finches, rare at Malheur N.W.R. in winter, were sighted there Dec. 19 and Jan. 29 (CDL) Red Crossbills were "virtually absent from many areas" in s. interior British Columbia (RRH). The only other reports were of one bird at a Selah, Wash., feeder Feb. 10 (MS), and one devoured by a N. Pygmy-Owl at a Bend feeder (HH). A few Com. Redpolls appeared in w. Montana, n. Idaho, at Panhandle L., and e. of Davenport, Wash. Most apparently stopped in s. interior British Columbia where 100 were sighted at Kamloops and 275 at Shuswap L. (RRH). A very few Pine Siskins were reported, in Pend Oreille County, Wash., only (SZ). American Goldfinches wintered in larger numbers than usual. Evening Grosbeaks were mostly absent. Best numbers appeared in the Richland area and in the Asotin-Clarkston area.

ADDENDA -- A pair of Red-throated Loons was observed on Alice L., n.w. corner of Blaine County, Ida., the summer of 1978 (DJ). Some 200 imm Am. White Pelicans were observed at Pelican L., n.e. of Adel, Ore., July 22, 1986 (WHP). A Green-backed Heron at Fields, Ore., in mid-September, 1986, apparently represented the 5th record for s.e. Oregon (CDL). Sandhill Cranes nested successfully in the upper Blackfoot Valley e. of Missoula in 1986 (C.B.) The

species also nested at Metcalf N.W.R. (*vide* PLW). A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Hart L., Lake Co., Ore., June 4, 1986 (WHP) and another was at Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 6, 1986 (CDL). Bluebird nest box trails, mostly in w. Montana, were highly successful, fledging a total of 6115 Mountain and 1368 Western bluebirds from 2670 boxes for a 35% increase over 1985 (AA, DHs).

CORRIGENDUM -- Panhandle L., mentioned in *AB* 40:1231, is not in Idaho but w. of Newport, Wash.

OBSERVERS CITED -- Art Aylesworth, James Acton, David A. Anderson, Arnold Bolle, Zelia Butler, Mary Berscheid, Bob Boekelheide, Rick Bonar, Chuck Campbell, Suzi Campbell (SCa), Steve Cannings, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Chris Carey (CCa), Eddie Chew, Bob Combs, Tom Crabtree, Bob Daniels, Dave Danley, Christina Duchesne, Maurice Ellison, David Finkelnburg David Fix, Flathead Audubon Society, Mike Force, Ron Friesz, Russ Gebhart, George Gerdts, Danny Glover (DGI), Steve Gniadek, Denny Granstrand, Lucinda Haggas, Larry Halverson (LHa), Della Hermsmeyer, Deni Hershberger (DHs), Ivy Hilty, Denver Holt (DHo), George Holton, Helma Holverstott, Dave Horrter (DHr), Rick R. Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, Gary Ivey, Bert Jahn, Dean Jones, Ken Knittle, Merlene Koliner, Earl J. Larrison, Louise La Voie, Rose Leach, Peter Legg, Carroll D. Little field, Kathy Luther, Larry K. Malone, Mary Manning, Eric McAlary (EMc), B R McClelland, Edward Miller, Rudy Miniutti, Margaret Morns (MMo), Olive Mosimann, Larry D. Napier, Peggy Pedigo, W.H Pyle, Phil Ranson, Sandy Rathbone, Tim Reynolds, Ralph Ritcey, Craig Roberts, Hadley B. Roberts, Seattle Audubon Society, Marsha Stansbury, Andy & Susie Stepniewski, Esther Stewart, Jim Story, Shirley H. Sturts, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, George A Thompson, Charles H. Trost, Judy Trotter, Linda Van Damme, Carole Vande Voorde, Cheryl Webb, Wayne Weber (WWe), Winton Weydemeyer, Don Whetham, Robert E. Woodley, Philip L. Wright, Yakima Audubon Society, Madge Young, Steve Zender.—

*The Winter Season, 1986-1987*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

**Bill Tweit and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.**

It was a very mild, dry winter with no prolonged cold snaps, and many lowland areas received no snow at all. As a result, there were good numbers of many lingering species, and very few of the typical northern wanderers. Surprising and exciting, however, were the several far northern, Siberian species present--Steller's Eider, Slaty-backed Gull, Ross' Gull, and Rustic Bunting.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.; S.J.C.R.=. south jetty of the Columbia River, Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS -- Five reports of Yellow-billed Loons, four from s. British Columbia and one from the Q.C.I., were well below the average number of reports for this species. Two sightings of **Clark's Grebes** from the Vancouver, B.C., area, at Boundary Bay and near Tsawassen (†BK, †GA, †JoAnne MacKenzie) Dec. 7 & 8, may have involved the same individual. This represented only the 2nd provincial record. Other sightings in the Region included singles at Ocean Shores, Wash., Jan. 16 & 20 (G & WH), Forest Grove Sewage Ponds, Ore., Jan. 25 (Linda Weiland, Pat Muller), Reedsport, Ore., Jan. 2 and Port Orford, Ore., Jan. 3 (DF, SH), and Yaquina Bay, Ore., Feb. 7 (Steve Jagers). This was the largest number of winter records yet for Clark's. There are still no locations in the Region where they are known to occur regularly. A Black-footed Albatross seen 3 mi off Newport, Ore., Jan. 10 (Marvin Penberton, *vide* HN) furnished one of only three tubenose sightings this winter, other than CBC records. One oiled **Mottled Petrel** was found dead on the beach near Waldport, Ore., Dec. 15 (RL, *vide* DFa) for the first winter Regional record since 1978. The other sightings were of live Short-tailed Shearwaters: five at Masset, Q.C.I., Dec. 21 (PH, Charles Bellis) and one Jan. 24 at

Florence, Ore. (SH). In contrast to the last several warm winters, Brown Pelicans did not linger in the Region. There was only one report from s. Oregon.

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS -- After an excellent fall movement, many Great Egrets wintered in the Region. At least five in Washington was the highest number of wintering individuals ever for that state. Two Green-backed Herons were reported from Vancouver, B.C. (†Chris Harris, †John Reynolds, *vide* DK). They are rare in winter that far north. There were no Cattle Egret reports this season, even though there was a fairly large fall movement. Black-crowned Night-Herons may be far more common winterers here than is currently thought. It is possible that every major estuary from the Fraser R. south may have a roost. Four night-herons wintered at Reifel I., Delta, B.C. (JI) in the Fraser delta. Up to 14 were noted at a roost on the Skagit estuary, Wash. (Curt Howard *et al.*). Another newly discovered roost on Tillamook Bay, Ore., had 18 birds Dec. 20 (JG), and 13 used a North Portland, Ore., roost (JG). The ibis (*Plegadis sp.*) found this fall at Port Hardy, V.I., was reported until mid-March (*vide* DK). Trumpeter Swans now winter regularly in small numbers in n. Oregon. One flock was noted in *Polk* (*vide* BB) and another in *Lane* (TM). Three wintered in Jackson Bottoms near

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Hillsboro, *Washington* (JE, Verda Teale) and three were at Meares L., *Tillamook*, Jan. 21 (HN). Four reports of Emperor Geese were more than usual. Two were in Oregon, one in the Willamette Valley all winter (*vide* BB) and the other on the Umpqua R. estuary Dec. 10 (Merle Archie). In Washington, one was in Seattle all winter (m.ob., †EH) and the one found at Post Office L., *Clark*, this fall was apparently shot nearby by a hunter Dec. 27 (*vide* HN). Seventeen 'Aleutian' Canada Geese found dead on the beach at Pacific City, *Tillamook*, Ore., Dec 1 (*vide* DFa) appeared to have drowned in the surf. Other 'Aleutian' sightings included one at Ankeney N.W.R., Ore., Dec 26 with a yellow leg band (Jan Anderson), another with a blue leg band Jan. 13, and 11 at Salmon River, Ore., Jan. 21 (RL) Up to 20

collared 'Dusky' Canada Geese were noted at 2 locations in the Columbia R. bottomlands, Wash. (IB), where most of the world population of this subspecies winters, although eight 'Duskies' with red neck bands wintered in Victoria, V.I. (BG, Brent Diakow). 'Cackling' Canada Geese were unusually common in the Willamette Valley this winter (HN). We received 6 reports of 'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal, from Vancouver, B.C., south to Florence, Ore., about average for this race. Huge numbers of N. Pintail were noted during December and January in c. *Washington*, Ore. (DI). Cinnamon Teal, rare winterers, were found at 2 locations in the Region. One male and three females were noted at Reifel I., B.C. (JI), and a pair was in the Columbia R., Wash., bottomlands (IB). The first migrant male Cinnamons were found in mid-February. One female Tufted Duck wintered at Stanley Park, Vancouver (BK), and a first-year male Tufted wintered at Green L., Seattle (m.ob.). Another first-year male was at the Monmouth Sedimentation Ponds, *Polk*, Ore., Jan. 12-31 (FRG *et al.*). Three individuals is about normal for a winter here. The **Steller's Eider** found last fall at Port Townsend, Wash., was reported through Feb. 8 (mob, CP). The 1200 Oldsquaw on Bellingham Bay, Wash., Feb 20 (TW) and 400 on Manzanita Bay, *Kitsap*, Wash., Feb. 28 (GG) were very large numbers for anywhere in the Region. A Black Scoter flock of 200+ at Lincoln City, Ore., Jan. 24 (DI) was also extraordinarily large in size. Barrow's Goldeneyes have been tagged with nasal disks and nasal saddles during the nesting season in interior British Columbia. One with a blue-green nose clip was noted Jan. 18 in Tacoma, Wash. (CP). A Com. Goldeneye with a nasal saddle, also tagged by the Canadian Wildlife Service, was noted at Shilshole Marina, Seattle, Jan. 18 (Ward Beecher). Buffleheads were thought to be in well above usual numbers in w. Oregon this winter (HN).

VULTURES TO FALCONS -- Two Turkey Vultures Feb. 18 over Saanich Inlet, V.I. (Barbara Begg), either were wintering birds or were about a month earlier than usual for this area. Three winter records of Turkey Vultures came from Oregon: one in *Linn* Dec. 31 (*vide* M & EE) and two in *Polk* Jan. 14 (PO). The first certain migrants were reported, as usual, in late February Winter Osprey sightings included one Jan. 29 in North Saanich, V.I. (Jerry & Gladys Anderson), one

Dec. 20 near Eugene (PS, *vide* SH), and one Feb. 4 in *Linn*, Ore. (Ray Valburg, *vide* M & EE). Record numbers of wintering Black-shouldered Kites were reported from s.w. Washington. There were five near Raymond (BT), two near Tokeland (JB), three s. of Toledo, Lewis (Arden Hagen), and one at the White-tailed Deer N.W.R., *Wabkiakum* (N. Larson). The bird seen Feb. 6 at Nisqually N W R. (Jennifer Adams) was the farthest north. Kites were reported from at least 14 locations in w. Oregon. Most individuals were in the Rogue R. valley (MM), but fair numbers were found in the Willamette Valley and good numbers were on the coast. Bald Eagles appear annually along the lower Cowlitz R., Wash., in association with the late-winter smelt run. This year 51 were counted along the lower 10 mi of the river during late February (*vide* IB), many more than normal. Northern Harriers were quite scarce in parts of w. Washington and throughout Oregon (BT, G & WH, DF). The number of Sharp-shinned Hawk reports was average or above in n.w. Washington (D & SS, TW) and w. Oregon (DI). Cooper's Hawk sightings in Victoria were about half those of last winter (BW). There were 4 sightings of N Goshawk in Washington, 6 in Oregon, and none from British Columbia. Two "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported, both from Oregon (BO, ph., M & EE). Rough-legged hawk numbers were low in w. Oregon (DF, BO, JG, DI) and in s.w. Washington, where one observer reported only one-fourth as many as usual (G & WH). A minimum of 47 Peregrine Falcons was reported from throughout the Region, including four thought to be *F. p. tundrius*. Two of these were from the Victoria area (BW), one from Washington (BT), and one from Oregon (TM). Recent band recoveries indicate *tundrius* does occur in the Region (Steve Herman). However, since their status here is still unclear and there is wide variation in Peregrine plumages, observers should include notes on facial pattern with any reports of *tundrius*-type birds. There were reports of eight Gyrfalcons from the Region, the majority from n.w. Washington. This was slightly below recent winters' totals.

GROUSE TO ALCIDS -- A White-tailed Ptarmigan at 3500' on the undamaged side of Mount St. Helens, Wash., Jan. 4 indicates that some survived the explosion (Mark Chilcote, Steve Bachhuber). Two Sandhill Cranes wintered at Delta, B.C. (WW *et al.*), far n. of their regular wintering area on Sauvie I, Ore.,

where a fair-sized flock wintered (HN *et al.*). A *fulva* Lesser Golden-Plover with a broken leg was at the Forest Grove Sewage Ponds, *Washington*, Ore. (DI, †Donna Lusthoff) Jan 10-11. There were few prior winter records from the Region. There were 23 Semipalmated Plovers, an above-average number, reported from the Washington coast (JB, BT). Above-normal numbers were also in the area of Yaquina Bay, Ore. (DFa), and 40 were at Bandon, Ore., Feb. 23 (HN). Only a handful of Greater Yellowlegs reports came from Washington, despite the mild winter. Willets wintered in their usual locations: Yaquina Bay (HN), Willapa Bay (G & WH), and one at Port Angeles (D & SS). There were 2 reports of Whimbrels in the Victoria area, where they are quite rare in winter. One was at Esquimalt Lagoon Dec. 17 (J & RS), and the other in Saanich Jan. 21 and Feb. 17 (J & RS). Farther s., individuals often winter at a few consistent locations; one at Port Angeles (D & SS) and another at Tokeland (PM) this season were examples. The composition of the Marbled Godwit/Long-billed Curlew flock of 140+ birds wintering at Tokeland, Willapa Bay, was 75% godwits and 25% curlews (PM, BT). The only other report from the Region of either species was of a curlew at Ocean Shores Dec. 20 and Jan. 16 (G & WH) for the first winter record there. None of the 5 Washington sightings of Ruddy Turnstones included details. This is a rare wintering bird that should be documented. Two unusually large flocks of Surfbirds were of 40 Dec. 7 at Tongue Point, *Clallam*, Wash. (D & SS) and 120 Jan. 18 n. of Florence, Ore. (TM). There were 3 reports of Red Knots, 2 from Oregon and one from Washington, none with details. Well-documented winter records of Red Knots for this Region are still very scarce. We received only 3 reports of W. Sandpipers from s. British Columbia and three from Washington. As with Greater Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitchers, it has been learned that Westerns winter here regularly, but in varying numbers. Tracking annual variation in easily-surveyed wintering populations, such as those of W. Sandpipers, is one of the basic functions of this report. We hope that contributors will continue to record numbers of these shorebirds, even though they have lost some of their "pizzazz" as more has been learned about them. There were 4 Least Sandpiper reports in Washington, all from the outer coast (BT, G & WH). They were unreported elsewhere. Up to 35 Long-billed Dowitchers were reported from the Vancouver, B.C., area (v.o., *fide* DK), where they are sporadic winterers, indicating a good

year there. However, there were only 2 reports from Washington, where they are now regarded as regular winterers. The usual few Red Phalarope sightings were of 14 seen Dec. 3 and one Dec. 21 at the S.J.C.R. (HN). An ad **Slaty-backed Gull** found Dec. 31 at the Elwha R.

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mouth, *Clallam*, Wash. (†JSk) stayed to Jan. 4 (†DP, †EH, m.ob.) at least. Plumage differences indicated that this was a different individual than the bird that appeared this fall at Port Hardy, V.I. This was the southernmost record on the eastern Pacific coast, the first s. of British Columbia, and the 3rd Regional record. Additionally, a dark-backed, pink-legged gull of undetermined species was observed at the Hartland Landfill, Highland District, V.I., Feb. 18 (†BW, Ken Morgan). Three Glaucous Gull reports from the Vancouver area (*fide* DK), three from the Victoria area (*fide* DFr), and five in Washington were average numbers for those areas. However, 14+ reports in Oregon (*fide* HN) represented a big winter for them there. Three Oregon and two Washington records for Black-legged Kittiwake were somewhat below average. A **Ross' Gull** at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, Ore., was discovered by HN Feb. 18, coincident with the first N movements of Bonaparte's Gulls. It was seen through March 2 (*fide* FIN). This also was the southernmost record for the e. Pacific, and the first s. of Canada. The aesthetic quality of the photographs and sketches of this bird was exceptional.



**Ross' Gull at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Feb. 21, 1987.**  
*Photo/Owen Schmidt.*

Flocks of 400 Ancient Murrelets off Ten-mile Point, V.I., Dec. 6 (BG), 300 off Central Saanich Dec. 6 (J & RS), and 200 past Point Wilson Dec. 7 (DBe) indicated a major movement in the e. Strait of Juan de Fuca at that time. Following this, smaller numbers were in Admiralty Inlet through January and there were a few Oregon reports.

DOVES TO KINGBIRDS -- A **White-winged Dove** seen in flight Dec. 20 at Wilson Creek meadows near Tillamook provided the 3rd record for Oregon (†JG, DBa, JKe), each of which has been during fall and early winter. Of the amazing 48 W. Screech-Owls found Dec. 27 on the Florence, Ore., CBC, 43 were called out by one fast-moving team working a 9-mi stretch along the N. Fork Siuslaw R. (DF, SH, PP, CB, Matt Hunter). How many are out there in a whole count circle? The Snowy Owl tally on the CBC at Ladner, B.C., is a useful index to annual abundance in the Region. This season five were counted there, vs. five last year and a record high 40 the year before. Six Snowies were spread through w. Washington, with two at Leadbetter Pt. (JB) the farthest south. One of the two on the Skagit flats endured the unseasonable heat until Feb. 15 (BT) for the latest sighting this season. Two Burrowing Owls wintered as usual at the Eugene, Ore., airport (TM). Wintering numbers of this species in the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon have declined steadily for several years (MM). The only report there this season was of a window-killed bird during January (Roger Schnoes). A Great Gray Owl found Dec. 26 e. of Willow Lake, near Ashland (Ed Abbott, *fide* MM) was near the established population in the s. Oregon Cascades. A Long-eared Owl seen Dec. 27 in Discovery Park, Seattle, furnished the only report this season of this scarce wintering species (†David Reusser, Don Varekamp). Short-eared Owl numbers in the Vancouver, B.C., area were the lowest in many years (*fide* DK), and the species was absent or in very low numbers at reporting localities throughout w. Washington and Oregon. Northern Saw-whet Owls began calling somewhat earlier than usual in mid-January and early February at scattered lowland sites--Bainbridge I., Vashon I., and Sequim, Wash., and Rickreall, near Salem, and Mt. Pisgah in

Eugene, Ore. A bird thought to be an imm. male Rufous Hummingbird Dec. 9 at a feeder in Corvallis, Ore., was exceptionally late (Don & Elizabeth MacDonald, *fide* M & EE). Apparently a different bird was also in Corvallis for the CBC. Three male *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, believed to be Rufous, were found at Brookings in extreme s.w. Oregon, on the early dates of Jan. 15 & 27 (AB, Gary Lester). Otherwise the first arrivals reported were Feb. 19 in Yachats, Ore. (Jim & Janice Gerdemann, *fide* DFa) and Feb.25 on Vashon I., Wash. (PM). The first male Allen's Hummingbird was noted on schedule Feb. 22 at Azalea Park, Brookings (RG). A White-headed Woodpecker wandered W of its usual range to Takilma, *Josephine*, Ore., Dec. 9 (Romain Cooper, *fide* MM). The Black Phoebe found on the Eugene, Ore., CBC was also seen Jan. 10 & 18 (TM). Single Say's Phoebes were also farther n. than usual at Salem Dec. 27 (RG) and Finley N.W.R., Jan. 7 (Karen Raferty, *fide* M & EE). Another Tropical Kingbird of the annual late fall movement was noted Dec. 7, near Harbor, *Curry*, Ore. (AB *et al.*).

SWALLOWS TO THRASHERS -- A few Tree Swallows had returned early to Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, Wash., by Jan. 23 (Brad Waggoner). One was in the Medford area on the CBC Dec. 27 and four were there Jan. 24 (Otis Swisher). Then Feb. 10 about 100 appeared near Stayton, *Marion*, Ore. (Platt Davis, *fide* M & EE), and five were at Reifel I., Delta (Roy Phillips, JI) for the earliest-ever arrival date for the Vancouver, B.C., area. Widespread arrival of the first few Violet-green Swallows was noted Feb. 14-18. A very late Barn Swallow lingered at Tillamook, Ore., until Dec. 20 (JJ, ph., OS) and a very early one was seen Feb. 12 at Grant's Pass, Ore. (M & EE). Many more Steller's Jays than usual were in the Bellingham, Wash., area this season (TW). Two Blue Jays wintered in Chilliwack, B.C. (Jim & Linda Patterson). A Scrub Jay wandered N to Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 1-6 (George Aulback, *fide* TB). Another Clark's Nutcracker from the fall flight was well described from just w. of Salem, Ore., Dec. 3 (†PO). The Mountain Chickadees from last fall's invasion remained in the Vancouver, B.C., area and throughout w. Washington. Reports were widespread also in w. Oregon but were considered to be in about normal numbers. A new high count of 1223 Chestnut-backed Chickadees was set on the Victoria, V.I. CBC. Likewise

there were high counts nearby of 777 on Saltspring I., 486 at Sooke, V.I., and 472 at Bellingham, Wash. The Chestnut-backed is the predominant chickadee on islands in n. Puget Sound. Only 72 were counted in Vancouver, B.C., and 156 in Seattle, nearby mainland censuses with high observer hours. A White-breasted Nuthatch was observed almost daily near a feeder in Saanich (Betty Pellow, m.ob.) for the 2nd consecutive year that one has wintered on southern V.I. A female or imm **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found Dec. 6-Jan. 30 on Foster's I., Seattle, for the 3rd record for Washington (†DP, Netta Smith, m.ob.). Another Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was also much farther n. than usual in Medford, Ore., Dec. 27 (*fide* MM). Large-scale movement of thousands of Am. Robins was noted Feb. 1 & 2 in Ashland, Ore. (MM). Five scattered Townsend's Solitaires were reported, not including CBC sightings, for about a normal number. The five N. Mockingbirds found: near Siletz, *Lincoln*, and in Salem, Ore. (BB), at the mouth of the Humptulips R., *Grays Harbor* (G & WH, m.ob.), and in Bellingham, Wash. (TW), and in W. Vancouver, B.C. (†Allen Poynter, m.ob.), with four of these spending the winter at these sites, was also about a normal number for recent years. A Sage Thrasher seen Dec. 6 along the Hylebos waterway in Tacoma furnished the 5th record for w. Washington, and the first outside of late April-early May (†Bob Ramsey).

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WAXWINGS TO WARBLERS -- Flocks of 100+ Bohemian Waxwings were noted in Ashland and at nearby Roxy Anne Butte during January (Bruce Stewart, Joe Shelton). Seventy were seen at the Toketee R.S., e. of Roseburg, Jan. 29 (DF). Smaller groups were noted at other locales in the interior of s. Oregon during January-February, presumably all having moved W from the Klamath Basin. Single Bohemians were seen to the n. in Florence (SH, DI), near Corvallis (JKr), and on the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (GW). Several CBCs in s.w. British Columbia reported normal numbers for that area. A Loggerhead Shrike noted Dec. 20 at Rain River Reserve near Tillamook provided one of very few records for w. Oregon (†Jg, DBa, JKe). Despite the warmer winter, Orange-crowned Warblers were not found in larger-than-usual numbers. There

were four sightings in Washington and three on V.I. However, one was much farther n. than usual to Queen Charlotte City, Q.C.I., Dec. 20 (Ruth Wigmore). Certainly the outstanding warbler find of the season was the **Lucy's Warbler** found at Florence, Ore., Dec. 27 (Al Prigge, Norm Barrett, CB) and seen by many through Jan. 25 (†DF, †SH, ph. OS). This first state record required a flight directly opposite the species normal migratory path, and is difficult to ascribe to a warmer winter than usual. An imm. Nashville Warbler was found the next day in the same area (AC, m.ob.) and also stayed to at least Jan. 18 (JG). Two other Nashville Warblers, scarce wintering birds here, were noted Jan. 11 near the Nehalem, Ore., sewage ponds (†Jack Corbett) and Jan. 15 in Brookings (AB). In addition to the record high 25 Townsend's Warblers counted on the Seattle CBC, four others were found this season in *King* and more than usual were seen in *Whatcom* as well (TW). Single Hermit Warblers possibly wintered along the Oregon coast at Florence Dec. 27 (†JKr, *fide* DF) and at Cutler City, *Lincoln*, Jan. 24 (†DI, *fide* DF). A Palm Warbler did winter at Newport, Ore. (RL, m.ob.) and another found Feb. 8 at Nehalem Meadows, *Tillamook*, could have also (RG, *fide* BB). Following the several sightings of N. Waterthrushes last fall others were found Dec. 23-Jan. 7 at Alaksen W.R.A., Delta, B.C. (†BL) and Jan. 4-24 at the Skagit flats W.R.A., Wash. (BT *et al.*). Each bird was along a wooded creek beside a dike. Seven Com. Yellowthroats can undoubtedly be attributed to the warmer winter. Singles were found Dec. 23-Jan. 22 on Reifel I., B.C. (†BL, JI, Eric MacBean), Dec. 28-Jan. 2 in Victoria for the 2nd winter record for V.I. (Keith Taylor, J & RS), Jan. 3 in Kent (EH) and Jan. 4-17 at the Skagit W.R.A. (BT, TS, FM) for the 3rd and 4th winter records for Washington, Dec. 20 in Eugene (PS, Don Shrouder), Dec. 27-Jan. 3 in Port Orford (Dennis Rogers), and Feb. 10 at Forest Grove, Ore. (PP, DF).

SPARROWS TO FINCHES -- American Tree Sparrows appeared to be present in their usual small numbers. Savannah Sparrows definitely wintered in larger numbers than usual. High counts were of 20 near Parrydale, Ore., Dec. 16 (HN), and nine and 16 on the Skagit flats, Wash., Jan. 19 and Feb. 7 (DBe). Single Clay-colored Sparrows were sighted Dec. 27 at Sauvie I., Ore. (†JJ, Rob Fergus) and Jan. 4 at the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds (JE). Three Swamp

Sparrows on V.I. (*vide* DFr), one Dec. 21 on the Musqueam Indian Res., Vancouver, B.C. (†Richard Cannings), and singles in Aberdeen, Wash., Dec. 6-20 (†BT, JSk *et al.*) and on the Skagit flats Jan. 4 (†BT, TS, FM) were more than usual for this portion of the Region. South of the Columbia R. at least eight Swamp Sparrows were noted, from Tillamook, Eugene, Florence, and Harbor. Good details are in hand for most of these sightings. This is one of those species for which identification is potentially difficult enough that sightings should not be taken for granted, despite their almost regular occurrence. Twelve White-throated Sparrows were noted n. of the Columbia R., with two of these n. to the Q.C.I., Dec. 20-21 (PH, MH). In Oregon, White-throateds were "widely scattered and well reported" (HN) as usual. See *Oregon Birds* 13:91-95, 1987, for distribution maps of the CBC occurrences in Oregon of White-throated and Harris' sparrows and seven other species (AC). Harris' Sparrow numbers continued their steady increase in the Region. This year's conservative total of about 33 sightings was more than double the average of the last 5 years. (See *AB* 38:351, 1984, for exactly the same statistic at that time.)

**S.A.**

The media sensation of the season was the winter-plumaged male **Rustic Bunting** found Dec. 15 at the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds (†DBe) for the first state record and only the 2nd record for the lower 48 states. From dawn the next day observers logged in from all across the continent (†EH) and numerous photos were taken (DP, PM, JJ). The bunting spent the season with a flock of the slightly-larger Dark-eyed Junco, as had the bird at River Jordan, V.I., in the winter of 1983-1984. Some slight plumage changes were noted by Feb. 8 (†DBe), but at last report on Mar. 22 the bird had not molted.



*A Rustic Bunting in a parking lot in Kent, Wash., Dec. 16, 1987. Photo/Dennis Paulson.*

A winter-plumaged female **Rusty Blackbird** was found Feb. 14+ on Sauvie I. (†JG *et al.*; †DI, ph. JG, BO) for only the 3rd record for w. Oregon. With that same flock of blackbirds on Feb. 14, there was a female Tricolored Blackbird as well (†JG, Richard Smith, Tim Bickler, JJ, OS), presumably from the recently-discovered breeding colony in nearby Portland. Two other Tricoloreds were noted Dec. 27 in the Medford area (*vide* MM). An ad male N. Oriole was present Dec. 1 near Harbor, *Curry*, Ore. (AB, Steve Summers), and another male Northern was noted Dec. 25 in Portland (Barbara Beale). A first-year male oriole of undetermined species was seen Dec. 24-26 in Keizer, *Marion*, Ore. (†Tom Anderson, Bill & †Louise Loomis). An almost complete failure of the Douglas-fir cone crop was noted this fall on the Oregon coast (TM). This followed a bumper crop year the previous fall and winter, and paralleled production in the Cascades of s. Washington (Chris Chappell). Correspondingly, Red Crossbills were either not commented on or reported as absent or very few in those areas and the Willamette Valley (HN). Pine Siskins were reported to be in lower numbers than usual in these same areas and in *Whatcom*, Wash. (TW). Both species appeared to be present in normal numbers on V.I. (v.o., *vide* DFr).

INITIALED OBSERVERS, with **(subregional editors in boldface)** -- Gerry Ansell, Irene Bachhuber, David Bailey (DBa), Alan Barron, Dave Beaudette (DBe), Barb Bellin, Thais Bock, Chris Bond, Joe Buchanon, Alan Contreras, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Darrel Faxon (DFa), **David Fix**, **David Fraser** (DFr), B.R. Gates, George Gerdtts, Roy Gerig,

Jeff Gilligan, Peter Hamel, Margo Hearne, Steve Heinel, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, David Irons, Jim Johnson, Brian Kautesk, John Kempe(JKe), Jan Krabbe (JKr), **Dong Kragh**, Bill Lamond, Roy Lowe, Tom Mickel, Marjorie Moore, Fran Morelock, **Harry Nehls**, Bob O'Brien, Patty Olson, Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Craig Provost, Joy & Ron Satterfield, Owen Schmidt, Tom Schooley, Paul Sherrell, Jeff Skriletz (JSk), Dory & Stan Smith, **Terry Wahl**, George Walter, Wayne Weber, Bruce Whittington.

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*Spring Migration, 1987*

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The spring season over the Region was in general markedly warmer than normal and, with few exceptions, drier. Several reporters indicated that the migration was early, up to two weeks for some species. Roberts noted record-early arrivals for 13 species in the Salmon, Idaho, area. On the other hand a few reporters considered the migration timing about normal, e.g. Howie for southern interior British Columbia, Trost for southeastern Idaho, and Balcomb for Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Montana. May slowed the later arrivals. Some reporters considered birding poor, the birds just trickling through. On the other hand, exposed mudflats produced many shorebird sightings. Lack of precipitation and a low snow pack in the mountains raised the prospects of a summer with water deficiencies and poor vegetative growth.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Burns, Ore.; Market L. = Market Lake

Wildlife Management Area, Roberts, Ida., Metcalf = Metcalf Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Stevensville, Mont.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES -- Thirty Red-throated Loons on Adams L., n. of Shuswap, B.C., May 17 made a most unusual number (FR). Two Pacific Loons on Douglas L. in the s. Okanagan Valley (DK, WW) and one at Vernon, B.C. (MF), both May 18, were noteworthy. One was reported on L. Kooconusa, Lincoln Co., Mont., Mar. 28-Apr. 3 (and also in October 1986) (MS). Wickiup Res., w. of La Pine, Ore., hosted an awesome 300 Com. Loons Apr. 16 (CM) and 150 were on Twin Lakes Res., n.w. of Preston, Ida., in late April (TF). Wickiup Res. also had an impressive 45 Horned Grebes Apr. 16 (CM). Two of this species at Market L., Apr. 21 were unusual (AM) as were a sighting at Cascade Res., Cascade, Ida., May 3 (LAB) and three at Grandview, Wash., Apr. 21 (CR). A pair of Red-necked Grebes was again nest-building at Silver L., s.w. of Island Park, Ida. (CHT). The count of Am. White Pelicans at American Falls Res. in s. Idaho reached only 60, compared to last year's 1800 (CHT). They arrived at Red Rock Lakes about May 6 (JBa). Double-crested Cormorants appeared in the s. Okanagan valley, where they are decidedly rare: one on Osoyoos L., May 17 (DC), one at Vernon May 18 (DC *et al.*), and two at Salmon Arm May 28 (RR). One at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., Apr. 21 was a rarity (CV). A Least Bittern was heard and seen at Market L., Ida., about Apr. 4 (JS) and heard in mid-May (DB). Four Great Egrets near Osoyoos, B.C., May 12 were the first adequately noted for the Okanagan Valley (EM), and one at Revelstoke, B.C., May 27 was the first for that area (*fide* RRH). One at Wasa, B.C., May 14 also was apparently that area's first (*fide* MVW). Ten Great Egrets at a heronry in the Yakima, Wash., area May 9 (Y.V.A.S.) were notable, as were five at Sunriver, Ore., May 23-25 (JB, DD), three at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., May 20 (REW), and one near Lowden, Wash., Apr. 26-27 (SM, CM, KK). Four Great Egrets at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., May 3 were rarities there (WRR) as was one at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., May 11 (FBH). One at Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., was the latilong's 3rd (SHS). Three Snowy Egrets at Sunriver May 23-25 were Deschutes County's first (JB, DD), and one at Walla Walla, Wash., Apr. 23+ was unusual (KK). The nesting group of Cattle Egrets was back at American Falls Res.



(CHT), and a sighting came from Grays L., s.e. Idaho (SB). A few were reported at Malheur. Single Green-backed Herons were sighted near Mosier, Ore., May 12-13 (DL) and at the mouth of the Hood R., Ore. (DAA). Up to 22 White-faced Ibises were sighted flying over the Pasco-Richland-Wallula, Wash., area around May 19 (REW, KK, TG). Remarkable were up to nine of this species at Columbia N.W.R., May 9-19 (DG, WRR, JS). Also highly notable were one near Helena, Mont., May 2-3 (GH) and two at Mann's L., May 18-21 for the first sighting ever there (MCR, MK, LL, PP, LP, CV). A flock of five at Red Rock Lakes May 6 was noteworthy (JBa). Metcalf had three May 18 (DH).

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WATERFOWL, HAWKS -- The May 22 aerial survey of the Centennial Valley-Red Rock Lakes area found 204 Trumpeter Swans, an increase over last year. Wallula, Wash., had a surprising 28 Mar. 7 (KK). Four of the big birds appeared at Mann's L., Mar. 31 (CV, MCR); two were still there Apr. 2 (CV, LP, MK). One visited the Long Creek, Ore., sewage ponds May 3 for supposedly the first record there (G.C.B.C.). Two Greater White-fronted Geese at Tygh Valley, Ore., Mar. 18 made a latilong first (DL). One was sighted in the Frenchtown valley w. of Missoula, Mont., Apr., 2 (DH), and Oyama, B.C., had one Mar. 22 (PR). Kamloops, B.C., reported a Snow Goose Mar. 5 (SRo), and Mann's L. had up to six in April (C.B.). Some of these birds passed through Red Rock Lakes Mar. 15. A flock of 55 Snow Geese at Metcalf Apr. 2 contained three Ross' Geese (C & MC), and Walla Walla had a Ross' and a Brant Apr. 18- 19 (KK, CA, SM). Northern Pintails peaked at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., at only 1600 compared to 4500 in 1986. One or two Eur. Green-winged Teal appeared at Miller I., s. of Klamath Falls, Ore., in March (SS). A hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal photographed on the Owyhee R. w. of Adrian, Ore., was seen for 2½ weeks beginning Apr. 30 (MJ). Eurasian Wigeon is becoming a regular, although rather rare, migrant in the Region. The most notable were one at Wasa for the first record for the East Kootenay district (LH) and one in n.w. Montana that had a mate believed to be of the same species (DH, DT). A male Harlequin Duck on the Columbia R. at the Yakima R. delta in mid-May

provided the first record there (BTh, REW). A female Oldsquaw at Market L., Apr. 5 was quite unusual (AM). Thirty Oldsquaws, 100+ Surf Scoters, and 100+ White-winged Scoters were sighted near Riske Cr., B.C., May 19 (PR). Six White-winged Scoters were seen May 22-24 at Stump L., s. of Kamloops, B.C. (DP), and three flying W over McNary May 20 were very unusual (REW). One near Pocatello, Ida., was likewise unusual (CHT, m.ob.). Vernon, B.C., had five Red-breasted Mergansers Mar. 28 (PR). At least 2 pairs of Ospreys were nesting on artificial structures along the Salmon R. near Salmon, Ida. (LHa). The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R. hatched two young by about Apr. 7, and the pair on nearby Kootenai R. also hatched two (LDN). The resident pair at Wasa was not successful, however (MVW). Mosier, Ore., had an adult Mar. 17 (DL).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES -- The Yakima, Wash., Firing Center reported 300 Sage Grouse at about 5 leks (*vide* DG). The Nature Conservancy has acquired habitat at Roosville, B.C., and augmented the small flock of Sharp-tailed Grouse there with birds from Cranbrook, B.C. (PLW). Fifteen Wild Turkeys from near Creston, B.C., have been transplanted to the Bummers Flats area near Wasa. In the Wends Cr. area s w. of Ellensburg, Wash., a total of 30 turkeys was sighted (BR, EJ), but only one was seen in the Nile, Wash., area where they were introduced several years ago with little success (DG). Up to seven turkeys were observed at the Summit of Craig Mt. near Waha, Ida. (SSm, C.B.). Northern Bobwhite appeared in a College Place, Wash., yard (RL), and several were heard and seen at Two Rivers Habitat Management Unit down the Columbia R. from McNary N.W.R. (REW). A female Gambel's Quail perched on a post along Tammany Cr., w. of Lewiston, May 3 (WH, CV). A Virginia Rail at Riske Cr., May 10 apparently made a latilong first (PR). Kamloops recorded 1000+ Sandhill Cranes Apr. 20 (RRH) and Red Rock Lakes noted 153 May 14. Sandhills again nested at Metcalf, where newly-hatched chicks were seen June 1 (DH). Four in a meadow at Forest Grove, B.C., May 22 were possibly breeders (DP). A Greater Sandhill made a rare appearance at Columbia N.W.R., May 5 (WRR). Twelve Whooping Crane eggs brought from Canada and placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L., Ida., had all hatched by early June. Eighteen ad Whoopers had

returned to there and to w. Montana and w. Wyoming. All that returned to Grays L. were males (RD).

SHOREBIRDS -- Black-bellied Plovers showed up May 3 at Springfield Bottoms near American Falls Res and peaked at 18 (CHT). The only other sighting was of one at Metcalf May 21 (PLW). A Snowy Plover at

**S.A.**

Black-necked Stilts showed up in numerous places, often in high numbers, and made some giant strides northward. For what were apparently British Columbia's first, five were at Ashcroft and one near Okanagan Falls in late April and one s. of Kamloops May 1 (IB). A flock of 20 at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 19 (LDN) made the refuge's first record. One at Swallow's Park, Clarkston, Wash, Apr. 16 (RM) was the first for that locality and also apparently n. Idaho's first. Several other sightings were subsequently obtained in the Clarkston-Lewiston vicinity, with up to six birds seen (m.ob.). Wawawai County Park on the Snake R., Wash., had five Apr. 25 (KP). The Potholes area near Othello, Wash., where the species is quite regular, had sightings of up to 40 in early May (JBU, WRR, Y.V.A.S.), and 3 broods were found along Frenchman Hills Road w. of there (BT). The Yakima R delta had at least 28 for Woodley's highest ever there. Sightings were also made in the Walla Walla and Walla Walla R. delta areas (CA, SM, ES), at Ephrata (JB), Grandview (CR, ASt), Mabton (CR), St. Andrews (WD), and Priest Rapids Dam (LS), all in Washington. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had six (DT), and Bend, Ore, had three for

the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, Apr. 27-28 was apparently e. Washington's 2nd (REW, KK, BT, m.ob.). Three were reported on Springfield Bottoms May 3 (DP) Four Am. Avocets appeared at Kelowna, B.C. (DC). Eleven were counted at Kamloops May 16 (MJo), and a pair there May 18, with the female incubating, provided the province's 2nd nesting record (DF, RRH). A big 80 appeared at the Yakima delta (REW). Bend had 23 avocets, an astounding number there (TC). One at Kootenai N.W.R. was a rarity

(LDN). Up to three Solitary Sandpipers at 3 small lakes 19 mi s. of 100 Mile House, B.C., May 22-23 were presumably breeding (DP). A single bird was sighted near Midland, Ore., Apr. 28-30 for an unusual spring record (SS). Rare sightings of single Willets came from Columbia N.W.R. (WRR) and College Place (KK). The traditional Upland Sandpiper nesting grounds in the Spokane Valley had thus far yielded sightings of three birds (LT). Single birds were seen twice in early May at Malheur (RV, MR), and the species was noted in the Bear Valley nesting area, Seneca, Ore., May 7 (CC). A single bird was seen along Hwy 55 in Valley County May 21 for Idaho's only report (D & CG). A Whimbrel was at Metcalf May 22 for the 3rd record there (DH) and one at Osoyoos May 17 was apparently British Columbia's 2nd for the interior (MF). A Long-billed Curlew was at Hatfield L., Bend, for only the 2nd local record (BL). One appeared at Kootenai N.W.R., where the species has been seen only 3-4 times in the last 9 years (LDN). Flocks of 30 and 40 Marbled Godwits were recorded at Mud L. and Malheur L, respectively, at Malheur N.W.R., May 7 (GI, DP), and one was seen at Mugwump L. in the Warner Basin n. of Plush, Ore, May 28 (DP1M, S). At Red Rock Lakes a flock of 24 was sighted May 6 (JBa). Metcalf had one Marbled Godwit Apr. 22 (C & MC). Riske Cr. had a Ruddy Turnstone May 19 (PR) and one was near Aberdeen, Ida., May 16 (CHT, CW, DB, BJ). A Red Knot appeared at Springfield Bottoms May 21 (DB, m.ob.). Hatfield L. hosted 25 Dunlins May 17, for the most ever seen in the county--and more than all previous records combined! (TC). That lake also had a Short-billed Dowitcher May 3 (TC), as did Riske Cr., May 19 (PR). Flocks of 14 and five Long-billed

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Dowitchers at Red Rock Lakes May 11 were the latilong's first (JBa) A Red Phalarope visited the Long Creek sewage ponds May 3 for the latilong's first (G.C.B.C.).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS -- Five Franklin's Gulls at Vernon May 18 were noteworthy (DC). A flock of 25 nonbreeding-plumaged Bonaparte's Gulls was sighted

at the Hood R. mouth Ore., May 16 (DAA). One at Mann's L. was unusual (CV). The latest sighting of a Mew Gull at the Hood R. mouth was Mar. 14 (DAA). A near-ad W. Gull was carefully observed at the Hood R. mouth May 16 (DAA, JD). The bird that visits American Falls Dam, Ida., was seen only once, Apr. 17 with an ad Herring Gull (CHT, CW). Vernon had a Glaucous-winged Gull May 24 (MC, RC). Three Caspian Terns at Mann's L., May 18 were noteworthy (MK, LL, PP). Two Forster's Terns at Vernon May 17 were that area's first (DC, MC, WW *et al.*). Four migrant Forster's were at the Hood R. mouth May 16 (DAA). Single Band-tailed Pigeons were observed Apr. 18 at Armstrong, B.C. (PR), and near Burns May 13 (BHo). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered at Rupert, Ida., for the only report (WHS). A Com. Barn-Owl was sighted near The Dalles, Ore., May 12-13 (DL) and another along Hwy 197, Wasco Co., Ore. (PM, LW). Single Flammulated Owls appeared at Malheur May 24 (PM, LW), near Nile, Wash., May 17 (BB, ASt, SSt), and at Panhandle L., w. of Newport, Wash., May 21 (EJL). Nine were reported at Kamloops (RRH). Burrowing Owls in the Walla Walla area were cause for concern, as most of their former habitat has been plowed under--only 2 sites were found (SM). At least two returned to the release site near Osoyoos and one was back at the Cache Cr., B.C., release site (RRH). Three "new" pairs of Spotted Owls were located in the White Pass-Chinook Pass area in and near Mt. Rainier N.P., Wash. (SSt), and a pair was heard in the vicinity of Leavenworth, Wash. (CS, m.ob.). A pair of Barred Owls frequented the Little Naches R. drainage n.w. of Yakima May 6 (SSt) and one that visited the University of Montana campus, Missoula, Apr. 16 became something of a celebrity (SG). Two were found 60 min. of Revelstoke, B.C. (PRS), and several Barred Owls responded in the Lolo Pass area on the Idaho-Montana border, w. of Missoula (DH). A Great Gray Owl appeared near Philipsburg, Mont., in late May (SG) and two were near Pinantan, B.C., regularly (RRH). The cottonwood bottoms s. of Tetonia, Ida., yielded one Great Gray sighting (CHT, CW). Their numbers seemed to be down in the Island Park, Ida., area (*vide* CHT). Fifty-seven different Long-eared Owls were located in the Frenchtown and Flathead Valleys w. and n.w. of Missoula (DH). A pair of these birds, rarely reported in Klamath County, Ore., nested near Bonanza in a pine forest (SS). Two Short-eared Owls, always rare in the Helena Valley area, were apparently feeding nestlings there (GH). Lone Boreal Owls were

reported along Ball Cr. Road n.w. of Bonnets Ferry, Ida. (PRS), and n.e. of Vernon (ETJ). Seventeen territorial male Boreal Owls responded to calls played in the Lolo Pass area during late winter and spring (DH). A pair of N. Saw-whet Owls with three or four young was observed at Lower Granite Dam campsite on the Snake R. near Wawawai, Wash., May 18 (KM, OF). Another pair brought off four young in Umatilla County, Ore. (KK).

SWIFTS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- A Black Swift appeared at Metcalf May 27 (PLW). A female Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a Bend feeder in late May (TC, CM) and six were at Fields, Ore., May 23-24 (TC, JG). Two territorial male Anna's Hummingbirds frequented the campground at Lyle, Wash., in May (KK, BT) and one Anna's was sighted at Tieton, Wash., May 15 & 28 (NV). Presumably the same Costa's Hummingbird returned Mar. 30 to the same Bend feeder as it has for 3 previous consecutive years (G & CR). Another bird was at a Sunriver, Ore., feeder Apr. 26 (NH, TK)--one was seen there 2 years earlier. A 3rd was found at Tumalo S.P. near Tumalo, Ore. (TC), and a 4th in La Pine May 7-12 (HH). A **Costa's Hummingbird** visited a Lillooet, B.C., feeder for the province's 4th record (MB) A La Pine feeder had a male Broad-tailed Hummingbird May 7 & 18 (HH) and one was at Fields, Ore., May 23-24 (TC, JG). Sightings of Lewis' Woodpeckers at Red Rock Lakes in late April and May were apparently the latilong's first (JBa). Except for a report from near Ketchum, Ida., the species was noted only at several localities in n.c. Oregon. A rare sighting was of a Williamson's Sapsucker n. of Merritt, B.C., May 27 (DF, RRH). Up to 4 pairs were reported in The Dalles watershed area, Hood River Co., Ore., in May (DAA). Three-toed Woodpecker was sighted in Hood River County May 11 (DL) and Black-backed Woodpecker at Idylwild Park n. of Burns (DL, VT) May 28-29, both supposedly latilong firsts. Malheur was visited by a Least Flycatcher May 25 (TC, JG, HN) and one was sighted at Vernon May 17 & 31 (PR, WW) A Hammond's Flycatcher in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown May 24 was the latilong's first (LKM). Sightings of birds thought to be Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray flycatchers, new for Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., were of single birds May 23 (ASt, BB). Gray Flycatchers were back in the Oliver, B C, area where they were found breeding

in 1986 (DC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen May 16 in Hood River County, where rare (DAA). An unnamed observer reported a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the Phillipsburg latilong, Mont., no details supplied (*fide* CP). A male Purple Martin was near Cascade Locks, Ore., May 16 (DAA). A Bank Swallow colony along the Snake R. near Nyssa, Ore., probably numbered 5000+ birds (MJ).

JAYS THROUGH MIMIDS -- Four Gray Jays at Idylwild Park May 28-29 were the latilong's first (DL, VT). Two Blue Jays that wintered at Kimberley were still there Apr. 19 (MVW) A Scrub Jay at Pine Grove, Ore., May 25 was the observer's first at that location (DAA). A Canyon Wren in the Tygh Valley e. of Mt. Hood Mar. 18 made a latilong first (DL). A Bewick's Wren at Sportsman's S.P., Yakima, was the first sighted there in 4 years. One was also sighted at Toppenish N.W.R. The species has decreased drastically in the Yakima Valley in the last 6 years (ASt, BB). Conversely, nesting Bewick's continued to increase at Walla Walla (SM). A singing male of this species was observed at Asotin Slough Mar. 11 (MK, PP), and one bird was found at Arrow, 11 mi e. of Lewiston, Apr. 2 (C.B.) An Am. Dipper at Columbia N.W.R., May 26 was the refuge's first (SA). A male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher sang at Hagelstein County Park n. of Klamath Falls May 8 for a new location in s. Klamath County, Ore., where the species is now regular (SS). Nestling W. Bluebirds occupied a nest box at Wolf Creek, Mont. (*fide* SJ), and the species was reported nesting in boxes along the Dearborn R. to the n. of there (DF). These birds are rare e. of the Continental Divide. A migrating Varied Thrush at Market L., Apr. 4-5 was a rarity (WR, AM). College Place had a N Mockingbird Apr. 9 (KK). The bird that wintered at Twin Falls, Ida., lingered at least until April (CHT), and a territorial pair was mimicking just about everything in Curlew National Grassland, Holbrook, Ida. (CHT, CW). One was sighted near Sweetwater, Ida., May 24-28 (SSm, LL, PS, CV). Singles appeared at Malheur May 1 and at Alvord Hot Springs n. of Fields, Ore., May 15 (*fide* AS). One was at Sunriver, Ore., for the first acceptable county record there (DD). A **Curve-billed Thrasher** photographed at Twin Falls, Ida., Apr. 11 was the state's first. It had wintered at a feeder there, and reportedly one was seen in Boise during the winter (CHT).

VIBEOS, WARBLERS -- A singing Philadelphia Vireo was again sighted at Panhandle L., Apr. 28 (EJL)A. Tennessee Warbler was identified in Glacier N.P., Mont., May 25 (SG) and one appeared at Malheur May 24 (*fide* AS). One was sighted near Kelowna, B.C., May 7 (*fide* BH) and two were n. of Clearwater, B.C., May 23 (TG). A Magnolia Warbler showed up at Fields May 26 (HN). Four Black-throated Gray Warblers were sighted at Mill Cr. near The Dalles May 12-13 (DL) and single birds appeared at Skull Springs e. of Riverside, Ore., May 13

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(CC, PMa) and at Page Springs, Frenchglen, Oreg, May 21 (PS). A male was at the Teanaway R. mouth near Cle Elum, Wash, May 23 (BT). The species was also noted in Mt. Hood N.F., May 16 (PM, LW). Idylwild Park had a Townsend's Warbler May 28-29 (DL, VT). Hermit Warblers were observed in Hood River County (PM, LW, DL), along Hwy 26, Wheeler Co., Ore. (PM, LW), and at Malheur (*fide* AS). A Black-and-white Warbler was identified at Asotin Slough June 2 (MK, LL, MLP, PS) and another was at Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Frenchglen May 30 (TC, JG). A 3 Black-and-white at Argonne Nat'l Laboratory w. of Idaho Falls, Ida., about May 12 was the first for that area (AM, *fide* EC). An Am. Redstart at Bend May 22 was unusual (TC, C & AE). An Ovenbird was sighted at Malheur May 23-24 (*fide* AS). Another Ovenbird in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown, Mont., was more to be expected (LKM). A N. Waterthrush visited a Walla Walla yard May 25 for the 2nd consecutive spring (SM). Malheur had one May 16 (MR) and Fields, one May 29 (*fide* AS). A male sang in Manning P.P., B C., May 24 (DP).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES -- A female **Scarlet Tanager** was photographed May 31 at Pike Cr., Alvord Desert, Harney Co., for Oregon's 4th (TC, TB, JG). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared at Rupert (WHS) and one was sighted at Pike Cr., May 25-27 (*fide* AS). A male Black-headed Grosbeak at Deer

Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., May 25 added the species to the refuge's list (MJ). A male Lark Bunting, accidental in British Columbia, sang at Riske Cr., May 27 for that area's first (PR). A White-throated Sparrow at the Boise-Cascade campground on Wends Cr., n.w. of Yakima, May 25 provided the first record there in 30 years (EJL). Washtucna, Wash., had one Apr. 21 (BT) and one was at Malheur May 2-3 (JBo). The only Golden-crowned Sparrow reports were of singles at Vernon Mar. 28- Apr. 11 (MC) and s.e. of Othello May 9 (WRR). A very few Harris' Sparrows were reported for s. interior British Columbia, e Oregon, and e. Washington. Of special note was one s.e. of Othello May 2 (WRR). A McCown's Longspur was discovered in a flock of Horned Larks near Henrys L., n. of Island Park, about Apr. 19 (JT, BW). Twenty Lapland Longspurs were sighted in the Knutsford area Mar. 15 (RRH) and nine at Riske Cr., Apr. 21 (PR). A male Bobolink was photographed at Market L., May 16 (S.R.A.S., *fide* EC). A male **Great-tailed Grackle** was eating French fries at a Union Gap, Wash., drive-in May 25--these modern bird tourists!--for apparently the state's first record (WC, JW). Common Grackles are firmly established in s.e. Idaho, being seen in some numbers in Ashton, Driggs, Pocatello, Rifle, and Soda Springs (*fide* CHT). A **Hooded Oriole**, e. Oregon's first, came to a Klamath Falls hummingbird feeder May 2-3 (SS). A **Brambling** was photographed "still at a feeder" at Scotch Cr. near Chase, B C , in early March (SR) Purple Finches were reported in Hood River, Wasco, Wheeler, and Grant counties, Ore. (DL,P M, LW). A Lewiston feeder had a carefully-described male Apr. 16-22 (CG, CV, m.ob.). Two males and a female were sighted at College Place Apr. 17 (KK) and a few were seen in the Wenas Cr. area (ASt, BE, DG). One was reported along the N. Fork of the Owyhee R., s.w. Ida. (D & CG). A Com. Redpoll was observed at Hines, Ore., Mar. 31 (MW) and a group of eight was found at Ashton Mar. 29 (CHT, CW). Five Lesser Goldfinches were reported at Page Springs May 15 (*fide* AS) and one was reported 6 mi upstream from that place May 21 (PS). One at Walla Walla May 3 was the latilong's first (SM)

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*Spring Migration, 1987*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION -**

**/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Bill Harrington-Tweit**

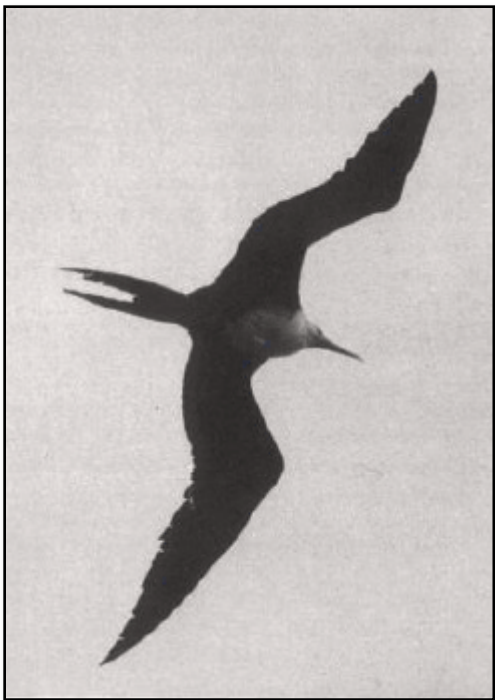
It was an early, warm spring in the Pacific Northwest. The temperature at the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver weather stations averaged several degrees warmer than usual each month. Combined rainfall at the three stations was about normal, but it fell on fewer days, so the season felt dry as well as warm. Adding spice to the relatively quiet and generally early migration were Magnificent Frigatebirds from the tropics, a Common Grackle from back east, and Costa's Hummingbirds, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Black-throated Sparrows from the southwest.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Is., B.C.; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS -- The early May peak in the N migration of Pacific Loons was marked this season by 2000 seen May 3 at Reifel I., Delta, B.C. (JI), "hundreds" passing Ocean Shores, Wash., May 8 (G & WH), and "very heavy movement in early May" at the S.J.C.R. (HN). Five Yellow-billed Loons were scattered from Garibaldi, Ore., to Skidegate, Q.C.I., during March and April. During May 9-17 an apparent passage of Yellow-billed Loons was noted with singles found at the S.J.C.R. (†HN), the mouth of the Necanicum R., *Clatsop*, Ore. (†JG, †HN, ph. JG, J. Kemp), well offshore Westport, Wash. (BT, TW), and at Discovery Park, Seattle (†DB). Single Clark's Grebes were reported during March at Yaquina Bay (DFa, D. Lusthoff), Mar. 11 in Charleston, Ore. (S. Summers, T. Crabtree, HN), and Mar. 28 at Westport (P. Osburn, *vide* HN) and Mar. 29-Apr. 6 in Seattle (D. Granstrand, †DB). The latter two provided only the 6th and 7th records for w. Washington. A Laysan Albatross was seen Apr. 30-May 2 about 40 mi due w. of Florence, Ore. (SA, G. Steiger), among an estimated 500 Black-footeds there. Pelagic birding forays May 10 about 45 mi out of Westport, Wash. (TW) and 20 mi out of Hammond, Ore. (DFi, JE) noted 24 and five Black-footeds, respectively, lower than usual numbers for those areas. Counts of N. Fulmars on those trips were

normal, with 129 off Westport and about 40 at the mouth of the Columbia R. Likewise for Pink-footed Shearwaters with 25 off Westport, one off Hammond, and one to six per day during Apr. 27-May 4 at 20-50 mi offshore (SA). No Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted, and Sooty Shearwaters were abundant as usual. SA noted three Short-tailed Shearwaters Apr. 27-30 about 40 mi w. of Florence, Ore., and one May 6 about 20 mi off Leadbetter Pt., Wash. Also one or two were "well-seen" out of Hammond May 10 (DFi, T. Lund, JE). A Leach's Storm-Petrel, not often seen from shore, was observed Apr. 19 from the Ocean Shores, Wash., jetty (†B. & G. Reichert, R. Wright).

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES -- Single Brown Pelicans had arrived at Bandon, Ore., by Apr. 5 (Betty Smith, *vide* LT) and at Cape Meares by Apr. 8 (DI). Several were noted May 7-10 at the S.J.C.R. and 20+ passed there May 29 heading into Washington (HN). An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** stayed Mar. 7-11 in the Charleston boat basin, Coos Bay (BF, D. Edwards, m.ob.), for one of very few Oregon records. Photos by OSc showed the white head and partial breastband, ageing it as a first-stage juvenile (Harrison 1983, *Seabirds*, p. 310+) and eliminating Great Frigatebird. An ad female Magnificent Frigatebird was reported Mar. 4 s. of Yachats, in *Lane*, Ore. (Martha Sawyer *et al.*), and Mar. 5 from 2 nearby locations in coastal *Lincoln* (*vide* ME). This could have been the bird reported to Mar. 19 at Cannon Beach, *Clatsop* (*vide* DFa). Following record numbers of Great Egrets in Washington this winter, there were more than usual spring reports also. Multiple sightings of one to two Great Egrets were obtained during May at about 7 locations in the Vancouver, B.C., area (JI, †WW, m.ob.). A Great Egret seen Apr. 29-May 3 at Cowichan estuary furnished the 9th record for V.I. (*vide* DFr, ph. E. Lofroth). Five roosted in the large Great Blue Heron rookery on Samish I., *Skagit*, Wash., throughout May, but no further indication of nesting was obtained (Lisa Nielsen). Single Snowy Egrets remained at Yaquina Bay, Ore., until May 8 (R. Olsen,



*An Immature Magnificent Frigatebird at the Charleston Boat Basin Coos Co., Ore., Mar. 9, 1987. Photo/Owen Schmidt.*

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*fide* DFa), appeared briefly at Ocean Shores, May 6-7 for the 6th record for w Washington (M. McCallum, ph.), and visited Saanich May 14-27 for the 3rd record for V.I. (G. Calvert, J. Tatum, m.ob., ph. DFr). One to two Cattle Egrets along the Coquille R., s. Oregon, Mar. 11-13 (M. Archie, JE, D. Anderson) were unusual for spring. Two to six Black-crowned Night-Herons at Somenos L., near Duncan, May 6-31 (AM, RS, B. Diakow, m.ob.) provided only the 3rd record for V.I., and the first involving more than one bird. The White-faced Ibis that wintered at Port Hardy, V.I., was last observed Mar. 16 (D. Solecki, C. Aitchison) and had begun molting into recognizable breeding plumage. An amazing flock of 29 White-faced Ibises flew S along North Spit at Coos Bay, Ore., May 11 (LT, BG). A White-faced Ibis seen May 28 at Steigerwald L., near Vancouver, Wash. (MH, Bob Bicknell), furnished the 5th record for w. Washington.

WATERFOWL -- At least 5000 Greater White-fronted Geese passed N over Toketee R.D. on the slopes of the Cascades e of Roseburg, Ore., between Apr. 27-May 3 (DFi). This must be a major flight route for the species. A flock of 75 at the S.J.C.R., Apr. 22 (HN) provided the only other report of more than 30 individuals. Based on near-daily censuses, the departure of Snow Geese from Reifel L., Delta, B.C., was more or less gradual through mid-April, with 2000 remaining Apr. 25 (JI). The next day only 200 were present and the last sighting of any was May 1. A Ross' Goose that wintered on Finley N.W.R., Ore, was last seen Mar. 4 (R. Aarons *et al.*, *fide* TM & ME). An Emperor Goose that wintered near Salem stayed until Mar. 3 (J. Anderson, BB). The Emperor Goose in Seattle was last seen Mar 16, but by then had become tame enough to eat bread from the hand and many observers doubted its wild origin. High counts of Brant from n.w. coastal Oregon, coastal Washington, and the Vancouver, B.C., area all were Apr. 22-25. A yellow neck-collared "Cackling" Canada Goose was sighted Apr 20 in the San Joaquin Valley of California (*fide* MH) and Apr 27 at Kent, Wash. (DB). Eight Eur. Green-winged Teal reports, a normal number, were spread throughout the Region. A very early male Blue-winged Teal was sighted Feb. 28 on Green L., Seattle (TH, JP), followed by early pairs Mar. 31 near Newport, Ore. (D. Snow, *fide* DFa) and Apr. 5 near Carnation, e. of Seattle (Bob Pepper). Widespread arrival was in late April-early May, slightly earlier than usual. Cinnamon Teal appeared throughout the Region earlier than usual also, with first reports in late March-early April. The 26 male Eur. Wigeon Mar. 5 with 1000 Am. Wigeon on the Samish flats, Wash., furnished the high count (GG). A conspecific pair of Eurasians was noted in Victoria Mar. 16 (RS). The female Tufted Duck that wintered in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., was last seen Mar. 1 (M. Gebauer), and a female Tufted Duck was seen Mar. 6 at Ocean Shores (G & WH). Single male Tufted Ducks made appearances Mar. 28 on the Duncan, V.I., sewage ponds (H. van der Pol, KT) and May 3 on Esquimalt Lagoon, V.I. (J. & G. Anderson, C. Harper). The male at Green L., Seattle, seen almost daily until Apr. 12 (m.ob., ph.), had a dark gray back and short tuft and its possible hybrid origin is being argued A subad male King Eider stayed May 4-11 on Birch Bay, *Whatcom*, for the 3rd spring record for Washington (†Paul Sullivan, m.ob.).

VULTURES THROUGH COOTS -- The major movement of Turkey Vultures noted this season, totaling 172 birds, passed the Ashland, Ore., area Mar. 13-23 (MM). First arrivals on V.I. and in the Vancouver, B.C., area were in late March. Ospreys returned on schedule in late March-early April to an increasing number of nest sites. Black-shouldered Kite nesting locations in the Region are either very few or very well hidden. A pair at the Raymond, Wash., airport was seen in various stages of courtship behavior, but only up to May 17 (BT, T. Burger, J. Palmer), and no nest has been found. A N. Harrier nest with 5 eggs was located May 12 near Steigerwald L., e. of Vancouver, Wash. (WC, ph.). A Cooper's Hawk was found at a nest on Neil Mt., near Ashland, Ore, Mar 31 (S. Shane, *vide* MM), and a pair was calling near last year's nest site in Saanich, V.I., Apr 26-May 5 (BW). The "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk on Sauvie I, near Portland, stayed to at least Mar. 7 (Bob O'Brien). Two "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were noted Mar. 13 near Stanwood, Wash. (Bud Anderson). Very few Rough-legged Hawks were reported, and the one seen May 6 near Bellingham, Wash, was very late (BT, TW, GW). The 30+ Merlins and 27+ Peregrine Falcons reported were about normal numbers for the season. However, excluded from this rough index of sightings were the ever more numerous nesting pairs of Peregrines in the Region. Appropriate secrecy and vagueness accompany this information, but there are possibly 6 active eyries in w. Oregon (*vide* DFi). The equally politically sensitive Gyrfalcon was reported only from the wide arc of its regular hunting habitat stretching from Boundary Bay, B.C., through the Samish and Skagit flats to Dungeness, Wash. The last sighting was Apr. 12. Just for the record, individual coots with the yellow-tinged, white facial shield of the "Caribbean" form (*F. caribaea*) were closely observed on Goodacre L., Victoria, during March 1984 (ph. Tim Zurowski) and on Green L., Seattle, Feb. 28 of this year (JP, TH). Surely these are color variants of the Am. Coot

SHOREBIRDS -- The 18 Lesser Golden-Plover sightings made an average number for the past several spring seasons, For nine of these the subspecies was not reported, including one n. to the Queen Charlotte Is. by Apr. 18 (RC). Seven were identified as *P.d. fulva*,

the Pacific Golden-Plover: six seen May 3-5 in Delta, B.C. (MF *et al.*) and one May 9 at the S.J.C.R, Ore. (†JG). The remaining two, seen and photographed May 11 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (†Ian Paulsen), were *P.d. dominica* Based on a nationwide examination of Pacific Northwest specimens by DP, this is the first documentation of an ad *dominica* here in spring. Black-necked Stilts were prominent visitors during April, as in 1984 and 1985. About 80+ birds were reported. The first was at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Apr. 11 (SH). Nine were there a few days later (PS) and 17 were on the Forest Grove, Ore, sewage ponds Apr. 16 (LW). Two appeared Apr. 17 at Reifel I, Delta, B.C., and 13 were there Apr. 19 (JI). One to three were found at 4 other mainland British Columbia locations. Three were seen Apr. 27 at Clover Pt., Victoria (RS, AM), one was in Saanich and Oak Bay May 5 (B. Sendall, T. Leedham), and six were present May 1-5 at the Courtney, V.I., sewage ponds (C Brant). There was only one previous record for V.I. One at Ridgefield N.W.R., Apr. 21 (MH) and six at Leadbetter Pt. (FS) Apr. 26 furnished the 5th and 6th w. Washington sightings The birds were last seen in both British Columbia and Oregon May 3-5. American Avocets displayed a variation of the same theme. About 61 birds were reported. The first were two in Ashland Apr. 15-16 (OSw, MM) for one of only two Oregon reports. An amazing 39 were together on Sequim Bay, Wash., Apr. 28 (D & SS). Seven appeared at 3 locations in the Vancouver, B.C, area May 12-28 for about the 17th-19th records there, and four were seen at Torino May 7 (AD) for the 4th record from V.I. Three on Lopez I, Wash., May 25 provided the 2nd record for the San Juan Is. (M. Mallea, *vide* ML). The 150 Greater Yellowlegs on the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash., Apr. 10 (BT), the 100 on Reifel I, B.C., Apr. 16 (JI), and 80 at Tillamook, Ore., Apr. 18 (JG, JJ) were large concentrations. The 30 Solitary Sandpipers reported made about an average total. Ten of these in the Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 26-May 10 were more than double the normal number there. The first Wandering Tattler of the season landed on board ship Apr. 23 about 40 mi w. of Reedsport, Ore. (SA). The 134 Whimbrels at Tillamook May 6 furnished a high count (HN). A much grayer Whimbrel at Ocean Shores May 16 showed an extensive white rump and base of tail and was possibly of the Siberian race *variegatus* (†Thais Bock).



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As usual, Red Knots were concentrated at sites around Grays Harbor, Wash. This season the high counts were of a low 200 at Ocean Shores May 8 (G & WH) and 150 at the Elk R. mouth May 10 (WW). A Semipalmated Sandpiper seen Apr. 26 at Gilbert Beach, Richmond, was the earliest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area (MF). Two Semipalmateds were at the Nehalem sewage ponds, Ore., May 6 (HN, ph.), and five others were noted during May. Sightings of 17 Baird's Sandpipers, 11 of these at Richmond and Delta, B.C., were about triple the average count of the last 8 years. The 33 Pectoral Sandpipers reported made almost a record high. Nine of these in Surrey, B.C., May 19 was the high count (WW). The peak of the Dunlin migration was represented by the count of 20,000 on Reifel I., B.C., Apr. 18 (JI), with 10,000 there the next day, and "very heavy movement" noted along the n. Oregon coast Apr. 22- 29 (HN). A Wilson's Phalarope nest with 4 warm eggs and another freshly-scooped nest depression were discovered at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, e. Douglas, Ore., May 19 (DFi). This site is 4 mi w. of the Cascade crest at 5300'. Pairs and small groups of presumably migrant Wilson's were widely noted as usual throughout May, but no other actual nesting evidence was obtained, also as usual.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNs -- Three Pomarine Jaegers were seen from the Ocean Shores jetty Mar. 20 (G & WH) and one was off the S.J.C.R., Mar. 27 (Tom Love, *vide* HN). A daily count of eight to 10 Pomarines was reported from 20-50 mi offshore Apr. 27-May 4 (SA). Northward movement of Bonaparte's Gulls was roughly monitored at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., B.C., with 700 counted there Mar. 29 (MF), 1400 Apr. 12 (AM), and 7500 Apr. 26 (RC). The latest reported Thayer's Gulls this season were singles at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 8 (DFi) and in Richmond, B.C., May 9 (MF), and 20 off Hammond, Ore., May 10 (DFi). Eight Glaucous Gulls were reported, a typical number, from 7 locations, with one May 3 at Yaquina Bay, Ore., the latest (OSc). A possible 2nd-year Kumlien's Iceland Gull was closely studied at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 8 (†DFi). The thorough description is under review by several gull-watchers experienced with this species.

Many more Black-legged Kittiwakes than usual were found at the mouth of Grays Harbor, Wash., this spring (G & WH). About 200, of which 10% were adult, were counted there from a boat Apr. 4 (GG). The Ross' Gull at Yaquina Bay, Ore., was last reported Mar. 9 (W & FB, *vide* DFa). The first Caspian Tern sighting of the season was on schedule at Willapa Bay N.W.R., Wash., Mar. 30 (JA). A Com. Tern along the Fraser R. at Steveston Apr. 12 was the earliest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area (JI *et al.*). Elsewhere, arrivals were in late April. High counts for the season were of 400 at Steveston May 4 (WW) and 425 off Westport May 10 (TW). Following a storm front passage over s. Oregon, an Arctic Tern was observed standing with three Com. Terns on the Kirtland Road ponds, Ashland, May 30 (H. Sands, †MM *et al.*). Four Black Terns visited the L.C.C. sewage ponds in Eugene, Ore., May 17 (PS, TM) and one graced the Auburn, Wash., ponds May 24 (DB).

ALCIDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- A flight of about 1000 Com. Murres per minute passed N by Cape Meares, Ore., during one-half hour Mar. 29 (BB). The 58 Cassin's Auklets seen off Westport, Wash., May 10 (TW) and 70 counted out of Neah Bay, Wash., May 25 (J. Buchanon) again matched the highest-ever counts here for spring (TW). The last Snowy Owl stayed on Boundary Bay, B.C., until Mar. 22 (JW). Then one was seen on a downtown Vancouver rooftop Mar. 29 (Bill Crins *et al.*). The most surprising migrant owl, however, was the Burrowing Owl flushed into a maple tree on Skinner's Butte in Eugene, Ore., Mar. 31 (SH). The last sighting of the two wintering at the Eugene airport was Mar. 12 (TM). On Mar. 7 a Great Gray Owl sat in view for 10 minutes along the Hyatt-Howard Prairie Road e. of Ashland, Ore. (MM, S. Plante). This is not far from the resident birds near Klamath Falls. A pair of Long-eared Owls was observed Mar. 12 & 21 near Corvallis (M & EE), and one was noted on Reifel I., B.C., until at least May 10 (JI), but no nesting evidence was obtained. A Com. Nighthawk seen and heard in Richmond, B.C., May 10 was extremely early (P. & B. Spittmann). The only other report this season was of one at the Carson, Wash., fish hatchery (JD). First sightings of Vaux's Swifts were of a flock of 15 over Mt. Finlayson, V.I., Apr. 4 (DFr) and several in Eugene Apr 6 (A. Contreras). Widespread arrival began about 10 days later. Two newly-fledged young Anna's

Hummingbirds were at a feeder on Uplands Road, Landsdowne, V.I., Apr. 8-22 (B. Gates, KT, ph.). A pair of Calliope Hummingbirds was present Apr 21 at the Merlin rest stop along I-5, *Josephine*, Ore. (Al McGie, *fide* ME). Single male **Costa's Hummingbirds** were seen and photographed in Lillooet, B.C., May 17-19 (M. Bentley *et al.*) and Burnaby, B.C., May 20+ (J. & N. Jellett, N. Chesterfield *et al.*, ph. DK), for the 5th and 6th records for the province. Rufous Hummingbirds returned early, with males noted Feb. 24 on Willapa N.W.R., Wash. (JA), and a record-early Mar. 5 in N Vancouver, B.C. (A. Poynter). First arrival on V.I. was Mar. 19 in Highlands (RS). A male Rufous with a solid green back was found dead in late April on Stuart I., *San Juan*, Wash. (ML, \* to U.W. Burke Museum), and a green-backed Selasphorus was seen Apr. 18 in Philomath, Ore. (R. & J. Krabbe).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH LARKS -- Red-naped Sapsuckers, scarce migrants here, were noted Apr. 12 in Seattle (MC), Apr. 21 in Richmond, B.C. (†A. Stewart), and May 2 in Vancouver, B.C. (†MF, MB, GA). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers was excavating a cavity May 10 in a potential nesting location, Cypress P.P., W. Vancouver, B.C., but they were not present on subsequent visits (MF). The first sighting of an Olive-sided Flycatcher was Apr 26 in Glendale, s. *Douglas*, Ore. (EP). First arrivals from Eugene n. to Vancouver, B.C., were Apr. 30-May 7. Western Wood-Pewees were first noted in Eugene Apr. 25 (PS) and Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 30 (MF), with first arrivals reported elsewhere in early May. First reports of Willow Flycatchers in Oregon were May 5-15, and in Washington and British Columbia May 19-30. Arrival of Hammond's Flycatchers was noted Apr. 18-22 from Toketee L., Ore. (DFi), Eugene (SH), Portland (JJ), and Vancouver, B.C. (A. Schutz). In contrast, arrival of W. Flycatchers was spread over Mar. 28-Apr. 28 in Oregon and Washington, and Apr. 20-26 in British Columbia. Dusky Flycatchers had returned to known breeding areas in Toketee R.D., Ore., by Apr. 28 (DFi) and on King Mt., *Jackson*, Ore, by May 3 (EP). Migrant Dusksies were noted in Portland Apr 30 (DI), Eugene May 2 (SH), and Kent, Wash., May 10 (†DB). The Say's Phoebe passage was right on schedule Mar. 1-Apr. 3, but the 17 sightings from 10 Oregon and Washington locations represented many more birds than usual. The now usual movement of W. Kingbirds n. of the

Columbia R. was marked this year by 12 birds at 9 locations in Washington, two in Vancouver, B.C., and three on V.I., all Apr. 25-May 30. Out-of-range E. Kingbirds were at Dungeness, Wash., May 8 (SS) and near LaConner, Wash., May 29 (J. O'Connell). A vagrant **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** found May 16-18 on the far side of V.I. at Pacific Rim P.P. (AD *et al.*) provided the 4th record for the island. The 5th annual spring census of Eur. Skylarks on the Saanich Peninsula, V.I., located 44 singing males at 9 locations (AM, BW). This compares well with the 42-45 found in 1983-1985. Last year's apparent decline is believed to have been due to inclement weather during the census periods. The skylarks prefer short-grass fields (Victoria airport), fallow, weedy fields, and fields planted with daffodils or tulips. The usual handful were in residence at the nearby s. end of San Juan I., Wash (JP, ML, BT).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRASHERS -- The first N Rough-winged Swallows were noted Mar. 18 in Ashland, Ore (OSw), and Mar. 27 at the Carson, Wash., fish hatchery (JD). First arrivals throughout the Region were reported Apr. 5-12.

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A single Bank Swallow May 10 at Tillamook, Ore., furnished the only report (Roy Gerig). The vanguard of the Barn Swallow migration was noted Apr. 3 in Ashland (R. Skibby, *fide* MM), Apr. 8 at North Bend (BG) and Tillamook (HN), Apr. 9 in Seattle (Tom Schooley), and Apr. 11 at Iona I., B.C. (T. Plath, L. Koch). Cliff Swallows, like Rough-wingeds, appeared to arrive in s. Oregon and wait before heading farther north. First arrival in Ashland was Mar. 14 (OSw). They were first reported in Washington Apr. 6-11, n. Oregon Apr. 8-13, and in British Columbia Apr. 13-15. A few Mountain Chickadees remained at feeders in Vancouver, B.C., and near Vancouver, Wash., until late April early May. The White-breasted Nuthatch that wintered in Saanich, V.I., was last seen Mar. 28 (B. Pellow). GW banded the young of 2 pairs of White-breasted Nuthatches during May at an. breeding outpost in Lakewood, *Pierre*, Wash. A migrant Rock Wren was seen Apr. 8 on the coast at Garibaldi,

*Tillamook*, Ore. (DI). Single Canyon Wrens were noted on the e. edge of the Region at Emigrant L., near Ashland, Ore., Feb. 28 (B. Morrow, *vide* MM) and at a possible breeding location on the cliffs of Pig Iron Mt., e. *Douglas*, Ore., May 24 (DFi). Eleven pairs of W. Bluebirds were utilizing nest boxes during May at an breeding outpost on Mt. Tuam, Salt Spring I., n. of Sidney, V.I., and another pair was at a box on nearby Mt. Galiano, Galiano I. (H. Pollock). More than 160 pairs were on territory on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash. (GW). This was an increase from 25 pairs there in 1984. The first Swainson's Thrushes noted were in N. Bend, Ore., Apr. 22 (BF), in Delta, B.C., Apr. 25 (JW), and at Pt. Roberts Wash., Apr. 28 (MF *et al.*). First arrivals at other locations were Apr. 29 and May 6-11. The N. Mockingbird that wintered in Bellingham, Wash., stayed to at least Mar. 10 (TW); the one w. of Hoquiam, Wash., stayed to Apr. 26 (MC, m.ob.). Others were noted on Whidbey I., Wash., in mid-April and at Newport, Ore., May 10-12 (EP, J. Dunham). Vagrant Sage Thrashers were sighted May 13 at the S.J.C.R. (HN) and May 23 at Plat I Res., near Roseburg, Ore. (†DFi, S. Gordy).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Solitary Vireos were first observed Mar. 26 at Toketee R.S., Ore. (DFi) and Apr. 9 on Vashon I., *King*, Wash. (CE). Widespread first arrivals were reported Apr. 12-24. First arrivals of Warbling Vireos were Apr. 21-28 in all reporting areas of the Region. Red-eyed Vireos, arriving from the east, were somewhat early May 14 at Alaksen N.W.A., Delta, B.C. (MF), May 21 in Seattle (Bob Sundstrom), and May 22 just e. of Vancouver, Wash. (WC), and on time May 26 in C. Saanich, V.I. (WW), and May 30 near Oakridge, Ore. (SH, PS). Arrival of Orange-crowned Warblers across most of Oregon and Washington was Mar. 28-Apr. 2. The first migrant Nashville Warblers reported were at Skinner's Butte, Eugene, Apr. 16-18 (SH, TM), Discovery Park, Seattle, Apr. 27 (DB), and Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver, B.C., where they are rare, Apr. 30 (MF, GA). Nashvilles were on territory on the Cascade slopes at Toketee R.S., Apr. 24+ (DFi), and a female was on the coast, where they are very scarce, at Ft. Stevens S.P., Ore., May 9 (DFi). "Heavy migratory movement" of Yellow-rumped Warblers was noted near Portland Apr. 13-15 (JD, HN), and a high count of 150 was obtained Apr. 20 at Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C. (B. Self). The arrival of Black-throated

Gray Warblers proceeded N in regular fashion: Apr. 6-7 & 13-18 in Oregon, Apr. 16-19 in Washington, Apr. 20-24 in British Columbia. Arrival dates were similar for MacGillivray's Warbler: Apr. 15-26 in Oregon and Apr. 25-30 in Washington and V.I. In contrast, first sightings of Com. Yellowthroats in Oregon, Washington, the Vancouver, B.C. area, and V.I. were all Apr. 3-5. Some localities in all areas noted first arrivals through Apr. 19. Hermit Warblers returned early to Oregon this season: Apr. 17 at Toketee R.S. in the Cascades (DFa), Apr. 18 in Eugene (SH), and Apr. 22-25 in the Coast Range, near Philomath, and at Toledo (TM, J. & K. Fairchild, DFa). A singing male N. Waterthrush was noted May 24 e. of Mule Deer campground, Manning P.P., B.C. (DP), w. of the presently-known breeding range. Nine Yellow-breasted Chats were reported May 9+ from 7 localities between Corvallis and Portland, generally n. of the species' regular nesting areas. Two were at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., May 23-27 (E. Beerman, M. Rucker, T. Mallory), and one was in Langley, B.C., May 15+ for the 9th ever and 3rd spring Vancouver area record (Glen Ryder, †WW, m.ob.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES -- First arrival of W. Tanager throughout the reporting areas of the Region was Apr. 24-May 1. An early Black-headed Grosbeak was in Delta, B.C., Apr. 25 (JW). Otherwise the reported arrival in Oregon was Apr. 22-29, in Washington May 1-7, and in the Vancouver, B.C., area May 5-6. Lazuli Buntings were first noted Apr. 26 near Ashland (Keller, *vide* MM), and May 1-2 in Corvallis, Albany, and Eugene (M & EE, Bill Dale, SH), right on schedule. A male Lazuli was noted May 29 in Vancouver, B.C., where it is scarce (D. Smith). A singing male Vesper Sparrow at Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 5+ was early (D & SS). Three vagrant Black-throated Sparrows were found: one anomalously early Mar. 13 in Salem, Ore. (†J. Luehrs), one May 23-27 in Corvallis, Ore. (S. Moore, M & EE *et al.*), and the 3rd May 26 on Henry I., *San Juan*, Wash. (†FS, C. Howe). The latter provided the 5th record for w. Washington, all of which have been during May 16-June 23. Vagrant Sage Sparrows appeared Mar. 14-15 at the Montlake fill, Seattle (S. Schaefer, S. Henry, DB) for the 3rd spring record for w. Washington and the 2nd from that location, and Apr. 1 at Cape Meares, Ore. (HN). Single wintering Swamp Sparrows were last seen at Sauvie I.,

Ore., Mar. 8 (JG) and the Skagit W.R.A., Wash., Mar. 14 (BT, GW). Another was at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Ore., Mar. 24-Apr. 4 (SH, TM). Thirteen White-throated Sparrows were reported, an average number for the past 5 years. Five of these were in Washington, more than usual for that state, during March, and the one Apr. 26 in C. Saanich, V.I. (Mrs. Luney) was the latest. Arrival dates for the *pugetensis* race of White-crowned Sparrow in Washington were Mar. 30-Apr. 4 (CE, JD, TW, A. Richards). Fourteen Harris' Sparrows were evenly spread through the Region, with the one seen May 2 at Tou Velle Park, n. of Medford, Ore., the latest (LW, P. Muller). There were no further sightings of the Rustic Bunting at Kent, Wash., after Mar. 22. The female Rusty Blackbird found this winter on Sauvie I., Ore., was last seen Apr. 5 (SH, †DFi, m.ob.). Another Rusty Blackbird, in breeding plumage, appeared May 21-22 at Pacific Rim P.P. for the 4th spring record for V.I. (†J & RS). A **Common Grackle** was found May 1+ at Veneta, by Fern Ridge Res., Eugene (†TM, m.ob., ph. OSc), for the first record for w. Oregon. First reports of N. Orioles were Apr. 16 in Ashland, Ore., Apr. 23-26 in the s. Willamette Valley, and May 1-9 elsewhere. A Cassin's Finch seen Apr. 30 in Queen Elizabeth Park



*Female Cassin's Finch at Sequim, Wash., May 15, 1987. Photo/ Eugene Kridler.*

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furnished the 3rd documented record for the Vancouver, B.C., area (†MF). A male Cassin's Finch

was netted and banded May 15 near Sequim, Wash. (†E. Kridler, ph. D & SS), for one of few documented records from the w. Washington lowlands. Red Crossbills were absent from the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi), but present in usual numbers at most coastal and lowland locations elsewhere. Adults were feeding young Apr. 22 at Yachats, *Lincoln*, Ore. (W & FB, *vide* DFa). A few White-winged Crossbills were noted Apr. 13-20 at Tlell, Q.C.I., for the only report this season (RC). After 4 years' residence at Toketee R.S., *Douglas*, Ore., separated from the nearest small town by 40 mi of forest, DFi sighted his first pair of House Sparrows there Apr. 29.

ADDENDUM -- A Palm Warbler seen at Leadbetter Pt., May 22, 1983 (R. Widrig, R. Knapp), for the 4th spring record for Washington. was inadvertently omitted from that season's report.

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*The Nesting Season, 1987*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Thomas H. Rogers**

The summer period was marked by extremes of weather. June continued the hot, dry trend set in May. July, by contrast, was cool and very wet almost everywhere, but spells of hot weather between rains and the low snow pack in the mountains kept water levels low. The principal effect of this was to provide mudflats that attracted shorebirds in good numbers. A few reporters commented that the southward return of these birds was early. Otherwise the erratic weather appeared to have little effect upon bird life.

ABBREVIATIONS -- L.O. = Lookout; C.G. = Campground.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES -- Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., had a sighting of a single Com. Loon July 28 (JB). Two were at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., June 4 for a rare June sighting (CDL), and one or two lingered into June on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash. (REW). At least 2 pairs of Red-necked Grebes again brought off young in s.e. Idaho, one pair on Henrys L. and the other on Silver L. in Harriman S.P. (WEH, CHT). Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., had a W. Grebe July 12; the species is not known to breed there (DH). Nineteen W. Grebes and three Clark's Grebes were on Ochoco Res., Prineville, Ore., July 26 (TC) and fifteen Clark's were with one Western on Wickiup Res., Deschutes Co., Ore., July 21 (DL). Several of the latter were seen at Malheur N.W.R. in July (CDL), and Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had three June 28 (WEH). The species was sighted on Sagehen Res., Gem Co., Ida., for the latilong's first (DJ). Islands created by high water at Malheur benefitted Am. White Pelicans, which produced 810 young. Numbers of pelicans at American Falls Res., s.e. Idaho, remained low with flocks of 50-100 relatively rare. Moderate numbers appeared in s.c. Montana and a few appeared in the Frenchman Hills-N. Potholes area, Grant Co., Wash., in July (JA, FB, WH, PM). Double-crested Cormorant numbers remained relatively stable at Malheur N.W.R. at about 900 pairs, and Ninepipe N.W.R. counted 120 in late June (WEH). Noteworthy were some of the latter species at Crane Prairie Res.

and Wickiup Res., s.w. of Bend, Ore. (G.C.B.C.). An ad Great Egret near Wilmer, B.C., June 8 was the first for that area (LH). Two at Frank Cr., w. of Dayville, Ore., in mid-June were latilong firsts (G.C.B.C.) and one at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Ida., June 20 and July 13 was unusual (MJ). A pair of Great Egrets provided the first nesting record for Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. (WRR). A pair or 2 of these birds probably bred on the Springfield Bottoms near American Falls Res. (BJa, CHT). A Snowy Egret along the Payette R. e. of New Plymouth, Ida., July 17 was notable (MJ). A few Cattle Egrets appeared at Malheur N.W.R. in June (CDL). Four Black-crowned Night-Herons stayed at Kamloops, B.C., July 17-31. They are very rare there (SR, RRH). Sunriver, Ore., hosted two juveniles of the species July 8 (CM). White-faced Ibises nested in good numbers at Malheur N.W.R., with 2500 present. About 30 pairs nested at Silver L., in n.w. Lake Co., Ore., for apparently the first nesting record for that locality (CC), and 2 small active nesting colonies were found in the Warner Valley, Lake Co., Ore. (MS). Numerous sightings of this species were obtained at Red Rock Lakes.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TURKEY -- A Tundra Swan spent the first 2 weeks of July on a Clarkston, Wash., pond (RH, PS), and two were sighted in Bear Valley s. of John Day, Ore., May 30 (G.C.B.C.). It was a near-record year for Trumpeter Swan production at Red Rock Lakes, with 127 cygnets on the refuge and 41 in the rest of the Centennial Valley. Forty-four Trumpeters remained at Malheur, where production appeared very good. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., still had five Trumpeters. A Black Swan at Columbia N.W.R., June 11 was undoubtedly an escapee (WRR). A molting ad Snow Goose was observed there June 26, and 1764 pairs of Canada Geese there produced 2875 young. Predator control there contributed to this success. The number of fledged young ducks at Malheur N.W.R. was down somewhat from the 10-year average, but duck production at Columbia N.W.R. was excellent. Duck success was up at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., but continued downward in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity. Turnbull N.W.R. had 470 Gadwalls, a high number, in mid-June (JBe). Two Com. Goldeneyes at Malheur July 8 were unusual (GI). Buffleheads were presumed to have bred in the Coeur d'Alene R. drainage in n. Idaho as the birds were

present all summer and breeding behavior was noted (BG). Twenty-four ad Ospreys were color-marked and 82 nestlings banded in n. Idaho (DJo), and other adult and nestling birds were banded at Cascade Res., Ida. (MB). At least 4 pairs of Ospreys frequented the Salmon, Ida., vicinity. One pair had three nearly-fledged young and another pair had at least one nestling (LH). Four pairs of Ospreys nested at Thompson Valley Res., Lake Co., Ore. (CC *et al.*). There were 8 known Bald Eagle nests in Idaho's panhandle, 7 of them raising young (LDN). Two pairs of Bald Eagles were known to have hatched young in Lake County, Ore., but the final outcome was unknown (CC *et al.*). Washington Dept. of Wildlife, assisted by volunteers from Blue Mt. and Spokane Audubon Societies and Canyon Birders, released three young Peregrine Falcons at the newly established hack site in Asotin County during the summer (JH). Two ad Wild Turkeys with young were noted in July along the Grande Ronde R., Asotin Co., Wash. (LD, PMi, CV).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS -- Six to eight Yellow Rails were located near Ft. Klamath, Ore., July 3 (DL). Sandhill Cranes with young were sighted in Beaver Valley n. of Seneca, Ore. (G.C.B.C.). Two Sandhill Cranes in the Kimberley, B.C., area July 11 were unusual (MVW). Nineteen ad Whooping Cranes were located, including nine at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., and three others in s.e. Idaho, six in w. Wyoming

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(including two in Yellowstone N.P.), and one in s.w. Montana (RD, EB). A survey of Oregon's Snowy Plovers counted 651 ad birds in Lake County, more than 90% at Abert and Summer lakes. Smaller numbers were observed at Alkali L., Coleman L., and Bluejoint L. (CC *et al.*). A few Snowies were moving into the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin as water levels continued to recede; 15 were present at Stinking L. and three near Harney L. through the period (GI). A remarkable find at Stinking L., Ore., was a pair of **Semipalmated Plovers** with a single chick which was captured and banded (GI). One Semipalmated Plover stopped at Clear L., s. of Mt. Hood, Wasco Co., Ore. for

apparently a latilong first (DL). Four adult and 10 imm. Mountain Plovers were sighted July 14 s. of Judith Gap, Mont. (WEH, SMS, BH). Black-necked Stilts and fledglings were seen in the Frenchman Hills-Dodson Road vicinity (PM). They raised young at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR). Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., had 355 Black-necked Stilts July 6 and 563 Aug. 3 (CC *et al.*). Nearly 16,000 Am. Avocets were counted there July 6 (CC *et al.*, CM) and only slightly fewer Aug. 3 (CC *et al.*). Nearly 2000 avocets were at American Falls Res. by the end of July (CHT). The Am. Avocet nest near Kamloops was abandoned, but two successful broods were found in Kamloops in early June (*vide* RRH). This species was counted at 15,828 at Summer L., July 6 (CC *et al.*). A pair of Willets with one young near Leadore, Ida., provided the first breeding record for that area (HBR). The nesting area of Upland Sandpipers in the Spokane Valley yielded a total of only three birds. On the last sighting, July 16, the latest ever, the birds circled close by, acting as if young birds were present (LT). A surprising Long-billed Curlew appeared on a sagebrush-covered slope at 6400 ft. elevation at Calamity Lookout n.e. of Burns, Ore., July 18 (MA). A breeding plumaged male **Hudsonian Godwit** appeared on the Yakima R. delta, Richland, June 8 for e. Washington's 5th record (REW). Summer L. had a Marbled Godwit July 6 (CC *et al.*). A Ruddy Turnstone near Rapelje, Mont., July 19 made a latilong first (WEH, SMS, BH). One was at American Falls Res. where the Snake R. enters July 23 for the year's 2nd observation (CHT, JTi). A Red Knot on the Springfield Bottoms July 11 was the 2nd this year (BJa). Noteworthy were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Wickiup Res., July 30 (CM) and one to two at the Hood R. mouth, Hood River Co., Ore., July 12 (DAA, DL, BWo, NM). Hatfield L., Bend's sewage treatment ponds, had the highest number ever of "peeps," with 100+ Westerns, 150 Least, and a Semipalmated (TC). Kamloops reported 12 Semipalmateds July 26 for a rare sighting (SR). A Baird's Sandpiper at the latter spot July 5 probably made the first county record (DAA, DL). A Stilt Sandpiper at Fortine July 13 was the 3rd recorded there in 66 years (WW). Another was at American Falls Res. at the Snake R. entrance July 20 (CHT). Two Parasitic Jaegers were reported at Malheur July 19 (G.C.B.C.). Summer L. had 11 Franklin's and 10 Bonaparte's gulls July 19 (CM). Up to nine Bonaparte's Gulls were present at Columbia N.W.R., June 16 to at least July 2 (WRR). An ad Herring Gull appeared near Harrison, Ida., July 15 (DJo). The ad W. Gull stayed

around the floating tires at American Falls dam through the summer period (CHT). Two Caspian Terns at Metcalf N.W.R., June 9 (PLW) apparently furnished a latilong first.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS-** A territorial male Black-billed Cuckoo was found 6 mi s.w. of Columbus, Mont., July 6 (WEH, SMS, BH). Burrowing Owls had a good year at and near Columbia N.W.R., where several pairs bred successfully (WRR). The species was back at its old locality n. of Three Forks, Mont., after an absence of several years (WEH). An adult and two imm Spotted Owls were noted in the Swauk Pass area w. of Wenatchee, Wash., in June (BJ). A Barred Owl was observed at Blewett Pass w. of Wenatchee June 6 (SA). Four nights of owling in the Blue Mts. of s.e. Washington at 5300-6100 ft. elevation June 7-14 found two Flammulated, nine Great Horned, five Barred, two Boreal, and two N. Saw-whet owls (BW). Black Swifts numbered 23 over Metcalf N.W.R., June 17, suggesting that they nest in the nearby Bitterroot Mts. (DH). A Vaux's Swift, quite rare at any time at Richland, flew over for Woodley's first July record there. Two nests with young White-throated Swifts were found at Kamloops July 19 for that area's 2nd confirmed nesting (RRH). A male, a female, and four imm Anna's Hummingbirds, at a feeder at Sunnybrae, B.C., in mid-July suggested the first breeding record for the Shuswap area (FK). Indian Rock L.O., n.w. of Bates, Ore., had an imm. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird July 11 (RHu), and the species was seen regularly at Dale, Ore., in June (G.C.B.C.). They were common at feeders near N. Fork Ranger Station n. of Ketchurn, Ida. (EC), and were reported at Ketchurn also (WHS). Rare in Montana, two territorial males were displaying at Quake L., s.e. Madison Co., July 8 (WEH, SMS). A female Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a Bend feeder off and on, and a Costa's Hummingbird, the 5th this year for the Bend vicinity, appeared for 2 weeks (KC, TC). Over 400 hummingbirds, mostly Calliope and Rufous with a few Black-chinned, were banded near Troy, Mont. (KB).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS --** Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported in good numbers at a few localities: over 100 were seen along the S. Fork of

the John Day R. and Murderers Cr., Grant Co., Ore., July 23 (G.C.B.C.); 30-40 were flycatching along the Deschutes R., Wasco Co., Ore., at the end of July (T & AM); 17 were noted along Dufur Rd., Hood River-Wasco counties, Ore., July 12 (DAA); 15 were seen in Boise and Adams counties, Ida., July 18 (DJ, ST, JL); and nine were sighted at Kelowna, B.C., June 29 (SM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, Oregon's first, was reported at Malheur June 21 (CO). A well-described male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was sighted at Catherine Creek S.P. near Union, Ore., June 4 (DL, KK, JE). Both Red-naped and Red-breasted sapsuckers were nesting at Indian Ford C.G., Deschutes Co., Ore. (T & AM). Least Flycatchers were reported at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JR). A singing territorial male Willow Flycatcher along the Yakima R. in Richland at least June 9-16 made Woodley's first such record there. A Least Flycatcher was reported at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin Co., Wash., July 26 (PMi, CV). One was noted for a week in June in the Wenatchee, Wash., area (BJ, JT). Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Wasco Co., Ore., had four Gray Flycatchers including two juveniles (DL). Two adult and one imm Ash-throated Flycatchers were sighted near Wenatchee in June (BJ). Most remarkable was an unsuccessful nesting attempt by a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Big Timber, Mont. The bird was photographed on its nest on a power pole--no mate was ever seen (RHu, WEH). Wave action at Harney L., Malheur N.W.R., created several miles of vertical banks that attracted 2000 Bank Swallows.



*An Adult Gray Flycatcher at nest east of Oliver, B.C., summer 1987. This is the same area where the first breeding record for Canada was established*

*one year earlier (see AB 41:376-378). Photo/Tim Zurowski (VIREO 203/6/006).*

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JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Lyle, Wash, had six Scrub Jays July 3 (FB), and one in Bend throughout June was unusual (KC, KT). The species was also recorded in Hood River County (DL, DAA). A magpie that apparently was a Yellow-billed appeared at Boise, Ida., July 24 (Cru *et al.*). Remarkable concentrations of Com. Ravens included 200 over Indian Rock L.O., Aug. 1 (RHu), and 150 on the e. side of The Dalles watershed, Hood River Co., Ore., July 12 (DAA, DL). Several Bewick's Wrens were seen in Pendleton, Ore., July 18 (G.C.B.C.). A pair of Am. Dippers in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown, Mont., established a nesting record for the latilong (LKM). Four imm. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Idaho Nat'l Engineering Laboratory, Arco, furnished the latilong's first record (TR). Bluebird nest box trails in n. Idaho were for the most part doing well. One near Coeur d'Alene shifted strongly from Mountain to W. Bluebirds. Mountain Bluebird numbers were increasing in the Fortine area owing to more nest box placing. Fourteen Veeries were counted along the Imnaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore., June 6 (PS). A N. Mockingbird was seen regularly w. of Dayville May 28+ (G.C.B.C.), and one was noted singing at Presser, Wash., July 3 (CR). One was heard at night at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake R. near Wawawai, Wash., June 2 (KM). The vicinity of Asotin, Wash., had 2 sightings of single Sage Thrashers in July (PS, MK, LL). A freak snowstorm that dumped a foot of snow on the Beartooth Plateau n.e. of Yellowstone N.P. in July was believed to have caused 100% mortality of eggs and nestlings of Water Pipits (PH). Most unusual was the sighting of four Bohemian Waxwings in Colorado Gulch, 17 mi s.w. of Helena, Mont. (G & NN). A subad Cedar Waxwing with a brood patch, found dead on the road in Plush, Ore., had apparently nested, an occurrence seldom reported in that vicinity (WHP). Unusual were Red-eyed Vireos in e. Oregon in June: at Viento S.P. near Hood River (DL, JE, DAA), at Bend (TC), and at Fields (JG *et al.*). Also notable were 2 observations of this species in s Idaho: one in the Washington-Adams-Valley counties area July 18 (DJ, ST, JL) and one banded at Pocatello

June 3 (11). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers appeared at Malheur N.W.R., June 6 (TC, JG, DI, m.ob.), and at Fields, Ore., June 9 (DI). Lone Black-and-white Warblers appeared in Oregon at Roaring Springs Ranch June 6 (TC, JG, m.ob.), at Fields June 7 (CDL), and at Hart Mt. Nat'l Antelope Refuge (banded) (KV, MF). In Washington one was found near Asotin June 2 (PS, MK, MLP, LL). An ad female Ovenbird was also banded at Hart Mt. (KV, MF), and one was observed along Trail Cr., a tributary of the Weiser R, Adams Co., Ida., in mid-June (KG). Two N. Waterthrushes were found along the N. Fork of the Clearwater R. in n. Idaho (CV, MLP, PP, LL, WHO), and one to two were singing along the Little Deschutes R., Klamath Co., Ore., in early July (DL, T & AM). The species was observed at 2 new localities in Pond Oreille Co., Wash.: one at Coffin L. and a pair at Trimble Gr., near Cusick (IR). Montana's Snowy Mts. yielded three MacGillivray's Warblers after 5 years of searching (LKM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES -- A first-year male Summer Tanager appeared at Malheur N.W.R., June 9 (DI). A male Indigo Bunting was sighted near Dale, Ore., in early July (PMu, LW). A Lark Sparrow was carrying food near Salmon, Ida., July 9, but no nest was located (LH). Several territorial male **Black-throated Sparrows** an ad bird carrying food, and begging immatures were observed in the vicinity of Wanapum S.P., s. of Vantage, Wash., June 26-July 18 for the state's first breeding records (BB, BT, PM, G & WH *et al.*). The species has only recently moved into the state. Up to five Baird's Sparrows were on territory near Bynum, Mont., in July for a new site (WEH, BH, SMS). Singing LeConte's Sparrows were found along the N. Fork road in Glacier N.P., Mont. (WEH, BH, SMS). The small Bobolink population at Toppenish N.W.R., Wash., appeared to be increasing, for at least one dozen males were observed June 6 (C.B.A.S.). At least two Rusty Blackbirds were seen and singing was heard at Community L. in the Kamloops area. The species is believed to be a very rare summer resident there (RRH). An ad male "Baltimore" N Oriole was observed e of Cle Elum, Wash., June 20 (TS, NC), and another appeared at Malheur N.W.R., July 31 (GI, DP). At least four Lesser Goldfinches were observed at Lyle June 30 (BT) and the species was noted in Grant County, Ore. (DL, KK, JE). A pair of Lessers, the male



displaying, was found at the mouth of Kinney Cr. e of Pocatello June 18-22 (CHT) and several males were observed e. of Soda Springs, Ida., in early July (BO).

ADDENDA -- Two Cattle Egrets made a rare appearance in the valley at Grays L. in late April (*vide* WH). A pair of Mountain Quail was observed in 1986 at Thompson L., Kootenai Co., Ida (BG). Summer L. counted 1000 Semipalmated Plovers, 799 Longbilled Dowitchers, and 514 Dunlin May 1 (CC *et al.*). A Marbled Godwit was seen at Anderson L. in the Warner Valley May 28 (MS). A Least Flycatcher was reported at Holliday S.P., Mt. Vernon, Ore., May 26 (G.C.B.C.). A White-throated Sparrow was sighted in Black Canyon near Yakima, Wash., May 23 (RW, PM).

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*The Nesting Season, 1987*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

**/Bill Tweit and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.**

It was our second dry summer in a row, following a dry spring. By the end of the summer, Washington rivers and reservoirs were lower than any year since 1977. Temperatures were above average also. The maritime influence on our climate was negligible this summer, apparently due to a strong, persistent continental high dominating our weather. As a result, passerine breeding success was very good. It seems migration patterns were affected also. Above average numbers of adult Solitary, Pectoral, Baird's, Stilt, and Semipalmated sandpipers were reported, as well as adult Franklin's Gulls and Forster's Terns. There was a veritable invasion of Black-crowned Night-Herons. These are all "interior" birds. New avifaunal communities are being documented in the clearcuts at higher elevations on the west slope of the southern Oregon Cascades. They have a strong east slope component, including Dusky Flycatchers, Rock Wrens, and Cassin's Finches. These communities may be developing in response to habitat changes from changes in forest practices or climatic changes, as since 1984, July precipitation has been either normal or below normal. Or, they may have been there all along; little field work has been carried out in the area. A Terek Sandpiper on southern Vancouver Island and a Brown Thrasher in Portland, Oregon, were the most exciting birds of the period.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Is., B.C.; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; V.I. = Vancouver I., B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES -- Northbound Pacific Loons were observed off both the s. and n. Oregon coast June 19 & 20 (HN, SH). June migrations were also noted in 1978, 1982, and 1984. A Yellow-billed Loon spent June on Yaquina Bay, Ore. (*vide* DFa), and it was reported in a weakened condition in early July (BL). Two were noted in June in the Q.C.I. (RC), where they summer regularly. One immature was seen throughout July in Chatham Sound, near Prince Rupert, B.C. (ME), where it is reasonable to expect them in summer, as it is at the same latitude as the Q.C.I. There were 2 reports of Horned Grebes, both from the first week of June, in Vancouver (RC) and Seattle (BT). However, there were no actual summering records. About 35 W. Grebes summered off Delta, B.C. (JI) and 40 in nearby Bellingham Bay, Wash. (TW). Pelagic bird surveys were taken off Yaquina Head, Ore., July 22 (JA), off the southern coast of Washington July 15 (RM), out of Westport, Wash., June 14 and July 25 (TW), and on the nearshore waters of the Q.C.I., June 11-12 (RC). Black-footed Albatrosses were recorded in all areas: from singles in the Q.C.I. to 217 off Westport July 25. Northern Fulmars were also reported from all areas: singles in the Q.C.I., 20 off Oregon, and a high of 192 off Westport in July. Pink-footed Shearwaters were reported only off Oregon and Washington. The high count was of 53 in July off Westport. The two Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen on that same trip were the only ones reported. A Buller's Shearwater reported off the s. coast of Washington July 15 (RM) was much earlier than the usual mid-August arrival. Sooty Shearwaters were reported from all surveys, with 6000 off Washington July 15 the high count. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found off Washington and the Q.C.I., where there was the high count of over 600. Off the Washington and Oregon coasts, Leach's Storm-Petrels are usually found farther offshore than Fork-tailed, often in very deep waters. Thus, the sighting of over 150 during daylight hours within one mi of land off the Q.C.I. was quite surprising. A single Leach's about 60 mi inland along the Columbia R. at Portland, Ore., June 30 (†HN *et al.*) was probably a shipboard stowaway. The Brown Pelican flight apparently increased markedly during the last one-third of July (HN, G & WH). Only one immature was noted in Washington during the period (AR), although most reports did not specify ages. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird that soared over Portland, Ore., June 4 (†JG) was very much out of place. The five Great Egrets reported this spring at the

heron rookery on Samish I., *Skagit*, remained through the summer (Lisa Nielson), but no breeding evidence was observed. The only breeding records for the Region are from the s. Oregon coast. Singles were reported from Seattle (m.ob.), Fern Ridge Res., Ore. (SH), and near Beaverton, Ore. (BTo). The number of Black-crowned Night-Heron reports from Seattle n. to Vancouver was extraordinary; at least 13 individuals were found. None are reported most summers. An Emperor Goose summered in Olympia, Wash. (G & WH, BT); it was with Canada Geese and was as tame as they, and had no bands or toe clips. Green-winged Teal broods were noted near Tillamook, Ore. (JG) and on Lopez I., Wash. (RW, *vide* ML). They are very uncommon breeders in the s. one-half of the Region. Likewise, a Gadwall breeding record for the mouth of the Columbia R., July 8 (HN), was quite unusual. Four broods were reported from the Puget Sound basin, where they are more regular breeders. A Ring-necked Duck brood was found at Gold L., in the c. Oregon Cascades, July 5 (TM). This is well s. of the only known regular w. Oregon breeding locale near Mt. Hood, where 2 broods were seen this summer (P. Gaddis. *vide* HN). A subad male **King Eider** near Florence on the Oregon coast July 1 (male Harry LeGrand) provided the first summer record for the Region. The Osprey nest reports were uniformly favorable, with no nest failures noted. Black-shouldered Kites were virtually unreported. An adult at Fern Ridge Res., Ore., July 18+ (SH) could have been the first post-breeding dispersant. There were 6 sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3 of Cooper's including one successful nest near Dungeness, Wash. (D & SS), and 5 of N.

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Goshawk. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen at Roseburg, Ore, July 29 (DI), in their regular range, and another flew N over Fern Ridge Res., July 30 (†SH), n. and inland of their regular range. One Merlin was reported, and six Peregrines, including mention, often second-hand, of 4 nesting pairs. A male Willow Ptarmigan was found June 17 at 2000 m, well below treeline, in Tweedsmuir P.P., B.C. (BW), very near the s. boundary of its range. A small population of Sandhill Cranes bred, as usual, near Langley, B.C., in the lower Fraser R. valley (Mary Pastrick), and a pair bred near

Lilly Glen (near Ashland), in s. Oregon (MM) where they are rare breeders.

SHOREBIRDS -- As the following summary of the first one half of the fall shorebird migration shows, a lot has been learned about shorebird migration through the Region. Further understanding will depend on collection of more age class specific data, as significant annual variations owing to reproductive success and migration conditions occur that are detectable only through analysis of age class abundance. Data on non-breeders summering in the Region are also lacking, and therefore of interest. June records of Black-bellied Plover, all from Oregon, included one at Tillamook June 6 (BS), several at Newport Bay June 12 (RO), one at S.J.C.R., June 19 (HN), and one at Bandon, Coos, June 28 (LT). The last was in basic plumage, all were probably summering non-breeders. The first migrants were 25 at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 29 (G & WH), as none had been noted there earlier. The first migrant Semipalmated Plovers were noted July 8 at Vancouver, B.C. (m.ob.) and July 10 on the s Oregon coast (LT). The high count was of 250 at Ocean Shores July 26 (TS). Single Greater Yellowlegs were noted during June at Fern Ridge Res. (SH), near Vancouver, B.C. (JI), and Tillamook, Ore. (BS). Twelve were found near Kleena Kleene, B.C., June 18 (BW), at the s. edge of their known breeding range. First migrants appeared in late June, with the high count being 35 at Delta, B.C. (JI), July 9. The first migrant Lesser Yellowlegs were found June 30 at Delta, B.C. (JI). There were no obvious high counts and most locales reported no more than 10. Territorial Solitary Sandpipers were noted at Tweedsmuir P.P. along Hwy 20 (BW), somewhat s. of the normal breeding range, and at Gold Lake Bog in the c. Oregon Cascades (HN, TM), an outpost where territorial birds have been noted since 1981. There were 3 records of migrant Solitaries, more than usual in July, all from s. British Columbia and the earliest July 18 (Madelon Schouten). The first reported fall arrival Wandering Tattler was seen July 16 near Bandon on the s. Oregon coast (LT). Often the first reports of rock shorebirds come from this part of the Region. A **Terek Sandpiper** found July 21 at Sooke Basin, w. of Victoria, V.I. (V & MG, ph. Tim Zurowski, m.ob.) stayed until Aug. 6. This was the first Pacific Coast record s. of Alaska. An **Upland Sandpiper** found July 23 at Newport, Ore. (†RO) and reported through Aug.

3 furnished one of very few records for w. Oregon. Seven reports of Whimbrel in early June were of either summering birds or late migrants. The first unambiguous reports of migrant Whimbrels came during the first week of July from both the Oregon and Washington coasts, and the high count was of 480 at Ocean Shores July 26 (TS). The first Ruddy Turnstone was at the Bandon marsh on the s. Oregon coast July 10 (LT) and the Regional high count was of 179 birds there 13 days later. Black Turnstones were first noted July 9-10 in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. The high count was of 28 at Victoria, V.I., July 27 (RS). Surfbirds were first noted July 9 in n. British Columbia (MF) and July 13 in Washington and Oregon (Kathy Liska *vide* DFa, ML). Sanderlings arrived en masse, as is usual for this species. The first reports were July 16 at Bandon (LT). Two days later, 2000 were at Clatsop Beach, Ore. (JG). The first ad Semipalmated Sandpiper report was of one at Auburn, near Seattle, Wash., July 4 (EH), and the high count of adults was of 125 at Iona I., B.C., July 18 (MP). The first juveniles were noted July 17 in the Vancouver area (BK) and July 22 in Oregon (HN). Adult W. Sandpipers arrived on time, in the last few days of June the 29th at Ocean Shores (G & WH) and the 30th at Delta, B.C. (JI) The only large concentrations reported were on the Oregon coast: 2500 July 3 (JG), 6000+ July 18 (JG), and 2000 July 29 (HN). The first juveniles were noted July 22 at S.J.C.R (HN). Four Least Sandpipers were at Delta (JI) and three at Oak Bay, V.I. (DFr), June 30; elsewhere first arrival reports were July 3. The high count was of 500 at Tillamook July 29 (HN) and there were 6 other counts of over 100. A Least in juv. Plumage was reported from S.J.C.R., July 8 (HN), which was very early. Baird's Sandpipers were early, with the first reports of an adult at Delta July 12 (BK) and 18 at Iona I., July 18 (MP). Adult Pectoral Sandpipers appeared in unusually high numbers, creating several early records for different locales The first was at Delta on the very early date of June 26 (Linda Koch), five were at the Nehalem Sewage Ponds, Ore., July 10 (DL), and 17 adults and five juveniles were at Iona I., July 18 (MP). Baird's and Pectoral sandpiper records were higher than normal this spring, also. Adult Stilt Sandpipers, very rare in the Region, also appeared in unusual numbers. Three were found in s. British Columbia July 10-20 (JI, Hue & Jo Ann MacKenzie), two in Washington July 19-21 (EH), and one at Bandon, Ore., July 24 (LT). The usual sightings of large numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers were lacking; the largest flock

reported was of 97 at Bandon July 10 (LT). Two Long-billed Dowitchers apparently summered at Delta (JI), which is highly unusual in this Region. The first southbound migrants were 21 at Delta June 30 (JI), six at Nehalem, Ore., July 7 (JG), and six at Kent, Wash., July 11 (PM). The high count was of 160 at Delta July 29 (JI). The 30+ Wilson's Phalaropes reported from the Vancouver area (*fide* DK) made a high number.

LARIDS, ALCIDS -- A Pomarine Jaeger off the Q.C.I., June 11 (RC) was not unexpected, but two on Boundary Bay, near Vancouver, June 12 (MF) were quite irregular. There was also an equally scarce June record of Parasitic Jaeger: two were seen June 17 off the Oregon coast near Yaquina Bay (JA). A jaeger (sp.) was on Bellingham Bay, Wash., June 28 (Geri Walker, *fide* TW). An ad Long-tailed Jaeger inland on Fern Ridge Res., Lane, Ore., July 21 (†SH) was highly unusual there, but was at the time when the first adults begin to appear offshore. A S. Polar Skua off Westport, Wash., June 14 (TW, BT) furnished one of the earliest records for our Region. They are rare prior to August. Two ad Franklin's Gulls, a very rare age class in the Region, appeared July 11, one at Iona I. (RP) and one at Nehalem, Ore. (†PMu, LW). The first of the usual number of 11+ immatures appeared July 17 in Washington (BK), July 18 in British Columbia (MP), and July 21 in Oregon (TM). Up to 50 Bonaparte's Gulls summered at Delta, B.C. (JI), 20+ at Victoria (RS), and another 60 at Nehalem, Ore. (HN). No other summering birds were reported. Heermann's Gulls came N in the usual numbers, and on schedule, with first reports in late June. An adult on the Monmouth Sedimentation Ponds, Polk, in the Willamette valley July 22 (†RG) provided the first inland record for Oregon away from the Columbia River. At the end of July, small numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at Lucy I., B.C. (MF), at Grays Harbor (G & WH, TW), and at S.J.C.R. (HN). Prior to that, singles were seen at Dungeness, Wash. (D & SS) and at Vancouver, B.C. (†MP), and small numbers were found in the Q.C.I. (RC). There were no summering flocks reported. The 100 Caspian Terns on the s. arm of the Fraser R., June 28 (B. & P. Spitman, *fide* DK) made the highest count ever reported from British Columbia, and should indicate that the surplus non-breeding population is high enough that formation of a new colony is imminent. There were no reports of

summering Com. Terns. Two ad Arctic Terns were at the breeding locale at Everett, Wash., during June and July (PM, GG). Nesting success there was unknown. Elsewhere, two adults were off Westport June 14 (TW) and single adults were seen July 11-13 at Tillamook (JG, DL) and July 17-18 in the Boundary Bay region (†BK, MP). An ad Forster's Tern July 19 at Iona I. (†BK) furnished the 9th documented record for the Vancouver area. Another adult was at Fern Ridge Res., Ore., June 4 (TM). Two

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Black Terns were seen during June in the Seattle area (m.ob.). Neither of these two tern species breeds in the Region. A die off of about 80+ juv. Com. Murres per male was noted at the end of July on the n. Oregon beaches (JA, HN). This probably correlated with an abrupt increase in sea surface temperature, from 9° to 14°C within a week. There were 6 reports of Ancient Murrelet off Oregon and Washington in the last one-half of July, for an unheard-of number of reports. A Horned Puffin was seen June 30 at the Cape Lookout, Ore., puffin colony (Duncan Evered, *fide* TW). In recent years, virtually all reports of Horned Puffins in the s. one-half of the Region have been of individuals at Tufted colonies. In the n. one-half of the Region, small numbers of Horneds breed in the northern Q.C.I., and two were noted there June 12 (RC).

PIGEONS THROUGH WRENS -- Five Band-tailed Pigeons e. of Kleena Kleene, B.C., June 16 (BW) were e. of the known breeding range. A N. Hawk-Owl at Garibaldi P.P., B.C., July 18 (P. Michael, *fide* DK) was s. of its regular breeding range. There were no reports from Manning P.P., the breeding outpost on the international boundary. There was one report of Spotted Owl from British Columbia (*fide* DK), where the species is almost extirpated. The nesting birds found in British Columbia last year were not relocated, and a new clearcut nearby is suspected. Black Swifts were seen regularly in the Breitenbush, Marion, area (BB) and at Salt Creek falls, Lane (TM, Al McGie), both in the c. Oregon Cascades. No nests have been found in the state. Breeding at Salt Creek falls has been

suspected since 1985. The male **Costa's Hummingbird** near Vancouver, B.C., was last seen June 1 (DK, MF), and another ad male appeared at a feeder in Medford, Ore., July 4+ (ph. Penny Stewart). Why are there so many records for this species in Oregon? They are very rare in both adjacent Washington and n. California. BW found seven territorial Alder Flycatchers at Clearwater L, e. of Tweedsmuir P.P., along Hwy 20, well s.w. of the known breeding range. There were 20+ Willow Flycatchers in the vicinity also. A territorial male Least Flycatcher near Monroe, *Snobomish*, Wash., June 6-July 3 (Bill Boyce, m.ob.) apparently did not find a mate. Most of the handful of Regional records, are of summering birds. DF found breeding Dusky Flycatchers in practically every clearcut with chaparral-type shrub communities in the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the s. Oregon Cascades, and noted that he encountered them more often than in the previous 3 years. Duskyies are not common breeders anywhere else in the Region; this could signify a range expansion. Alternatively, it could be a localized response to available habitat; the shrub community in clearcuts to the north is either controlled with herbicides or dominated by alder and other non-chaparral species. There were 2 reports of W. Kingbird away from known breeding locations, one a breeding record in the Puyallup, Wash., valley July 25 (John Gatchet) and the other a single at Sidney I., V.I., June 2 (RS). Wandering E. Kingbirds were almost as scarce away from the lower Fraser valley where they have become established as breeders. One was in Tacoma, Wash., June 27 (Jon Jensen), one at Beaverton, Ore., June 14 (BT), and two were on southern V.I. (RS, Jerry & Gladys Anderson). The Puget Sound prairie population of Horned Larks is probably composed of a handful of birds, mostly residing on Ft. Lewis, Pierce. At least 2 pairs and one young were noted there this summer (GW). After years of decline, Purple Martin numbers seem to have stabilized, and are on the increase in areas where nest boxes are provided. Colonies are located in the Oregon Cascades (BB) and Willamette valley (SH), and there were 2 reports from the coast range (TM) and Bandon (LT). In Washington, they were reported from Washougal along the Columbia R. (WC), Ft. Lewis (GW), Seattle (EH), Bainbridge I. (GG), L. Sammamish (Pam Stanton Wyman), and San Juan I. (Frank Pitelka, ML). In British Columbia, a remnant population breeds at Cowichan Bay, V.I. Four pairs were noted there May 27 (WW) and six birds July 25 (RC). Single Bank

Swallows were observed in the Vancouver, B.C., area June 13 (MP) and July 19 (BK). They are very rare in summer in our Region. Comments on swallow breeding success were uniformly positive (DF, HN, WC). House Wren range increases were described from Suave I., Ore. (HN), near McCleary, *Mason*, Wash. (PM, BT), and the Vancouver, B.C., area (†RC), all generally w of their irregular breeding range in our Region. Rock Wrens are definitely increasing their range in the Cascades, spilling over on to the w. slopes. Three were noted June 20-21 in Manrang P.P. (WW), where they are very unusual, one was at Olallie Lake, Marion, Ore., June 25 (DI), and they were found in several rockless clearcuts containing logging debris at middle elevations in the s. Oregon Cascades (DF).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES -- The W. Bluebird population of Ft. Lewis, Wash., had very good breeding success, as there were no prolonged cold, rainy periods (GW). At least 650 fledglings were produced from the northernmost large population in the Region. There were 3 sightings of bluebirds in the Victoria area (J & RS), including one immature, indicating this vestigial population is still reproducing. A **Brown Thrasher** June 6 in Portland, Ore. (Sylvia Gallagher) was found dead the next day (\*Portland State Univ., *fide* HN) for the 2nd summer record for the Region. Breeding records of Red-eyed Vireo are scarce in w. Oregon. A singing male was at Scoggins Valley Park during June (JE, DL) and the nest of a pair was located at Fern Ridge Res. (SH). A singing male **Tennessee Warbler** was tape-recorded June 3-4 in Jericho Park, Vancouver (†WW, †RC *et al.*), for the 9th Vancouver area record. Another Tennessee was at Portland, Ore., June 17 (†JG). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at Sooke, V.I., July 25 (RC) were possibly post-breeding wanderers from the mainland, as the breeding population on the island is very small. Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted in well above normal numbers in the s. Oregon Cascades (DF). Two pairs of Lazuli Bunting were located in the Vancouver area this summer (†Andy Stewart, Linda Murray, Mrs. Moore) and one bred successfully. Another Lazuli spent June at North Bend, *Coos*, Ore. (LT). They are very rare breeders in Coastal areas. A small colony of Grasshopper Sparrows, almost unknown as breeders in this Region, was found e. of White City, *Jackson*, s. Oregon in June (Howard Sands), and two singing males

were at Fern Ridge Res., June 16-17 (†SH, TM). A new colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was found on Ft. Lewis, Wash, in June (GW). There are fewer than 5 known colonies in w Washington. The female **Common Grackle** (see spring report) at Veneta, Ore., stayed until, at least June 17 (TM). Cassin's Finches appear to be common breeders in clear-or partial cuts well w. of the crest in the s. Oregon Cascades (DF). They are unknown as breeders elsewhere in the Region. Red-Crossbill numbers throughout the Region, in both the lowlands and the mountains, began to increase dramatically in mid-July (DF, BT, DK). Two White-winged Crossbills were at Alliford Bay, Q.C.I., June 6 (RC). They are scarce breeders in the archipelago In the Washington and Oregon Cascades, White-wingeds staged a minor incursion. They were first noted flying overhead, with many Reds, July 18-19 along the Washington Cascade crest (BT, Mike Donahue, EH). Three seen July 31 in the n. Oregon Cascades furnished the southernmost reports (Bill Meyer) Evening Grosbeak numbers were well below levels of the past couple of years (DF, BT, TW).

INITIALED OBSERVERS, **with subregional editors in boldface** -- Jon Anderson, Barb Bellin, Wilson Cady, Richard Cannings, Joe Evanich, Darrel Faxon (DFa), **David Fix, Mike Force, Dave Fraser** (DFr), George Gerdts, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, **Steve Heinel**, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, David Irons, John Ireland, Brian Kautesk, **Doug Kragh**, Mark Lewis, Bob Lucas, Donna Lusthoff, Tom Mickel, Marjorie Moore, Patrick Muller, Roger Muskat, **Harry Nehls**, Robert Olson, Roy Phillips, Michael Price, Alan Richards, Ron & Joy Satterfield, Tom Schooley, Bill Shelmerdine, Dory & Stan Smith, Larry Thornburgh, Bob Tolle (BTol), **Terry Wahl**, George Walter, Wayne Weber, Linda Weiland, Bruce Whittington, Robert Wilson.

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1988

*Autumn Migration, 1987*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers



The overall weather picture for the autumn season was one of extreme drought, with most localities receiving little or no precipitation until mid-November. Temperatures, about normal in August, were unusually warm well into November. Most water bodies remained unfrozen. Vegetation dried up severely in many areas, reducing food supplies. Water levels were low, causing problems for waterfowl in some areas, but producing extensive mudflats that provided excellent feeding for shorebirds. Some reports indicated that arriving migrants were late and summer residents lingered past their usual departure times. Some birds were suspected of having passed over without stopping, resulting in poor showings.

ABBREVIATIONS -- C.G. = Campground, W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; W.R.A. = Wildlife Recreation Area.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- A Red-throated Loon was sighted on Alturas L., s.e. of Stanley, Ida., Oct. 13 (MRC, FK) and one was on Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida., Nov. 26+ (PH). The first for Deschutes Co., Ore., was on Wickiup Res., Oct 25 and remained at least until Nov. 1 (TC, CM). Timothy L., Clackamas Co., Ore., had one Nov. 1 (PMu, LW). Single Pacific Loons were sighted at Vernon, B.C. (RRH) and Timothy L. (DL, PMu, LW) in November, and four were at Wickiup Res., Oct 25 (TC, CM). In Idaho, singles showed up on Hayden L., Oct 22-Nov. 3 (PH), at Massacre Rocks S.P. and at Twin Lakes near Preston (CHT, CW), and on Alturas L. (MRC, FK). In Washington, single birds were sighted at the Yakima R. mouth (REW), on L. Chelan (CK), and on L. Wenatchee (WD). Wickiup Res. hosted 265 Com. Loons in October (TC, CM) and Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., had over 700 Nov. 4 (WRR). The only Yellow-billed Loon was one at Vernon Nov. 28 (PR). Noteworthy sightings were of two Red-necked Grebes on Alturas L. (MRC, FK), and single birds in the Hood River area (DL) and at Summer L. (CM), both in Oregon. Western Grebe populations remained

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low at Malheur N.W.R., Princeton, Ore., with a peak of 125 Sept. 2. A few Clark's Grebes appeared at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., (WH, MK, LL, CV), at Wickiup Res. (CM), on Timothy L. (DL), and at Moses L., Wash. (EH, B & GR). American White Pelicans in the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin, Harney Co., Ore., peaked at 3335 birds Sept. 2. By Nov. 2 only 388 remained. Deer Flat N.W.R. had up to 130 and the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wallula, Wash., had 60. Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., had at least 225, including eight that had been marked with blue wing patagials at Stum L., w. of Williams L., B.C. (DL). A scattered few were noted elsewhere in n.c. Oregon and s.c. Washington. Double-crested Cormorants in the Malheur area reached their high of 362 Oct. 1. One on

Douglas L., in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C., was noteworthy (BHu, SW), as were nine near Union Gap, Wash. (Y.V.A.S.) and one on the Snake R. near Silcott, Wash. (MK, PS, J & DP). At least 160 Great Egrets were still in the Malheur-Harney Basin Sept. 2. Unusual were singles s. of Lowden, Wash. (*vide* SM), near New Plymouth, Ida. (C.B.), at L. Lowell, Deer Flat N.W.R. (BWh), and at American Falls Res. on the Snake R., Ida., (CHT). Malheur had 26 Snowy Egrets Sept. 2; none was seen there after Oct. 1. Bruneau Dunes S.P., near Mountain Home, Ida., had one Sept. 27, and the species was noted at Summer L., Sept. 24. A bird identified as an imm. Little Blue Heron at the mouth of the Grande Ronde R., Asotin County, was possibly e. Washington's first (AM *et al.*). A Cattle Egret near Sterling, Ida., Aug. 29 was the only one reported (CHT). Single Green-backed Herons appeared at the Hood R. mouth Aug. 30 (DAA) and at Ellensburg, Wash., Sept. 6 (EH).

WATERFOWL -- The Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. population of Trumpeter Swans was about 250 (CDM), and Malheur had 50-55 (CDL). The Henrys Fork area of the Snake R. in s.e. Idaho had 333, including 15 neck-collared birds from the Northwest Territories, Nov. 27 (JS). A pair was suspected of having nested on the s.w. slope of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore. (CC). Six showed up on Carry Res., Boardman, Ore., Nov. 19 (RK). It was a good autumn for seeing Greater White-fronted Geese. Summer L. had up to 450, and at least 400 were sighted in the vicinity of Burns, Ore. Over 300 stopped at Creston W.M.A., B.C., for an extended period. Fort Boise W.M.A., s. of Nyssa, Ore., had at least 250. McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., yielded 144 Sept. 27. Sunriver, Ore., counted an unusual 65 (TC, CM), and a few in Hood River Co., Ore., were rarities there (DAA, DL *et al.*). Three at Metcalf N.W.R., Mont., were notable (CP). Vernon had 12 Oct. 5 (RRH). Snow Geese were noted migrating mostly over Deer Flat N.W.R. At Malheur the birds arrived late and did not linger. Only 240 were found on the Nov. 2 aerial survey there. A Ross' Goose at Pine Hollow Res. was apparently the first for Wasco County, Ore. (DAA). About 4200 Canada Geese were using Malheur October-November, and at least 3000 were at Pine Hollow Res., Nov. 22. The peak of 3200 Canadas at Kootenai N.W.R. was a good showing there but the peak at Metcalf N.W.R. was low at 2000. Unusual were

a "Cackling" Canada Goose at Drake Park in Bend, Ore. (TC), and 23 in the Upper Klamath L. area, Klamath Co., Ore. (EA). About 45,000 waterfowl, nearly 80% Mallards, were observed at Carty Res., Nov. 19. The mild weather delayed duck migration at Kootenai N.W.R., where numbers varied between 9000 and 14,000 during September and October. Mallards peaked at 21,000 in late November there. Waterfowl, mostly Mallards and Am. Wigeon, at Columbia N.W.R., Wash., numbered over 80,000 in late November. Duck numbers at Malheur N.W.R. reached over 24,000 Oct. 1; Mallards at 8000, Green-winged Teal at 5800, Gadwall at 3350, and Am. Wigeon at 3200 made up the bulk of them. Wanapum Pool on the Columbia R. near Vantage, Wash., had 5000 Redheads and 2000 Canvasbacks Nov. 4. Metcalf N.W.R. reported that duck use was only about 10% of normal. The only Eur. Wigeon reported was a male at the Walla Walla R. mouth Nov. 25 (KK). A well described male Tufted Duck at Vernon, B.C., furnished the first interior record for the province (PR). Notable were sightings of Greater Scaup at Massacre Rocks S.P. (CHT), Prairie City, Ore. (G.C.B.C.), and Wickiup Res. (TC). Single Oldsquaws at Lakeview (MA) and Summer L. (CM), Ore., and American Falls Res. (DB, BJ, BN, CHT) were rarities. A scattering of Surf Scoters, rare in the Region, was reported: in Idaho, two at Kootenai N.W.R. (LDN), and one on Little Redfish L., s. of Stanley (MRC, FK); in Oregon, two at Chickahominy Res., w. of Riley (F & WV), three on Haystack Res., s. of Madras (B & JB), one at Bend (TC), one on Thompson Res., Lake Co. (CM), one on Timothy L. (DAA, DL), one on Malheur L. (MD), and one s.e. of Princeton (GC); in Washington, one at the Walla Walla R. mouth and three on the Yakima R. Delta (REW). A few White-winged Scoters, mostly single birds, appeared in e. Oregon and c. Washington, and at L. Helena, Mont. (LMc). Columbia N.W.R. had a surprising 13 (WRR) and Hood River County had five (DAA, DL). A Hooded Merganser appeared at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab site, Arco, for the first sighting there (TR). Four Red-breasted Mergansers at Wickiup Res., Nov. 1 were the county's first (TC).

HAWKS THROUGH QUAIL -- Two young Ospreys left their nest Aug, 23 on the Bureau of Land Management platform erected near Salmon, Ida., for the first confirmed fledging in that area in recent years



(LHa). A very late bird was seen along the John Day R. n. of Mitchell, Ore., Nov. 15 (G.C.B.C.). A Black-shouldered Kite appeared along Jackson Cr., s. Malheur County, in September for one of few s.e. Oregon records (BK). No concentration of Bald Eagles occurred in the Glacier N.P.- Flathead R. drainage of n.w. Montana (PLW). The peak of only 47 in Glacier N.P. was the lowest since counts began in 1965--the previous low was 179. The near-total unexplained collapse of the Kokanee salmon population was the cause (RM). The Bald Eagle Project of Glacier N.P. is requesting detailed information on sightings of birds with red wing markers. Send observations to the project c/o Riley McClelland, West Glacier, MT 59936. Eight imm. Bald Eagles observed at Carry Res. presumably were taking advantage of the large waterfowl numbers (RK). A radio-equipped bird from Glacier N.P. found near Frenchglen, Ore., in November was located the next day near Cedarville, Cal. (CDL). Red-shouldered Hawks, very rare in s.e. Oregon, appeared at several localities: near Frenchglen

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*Immature Red-shouldered Hawk at Roaring Springs Ranch, s.e. Oregon, Sept. 26, 1987. Notice the crescent-shaped pale panels in the outer primaries. Photo/Jim Johnson.*

(MS), at Malheur N.W.R. and others at Roaring Springs Ranch (TC, CM) in the Catlow Valley (DI), at Klamath Falls (PL), and at Paisley (SS). A concentration of 40

Swainson's Hawks, 30 of them dark-phased, was near Kahlolus, Wash., Aug. 27 (PL). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was sighted w. of Spokane Nov. 28 (JA). A completely albino hawk w. of Basin, Mont., was suspected of being a Red-tailed (WHa). The annual hawk survey in the Henrys L. area of s.e. Idaho found only eight Ferruginous Hawks and only 61 Buteos in all (CHT). Field trips to the Lowden-Touchet area of Washington found far fewer hawks than last year (SM). Four sightings of single Peregrine Falcons and 2 of Gyrfalcons were reported. A white breast feather and many tracks indicated that the introduced White-tailed Ptarmigans in the Wallowa Mts. of n.e. Oregon were doing all right there (KK). Several Wild Turkeys appeared near Sisters (BL) and near Black Butte Ranch (LR), Deschutes Co., Ore. A few were sighted in the John Day, Ore., vicinity (G.C.B.C.) A Mountain Quail showed up in a hunter's bag from the S. Fork of John Day R. (G.C.B.C.).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS -- Lake Helena, near Helena, Mont., had about 100 Sandhill Cranes, the largest number ever reported for the area, Oct. 3 (GH). A vagrant Sandhill Crane appeared at Oden Bay, Pend Oreille L. in n. Idaho, in mid-October (SHS). American Falls Res. is a major staging ground for Killdeer; nearly 1000 congregated there during August (CHT). Low water levels at Malheur L. invited up to 21 Black-bellied Plovers, the largest number ever recorded there, and the 8th local record of a Lesser Golden-Plover. One of the latter at Reardan, Wash., was Acton's first there in 9 years' observing. Up to four appeared at the Walla Walla R. delta (KK, SM, AS). One at Hood River was Anderson's first there. A very few appeared at a few other spots in e. Oregon and Washington. Notable were up to six Black-necked Stilts at Reardan (JA, BW). American Falls Res. was a major stopping place for Am. Avocets, with a peak of nearly 2600 Aug. 18 (CHT). An Upland Sandpiper was sighted at Knox Springs, 5 mi n.e. of Frenchglen (CC), and two appeared in the schoolyard in Seneca, Ore., the first week of August (G.C.B.C.). The Walla Walla delta had three Whimbrels Aug. 30 (DG, AS) and the Springfield Bottoms on American Falls Res. had 3 sightings of single birds Aug. 2-Sept. 23 (BJ, CHT). A Hudsonian Godwit at Vernon Sept. 3-8 was the Okanagan Valley's first (BH, RRH, PR *et al.*) and a single bird was sighted at Summer Lake Wildlife Area Aug. 22-Sept. 17 (AA,

MA, CC, CM, SSu). The Walla Walla delta turned up two Ruddy Turnstones and a Red Knot Aug. 30 (DG, AS, SS) and a Red Knot Oct. 10 (KK). Sanderlings, rare in the Region s. of Canada, showed up as singles at Fortine, Mont. (WW), at the Hood R. mouth (DL), at Hart L., Lake Co., Ore. (CM), and at Summer L. (CC). By contrast, Kamloops had high numbers, up to 45 (SR). Kahlotus L. had six Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 6 (DB) and four Aug. 27 (PL, BT) for that locality's first sightings. The only Stilt Sandpiper for e. Oregon was one at Summer L. (SSu). In e. Washington, where they are less rare, unusual numbers appeared at Reardan (11--JA, BW) and at the Walla Walla delta (10--DG, AS, SS). Real rarities were a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Reardan (JA, BW) and another at Vernon (BH, PR). Even more remarkable was an imm male Ruff at Reardan Sept. 27 (JA, BW). Malheur had three Short-billed Dowitchers (CM) and Summer L., one (CC). In Washington, singles appeared near Lind (BT), at Potholes Res., Grant Co. (PL), at the Walla Walla delta (KK), and at Kahlotus L., Franklin Co. (PL, BT). Reardan had one to three Aug. 23-29 (JA, BW).



*Adult Western Gull at American Falls Res., Idaho, Aug. 21, 1987. Photo/W. Edward Harper.*

Single Parasitic Jaegers were observed twice at American Falls Dam (DS, CHT, BJ) and at the Walla Walla delta (AS). A Long-tailed Jaeger appeared at Haystack Res. for Jefferson County's first record (B & JR, W & RY). The Hood R. mouth reported one to four Mew Gulls on 2 dates in October and November (DL). One was seen in the Lewiston, Ida.--Clarkston, Wash., vicinity (CV) and another at Potholes Res.

(EH). A Sabine's Gull was spotted 20 mi s. of Malheur N.W.R. headquarters Sept. 25 (CDL). A Thayer's Gull appeared in the Vernon area for the 3rd consecutive year (PR) and one was sighted at Hayden L. in n. Idaho (PH). The "resident" W. Gull at American Falls Res., found in a weak state Oct. 14, was collected for positive identification (CHT). Notable were Black Terns at Prairie City sewage ponds (G.C.B.C.) and a juv. bird at Haystack Res. (BB).

PIGEONS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- A Band-tailed Pigeon was sighted in Big Cedar Canyon, 12 mi w.n.w. of Oakley, Ida., Nov. 25 (MRC, FK). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found in Sacajawea S.P. near Pasco, Wash., Sept. 20 (RJ). The species is very rare in e. Washington. An E. Screech-Owl was calling in the Little Belt Mts. in c. Montana Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (LKM). A Com. Barn-Owl at Vernon Oct. 6 was a rarity (PR). The only

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Snowy Owl reported was one near Davenport, Wash., Nov. 29 (JA). A Burrowing Owl frequented old burrows at Vernon in late October (MC, PR). Apparently the only records for Oregon of **Boreal Owls** since 1902 were obtained, 17 individuals being found in Baker, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa counties (BW). A Barred Owl was found at Delintment L., 35 mi n.w. of Burns, Sept. 11 for s.e. Oregon's first (CB), and one was seen in Oregon on Birch Cr. s.e. of Walla Walla, Wash. (AL). In Washington two were sighted at Loup Loup C.G., Okanogan Co. (EH), and one was found in Columbia County (BW). One was heard at Brisco, B.C., Sept. 10 (LH). Six Black Swifts on Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Aug. 16 provided s.e. Oregon's 2nd record (MH *et al.*). A female or imm. hummingbird at Asotin W.R.A., Asotin, Wash., was believed to be a Black-chinned (DBe). Unusual also was a sighting of a Black-chinned at John Day and Prairie City (G.C.B.C.). Lewiston, Ida., had an Anna's Hummingbird Nov. 21 (HW, *fide* HG) and one appeared at Wenatchee, Wash., Nov. 13 (JT). A Broad-tailed was reported at Dog Cr. in the John Day area (G.C.B.C.). An encouraging number of reports of Lewis' Woodpeckers came in

from s. Idaho, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was identified in Yakima Nov. 26 (DG). Two Red-breasted Sapsuckers and a hybrid Red-breasted x Red-naped were found at Indian Ford C.G., n.w. of Sisters, Ore. (TC). One Red-breasted was spotted at Summer L., Sept. 22 and Nov. 30 (CM), and one was seen in Hood River County (DL, DAA). Especially noteworthy was one at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin Co., Wash. (MK, m.ob.). A Least Flycatcher was identified at Wanapum S.P. near Vantage, Wash., Sept. 7 (EH). A Black Phoebe was identified at Klamath Falls Nov. 29 (SF, PL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Burns was s.e. Oregon's 3rd (M & SR). A migrating flock of Violet-green Swallows near Winthrop, Wash., Aug. 31 numbered 2000+ (EH).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS -- A few Blue Jays appeared: two at Bonners Ferry, Ida., (HWh), one at Culdesac, Ida., (C.B.), one at Gardiner, Mont. (JWZ), one at Helena (CL, HZ), and one at Missoula, Mont. (LB). Bewick's Wrens appear to be spreading in s.e. Oregon, appearing along Cottonwood Cr., s. of Fields (CDL), at Roaring Springs Ranch (PP), near Lakeview (MA), and at Summer L. (DL). In Washington two were sighted in the Randle vicinity for a new locality (B & GR). Several observations of the species were again obtained in the Lewiston, Ida.-Clarkston, Wash., area. A sighting of Golden-crowned Kinglets in the Little Belt Mts. was unusual (LKM). Bluebird trail nest boxes in n. Idaho and w. Montana fledged over 2100 W. Bluebirds and about 5700 Mountain Bluebirds. Of these, 60 Westerns fledged in the Eureka, Mont., area, and nesting of this species was reported near Wolf Creek for the first time since the early 1930s (AAy, DHr). Varied Thrushes were "more abundant than usual" at Malheur, "sometimes abundant" in Lakeview, and "quite common" at Walla Walla. Three sightings of single N. Mockingbirds were obtained in Helena (GM, JSm, CD). In Oregon one appeared w. of Paulina (GHa), one visited Malheur N.W.R. (CDL), and one was sighted at Paisley (SS). A Gray Catbird in Lake County, Ore., was noteworthy (DL). Many a stray warbler visited the Region. A **Magnolia Warbler**, e. Washington's 2nd and the state's 6th, was observed at Vantage Sept. 6-7 (BT, PM, GW, m.ob.). Oregon had 2 sightings: at Fields Sept. 11 (PP) and at Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 24-27 (PP, JJ, SJ, DHe). Southeastern Oregon had several sightings of single Black-throated

Blue Warblers, both male and female, Sept. 21-Nov. 14: at Malheur Headquarters's "oasis" (WHH, JJ, JG, SJ, DL, LW), at Summer L. (MSt), at Roaring Springs Ranch (TC), and at Three-mile Pond, 17 mi s. of that ranch (JJ, DHe, SJ, PMu, LW). One hit an Idaho Falls, Ida., window (EC) for the only other record. Malheur N.W.R. had a rare sighting of a Black-throated Green Warbler Sept. 21 (WHH). A Palm Warbler was identified at Lyon's Ferry, s. of Washtucna, Wash., for a rare sighting (D & JP). Sightings of vagrant Blackpoll Warblers



*Female Eastern Bluebird at nest box in Bitterroot Valley, Mont. This bird paired with a male Mountain Bluebird and laid a clutch of eggs in June 1987. Photo/Chuck & Suzi Campbell.*

were more common than usual: several at Malheur N.W.R. (TC, JG), one at Fields (MS), one at Roaring Springs Ranch (PMu, LW), one banded near Troy, Mont. (KB), and two near Vantage, Wash. (BT, PM, GW). A Black-and-white Warbler appeared at Malheur N.W.R. on 2 dates. An Am. Redstart was at Richland, Wash., for Woodley's 3rd record there. Malheur N.W.R. had another rarity, a **Prothonotary Warbler** (J & JC, T & AM), for s.e. Oregon's 3rd sighting. An Ovenbird showed up at Malheur (TC) and another was seen at Roaring Springs Ranch (MR). Surprising was a sighting of a N. Waterthrush at McNary Dam, Umatilla, Ore., Nov. 28 (KK). Montana's first **Painted**

**Redstart**, photographed at Clinton, was seen Nov. 7-13 (D & RR).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES -- A femaleplumaged Blue Grosbeak n. of Ola. Ida., made the first sighting for that area (CFZ). An Am. Tree Sparrow, rare in the Klamath Falls area, was sighted at Paisley Nov. 1 (SSu). A Le Conte's Sparrow showed up at Metcalf N.W.R., Sept. 15 (DH). Two Swamp Sparrows at Vernon Oct. 29-31 provided the 3rd record for the Okanagan Valley; at least one was still present Nov. 28 (MC, PR, WWe). A single bird at Klamath Falls was the county's first (SF, PL). A call note heard at Malheur Sept. 24 was believed to be that of a Swamp Sparrow by an observer very familiar with the species (WHH). A sprinkling of White-throated Sparrows appeared in the Okanagan Valley and in e. Oregon and Washington. A Golden-crowned Sparrow banded near Troy in September was of special interest (KB). A few Harris' Sparrows showed up in s. Idaho, w. Montana, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. One was at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco, for the first sighting there (TR). A Lapland Longspur was spotted near the top of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Oct. 17 (DL, PMu). Two of these birds showed up on Stark Mt., 7 mi n.w. of Alberton, Mont., for that area's first sighting (VV). Unusual was the sighting of a male Bobolink at Kootenai N.W.R., Aug. 12 (MN). A Rusty Blackbird frequented a spot s. of Lowden, Wash., for at least 3 weeks beginning Nov. 1 (KK, DL, m.ob.), and two were sighted at nearby Whitman Mission Nov. 27 (BT, GW). Kamloops had one Oct. 24, feeding with Dunlin on mudflats (SR). A "Baltimore" Oriole frequented Malheur N.W.R., July 31 to at least Aug. 16 (TC, LC). A bird believed to be a Com. Grackle stayed in Prairie City for 4 days in early November (G.C.B.C.).

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Three Purple Finches appeared in a Lakeview yard in mid-November (MA). The species was also reported in Oregon from the N. Fork of the Malheur R., from Prairie City, and from Strawberry Mt. s. of Prairie City (G.C.B.C.). A single Purple Finch was identified at Washtucna, Wash., Aug. 27 (PL, BT). Lesser

Goldfinches visited Page Springs and Lakeview, Ore. (G.C.B.C., MA).

ADDENDA -- A Great Egret stayed at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., for at least 10 days in May, 1987 (BW). About eight Yellow Rails were observed at Ft. Klamath, Ore., May 15, 1987 (PS). A breeding-plumaged Ruff was carefully identified near St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 27, 1986 (TWW, B & GRe, JRW). A Snowy Owl s. of Moscow, Ida., Apr. 2, 1987 was highly unusual (CHT, m.ob.). A Least Flycatcher was heard along the Wenatchee R., Wash., July 7, 1987 (JT). and a pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers fledged young near Wenatchee in 1987 (BJa). A male Mountain Bluebird mated with a † E. Bluebird in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. They produced a clutch of eggs in June 1987, but no young fledged (C & SC).

CORRIGENDA -- The three Snowy Plovers at Springfield bottoms (AB 41:464) were reported by Dave Burrup (DB, not DP). The British Columbia Black-necked Stilts (AB 41:464) were not the province's first; there are several records from the coast and at least 3 previous records from the interior. Also, there were nine at Okanagan Falls, not one, in late April (the 27th) (HM) and additionally, 14 were seen at Vaseux L. the same day (LHg) (All *vide* RJC). The Herring and Glaucous-winged gulls reported in AB 41:306 were not the first for the Walla Walla latilong. The thrasher referred to in AB 41:465 as having been seen in Boise during the winter was a Brown Thrasher, not a Curve-billed (CHT).

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*Autumn Migration, 1987*

## **NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.**



The season was drier than ever, and warmer than usual. The recent drying trend in the Pacific Northwest continued in force. Less than half the normal rainfall fell on the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, British Columbia, weather stations this fall, and each month averaged 2-4°F warmer than usual. Effects of this weather on the fall migration were difficult to determine. There was no noticeable change in the incidence of latest-ever sightings. The increased records of Bank Swallows, Pinyon Jays, Northern Waterthrushes, and several other species typical of the eastern one-half of the Northwestern states could be in response to the newly drier-than-usual conditions here. However, those visitors present in greater than normal numbers this fall were primarily from the south: Brown Pelicans, Great Egrets, and Elegant Terns; or from somewhere offshore: Flesh-looted and Buller's shearwaters, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and Cassin's Auklets. There were fewer than usual Ruffs, or Siberian strays of any kind. At the same time there were more than usual vagrant species from the eastern United States. This season a birder was stationed for 75 days on a floating island, a 100-meter trawler 30-60 miles offshore Oregon, and recorded 18 species of passerines, including Black-throated Blue, Palm, and Blackpoll warblers, to add fuel to the ongoing discussion of the relative scarcity of those vagrants in the Region.

ABBREVIATIONS -- S.J.C.R.=. South jetty of the Columbia River, Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- An ad Yellow-billed Loon in Metlakatla Bay, Prince Rupert, B.C., Aug. 18 was earlier than usual (D. Bertram, MF), as were others near Ucluelet, V.I., Sept. 3 (DP) and at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Sept. 12+ (GA, m.ob.). A gathering of seven Com. Loons Oct. 20 on Timothy L. near the Cascade summit s. of Mt. Hood, Ore., had grown to a surprising 20 birds there Oct. 31 (DA, DL). An estimated 2500+ Red-necked Grebes present Aug. 31 (PL) between Dungeness and Port Angeles, Wash., and about 10,000 W. Grebes on Bellingham Bay, Wash., in early October (TW) were the high counts of the migration. An ad W. Grebe with a half-grown chick found Sept. 20 in Scoggins Valley Park, w. of Portland, Ore., could have indicated nesting in the area (VT, DL). However, ad Westerns are known to both swim and fly with young aboard (e.g., Palmer 1962, *Handbook of N. Am Birds*, p. 103),

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and this location is relatively near the Columbia R. and the eastside colonies. At least nine Clark's Grebes were reported. Surely this reflects increasing observer attention and knowledge. The earliest were seen Aug. 6+ in Tacoma, Wash. (†Jon Jensen, TB *et al.*) and Aug. 26 at Seaside, Ore. (TCr). Thereafter sightings were near Ilwaco, Wash., Sept. 20 (F. Brown), inland on Timothy L., Oct. 31 (DA, DL) and Agate L., *Jackson*, Ore., Nov. 5-15 (TCo), at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, Ore., Nov. 19 (BO), Ocean Shores, Wash., Nov. 20 (G & WH), and at French Beach P.P., V.I., Nov. 27 (M & VG). There were reports from 16 pelagic trips: 9 out of Westport, Wash. (TW), 4 offshore Oregon, and 3 off s.w. British Columbia, and reports from an observer aboard a foreign fishing trawler offshore Oregon for 75 days (PS). A Laysan Albatross stayed close around that trawler Oct. 1-2 (PS) when it was 34-47 mi off Depoe Bay. Black-footed Albatross numbers peaked at 174 off Westport Sept. 13 (TW) and 184 off *Lincoln* Sept. 20-22

(PS). Counts of N. Fulmar peaked in October with 490 off Westport Oct. 4, 500 off Garibaldi, Ore., Oct. 10 (BO), and 1000 off Ucluelet, V.I., Oct. 10 (WW *et al.*). About 30 N. Fulmars were seen from shore Nov. 21 at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., Ore. (SH, P. Sherrell). The high counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters were of 366-793 during Aug. 29-Sept. 6 off Westport and 100 out of Garibaldi Sept. 6 (TCr, DL). The usual many thousand Sooties and 10 Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted. Eight Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen Oct. 4 off Westport furnished the highest fall count there in 19 years (TW). Seven other Flesh-footeds were scattered throughout the season and the Region. The 375 Buller's Shearwaters off Westport Oct. 4 made the highest count since 1977. Twenty Buller's were seen Oct. 10 off both Garibaldi (BO) and Ucluelet (WW *et al.*). The 800 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen off Westport Sept. 12, and 1500 Sept. 13, were both new highest-ever counts (TW). On Aug. 20-21, 375 Leach's Storm-Petrels were banded on Hunter's I., *Curry*, Ore. (JA, RL). A group of 12 Am. White Pelicans stayed on Sauvie I., Ore., and adjacent Vancouver L. and Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., Sept. 12-Nov. 13 (HN, WC, MHi). Four of these had blue shoulder ribbons indicating their origin at Stum L., just w. of the town of Williams Lake, B.C., almost due north of Portland (*vide* DL). One Am. White Pelican was at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Ore., Sept. 28 (TM) and five were at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Oct. 4 (S. Van Niel). Brown Pelicans moved N this season in larger numbers and stayed later than usual. Six hundred were on the *Curry*, Ore., coast Aug. 13 (PL) and 1800 were estimated there Sept. 18 (DFi, AC). About 3000 were around Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 28-Sept. 10 (G & WH, TB), and 200+ were still at Tokeland Oct. 30 (G & WH). Groups of 25-40 were still along the Oregon coast through the end of November. The most northerly report was of 25 at LaPush, Wash., Sept. 19 (E. Andresen). Brandt's Cormorants moved N in their usual numbers, with 500 at Cattle Pass, San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 19 and 3100 there Sept. 30 (ML). An ad male Magnificent Frigatebird stayed Aug. 15-20 at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (J. & M. Sheehy, Bob Olson, L. Osis *et al.*) for about the 10th record for Oregon (*vide* ME). Even more Great Egrets were present in the Region than last year. Reports were received of possibly 190 birds from 17 Oregon locations and 115 from 17 Washington sites. As recently as 1985, the 15-year average for Washington was of about four per year for

the fall season. Fifty were at Reedsport, Ore., Aug. 14 (PL), 40 were at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, by Sept. 2 (SH), and up to 90 were on Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., in late September (MHi). One was north to the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C., Oct. 3 & 4 (B. Blomgren, L. Miller) and many stayed in both Washington and Oregon through the end of November. Five Snowy Egrets at the North Slough, Coos Bay, Ore., Sept. 5 (DFi, TL) made a normal count there. The first Cattle Egret appeared Oct. 14-Nov. 1 in Delta, B.C. (AS, m.ob.). Then one was in C. Saanich, V.I., Nov. 1-17 (*fide* DFr) and at Torino, V.I., Nov. 21-25 (†Maggie Paquette). One was at Siletz Bay, Ore., Nov. 4 (DL), five were there Nov. 22 (NH, JJ), and two were near Raymond, Wash., Nov. 22-27 (BT *et al.*). Two adult and two imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons were at the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C., by Aug. 18 (P. Gehlen) and an adult arrived at the Reifel I. roost site Sept.19 (MG, JJ).

WATERFOWL -- The first reported Tundra Swans were five noted Oct. 20 at Clear L. in the n. Oregon Cascades (DA) and one Oct. 27 on the Toketee R.D. in the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi). Arrival of both Tundra and Trumpeter swans was otherwise in early November as usual. Two ad Trumpeters were at Agate L., near Medford, Nov. 5 (†TCO). The first Greater White-fronted Geese were noted Aug. 25 in Oregon at Nehalem Bay (JE) and Sauvie I. (RSm). Migrant flocks of 30+ were observed taking flight after sunset Sept. 30 from Toketee L., e. Douglas, and heading S over the Oregon Cascades (DFi), and Oct. 4 headed S 30 mi offshore Westport (TW). Snow Geese arrived at Reifel I., B.C., slightly later than last year, with numbers building to 2000 by Oct. 17, 4000 Oct. 27, and the season's high there of 8000 Oct. 31 (JI). A Ross' Goose strayed W to the Kirtland Road ponds, near Medford, Ore., Nov. 24 (BSt). A neck-collared "Cackling" Canada Goose was seen in Seattle Nov. 4-8 (KA, DR). Others were noted in n.w. Oregon and the Willamette Valley (*fide* HN). A few "Aleutian" Canada Geese were reported from Tillamook, Ore. (*fide* HN). A male Blue-winged Teal at the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C., Nov. 11 (M. Schouten) was late. The usual concentration of N. Shovelers at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds reached 2000 there Oct. 25 (RHu, BSu); 400 were on the Sheridan, Ore., sewage ponds Sept. 22 (HN, JE). The first Eur. Wigeon reported were males Sept. 18 at

Beach Grove, Delta, B.C. (BK), and Sept. 27 at Newport, Ore. (BBn, RG). The only Tufted Duck reported was the one considered to be a hybrid that returned to Green L. in Seattle Oct.5+ (Ruth Taylor, EH, m.ob.). Seven Oldsquaws were noted in Oregon, slightly more than usual. Singles were inland to the Sheridan sewage ponds Nov. 3+ (JG, m.ob.) and to Big L., Linn, Oct. 24 (CM). There were also 20 Surf Scoters inland to 4 locations in w. Oregon. The annual gatherings of Barrow's Goldeneyes peaked at 1400+ Nov. 14 and 1200+ Nov. 27 at Capitol L., Olympia, Wash. (G & WH). A pair of Ruddy Ducks was noted on Swan L., Saanich, V. I., Aug. 12 (J. Tatum), but with no evidence of nesting. Female Ruddy Ducks with

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week-old broods were noted Aug. 20 and Sept. 16 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds, a traditional breeding location (EH, Lee Jones).

VULTURES TO COOTS -- The peak of Turkey Vulture migration over southern V.I. was Sept. 26-27 with counts of 230/day over Metchosin (A. Macleod, BBg). Interestingly, peak counts in Ashland, Ore., were Sept. 27-28, at 250/day (*fide* MM). Totals for the 2 areas were 1052 and 1679 individual vultures. A family group of two adult and four imm Black-shouldered Kites was found Aug. 18+ at the Raymond, Wash., airport († BT, AR, EH, m.ob.). Other juv. Kites were noted at Nehalem meadows July 26 (JJ, OS) and Sept. 12 (a road kill with primary feathers still sheathed, *fide* HN) and at Bandon, Ore., Aug. 13 (PL). Two other kites were in Washington and 32 were reported from 11+ Oregon localities. Our rough index of Accipiter sightings was 91 Sharp-shinned, 86 Cooper's, and 21 N. Goshawks, about the same as for the last few years. Also as in previous years, the ratio of Cooper's Hawks to Sharp-shinneds was greater in British Columbia (5:3) than in w. Oregon (1:3). Immature Red-shouldered Hawks were noted north to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Aug. 9 (TM) and Thornton Creek, near Newport, Aug. 27-Sept. 4 (DFa) and an adult was north to Tillamook Sept. 2 (TL, *fide* DFi). The 85 sightings of Merlins and 69 of Peregrines were spread throughout the season

and the Region. Only three of the Peregrines were found away from the coastlines. Single very dark Gyrfalcons were seen Sept. 29 in Oregon (†HN) and Nov. 19 in Washington (†BT). Another sighting was Nov. 1 in the Vancouver, B.C., area (J. Williams). Six Prairie Falcon reports from Oregon, of which two were at traditional wintering areas, made a normal count. Nine Prairie Falcons were noted at Mt. Rainier N.P., Aug. 30-Oct. 18, also as usual. Two at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 4 and one there Nov. 4 (both MC) were, however, quite surprising. White-tailed Ptarmigan were reported from several locations on 4 mountains in the Washington Cascades. The high country was open late owing to the warm, dry autumn, and ptarmigan were seen Nov. 1 at Ptarmigan Ridge, Mt. Baker (BSu) and nearby Slate Peak (G. Walter). Far fewer Blue Grouse than usual were found in the Diamond Lake R.D. of e. *Douglas*, Ore. (DFi). Reports from Washington locations were in normal numbers. A Sora seen Oct. 16 in Courtenay, V.I., was both late and farther north than usual (B. Sedgewick, V. Chungranes). A migratory influx of Am. Coots brought the count on Diamond Lake from 400 Oct. 8 to 2000 Oct. 17, 6000+ Oct. 19-24, then 11,000 Nov. 7 (DFi).

SHOREBIRDS -- Lesser Golden-Plovers were in the Region from Aug. 13 at Delta, B.C. (TP, L. Koch) to Nov. 21, also at Delta (*vide* DK). "Pacific" Golden-Plovers (*P. d. fulva*) were reported from Aug. 14 at Ocean Shores (MC) to Oct. 25 at Tillamook, Ore. (RSm) and Oct. 29 at Dungeness, Wash. (FCo). Twenty-five adults at Ocean Shores Aug. 18-30 (PL, BT) and 40+ juveniles there Oct. 10 (BT) furnished the high counts. Relatively few individuals were definitely reported to be of the nominate form, *P. d. dominica*. Identification of the two forms in fall remains neither simple nor widely attained. A group of around 20 Snowy Plovers seen at Bandon, Ore., to at least Oct. 9 contained three color-banded birds (Bill Stotz). Thanks to Frances Bidstrup of Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, their histories are: one banded as a chick in Monterey, Cal., in 1985 and resident at Bandon since; an ad female banded on a nest in Monterey in 1987; and one banded as a nestling in 1987 at Moss Landing, Cal. A Greater Yellowlegs at Lightning Lake, Manning P.P., Aug. 23 (WW *et al.*) was unusual there. Gatherings of 80 Greater at Blackie Spit, Surrey, B.C., Sept. 23 (WW) and 160 Lesser Yellowlegs at Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 22

(JI) furnished the high counts for the season. This year, as in the past 2, the number of Solitary Sandpiper reports was about triple the 1975-1984 average of 10/year. The small wintering flock of 12+ Willets was present at the mouth of the North R. on Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 23+ (AR, m.ob.). Nine were at Newport, Ore., Aug. 30+ (R & JK, HN). A single Willet visited Emigrant L., near Ashland, Ore., Oct. 4-6 (MHo, MU, BSt). Eighty Long-billed Curlews were at Tokeland on Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 18+ (BT, m.ob.). Fourteen other Long-billeds were reported at 9 locations from Boundary Bay, B.C., to Port Orford, Ore. An imm. Hudsonian Godwit was seen Aug. 15 at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C. (MB). It or another was seen nearby on Boundary Bay Aug. 16 (EK) and almost daily thereafter (†WW, †PL, m.ob.). On Sept. 4 there were two Hudsonians present and on Sept. 14, three! (AS, m.ob.). One stayed to Sept. 23 (WW). A juv. **Bar-tailed Godwit** also present on Boundary Bay Aug. 21-23 (†MB, m.ob.) provided the 5th record for the Vancouver, B.C., area. An ad Bar-tailed Godwit was observed at Tokeland Aug. 18 (PL, †BT, †AR, m.ob., ph. JGi), two unaged individuals were there Sept. 1 (†Craig Provost), and a juvenile was last seen Oct. 3 (†EH). These furnished the 17th and 18th records for Washington. An ad female **Bar-tailed Godwit** in worn breeding plumage was found Aug. 27 at Bandon, Ore. (†SH, †David Holway, DI, D. Kappan) and was seen through Sept. 2 (†JJ, ph., †PMu, m.ob.) for the first record for the state since August 1980. Five Marbled Godwits were on Boundary Bay Aug. 27 (Hue & JoAnn MacKenzie) and 37 individuals were reported from the Oregon coast. The flock of 40 Marbled Godwits at Tokeland in August grew to 200 by Nov. 19 (BT). A gathering of 57 Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 7 on Sidney I., V.I., made a high count (J & RSa). One Ruddy was inland to the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds Sept. 14-15 (JE, DL, VT). About 80 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, evenly divided among British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. The only one away from the coastlines was in Corvallis, Ore., Aug. 24 (RHo). Nineteen of the Semipalmateds were seen in September, and one immature at Manzanita, Ore., Sept. 25 was the latest (BO, ph.). The 3000 W. Sandpipers at Boundary Bay, B.C., Sept. 9 (MG, WW), 3500 at Nehalem, Ore., Sept. 10 (JA), and 20,000 in a flock at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 13 (EH) marked the peak of the migration. Eight of the 32+ Sharp-tailed Sandpipers reported were along



the Oregon coast Sept. 26-30. Singles were in Kent, Wash., Sept. 3-4 (†MS, †EH, ph. G. Gerdt) and Seattle Sept. 14 (†Mark Egger, †S) for 2nd and 3rd King County records, and at the Courtenany, V.I., sewage ponds Oct. 1 (R. Fitzpatrick, E. Bowen). A continuous series of sightings at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., which could be very conservatively accounted for by 18 birds, extended from Sept.4-Oct. 11 (JL), with a high of six present Sept. 27-28. Three others were at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 15-Oct. 17 (MC *et al.*). An ad Rock Sandpiper noted Aug. 18 on Lucy I., B.C., was very early (MF *et al.*). Elsewhere arrival was Oct. 18 on V.I., Oct. 22 in W. Vancouver, B.C., and Nov. 5-7 in Washington and Oregon.



*Juvenile Buff at Hecata Beach, Florence, Ore., Sept. 3, 1987. Photo/Craig Miller*

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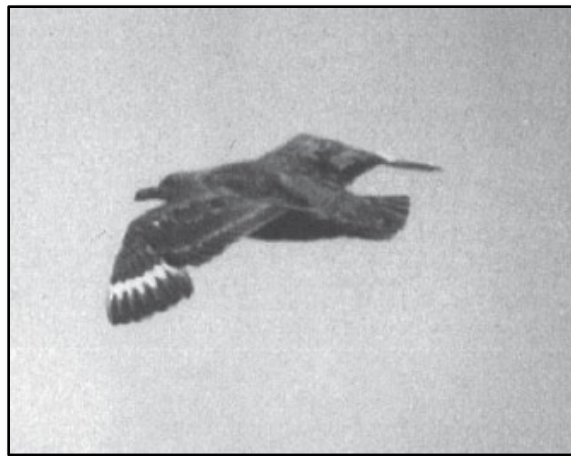
An imm. **Curlew Sandpiper** impeccably described and sketched was present Sept. 20 at Long Beach, Pacific Rim N.P., V.I. (†James Steele), for one of fewer than 10 records for the province. Reports of three others in Washington and Oregon had no accompanying details. The now usual 62 Stilt Sandpipers were reported, with 22 at Boundary Bay Aug. 16 (EK) and 12 at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 17 (F. Bird). Sixteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted, about the same number as last year, Aug. 19-Sept. 18. Ten were in Oregon, and three at Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 6 (JG) made up the largest group. Only two Ruffs were reported, for the lowest count since 1984 and 1976, and down from 21+ last year. One was seen at Hecata

Beach, Florence, Ore., Sept. 3 (CM, ph.); the other was at Iona I., B.C., Oct. 16-17 (MP, †AS). The 1550 roosting Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 11 at Reifel I., B.C. (BT) and 1000+ at Sauvie I., Ore., Oct. 15 (HN *et al.*) furnished high counts. A Red-necked Phalarope at the Beaver Pond, Manning P.P., Aug. 22 was unusual there (A & HP). The usual few Red Phalaropes were around, from late August and mostly offshore, except for one still with some breeding plumage at Kent, Wash., Aug. 26 (†MS). November storms blew a few onshore, including singles inland to the Sheridan sewage ponds, Scoggins Valley Park near Portland, the Monmouth ponds, Fern Ridge Res., and Plat I. Res. near Sutherlin, all Nov. 14-21 in Oregon.

**JAEGER TO PUFFINS**--The usual 30-60 Pomarine Jaegers and five to 35 Long-tailed Jaegers were seen on each of the Westport pelagic trips (TW). The same numbers of Long-taileds, but fewer Pomarines, were noted from the fishing trawler offshore Oregon (PS). Parasitic Jaegers were widespread along the coast as usual. Twenty S. Polar Skuas were noted on 6 of the trips off Westport (TW), and about one every 2 days were seen from the trawler (PS). About 95 Franklin's Gulls were reported, back up to normal levels after low counts the last 2 years. Eleven at Iona I., B.C., Aug. 26 (MF, MB) and 20+ at the Everett sewage ponds Oct. 6 & 25 (EH, BSu, RHu) were the high concentrations. A Little Gull in breeding plumage was noted Aug. 15 at Salt Spring I., V.I. (†DFr) and one in winter plumage was nearby Aug. 23 at Clover Pt., Victoria (KT). Others were found at Race Rocks, V.I. (MF), West Pt. in Seattle (DB, TB), and American L. in Tacoma (TB, W. Wilkins). A **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen Sept. 17 at Orcas I., Wash. (†Richard Ryan) and one was at Green L. in Seattle Oct. 5 (†EH, †NH), for the 3rd and 4th records for the state. A Ring-billed Gull at Prince Rupert, B.C., Aug. 13 (JC, MF) was farther north than usual, and a Thayer's Gull at Lucy I., B.C., Aug. 18 (JC, MF, R. McMichael) was earlier than usual. About 26,000 California Gulls were noted Sept. 4 on the w. coast of V.I. (DP). An imm. Glaucous Gull present at Alsea Bay, Ore., on the unusual dates of Aug. 12-Sept. 29 (†JA) had most likely spent the summer in the area. Only four Glaucous Gulls were noted elsewhere: two on southern V.I., Oct. 22+ (DFr), and two in Portland Nov. 3+ (DI, B. Shelmerdine). **Elegant Terns** made their first large-

scale movement N into Oregon since the fall of 1983. Five adults were found at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., at Florence, Aug. 23 (†T & AM) and a few were seen there until Sept. 20. Six or seven were on Idaho flats at Newport Sept. 2-20 g-IN, BBn, R & JK, m.ob.). A flock of 22 was at Charleston in Coos Bay Sept. 4 (DFi). Then, 120 were seen off the mouth of the Chetco R. at Brookings Sept. 16 (DI, PP). Three at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 30, were the northernmost reported, and the latest (PP). High counts of migrant Com. Terns were of 100 at Coos Bay Sept. 4 (DFi), 800 at Sidney I., V.I. (J & RSa), 700 at Clover Pt., Victoria, Sept. 14 (RSa), 1000 from the San Juan I. ferry Sept. 17 (EH), 700 on the Spanish Banks, Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 22 (MP), and 500 near San Juan I., Wash., to Oct. 5 (ML). There were 5 reports, with at least minimum details, of Arctic Terns on shore Aug. 17-Sept. 20, at Kalaloch, Ocean Shores, and Westport, Wash., and at Florence and Bandon, Ore., and reports otherwise of 42 others. Wahl noted a normal 45 on 5 trips off Westport, and PS saw a few, plus a flock of 15 on Sept. 10 about 50 mi off Clatsop, Ore. Single Forster's Terns were identified Aug. 25 about 25 mi off Yaquina Bay, Ore. (JA, RL) and Oct. 24 in Oak Bay, V.I. (V. Ohman, †DFr *et al.*), the latter furnishing the 2nd record for Vancouver Island. More dead Com. Murres than usual were found on Oregon and Washington coastal beaches during late July through September (JA, HN, TW). Four Marbled Murrelets were flying over the forest about 12 mi e. of Yachats, in the Siuslaw N.F. of Lincoln, Ore., Aug. 9 (RHo, AC). The first **Xantus' Murrelet** (*S. b. scrippsi*) seen from shore in Oregon was present off the Boiler Bay lookout Nov. 7-13 (†LW, †PMu, m.ob., ph. OS). Single Xantus' seen Sept. 12 and Oct. 4 at sea off Westport (TW) were the first there since fall 1984. Ten were noted Sept. 23 off Salt Spring I., southern V.I. (J & RSa). Widespread arrival of Ancient Murrelets was as usual in early November with 1500 seen Nov. 14 from the Victoria-Port Angeles ferry (KT *et al.*) and 25-100 south to Boiler Bay, Ore., Nov. 7+ (PMu, LW, m.ob.). Cassin's Auklet numbers returned to their pre-El Niño levels. There were 1200 noted Aug. 19 at the Swiftsure Banks, V.I.

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*South Polar Skua off Westport, Washington, Aug. 31, 1987. Photo/Peter Hunt.*

(DFr), 300 there Aug. 31 (DP), 200+ Sept. 13 and Oct. 4 out of Westport (TW), and 500 seen Oct. 10 from 3-10 mi off Garibaldi, Ore. (BO, DFi). A Horned Puffin was seen Aug. 21 in a Tufted Puffin colony on Hunter I., Curry (†JA, RL).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- An ad Barred Owl with two begging juveniles seen Aug. 24-26 at Watershed Park, N. Delta, B.C. (D. Wilson), furnished the first positive breeding record for the Vancouver area. The B.C.F. & W.S. owl survey crew found Barred Owls at 22 locations in s.w. British Columbia this season! An adult with a juvenile was along the Lilloet R. road Aug. 18 and 3 pairs were along the Elaho R., n. of Squamish, Oct. 1 (*fide* DK). Barred Owls were noted at the usual few locations elsewhere: two on southern V.I. and three in Washington. A Great Gray Owl was located Oct. 22+ (MU, m.ob.) near Howard Prairie L., Jackson, Ore., and a probable family group of four was seen there Nov. 6 (J. Babcock, TCo). Reports of 17 N. Pygmy-Owls, with none from s.w. British Columbia, indicated a return to normal levels after last year's incursion. A Burrowing Owl noted Nov. 2 along Boundary Bay furnished only the 3rd record for the Vancouver, B.C., area in the last 15 years (†GA *et al.*). The record of one on the beach at Florence, Ore., Oct. 13, 1985 (AB 40:323) actually referred to a Com. Barn-Owl, my mistake. On Nov. 20 a W. Screech-Owl came aboard the ferry at Tsawwassen, B.C., sat quietly across

the Strait, and flew off at Salt Spring I. (D. Layard). A Com. Poorwill found road-killed in Coquitlam, B.C., Oct. 1, and now specimen #14766 at the Univ. of British Columbia, provided the first record for the Vancouver, B.C., area (R. Wakelam). Eight Black Swifts at Forest Grove Sept. 14 (JE) and 15+ at Thornton Creek, near Newport, Sept. 19 (DFa) provided scarce migrant records in Oregon. Two were still in Victoria Sept. 30 (J & RSa). Four thousand Vaux's Swifts roosted in the chimney of the Newberg, Ore., Post Office Sept. 15-18 (HN). A male Costa's Hummingbird at a Medford, Ore., feeder this summer stayed to Sept. 7 (Penny Stewart, *vide* MM). An ad male Rufous



*Adult male Costas' Hummingbird at Medford, Ore., late summer 1987. Photo/Ira Updegrave.*

Hummingbird was observed Aug 19 about 10mi offshore the w. side of V.I. (DFr *et al.*). Single Lewis' Woodpeckers were almost to the Oregon coast at Chitwood, near Newport, Aug. 22 (DFa) and Powers, along the Coquille R., Coos, Oct. 4 (Jack Thomas). Latest flycatcher sightings were: Olive-sided, Sept. 16 on Sidney I., V.I. (J & RSa) and Sept. 17 in Eugene, Ore. (SH); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 26 at Toketee R.S., Ore. (DFi), and Oct. 2 at Ridgefield N.W.R. for the latest ever for Washington (G & WH); Willow, Sept. 24 at Applegate, Ore. (John Keller); Hammond's, Sept. 26 at Toketee R.S. and Sept. 29 at Diamond L., Douglas, Ore. (both DFi); Dusky, Aug. 30 in Ashland (MM); and Western, Sept. 28 in Victoria (J. Gaskin) and Oct. 2 in Poulsbo, Wash. (J. Carson). Single Say's Phoebes appeared in Delta, B.C., Aug. 24 (AS, MF, TP) and

Sept. 21 (JI, P. Marklevitz) and in McCleary, Wash., Aug. 27 (Jeff Wisman). The only **Tropical Kingbird** reported this fall was along the coast at LaPush, Wash., Oct. 10 (†SJ *et al.*) for the 7th record for the state. An E. Kingbird at Seaside, Ore., Sept. 10 (DI) and single W. Kingbirds at Bellingham, Wash., Aug. 24 (PL, TW, John Luther) and at Reifel I., B.C., Sept. 2 (JI) were unusual. Purple Martins apparently departed early and without reported gatherings. A flock of 500+ Violet-green Swallows at the Toketee R.S., Sept. 24 grew to 1500+ Oct. 1 (DFi). On Oct. 7 only 400 remained, and all but two had departed by Oct. 11. Large numbers of Bank Swallows occurred again this year in the Vancouver, B.C., area, with 20 at Reifel I. Sept. 7 (JI) the high count. Three others were on southern V.I., six in Washington Aug. 30-Sept. 16, and nine in Oregon.

**CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS** -- Three Blue Jays were found in Vancouver, B.C., during October (BK. †GA, JI, WW *et al.*) for the 5th-7th records there. Another stayed October through November in Port Townsend, Wash. (Bess Dickenson, m.ob.). Single Scrub Jays wandered well N of their usual range to Ft. Lewis, Olympia, and Bremerton, Wash. A flock of 40 Pinyon Jays was farther west than usual to the Acker Rock fire lookout, Tiller R.D., Douglas, Ore., Sept. 16 (†Kevin Sands). Another Pinyon Jay was seen Oct. 4 at Howard Prairie L. (MHo) for, surprisingly, the first record for Jackson (*vide* MM). A Clark's Nutcracker s. of Bandon, Ore., Oct. 30, for the 2nd Coos record (C. Casseney, *vide* L. Thornburg), furnished the only report away from the mountains. About 38 Mountain Chickadees reported after late September from lowland sites in the Vancouver, B.C., area were more than usual but not as many as last year (*vide* DK). Five were found in Seattle, also in late September, for the only other lowland report. Two Rock Wrens were at Emigrant L., Jackson, Ore., Oct. 20 (MM). Ruby-crowned Kinglets returned by Sept. 7 to W. Vancouver, B.C. (AP), Sept. 12 to Willapa Bay, Wash. (B. & G. Ramsey), and Sept. 27 to Ashland, Ore. (MM). Single N. Mockingbirds were at Coos Bay, near Medford, and in Ashland, Ore., and two were north to near Seattle Nov. 12-15 (†L. & M. Hatfield). A Sage Thrasher wandered west to Eagle Point, near Medford, Ore., Sept. 16 (H. Sands). Four Bohemian Waxwings were noted Aug. 19 at Washington Pass in the N. Cascades (R. Bradley), adding to growing hints of nearby nesting. A

Loggerhead Shrike seen Sept. 6-10 in Vancouver, B.C., furnished the 10th record for the area (Daphne Solecki, †WW, m.ob.). A Solitary Vireo seen Sept. 26 at Toketee R.S., Douglas, Ore. (DFi) was the latest of only six reported for the season. A Warbling Vireo killed at a window in Washougal, Wash., Sept. 29 (WC) and single Red-eyed Vireos in the Vancouver, B.C., area Sept. 7 & 11 (AP, BK) were later than usual. An imm. Yellow Warbler Oct. 11 at Reifel I. (BT) was the latest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area. A Wilson's Warbler lingered to Nov. 4 in N. Vancouver (*vide* DK). Twenty Palm Warblers were noted, more than usual. Fifteen of these were found at 13 Oregon coastal locations, Sept. 12+. The remaining five were on the Washington coast with one Oct. 11 at LaPush (†SJ) the farthest north. There were two N. Waterthrushes at Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 14-28 (JI, †BK *et al.*) and two at Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 24-Sept. 12 (H. Hope, m.ob.), for the 3rd straight year of multiple fall occurrences in that area. Another was at the Snohomish sewage ponds Sept. 10, for the 12th record for w. Washington (R. Thorn). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Manning P.P., Aug. 22 (A & HP), furnished only about the 3rd park record. A bright male **Blackburnian Warbler** was found Nov. 15+ near Nehalem, Ore. (†JJ, S. Jones, m.ob., ph. BO, HN, OS). A female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was photographed Sept. 23 on board a trawler

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*Blackburnian Warbler near Nehalem, Ore., Nov. 29, 1987. Notably late in the season, and*

*apparently a first for western Oregon. Photo/Bob O'Brien.*

33 mi offshore *Lincoln*, Ore. (†PS). A fall-plumaged **Blackpoll Warbler** was closely studied Oct. 1-3 aboard that same boat 47 mi offshore *Lincoln*, Ore. (†PS). These birds provided the first, 4th, and 3rd records, respectively, for w. Oregon (*vide* ME). Regrettably, two Tennessee Warblers, another Black-throated Blue Warbler, and another Blackpoll Warbler were reported without details.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES -- Single W. Tanagers noted Oct. 5 in Vancouver, B.C. (MP) and Oct. 7 in Portland (D. Marshall) were later than usual. An imm. male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed Sept. 20 at the S.J.C.R. (†JJ). A female **Dickcissel** was photographed Oct. 8 on Tatoosh I., Wash. (T. Wooten, B. Paine) for the 3rd record for the state. Three Clay-colored Sparrows were sighted in Oregon. One each was at the Wilson R. meadows near Tillamook Sept. 12 (JG, MHo), at Nehalem meadows Nov. 15-21 (JG, †LW, m.ob.), and at Coos Bay Nov. 16-17 (B. Griffin). There are (contra *AB* 40:324) at least 16 records now for w. Oregon (*vide* ME). A Grasshopper Sparrow at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, Douglas, Aug. 25 furnished one of very few records for w. Oregon (†DFi). Eleven Swamp Sparrows, more than usual, were reported this season. Eight of these were in Oregon, with the earliest found Oct. 24 at the Diamond L. sewage ponds for the first record in the Cascades (DFi), and four found Nov. 15 at the mouth of the Wilson R. near Tillamook (JG, J. Kempe). Singles were at Nehalem (JG), the Eugene airport (†TM), and Sauvie I. (JJ, SH), Nov. 15-27. One in Seattle Nov. 20-23 (†KA, †DB, T. Haas) was the 16th for Washington. Two others were at Langford, V.I., Oct. 29-Nov. 2 (DFr, J & RSa) and in Port Alberni, V.I., Nov. 11 (S. McLure). Twenty-seven White-throated Sparrows, a normal number, were reported in 24 locations, Sept. 18+. Nineteen were in Oregon, including one that landed on the trawler 35 mi off Lane Sept. 30 (PS). Only three Harris' Sparrows were reported, Nov. 2-25, from Seattle and southern V.I. Forty-plus Lapland Longspurs at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 30-Oct. 28, made the largest flock reported (RSm, PP,

HN *et al.*). On Oct. 2 a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was studied at length among a flock of pipits at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, *Douglas, Ore.* (†DFi, Pam Udd). On Oct. 6 another Chestnut-collared was seen at the S.J.C.R. (†HN, JE, DL). These were the 3rd and 4th records for w. Oregon (*vide* ME). Two Snow Buntings at Ocean Shores Oct. 11 (Lola Smith) and one in Seattle Oct. 19 (DR) were early. A ♂ Bobolink was seen Sept. 7 near Monroe (Bill Boyes) for only the 3rd fall record for w. Washington. All have been mid-August to mid-September. The last N. Orioles were seen Aug. 2 on Reifel I., B.C. (JI), Aug. 16 in N. Saanich, V.I. (BBg), and Sept. 7 at Cape Blanco, Ore. (RSm). Two reports of Orchard Orioles were without details. Two Pine Grosbeaks were noted Aug. 10 near Big L. at Santiam Pass in the Oregon Cascades, where the species is irregular (BBn, RG). A well-described Cassin's Finch seen Oct. 22 in Ambleside Park (†AS) furnished only the 7th record for the Vancouver, B.C., area, all of which have been since 1984 (*vide* DK). Small flocks of Red Crossbills appeared to be uniformly distributed over the Region. Groups of three to 20 White-winged Crossbills were noted at Rolley Lake P.P., on Mt. Baker, and near Mt. Rainier through the season. A Lesser Goldfinch among a large flock of Am. Goldfinches Sept. 20 near Warrenton, Ore., was much farther north than usual (JE). A single House Sparrow was seen Oct. 11 in Ucluelet, on the far side of V.I. (WW, MF *et al.*), where they are rare. *Birds of Pacific Rim N.P.* lists none there as of 1976.

INITIALED OBSERVERS, with **sub-Regional editors in boldface**—Kevin Aanerud, David Anderson, Jon Anderson, Gerry Ansell, Dave Beaudette, Barbara Begg (BBg), Barb Bellin (BBn), Mike Bentley, Thais Rock, Wilson Cady, Mike Carmody, Alan Contreras, Troy Corman (TCO), Tom Crabtree (TCr), Jon Curson, Merlin Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Darrel Faxon (DFa), **David Fix** (DFi), Mike Force, **David Fraser** (DFr), Mike Gebauer, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, **Steve Heintl**, Marguerite Hills (MHl), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Mike Houck (MHo), Rick Hoyer, Jr. (RHo), Rick Hudson (RHu), Eugene & Nancy Hunn, John Ireland, David Irons, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Brian Kautesk, Eric Keranan, Rick & Jan Krabbe, **Doug Kragh**, Paul Lehman, Mark Lewis,

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*The Winter Season, 1987-88*

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

**Thomas H. Rogers**

December in the Region started out unusually wet, but by mid-month dry conditions set in that persisted nearly everywhere through the remainder of the winter. Temperatures varied from normal to cool in December but tended toward the warm side in January and were decidedly above normal during February. The mild, open winter encouraged late lingering, wintering of species that normally migrate or remain in very small numbers, and early spring arrivals. Most of the unusual Christmas Bird Count sightings will not be duplicated here. Scant precipitation after the dry autumn made another summer of drought likely.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Up to four Red-throated Loons were sighted in the Hood River-Mosier, Ore., area in January (DA, DL, JJ), and one appeared at the Yakima R. mouth, Wash., in early December (REW). Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Idaho, had one Jan. 2 and a Pacific Loon Feb. 23 (PH). Two Pacific Loons lingered into December at Wickiup Res. West of La Pine, Ore. (CM). One was on Potholes Res. south of Moses L., Wash., Dec. 19 (WRR), and another was on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash., Jan. 22

(REW). Osoyoos, B.C., had one Dec. 28 (BL), and two wintered on the reservoir above Libby Dam, Lincoln Co., Mont. (MS). Single Yellow-billed Loons were noted at Vernon, B.C., Dec. 6 (PR) and at Osoyoos Dec. 28 (BL). A few Pied-billed, Horned, Red-necked, Eared, and Western grebes were noted, mostly in the w. part of the Region. American White Pelicans wintered at a few localities. Up to 40 were on the Columbia R. near Wallula, Wash. Two to four were sighted on the Snake R. in the American Falls-Minidoka area, Idaho, in January and February. Two appeared on Holter L. north of Helena, Mont., Feb. 26 (MJ). One at Malheur N.W.R., Harney Co., Ore., in December apparently was an injured bird. A few Double-crested Cormorants wintered at Malheur N.W.R.; up to 50 spent the winter in the Richland-Wallula area, Wash., and one wintered on the Snake R. west of Clarkston, Wash. A few were sighted on the Snake near Ontario, Ore., and on L. Lowell, Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Idaho, in early December. The only Am. Bitterns reported were on eat Malheur N.W.R. Dec. 3 and one at Columbia N.W.R. Feb. 16. A Cattle Egret at Vernon Dec. ? died that day (PG). One found in a pasture in W. Pasco, Wash., Dec. 13 disappeared before the month's end (REW). Montana's Bitterroot Valley had a Cattle Egret Dec. 7-8 (CP). A Green-backed Heron appeared at Logger Cr., Boise, Idaho, Dec. 16 (AL).

WATERFOWL -- The Kamloops-Shuswap-Okanagan, B.C., area had 645 Tundra Swans Jan. 10. Tundra Swan numbers in the n. Columbia Basin, Wash., were nearly 6 times the average with 452 birds counted Dec. 2. Trumpeter Swans numbered 51 along the S. Thompson R. and Okanagan L., B.C., Jan. 10, and Savona west of Kamloops had 26 Feb. 8 (*vide* RRH). At Malheur N.W.R., the peak Trumpeter count was 43 Dec. 19 (CDL). Over 450 of these birds wintered successfully on Henrys Fork on the Snake R. at Harriman S.P., Idaho (CHT). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., averaged about 350 Trumpeters during the winter (CDM). Very unusual were the sightings of a Trumpeter on the Walla Walla R. one mi up from its mouth (MD) and two on the Columbia R. at Umatilla, Ore., Jan. 16 (KK). A single Trumpeter Swan appeared Dec. 1 on the Snake R. at Silcott I. west of Clarkston, Wash. (CG, OM). Lake Lowell had five Greater White-

fronted Geese Dec. 10 (BWh) as did Mirror Pond, Bend, Ore. (TC). A very few wintered in the Pasco-Walla Walla, Wash., area (KK, REW), and one was at Toppenish N.W.R., Wash., Jan. 17 (DG). One at Kamloops Jan. 24-27 made the first winter record there (SR). A Graylag Goose sighted in Walla Walla Co., Wash., was presumably an escapee (MD). The Clarkston area had sightings of a single Snow Goose in December and February (m.ob.), and L. Lowell had two Dec. 17 (BWh). Two were sighted Feb. 21-22 near Burbank, Wash. (DG, AS, REW), and two blue-morph individuals were found near Paterson, Wash., Jan. 31 (L.C.B.A.S.). Over 10,000 Canada Geese were counted on L. Lowell Dec. 4. At Malheur N.W.R., their numbers dropped from 6400 to 4525 in early January. A winter wheat field west of Reardan, Wash., was supplying forage for over 35 "Cackling" Geese mixed in with a large flock of Lesser Canadas Feb. 28 (JA), and 4 pairs of the former were on the Kootenai R. near Libby, Mont., Feb. 27 (MS). During early December, over 30,000 ducks and about 1500 geese were on Saddle Mountain N.W.R., Grant Co., Wash., but only 460 ducks remained there by early January. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had nearly 40,000 ducks and 1100 geese in early December, most of the ducks were still there in early January. Waterfowl on the Columbia R. on Wells Pool and Azwell and Wanapum Pool, Vantage, Wash., totaled 32,000 Jan. 6. A Wood Duck that wintered at Kamloops supplied the first winter record there (RRH). Ducks, mostly Mallards, numbered over 33,000 at L. Lowell Dec. 4. A scattering of Eur. Wigeons occurred in e. Oregon and Washington. Two Ring-necked Ducks were sighted at Kamloops Jan. 28; they are rare there (SR). A male **Tufted Duck** at Vernon Dec. 10-21 was the first for the Okanagan Valley (PR *et al.*). Two flocks of 30 each of Greater Scaup were sighted flying up the Columbia R. at Mosier, Ore., Jan. 3 (JJ), and 30+ were counted from L. Chelan along the Columbia R. to Winchester Wasteway, Grant Co., Wash., Feb. 15 (EH, GG, S.A.S.). A female Oldsquaw was on the Kootenai R. for n.w. Montana's first record (MS). One at Haystack Res. south of Madras, Ore., was a county first (DA, DL, TC, KC), and a winter-plumaged male was observed on L. Ewauna, Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 26-Jan. 3 (SS). A female was noted on the sewage ponds at Lakeview, Ore., Nov. 18-Dec. 7 (MA), and a male was on the Columbia R. at Wells Dam in n.w. Douglas County, Wash., Nov. 22 (GB). In Idaho, one was on Siphon

Pond near Pocatello Dec. 19 (CHT), a male was on the Snake R. below Massacre Rocks Feb 25 (JL), and one was sighted on Hayden L. Feb 23 (PH). The first ad male Surf Scoter for Deschutes County appeared at Hatfield L., Bend., Ore., Dec. 13 (TC), and an imm. White-winged Scoter showed up there the next day (CM, KT). Holter L. north of Helena had two Jan. 7 (BK). Single Red-breasted Mergansers appeared at the Yakima R. mouth (REW), at the Portneuf R. mouth near Pocatello (CHT), and at Vernon (PR).

RAPTORS – Turkey Vultures established new early arrival records at Bend (Feb. 23), Yakima (Feb. 24), and Malheur N.W.R. (Feb. 12). A remarkable observation was of a Black-shouldered Kite near Union Gap, Wash., Dec. 10 (CD). Bald Eagle numbers increased along the reservoirs in the Helena area, apparently because the collapse of the salmon population in the Flathead R. drainage of n.w. Montana forced eagles that normally gather in large numbers at Glacier N.P. to move elsewhere (VY). A peak of 102 was observed at Hauser Res. near Helena, where spawned-out Kokanee have become abundant and turbine-killed yellow perch were available (GA). Increased numbers were reported elsewhere also. Woodley remarked that it was a particularly good winter in the Tricities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland), Wash., area for these birds. Malheur N.W. R. recorded up to 39 and Wickiup Res., 12. An increase was noted on the Wenatchee R., n.c. Wash., and the Rupert, Idaho, vicinity reported "a good many." High numbers were also noted in s.e. Idaho, where 34 adults and eight immatures were found south of Island Park Res. and along Henrys Fork and the Buffalo River. Bald Eagle numbers at Deer Flat N.W.R. reached 23. Bald Eagles were increasing along the Kootenai R. near Libby, where a peak of 82 was counted Feb. 18. One radio transmitter-fitted bird from Pend Oreille L., n. Idaho, showed up Feb. 7 on the Kootenai and remained for 6 weeks (MS).

**S.A.**

A female wing-tagged Bald Eagle, last observed in Glacier N.P. in 1984, showed up along the Salmon R. near Challis, Idaho. She had been radio-tracked in past years from her wintering area there to her nest site near Yellowknife, N.W.T., Canada, a distance of about 1300 miles. She was at least 13 years old (LHa).

An unusual concentration of 12 adult and three imm Bald Eagles was at Greaser Res. East of Adel, Ore., Feb. 20, and four adults and one immature were at Pelican L. to the northwest the same day (MA). The Columbia Basin in e. Washington had many sightings. A pair of Bald Eagles wintered and was nesting at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (CDM), and a pair at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Idaho, did likewise (LDN). A pair was on a nest at Athalmer, B.C., Feb. 28 (LH). Single Ferruginous Hawks were sighted south of Crane, Ore., Jan. 10 (BH) and west of Ellensburg, Wash., Feb. 5 (B & GR). One or two adults of this species were sighted at the Raft R. mouth, n.e. Cassia Co., Idaho, where they apparently winter (DF, FR). One sighting of a Peregrine Falcon and eight of Gyrfalcons were reported. Some sightings of the latter likely were duplicates.

GROUSE THROUGH GULLS -- Douglas County, Wash., had flocks of Sage Grouse totaling 67 for the only reports (RD, DZ, RF). Up to seven Wild Turkeys were seen at Black Butte Ranch near Sisters, Ore., in late January (TC), and Ft. Boise W.M.A., Canyon Co., Idaho, also had the species (DJ). Virginia Rails wintered at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. Three remained at Richland until Dec. 19 (REW), and one was spotted at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Dec. 24 (RF). Sandhill Cranes were early. Single flocks had reached Malheur N.W.R. by Feb. 16 (CCa), Othello, Wash., by Feb. 23 (WRR), and Kamloops by Feb. 28 (RE). Two Greater Yellowlegs were sighted at Summer Lake W.M.A., Lake Co., Ore., Feb. 12 (MA), and one was at Mabton, Wash., Feb. 14 (DB). Five W. Sandpipers were sighted at the Walla Walla R. mouth Feb 13 (BaB, BB) Bend's mill pond had a Least Sandpiper Jan. 9 (CM), and the

Yakima R. delta hosted up to 14 in February (REW). A Pectoral Sandpiper and four Dunlin appeared at Vernon Dec. 7 (PR). Ten of the latter species wintered at Kamloops until at least Feb. 21 (SR), and the Yakima delta counted up to 17 (REW). Moses L. had four feeding on partly frozen mud flats (HO). Ten Long-billed Dowitchers remained at the Yakima delta to at least Dec. 2 (REW). Unusual were a Mew Gull at Richland Dec. 8 (REW), one at Kamloops Dec. 20 (RRH), and one at Silcott I. Jan. 30 (CG, OM). A Herring Gull appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Dec. 21 for the first winter record there (CDL). Also noteworthy were one at Rocky Reach Dam north of Wenatchee, Wash. (JT), and three at Wapato, Wash., in mid-January (DG, AS). Kelowna, B.C., had nine Thayer's Gulls Dec. 19 (PR). Five showed up at Coeur d'Alene's dump (ES, SHS) and one at Hayden Lake (PH). A Glaucous-winged Gull was along the Columbia R. below Grand Coulee Dam Jan. 16 (MD, MLD). Four Glaucous-winged Gulls at Kelowna Dec. 19 and one at Vernon the next day were notable as was a Glaucous Gull at Kelowna Dec. 19 (PR). One or two of the latter were sighted in the Tricities area Dec. 19-Jan. 29 (REW), and a very few appeared in the Coeur d'Alene area (PH, ES, SHS). Two first-year birds showed up at Spokane's dump Jan. 18 along with an imm. Mew Gull (JA).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- A Mourning Dove was sighted in mid-February north of Helena (MJ, *vide* GH), and three were wintering at Windermere, B.C. (LH). Single Com. Barn-Owls were seen at Oliver, B.C. (BL); near Quincy (RF); at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters (CDL) in late December, and north of Shelley, Idaho, Feb. 27 (JM). Single W. Screech-Owls were found dead at Kamloops and Salmon R., B.C. (RRH). The Reardan-Davenport, Wash., area yielded up to six Snowy Owls on January-February trips (JA, BW). The only other report was of one near Withrow, Wash., Jan. 21 (DW). A N. Hawk-Owl rarely seen in the Region, was at Vernon Dec. 30 (DP). A Burrowing Owl was discovered Dec. 25 near Richland, where the species rarely winters (BC). Barred Owls appeared to be on the increase in the Libby area, where 6 pairs were vocalizing within a 10-mile radius of the town (MS). One seen 12 mi northwest of Fortine, Mont., made Weydemeyer's 5th record for that vicinity. Northern Pygmy-Owls and Barred, Great Gray, and Boreal owls were reported at Lolo Pass on the Idaho-

Montana border (DH). Two Great Gray Owls were found near Tetonia, Idaho, in late January (MDe). Eighteen different Long-eared Owls were counted in the Frenchtown Valley west of Missoula, and about seven Short-eared Owls wintered west of Missoula (DH). A remarkable concentration of 32 Short-eared Owls occurred along a 3-mile stretch of railroad north of Post Falls, Idaho. Identical counts were made there in mid-December last year (KE). Ten of the birds wintered at Salmon Arm, B.C. (FK *et al.*). A few Boreal Owls were found in s. British Columbia: Penticton Cr. had one Dec. 27 (DC), and three fell victim to traps for fur-bearers (DC, DD). Up to six N. Saw-whet Owls roosted together in conifers adjacent to an orchard in Parker Heights south of Yakima during the winter; several other reports of the species in orchards in the lower Yakima Valley suggested an increase in that area (AS, SSt, m.ob.). One was found in Grant Orchards near Soap L., Wash., Dec. 14 (AR). The only report of Anna's Hummingbird was of an exceptionally early one at Bend Feb. 21 (J & AK). Three to five Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted in Mosier, Oregon. They seemed to be doing well in Wasco County (JJ). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed Nov. 26 and Feb. 25 in Yakima (CD, DG). A male Red-naped Sapsucker, accidental in Oregon in winter, was sighted in Mosier Jan. 3, and about seven Red-breasted Sapsuckers were found in the Mosier-Hood R. area the same day (JJ). A Red-breasted was sighted near Summer L., Ore., Dec. 17 (MA), and one was in Bend Dec. 19 (VRa). A Williamson's Sapsucker and a White-headed Woodpecker were seen near Leavenworth, Wash., Dec. 15 (CMcC). A White-headed Woodpecker wintered at Summerland, B.C. (RRH), and one at Bend

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Jan. 20 was unexpected (BC). A male of the species was sighted Dec. 19 and Feb. 15 along Cove Road southwest of Ellensburg (PM *et al.*), and one appeared in Burns for the 2nd consecutive winter (CDL). One along Asotin Cr., Asotin Co., Wash., Jan. 7 was the first for that locality (LP, CV). Downy, Hairy, Black-backed, Three-toed, and Pileated woodpeckers took advantage of a burn at Penticton, B.C., during the winter (DBr). A Black Phoebe found Nov. 29 at L. Ewauna, Klamath



Falls, was last seen Dec. 26 (PL). This furnished the county's 2nd record (SS). A Say's Phoebe on ice floes on the Grande Ronde R. in s.e. Asotin Co., Wash., Jan. 9 was a remarkable find (RG, MK, LP, CV). Other early records for this species were of one in Culver, Ore., Feb. 12 (CM); one at Osoyoos Feb. 13 (DBr); two at Malheur N.W.R. Feb. 12 (CDL); and a sighting at Mabton, Wash., Feb. 13 (AS). The first sighting of the species at Lakeview was on Feb. 22 (MA). Vernon had one Feb. 21 (RRH).

JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS -- Blue Jays showed up in several spots in s. Idaho: in the Idaho Falls area (VR, ML) ; west of Terreton (SR); at Rupert, Ketchurn, and Oakley (WHS); and in the Moscow area (DHo, C.B.). At Culesac, Idaho, the bird that had arrived in October was still coming to the feeder at the period's end (WH). The Blue Jay that had appeared at Helena in the fall wintered there and was seen as late as Jan. 26 (GH). One wintered at feeders on Grant Cr. 6 mi northwest of Missoula (JD). Forty Pinyon Jays were counted at Silver L., Ore., Jan. 22 (CM). A Bewick's Wren was seen Dec. 19 at Malheur N.W.R., where the species is starting to become regular (CDL). A number of observations of Bewick's Wren in Asotin County and one in Whitman Co., Wash., suggest that the species is bordering on common in that area (m.ob.). One at Mosier, Ore., Feb. 14 was noteworthy (DL, VT). A Winter Wren, rare in winter at Kamloops, was sighted there Dec. 20 (RRH). One was found at Cherry Springs on Mink Cr. south of Pocatello Dec. 5 (CW), and another was at Knox Canyon east-southeast of Rockland, Idaho, Dec. 14 (CHT, CW). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet apparently wintered in Lakeview (M & AA), and Frenchglen had two Dec. 19 (CDL). The species was sighted at Wenatchee and Tallant Cr. west of Okanogan in mid-February (PM, S.A.S.). A few made a short visit to Columbia N.W.R. in January (WRR). Grand Coulee, Wash., had a female Mountain Bluebird Jan. 16 (MD). Single Hermit Thrushes were found near Wallula Feb. 9 (C.B.), near Wenatchee Jan. 1 (BJ), and on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 28 (SC *et al.*). Bend had two Dec. 19 (TC, CM). American Robins numbered in the thousands at several localities in e. Washington and the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C. At Yakima, first reported Jan. 26, their numbers were estimated at 40,000 within about a 5-block area Feb. 7 (BB). Lakeview had large numbers in mid-February.

Wenatchee and Spokane experienced a tremendous invasion of Varied Thrushes, and n. Idaho had unusually high numbers. A scattering of the birds attracted attention in s. Idaho and s.e. Oregon. Most remarkable were records of Gray Catbirds. One was identified at Helena Nov. 11, about Thanksgiving time, and Dec. 10 (HZ). One was at Vernon Dec. 27-Jan. 5 (PR *et al.*), and one was at Vaseux L. south of Penticton Dec. 29 (DC). The N. Mockingbird at Helena stayed for the CBC (GH), and one was observed east of Saddle Mountain Refuge, Othello, Wash., Dec. 18 & 22 (WRR, JC). One was sighted at Billingsly Creek W.M.A. near Hagerman, Idaho, Jan. 24 (BWe, CW). A very early Sage Thrasher appeared at Ft. Rock, Ore., Feb. 27 (TC). Many Water Pipits appeared at Minidoka Dam near Rupert (WHS), and the species was noted at Ft. Boise W.M.A. (AL). Single birds at Bend Jan. 9 (CM) and Frenchglen Dec. 19 (CDL) made the only other reports. Bohemian Waxwing numbers were impressive at Klamath Falls, which had flocks of 400-500, and Silver L. had 240 Jan. 22. The largest number reported was over 2400 on the Idaho Falls CBC, and many were in the Rupert area. Elsewhere, moderate numbers to very few were reported--Spokane's CBC total of 650 was low for there. Tallant Cr west of Okanogan counted 600+. The Idaho Falls CBC had 399 Cedar Waxwings, a high number. A Loggerhead Shrike near Oliver, B.C., was notable (DBr). Up to 20,000 Eur. Starlings wintered in Yakima.

VIREOS THROUGH BUNTINGS -- A Hutton's Vireo was found in McNary Park, Umatilla, Dec. 5 for a very unusual record (IG). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were seen in Richland Dec. 3-Feb. 1 (REW), and one was found in Yakima Feb. 5 (B & GR). One was along the Link R. at Klamath Falls Jan. 3; there are at least 3 other winter records for that area in the last 10 years (SS). One or more Yellow-rumped Warblers were sighted at Vernon (PR), near Othello (WRR), at Bend (TC), at Frenchglen (CDL), in the Lewiston-Clarkston vicinity (C.B.), and near Madras, Oregon (DA). A "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at a Boise feeder (DJ), and another appeared at Dworshak Fish Hatchery north of Orofino, Idaho (DBg, WH, MK, CV). Remarkable were a N. Waterthrush at McNary N.W.R. Nov. 28 (MD) and one in the Oliver area Dec. 28 (DC). A Vesper Sparrow was photographed at a Klamath Falls feeder for the

county's first winter record (SS). A Sage Sparrow at Ft. Rock was about 2 weeks early (TC). One was at Summer Lake W.M.A. on the same date (MA). Up to 20 Savannah Sparrows, not normally found in winter in the Klamath Falls area, were counted through early January at Miller I. (SS). One was at Osoyoos Feb. 13 (DBr), and Mabton had one Feb. 14 (DB) Yakima had three Fox Sparrows Feb. 5 (B & GR), and the Umatilla-Tricities-Walla Walla area had 4 sightings (TG, REW, CC, KK). One was in the Wenatchee area in January (RR), and one was along Joseph Cr., Asotin Co., Jan. 16 (J & DP). A Fox Sparrow and a Lincoln's Sparrow were reported at a Hayden L. feeder Jan. 1 (PH). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were identified at Osoyoos Dec. 28 (BL) and at Ft. Boise W.M.A. (AL). An amazing 6 sightings of Swamp Sparrows were obtained: one bird at Vernon Dec. 1-20 (PR *et al.*); one at Spokane Jan. 3 (JR, DR, BW); one in Walla Walla Dec. 20 to mid-January (CC) and another there afterward (LM); one near Umatilla (CC); and one at Miller I. Nov. 29-Jan. 3 for Klamath County's first record (PL, SS).. The only White-throated Sparrows reported were one at Vernon (PR) and one at Bend (TC, CM). Golden-crowned Sparrows, rare in winter in the Region, appeared at Billingsly Creek W.M.A. (CHT), in Bend (TC), in the Wenatchee vicinity (BJ, JT), and at Yakima (B & GR). The species was described as common through December and appeared once in January in Umatilla (TG). Several sightings were obtained in the Tricities area in January and February (TG, REW). Exceptionally high numbers of White-crowned Sparrows, 400+, wintered around Miller I., Klamath Falls (SS). The usual sparse scattering of Harris' Sparrows occurred. Twelve+ Lapland Longspurs accompanied large flocks of Horned Larks near Valley Falls, Ore., Jan. 18 (MA, AA), and one was with Horned Larks near Paisley, Ore., Jan. 9 (SS). One was with Horned Larks southeast of Creston, Wash., Jan. 16 (MD), and the species was seen west of Terreton, Idaho, on 2 dates in January (DM, TR). A scattering of Snow Buntings appeared in e. Washington, e. Oregon, and n. Idaho. They were more numerous in the Rupert area.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES -- A very few Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rare in winter, were reported. Perhaps the most unusual were a few wintering in the Stevensville, Mont, vicinity (C & SC). At least two were

at Columbia N.W.R. Jan. 11 (WRR), four to five appeared northeast of Warden, Wash., Dec. 31 (RF), and two visited a Kennewick feeder Jan. 9 (TG). One at Summer L. Feb. 15 was about 3 weeks earlier than the previous early date (CM). The only Rusty Blackbird sighted was one at Vernon Jan. 2 (PR). Brewer's Blackbirds, four males and one female, in Lakeview Feb. 10 were unusual (MA) as were eight at Fortine, Mont., Dec. 7 (WW). Two Brown-headed Cowbirds at Vernon Dec. 31 were noteworthy (PR, WWe). With few exceptions", northern" finches were in low numbers. Rosy Finches, however, appeared in good numbers, mostly in e. Washington-adjacent Idaho and at Kamloops. The

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Neihart area of the Little Belt Mts., Mont., was visited by 30 Jan. 30 (LKM). That area also had three Pine Grosbeaks Jan. 31 (LKM), and a like number was sighted in the Joseph, Ore., area (MK, VM, PS). Lone Purple Finches were spotted in Umatilla Dec. 7 (OVIC) and at Lewiston Dec. 13 (CG). Up to 27 Cassin's Finches frequented a Lakeview feeder (MA, AA). Red Crossbills were virtually unreported. A female was noted at Waterville, Wash. (PM, S.A.S.), and 10-12 flew over the Lewis Peak road, Walla Walla Co., Jan. 17 (MD). Oddly, the count of White-winged Crossbills exceeded that of Red Crossbills. Mount Spokane hosted over 35 Jan. 24 (JA), and 10 were at Vernon Dec. 21 (RRH). Common Redpolls were decidedly scarce except at Fortine, where flocks of up to 130 were observed (WW). Pine Siskins were in short supply except for "thousands" on Mt. Spokane Jan. 24 (JA), 2 "large groups" found dead on Hwy 26 south of Troy, Mont. (MS), and a good number on the Indian Mt. CBC, Harrison, Idaho. Evening Grosbeaks were absent or in low numbers.

ADDENDUM -- A window-killed Black-throated Blue Warbler was picked up in early November at Idaho Falls, \* to Idaho State University (EC).

CORRIGENDA -- The following sightings were not latilong firsts: White-fronted Geese at Tygh Valley, Ore. (AB 41:464)--the species is an uncommon but regular spring and fall migrant along the e. slope of the Cascades, Gray Jays at Idylwild Park (AB 41: 465)--fairly common in the Blue Mts., in which this park is located; the Canyon Wren in Tygh Valley (AB 41:465)--fairly common in that area; the Three-toed Woodpecker, Hood River Co., and Black-backed Woodpecker, Idylwild Park (AB 41:465) (TC). Also, Panhandle L. (AB 40:1231) is in Pend Oreille Co., Wash., not in Idaho.

OBSERVERS -- James Acton, Gil Alexander, David Anderson, Anne Archie, Merle Archie, Barbara (BaB) & Bob Boekelheide (BB), George Brady, Dwayne Brigham (DBg), Debie Brown (DB), Dave Brown (DBr), Chuck & Suzi Campbell, Dick Cannings, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Chris Carey (CCa), E. Chew, Barbara Clarke, Craig Corder (CC), Marion Corder, John Coykendall, Kathi & Tom Crabtree, Jeannette Davis, Mike Delate (MDe), Merry L. Defray, Mike Defray (MD), Christina Duchesne, Ray Duff, Dave Dunbar, Ros Eldridge, Ken English, Dave Finkelnburg, Ron Friesz, Phyllis Galloway, Charlene Gamut, Russ Gebhart, G. Gerdts, Devon Graham (DG), Denny Granstrand (DG), Tony Greager, Lucinda Haggas (LHa), Larry Halverson (LH), Winnie Hepburn, Dave Holick (DHo), Denver Holt (DH), George Holton, Bill Hosford, Rick R. Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, Bert Jahn, Jim Johnson, Mike Johnson, Dean Jones, Jerry & Ann Kerr, Frank Kline, Ken Knittle, Merlene Koliner, Bob Krepps, Bill Lamont, Al Larson, John Laundre, Paul Lehman, C.D. Littlefield, Marty Littleton, Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (L.C.B.A.S.), Donna Lusthoff, Larry K. Malone, Justin Mann, Phil Mattocks, Connie McCauley (CMcC), Larry McClosky, Opal McIntyre, Craig Miller (CM), Dale Miller, Carl D. Mitchell, Valerie Monschke, Larry D. Napier, Howard Oswood, Jeff & Deanna Palmer, David Pitt-Brook, Lou Potter, Colleen Powell, Win. R. Radke, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Sandy Random, Phil Ranson, Robin Rathman, Vida Ray (VRa), Virginia Reavill (VR), Frank Retro, Jan Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, Dick Rivers, Syd Roberts, A. Rushton, Seattle Audubon Society (S.A.S.), W.H. Shillington, Andy & Susan Stepniewski (SSt), Esther Stewart, Shirley H. Sturts, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers (SS), Marjorie Swanson,

Jerry Tangren, Verda Teale, Karen Theodore, C.H. Trost, Carole Vande Voorde, Dave Ware, Bill Webb (BWe), Cheryl Webb, Wayne Weber (WWe), Winton Weydemeyer (WW), Bart Whelton (BW), Barry Whitehill (BWh), Robert E. Woodley, Vince Yannone, Hugh Zackheim, D. Zeigler.

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*The Winter Season, 1987-88*

### **Northern Pacific Coast Region**

**/Bill Tweit**

Nobody claimed to have tried it, but this winter one could have seen a Blackburnian Warbler on the Oregon coast and a McKay's Bunting on the Washington coast in the same day! Washington's first Vermilion Flycatcher was an adult male, and it looked almost as spectacular on the TV evening news as it did in life. Intense storms with strong westerly winds in early December caused inshore congregations of several pelagic species, including Mottled Petrel, Red Phalaropes, kittiwakes, and alcids. Otherwise, lots of the "mild weather lingerers" did just that, including pelicans, egrets, Osprey, Cinnamon Teal, Sora, various shorebirds, several warblers, Savannah Sparrows, and several blackbirds. Several spring migrants began returning early: Turkey Vulture, Rufous Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, Western Bluebird. The big northern raptors--Rough-legged Hawk, Gyrfalcon, and Snowy Owl--were very scarce, as were Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. With the exception of early December, this was a very mild, dry winter throughout the Region. Two very strong storms battered our coast during the first 10 days of December, with winds up to 70 mph and over five inches of rain. These rains did nothing to ease the regional drought, and by the end of winter the precipitation deficit had increased. There were no prolonged cold snaps, and snow never fell in the lowlands in much of the Region.

ABBREVIATIONS -- V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.  
Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS -- Red-throated Loons were in higher than usual numbers on the Columbia R., near Portland, and as far upstream as Hood River, Ore. (HN). Pacific Loons, in smaller numbers, were also reported along the Columbia R. from Portland to Hood River. Single Pacific Loons on fresh water were at Hagg Lake, *Washington*, Ore. (LW) and the Rogue R., Ore. (ph., HS). Common Loons were thought to be in lower numbers than usual along the central Washington coast (G & WH) and inland in western Oregon (HN). Yellow-billed Loons were reported from 10 different locations, from Howe Sound, B.C. (DK, MF) south to Cape Sebastian, *Curry*, Ore. (M. & K. Uhtoff, *fide* MM), including one inland at Sasamat Lake, White Pine Beach, B.C. (*fide* DK). A decade ago, these would have been low numbers, but not currently. Two Clark's Grebe reports came from Oregon, where a few may winter regularly. One was seen throughout December on the Coos R., *Coos* (LT), and another was found in late January on Meares Lake, Tillamook (JJ), both freshwater locations. Several tubenoses were noted inshore during the heavy storms in early December. Northern Fulmars were seen off Boiler Bay, Ore. (JJ), in Tillamook Bay (A. Haagan, *fide* HN), and off Cape Arago, Ore. (BF, *fide* LT). One was found dead near Puget Sound, in Skagit, Wash. (DM, *fide* TW). A **Mottled Petrel** was seen from shore with hundreds of tubenoses and kittiwakes at Boiler Bay, Ore., Dec. 10 (†JJ, DI). There was a report of a 2nd, leucistic, bird being chased by dogs in downtown Cannon Beach, Clatsop, Ore., Feb. 13 (Andy Kerr, *fide* HN), and the specimen was apparently salvaged. These were the 3rd and 4th records for the state. Sooty Shearwaters, rarely reported in the Region during the winter, were seen throughout December along the ocean beaches, and once in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, off Trial I., near Victoria, V.I., Dec. 15 (*fide* DFr). The last reports were of two off Ocean Shores, Wash., Jan. 8 (G & WH). Short-tailed Shearwaters, the more common of the two dark shearwaters in winter, were noted along the Oregon coast during early December. Forty at Boiler Bay Dec. 10 (JJ, DI) were the peak. Three were found inside Puget Sound Dec. 18-19 (†VN, †Art Wang). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was at

the mouth of Tillamook Bay Dec. 6 (JJ) and a Leach's was with the other tubenoses off Boiler Bay Dec. 10 (JJ). Fork-tailed records average one per winter, Leach's are much scarcer. Brown Pelicans wintered in unprecedented numbers, after very large numbers were found throughout the fall. They have only occasionally lingered into December north of Oregon. This winter, pelicans were widely distributed along the Washington and Oregon coasts in December, including one far south in Puget Sound, at Fox I., *Pierce*, Dec. 20 (Verna Timm, *fide* TB). Southward migration was noted in early December, and mortality was high during Dec. 4-16 when four specimens were salvaged in Oregon (HN, JJ) and one in Washington (SS). Three first-year birds wintered in the Port Angeles harbor, Wash. (D & SS). Most of the other reports did not indicate age, except for two adults at Lopez I., *San Juan*, Wash., Dec. 11 (FS). The age of Brown Pelicans is fairly easily determined, and observers should record any data that will be relevant to our understanding of the exciting recovery that this formerly threatened species is experiencing.

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS -- Great Egrets also wintered in record numbers, after an excellent fall flight. The first individual to successfully over-winter in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and only the 2nd winter record for the area, stayed at Richmond in the Fraser R. delta (DK). There were at least seven birds in Washington, above last winter's record of five. In Oregon, numbers were noted in their now usual areas in coastal estuaries (HN), five wintered in the Portland area (DL, HN), and one in the Willamette valley (BB). There were 5 reports of Cattle Egrets in December, which was about normal after an average fall flight. The farthest north was a single on Dec. 8 north of Courtenay, V.I. (WHa, B. Sedgewick). A Green-backed Heron at Coquitlam, B.C., Jan. 1 (Nancy Whaston) and

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another at Courtenay, V.I. (*fide* DFr) throughout the winter were north of their usual wintering range, which is south from s Washington. The usual number of

Black-crowned Night-Herons wintered in scattered locations in estuarine areas. The 10 at Reifel I. in the Fraser R. delta (JI) and 15 in the Skagit R. delta (GR *et al.*) were the farthest north. Wintering Trumpeter Swans outnumber Tundras in the Victoria and Vancouver areas (DFr, DK). In *Whatcom*, n.w. Washington, Trumpeters continue to increase annually. They make up as much as 90% of the swan flocks at times (TW). In the Willamette Valley of w. Oregon, where they are still irregular, up to 26 Trumpeters were seen in the Monmouth area, Polk, throughout the winter (BB), and one to two were at Sauvie I (HN) and the Forest Grove Sewage Ponds (DL). Two were seen north of Lincoln City, on the outer coast of Oregon, in late January (Tom Purvis, *vide* BB), one of which had a dark collar. Trumpeters are still very rare on the outer coast of Oregon, even though small numbers winter regularly just to the north in Washington. Greater White-fronted Geese wintered throughout the Region from Vancouver/Victoria south in the usual small numbers. The largest flock was of 20 on Sauvie I. Feb. 5 (JE). A Ross' Goose was on Sauvie I. from Jan. 31+ (JJ *et al.*), for the first *Columbia* record. Another was on Agate Lake in s. Oregon Jan. 13 (HS). An Emperor Goose at Port Hardy on northern V.I. Jan. 20 (Tex Lyon) had been present since November. Another Emperor wintered on the Saanich Peninsula, near Victoria, V.I., Dec. 13-Feb. 16 (Hank VanDerPol *et al.*). Additionally, there were sightings on single dates from Seattle, Ocean Shores, and Port Susan in Washington, and Sauvie I. in Oregon. None of these was accompanied by details. This bird is not yet so common in the Region that it should be accepted without documentation. A large movement of Canada Geese onto Sauvie I. and down the Willamette Valley was noted in early December (Richard Smith). Major northward movements in the same areas were seen in early February (HN). Nehls noted that both Dusky and Cackling races were well scattered through w. Oregon again this winter. Two reports of Eur. Green-winged Teal from Victoria (RS, BD) and one from Sauvie I. (BO) were fewer than usual reports of this race. Single Am. Black Ducks, probably from the resident populations at Everett, Wash., or Reifel I., B.C., were at Victoria (J & RS, J & GA) and in Seattle (†Greg Toffic). Cinnamon Teal rarely winter in the Region. This year there were a few more reports than usual. Two were at Reifel I. (JI) and up to 15 were at the Forest Grove sewage ponds (DL) in December, singles

were noted in January in Bellevue, Wash. (Tom Weir) and on Fort Lewis, *Pierce*, Wash. (Murray Hansen, *vide* TB), and six were on the Nehalem Sewage Ponds, Ore. (David Bailey). The first migrants were noted in the last week of February throughout w. Oregon and near Vancouver, B.C. At least 55 Redheads were reported, from Victoria and Vancouver south, a well-above-average count. The largest flock was of 24 on Beaver Lake, *Skagit*, Jan. 30 (JGa). None of this winter's Tufted Ducks appeared until after mid-January. Two different males were noted in Seattle Jan. 15-16 (†DB, †BT, m.ob.). The bird on Green Lake was the same bird with a vermiculated grayish back and short tuft that wintered there last winter and appeared briefly in the fall. A female appeared at Delta, B.C., Jan. 30 (WW *et al.*) and stayed through Feb. 21. A male was at the Duncan, V.I., sewage ponds Feb. 22-27 (J & GA *et al.*), with a female there Feb. 27 (M & BMC). In Oregon, males were noted Feb. 6 at Meares Lake, *Tillamook*, and the Warrenton sewage ponds, *Clatsop* (Tim Shelmerdine, Mike Patterson, both *vide* HN). Barrow's Goldeneyes typically winter on salt water in the Region, but reports of flocks on fresh water are increasing. Forty spent the season on the Santiam R., *Linn* (Vivian Hall, *vide* BB) and 70 on the Rogue R., *Jackson* (HS). Groups of fewer than 10 wintered at several locations in w. Washington and Oregon. It is unknown whether the increases are due to a change in their wintering dynamics or to changes in reporting. Nehls reported that Ruddy Ducks were in very low numbers in w. Oregon this winter.

VULTURES TO RAILS -- Turkey Vultures began returning in mid-February, 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal (ME, MM, BF, *vide* LT, Kevin Sands). There were 3 December reports' one in the Vancouver, B.C., area (BK), one near Bellingham, Wash. (Paul DeBruyn, *vide* TW), and two along Willapa Bay, Pacific, Wash. (TB). There were also two northeast of Lebanon, *Linn*, Ore., Feb. 5 (Bill Thackaberry, *vide* ME). This was about the average number of winter reports. At least nine Ospreys were reported during the winter, more than the average number. Most were single sightings, and the farthest north was Dec. 27 at Delta, B.C. (†Prue Spitman). Individuals overwintered near Olympia, Wash. (BT) and in the Ashland, Ore., area (MM). At least 45 Black-shouldered Kites were reported during the period, with 16 of these in Washington, constituting a new record wintering total for the state.

There were relatively few kite reports from the Willamette Valley and none from Fern Ridge Res., but elsewhere in Oregon they were in strong numbers. Northern Harriers seemed to be in better than normal numbers in w. Oregon this winter (HN), but were in low numbers or absent in parts of w. Washington (ML, BT). Sharp-shinned Hawk reports were thought to be down in n.w. Oregon (JJ) and Victoria (BW). They totalled almost 70 for the Region. There were 54 reports of Cooper's Hawk. Northern Goshawk reports totalled 10 individuals, roughly average. Red-shouldered Hawks are continuing to slowly expand their range to the north. There were 4 reports along the Oregon coast north of the Coos Bay area. Two at Nehalem Meadows Jan. 31 (JG) were the farthest north. In the interior, there were 2 reports north of Jackson: one at Coburg, *Lane*, Jan. 31 (Bill Shelmerdine) and one at Finley N.W.R. Feb. 21 (A. Floyd, *fide* ME). With 5 reports from s. Oregon, the total of 11 Red-shouldered represented the highest number ever for a winter period. A decade ago this species was listed in boldface whenever it appeared in the Region. Red-tailed Hawks were 20% below average numbers in the Victoria area (BW), quite scarce in the San Juan Islands (ML), and abundant this winter in w. Oregon (HN). Ten "Harlan's" race individuals were reported, well above the average number. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, with fewer than 20 reports overall. Roughly 100 Merlin reports were received, with 57 Peregrine reports, and only 3 Gyrfalcon reports. No Gyrs wintered in the Fraser R. to Skagit R. section where they are normally found. Seven Prairie Falcons were noted in w. Oregon, a normal number for the Willamette and Rogue valleys. Three were reported from w. Washington, where they are quite scarce. However, none of the three Washington sightings included details, and two of them were from areas where Peregrines of the *tundrius* type were wintering. It is possible that w. Washington observers accustomed to the dark *pealei* Peregrines are misidentifying these strikingly pale-headed *tundrius* types. A report of Spruce Grouse at Manning P.P., B.C. (*fide* DK), Jan. 31 served to emphasize the mildness of the winter, as Spruce Grouse habitat should be completely inaccessible to most human observers at this time. The 4th report of **Rock Ptarmigan** for the Vancouver, B.C., area came from Cypress P.P. Dec. 28 (†Linda Newall). Counts of 10 Virginia Rails in Vancouver, B.C. (RC), seven at Reifel I. (WW), and six at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (Craig Provost) indicated that good numbers of this species lingered during the

mild winter. However, most observers seemed to ignore this species. Soras were found at 3 locations along the outer coast: Ocean City S.P., *Grays Harbor*, Wash. (G & WH), Feb. 12; Raymond, *Pacific*, Wash. (BS), Feb. 25; and Youngs Bay, *Clatsop*, Ore. (JG), Dec. 20. Winter records are highly unusual in the Region and most previous records have been away from the outer coast.

PLOVERS TO ALCIDS -- Five Snowy Plovers on the North Cove beach, *Pacific*, Wash., Jan. 16 (Joe Buchanon) furnished only the 2nd Washington winter record in recent years. Earlier in the century, when it can be assumed that larger numbers of Snowies bred in Washington, there were several winter records.

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Twenty-one Snowies were found on a Bandon, Ore, beach Jan. 21 (B. & Z. Stotz, *fide* MM). At least 47 wintering Semipalmated Plovers were found in Washington. Most were along the outer coast where small numbers often remain in milder winters. The nine found in Puget Sound were quite unusual. The numbers of Greater Yellowlegs reports are usually indicative of the severity of the season. However, this winter there were fewer than normal reports, except from the Vancouver and Victoria areas where above-average numbers were noted (DK, DFr). Are observers ignoring this species as it becomes routine? This would be unfortunate, since yellowlegs are the sort of conspicuous, easily-enumerated species, often indicative of environmental conditions, that are perfect for *American Birds* monitoring. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Blackie Spit, Surrey, B.C., Dec. 26-Jan. 3 (†BK, †Hue & Jo Ann MacKenzie) furnished only the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter report for the Vancouver area. Another was reported without details from the Oregon coast in December. Willets wintered at 3 traditional locations: one at Ediz Hook, *Clallam*, Wash. (D & SS), 14 at North R. mouth, *Pacific* (PM, TS), and five at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (*fide* HN). Regular numbers, for a mild winter, of Whimbrels wintered along the coast. The farthest north was at Saanich, V.I. (RS). Three wintered on Ediz Hook (D & SS), one at Tokeland, *Pacific* (Denny

Granstrand), one at Yaquina Bay (HN), and two at Bandon marsh (LT). The only location in the Region where large numbers of Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits winter is at Tokeland, Pacific, Wash. Thirty curlews and a record 160 godwits were carefully counted there Feb. 4 (PM, TS). Elsewhere the usual singles were reported. Seventeen Ruddy Turnstones, another warm-winter lingerer, were reported from Whidbey I, Wash. (DP), south along the coast. Two of these, one at Ocean Shores Jan. 8 (G & WH) and another in *Curry*, Ore., Jan. 15-16 (JJ), were in full breeding plumage! Two Red Knots lingered to Dec. 5 on Boundary Bay, B.C. (MF, m.ob.), for the 3rd winter record for the Vancouver area. The number of Least and Western sandpiper reports was normal for a warmer winter. Up to five Least stayed on Boundary Bay, B.C. (WW), where they are casual in winter, but the species seemed to be in lower than usual numbers in Oregon this season (HN). Long-billed Dowitcher flocks were reported from the Fraser R. delta (JJ), Boundary Bay (*fide* DK), Tokeland (MC), and throughout w. Oregon (*fide* HN). After the strong winds in early December, a large Red Phalarope "crash" was noted. On Dec. 10, 4000 were seen flying south past Boiler Bay, Ore., in groups of 30-50 (JJ, DI). Phalaropes were scattered inside the Strait of Juan de Fuca and n. Puget Sound east to Point Roberts, *Whatcom*, Wash. (Tom Hanrahan, *fide* DK), at Victoria (J & RS, Keith Taylor), and south to Point No Point, *Kitsap*, Wash. (VN), Dec. 11-13. Small numbers were also found at several locations in the Willamette Valley and Coast Range of Oregon at the same time (Bob May, DL), east to near Finley N.W.R. Dec. 13 (ME). The latest sighting was of a single off Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, Wash., Dec. 26 (D & SS). Two ad **Little Gulls** on American Lake, *Pierce*, Wash. (EH, BT) provided the first record of wintering for the Region. An ad **Common Black-headed Gull** on Whidbey I, Wash., Dec. 20 (†Jim Zook) furnished only the 5th report for the state, 4 of which have been in 1986-1987. Three Heermann's Gulls were found lingering along the Oregon coast in December (JJ, Roy Gerig). A 2<sup>nd</sup> year bird was noted Feb. 18 at Ediz Hook (DS) and 2 days later at the nearby Orcas ferry terminal in the San Juan I. s. (†Tom Parsons). There are few Regional records from mid-winter. Six Glaucous Gulls were reported from British Columbia, three from Washington, and three from Oregon, for a below-average total. Following the storms 1,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes

were seen off Boiler Bay Dec. 10 (JJ, DI). Singles were at Point No Point, Wash., Dec. 12 (VN) and Comox, V.I., Dec. 20 (Keith Morton), but the species was scarce the rest of the winter (MC, HN, G & WH). Only 27 were reported from 4 locations along the outer coast (HS, BB, JG, G & WH). Ancient Murrelets displayed their usual temporal distribution, with reports from the Strait of Juan de Fuca and outer coast in December, and absent thereafter. The high counts were of 30 Dec. 15 in Oak Bay, V.I. (CN), and 200 on the outer coast at Boiler Bay (of course) Dec. 10 (JJ, DI). Where do the individuals that move through the Region in large numbers in late fall-early winter spend the latter half of the season? Cassin's Auklets were also blown onshore by the early December storms. Five were seen at Boiler Bay Dec. 3 (DI, JJ) and three there a week later. Two were seen inshore: one at Oak Bay Dec. 15 (CN) and the other at Point No Point Dec. 12 (VN). Over 15 were picked up dead on Oregon beaches in s. *Lincoln* Dec. 11 (RK, *fide* ME). Two seen in central Puget Sound at West Point, Seattle, Jan. 16 (D. DeSilvis) were highly unusual.

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Snowy Owls were as close to being absent as they ever get in our Region. Two wintered in close proximity on the Skagit Flats (m.ob.) and another two wintered in equally close proximity along Boundary Bay, B.C. (m.ob.). The 21 N. Pygmy-Owls reported made an above average number of sightings. A Burrowing Owl lingered along Boundary Bay from November until Christmas Day (BK), for the first record for the Vancouver area since 1983. British Columbia observers reported eight Barred Owls. None was reported from Washington or Oregon! A single Great Gray Owl Dec. 28 to Jan. 3 at Langley, B.C. (GR) provided the only report. Ten Long-eared Owls at 4 locations; Reifel I. (m.ob.), Saanich, V.I. (J.B. Tatum), Langley, B.C. (GR), and E.E. Wilson W.M.A., Ore. (AM) represented impressive numbers for the season. The average is below five. Short-eared Owl numbers were low in most areas. The only locale with more than 10 birds was Boundary Bay (MF) in late December before many had been reported farther south. Most localities reported fewer than five. An **Anna's Hummingbird** nest found Feb. 29 at Oak Bay, V.I. (B.R. Gates) provided only the 2nd nest record for Canada. This hummingbird species winters regularly around both Victoria (12+ birds this

winter) and Vancouver (20+ this winter) It has been assumed that breeding was probable in both areas The first Rufous Hummingbirds seemed to be about 5 days early throughout Oregon and Washington. One Feb. 28 at Ladner, B.C. (GP) was the earliest ever for the Vancouver area, and was about 3 weeks ahead of average. A Black-backed Woodpecker on the west side of Sand Mt., Linn, Ore., Feb 27 (D. & R. Hall, *fide* ME) furnished one of only a few winter records for the Region. Two Three-toed Woodpecker reports from the Mt. Washington ski area in the mountains of central V.I. (Howard Telosky, WHa) were from an area where they are probably regular, but not often reported. Seven Black Phoebes were found in the Ashland, Ore., area (MM) and one was near Harbor on the Curry coast (HS). Two Say's Phoebes were reported from the Willamette Valley (M. Nebeker, RK, *fide* ME) and four from the Rogue Valley and s. Oregon coast (HS, MM). One on Feb. 28 along the Columbia R. in *Skamania* Wash. (Pete May, *fide* WC) was the first migrant reported. These are average winter numbers for both phoebes in our Region The ad male **Vermilion Flycatcher** discovered Jan. 25 in rural Redmond, east of Seattle (Bob Overly) remained through February (m.ob.). This was the first record for the state and for the Region. Vermilions are remarkably scarce in the northwest, in comparison with the number of records from the midwest and northeast. The first Tree Swallows appeared the last day of January at Finley N.W.R. in Oregon (AM) and at American Lake, near Tacoma, Wash. (EH). By Feb. 18, they had been recorded from almost all reporting areas in the Region, including s. British Columbia. This is about a week ahead of "normal." As usual, the main influx moved up the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound. Arrival in coastal areas was generally later. The first Violet-green Swallows were seen at Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash, Feb. 14 (Don Jole), with widespread arrival the next week, as usual. Late Barn Swallows were still at Reifel I. until Dec. 13 (JI) and Scappoose Bottoms, *Columbia*, Ore, Dec. 27 (Jack Kiley, *fide* HN) An early Barn Swallow was seen near Beaverton, outside of Portland, Feb. 19 (Bob Talley, *fide* HN). Blue Jays wintered at 2 locations in Vancouver, B.C. (*fide* DK), at Port Townsend, Wash. (L. Tiller, ph.), and at Spanaway, *Pierce*, Wash. (B. Langlois, m.ob.). A few individuals are now found annually. A minor flight of Mountain Chickadees in December brought six birds to the Vancouver, B.C., area (WW, B Ramsdin), one to nearby Bellingham

(Geri Walker, *fide* TW), a couple to the coast of *Grays Harbor* (Bob Morse, Keith Brady), and two to the Applegate valley in s. Oregon (John Keller). Early dates for returning W. Bluebirds were Jan. 25 on Fort Lewis, *Pierce*, Wash. (George Walter), Jan. 31 in Portland (DL), and Feb. 28 on Saltspring I., in the Gulf Is., B.C. (DFr, BW). The only Mountain Bluebird report was of one seen Dec. 29 at Graysmarsh, *Clallam*, Wash. (BT, D & SS). Twelve reports of Townsend's Solitaire, another scarce winterer, was an above average number. Only a handful of Hermit Thrushes were reported, yet it was a mild winter. Observers may have underreported them. This is another species that is easily monitored for *AB* and shows great variation in population between mild and severe winters. Varied Thrushes were "widely reported" in s w. Washington (WC) and in coastal *Lincoln*, Ore. (Darrel Faxon), and unmentioned elsewhere.

MIMIDS THROUGH FINCHES -- Five N. Mockingbirds were reported, all from Oregon, an average number for recent years. Water Pipits were reported from s. British Columbia (DK, M & BMC) and Puget Sound (DB). In severe winters they are absent from these areas. The only Bohemian Waxwing reports were of three on V.I. in January (J & RS, WHa), eight in Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 23 (*fide* DK), three in Corvallis, Ore., Dec 25 (A. Cromack, *fide* ME), and 80 at Toketee R.S. in the s. Oregon Cascades Jan. 12 (DF). Five Orange-crowned Warblers in Washington and three in s. British Columbia, were average numbers for even a cold winter. Clearly not as average were the **Black-throated Gray Warblers** on the Univ. of Washington campus in Seattle from Dec. 13 to Jan. 18 (KA, m.ob.) and in Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 15-23 (†Doug Brown). These furnished the 3rd winter record for Washington and the first for British Columbia. The male **Blackburnian Warbler** found Nov. 15 at Nehalem Meadows, Ore., survived throughout the period (HN, mob.). Another **Blackburnian Warbler** seen briefly at Discovery Park, Seattle, Dec. 4 (†KA, †Todd Haas) furnished the 4th record for the state, but couldn't be relocated. Probably because it was a mild winter, Palm Warblers wintered at 4 locations: Victoria (C. Eckhart *et al.*), two at Tillamook (DL *et al.*), Yaquina Bay (HN), and Gold Beach, *Curry* (HS), and there were 2 additional December sightings. Three Wilson's Warblers were reported without details. American Tree



Sparrows were scarce this winter. Single birds were noted in the Vancouver, B.C. area (DK), the Bellingham area (*fide* TW), at Davis Slough, *Snobomish*, Wash., Dec 21-Jan. 23 (Rob Thorn, m.ob.), and on the Oregon coast, where they are very rare, at Nehalem Meadows Jan. 10+ (†LW, JJ, DI). A **Black-throated Sparrow** at a Bellingham feeder Dec. 27-Jan. 9 (DM, TW, ph.) provided the first winter record for the Region. Savannah Sparrows wintered in higher than usual numbers near Victoria (Lyndis Davis) and Sequim and Bellingham, Wash. (D & SS, BT, TW). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in above regular numbers in w. Oregon this winter (HN), but were little reported, or under-reported, from elsewhere. Our understanding of Swamp Sparrow status has changed dramatically in recent years. There were 3 reports each from the Victoria area (WW, BD) and from *Snobomish*, Wash. (BBo, Tim Whitehouse), but mostly 34+ from Oregon (m.ob.). Most of these were along the coast, and many of those at sewage ponds. Swamp Sparrows were almost unreported over 5 years ago, and in the last few winters there have been 10 to 20 reports each. Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported north of Oregon, an average total, and in Oregon they were "maybe in better numbers than "normal" (HN). Very large numbers of wintering White-crowned Sparrows were reported from the Bellingham area (TW) and Victoria (MJ). Harris' Sparrows, however, were well below recent years' totals. Only five were found in Oregon, none in Washington, and four in British Columbia. Last winter 33 were reported. Lapland Longspurs were reported only from Ocean Shores, Wash., where up to 50 were seen during December and January (MC). A flock of 15 Snow Buntings was also at Ocean Shores. A **McKay's Bunting** was present with them Jan. 15+ (MC, m.ob., ph.) for the 3rd record for Washington. The first and 2nd were during the winter of 1978-1979 (*AB* 33:308). One in Oregon the next winter was the most recent Regional record. Three Snow Buntings east of Roseburg Dec. 3 (JE) were the only ones reported south of Ocean Shores. A Yellow-headed Blackbird Feb. 25 at Richmond, B.C. (RC) and one Feb. 27 in Vancouver, B.C. (*fide* DK) furnished very rare winter records. One imm. male wintered near Monroe, *Snobomish*, Wash. (BBo, m.ob.), where they are also rare, and there were 3 reports from Oregon (*fide* HN). Last winter, Rusty Blackbirds still rated the boldface treatment. Not so this winter. Three were present near Monroe, Wash., Dec. 20-Jan. 9 (BBo *et al.*), an ad male and female and two immatures

wintered at feed lots on Sauvie I. (JJ, DI, JG, HN, m.ob.), and one male was at Richmond, B.C., Feb. 5 (Michael Price). Seven Rosy Finches on Mary's Peak, in the c. Oregon Coast Range, Feb. 15 (Jim Carlson, *fide* ME) furnished the only report, other than a single north of Vancouver, B.C. (GP). Red Crossbills were sparse this winter (HN, BT) throughout the Region. There were only 2 reports of White-winged Crossbill, one from the Vancouver area (*fide* DK) and several seen near Salem, Ore, Dec. 29 (Chris Bond, *fide* BB). The Vancouver area provided the only Com. Redpoll sightings, with 4 reports of five birds (*fide* DK). Large numbers of Pine Siskins were reported from the Columbia R. south (WC, HN, MM). North of there they were rarely mentioned. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce throughout the Region (MJ, DK, BT, HN, MM).

INITIALED OBSERVERS, **with subregional editors in boldface** — Kevin Aanerud, Jerry & Gladys Anderson, David Beaudette, Barb Bellin, Thais Bock, Bill Boyes (BBo), Wilson Cady, Richard Cannings, Mike Carmody, Brent Diakow, Merlin Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Ben Fawver, David Fix, Mike Force, **David Fraser**, John Gatchet, Jeff Gilligan, Willie Haras (WHa), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, David Irons, Margaret Jeal, Jim Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Rick Krabbe, **Doug Kragh**, Mark Lewis, Donna Lusthoff, **Phil Mattocks**, Alan McGie, Mike & Barb McGrenere, Dick McNeely, Marjorie Moore, **Harry Nehls**, Vic Nelson, Christian Nielsen, Bob O'Brien, Dennis Paulson, Gerald Poynter, Glen Ryder, Howard Sands, Joy & Ron Satterfield, Tom Schooley, Fred Sharpe, **Dory & Stan Smith**, Bob Sundstrom, Larry Thornburgh, **Terry Wahl**, Wayne Weber, Linda Welland, Bruce Whittington.

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*Spring Migration, 1988*

**NORTHERN            ROCKY            MOUNTAIN-  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

Spring was mostly warm and dry, with wet spells in mid-April and at May's end. Migrants were noted as early by a few reporters. Low water levels appeared to favor migrating shorebirds and nesting marsh birds but created hardship for waterfowl.

ABBREVIATION -- Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Harney, OR.

LOONS TO IBISES -- Canyon Ferry, MT, had 150 Com. Loons Apr. 26 (DS), and Twin Lakes near Preston, ID, had over 100 adults around Apr. 1. At the latter spot, water-skiers seemed to be disturbing the birds (CHT). Two on the Salmon R. 30 mi north of Salmon, ID, May 7 were unusual (LH). Kamloops, BC, had a Yellow-billed Loon (EM). Red-necked Grebe on Soda L., Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, Apr. 23 was noteworthy (C.B.). Clark's Grebe appeared on Potholes Res. (RF) and Moses L. (FB, MO, C.B.), Grant, WA: at Ana Res., Summer L., OR (TC, CM); and in the Klamath Falls, OR, vicinity (HS). Five island nesting colonies of Am. White Pelicans at Malheur contained over 1500 nests. Unusual were one bird at Mann's L., Lewiston, ID (DR), and eight at Silcott L. west of Clarkston, WA (CG, MLP, PP, EP). Two were noted at John Boyle Res. in the Klamath Falls area (HS). A few of the birds remained all spring after wintering at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, WA (SM). The only Least Bittern reported was one flushed at Buena Vista Station, Malheur (GI). Single Great Egrets appeared in the Frenchman Hills vicinity, Grant, WA (RA, DH *et al.*), and at a farm pond west of Yakima, WA (KJ). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA, had two (CW, REW). One on the Kootenai R., near Bonners Ferry, ID, was the county's 2nd (RDC). In Montana one appeared at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT (VV). At least 4 separate sightings of the species were made at American Falls Res. in s. Idaho (*fide* CHT), and one was sighted at Camas N.W.R., Hamer, ID (S.R.A.S.). Oliver, BC, had one (RJC). The only Snowy Egrets reported were one at Metcalf N.W.R. (*fide* PLW); one at Wilbur, WA (JH); and three along the Owyhee R. south of Vale, OR (THR). A flock of about 10 Cattle Egrets was sighted 10 mi northwest of Pocatello, ID (BJ, m.ob.) and five were seen near the Snake R. in the

Rupert, ID, vicinity (WHS). The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Arco, had its first sighting of the species (TR, RM). Single birds appeared at Malheur and near Burns, OR (*fide* GI). The Spokane, WA, latilong obtained its first record of the species when a dead bird was found along Latah Cr. near Spokane in March. Much desiccated, it was believed to have been there since last fall (D & DN, THR). A Green-backed Heron was sighted along the Wenatchee R. near Leavenworth, WA. May 20 (DP). White-faced Ibis continued to increase in the Region. The Moses Lake-Winchester area, WA, had sightings of 20, 40, and 67 (RF, CG, JT), and 17 were seen near Lowden, WA (SM). Two were sighted near Lamont, WA (JH). A flock of 15-20 was in the Salmon area in early May for Roberts' first there. In Montana one appeared in the Helena Valley (DL), and four were in a pond near Bean L. 55 mi north of Helena (JS).

WATERFOWL TO TURKEY -- An Apr. 27 survey of Trumpeter Swans in the Centennial Valley of s.w. Montana found 297; May 18, 51 nests were located (CDM). In the Malheur area the low count of 39 and only 4 pairs nesting suggested high winter mortality. Six Trumpeters appeared in the Yakima vicinity (AS), and a few were identified in the Helena-Townsend, MT, area, where they are rare, at L. Helena and Canyon Ferry L. (BK, DC). One was electrocuted on power wires at Lewiston (CC), and another was found dead at Moscow, ID (*fide* DJ). Seven Greater White-fronted Geese were sighted on Sprague L., Sprague, WA (C.B.), and one, very rare in the Helena area, appeared at L. Helena (BK, GM). A blue morph Ross' Goose accompanied Snow Geese at Mann's L. Apr. 16 (RG, MK, LL, OM, MLP), and another of the blue morph was observed near Burns Apr. 10 (GI). An Emperor Goose was identified with Greater White-fronted Geese near Hines, OR, Mar. 8-15 (CC). The Snake R. west of Clarkston, WA, had a Barnacle Goose, almost certainly an escapee, Mar. 13-16 (JK, m.ob.). Up to 400 "Cackling" Geese were at Goose L. south of Lakeview, OR, Apr. 24 (MA). A male Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was observed on the Salmon R. north of Salmon May 19 (HBR). A male Eur. Wigeon near Helena Apr. 2 was only the 2nd reported for that area in 20 years (GM, GT, DS). A few were sighted elsewhere in the Region. Single male Tufted Ducks were identified on

the Methow R. near Pateros, WA, Mar. 14-20 (BH *et al.* *vide* BJ) and on Migraine L., Columbia N.W.R. (JC, WRR). A pond near Kittitas, WA, was visited by 200 Ring-necked Ducks Apr. 4 (PM). A pair of Greater Scaup was found in Frenchtown Valley west of Missoula, MT, Mar. 26 (DH, PLW). The Dearborn R. 43 mi north of Helena had a Harlequin Duck May 21. The species is rarely seen in this area (LMcE). Single male Oldsquaws were sighted in s.e. Idaho at Massacre Rocks on the Snake R. about Mar. 1 (JL) and near Sterling W.M.A., American Falls Res., Apr. 24 (CHT, CW). A female at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland, WA, provided R.E. Woodley's first spring record there. A female at Reardan, WA., May 8-11 was remarkable both for the locality and the date (JA. WH). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers near Trout Creek, MT, furnished a latilong first (DD). The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, hatched two young about Apr. 12 (LDN). Pend Oreille L. in n. Idaho had 5 active Bald Eagle nests (*vide* SHS). Spruce Grouse, formerly common in the Fortine, MT, vicinity, are now considered rare there (WW). Sage Grouse lek counts in n.c. Washington indicated good recovery in better habitat but showed very little recovery in some other areas. Although the lek site at Yakima Firing Range has been badly disturbed by military

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vehicles, the grouse were displaying in full view of army exercises. The population appeared high at Malheur, over 60 males were counted on one lek. Several Wild Turkeys were observed near their release site on the Tucannon R., Columbia, WA (B.M.A.S.), and one was observed east of Nez Perce, ID, Mar. 26 (W & WH).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS -- A Virginia Rail heard about 20 mi north of Mackay, ID, Apr. 27 added the species to the area list (LH). Five of these birds and two Soras were found at Fir Mt., Hood River, OR, Apr. 30 (DA, DL, TS). Fortine had a Sora May 29; the species has rarely been noted there in recent years (WW). Sandhill Cranes were reported moving through the Region starting Feb. 23; the largest number was of over 3000 in the St. Andrews, WA, area (RF). The

breeding population of Sandhills at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Monida, MT, was down (CDM). One bird was at Cloverdale, Crook, OR, May 6, for a rare location (LR). By May 31, 16 Whooping Cranes had been located, including eight in e. Idaho (five at Grays Lake N.W.R., Wayan; one in *Caribou*; one in *Fremont*; and one in *Teton*); seven in w. Wyoming (four in *Sublette*, two in Yellowstone N.P., and one in Grand Teton N.P.). One remained at the spring migration stop near Monte Vista, CO. Twelve Whooping Crane eggs from Wood Buffalo N.P., Canada, were placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays Lake. Ten hatched successfully, one was eaten by an unknown predator, and one failed to hatch (RD). Malheur had a notable 20 Black-bellied Plovers May 16 (RV). Single birds at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR) and the Yakima R. mouth (REW) were also unusual. Summer L. yielded up to 12 Snowy Plovers in April (RG, HS). A flock of 10 Semipalmated Plovers at the Yakima R. mouth Apr. 30 was the largest group R.E. Woodley had seen there. Singles at Grandview, WA, sewage lagoons (DB) and at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR) were noteworthy. Up to 12 Black-necked Stilts were sighted at Reardan, and the finding of 2 nests, each with 4 eggs, furnished the first definite evidence of breeding there (JA, WH). The species had returned to its nesting area in the Frenchman Hills and Winchester Wasteway areas by Apr. 7 (BH). At the Yakima R. delta they peaked at 16 Apr. 13 (REW), and the Walla Walla, WA, area had a few sightings (SM). Seven appeared on Sheep L and three at Texas L., *Whitman*, WA (J & DP). A lake near Lamont had 10 (JH). Knutsford, BC, had seven Apr. 29-30 (SR, RH *et al.*). Fort Boise W.M.A., Canyon, ID, had up to eight (MJ), and one appeared at Boise, ID (AL). One at Hatfield L., Bend, OR, Apr. 15 was a rarity (CM) as was an Am. Avocet there May 7 (TC). Unusual sightings of Willets were of one at Bear Valley, Seneca, OR (PS); one between Mountain Home and Sun Valley, ID (MJ); and one at Othello (EH). Four Upland Sandpipers were sighted in Bear Valley May 26 (PS), and eight were counted in Logan Valley east of Seneca (CC, MH). Seven appeared in the Spokane Valley nesting area (LT). Real rarities were single Whimbrels at Summer L. Apr. 30 (RM) and Hatfield L. May 7 (TC). One at the Walla Walla R. delta May 21 provided the 2nd record there (REW). Remarkable were the at least 70 Marbled Godwits near Salmon Apr. 24 (LH). Summer L. hosted four Ruddy Turnstones May 20 (MA), and a pair of Red Knots was observed there May 8 (MA, S & PSu). A Baird's Sandpiper, quite rare in spring at Hatfield L., was seen there May 7 (TC).

Two Pectoral Sandpipers at the Yakima R. delta May 8 provided Woodley's first spring record for the area.

GULLS TO OWLS -- A Franklin's Gull near Cloverdale May 11 (LR) was apparently a county first. Vagrants were single Franklin's and Bonaparte's gulls at Clarkston Apr. 30 (MK, CV). Noteworthy were eight Bonaparte's on Springfield Ponds near Springfield, ID, Apr. 24 (CHT) and 32 at Grays Lake N.W.R. Apr 23 (RD). A Mew Gull was sighted at Tranquille, BC, for the only report (SR). A concentration of 1100-1200 gulls at Coeur d'Alene, ID, Mar. 9 contained about 300 California Gulls, at least 600 Herring Gulls, six Glaucous Gulls, and one Thayer's Gull (DF). Penticton, BC had a Thayer's Mar 6 (RJC, SRC). The Wanapum Dam vicinity near Vantage, WA, was an unusual location for two Glaucous-winged Gulls Mar. 20 (PM *et al.*). A Herring Gull at Selah, WA, was noteworthy (BB). Nine Caspian Terns at Alturas L. south of Stanley, ID, May 29 added the species to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area list (LH). Two on the Missouri R. near Craig, MT, May 12 were unusual (SJ). A group of about 15 Com. Terns was observed below the dam at American Falls Res. May 7 (CHT *et al.*). Four Forster's Terns were at Summer L. Apr. 11 (MA), and one visited Houston L. west of Prineville, OR, Apr. 18 (TC). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard once at Rupert (WHS) The only Com. Barn-Owl reports were of one near Shelley, ID, in late February (FM) and one near Coulee City, WA, Mar. 15 (CG). At least three Flammulated Owls were found at Blewett Pass, a known breeding locality, west-southwest of Wenatchee, WA (PM *et al.*, TS, GW), and near Liberty, WA (DH). Kamloops counted eight May 23 (RH), and two were near Penticton May 18-19 (RJC). One was calling near Silver L., OR, May 14 (MA, RG, FI), and several were heard in Deschutes N.F. southwest of Bend (RGo, FI). One was heard at Malheur and south of Starr campground, *Grant*, OR (R & JK). Over 100 active Burrowing Owl burrows were documented in the Columbia Basin, WA (D.O.W.). A Great Gray Owl was seen near Mt. Emily north of La Grande, OR (MC, DL), and nesting pairs and young were seen just west of that city (SM, m.ob.). One was seen near Island Park, ID (EC, S.R.A.S.). The first **Boreal Owl** nest ever found in Montana was discovered near Lolo Pass on the Montana-Idaho border southwest of Missoula (DHo). Three or four Boreal Owls answered

recordings along the Little Blackfoot R. southwest of Helena Mar. 5 (DE, DG).

NIGHTJARS TO MIMIDS -- An unusual concentration of 12+ Com. Poorwills was sighted at Blewett Pass May 21 (PM *et al.*). A Black-chinned Hummingbird, rare in the Salmon area, visited a feeder there May 17 (HBR). At least three Vaux's Swifts appeared at Richland May 1 & 22, for R.E. Woodley's 2nd and 3rd spring sightings there. Several Anna's Hummingbirds were in Bend's West Hills after the first week of March (TC, JS). A male Costa's Hummingbird returned to the same feeder in Bend for the 5th consecutive year (G & CR), and one that showed up at a feeder in LaPine, OR, Apr. 10-12 was believed to be the same one that had been there last year (HH). Another male was at Silver Lake Ranger Station May 17 (PS). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was identified at Ahtanum Cr. west of Yakima May 28 (ECr). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were sighted in the Swauk Pass area southwest of Wenatchee (MO), one at a nest May 22 (GG). Up to six of the birds were seen south of Heppner, OR (PS). A "Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker visited Malheur Apr. 1 (BD), and one appeared in Idaho Falls, ID, in February (WR). A Least Flycatcher was reported at Osoyoos, BC (GD), and another at Malheur (R & JK). Four Gray Flycatchers were identified at Oliver May 22 (RJC), and a total of four was found in the Manashtash-Dry Cr. area west of Ellensburg, WA, May 29 (AS). The Blue Jay that wintered at Culdesac, ID, was still there May 4 (*fide* MK), and one appeared at Goose Lake S.P., *Lake*, OR, Apr. 2-27 (MA). A few Bushtits were sighted in the Dayville-John Day Fossil Beds area, OR, Apr. 26-May 12 (PS). The Albion, WA, sewage pond was visited by a Bewick's Wren Mar. 5 (J & DP). A Marsh Wren near Salmon May 24 added the species to the list for that area (LH). Boise had two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers May 16 (AL), and a pair was observed near L. Abert, *Lake*, OR, May 17 (MA). Unusual were sightings of single migrating Hermit Thrushes at Wallula (C.B.) and Vantage (WHe, JP, CV) as was a Varied Thrush at Malheur Headquarters (RG). Helena and vicinity had several sightings of N. Mockingbirds including a singing male (JS). Singles of this species were observed in Oregon at Frenchglen (DJo, MR), Fields, and in the Blitzen Valley south of Malheur (*fide* GI).

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WARBLERS TO FINCHES -- Fields, OR, was visited by a Tennessee Warbler May 21 *vide* GI). A male N. Parula was sighted at Fields and another at Frenchglen May 29 (R & JK). A "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was in Bend Apr. 10 (TC). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was sighted at John Day Fossil Beds Visitor Center May 20 (PS). The species was also noted in the Blitzen Valley. A male Am. Redstart at Yakima May 24 was a rarity (PR). Notable was a N. Waterthrush in Idaho Falls (SMi). Malheur and vicinity lived up to its reputation as an oasis in the desert for migrating warblers, with single birds of the following appearing there: Magnolia (R & JK), Black-throated Gray, Blackburnian (HN *et al.*), Blackpoll (CR), Black-and-white (DH, KI, FZ), and N. Waterthrush. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded at Pocatello (JJ), one was seen in Bend (GJ), and one was heard at Rupert (WHS). An Indigo Bunting at Malheur added the species to the refuge list (HG, DM, BT). Vernon, BC, had two Clay-colored Sparrows May 22 (RJC). A Lark Sparrow about 20 mi south of Stanley added the species to that area's list (LH). An increased number of Lark Bunting sightings in the Arco Desert of s. Idaho (TR) suggested an expanding population there. A LeConte's Sparrow was sighted in the s.e. corner of Glacier N.P., MT (SG), and one near Pine Butte 15 mi west of Choteau, MT, provided a latilong first and one of few records for the state (DSk, DS). A Swamp Sparrow was identified at Yakima Apr. 7 (BB, DGr) for e. Washington's 4th sighting (PM). Single White-throated Sparrows were found near the Frenchman Hills (G & WH) and at Davenport, WA (JW). At least seven Bobolinks were sighted at Prairie City, OR (PS), and one appeared at Idaho Falls (DM) and at Kootenai N.W.R. (AB). A Com. Grackle was identified near Bonners Ferry (RDC) and at Page Springs, Frenchglen (DH, KI). A male **Hooded Oriole** photographed at a Bend feeder was e. Oregon's 2nd (BG *et al.*). Four pairs of Purple Finches were identified in Washington, at Roslyn, near Cle Elum, and in *Chelan* (PM *et al.*). Lesser Goldfinches appeared at Fort Rock S.P., OR, May 9 (TC, CM) and at John Day Fossil Beds (PS).

OBSERVERS CITED -- (Observers note: Please send your observations to **subregional editors (in boldface)** unless you are otherwise notified. Subregions overlap and some localities appear not to be included in any subregion so send your reports to whichever seems appropriate.) – James Acton, Dave Anderson, Merle Archie, Robert Ashbaugh, Allison Banks, Fred Bird, Blue Mountain Audubon Society, Bob Boekelheide, Dwayne Brigham, Debie Brown, Richard J. Cannings, Steve Cannings, Canyon Birders, Chris Carey (CC), Eddie Chew (EC), Don Childress, Carolyn Collins (CCo), Marion Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (E. Oregon) 1667 N.W. Iowa, Bend, OR 97701, Emily Cragg (ECr), Gary Davidson, Dennis Dahlke, Rich Del Carlo, Dept. of Wildlife (D.O.W.), Rod Drewien, Bud D'Veck, David Ewer, Annie Filer, David Fix, **Ron Friesz** (Central Washington) P.O. Box 850, Ephrata, WA 98823, Bob Gabriel, Charlene Gamut (CG), Chris Garber (CGa), Russ Gebhart (RGe), David Genter (DG), Roy Gerig (RG), George Gerdts, Steve Gniadek, Rebecca Goggins (RGo), Denny Granstrand (DGr), Helen Green, Lucinda Haggas, Don Hall (DHa), Warren Hall (WH), Mark Henjum, Bob Hensel, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Winnie Hepburn (WHe), Denver Holt (DHo), Jerry Hickman, **George Holton** (Helena area) 1219 11th Ave., Helena, MT 59601, Helma Holverstott, Rick Howie, Wanda & Willie Huff, Eugene Hunn, Dave Hutchinson (DH), Frank Isaacs, Kamal Islam, Gary Ivey, Susan Jackson, Kathy Jameson, Bryan Jamison, Merrill Jensen, Joe Jeppson, Greg Johannsen, D. Johnson (DJo), **Dean Jones** (S.W. Idaho) 4355 Oxbow Way, Boise, ID 83704, John Kauffman, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area and adjacent Idaho) 2166 Allan Dr., Clarkston, WA 99403, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Bob Krepps, Al Larson, John Laundre, Louise LaVoie, Rose Leach, Don LeHeup (DLe), Donna Lusthoff (DL), Don MacDonald (DMac), Rick Madigan (RM), Frankie Mann, Phil Mattocks, Eric McAlary, Lawrence McEvoy (LMcE), Opal McIntyre, Craig Miller, Dale Miller (DM), Sue Miller (SMi), Carl D. Mitchell, Russ Mitchell (RMi), Gerald Mueller, **Shirley Muse** (SM) (Walla Walla area) 219 Newell, Walla Walla, WA 99362, Larry D. Napier, Harry Nehls, Dale & Doris Nichols, Mark Oberle, **Ruth Ortiz-Torres** (Wenatchee area) P.O. Box 255, Peshastin, WA 98847, Jeff & Deanna Palmer, Peggy Pedigo, Darrell Plough, Mary Lou Potter, Eleanor Pruettt, Marcia Radke, William R. Radke, Wendell Random, Joe Regan, Claudia Regier (CR), Paul Reitsma, Lou Rems, Tim Reynolds, Hadley B. Roberts,

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*Spring Migration, 1988*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

It was generally a cool, wet spring in the Northwest. Seattle experienced its first month of above average rainfall since May 1987, and water reservoirs were almost back to normal. Following a balmy February and March that were dryer and warmer than usual, April and May were much wetter with about normal temperatures. Corresponding, yearly migrants tended to be earlier than usual while late-season birds were delayed. The summary of sightings from Vancouver Island was not available. However, reports from the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Inside Passage of British Columbia provided welcome input from the relatively unknown northern third of this Region.

ABBREVIATIONS -- S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia River, OR. V.I. = Vancouver Island. Place names in *italics* are counties.

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LOONS TO IBISES -- Yellow-billed Loons were noted in Port Townsend Mar. 6-10 (Bruce Marsden) and at Tokeland, WA, Apr. 10 (BSu); in Vancouver, BC, Apr. 4 (MP); and at the unusual location of Timothy L., south of Mt. Hood in *Clackamas*, OR, May 15 (Tim Shelmerdine, ph. LW). Three Yellow-billed Loons, still in nonbreeding plumage, were seen in Hecate Strait from the Skidegate-Prince Rupert, BC, ferry Apr. 12 (MH, PH). Two W. Grebes were near the n.w. limit of their range at Lucy I. in Chatham Sound near Prince Rupert, BC, May 20 (SJ). A Clark's Grebe at Ocean Shores Mar. 11 (†G & WH) and two in Seattle Mar. 28-Apr. 8 (KA, TH) provided the 12th and 13th records for w. Washington. Other Clark's were noted Mar. 6 in Portland (JJ) and May 14 on nearby Sauvie I. (Mike Houck, David Marshall). The 173 Black-footed Albatrosses seen off Westport Apr. 23 and 130 there May 7 represented the highest-ever counts in



*Yellow-billed Loon on Timothy Lake, Oregon, May 16, 1988. Photograph/Linda Welland.*

21 years of pelagic trips from Washington (TW). Fifty Black-footeds were noted 25 mi west of Florence, OR, May 31 (†T). A Laysan Albatross was seen Mar. 31 only 10 mi off Newport, OR (Mike Burger), and another was seen May 16-31 from 25-40 mi off Florence (Mike Pettis, TT). Only eight Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport May 7 (BT) and five 15 mi off Florence Apr. 13 (†T) provided the highest counts

reported. Three Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen May 7 off Westport (BT) furnished the only report, as usual. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted Mar. 6 at Boiler Bay, OR (PP), and 11 were seen in Hecate Strait east of the Queen Charlotte Is. Apr. 12 (MH, PH). Sooty Shearwaters were reported in their usual large numbers. Twenty Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen Apr. 20 about 15 mi off Pacific City, OR (IT), and several were seen at night in the lights of the boat during the previous week. The first Brown Pelican reported this season was an immature seen Apr. 17 flying N past the North jetty of the Columbia R., WA (DPa). Thereafter four were north to Westport May 14 (EH *et al.*). However, most were in Oregon, with 20 counted May 29 on Gull Rock, Coos (Roy Lowe, JA), and about 20 noted May 30 on the North Spit of Coos Bay (LT). An ad **Red-faced Cormorant** in breeding plumage was seen Apr. 10-11 near Old Masset, at the n. end of the Queen Charlotte Is. for the first record for Canada (Rick Howe, Charlie Bellis, †PH, ph. MH). The nearest colony is on Kayak I. east of Cordova, AK, about 600 mi to the northwest. The last of the wintering Great Egrets were two in the Vancouver, BC, area Mar. 6-12 (MP, JI) and five in Washington up to May 10. A breeding-plumaged Snowy Egret at the Diamond L. sewage pond May 26 (DFi) established a surprising first record for the Toketee Ranger District, OR. A flock of 15+ White-faced Ibises flew by the Yaquina, OR, jetty May 21 (Walt Youngen, *vide* BB). Then four were seen briefly in N. Portland May 22 (JJ, DBa) and at nearby Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, May 23 (Marguerite Hills). A lone ibis spent the afternoon of May 25 in a field near Sequim, WA (C & RR). In addition to the 29 ibises at Coos Bay last year a flock of 37 was near Astoria, May 12-14, 1987 (AR *et al.*).



**Red-faced Cormorant at Old Massett, British Columbia, April 11, 1988. Photograph/Margo Hearne.**

GEESE TO FALCONS -- Twenty thousand Greater White-fronted Geese were counted passing NNW over Diamond L., just northwest of Crater Lake N.P., OR, Apr. 26-27 (DFi; see also *Oregon Birds* 14:243-246, 1988) presumably from wintering or staging areas in the Klamath basin to the generally coastal migration route farther north. A "Blue" Snow Goose stopped at Howard Prairie L., e. Jackson, OR, Mar. 5 (BrS). The Ross' Goose that wintered on Sauvie I. was last seen Mar. 12 (DL). It or another was nearby at Jackson Bottoms, Hillsboro, OR, Apr. 17 (†DL, LW, Pat Muller). Single Emperor Geese stayed in Saanich, V.I., to at least Mar. 6 (J.B. Tatum); at Glide, Douglas, OR, Mar. 13-20 (Paul Osburn, Steve Jagers R, on Maertz, DFi);

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and at Tokeland, WA, Apr 1-24 (m.ob., ph DJ) Two Emperor Geese were seen Apr 7 on the Cardy Unit, Ridgefield N.W.R. (Dan Bolton). Daily counts of the Snow Geese on Reifel I., BC, noted 10,000 there Mar. 13, 7000 Apr. 17, 4000 Apr. 25, and the last 100 Apr. 29 (JI). A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal at the Nehalem meadows Apr. 19 (DI, PP) was the latest of the five reported in Oregon. Another was in Seattle Mar. 11 (BSu). A male Blue-winged Teal at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, Mar. 6 (JE) was early, as was a pair at Emigrant L., Ashland, OR, Mar. 12 (BrS). Widespread arrival was Apr. 17, also early Cinnamon Teal numbers increased steadily following first arrivals in late February, to 24 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., near Salem, OR, Mar. 11 (DPe) and 50 at Ridgefield N.W.R. Mar. 21 (Wilson Cady). A bird identified as a male Redhead x Greater Scaup again visited Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC, Mar. 18-May 6 (†BK; MP). The male Tufted Duck found in February at Meares L., Tillamook, OR, was seen through Mar. 19 (†DL, †LW, m.ob.). Others were on Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, WA, Mar. 13 (Georgia Ramsey); at the Monmouth sedimentation ponds Mar. 28 (RG); and on Green L. in Seattle Apr. 1-2 (Martin

Muller, †EH). The bird believed to be a hybrid Tufted Duck x Greater Scaup was seen again at Green L. Apr. 10 (†AR). Pairs of Black-shouldered Kites were observed during May at Raymond, WA (m.ob.), on the Nehalem meadows, OR (John Fitcher, HN), and along the Coquille R. at Myrtle Point, OR (LT, DFi *et al.*). An ad Red-shouldered Hawk was north to the Salmon R. meadows, OR, Mar. 6 (HN), and a Swainson's Hawk was west of the Cascades to the Nisqually N.W.R., WA, May 1 (†Mike Denny *et al.*). "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were noted in early March at Auburn (†DBe) and Sequim (†DJ), WA, and at the Nehalem meadows (JE, HN). Very few Rough-legged Hawks were reported, continuing the trend of the last few years. One still at Coos Bay, OR, Apr. 21 was the latest this season (LT). Golden Eagles nested near Medford, OR (Ed Abbott, MM), and on San Juan I., WA (ML). All other reports, including one bird at Reifel I., BC, May 14-20 (JI), were within flight distance of these sites. The normal number of Merlin reports included a very pale brown bird seen Apr. 9 at Yelm, WA (†RA, †Hal Opperman *et al.*), believed to be of the race *richardsoni*. One Merlin May 6 at Ocean Shores, WA, was the latest ever there (G & WH), and another was still at Reifel I., BC, May 21 (JI). Two Prairie Falcons on the Skagit flats, WA, Mar. 5 (Bud Anderson) and one in Coquitlam, BC, Apr. 7 (†GT) were unusual at those locations. Others were in Oregon, at Emigrant L. Mar. 2 (MM), in Salem Mar 22 (Barb Combs), and at the Bandon marsh Apr. 24 for only the 2nd Coos record (LT).

SHOREBIRDS -- Sixty Black-bellied Plovers on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC, May 24 provided the high count reported (WW), down from the usual several hundred. Correspondingly, only six Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported, all in Washington, Apr. 23-May 16. Groups of three Black-necked Stilts were west to the Nisqually N.W.R. Apr. 15 (Verna Timm, Sam Agnew) for only the 7th record for w. Washington; to Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, OR, Apr. 16 (SH, DFi); and to Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Salem, OR, May 10 (DPe). Single stilts were farther north to the Serpentine Fen, BC, May 2 (†WW) and the Montlake fill, Seattle, May 12 (CEv, m.ob.) for the first King record. One-two Am. Avocets also wandered W to Seattle Mar 31 (KA *et al.*); to the Serpentine Fen Apr. 25 (WW); Vancouver L., Clark, WA, Apr. 30 (PB); near Sequim,

WA, May 11-14 (D & SSm, Joyce Collins); and N. Portland May 23-24 (JE, HN). Three-five avocets then settled in May 10 at the Serpentine Fen (WW). Peak counts of Greater Yellowlegs were of 107 in the Green River Valley, Auburn, WA, Apr. 2 (JG), 154 there Apr. 9 (DBe), and 125 on Reifel I. Apr. 17 (JI). As usual, Lesser Yellowlegs were relatively scarce in the spring, with 11 at Reifel I. Apr. 25 (JI) and 12 at the Forest Grove, OR, sewage ponds Apr. 26 (JE) the high counts. The 14 Solitary Sandpipers reported, Apr 12-May 14, represented almost normal numbers One-two Long-billed Curlew were reported from 9 locations, with two at Tillamook May 18 (JE, HN) and one at Bandon May 22 (LT) the latest. Four **Bar-tailed Godwits** were observed May 14 at Bandon (†DFi, Kevin Sands, HS, Martha Sawyer) for the 4th spring record for Oregon. A Hudsonian Godwit was seen May 30 on Reifel I. (JI). One hundred Marbled Godwits were still at Tokeland Apr. 15 (G & WH), and 250 were at Bandon Apr. 27 (LT). Only eight remained at Tokeland May 9 (EH, PM). Two on Sequim Bay, WA, May 28 (Fred Sharpe) and one on Yaquina Bay, OR, May 29 (DFa) were the latest. Thirty Ruddy Turnstones also at Bandon May 14 (DFi *et al.*) furnished the high count for the season. Four Red Knots at Tokeland, WA, Apr. 15 (G & WH) were early. Their passage was marked by counts of 600 at the nearby Elk R. mouth May 7 (BT) and of 1000 between Tokeland-Westport May 14 (EH *et al.*). Ten+ at Newport, OR, Apr. 28 (Robert Olson) represented the high count elsewhere. Two at Bandon May 14-22 (DFi, LT) and one at the Serpentine Fen May 24 (WW) were the latest. A breeding-plumaged ad Semipalmated Sandpiper was noted Apr. 27-29 at the Forest Grove, OR, sewage ponds (HN, JE, DL). The 10,000 W. Sandpipers Apr. 30 in Delta, BC (WW), and the 500 Least Sandpipers at the S.J.C.R. and 200 at Tillamook May 4 (HN) marked the peak passage of these species The 5 Pectoral Sandpiper sightings were spread Apr. 8-May 25 and were many fewer than usual. Likewise, the only Baird's Sandpiper reported was one Apr. 27 at Bandon (Jack Thomas) A **Stilt Sandpiper** observed May 15 at the Serpentine Fen (†Jo Ann & Hue MacKenzie) furnished one of very few spring records. Two thousand Short-billed Dowitchers along Willapa Bay, WA, Apr. 15-16 (DPa) represented by far the largest concentration noted. Twenty-five Wilson's Phalaropes were at the Kirtland ponds, Medford, OR, May 10 (MM); 20 were in N. Portland May 22+ (JJD,



Ba *et al.*); and pairs were scattered during May from Bandon, where they were the first *Coos* record since 1978 (LT), to the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC (WW *et al.*). A count of 574 Red-necked Phalaropes was made off Westport May 7 (BT), and another 1500 were noted May 19 in Jane Passage near Klemtu north of Bella Bella, BC (SJ). No Red Phalaropes were seen on 3 trips out of Westport Apr. 22-May 7 (BT, TW).

JAEGERS TO PUFFINS -- A Pomarine Jaeger was noted Apr. 12 in Hecate Strait, BC (MH, PH), and another was near Westport Apr. 19 (George Gerdts). Nine others were seen offshore Westport Apr. 22-May 7 (TW) and coastal Oregon Apr 25 and May 31 (TT). An ad **Franklin's Gull** found at ocean Shores, WA, May 15-16 (Jeff Palmer, BT *et al.*) established only the 2nd spring record for w. Washington. Another Franklin's was seen May 26 at the Kirtland Rd. ponds, Medford, OR (Mike Robbins). One of the Little Gulls that wintered near Tacoma, WA, was last seen Mar. 20 (DL, Verda Teale). Another was sighted Apr. 11 at Manitou Beach, Bainbridge I., WA (IP) Nine Glaucous Gulls were reported, a typical number, with seven of these found on the Oregon coast. The first Caspian Tern of the season was early at Naselle, WA, Mar. 8 (AR, AM). Widespread arrival on the Oregon coast was in late March (HN *et al.*). Four Caspian Terns reached Roberts Bank, Delta, BC, Apr. 30 (WW), and 21 were at nearby Iona I. May 22 (Lynn Miller, BK). Sixty Com. Terns off Steveston, BC, May 7 (WW *et al.*) and 50 at Westport May 9 (EH, PM) provided the high counts. Two Arctic Terns had arrived at their beleaguered nesting outpost in Everett, WA, by Apr 27 (Ken Brunner). Nine Forster's Terns were sighted in w. Oregon this May. Three were at the Kirtland Rd. ponds in Medford May 16 (MM). Others were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. for the only Polk records in the last 7 years, the Forest Grove sewage ponds, Denman N.W.R., and Diamond I. in e. *Douglas*. Single

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Black Terns were also at the Kirtland Rd. ponds, Baskett Slough N.W.R., and Sauvie I. May 14-24, and

two were on the Snohomish, WA, sewage ponds May 21-26 (TS *et al.*, Charlotte Albright). Three Ancient Murrelets were seen at sea off Westport May 7 (TW). The 22 Cassin's Auklets seen off Westport Apr. 23 and the 12 there May 7 represented a decrease from the last 2 years of high counts. Tufted Puffins returned early to their nesting colonies at Bandon, OR (B & ZSt), and Mandarte I., BC (ML). The 12 puffins on Colony Rock at Yaquina Head May 12 (Kathy Liska) furnished "the highest number there in years" (DFa). The Cape Meares, OR, site was apparently not used this year (HN).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS -- First arrivals of Band-tailed Pigeons at several w. Oregon locales were Apr. 10 (BB, Wes & Florence Bell). Band-taileds winter regularly around Puget Sound, but the 330 gathered May 1 on the Stillwater Unit near Carnation, WA, were migrants (GA), as were the 250 on Sauvie I., OR, May 8-12 (HN). A Burrowing Owl along Modoc Rd. near Medford Mar. 22 (Loral & Evelyn Leavitt) and another at a burrow along Hwy 140 east of Medford Mar. 28 (HS) were intriguing as potential nesters. The Burrowing Owl seen Apr. 20 at the S.J.C.R. (HN) was surprising. Great Gray Owls were seen in early April at the n. end of Howard Prairie L., e. *Jackson*, OR (June Babcock), and southwest of that lake toward Hyatt L. (Jerry & Karen Kearney). Very early Com. Nighthawks were noted May 15 at Bandon, OR (BG, LT *et al.*), and May 21 near Salem (RG). There were no reports from farther north. A Com. Poorwill was calling May 21 in Eden Valley, OR (Geoff Keller), for the first *Coos* record (*vide* LT). The first sighting of Black Swifts this spring was of a flock of 250 at Pt. Grey in Vancouver, BC, May 16 (MP, KY). Another 250 were over Pitt Meadows, BC, May 28 (WW), and 100 were over the Kent, WA, sewage ponds May 29 (IP). The first Vaux's Swifts were noted Apr. 15 at Myrtle Pt. (LT), Roseburg (DFi), and Corvallis (M & EE), OR; Apr. 29 in Vancouver, BC (MP, BK); and Apr. 30 at Carnation, WA (TS). Four Calliope Hummingbirds in the lowlands of w. Oregon and one near Nehalem, WA, May 15 (TW) were in areas where the species is considered a regular spring visitor. Male Calliopes were also seen near Tacoma, WA, Apr. 23-24 (R & PS) and at Duvall, King, WA, May 19-20 (GA). A Lewis' Woodpecker was present at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, at least from Mar. 12-Apr. 16 (SH, DFi, HN) for the only report this

season of a now very scarce migrant in the Willamette Valley. Several Acorn Woodpeckers were noted at their n. outpost near McMinnville, southwest of Portland (Tom Love *vide* HN). Red-naped Sapsuckers, an eastside species occurring here as a migrant, were noted Mar. 19 at Carnation, WA (BSu); Apr. 18 in Vancouver, BC (†Carlo Giovannella *et al.*); Apr. 20-27 on Waldron I., WA (Charles & Mildred Ludwig *vide* ML); May 6 at Pt. Grey, Vancouver, BC (†MP); and May 7 at Oxbow Park east of Gresham, OR (JE). A White-headed Woodpecker was located Apr. 9 & 20 on the Weir Prairie near Rainier, *Thurston*, for the first record for w. Washington (†RA *et al.*, George Walter).

FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS -- Olive-sided Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees arrived distinctly late. First reports of Olive-sideds from all reporting areas were May 10-19; W. Wood-Pewee, May 10-17. Willow Flycatchers arrived in lowland Oregon May 8-15 and in the Oregon Cascades, Washington, and the Vancouver, BC, area, May 21-26. Hammond's Flycatchers were first noted in Eugene Apr. 16 (SH) and were throughout the Region by May 1. The first W. Flycatchers reported were in Puget Sound Apr. 9-15 (CE, ML), and by May 2 they were also throughout the Region. Dusky Flycatchers arrived at their Thorn Prairie breeding site near the Toketee Ranger Station Apr. 23 (DFi) and were noted in Portland and Ashland, OR, May 3-8 (JJ, B & ZSt). Three Dusksies singing May 22 at Scoggins Valley Park near Forest Grove, OR, were unusual (DL). Gray Flycatchers, rare in the Region, were found Apr. 14 & 24 (probably separate birds) at the Santiam flats near Detroit, e. *Marion*, OR (†BB, †RG, Bill Tice). Others were seen at Toketee L. Apr. 29 (†DFi), on Upper Table Rock near Medford May 4 (Ray Ekstrom), and in the Applegate Valley west of Medford May 30 (John Keller) Say's Phoebes wandered W to near Seattle Mar. 11 (CEv) and American Camp on San Juan I., WA, Apr. 10 (MO). The **Vermilion Flycatcher** found in Redmond, WA, this winter was last seen Mar. 17 (Lorraine & Rick Halpin). Western Kingbirds overflowed their usual nesting locales in c. Oregon, reaching the n. Oregon coast Apr. 19-28 (DI, PP, DFa, JA). Three were present on the Nehalem meadows May 4 (HN). At least 11 W. Kingbirds were found in w. Washington, from Apr. 30 at Vancouver L. (PB) and including four at Port Williams near Sequim May 16-19 (CR *et al.*), and one

was north to Sea I. near Vancouver, BC, May 16 (MP, KY). Surveys of American Camp on San Juan I., WA, found that the vole population had crashed from a year ago, the Eur. Rabbit numbers had tripled, and the usual 10+ Eur. Skylarks were present (ML). The first Purple Martins were reported Apr. 10-11 from Toledo and Portland, OR (DFa, JJ, DI). The first N Rough-winged Swallow reports were Mar. 18 in Talent, OR (MM); Apr. 2-3 in Auburn and Seattle, WA (JG, DBe); and Apr 10-11 in Vancouver, BC (MP) and the San Juan Is. (ML). The first Cliff Swallows were noted in Oregon, Washington, and s.w. British Columbia Mar. 29-Apr. 3. Barn Swallows were along the Oregon coast Mar. 27-30 (Jeff Gilligan, SH, HN) and arrived in the San Juan Is. and Vancouver, BC, Apr 8 (ML, WW). A Rock Wren was present in a clearcut above Scoggins Valley Park west of Portland May 20 (JE). A Canyon Wren was seen well Apr. 23 at the foot of the Carbon Glacier on the n. side of Mt. Rainier for the 3rd w. Washington record (Ruth Taylor) Both Rock and Canyon wrens were resident at a quarry beside Emigrant L., Ashland, OR (MM). House Wrens arrived at their now relatively numerous breeding localities in the Region Apr 15 and later. Mountain Bluebirds wandered to Vashon I., WA, Apr. 7 (CE), American Camp on San Juan I. Apr. 10 (MO); and W. Dungeness, WA, Apr. 24 (SSm). Arrival of Swainson's Thrushes in Oregon was Apr. 28-May 5 (BB, HN), then San Juan Is., May 8 (ML), and Burnaby, BC, May 10 (WW). A N. Mockingbird was at Ankeny N.W.R., OR, in February and again Apr. 28-May 9 (Maeve Loftin, m.ob.), and another was at North Bend, OR, Mar. 26 (LW *et al.*). Westward wandering Sage Thrashers were found Apr. 21 at the Santiam flats near Detroit, e. *Marion*, OR (†BB), and May 10 at the Ocean Shores, WA, jetty (ph. Jeff Skiletz).

VIREOS TO SPARROWS -- Solitary Vireos arrived on schedule in Washington Apr. 11-19 (ML, Murray Hansen). Warbling Vireos arrived in Oregon Apr. 25-May 1 and in Washington and s.w. British Columbia May 10-12. A Red-eyed Vireo on Sauvie I. May 10 was early (HN). Black-throated Gray Warblers were first reported from the Willamette Valley Apr 2 (M & EE), w. Washington Apr. 9-11 (CE, DR), the Oregon coast Apr. 15 (Ben Fawver, DFa), and Vancouver, BC, Apr. 16 (DSo). Migrant Townsend's Warblers were observed 15+ mi offshore Florence, OR, Apr. 13-20 (TT), and the first arrival in Vancouver, BC, was Apr. 21 (MP).

Hermit Warblers returned later than usual, with first reports Apr. 28-May 3 in Oregon (DFi, DFa). The **Blackburnian Warbler** found last fall on the Nehalem meadows, OR, was last seen Mar. 9 (JE, HN). Palm Warblers, scarce in spring, were seen Mar. 2 at Yaquina Bay, OR (JE, HN), and Mar. 5-Apr. 2 at the Raymond, WA, airport (Bob Morse, PS). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed May 23 in Fraser River Park, Vancouver, BC (†Catherine Aitchison, DSo), for one of few spring records.

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First arrival dates for MacGillivray's Warblers were later than usual, Apr. 20-May 9, at several Oregon locations. Common Yellowthroats were noted Mar. 25 at both Ashland, OR (BrS), and Auburn, WA (JG). Local first arrivals were reported throughout the Region through Apr. 12. A male Wilson's Warbler near Finley N.W.R., Corvallis, OR, Apr. 3 was the earliest ever there (Anthony Floyd *et al.*). Elsewhere, arrival was Apr. 13 and later, and 75 were still in migration at the S.J.C.R May 18 (JE, HN). A W. Tanager at Reifel I., BC, Apr. 15 (JI) was very early. Arrivals in Oregon were on schedule Apr. 26-May 3; in Washington and s.w. British Columbia, May 7-13. Black-headed Grosbeak arrival was similar and only a few days later. An early bird was in Salem, OR, Apr. 23 (DPe). Arrivals in Oregon were May 1-5; in Washington and s.w. British Columbia, May 11-15. The first Lazuli Bunting was noted Apr. 15 in Roseburg, OR (DFi), and 35 were gathered at a feeder at the Toketee Ranger Station May 17 (DFi, Sue Gordy). A male **Dickcissel** in breeding plumage stayed Mar. 19-Apr. 18 at a feeder in North Bend, OR, for the 2nd state and *Coos* records (BG, †LW, m.ob.). Seven Green-tailed Towhees were singing May 17 at their breeding outpost at Thorn Prairie, e. *Douglas* (DFi, DI, PP). An Am. Tree Sparrow stayed at the Nehalem meadows until Mar. 9 (JE, HN), and another was on Reifel I. Mar. 12 (JI). A Vesper Sparrow at Green L. in Seattle Apr 3 (EH) was early and at an unusual (urban) location. A Sage Sparrow found Apr. 1 in Roseburg provided one of very few records for w. Oregon (†DFi) and was within the same early time span as the 3 w. Washington spring sightings. Several Savannah Sparrows and a Fox Sparrow were observed 15+ mi offshore Florence, OR, Apr. 14-20 (TI). Three Swamp

Sparrows were still near Tillamook, OR, Mar. 6 (PP). Another found Mar. 6 on the Cardy Unit, Ridgefield N.W.R., furnished only the 20th record for Washington (excellent sketch). Late records were set by individuals near Corvallis Apr. 3 (DPe) and on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC, Apr 29 (†GT). Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported in Oregon with one Apr. 17 on Sauvie I. the latest (JJ). A White-throated found on the Stillwater Unit near Carnation, WA, stayed to Apr. 25 (TH *et al.*, PM). Birds believed to be hybrid Golden-crowned x White-crowned sparrows were closely studied at feeders in Bellingham Apr. 28-29 (†TW) and at the Toketee Ranger Station (†DFi). Arrival dates for the *pugetensis* race of the White-crowned Sparrow in Washington were Mar. 23 in Naselle (AR, AM), Mar. 25 in Federal Way (Thais Bock), and Mar. 27 at Vashon I. (CE) and Seattle (DBe). Only three Harris' Sparrows were found, which is well below average. Singles were at Nehalem meadows, OR, Mar. 9 (JE, HN); in Eagle point near Medford Mar. 25-26 (HS); and near Carnation, WA, Apr. 16 (TH).

LONGSPURS TO FINCHES -- The small wintering flock of longspurs and buntings at Ocean Shores, WA, provided the only report of these species (Mike Carmody). The **McKay's Bunting** reported in winter was last seen Apr. 1. A Snow Bunting lingered until Apr. 21, and a few Lapland Longspurs stayed until May 6 (G & WH). Even more Yellow-headed Blackbirds than usual were reported this season from about 20 locations. Most sightings were in May, none was on the outer coast, and the only report of more than eight birds was of 50 in N. Portland May 22 (JJ, DBa). An ad female Rusty Blackbird, possibly from the group that wintered on nearby Sauvie I., was seen Mar. 13-15 in Commonwealth Park, Beaverton, OR (JE, HN). A bird identified as a white-eyed female Brewer's Blackbird was seen in this same park through March (ph. HN). Several similar birds have been photographed or collected in the Northwest in recent years, and in each case bill length and size have been definitive. Northern Orioles arrived in the Willamette Valley on schedule Apr. 26-May 1 (PP, BB). Individuals were on the Oregon coast near Newport May 10 (DFa) and at Sea I. near Vancouver, BC, May 16 (MP, KY). An **Orchard Oriole**, providing the 3rd record for Oregon, stayed around a feeder at the Toketee Ranger Station May 8-10 (†DFi, ph. Jeff Moffett). A few Cassin's Finches

were at feeders in Ashland and near Medford, OR, during March (Ray Skibby, Mike Uhtoff, HS), and several were in the Cascades of e. *Douglas* at the Toketee Ranger Station all spring (DFi). Flocks of Red Crossbills were noted in all reporting areas of the Region. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, with only a few feeder concentrations mentioned.

**INITIALED OBSERVERS (Subregional Editors in boldface)** -- Kevin Aanerud, Gerry Adams, Jon Anderson, Robert Ashbaugh, David Bailey (DBa), Dave Beaudette (DBe), Barb Bellin, Patsy Benson, Carole Elder (CE), Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Charles Evans (CEv), Darrel Faxon (DFa), **David Fix** (DFi), John Gatchet, Roy Gerig, Barbara Griffin, Peter Hamel, Todd Hass, Margo Hearne, Steve Heinel, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Don Johnson, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Brian Kautesk, **Doug Kragh**, Mark Lewis, Donna Lusthoff, Marjorie Moore, Ann Musche, **Harry Nehls**, Mark Oberle, Ian Paulsen, Dennis Paulson (DPa), Don Pederson (DPe), Phil Pickering, Michael Price, Alan Richards, Carrie & Rick Rodlend, Howard Sands, Tom Schooley, Dory & Start Smith (D & SSm), Daphne Solecki (DSO), Bruce Stewart (BrS), Bill & Zanah Stotz (B & ZSt), Ruth & Patrick Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom (BSu), Terry Thompson, Glen Thomsen, Larry Thornburg, **Bill Tweit**, Terry Wahl, Wayne Weber, Linda Welland, K. Youngs.

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*The Nesting Season 1988*

**NORTHERN      ROCKY      MOUNTAIN-  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

June weather was erratic, at first cool and wet, then hot and dry, then with some rain near the end. July started cool, then turned hot and dry, with no rain after mid-month. Drought conditions reduced waterfowl nesting success in some places and probably were responsible

for some nesting species seeking more northerly or higher localities. On the other hand low water benefited migrating shorebirds by exposing mud flats. An exception was at the Yakima River mouth, Richland, Washington, where water levels remained high.

ABBREVIATIONS -- C.G. = Campground; Hq. = Headquarters. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO IBISES** -- A scattering of Com. Loons occurred in localities where they are not known to breed. Of special interest was a breeding-plumaged adult accompanied by an unidentified chick on the Columbia R. near White Bluffs north of Richland, WA, July 7 (WRR). The only positive breeding report was of a nest at Bull L. southeast of Fortine, MT (WW). Pied-billed Grebes were absent for the first time in many years' observing at several lakes in the Fortine area, the drought supposedly the reason (WW). A pair of Red-necked Grebes with their nest and young were found on Indian L. southeast of Pilot Rock, OR, in July (DM, DPg). Nineteen Red-necked Grebes were counted on Upper Klamath L., OR, July 7 (RG, FI). Seven pairs of Eared Grebes were incubating on Royal Slough, Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, for the first documented nesting since 1963 (WRR). Western Grebes nested at Ochoco L., Crook, OR; four adults and 11 chicks were seen (CSt). Single Clark's Grebes were reported at Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake, MT (DT), and at Banks L., Coulee City, WA (EH). Of the 1500 Am. White Pelican nests at Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR. 800 were abandoned after unknown persons trespassed on nesting islands. The other 700 nests fledged about 760 young (GI). Massacre Rocks S.P. on the Snake R. below American Falls Res. had 150 pelicans June 8 (DJo *et al.*). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT, had hundreds (many more than last year) of the species (JB). The sighting of up to 75 at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, WA, raised speculation that they were nesting on Columbia R. islands (MD, MLD). Twelve Am. White Pelicans on Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., in n. Idaho June 10-11 were noteworthy (ph. PF, RY) as were five at McArthur Lake W.M.A., south of Bonners Ferry, ID (LDN). A Double-crested Cormorant was observed on the Kootenai R. near Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, June 8 (LDN).

Forty or more of the species were reported to have occurred on MacArthur L. (no dates given) (MB, *vide* LDN). A few appeared on the Snake R. near Bruneau and Hammett, ID, in June (DJo). Up to 28 were sighted at the Yakima R. mouth (REW *et al.*). Two pairs of Great Blue Herons nested at Saddle Mountain N.W.R. west of Othello for the first breeding record there (WRR). A new heronry of the species brought the Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. total to 3. Great Egrets showed an increase in the Springfield Bottoms area around American Falls Res. in s.e. Idaho with a high of seven June 29 (CHT). One appeared at Cloverdale, Deschutes, OR, July 30 (LR) as did one at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, WA (JW). One was west of Burleigh, ID, and two were at Banbury Hot Springs north-northwest of Buhl, ID, along with a Black-crowned Night-Heron June 9 (DJo). The hot springs had nine Snowy Egrets the next day (DJo). Up to five Black-crowns were sighted at Lewiston, ID, the first week of June (WH, JM). A Green-backed Heron was seen at Mosier, OR, July 30 (DL). Over 1200 White-faced Ibises were counted July 1 along the mud flats at American Falls Res., and another 1000 were seen along the flats south of the Snake R. in that vicinity. Dropping water levels provided much feeding area (CHT). No sightings of the species have been obtained since May in c. Washington (RF).

**WATERFOWL** -- It was another excellent year for Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. and the Centennial Valley, MT. Up to 161 cygnets and 312 adults were counted there (JB). Four of five pairs of Trumpeters nesting at Malheur hatched 12 young, but only seven young were seen on an aerial count July 28. Canada Goose production at Kootenai N.W.R. was a little more than half of last year's due to increased nest predation (LDN). At Malheur the species reproduction was estimated at 1560 fledged. Although duck reproduction there was close to the 10-year average, most surface-feeding species, particularly Mallards and Cinnamon Teal, showed large increases, but success for most diving ducks dropped markedly. Canvasback reproduction was only 273 compared to the 10-year average of 661. Wood Duck numbers at Columbia N.W.R. increased, with peaks of about 25, but as a whole duck numbers were down there (WRR). Only 3 of 9 Wood Duck nesting attempts on Rock Island Pool near Wenatchee, WA, were successful, compared to 8

last year (RF). Two records of Wood Ducks and one of a Hooded Merganser at Malheur were noteworthy. The latter had died of avian botulism (GI). A female Wood Duck at Red Rock Lakes made a very rare appearance there (JB). The drought was believed to be the reason that Mallards reared 6 broods at 6400 ft elevation at Crystal L. in the Lewiston, MT. area (LM). A Blue-winged Teal at the Hood R. mouth, OR, June 4 was a rarity (DL). Fourteen broods of Com. Goldeneye were sighted in the Fortine vicinity, the most since 1978 (WW). A male Hooded Merganser at Richland July 23 supplied Woodley's first summer record there.

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**HAWKS TO CRANES** -- At least 3 nesting pairs of Ospreys were found along the Salmon R. near Salmon, ID (HR), and one at the Yakima R. mouth June 23 and July 18 suggested breeding in that vicinity (REW). The species' numbers in n.c. Washington seem to be increasing (RF). Seventy-six young Ospreys were banded in the Coeur d' Alene L. and R. area (DJ). Of 3 Bald Eagle nests in the vicinity of Kootenai N.W.R., 2 were known to have fledged two young each (LDN). One nest in the Centennial Valley fledged one young (JB). A N. Goshawk nest in the Hayden L. area, ID, contained three young (JS). A phenomenal concentration of raptors near Rockland, ID, attracted by a vole population explosion, consisted mainly of Swainson's Hawks; up to 77 were counted July 28 (FR). Thirty Golden Eagle territories monitored each year on and adjacent to Malheur fledged 33 young, a record number, apparently in response to high jackrabbit populations (GI). Of 68 Golden Eagle nesting territories surveyed in *Okanogan*, WA, 32 were occupied, 16 of them producing 21 young, close to the long-term average (VM). A Gray Partridge was found near White River Canyon, Wasco, OR. The species is rare and declining in this county (DL, VT). A Wild Turkey was sighted at Joseph Creek Wildlife Refuge Area south of Asotin, WA (C.B., B.H.A.S.), and a female was observed near Hines, OR (EC). In s.e. Oregon, where they are rare, two Gray Partridges were sighted at Cottonwood Cr. near Fields (AM), and one was seen south of Burns (GI). Eleven Yellow Rails were counted in the Ft. Klamath, OR, area July 8 (TS).

A Sora nest at Coeur d' Alene L. contained 13 eggs June 11 and seven young and 6 eggs June 24 (CS). Numerous Sandhill Cranes were noted in the Salmon area, where they still appear to be increasing (HR). Notable were two at Cascade Res., Valley, ID (RV), and two near Cape Horn, ID, in late June (JD, DJo, RV).

**PLOVERS TO TERNs** -- Two pairs of Snowy Plovers at Springfield Bottoms by American Falls Res. were strongly suspected of nesting (BJ, CHT). A pair of Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Stinking L., Malheur, the same place where the species nested in 1987 (GI). One bird was at Haystack Res. south of Madras, OR, July 17 (TC), and two were at Summer L., OR, July 14 (MA). Black-necked Stilts nested in large numbers at Columbia N.W.R. but had a poor production year (WRR). Bruneau Sand Dunes S.P. had seven June 14 (JD, DJo). Two appeared at Two Rivers S.P. near Pasco, WA, June 4 (MD), and the species appeared at Crooked Knee L. and Sheep L., n.w. *Whitman*, July 2 (DP, JP). Whether or not the 2 stilt nests at Reardan, WA, were successful was not determined. Up to 1288 Am. Avocets were counted at Springfield Bottoms in July (CHT). Large numbers nested at Columbia N.W.R. but with little success (WRR). Adult and chicken Am. Avocets were observed June 15 at Reardan for the first nesting record there (JA). A Willet was reported near Leadore, ID, June 29 (HR). An ad Upland Sandpiper accompanied by four chicks was observed in Round Valley south of Cascade, ID. The valley is threatened by a proposed dam that would flood nearly all the birds' habitat there (JMa). An in-depth study, under the direction of the Washington State Department of Wildlife at the species' nesting grounds along the Washington-Idaho border east of Spokane, found 2 territorial pairs plus a trio, which were believed to be nesting (LT). A scattering of shorebirds of many species was arriving from Canada in July. Three sightings of single Whimbrels were made in the vicinity of American Falls Res. in July (BJ, JTi). In Oregon one appeared at Hatfield L., Bend, July 13 (TC, CM), and another was at Upper Klamath L. July 7 (FI, RG). An unusual gathering of 30 Long-billed Curlews occurred June 24 near Lowden, WA (LG, BR). An unprecedented eight Marbled Godwits stopped at Hatfield L. June 25 for the 3rd record for *Deschutes*, OR (TC). Another was at Upper Klamath L. July 7 (FI,

RG). Four were sighted at Unity Res. north of Unity, OR, June 28 (CC, MC), and six were at the Yakima R. mouth July 11 (REW). Malheur L. had a total of 16 of the species July 19 (DPa). A Stilt Sandpiper essentially in breeding plumage was at Reardan on the unprecedented date of July 24--ordinarily, only juveniles occur there, and they arrive after Aug. 15 (JA). One was seen at Springfield Bottoms July 8 (CHT). A Short-billed Dowitcher appeared near Frenchtown, MT, July 23-24 (DH). A carefully examined **Red Phalarope** appeared at a pond north of Helena, MT, June 7-8 for the latilong's first and only the state's 6th (GO). Up to 13 Franklin's Gulls were sighted in the Lewiston, ID-Clarkston, WA, vicinity in June (WHe, LL, PP, LP, CV). One in breeding plumage was sighted at Wallula June 25 (MD), and Abert L., *Lake*, OR, had two June 30 (MA). Virtually no Franklin's were present at Red Rock Lakes, in contrast with hundreds last year; the gull nesting colony was completely absent there this year (JB). Two Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Clarkston June 7 (LL, LS) and one at Sheep L. July 2 (DP, JP). Two winter plumaged birds were at Wallula June 25, and two appeared there July 17 (MD). One was present on Migraine L., Columbia N.W.R., during June and July (WRR), and two were at Wenatchee L., *Chelan*, WA, July 12 (WD). "Hundreds" of Caspian Terns were reported at Wallula July 17 for one of many reports (MD). Two flying over Yakima, WA, June 7 were very unusual (BB, DG). A few appeared in the Lewiston-Clarkston area (m.ob.) as did a Forster's Tern (LL, LS). Over 40 pairs of Black Terns were reported at Goose L. southeast of Omak, WA (LPo, VM). They may constitute the largest nesting concentration in n.c. Washington (RF).

**CUCKOOS TO HUMMINGBIRDS** -- A Singing Black-billed Cuckoo was observed at length at Davis L., *Pend Oreille*, WA, June 19 (JA, WH). Two of these birds were found at L. Helena July 9 for the 2nd report in the Helena area in 20 years (SMa). At least four Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found along the Snake R. above American Falls Res. June 12 (CHT), and one was reported in Rexburg, ID (*vide* CHT). One became a window casualty 7 mi east of Stevensville, MT, June 7 (JC, \*U.M.). A Flammulated Owl was sighted in Bear Valley south of John Day, OR, June 19 (SM), and one, on Idaho's rare bird list, was sighted at Coeur d' Alene July 5 (GH). An ad and an imm Spotted Owl were

found in the Easton, WA, area July 21 (DP, JP). Two Barred Owls were heard and one seen at Big Meadow L. west of Ione, WA, June 4 (DP, JP), and two were found along Upper Priest R. in n. Idaho July 16 (SHS). The species appears to be on the increase in this area. A nest of this species with two young was found south of Coeur d' Alene (ph. CS), and a pair with a fledgling was sighted July 24 along the Little Pend Oreille R., *Pend Oreille*, WA (BW). Great Gray Owls were located near Lolo Pass on the Idaho-Montana border, and four Boreal Owls fledged there (DH). An imm. N. Saw-whet Owl was reported at Malheur Hq. June 25 (CDL). A Com. Poorwill, rare in *Jefferson*, OR, was found near Camp Sherman north of Sisters July 26 (LR). Also unusual was one at Carmen Cr. north of Salmon, ID, July 22 (HR). The Snake R. from Asotin, WA, up to Buffalo Rapids yielded 50 Vaux's Swifts June 5 (LL, CV, B.H.A.S.). A female Black-chinned Hummingbird at Calamity Butte Lookout north-northeast of Burns, OR, July 17 made the first record there (MA), and up to two frequented a Dayville, OR, feeder in June and July (PS). Territorial male Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were again located at Quake L., Madison (or *Gallatin?*), MT (EHa). Probable Broad-taileds, a male and two females, frequented feeders all summer at Hayden L., ID (PH). Rufous Hummingbirds were observed during the entire period in Othello and at Columbia N.W.R, leading to suspicion of breeding (WRR).

WOODPECKERS TO PIPITS -- Sightings of Lewis' Woodpeckers in *Chelan*, *Okanogan*, and *Yakima*, WA, were encouraging. At least 15 active nests were found at Ft. Simcoe (BB).

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Two birds thought to be ad male Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsuckers were carefully identified at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin, WA, July 5 (BW). Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported in the mountains of *Chelan* and *Okanogan*. White-headed Woodpeckers appear to be decreasing in the e. Cascade Mts., WA, as a result of more logging of old-growth ponderosa pines (AS, BB). A pair was feeding nestlings at Fields Spring S.P. (m.ob.). A Least Flycatcher was reported at Malheur

Hq. June 4 (PPi). Two singing males were found 10 mi west of Oroville, WA, June 4-6 (WWe) and one at Patterson L. west of Winthrop, WA (DHu). Two pairs of Ash-throated Flycatchers nested in bluebird boxes in the Wenas Valley northwest of Yakima for that area's first breeding record. Both nests apparently fledged three young (ED, HV, VV). Another pair was at a nest box along Umtanum Rd. south of Ellensburg, WA (DP, JP, DG, AS). One was observed at Malheur Hq. June 11 (RH). Four pairs of Tree Swallows at Fortine raised 2nd broods, the first time, with one exception, that this has happened there since 1944 (WW). About 500 pairs of Bank Swallows fledged young at Saddle Mountain N.W.R. Unusual was a concentration of 200+ Cliff Swallows north of Lowden, WA, nowhere near a nesting site July 3 (SM). Two Scrub Jays were sighted at Tygh Valley, *Wasco*, WA, where they are rare (DL, VT). Two Boreal Chickadees visited a feeder at Hayden L., *Kootenai*, ID, July 24 & 26 (PH). Chestnut-backed Chickadees have been reported in the Coeur d' Alene area in summer for the last 3 years (*fide* SHS). Some 15 Rock Wrens were entering holes in soft-cut banks northwest of Lowden in an area of wheat fields with no sign of rocky outcroppings (SM). Canyon Wrens were observed at Perma, MT, in late June (RL, DT). A Bewick's Wren appeared at P-Ranch, Malheur, June 27 (CDL), and one was singing at Rose Creek Preserve near Albion, WA (DP, JP). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen near Page Springs C.G., Frenchglen, OR, June 3 (PS). A pair of W. Bluebirds was presumably nesting near Calamity Butte Lookout (MA). A Varied Thrush was reported at Fields, OR, June 8, and a Gray Catbird was sighted at Malheur Hq. the same day (DB, JG). One of the latter species was found along the Yakima R. at Richland July 23 for Woodley's 2nd sighting there in 17 years. One appeared near Dayville, OR, June 1 (PS). A N. Mockingbird was observed near Mansfield, OR, June 2 (RF), and another appeared northeast of Wallowa, OR, June 21 (TS). One was sighted in the Cusick, WA, vicinity June 5 (DP, JP). Malheur Hq. had a Brown Thrasher June 7 (DB, JG). A carefully described **Sprague's Pipit** along Double-O Ranch Rd. at Malheur June 4 was apparently Oregon's first (GL, BRo, TS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Malheur had 2 Red-eyed Vireo sightings in June (*fide* GI, NB). Two were found at 5600 ft. elevation in the Snowy Mts. south of

Lewiston June 4 (LKM). A Tennessee Warbler was heard singing at Fields (*vide* GI). At least seven N. Parulas were found in e. Oregon, all but one in Harney (TC *et al.*). One was identified west of Lolo, MT (AB, DH). Indian Ford C.G. near Sisters, OR, had a Chestnut-sided Warbler June 17 for the county's first record (BL, LLu), and one was at Benson Pond, Malheur, June 10 (AM). Malheur Hq. had a Magnolia Warbler June 7 (DB, JG) and a pair of Townsend's Warblers June 2 (PS). Two singing Black-throated Gray Warblers were sighted near Mission Ridge west of Wenatchee June 16 (JT). Hermit Warblers were found nesting on Simnasho Butte, *Wasco*, OR (DL), and one was singing on Bald Mt. southwest of Cliffdell, WA, June 1 (WC). Fields reported a Blackburnian Warbler June 7 (RS). A Blackpoll Warbler was noted at Malheur Hq. June 7 (DB, JG) and a Black-and-white Warbler at Andrews, OR, June 4 (DB, JG). A singing male of the latter species was viewed near Cusick, WA, June 25 (DG, AS), and one was at Fields Springs S.P. June 5 (KB, RSm). Single Am. Redstarts appeared at Malheur, Fields, and Hart L., *Lake*, OR. An Ovenbird was observed at Fields (JG), and two were singing at Benson Pond June 5 (PPi). Palouse Falls S.P., *Franklin*, WA, had one June 11 (WH). Two N. Waterthrushes were sighted at Crescent Creek C.G., *Klamath*, OR (AC).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES -- A singing Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Vantage, WA, June 24 (PM). One was observed at Malheur Hq. June 4 (PPi *et al.*), and the male Indigo Bunting there in the spring was last seen June 3 (GI). A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing near State Line, ID, June 18 (JA). A Black-throated Sparrow was singing on the escarpment above Greaser Res. in Warner Valley, *Lake*, OR, July 1 (MA). Two to three of the species, one singing, were again found near Wanapum S.P., Vantage, WA (JA, DP, JP, m.ob.), and a singing male was located in the Horse Lake Rd. area west of Wenatchee June 11 (JT). Lark Buntings were singing on territory at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JB). They also appeared at Sheridan, MT, and along Skalkaho Rd., *Granite*, MT (DS), west of their normal range. The species was increasing in the desert around Arco, ID (TR); and a flock of 10-15 appeared to be nesting in the Lemhi River Valley in s.e. Idaho (HR). A major movement of Lark Buntings occurred in the Helena area, where they remained well into July

(GHo). At least six to eight Grasshopper Sparrows were singing on territory at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JB). Three Bobolinks at Mt. Vernon, OR, in mid-July made a rare sighting (PS), and one at Baker, ID, June 14 was noteworthy (HR). The colony of Bobolink southwest of Toppenish, WA, appeared to be doing well with 15-20 displaying males seen (BB). Several Com. Grackles were seen in their nesting area at Soda Springs, ID (CHT). Possible Purple Finches were reported in the Hayden L. and Thompson L. vicinities and on Joseph Plain west of Whitebird, ID. The Cusick area provided sightings in several fields (DP, JP). Several **Lesser Goldfinches** were sighted at Pocatello (CHT *et al.*), and a family group with five begging young was along Mink Cr. north of Cherry Springs, ID, for apparently the state's first breeding record (CW, DS, CHT).

CORRIGENDUM -- Of the Boreal Owls reported in AB 42 107, only eight were found in Oregon; the other nine were in *Columbia*, WA.

OBSERVERS CITED (**Subregional Editors in boldface**) -- James Acton, Merle Archie, D. Bailey, Janissa Balcomb, Black Hills Audubon Society (B.H.A.S.), N. Bock-Larson, **Bob Boekelheide** (Yakima area), Arnold Bolle, Keith Brady, Mel Branch, Wilson Cady, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Jean Collins, Alan Contreras, Craig & Marion Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), E. Curry, Merry Lynn & Mike Denny, Ed Derry, Wayne Doane, Jo Dodds, Pat Flammia, **Ron Friesz** (c. Washington), Jeff Gilligan, Rebecca Goggins, Larry Goodhew, Denny Granstrand, Warren Hall (WH), Gertie Hanson (GH), Ed Harper (EHa), R. Hayes, Winnie Hepburn (WHe), Denver Holt (DH), **George Holton** (GHo)(Helena area), Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn (EH), Dave Hutchinson (DHu), Frank Isaacs, Gary Ivey, Bryan Jamison, Don Johnson (DJ), **Dean Jones** (DJo) (s.w. Idaho), **Merlene Koliner** (Lewiston-Clarkston area), Louise La Vole (LL), Rose Leach, Gerard Lillie, C.D. Littlefield, Bob & Louise Lucas (LLu), Donna Lusthoff, Larry Malone, Jeff Marks (JMa), Verne Mart, Sid Martin (SMa), Joanne McCormack (JM), Phil Mattocks, A. McGie, Craig Miller, Dirk & **Shirley Muse** (SM) (Walla Walla area), Larry D Napier, George Oberst, Doug Page (DPg),



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*The Nesting Season 1988*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

Temperature and rainfall at the Seattle and Portland weather stations this season were just tiny fractions above the long-term averages. However, two-thirds of that rain fell during June 1-10 and marked an end to the wet spring. The rest of the season was very dry and very warm. The report from southern Vancouver Island was again unavailable. However, Stuart Johnston camped and birded four weeks in the Queen Charlotte Islands and the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island. His extensive report provided much new distributional information.

ABBREVIATIONS--Q.C.Is. = Queen Charlotte Is., BC; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., OR; V.I. = Vancouver I., BC. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS -- Common Loons nested in w. Washington this year! The sites were on Chester Morse L., in the restricted King Co. watershed (*fide* Harold Laws) and Hozomeen L., e. of Ross L., *Whatcom* (D. Drummond, J. Bjorklund). Also, a yodeling bird was heard June 11 on Rattlesnake L., King (RT), and a winter-plumaged bird was seen June 11 on Swift Res., *Lewis*, WA (D. Anderson, DL). The usual few were seen during June on bays and inlets throughout the Region, and 15 were back to Griffin Bay, San Juan I., July 8 (ML). A pair of Red-throated Loons was acting as if territorial June 25 at Cluxewe Wildlife Area, Port McNeill, V.I. (SJ). Another pair was heard July 7 at nearby Alert Bay (SJ). A flock of 70 Pacific Loons at the S.J.C.R. July 9 and later (JJ) was unusual. Another thirty off Whidbey I., WA, July 30 (FB) were also early. The Yellow-billed Loon found in May on Timothy L., south of Mt. Hood, OR, stayed through June 4 (†DL). A Clark's Grebe found on that same Timothy L. June 14 (Phil Pickering, *fide* HN) was anomalous. A few breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebes were seen June 24-July 6 at Port Hardy, Port McNeill, and Malcolm I., on or near northwestern V.I. (SJ), but no further breeding evidence was obtained. A Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage July 23 at the S.J.C.R. (JJ, Bob O'Brien), and single Horned Grebes July 24 at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., WA (RT) and July 30 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC (DT), were each very early. About 500 W. Grebes were on Bellingham Bay, WA, June 5 and 300+ were still there June 13, but none stayed through July (TW). Another 70 were at Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC, June 12 (WW) and 200+ were at Seaside, OR, July 23 (DL, J. Biewener) for larger than usual numbers present this season. Pelagic trips off Westport, WA, found 193 Black-footed Albatrosses July 23 and 149 Pink-footed Shearwaters July 5, for higher than usual counts (TW). However, only three N. Fulmars seen on each trip were many fewer than usual. A thorough survey found no Double-crested Cormorants nesting in the San Juan Is., WA (ML). There had been 372 nests at 3 locations there in 1983, followed by either complete nest failure or no attempts in 1985-1987 (ML). Perhaps they were just moving north, as the nearby colony on Mandarte BC, has been growing steadily with about 1000 birds and 300 nests this season (ML). There were, however, 158 nests of Pelagic Cormorants at 9 locations in the San Juans,

with another 400 on Mandarte I. (ML). This species prefers the steep, less-accessible sides of cliffs and rocks. A few Great Egrets were reported, as usual, but no breeding activity was noted. None returned to the large Great Blue Heron rookery on Samish I., WA, where several spent the season last year (V. Clark). Several ad Black-crowned Night-Herons frequented the Astoria sewage ponds through the season (MPa), and two adults were seen in Seattle July 4 (RT), but no nesting was observed.

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GEESE TO CRANES -- A few Brant occasionally summer along the outer coast, but 22 at Alsea Bay, OR, June 8 (RL), 19 near Port McNeill, V.I., June 24-26, including a color-banded bird (SJ), and 40 at Bandon, OR, July 9 (VT) were large numbers. Eight male Blue-winged Teal were at the *Snobomish*, WA, sewage ponds June 5 (DP), 40 were at Iona I., near Vancouver, BC, June 16 (GT), and five males and three females were north to the Hiellen R. mouth, near Masset, Q.C.Is., June 13 (SJ). Broods of Cinnamon Teal were noted in Auburn, WA (Thais Bock), and north to Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, BC (WW) A pair of N. Shovelers at Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary, Masset, Q.C.Is., June 13 (SJ), and a pair of Canvasback at the Sunshine Valley ponds e. of Hope, BC, June 6 (WW), were both west of the usual breeding ranges of these ducks. A male Eur. Wigeon seen June 8 on Reifel I., BC, was late (JI). A brood of Am. Wigeon and one of Redhead seen July 17 at the Kent ponds, *King*, WA (EH), were among very few such records. Six males and four female Redheads and a male Canvasback were west to Delkatla, Q.C.Is., June 13-18 (SJ). Two broods of Ring-necked Ducks, rare nesters in Washington, were found May 30-June 1 on Ft. Lewis, *Pierce* (GW). Several groups of Greater Scaup lingered, with 50 at English Bay, Vancouver, BC (WW), 25 at Delkatla, Q.C.Is., (SJ) and eight more at Dungeness, WA (Dory Smith), all June 12-18. The return of Surf and White-winged scoters was widely noted in Washington and Oregon June 26-July 10. A pair of Com Goldeneyes with one young were seen July 18 on Chenamus L., in the Indian Heaven Wilderness, *Skamania*, WA (WC), for one of few nesting records for the state. Six female Com Goldeneyes were noted June 10-20 on Graham and Moresby islands, Q.C.Is., (SJ),

where they have not yet been found breeding. A few female Buffleheads were scattered south to the Warrenton, OR, ponds (MPa), but no nesting activity was noted. Numerous broods of Com. Merganser were found in the Q.C.Is., and the north end of V.I. (SJ). A nest of Black-shouldered Kites was finally found in Washington (Dave Batchelder). It held three young and was near the Raymond airport, where a small group of kites appears to be resident. A single kite was north to the Kent, WA, ponds July 2-3 (Bob Chadwick, Hal Fray, Bill Odekirk) for the first *King* record. Northern Harrier nests were located on Lopez I., WA (RW, Bob Myhr) and near Steigerwald L., *Clark*, WA (WC) An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk seen July 24 near Fish L., *Jackson*, OR (HS) furnished the only report. Eleven Cooper's Hawk sightings were spread from Ashland, OR, north to Duncan, V.I., and Reifel I., BC, with no nests reported. Merlins were found "surprisingly often"; June 29-July 11 at Malcolm I. off n. V.I., and at the mouths of the Nimpkish, Kokish, Salmon, and Campbell rivers on V.I. (SJ). They were often seen carrying small sandpipers inland. Single Merlins were seen nearby at Iona I. on July 10 (MPr), and Boundary Bay, BC July 12 (Xavier Lambin). Single Merlins seen in Seattle June 30 (RT) and in Edmonds July 9 (Todd Hass) were far from known breeding sites. Several Peregrine Falcon nests in Washington successfully fledged young, continuing the dramatic recovery of this species. The recent dry summers are believed to be the reason for N. Bobwhites becoming "increasingly common" on Ft. Lewis and adjacent *Pierce*, WA (GW). A pair of Sandhill Cranes nested after May 10 on the Butte Falls R.D. of the Rogue River NF in S. Oregon (OS, Ed Abbott). This is just west of the small breeding population in e. Oregon. Three pairs of cranes were also noted in the Q.C.Is. June 11-15 (SJ).

SHOREBIRDS – Snowy Plovers nested successfully again at their northern outpost at Ocean Shores (GG). This area has recently been posted off-limits to ORV traffic. Many pairs of Semipalmated Plovers were observed June 11-17 on Graham I., and about 7 pairs, including one with a chick, June 19-20 on Moresby I., both in the Q.C.Is. This marks the species' southernmost regular nesting location (SJ). Four Semipalmated Plovers at Tillamook June 25 (HN), three on Boundary Bay, BC, June 26 (BK, LM), and eight on Leadbetter Pt., WA, June 27 (RT) may have

been summering birds. Definite migratory influxes were noted on the outer coast July 15-19 (G & WH, MPa). A Killdeer nest seen near Masset apparently established the first breeding record for the Q.C.Is., and other Killdeer were noted there at Cape Fife, Rose Spit, and Sandspit airport (SJ). A pair of Black-necked Stilts found June 1 on the Nisqually N.W.R., WA (E. & T. Norwood) stayed the entire season, but no further evidence was obtained for a potential first nesting record for w. Washington. The Am. Avocets found in May on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC, were discovered June 9 to have 2 nests with 4 eggs each (WW, Doug Wilson) for the first Vancouver area breeding record. Young hatched in both nests but none was fledged, probably owing to raccoon predation (*vide* DK). Sightings of one or two Greater Yellowlegs were made June 16-28 at Iona I., BC (BK, LM), Baskett Slough N.W.R. (Barb Bellin), and coastal Oregon (HN). The first flocks were of 18 at the Serpentine Fen June 28 (H & JM), four at Agate L., Jackson, OR, June 29 (OS), and 15 at Reifel I., BC, July 1 and later (JJ). The first juveniles noted were at the S.J.C.R. July 23 (JJ). The only Solitary Sandpiper reported was at the Warrenton, OR, ponds July 19-24 (MPa). A Willet was flushed July 6 from the Nimpkish R. mouth, northwest V.I. (†SJ), well west of the usual migratory path. The same day a flock of 18 was first noted back to Seal Rock, OR (ME, D. MacManiman). Two Wandering Tattlers lingered in *Tillamook*, OR, until June 8 (RL, JA). The first returning birds were noted July 16 at the S.J.C.R. (JJ). Groups of 20+ Whimbrels stayed through June at Bandon, OR (LT, HN), and at Ocean Shores, WA (G & WH, BM). About 600 had returned to Ocean Shores by July 13 (GG). Single Marbled Godwits were noted June 14-16 in Surrey, BC (RB, H & JM) and June 17 at Ocean Shores (G & WH). Six had returned to the "wintering" sites at Tokeland, WA, by July 9 (Murray Hansen, G & WH). A Black Turnstone was seen June 1-3 in a flooded, plowed field at the Serpentine Fen (†H & JM) for the first June record for the Vancouver, BC, area) Six in alternate plumage, though presumably migrants, were noted June 19-20 at Sandspit, Moresby I., Q.C.Is. (SJ). Arrival farther south was June 26 on Smith I., w. of Whidbey I., WA (R. McCloskey) and July 8 at Bandon, OR (LT). The first Surfbirds were noted July 7 on San Juan I., WA (ML), and July 16 at Seal Rocks, OR (P. Reed, *vide* DF). A subad Red Knot seen July 4-5 on False Bay, San Juan I, WA (Greg Ruiz, Frank Pitelka, Herb Wilson, ML) furnished a first county record. About 25

Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, away from the extensive Iona I. ponds. A very early one at Tillamook Bay, OR, July 2 (JJ) was the first of about 14 Oregon sightings. Four were on far northwest V.I. July 4-11 (†SJ). At Iona I., one appeared June 25, numbers increased to 20-25 during July 1-4, and 85 were present July 5 (MPr). Arrival of W. Sandpipers was marked by 150 at Iona I. June 25 (MPr) and eight at the Kirtland Road ponds, Medford, OR, the same day (OS). About 650 were at Crockett L., Whidbey I., WA, June 27 (FB) and 1000 were at Tillamook, OR, July 2 (JJ, JGi) Numbers at Iona I. increased to 5000-10,000 June 29-July 2 (MPr *et al.*). The high counts were of 35,000 on Boundary Bay, BC, July 10-11 (BK, H & JM *et al.*), 2000 at Ocean Shores July 13-15 (GG, G & WH), and 1000 at Warrenton and the S.J.C.R. July 13-18 (HN, MPa). With these flocks were a breeding plumaged **Rufous-necked Stint** at Iona I. June 26-July 5 (†MPr, †BK, †WW, m.ob.) for about the 5th record there, and a breeding-plumaged **Little Stint** on nearby Boundary Bay July 10 (†BK; †Frank Walker, LM *et al.*) for only the 2nd accepted Vancouver area record. Least Sandpipers show a different migratory pattern, with high counts of 1500 at Tillamook, OR, July 2 (JJ, JGi), 1000 at the S.J.C.R. July 6 (HN), 200 at Ocean Shores July 13 (GG), and only 12 at Iona I. July 1 (MPr). Least Sandpipers also nest in the Region. Several were displaying at Delkatla near Masset,

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Graham I, Q.C.Is., June 18 (SJ). Single Baird's Sandpipers June 20 were at Sandspit, Q.C.Is. (SJ), June 25 at the Cluxewe R. mouth, Port McNeill, V.I. (SJ), and June 28 at Iona I. (RP) were early. Single Stilt Sandpipers in non-breeding plumage were noted at Warrenton, OR, July 4-5 (MPa, HN) and Bandon, OR, July 9 (VT). Other ad Stilts were at Warrenton July 13-23 (HN, †DL, m.ob.), Auburn, WA, July 30 (JGa, FB), and Nehalem, OR, July 31 (†DL, JJ, JGi). About 1500 Short-billed Dowitchers at Ocean Shores July 13 (GG) made the high count. Groups of four to six Wilson's Phalaropes were noted during June at Iona I. (GT *et al.*), Swifts Bay pond on Lopez I., WA (RW), N. Portland (JJ, HN), and the Kirtland Road ponds in

Medford, OR (OS), but as usual no nesting evidence was obtained.

SKUAS TO PUFFINS -- A S. Polar Skua seen July 5 well offshore Westport, WA (TW), was early, and six there July 23 were more than normal for the season. The first juv. Franklin's Gulls arrived July 17 at the S.J.C.R. (L. Weiland, P. Muller) and July 23 at Sauvie I. (JJ, JGi) and represented fewer than usual records. Thirty-six Bonaparte's Gulls lingered at the Medford ponds until June 3 (OS, HN), 200 were at Iona I., BC, until June 9 (MPr), and about that number stayed all summer at Bandon, OR (LT), and San Juan I., WA (ML). Migratory influxes of several hundred were noted July 10-17 at Sayward, V.I. (SJ), Kent, WA (EH), and Waldport, OR (L. Landis, *vide* DF). Movement of up to several hundred Heermann's Gulls was observed July 5 off San Juan I. (ML), and July 20-25 at Ilwaco, WA (Rich Hoyer, Jr.) and Newport, OR (DF). Returning Ring-billed Gulls were first noted July 7 at both San Juan I., WA (ML), and the Nimpkish R. mouth, V.I. (SJ). Five California Gulls seen June 16 at Rose Spit, Graham I., Q.C.Is., were apparently summering, as were the 100+ at several locations near Port Hardy, V.I., June 23-29 (both SJ). Widespread arrival in the Region was in mid-July. Eleven hundred Glaucous-winged Gull nests were counted in the San Juan Is. (ML). This is about the same number as last year. Another 1000 were on nearby Mandarte I., BC (*vide* ML). About 80 subad Black-legged Kittiwakes were present June 16 at the tip of Rose Spit, n.e. Graham I., Q.C.Is. (SJ). The nearest colony is apparently near Sitka, AK, about 250 mi to the north. The numerous Caspian Terns in the Region appear to have established a new nesting colony, on Miller I. in the Lewis and Clark N.W.R. just upriver from Astoria, OR (HN, MPa). Two Caspians were north to Rose Spit, Graham I., Q.C.Is., June 16 (SJ), where a few had been seen last year as well (Mary Morris). Sixty-seven at Brunswick Pt., Delta, June 11 (MPr) made the high count for s.w. British Columbia. Surely there is an acceptable tern island somewhere in the Fraser R. delta. A Com. Tern was at Iona I., BC, June 25 (MPr), an unusual date. One Forster Tern at the Serpentine Fen, BC, June 15 (†JM), furnished the first June record, and only the 10th overall record for the Vancouver area. At least 3 pairs of Arctic Terns nested on the future Navy Home Port site in Everett, WA (JC, m.ob.), and 2 pairs were feeding

young fledglings there June 23 (Mike Mallea). However, the entire area was opened to July 4th parking, and there were no subsequent sightings. JC has organized a team to clear nest sites on nearby Jetty I. and entice the birds back there (see *AB* 33:144-145, 1979) next May with decoys and tape-recordings. The nest of a radio-tagged Marbled Murrelet was found in mid-June about 12 mi up the Umpqua R., Douglas, OR (Kim Nelson, *vide* EC). The Wash. Dept. of Wildlife fielded a survey team of observers who listened before dawn for murrelet flight calls near tall timber (Barry Troutman, EC). Numerous sightings included several around Lake Twenty two on Pilchuck Mt., about 22 mi e. of Everett, *Snobomish* (F. Sharpe, N. Talayco). Two "hatching-year" Ancient Murrelets were noted July 5 offshore Westport (TW), and seven Ancients were seen July 12 from shore at Boiler Bay, OR (S. Malone, *vide* HN). Presumably these birds were nesting in the Region, but where? Two or more pairs of Tufted Puffins finally began nesting activity in mid-June at the Cape Meares, OR, colony (HN). A Horned Puffin was found again June 15 on Hunter's I., Curry, OR, where one was also seen in 1983 and 1987 (RL, JA, *vide* ME).

DOVES TO THRASHERS -- Mourning Doves are "becoming increasingly common" in the open prairies around Ft Lewis, WA (GW). Barred Owls were found in numerous locations in w. Washington this season (TW). Barreds have replaced Spotted Owls on Long I., Willapa N.W.R., WA (J. Atkinson) and appeared to be doing the same along Ross L., *Whatcom* (Bob Kuntz). The pair at Discovery Park in Seattle fledged two young in June (DB, RT). A pair of N. Saw-whet Owls fledged three young near Winslow, Bainbridge I., *Kitsap*, WA (Ian Paulsen). Comments about Com. Nighthawks in w. Washington ranged from "none" to "fairly common" with no detectable pattern. However, SJ camped along northern V.I. June 24-July 13 and heard only four. Six Black Swifts were present at their outpost at Salt Creek Falls, east of Oakridge, OR (*vide* ME) A Lewis' Woodpecker found July 15 near Mingus Park, *Coos*, OR (Ben Fawver), was unusual there. Nests of Red-breasted Sapsuckers were found June 8 along the Skeena R. n e of Terrace, BC, and June 11 & 14 on Graham I., Q.C.Is. (SJ). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers was seen July 2 at the now regular location along Howe Sound Trail, W. Vancouver, BC (T. Plath, L. Koch). The Dusky Flycatcher found in

May on a clearcut near Scoggins Valley Park, Washington, OR, was still present June 9, and another was located on a clearcut near Scappoose, OR, June 12 (both JE, *fide* HN). A Least Flycatcher was found June 19-July 1 at Pitt Meadows, BC (†Carlo Giovanella, H & JM) for about the 6th record for the Vancouver area. A pair of W Kingbirds was acting as if territorial when seen June 6 and July 14 on an Impact Zone at Ft. Lewis, WA, but no nest or young were located (GW). A family group of six Purple Martins seen July 11 on marina pilings on Tyee Spit, Campbell River, V.I. (SJ) represented a slight northward range extension. This species "did well in martin and wood-duck boxes this year" on Ft. Lewis, WA (GW), and two to 15 pairs were reported from 7 other sites. A Rock Wren stayed May 21-June 6 at Mt. Tuam Lookout, Saltspring I., off southern V.I. (VO *et al.*). Other Rock Wrens were noted in June on Goat I., in Skagit Bay, WA (J. Wiggers, *fide* TW), s.e. of Greenwater, in Pierce, WA (J. TerLouw), and on the n. slope of Mt. St. Helens (RT). A Bewick's Wren was singing July 12 in Campbell River, V.I., at the n.w. limit of its range (SJ). Continuing their expansion in w. Washington, House Wrens were on territory in Bellingham June 12 (TW) and a pair nested successfully in Discovery Park, Seattle (†DB). Two male Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted July 9 on Howe Sound Trail, W. Vancouver (DT), for only the 2nd breeding season record for the Vancouver, BC, area; No Ruby-crowns were found in the Q.C.Is. June 11-21 (SJ). A dozen W. Bluebirds were observed June 6 nesting on the Mt. Tuam Lookout, Saltspring I., off southern V.I. (VO) GW banded 600 of the 694 W. Bluebird fledglings this year from the 215 pairs on Ft. Lewis, WA. A record 270 fledglings were banded on the Corvallis, OR, trail despite large losses during the wet May (M & EE). Single N. Mockingbirds appeared June 12-14 at Vernonia (JE) and Portland (D. Baccus, A. Miller), OR, and Sedro Woolley (TW) and the Nisqually N.W.R (†C. Bowers), WA. Another was seen July 21 on Reifel I., BC (K. Wiebe). A vagrant Sage Thrasher was noted June 2 on Tatoosh I., off the n.w. tip of Clallam (Tim Wootten, ph., Bob Paine) for the 7th record for w. Washington.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES -- A singing male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen July 2, and possibly heard July 8, along Rough Bay on Malcolm I., off the n. side of V.I. (SJ). A singing male **Palm Warbler** was

found June 17 near Naches Pass, in King, WA (†DB) for only the 2nd June record for the state. Three

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**Ovenbirds** were found this season. Each was heard and not seen! One was along the Semiahmoo Trail, Surrey, BC, June 12 (†H & JM), another was along Salt Creek off Hwy 140 e. of Eagle Point, Jackson, OR, June 18 (JJ, JGi), and the other was along Bay Ocean Spit at Tillamook, OR, July 18 (DL). A Northern Waterthrush seen June 3 in Jericho Park furnished the first summer record for the Vancouver, BC, area (†AS). An ad male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** found July 8 near Port Orford (C. Miller) furnished the 5th record for w. Oregon. A singing male Black-headed Grosbeak observed June 23 at Port Hardy, V.I., and singing Rufous-sided Towhees at Port Hardy and Sayward, V.I., and on nearby Malcolm I., June 23-July 11, were all farther northwest than the known range there (SJ). A pair of Lazuli Buntings was observed mating June 23 in N. Vancouver, BC (H & JM), where the species is rare. Nesting was more widespread than usual in the s. Puget Sound area (JGa, GW) and numerous wandering males were reported in w. Washington. A female Indigo Bunting was noted June 5 at the Toketee R.S., e. Douglas, OR (D. Fix, *fide* HN). A Savannah Sparrow was singing June 15 on Rose Spit, Graham I., Q.C.Is. (SJ) where their breeding status is not clear. A few Grasshopper Sparrows returned in late May to their nesting outpost near Medford, OR (HS). A Fox Sparrow was on territory in Cypress P.P., W. Vancouver, June 11-30 (S. Cannings, †R. Cannings) for the first summer record for the Vancouver area. Presumably it was of the Cascades subspecies *olivacea*. A singing Fox Sparrow at Pt. Grenville, WA (BM, R. Egbert), marked the s. limit of the outer coastal form *fuliginosa*. Several Lincoln's Sparrows were found in appropriate wet, boggy habitats on Graham I., Q.C.Is., June 11-18 (SJ) and at Manning P.P. June 3-6 (WW). Nesting White-crowned Sparrows, all with the pale lores of the race *pugetensis*, were slightly n.w. of their known range to several sites between Nimpkish L. and Sayward, V.I. July 9-10 (SJ). About 100 Tricolored Blackbirds were present in Medford, OR, in early June (HS). Small nesting colonies of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at 5 locations in the Vancouver,

BC, area (AS, MPr, H & JM *et al.*), near Ferndale, *Whatcom*, WA (C. Bens), and at Forest Grove (JE) and Finley N.W.R. (Al McGie), OR. The colony at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, has grown to "substantial size" (M. Hills). The nearby colony in N. Portland dried up and was abandoned by early June (JJ, HN). Wandering Yellow-headed Blackbirds were widely reported elsewhere as usual. Brown-headed Cowbirds were absent this year from the Magnolia Bluff area of Seattle (G. Eddy) and Mt. Pleasant, near Washougal, *Clark*, WA (WC), where they have been regular in past years. A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was noted July 8 near Bald Mt., w. of Mt. Hood, OR (Bill Shelmerdine) where they are very scarce. Several ad House Finches and begging juveniles were noted July 6-11 in Port McNeill and Sayward, V.I. (SJ), slightly west of their previously known range. Red Crossbills were reported as numerous this season in the Q.C.Is. and on northwest V.I. (SJ), in the Vancouver, BC area (AS, WW), in lowland w. Washington (TW, DP, T. Hahn), and coastal and s. Oregon (DF, R. Skibby). Single White-winged Crossbills were noted June 6 in Jericho Park (AS) and June 23 in Mt. Seymour P.P. (H & JM), Vancouver, BC.

INITIALED OBSERVERS (**Subregional Editors in boldface**) – Jon Anderson, Dave Beaudette, Fred Bird, Wilson Cady, Jan Carroll, Eric Cummins, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, Darrel Faxon, John Gatchet (JGa), George Gerdts, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Brian Kautesk, **Doug Kragh** (1547 Angelo Avenue, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 1C8), Mark Lewis, Roy Lowe, Donna Lusthoff, Hue & Jo Ann MacKenzie, Lynn Miller, Bob Morse, **Harry Nehls** (2736 SE 20th Ave., Portland, OR 97202), Viveka Ohman, Mike Patterson (MPa), Dennis Paulson, Roy Phillips, Michael Price (MPr), Howard Sands, Andrew Stewart, Otis Swisher, Verda Teale, Glen Thomson, Robert Thom, Larry Thornberg, Denny Tyson, Terry Wahl, George Walter, Wayne Weber, Robert Wilson.

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End 1988

1989

*Autumn Migration, 1988***NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers



Severe drought plagued most of the Region during the autumn until early November. Many water-related birds suffered, but exposed mud flats attracted good numbers of migrating shorebirds in many places. Some small land birds were reported to be in decreased numbers in the Troy, Montana, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, areas.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Hq. = Headquarters.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS -- A Red-throated Loon appeared at Wickiup Res., Deschutes, OR, Nov. 4 (CM), and another was at the Yakima R. delta, WA, Nov. 8 (REW). A Pacific Loon was sighted on Hayden L., Kootenai, ID., Oct. 30-31 (PH), and one was found

on Silver L., Spokane, WA, Oct. 30 (JA). One in summer plumage was at Kamloops, BC, Oct. 1 (SR), and one associated with Com. Loons and a Yellow-billed Loon on Tugulnuit L., Oliver, BC, Nov. 12 (RC). An adult and an Imm. Red-necked Grebe were at Harriman S.P., Island Park, ID, Aug. 21, indicating that at least one pair bred there successfully (CHT). At least 9 pairs of the species, with eight young, were on Spectacle L., Okanogan, WA, Aug. 10 (RF). Unusual was the sighting of one Oct. 30 and Nov. 5 at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA (KK, MD). Eared Grebes at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, raised at least five young for the first documented production since 1963 (WRR). Seventy-five pairs of Eared Grebes produced 40 young at Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR, where high water levels have greatly reduced nesting habitat. Only 5 pairs of W. Grebes were there, producing no young. A nesting colony of W. Grebes on Banks L. at Steamboat Rock, Grant, WA, contained 139 adult and 74 imm. birds Aug. 19 (RF). Potholes Res. south of Moses L., WA, had 300+ Westerns Aug. 29. Fourteen of 22 grebes at s. Idaho's American Falls Dam Sept. 16 were Clark's (CHT). Moses L., WA, had 25+ of the species with two or three birds still on nests Aug. 25 (EH) and one still there Sept. 16 (LT). Malheur N.W.R. still had a half dozen the next day (TC, DS). One was at Wallula, WA, Oct. 2 (REW), and another was at McNary Dam on the Columbia R. near Umatilla, OR, Nov. 20 (PS). The peak count of Am. White Pelicans at American Falls Res was of 950, and of 350 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID. Malheur N.W.R. had several hundred during the fall; Malheur L still had 11 on Nov. 28. The N. Potholes south of Moses L. had up to 500 (JT), and some were expected to winter again on the Columbia R. in the Wallula vicinity (MD). Cold Springs N.W.R., Hermiston, OR, had 105 (TG). One appeared at Long Least of Ephrata, WA, Aug. 4 (MW). The Lewiston, ID, vicinity had one pelican Sept. 11 and during most of October (C.B.) Coeur d'Alene, ID, was visited by one with a blue wing marker Sept. 14 (HC, SS). Double-crested Cormorant numbers at Malheur N.W.R. have declined 40% since 1986 because of decreased water levels. They totaled 665 pairs this year, with about 489 young produced. More than 40 were reported at the N. Potholes Aug 8 (RF), and 30 were feeding on sunfish stranded by lowering pond levels at Columbia N.W.R. Oct. 14 (WRR). Up to 43 were counted at the Yakima R. mouth (REW). Bruneau Dunes S.P., Bruneau, ID, counted 15 Nov. 12 (AL). The species seems to have become regular in the

Lewiston-Clarkston area, where up to four at a time were seen (m.ob.).

HERONS TO IBISES -- Great Blue Herons numbered 40- 45 at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, where low water levels made food easily available. Five to 10 would be normal there At least 15 Great Egrets were at the N. Potholes Sept. 11 (JW). The species at Malheur N.W.R. had its worst production year since the drought of the 1930s; only 18 pairs were counted, and no young were produced. The top count for the species at Springfield Bottoms, American Falls Dam on the Snake R., ID, was of 13, a marked increase (CHT). Mud Lake W M A. and Camas N.W.R., Hamer, ID, had 10 and nine, respectively, Sept. 4 (MC, FK). The Asotin-Clarkston, WA, vicinity had up to three in mid-October (JB, LL, LP, CV) Columbia N.W.R. had a record 67 Great Egrets feeding on stranded sunfish Oct. 14. Malheur N.W.R. had no Snowy Egret pairs this year because high water flooded emergent nesting cover. Cattle Egret numbers at Springfield Bottoms were down, the highest number nine (BJ). Three were sighted at Bear Lake N.W.R. Sept. 14 (BW). One appeared at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT, Oct. 28 (JR), and one accompanied cattle in a pasture southwest of N. Potholes Res. Nov. 2 (GS). A Green-backed Heron was sighted at the Yakima R. delta Sept 26-Oct. 8. The species is very rare in that vicinity (REW). One in Bend, OR, Sept. 16-22 made the county's 2nd record (EM). Floodwaters at Malheur N.W.R. greatly reduced nesting attempts of Black-crowned Night-Herons; only 45 pairs attempted, with zero success. A lone bird appeared at Lewiston Oct. 24 (LL), and Kamloops, BC, had an adult and an imm bird, both having arrived in late July (SR). White-faced Ibises at Malheur did very well, having shifted their nesting colonies to the Blitzen Valley. They produced 1875 young.

WATERFOWL -- Tundra Swans moved through in good numbers, the largest concentration 1000 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT. Their numbers at Kootenai N.W.R. were 3-4 times the usual, peaking at 130. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., 58 of 113 juv. Trumpeter Swans counted in early July survived to fledge. Off the refuge in the Centennial Valley only 17 survived, probably because of drought conditions. Up

to 40 Trumpeters visited L. Helena, MT, at Octobers' end (BK) Harriman S.P. sighted seven, and Bruneau Dunes S.P. had 10 (AL). The Columbia R. near Pasco had four and Kahlotus L, Kahlotus, WA, two (MD). One of five "possible" Trumpeters on Moses L. Nov. 10 wore a plastic collar (WRR). Nearly all the Greater White-fronted Geese moved through e. Oregon. They arrived at Malheur N.W.R. 1800 strong Sept 7 (rather late). The next largest number, 250, was at Summer L., OR, Sept. 11. Small numbers of Snow Geese were sighted in e. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho. A goose suspected of being a Snow x Canada hybrid accompanied Canadas at Walla Walla Nov. 5 (ph. MD). Canada Geese reached an all time high of over 125,000 at Columbia N.W.R. Deer Flat N.W.R. had 7200, and Stratford L., Grant, WA, hosted "a few thousand." Peak numbers at Kootenai N.W.R., however, were only about two-thirds of last year's count. A "Cackling" Canada Goose was sighted at Burns, OR, Sept. 7, an early date (GI). Wood Ducks seemed to be responding very well to the placing of nest boxes in the Tricities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland), WA, area for 75 were counted along the Snake R. near Burbank (DL). Their numbers reached 80 in the Lewiston area. Up to eight were noted at Malheur N.W.R. (AH, LH), and one at Red Rock Lakes was a rarity (JB). At Bend, OR, 19 made an all-time high for Wood Ducks (TC). Duck numbers in the n. Columbia Basin (including Columbia N.W.R.) were down 44% from the long-term average. However, the aerial survey there estimated 150,200 Mallards Nov. 23 (U.S.F.W.S., W.D.W.). That species numbered over 31,000 at Deer Flat N.W.R. in November. Conversely, waterfowl fared poorly at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., where flightless ducks wandered along roads and through fields seeking water. Over 18,000 ducks spent October and November at Kootenai N.W.R., and Mallards peaked there at 24,000 in November. The high numbers there were believed to be the result of drought limited habitat elsewhere. Gadwall numbers in the n. Columbia Basin were estimated at 10,500, Am. Wigeon, 18,000, and Canvasback, 660 (U.S.F.W.S., W.D.W.). A Greater Scaup was reported at Hatfield L., Bend, Sept 25. The species is very rare in *Deschutes* (TC). Haystack Res. south of Madras, OR, had one Nov. 12 (TC, CM, LR). Up to three Oldsquaws appeared at the Yakima R. delta (REW), and two were seen at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA, the same



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day (MD, REW). An imm male was taken by a hunter on the Snake R. near Pocatello, ID, in late November (JB, CHT). A very few Surf Scoters appeared at and near the Yakima R. delta (REW); on Lenore L., *Grant*, WA (IA); near Ellensburg, WA (SRa); at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR); and at Haystack Res. (TC, CM, LR). Likewise, a very few White-winged Scoters were sighted near Preston, ID (DT); at Frenchtown, MT (DH); at the Yakima delta (REW); and on L. Lenore (IA). A Red-breasted Merganser was reported at Bend Nov. 3 (CM) and on Banks L., *Grant*, WA (NL). Ruddy Ducks appeared in unusual numbers at the Yakima delta, 186 by actual count Sept. 22 (REW), and an impressive 500 were at Abert L., *Lake*, OR.

VULTURES TO GROUSE -- A Turkey Vulture, rare in the Fortine, MT, vicinity, was at Dry L. Sept. 27 (WW). A Black-shouldered Kite was seen many times Aug. 12-Nov. 9 at Klamath Forest Marsh N.W.R. for *Klamath's* 2nd record (SSu). Very few Bald Eagles gathered at Glacier N.P.'s lower McDonald Cr., MT, the result of a catastrophic collapse of the Kokanee salmon population in the Flathead R. drainage. Many apparently were diverted to L. Koocanusa upstream from Libby, MT where 83 adult and 83 imm. birds were counted. The salmon run was good there (*fide* MSw). An "incredible" 22 were at Wickiup Res. west of La Pine, OR, Nov. 4 (CM). A Bald Eagle nest at Deer Flat N.W.R. fledged one young (BWh). In s.e. Idaho the top number for Swainson's Hawks was 109 near Rockland (CHT), and for Ferruginous Hawks, 37 in the Henrys L. area, ID, Aug. 27 (MDe). Single late birds were seen at Seneca, OR, Oct. 30 (CO, Me); south of Burns, OR, Oct. 3; and near Princeton, OR, Nov. 27 (BH). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen well near Rockland on the surprising date of Aug. 4 (FR, TS), and a very early one was reported near Moscow, ID, Aug. 29 (*fide* SHS). A phenomenal 39+ sightings of Merlins came in and a very good 13 of Peregrines, some due to hackings in the Boise, Helena, and Spokane areas. Four Gyrfalcon and 14 Prairie Falcon sightings were received. A 4.5-hour hawk watch at Red Top Mt. northeast of Cle Elum, WA, Oct. 1 yielded one Turkey Vulture, 14 Sharp-shinned and 17 Cooper's hawks, six accipiters sp., five Red-tailed Hawks, One

Golden Eagle, and one Am. Kestrel (K.A.S., SH *et al.*). Spruce Grouse, some with young, were seen on Chelan Mt., *Chelan* (EP); Red Top Mt. (TB); and Tiffany Mt., *Okanogan* (GG), WA. Three White-tailed Ptarmigan were observed on Tiffany Mt. Aug. 9 (GG). A Sage Grouse with seven chicks was found along Waterman Flat road, *Wheeler*, OR, Aug., 26 (PS).

CRANES -- Only six "Greater" Sandhill Cranes were known to have fledged at Malheur N.W.R.; several young were found dead, two from gapeworm infections. The refuge is no longer the major autumn staging area for this subspecies for the Pacific flyway because of past disturbance, roost site drying, and poor grain crops. Most of the northern-nesting "Little Brown" Sandhill Cranes flew over the refuge without stopping at their traditional site. Sandhills migrating over Columbia N.W.R. reached their peak Sept. 27, when 650 spent the night there. Some 250 Sandhills were at L. Helena Sept. 23 for the highest number ever there (BK). Young cranes were reported in the Helena Valley during the summer (IV). An aggregation of 120 appeared between Townsend and Teston, MT, Oct. 8 (GB, SB), and an increase was reported for the Twin Bridges, MT, area (NS). Carey, ID, reported five (DJ) and Jordan Valley, OR, three (AL). One at Banners Ferry was noteworthy (RDC). Sandhills in Grays L. valley, ID, started flocking by mid-July, a month earlier than normal, and peaked at 3194 Sept. 6 (RD). Of the 12 Whooping Crane eggs shipped to Grays L. from Canada, 10 hatched, but only two survived to fledging, the lowest production since surveys were started in 1969. Blame was placed on the drought-caused scarcity of food. The seven adult and two imm Whoopers had migrated by Sept 28 (RD). One made a rare appearance at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R Aug 25 (JB).

PLOVERS, TO MURRELETS -- Black-bellied Plovers and the scarcer Lesser Golden-Plovers moved through the Region in small numbers, except for the Pocatello vicinity, where the former peaked at 115 and the latter at eight (CHT). Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake*, OR, still had 44 Snowy Plovers Sept 2 for the only report (CCa). Single Semipalmated Plovers appeared at the Coeur d'Alene R. (ES, SHS) and at Bend (TC), and two were sighted at John Day Fossil Beds, OR (PS). A very few were in the American Falls Res. vicinity (CHT) and at

Deer Flat N.W.R. (DT). American Avocets peaked at 1252 at Springfield Bottoms Aug. 5 (BJ) for the only report. An Upland Sandpiper was sighted Aug. 20 at Reardan, WA, a very unusual spot for this species, which is rare in the Region (JA). The only Whimbrel reported was one at Summer L. Sept. 23 (CM). Malheur N.W.R. had a Marbled Godwit Aug. 24 (SF). Four Ruddy Turnstones were observed at Columbia N.W.R. Sept. 1-6 (WRR), and Blackfoot Res., *Caribou*, ID, had two Aug. 16 (RD). A Red Knot appeared near Aberdeen, ID, in early August (DB). Deer Flat N.W.R. had three Sanderlings Sept. 13 (DT); American Falls Res., two, Sept. 23 (CHT); and Reardan, two, Sept. 13 (JA) Mann's L., Lewiston, had eight Sept. 17 (MK, LP, CV) Two were near Sisters, OR, Aug. 5 for the 3rd county record (LR) Kamloops had a big 20 Sanderlings, Sept. 17-18 (SR). A rare sighting at Kamloops, BC, was of a juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Sept. 18 (ph. RH). Also very unusual was a Stilt Sandpiper there Sept. 4 (SR). The species made a very poor showing at Reardan with only one seen Sept. 4-5 (JA). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Reardan Sept. 18 was a decided rarity (JA, JW) A Short-billed Dowitcher at Fortine Aug. 25 was apparently the latilong's first (WW). A Red Phalarope appeared at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, WA, Aug. 16 for one of only about 6 records for the area (TG). Flathead L., MT, had a **Long-tailed Jaeger** Sept. 30 (IDH) The large Franklin's Gull colony at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had its 2nd consecutive year of reproductive failure owing to the drought, but the birds at Malheur N.W.R. found alternative nesting areas. A real rarity was a 2nd-winter Heermann's Gull at Klamath Falls, OR, Oct. 18 (LLe). A Mew Gull appeared at Lewiston Nov. 25-26 (LL, DP, JP). Lake Chinook, *Jefferson*, OR, had two Herring Gulls Nov. 6-12 (TC, CM, LR). Two Mew Gulls and a 3rd-year Glaucous-winged Gull appeared at Kamloops Aug. 28 (SR). One of the latter was found along the Columbia, R., *Sherman*, OR, Oct. 13 (CM), and a Glaucous Gull appeared at McNary Dam Wildlife Area, *Umatilla*, OR, Nov. 5 (PM, LW). Notable were single Sabine's Gulls at Summer Lake W.M.A., OR (MA, CM); at Bend (CM); at Pine Hollow Res., Wasco, OR; near Sisters (LR); and at Reardan (JA, JW) Caspian Terns apparently did not nest at Malheur N.W.R. because low water levels exposed their nesting sites, but a few young birds did appear in the area. An adult and two imm birds were sighted at Lewiston, Sept. 1 (LL), and one was there Sept. 9 (MK, LP, CV). Over 50 were foraging in the N Potholes area Aug. 29 along with more than

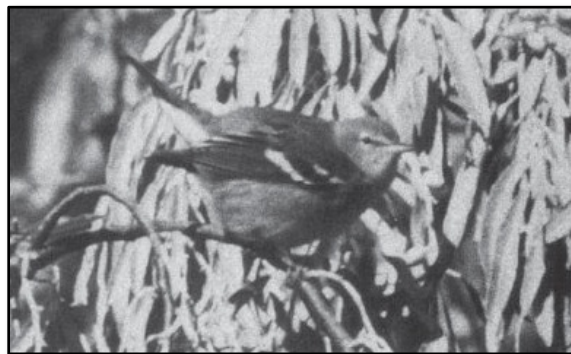
300 Forster's Terns (RF). One appeared at Mann's L., Lewiston, Aug 19 (C.B.). Common Tern numbers peaked at 100 near American Falls Res. Bend had two Com. Terns Sept. 19, and four were at Wickiup Res. west of La Pine Sept. 28 (CM). Extraordinary was an **Ancient Murrelet** on the Columbia R. at Vantage, WA, Oct. 31 (MD).

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS -- An injured Com. Barn-Owl was found in the Rathdrum, ID, vicinity for the latilong's first (JM). Unusual were single birds in Blalock Canyon south of Blalock, OR (PS), and at Vantage, WA (RHu). Flammulated Owls were found in the Missoula, MT, vicinity, where they are believed to be breeding (PLW); at Coeur d'Alene (GH); and at Blewett Pass west of Wenatchee, WA (MO). The only Snowy Owl reported was one at Grays Lake N.W.R. Nov. 13 (RD). Revelstoke, BC, had two N. Hawk-Owls Oct. 20 (MB). Two Barred Owls were found in the Blue Mts. of n.c. Oregon Oct. 29 (JJ, PS, BWi, TW), and one visited a residential yard in the Spokane Valley Oct. 9 (ph. BMi, THR). A Great Gray Owl with a begging young was observed at Island Park, ID, Sept. 16 (BW), and one was found in *Wallowa*, OR Nov. 5 (DM). At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. the birds were seen regularly (JB). One was near Kamloops Oct. 21 (MB, RH), and one was sighted north of Fortine Aug. 10 (*vide* WW). Single Boreal Owl sightings in *Kittitas* and *Okanogan*, WA, extended the species' known range to the Cascade Mts. (EH, CM, DG, AS, SS). One was reported in n.w. *Wallowa*, OR (DHe, PS). A N. Saw-whet Owl was at Malheur Hq. Oct. 14 (CDL). One was found dead in Bend Nov. 20 (FV) and another at Deschutes S.P., Sherman, OR, Nov. 12 (DA). A road-injured one was picked up at Priest L., ID, for rehabilitation (*vide* SHS). Two White-throated Swifts were at Maupin, OR, where they are rare, Aug. 7 (DLu, VT). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird appeared at a feeder at Silver L. Ranger Station, Lake, OR, Sept. 5-14 (SS). At Bend the birds were last seen Nov. 22, an all-time late date there (TC). An adult-plumaged male showed up at a feeder north of Spokane in October and was still there Dec. 14 (JA). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was sighted east of Mitchell, OR, Aug. 20 (PS).

WOODPECKERS TO WARBLERS -- Single Red-breasted Sapsuckers appeared in La Pine (HH) and near Bly, OR (PM, LW). A Red-breasted and a Red-breasted x Red-naped hybrid were sighted at Frenchglen, OR, Sept. 22 along with three Red-naped and a female Williamson's Sapsucker (CDL). Malheur N.W.R. had a "Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker Sept. 16 (PS *et al.*), and one was seen on Steptoe Butte, Whitman, WA, Sept. 24 (MK). An albino Barn Swallow was seen at Fortine, where a brood of albino young was raised 2 years ago (WW). A Blue Jay sighted at Grant Cr. northwest of Missoula in October reportedly had been there for 13 months (JD). A Scrub Jay in Lyle, WA, Nov. 12, made for a rare sighting there (DLu, VT). A much-displaced Yellow-billed Magpie (escaped from captivity?) was identified along the Spokane R. west of Coeur d'Alene, ID, Sept. 22 (EB, RB). A vagrant Bewick's Wren was sighted near Tygh Valley, OR, Aug. 7 (DL, VT). A Winter Wren at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Oct. 15 provided a latilong first (JB). A Veery sighting at Malheur N.W.R. was decidedly unusual (AC). Three Gray Catbirds were sighted in Richland Aug. 4 for the 2nd sighting there after 17 years (REW). Malheur Hq. had a N. Mockingbird Oct. 10 (SF), and two appeared west of Helena Sept. 10 (JS). A carefully described bird thought to be an imm. Yellow Wagtail, was observed near Bonners Ferry Sept. 5 (RDC). (*This would be a first for Idaho and for the Region, but the identification is difficult and there are almost no records south of Alaska.*) A flock of Bohemian Waxwings at Fortine Nov. 13 provided Weydemeyer's latest arrival date there. No other reports of the species were received. Malheur N.W.R. had a visit from a Tennessee Warbler Sept. 16-17 (TC, JG, DS). A very late Orange-crowned Warbler was sighted at Ft. Walla Walla Natural Area, WA, Nov. 23 (MD). Fields, OR, hosted a Virginia's Warbler Sept. 15 (*vide* TC). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers were sighted at Malheur Hq. Sept. 8 (MSm) and at Frenchglen Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (JJ, SJ). The Black-throated Blue Warbler is "becoming a regular autumn migrant" in s.e. Oregon (CDL). Single Birds were sighted at 2 places on Malheur N.W.R. (RH, MK, PS, CV) and at Frenchglen (JJ, SJ) and Fields (MS) between Sept. 16 and Oct. 16.



*Shown is a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Frenchglen, Oregon, October 1, 1988. Photograph / Tom Crabtree*



*Shown is a Bay-breasted Warbler at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon, September 17, 1988. Photograph / Tom Crabtree.*

At Malheur N.W.R. two Black-throated Gray Warblers appeared Sept. 15 (MK) and one, Oct. 22 (LR); a Bay-breasted Warbler was there in mid-September (TC, JG, DS) and a Blackpoll Warbler Sept. 3-4 (JJ). Frenchglen had a Black-and-white Warbler Sept. 24. Mullan Rd. between Missoula and French-glen, MT, had an Ovenbird Oct. 13 (DH). Malheur had one Sept.3-4 (JJ, SJ) and a N. Waterthrush the day before (Si). The Davenport, WA, cemetery was visited by a N. Waterthrush Sept. 17 (JA). A **Canada Warbler** was at Malheur N.W.R. for Oregon's 2nd record (ph. JJ, JC, JuC).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES -- A bright male Summer Tanager was at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 30 (MSm). Central Oregon's 2nd record of Clay-colored Sparrow was provided by a bird near La Pine Oct. 29 (HH). A Lark Bunting appeared along Hwy 23, n.w. *Whitman*, WA, Aug. 213 (DP, JP). Richland had a Swamp Sparrow Nov. 30 (REW). A very few White-throated Sparrows were reported from s. Idaho, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. The only Golden-crowned Sparrow sighting was at Bruneau Dunes S.P. Oct. 16 (ST). Two Harris' Sparrows were banded at Pocatello in early October (JJe). At least 20 Lapland Longspurs accompanied Horned Larks at Banks L., *Grant*, WA, Oct. 23 (JA), and one appeared at Fortine Nov. 12 (WW). Two Rusty Blackbirds fed with Brewer's Blackbirds at Kamloops Nov. 26 (RH). Reardan hosted a Com. Grackle Aug. 21 (BW). Rosy Finches were wintering on cliffs near Discovery S.P. southeast of Boise (DJ). Three "Black" Rosy Finches were sighted in Swan Valley, *Bonneville*, ID (MC, FK). Pine Grosbeaks were sighted in the Little Belt Mts. north of White Sulphur Springs, MT (LM); in the Blue Mts., n.c. OR (PS, T W); and at Squaw Springs C.G., n.w. *Wallowa*, OR (PS). Two Purple Finches were sighted at Bend Sept. 16 (TC, DS), and at Tumalo S.P., north of Bend Sept. 10 (CM). A female was sighted at Malheur Hq. Oct. 16 (SSu). A male Cassin's Finch at Richland Nov. 30 was unusual (REW). Twenty White-winged Crossbills appeared Oct. 24 in Rattlesnake Cr. valley north of Missoula (PLW).

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Lesser Goldfinches have been regular at Pocatello since their first breeding record there this summer (CHT). Page Springs had a male Sept. 15-16 (MK, PS, CV), and one was reported at Reardan Aug. 12 (MH).

ADDENDA -- An imm. **Little Blue Heron** photographed at Sandpoint Oct. 31, 1986, was n. Idaho's first and the state's 2nd (NB, PRS). A Band-tailed Pigeon was observed at Coeur d'Alene L. Apr. 28-30, 1988 (HA, LC, BM, MM). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted May 25, 1988, at Elkhorn C.G. south of Unity, s. OR (CC, MC). Over 100 Bobolinks

were found along the road between Hereford and Bridgeport, OR, May 23, 1988, for what is probably the largest population of the species in the state (CC, MC). A Com. Grackle was identified at Bonners Ferry May 22, 1988 (RDC).

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Seattle was wetter than any November in 24 years, which brought the reservoirs back up to almost full. Precipitation for the remainder of the season was well below the long-term averages.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Q.C. Is. = Queen Charlotte Islands BC; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., OR; V.I. = Vancouver Island, BC. Place names in *italics* are counties.

*Autumn Migration, 1988*

### NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.



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When the storm fronts came in off the North Pacific in late fall, it was hard to remember that this Region was in a long-term drought situation. November of 1988 in

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS -- Thirty Com. Loons were gathered Oct. 29 at their recently-discovered stopover on Timothy L. in the Oregon Cascades (DL, DA). Hundreds were noted moving S Nov. 12 along the coast at Boiler Bay (PMu, LW) and Cape Arano (LT), OR. The first of the usual five Yellow-billed Loons were on schedule Oct. 7-12 in C. Saanich, V.I. (R. Kluake) and Oct. 14-30 near Port Gamble, WA (KA, m.ob.). Another seen Oct. 29 on L. Meares, near Tillamook, OR (RG *et al.*), was the farthest south. A Pied-billed Grebe was north of its usual range to Masset, Q.C. Is., Sept. 24 and later (MHe, ph.). An ad Pied-billed was found on a nest with eggs Nov. 3 in Jericho Park, Vancouver, BC, and was seen the next day with two downy young (Herb Hope). Sixty Red-necked Grebes were back to Island View Beach, c. Saanich, V.I., by Aug. 4 (WW); 150 were there Oct. 2 (J & RS). First reports from coastal Oregon were Oct. 26-30 at Tillamook (CR) and Bandon (LT). A flock of 57 Eared Grebes seen Nov. 11 on Diamond L., just n. of Crater Lake N.P., was by far the largest seen there in years (DFi). Two adult W. Grebes with two young birds riding on their backs were seen Sept. 14 at Reifel I., Delta, BC (WW). A Clark's Grebe studied Nov. 6-16 at Stanley Park (†D'T, †BK *et al.*) furnished only the 3rd record for the Vancouver, BC, area. Six Clark's were noted in w. Oregon: two on the coast, two near Portland, and two on Timothy L. near Mt. Hood. Reports were received from 10 pelagic trips: 7 out of Westport, WA, Aug. 13-Oct. 8 (TW), and others out of Coos Bay, OR, Sept. 11, and Garibaldi, OR, Sept. 17 & 18. Black-footed Albatrosses were found in the usual numbers. A Laysan Albatross was noted Oct. i & 4 about 70-90 km off the west coast of V.I. (KM). The 6 trips out of Westport in August and September noted a total of only 10 N. Fulmars. On Oct. 8 about 135 were seen on that route. The next highest count was of 10

seen in the Juan de Fuca Strait Nov. 6 (KT *et al.*). The 226 Pink-footed Shearwaters seen Aug. 20 off Westport and 50 w. of Florence, OR, Sept. 3 (TT, *fide* DFa) were lower counts than usual. The latest reported were 20 seen from shore at Boiler Bay, OR, Nov. 12 (PMu, LW). Seven Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted, a usual number, Aug. 13-Oct. 8 out of Westport. The 448 Buller's Shearwaters counted Sept. 12 out of Westport were more than last year's high count. Also, 150 Buller's were noted off Garibaldi, OR, Sept. 17 (JJ), 230 were still off Westport Oct. 8 (TW), and an amazing 200 were seen from shore at Boiler Bay Oct. 15 (PMu, LW). The usual token few Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen among the hordes of Sooties, with one photographed at close range Sept. 12 off Westport (George Gerdt *et al.*) and another seen there Oct. 8 (TW). One was at the Ocean Shores, WA, jetty Oct. 2 (Richard Johnston). Then in November singles were noted at Ocean Shores (in hand--†BM) and at Cape Arago, OR (LT), four were at Cape Meares, OR (PP) and the S.J.C.R. (PP), and up to 15 were at Boiler Bay (Tom Love, PP, JG *et al.*). Short-taileds have been shown to be the more expected dark shearwater inshore in late fall, here. However, it must be noted that all but two of these were reported without details, and many seabird experts consider underwing pattern to be insufficient to separate Short-taileds from Sooties. Counts of 706 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels Aug. 13 off Westport and 812 there Sept. 12 continued the pattern of high fall counts since 1985 Eight Leach's Storm-Petrels seen from shore at Boiler Bay, OR, Nov 6 were unusual (JG, NL, John Kempe). A single Am. White Pelican with a blue wing tag was seen repeatedly Sept. 1-30 at successively more southerly locations along Puget Sound. Presumably the bird was from the Stum L., BC, colony, which is due north. Fifty Am. White Pelicans stopped over during September on Hyatt L., e. *Jackson*, OR (Ray Skibby). High counts of Brown Pelicans were down slightly from last year to 1100+ at Tillamook Bay Aug 24 (HN, est. to be 25% adult, 25% first-year, and 50% 2nd or 3rd year) and 600 at Ocean Shores, WA, Sept. 17 (Ken Brown, RTh). The count at Ocean Shores was reduced to only four birds present Sept. 24 (RTh) after the passage of a cold front The latest reported were near Long Beach, WA, Oct. 28 (*fide* WC) and at Boiler Bay and Cape Arago, OR, Nov. 12 (PMu, LW, LT). A **Magnificent Frigatebird** appeared over Tacoma, WA, Oct. 7-8 (†Walt Adams, †Jeff Zimmerman) for only the 2nd state record. It then stayed Oct. 11-17 around Pt. No Point, *Kitsap* (†Vic

Nelson, ph., m.ob.). Presumably the same bird was seen Oct. 22 at the Copalis R. mouth on the outer coast (†Jim Cabbage, Lea Mitchell), Oct. 29 at Tokeland (BM *et al.*), and Oct. 31 on a piling on the Astoria bridge over the Columbia R. (AR).

EGRETS TO PTARMIGAN -- About 32 Great Egrets were reported in Washington this season, from 5 locations. Twenty of these were at Ridgefield N.W.R. Aug. 25 (MHi) with fewer present later. One reached Richmond, BC, Nov. 19-27 (N. Smith, T. Currie *et al.*). Three Snowy Egrets were along the Oregon coast, and a lone Cattle Egret was at Drift Creek, Lincoln, OR, Nov. 19 (JJ, NL). An imm. Black-crowned Night Heron arrived early at Ocean Shores Aug. 6 and an adult was nearby at Hoquiam Aug. 12 (both MC). One to two others were at White City, OR, Aug. 25 (Otis Swisher), in Langley, BC, Aug. 30 (Ken Summers), and at Siletz Key, on the Oregon coast s. of Lincoln City, Sept. 4 (RG, BT). The first of six adults returned to the Reifel I., BC, roost Sept. 14 (WW). The first returning Tundra Swans were noted Oct. 27 on Tillamook Bay, OR (R. Lowe, *fide* DFa), and Oct. 29 in the Oregon Cascades on Timothy L. near Mt. Hood (DL, DA) and at Breitenbush L. near Santiam Pass (F. Schrock). Nine Trumpeter Swans were south to near Monmouth, OR, Nov. 15 and later (RG, BB *et al.*) and one was nearby at Finley N.W.R Nov 20 (M & EE, T & AM)..Daily censuses at Reifel I., BC, showed that 3000 Snow Geese arrived Oct. 8 and 10,000 were there Oct. 17 and later (JI). Single Ross' Geese were found Oct 5 at the Hoquiam sewage ponds for the 6th record for w. Washington (R. & F. Carlson, ph.) and Nov. 4-22 near Tillamook, OR (CR, HN). Among the many teal and N. Shovelers at the Nehalem sewage ponds Sept. 17 there was also a male **Garganey** (†JJ, ph. NL) for the first record for Oregon. The bird stayed to at least Sept. 20 (†DL, †PMu, †JG, †SH, M & EE, m.ob.). The N. Shoveler count at the Nehalem ponds peaked at 600 on Oct. 5 (HN) and 500 were on the Monmouth, OR, ponds Sept. 19-20 (RG) for the season's high counts. The first returning Eur. Wigeon were somewhat later than usual: Sept. 24 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC (G. Ansell, BL) and Oct. 9 at Siletz Bay, OR (JJ) Reports were widespread as usual thereafter. Returning Canvasbacks were first noted Oct. 11 at Nehalem Bay, OR (DI, *fide* HN), Oct. 17 at Kent, WA (Jan Wiggers) and Saanich, V.I. (DFr), and Oct. 21 at Masset, Q.C. Is.

(MHe) The 30+ Redheads, 800+ Lesser Scaup, 150 Com. Goldeneyes, and 1000 Buffleheads, on Diamond L., OR, Nov. 11 were the largest concentrations reported for each (DFi). Three of the four

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Oldsquaws reported from Oregon this fall were found on sewage ponds, at Nehalem, Brownsville, and Cannon Beach About 200 Barrow's Goldeneyes were gathered on Nov. 11 on Diamond L. (DFi) and a relatively low count of 791 Barrow's was made Nov. 26 on Capitol L. in Olympia, WA (G. & W. Hoge). The count of 950 Turkey Vultures during September-October in the Medford-Ashland, OR, area was lower than usual (*fide* ES). Juvenile Black-shouldered Kites were noted at the Raymond, WA, airport (m.ob.) and the Nehalem meadows, OR (DI, Tom Crabtree) through the season, and near Cathlamet, WA, Sept. 18 (Ruth Taylor). Single kites appeared on the Nisqually N.W.R. (J. Stewart, J. Davis *et al.*), along Hylebos Creek, *Pierce* (R. Vimont, *fide* TB), and on the Ridgefield N.W.R. (MHi) to add to increasing numbers of Washington records. About 32 were reported from 14 Oregon locations. Accipiter reports totaled 71 Sharp-shinned and 70 Cooper's, quite a bit lower than usual. The normal number of 25 N Goshawk sightings included one identified from a belly feather found in a Corvallis parking lot (John Bull--Am. Mus. Nat Hist.)! An injured imm **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found almost dead near Cathlamet, WA, Sept. 9 (R. Vetter, A. Clark) for the 2nd record and first specimen for the state (now #42969 at the U.W. Burke Museum). Another imm Red-shouldered was north to the Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, OR, Sept. 20 (SH), and adults were at Newport, OR, Oct. 30 (R. & J. Krabbe, *fide* ME) and Cape Meares Nov. 26 (V. Teale). A Rough-legged Hawk seen closely Nov. 26-29 at Delkatla Sanctuary, Masset, was the first for the Q.C. Is. (Kathleen Fry, †MHe). The 91 sightings of Merlins and 53 of Peregrines were spread as usual through the season. A pair of Merlins was observed together Sept. 27 near the Toketee R.S., *Douglas*, OR (DFi) A Peregrine over South Sister Aug. 27 (I. & S. Bachhuber) and one over Toketee R.S. Nov. 12 (DFi), both in the Oregon Cascades, were the only reports away from the coasts. Single Gyrfalcons were noted in

Delta, BC, and on the Samish flats and at Ocean Shores, WA. A Prairie Falcon was seen in the Coast Range of s. British Columbia (Frank Walker), and eight were in the Cascades of Washington and Oregon from late August to early October. Then from late October on, one was on the flats of Delta, BC, for only the 2nd Vancouver area record (†BLJ, †BK, m.ob.) and another was on the Samish flats, WA (P. DeBruyn, B. Gaussoin, *fide* TW). A female and six imm **Rock Ptarmigan** were found this season on Mt. Steele just n.w. of Vancouver, BC (*fide* DK). A female was seen Aug. 12 nearby on Mt. Strachan (F. McLeod, †L. Taylor). These are the southernmost known breeding locations for the species. Interestingly, these mountains have no convincing record of White-tailed Ptarmigan (*fide* DK), which is regular 100 mi to the east at Manning P.P.

SHOREBIRDS -- The peak of the Black-bellied Plover migration was marked by counts of 3000 on Boundary Bay, BC, Aug 26-Sept. 13 (MPr, Mike Denny), 500 at Tillamook Aug. 31 (JE, HN), and 2500 at Ocean Shores Sept. 13 (EH). About 251 Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported, 18% as *dominica*, 29% as *fulva*, and 53% not specified. The latest *dominica* were Sept 24-27 at Delta and Victoria, BC, and Ocean Shores, WA; the latest *fulva* were Sept. 29 at Victoria, Oct. 26 at Ft. Flagler, WA, Nov. 13 at Delta, BC, and Nov. 24 at Siletz Bay, OR. Single Am. Avocets, scarce visitors to the Region, were found Aug. 27 in N. Vancouver, BC (K. Bell), Aug. 28 near Brownsville, *Linn*, OR (JJ, JG), and Sept. 15-18 and Oct. 12 on Sauvie I., OR (JJ, DI). Gatherings of 100 Lesser Yellowlegs at Reifel I., BC, Aug. 23 (JI), 60 at the Kent ponds, WA, Aug. 30-31 (MS), and 50 at the S.J.C.R. Aug. 3 (JE) were the high counts. A possible **Wood Sandpiper** was observed at Tokeland, WA, Oct. 9 (†Ken Brunner, ph., †MS). The excellent description and blurred photographs are being examined elsewhere. It would be a first Regional record. The tally of 23 Solitary Sandpipers continued the trend of the last 3 years, being in much higher numbers than in the previous decade. Two at Reifel I., BC, Aug. 8-10 (JI) and two at Sauvie I., OR, Aug. 26 (Bill Shelmerdine) were the only non-solitary sightings. Three Willets were farther n.w. than usual at the Courtenay, V.I., sewage ponds Oct. 8 (N. Winchester, K. Nelson). A Long-billed Curlew stopped at Sauvie I., OR, Aug. 25 for the first *Multnomah* record (JJ, D.

Bailey). Twenty Long-billeds were at their wintering site at Tokeland, WA, Sept. 4 and later (Scott Ray, m.ob.). Single Hudsonian Godwits were noted Aug. 16-20 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC (MPr *et al.*), Aug. 31 at the S.J.C.R. for the 8th record for Oregon (†MPa), and Oct. 2 at 112th St. on Boundary Bay, BC (BK). A winter-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. I. baueri*), believed to be a female based on bill length, stayed Sept. 10-Oct. 11 at Tokeland, WA (Tulley Hammill, †PWM--finally, †HW, m.ob.) for the 19th state record. Marbled Godwit numbers at Tokeland reached 160-190 Sept. 12 and later (HW, m.ob.). Single Marbleds were noteworthy at Sauvie I. Aug. 20-25 (JJ) and on Boundary Bay, BC, Sept. 25 (RTo). Sixty Ruddy Turnstones on Dungeness Bay, WA, Aug. 2 (DS) and 30 at Bandon, OR, the same day (TB) were the high counts. About 50 Red Knots were reported. Eight at Ocean Shores Aug. 24 (E. Peaslee) and 10 at Bandon Aug. 28 (JJ) were the high counts. The only Sanderling noted away from the coast was a juvenile at Morgan L., near Salem, OR, Aug. 30-31 for the 2nd Polk record (RG). Very large numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were again found on the Iona I., BC, sewage ponds. About 168 juveniles were there Aug. 1 and 120 were counted Aug. 5 (both MPr). Elsewhere six at Crockett L., Whidbey I., WA, Aug. 7-21 (BS, Fred Bird), and four or more at the S.J.C.R. during August (HN) were the high counts. Several reports of Rufous-necked Stints either had no details or were not convincing. Ten thousand W. Sandpipers were at Iona I. Aug. 1 (MPr) and 15,000 were at the n. end of Camano I., WA, Aug. 14 (RTh). Numbers dropped after that with 800 on Boundary Bay Oct. 1 (WW, DK, Jim Tucker), and 400 at Tillamook, OR, Oct. 5 (HN) being late concentrations. As usual, Least Sandpipers favored the Oregon coast. Counts of 800-1000 were at Tillamook Aug. 10-Sept. 13 (HN) and 500 were at Siletz Bay during September (JE, DI). The passage of Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers appeared normal. About 33 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were noted. Eight were at Reifel I., BC, Oct. 1-2 (WW, DK *et al.*) and three were at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 (MC). The five in Oregon were present Sept. 7-28, and one at the Aberdeen, WA, sludge ponds Oct. 16 with 200 Pectorals was the latest (†HW). The arrival of Rock Sandpipers in British Columbia and Washington was on schedule in late October. Only 15 Stilt Sandpipers were found, many fewer than usual. Two were in Oregon at Sauvie I. Sept. 3 (JJ, NL), two were at Masset, Q.C. Is., Sept. 24 (†MHc), two were in Washington, and the remainder were in the Vancouver,

BC, area, Aug. 10-Sept. 22. At least 20 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported, more than in most recent years. From Sept. 7-28 there were almost daily sightings at the end of 72nd St. on Boundary Bay in Delta, BC. The high count there was of seven Sept. 16-22 (BK, MPr). One at Clatsop Beach, OR, Oct. 17 was the latest ever for Oregon by about 2 weeks (BO, ph.). Only four Ruffs were noted; three in the Vancouver, BC, area Aug. 5 & 7 and Sept. 22, and one in Victoria Aug. 30. These were fewer than the average of 9/ year for the preceding decade. Several hundred Red Phalaropes were noted on the August and September pelagic trips out of Westport (TW). In early November the first big storm of the season blew them inshore in many locations, mostly in w. Oregon. Two hundred were in Coos Bay Nov. 6 (SH, LT), 85 were counted in the Tillamook area Nov. 4-8 (CR), and 60 were in the harbor at Ilwaco, WA, Nov. 11 (Jeff Skirletz). Inland sightings included one to two Nov. 3-4 at Toketee L. in the Oregon Cascades (DFi), 19 on the Sheridan, OR, ponds Nov. 4-10 (BT, JG *et al.*), and one to three at the Monmouth, OR, ponds (RG), near Finley N.W.R.,

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OR (ME), and at Steigerwald L., Clark, WA (Fred Zeillemaker), Nov 6-11

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS -- The August-September trips out of Westport found only seven Pomarine Jaegers each, many fewer than usual (TW). Interestingly, the counts of Long-tailed Jaeger on these trips were much higher than usual, with 100 seen Aug. 20 and an exciting 193 there Aug. 27. One juv. Long-tailed was seen just off San Juan I., WA, Aug. 24 (TW, †DP). Five S. Polar Skuas were seen off Westport Aug. 20-Sept. 12 (TW), one was 18 mi off Florence, OR, Sept. 9 (TT, *vide* DFa), and another was 40-90 km off western V.I. Oct. 1-4 (KM). About 50 Franklin's Gulls were reported; as usual, all were immatures. Eight at Jericho Park, Vancouver, BC, Aug. 18 (RTo) and five at the Kent, WA, ponds Sept. 17 (Tom Weir, R. & P. Sullivan) were the high counts. At least three ad Little Gulls were present on Puget Sound, as single birds were seen at Oak Bay, V.I. (Jeff Gaskin, KT), Pt.



Roberts (†BL, R. Chaundy), and Seattle (Dale Herder), all Sept. 10. Single adults were sighted in Seattle and Everett on 6 other dates, Sept. 6-Oct. 4, and at Saanich, V.I., Aug. 27 (Mike McGrenere) and Salt Spring I., BC, Oct. 30 (DFr). A **Common Black-headed Gull** appeared Nov. 3-7 in Vancouver, BC (†RC, †MPr, W. Campbell, D. Huggard) for only the 2nd record for that area. All three of these species associate with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls, of which the high counts were 2000 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC, Oct. 10 (BL) and 3000 at Pt. No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, Oct. 22 (RT). By early November almost all the Bonaparte's had left the Region. The only Glaucous Gulls noted were a 2nd-year bird at Masset, Q.C. Is., Sept. 24 (MHe) and a first year bird at Boiler Bay, OR, Nov. 10 (CR). High counts of Com. Terns were of 2500 at Oak Bay, V.I., Aug. 25 (RS) and 600 in Vancouver, BC, Sept. 6 (MP). Late Arctic Terns were noted Sept. 25 at the Nehalem sewage ponds, OR (†M & EE, T & AM), Sept. 27 in Vancouver, BC (MPr), and a juvenile Oct. 10-14 in Edmonds, WA (†TH, John Townsend, KA). The latter sighting was near the location of the southernmost breeding outpost of the species. A few Ancient Murrelets were about Gonzales Pt., Victoria, V.I., on the early dates of Sept. 29 and later (RS). One crashed into a tree and was found dead Nov. 11 at the Marblemount R.S., *Skagit*, WA, about 40 mi inland from Puget Sound (Gary Mason, *fide* Bob Kuntz, \*U.W. Burke Museum). Two **Xantus' Murrelets** were noted Aug. 26 about 130 km off the w. coast of V.I. (KM). Another Xantus' Murrelet was observed Oct. 31 about 60 km off V.I. (48° 22' x 125° 51', or 85 km due w. of Cape Flattery, WA) on a Canadian Wildlife Service survey (†MB). A **Parakeet Auklet** was seen Oct. 27 by MB on the same C.W.S. survey about 120 km off V.I. (48° 19' x 127° 10'). Fewer Cassin's Auklets were found than last year. Pelagic trips off Westport in September and October found only a few dozen each, and just one to two were seen off Garibaldi, OR, Sept. 17-18 (JJ, BO).

PIGEONS TO SWALLOWS -- A flock of 100 Band-tailed Pigeons at Thornton Creek, near Newport, OR, Oct. 14 was "somewhat late" (DFa). The only Snowy Owl reported was at 72nd St. on Boundary Bay, Delta, BC, Nov. 13 and later (L. Esralson, m.ob.). The 34 N. Pygmy-Owls reported was a high count, but only a very few were lowland sightings. The 13 Barred Owl reports

were all from southern V.I., the Vancouver, BC, area, and *Whatcom*, WA. A Great Gray Owl was seen Aug. 19 on the Toketee R.D., e. *Douglas*, OR (D. Knutsen, *fide* DFi). Three Great Grays were noted at their usual haunts in e. *Jackson*, OR (M. Moore, T. Corman). One wonders about the likely fledgling success of a Com. Nighthawk flushed Aug. 15 from a nest with 2 eggs on Sidney I., BC (J & RS). Flocks of 50 Black Swifts were noted Sept. 2 in Cypress P.P., BC (DT) and Sept. 18 at Courtenay, V.I. (K. & N. Morton), and two were seen Sept. 26 over Toketee L., OR (DFi), where they are rarely-seen migrants. Thousands of Vaux's Swifts were migrating S over Bellingham, WA, Sept 20 (TW), 200 roosted in the chimney of the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, OR, Sept. 24 (the Cromacks), and the last ones noted were in Medford, OR, Sept. 27 (M. Bell, *fide* ES). A Costa's Hummingbird was present from early November on at a Coos Bay feeder (Nancy Prince, m.ob.) for the first record for Coos and the 9th for w. Oregon. An increase in reports of Black-backed Woodpeckers in the Oregon Cascades included one to two near Serene L., Black Crater at McKenzie Pass, Davis L., Crescent L., 7 sites on the Toketee R.D, and on Mt. McLoughlin. Seven "Yellow-shafted" N. Flickers and several other hybrid flickers were noted throughout the Region. Pileated Woodpeckers are seldom commented on here, but with the usual 54+ reports in hand from throughout the Region, they are doing well. Latest flycatcher sightings were: Olive-sided, Aug. 21, Reifel I., BC (JJ) and Sept. 17 on San Juan I., WA (EH); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 10 on Tatoosh I., WA (HW), Sept. 16 in Vancouver, BC (RC), and Sept. 24 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR (S. Keightley); Willow Flycatcher, Sept. 16 at Toketee R.S. (DFi) and Oct. 3 in Harbor, *Curry*, OR (RE, AB, GL); Hammond's, Sept. 25 at Pt. Roberts, WA (Tom Hanrahan, BL); and Western, Sept. 15 at Eugene, OR (SH). A Least Flycatcher was reported from the S.J.C.R. with no details. A W. Kingbird was west to Jordan River, V.I., Sept. 18 (KT), and an E. Kingbird was at Ecola S.P., Cannon Beach, OR, Aug. 29 (Jan Kapan, *fide* HN) Seven Tree Swallows lingered at Reifel I., BC, until Oct 27 (H. & JM), with one still there Nov. 11 (JI). A flock of 500 Violet-green Swallows over Toketee L., OR, Oct. 10 was late (DFi). About 44+ Bank Swallows were noted. These high numbers have become usual in the last few years. One at the Nehalem sewage ponds, OR, Sept. 25 (EE, TM) was the latest A Cliff Swallow at Sauvie I. Nov. 20 provided the first November record for Oregon (JG, JJ, DP). More than

300 Barn Swallows were still present Sept. 13-14 at Tillamook, OR (HN), and at Steigerwald L., *Clark*, WA (WC). Five in Portland Nov 12 (JJ) and six at Reifel I., BC, Nov. 22 (JI) were the last lingerers noted.

JAYS TO CBOSSBILLS -- A Scrub Jay was west to Grays River, *Wabkiakum*, WA, Oct. 26 (Bob Pyle, *vide* AR) for one day only. Single Rock Wrens were noted Nov. 13-20 in a quarry at Yaquina Head, OR (JJ, K. Liska) and Nov. 29-Dec 1 along the breakwater at Wreck Beach, Vancouver, BC (M Gebauer, †MPr). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in heavy *Ceanothus* brush near the Toketee R.S., OR, Aug. 12 (DFi). This is north of its usual range in *Josephine* and *Jackson*. A stray Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen Nov. 10-12 along Thomas Creek, e. of Scio, *Linn*, OR (Pat Waldron, M & EE, ph.). Another was reported from the S.J.C.R. with no details. On Oct. 1 an imm. **Northern Wheatear** was seen in a field near the entrance to Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR (†Hendrik Herlyn) for only the 2nd record for the state. A Wrenit was a little farther north than usual in the Willamette Valley at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Aug. 5 (BB). Single N. Mockingbirds were seen Aug. 2 at Lena L., at 1750' on the e. slope of the Olympic Mts., Wash. (MC) and Oct. 2 at Siletz Key, n. *Lincoln*, OR (PP, *vide* DFa), A **Brown Thrasher** was seen Oct. 13 on the n. shore of Orcas I., WA (†E. & T. Norwood) for only the 2nd documented record for the state. An imm. White/Black-backed Wagtail was seen briefly Sept. 11 at Jordan River, V.I. (KT). The first N. Shrikes arrived on schedule Oct. 2 in Delta, BC (CG), Oct. 4 on Sauvie I., OR (DI), and Oct. 6 near Sequim, WA (SS). A Loggerhead Shrike found Oct. 23 in Redmond (†James West) furnished the 2nd fall record for w. Washington Single Solitary Vireos at Jericho Park, Vancouver, BC, Sept 25 (RC) and at Comox, V.I., Oct. 5 (Brent Diakow) were very late, as were single Warbling Vireos in Vancouver, BC, Sept 27 & 30 (BL, BK). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen closely Nov. 3 at Ruby Beach, *Jefferson*, WA (†Marcus Roening) provided the first record for the state. Single **Magnolia Warblers** were seen Sept. 10 at the S.J.C.R. (†JG) for the 3<sup>rd</sup>

w. Oregon record, and Oct. 4 on Protection I. WA (†Suzanne Sterling) for the 5th w. Washington record. all in the span Sept. 8-Oct. 21. A Black-and-white Warbler was seen Aug. 20 in W. Vancouver, BC (†Audrey Viken). A **Blackpoll Warbler** well-described Sept. 15 at the Fern Ridge Res., Eugene (†SH) furnished about the 4th record for w. Oregon. An ad male Am. Redstart at the Montlake fill, Seattle, Aug. 26-28 (KA, †TH, BS) provided the first *King* record. Female-plumaged Am. Redstarts were on Tatoosh I., WA, Sept. 9 (HW) and on Foster's I., Seattle, Oct. 25-26 (KA, RTh). Another Am. Redstart was at the S.J.C.R. Sept. 4 (JG, NL, D. Rogers). Fourteen Palm Warblers were reported. Four at Harbor, *Curry*, Oct. 3 (RE, AB, GL) were the earliest of the nine along the Oregon coast. Single Palms were north to Ucluelet, V.I., Oct. 9 (Mike Force, Peter Hamel *et al.*) and Jordan River, V.I., Oct. 10 (KT). Four N. Waterthrushes were found at coastal locations: Reifel I. Aug. 26 (JI), near Cape Perpetua, s. *Lincoln*, OR, Sept. 5 (JE), Langford, V.I., Sept. 5 (B. Whittington), and Astoria, OR, Oct. 2 (MPa). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Harbor, OR, Oct. 3 (†RE, AB, GL). Single Brewer's Sparrows, rare in the Region, were at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, OR, Aug. 10 (†DFi) and at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Aug. 29 (SH). A stray Lark Sparrow was on Tatoosh I., WA, Sept. 8-10 (†HW). Six Swamp Sparrows were noted in Oregon, with the earliest found Oct. 14 at Plat I Res., Roseburg (†DFi). Others were in Delta, BC, Oct. 22 (†BL), W. Saanich, V.I., Oct. 28 (B. Begg), and Jordan River, V.I., Oct. 29 (KT). The 21 White-throated Sparrows reported made a normal number; 16 were in Oregon, three in Olympia, WA, and two on V.I. The first of these were not found until Oct. 1, at Dallas, OR (RG) and Jordan River, V.I. (KT). Only two Harris' Sparrows were found, one Nov. 16 at Toketee R.S., OR (DFi) and another Nov. 22-26 in Sechelt, BC (Jean Whittaker). A Rusty Blackbird was noteworthy in Delta, BC, Oct. 23-27 (†CG, H & JM). A Com. Grackle in C. Saanich Nov. 12-23 provided the 2nd record for the southern V.I. area (J. & G. Anderson, J & RS). Red Crossbills were widely reported on V.I. and around Puget Sound and were "plentiful" on the n. Olympic Peninsula (D & SS), but were unreported from w. Oregon.

Barron, Barb Bellin, Mike Bentley, Thais Bock, Wilson Cady, Richard Cannings. Mike Carmody, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Richard Erickson, Joe Evanich, Darrel Faxon (DFa), David Fix (DFi), **David Fraser** (DFr), Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Carlo Giovannella, Todd Hass. **Steve Heintl**, Margo Hearne (MHe), Marguerite Hills (MHl), Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, David Irons, Jim Johnson, Brian Kautesk. **Doug Kragh**. Bill Lamond, Nick Lethaby, Gary Lester, Donna Lusthoff. Hue & JoAnn MacKenzie, Tom & Alison Mickel, Ken Morgan, Bob Morse, Pat Muller (PMu), **Harry Nehls**, Bob O'Brien, Mike Patterson (MPa), Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Michael Price (MPr), Alan Richards, Craig Roberts, Joy & Ron Satterfield, Mike Scuderi, Eric Setterberg, Dory & Start Smith, Bob Sundstrom, Keith Taylor, Terry Thompson, Robert Thorn (RTh), Larry Thornburgh, Bill Tice, Rick Toochnin (RTo), Danny Tyson, Terry Wahl, **Wayne Weber**, Linda Welland, Herb Wilson

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*The Winter Season, 1989-1990*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

Winter in the Region continued the drought of summer and the mostly dry autumn. December was decidedly dry and somewhat cooler than normal. January continued the dry trend in most localities but was abnormally warm. February brought the big surprise, with the season's coldest temperatures, well below zero in many areas. Precipitation conditions varied from dry to wet. Mild conditions during most of the season allowed many a semi-hardy species to linger and even to winter. The deep freeze of February closed much water habitat, drove out water birds or caused their shifting to open water, and delayed the arrival of some early spring migrants. Opinions differed as to the effects of the frigid weather, probably in part because of the great diversity existing in such a large Region. A good many observers did mention that bird numbers were down. Mild conditions may have enabled birds to

remain dispersed but the severe February weather did not seem to reverse the situation. In general observers reported few or no northern and mountain visitors, which presumably found weather and food supply favorable nearer their breeding grounds.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Princeton, OR.

LOONS TO HERONS -- Hayden L., ID, had a Pacific Loon Jan. 19-20 (PH). Vernon, BC, was treated to two Yellow-billed Loons Dec. 18 (*fide* RRR). Also there in late January were 200 Horned Grebes, a large number (PR). Notable were a few Red-necked Grebes on the Wenatchee, WA, CBC; on L. Chelan, WA (KB, VB); at Walla Walla, WA (SM, TS); and on Coeur D'Alene L., ID (JP, DP). Two W. Grebes were sighted on L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., MT, Jan. 20 (DT). Up to 22 Am. White Pelicans were noted wintering in the Pasco, WA, area and a few did so in the American Falls, ID, vicinity. A few at Malheur, OR, appeared unable to fly and all died, apparently owing to starvation. Double-crested Cormorants wintered in the Pasco area. Some 250 congregated below Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R. e. of Pasco Feb. 5 (MD). One was sighted at Coeur d'Alene L. Dec. 10 (LT) and Jan. 7 (SHS et al.), and another was at Chelan Falls, WA, Feb. 19 (EH, S.A.S.). An Am. Bittern was seen on several days in January at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA (WRR). Rocky Coulee just n. of Moses Lake, WA, had a Great Egret for apparently the Columbia Basin's first winter record (SJ). Single Cattle Egrets were noted along Frenchman Hills Wasteway, Grant, WA (GS), and near George, WA (TL), in November. Over 100 wintering Black-crowned Night-Herons were sighted at Hagerman N.W.R., Hagerman, ID, Jan. 26 (B & CW, CHI), and more than 25 were at Moses L. Jan. 12 (RF). The species wintered in some numbers in the Pasco area (HH, REW). One was seen at Malheur Dec. 19 for one of the few winter records there (CDL).

WATERFOWL -- Two Tundra Swans on the Wenatchee R. at Leavenworth, WA, were unusual (PC), as were a few near Thorp, WA (AS, m.ob.). The

Kamloops-Okanagan Valley, BC, area reported 403 Tundra Swans Jan. 8 and the Kamloops

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S Thompson R. area had 116 Trumpeter Swans that day for the largest wintering population yet recorded there (RRH) Highest count of Trumpeters for the winter at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT, was 397 (JB). Over 450 were counted at Harriman S.P. near Island Park, ID. After Henrys Fork of the Snake R. there froze over because of lack of water, 34 Trumpeters were found dead (JS). Three Trumpeters were believed to have wintered at L. Helena in Montana (BK, GH) and 30+ swans at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla, OR, were believed to be of this species (SM, TS). Most of Malheur's Trumpeters left in December but 33 were counted Jan. 6. Waterfowl at Columbia N.W.R. peaked the 2nd week of December, when about 100,000 were counted on Royal Lake. Canada Geese numbered 40,000 at Saddle Mountain N.W.R., w of Othello, Dec. 7. Freezing waters late in the winter drove most of the waterfowl from these refuges to the Columbia R. Noteworthy were single Greater White-fronted Geese at Kamloops Dec. 18 (RRH); at Vernon, BC, all winter (PR); at Richland, WA, Dec. 6; on McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA, Feb. 5 & 9 (MD, MLD, REW); and at Enterprise, OR, Jan. 8 (PS). Singles of the species also appeared at Bend, OR (TC), and Wasco, OR (PM, LW). One identified as the large "Tule" race was at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Feb. 5 (MD). A few N. Pintail wintered at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT, and on the Kootenai R. at Bonners Ferry, ID. Single Eur. Wigeons appeared at Lewiston, ID, and in Oregon at Bend, Summer L., and Mosier. One male wintered at Walla Walla and another was at Cold Springs N.W.R., Hermiston, OR, Feb. 25. A male Harlequin Duck along the Clark Fork R. w. of Missoula, MT, most of the winter (PLW, m.ob.) and a female on the Bitterroot R. n. of Hamilton, MT (WRG, CFM), reportedly made the latilong's first winter sightings. Likewise a male on Shuswap L., Salmon Arm, BC, furnished that area's first winter record (RRH). Sightings of single Oldsquaw were made at Summer L. (MA, CM) and at Haystack Res., Madras, OR (TC, LR); on Hayden L., ID (WH, JP, DP, CV); and on the Columbia R. near Wenatchee, WA (MH). Haystack

Res. had an imm. Surf Scorer Dec. 31 (TC, CM, LR). Two White-winged Scoters were sighted on the Bruneau, ID, CBC (AL), and the species was found on the Snake R. near Grandview, ID. One appeared at Summer Lake W.M.A., OR (MA), and one was found dead at Orondo, WA (GB, FW). A male Red-breasted Merganser was at the Hood R. mouth, OR, in mid-January (DA, PM, LW), and another was at Lewiston, ID, Dec. 3 (JP, DP).

VULTURES TO GULLS -- A remarkable winter record, if correct, was of seven Turkey Vultures soaring over Moses Coulee n. of Quincy, WA, Jan. 7 (RD, *fide* RF). An Osprey seen Feb 9 at Lyons Ferry Fish Hatchery, Perry, WA, apparently over-wintered there (MD, MLD). Bald Eagle numbers were especially good in c. Washington. A wing-tagged female Bald Eagle wintered for at least the 3rd year on the Salmon R. n. of Challis, ID (LHa), and an imm. bird tagged at Glacier N.P. in 1988 was sighted at Kettle Falls, WA, Jan. 6 (RF). A Ferruginous Hawk near Touchet, WA, Feb. 5 was meticulously described (MD, MLD, SM). A sighting of two was near Waitsburg, WA, Dec. 15 (CSe, CSw). Malheur had an imm. Ferruginous Dec. 1 & 19 (SF) Totals for falcon sightings were: Am. Kestrel, many; Merlin, 12+; Peregrine, 4; Gyrfalcon, 12; and Prairie, 9+. Wild Turkeys numbered 15 at Lost Prairie, 3 mi n.w. of Flora, OR, Jan. 8 (PS), and up to nine were seen in the Black Butte area n.w. of Sisters, OR (LR). A few were found in the Alpowa Cr. vicinity w. of Clarkston, WA (DES, RM). Two Virginia Rails were located at a marsh at Mabton, WA, Mar. 2 (BR, GR) and one was at a marsh 4 mi w. of Joseph, OR, Dec. 18 (MK, LL, PS). Eight Sandhill Cranes were sighted along the Payette R. near Letha, ID, Dec. 5 (CS). Sandhills at Malheur were first seen Feb. 24, a late date, possibly because of cold, snowy conditions between there and California wintering areas. They were unreported elsewhere. Two Greater Yellowlegs were noted at West Pond, Lewiston, Jan 21 (JP, DP) and at Swallows Park, Clarkston, the next day (WH, CV). Four were found along the Umatilla R. in n. Oregon Jan. 2 (DHe, SM, ASk). A W. Sandpiper and a Least Sandpiper were found along the Snake R. near Eagle Rock, s.w. of American Falls, ID, Jan. 14 & 16 (CHT, DS). The Yakima R. delta, Richland, had 12 of the latter species along with seven Dunlin and one Long-billed Dowitcher Feb. 27 (REW). A Pectoral Sandpiper in the

Burton-Nakusp area of s.e. British Columbia made the first winter record there (GD), and four Dunlin wintered at Kamloops, surviving -30°C weather (RRH). Among wintering gulls at Richland a Mew Gull appeared Dec. 19 and Jan. 29 (REW). The chief concentrations of Herring Gulls were at Richland, and at Libby Dam upriver from Libby, MT, where 50+, along with a Ring-billed and a California Gull, fed on fish injured passing through turbines (MSw). A winter sighting of a California Gull at L. Billy Chinook w of Madras, OR, was noteworthy, as was one on Mirror Pond, Bend. Unusual were single Herring Gulls at Chief Joseph Dam, Bridgeport, WA, Feb. 19 (EH, S.A.S.), Moses L. Feb. 27 (BR, GR), and Summer Lake W.M.A. in late February (AA, MA, SS). Richland had 5 sightings of single Thayer's Gulls, very rare there (REW). An ad W. Gull photographed at L. Ewana, Klamath Falls, OR, Jan. 14 was a real rarity (RE, SS). A Glaucous-winged sighted at Malheur Dec. 19 was the refuge's first, and likely the first for s.e. Oregon (AMH, MS). Kamloops had three Glaucous-winged Gulls, and Vernon had one in December (RRH). A first-winter Glaucous-winged (an adult), and an imm Glaucous Gull were sighted Jan. 7 at the Coeur d'Alene landfill (WH, CV, DP, JP, ES, SHS). A first-winter Glaucous at the Polson, MT, dump Jan. 15 was apparently a latilong first (DH, DT), and one, supposedly a latilong first, was reported without details in the Kalispell, MT, area (*fide* PLW). One ad Glaucous appeared at the Yakima R. delta Jan. 29 (REW) and one was at Lower Monumental Dam s. of Kahlotus, WA, Jan. 28 (MD). A photographed and well-documented **Great Black-backed Gull** at Kamloops, BC, made the province's first inland record (RRH, SR, SRa, confirmed by Earl Godfrey).

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS -- Common Barn-Owls frequented a marsh unit at Columbia N.W.R. in January (WRR) and one flushed from a canal bank s. of Quincy, WA, Jan. 11 (JT). The birds appeared to be holding their own in the Walla Walla area. One barn-owl on Michaud Flats n. of Pocatello, ID, made Trost's first sighting in years. In January two N Hawk-Owls were found at Williams L., BC, and one was at Vernon Jan. 20 (*fide* RRH). A Burrowing Owl was sighted near Quincy Jan. 11 (JT), and one at Winchester, WA, Jan. 25 was using a burrow through snow into an unoccupied rabbit's den (DC). A Barred Owl visited

Lewiston Dec. 20-21 (MSc, LS, C.B.) and another appeared in Pullman, WA, Jan. 13 (JP, DP). Single Great Gray Owls were reported on 3 occasions in February in the Kamloops area (TGo, RRH) and one was found dead under an electrical transformer s.w. of Bridgeport, WA, Jan. 29 (MHa). One near Helena Jan. 20 was the latilong's overdue first (BN). Northern Saw-whet Owls were commonly seen at Kootenai N.W.R. (LN). One Saw-whet was found at Sun Mt. Lodge near Winthrop, WA (GG, EH, S.A.S.); one stayed at Walla Walla, and another was sighted near Waitsburg, WA (MD); one appeared near a Boise, ID, feeder Dec. 10 (JSm), and one was sighted s.w. of Meridian, ID, Feb. 5 (ESp). Some others of the species did not fare so well, for one was found dead at Richland (REW), one was killed by a car in Ellensburg (GC), and two were found dead along the road in Cloverdale, OR (LR). Two Anna's Hummingbirds at Kamloops Dec. 23-25 (RRH) and one in Hood River Jan. 1-14 (DA) furnished the species' only reports. Twelve Lewis' Woodpeckers were found in their

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usual nesting areas among the oaks e of Goldendale, WA, Mar 2 (BR, GR). Vernon's Red-breasted Sapsucker Jan 8 made the Okanagan Valley's 5th record (CG). Another was in Madras Feb. 2 (DHi, HHi). A male Williamson's Sapsucker at L. Chatcolet w. of St. Maries, ID, Dec. 27 may have furnished the state's first winter record (SHS, KS, CS, KS). White-headed Woodpeckers were present at Bald Butte, 20 mi w.n.w. of Burns, OR, Feb. 20 (CC). A Say's Phoebe was sighted near Letha, ID, Dec. 16 (CS), and another was along the Snake R. above Buffalo Rapids s. of Lewiston Jan. 14 (C.B.). Otherwise the species was noted arriving Feb. 24-28 from c. Oregon to the Okanagan of British Columbia.

JAYS TO WARRLERS -- Pinyon Jays were seen on Sage Hen Summit, 9 mi w. of Burns, Dec. 17. The species apparently occurs regularly in this general area in winter (LH, *fide* CDL). Clark's Nutcrackers numbering 100+ were feeding from ponderosa pine cones near Conconully, WA, Dec. 17 (RF). An unusually high number of the species wintered around

Helena (GH). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee, rare e. of the Cascades in Oregon, was sighted at Tumalo Mt. w. of Bend Feb. 11 (CM). The species wintered in some numbers at feeders at Walla Walla. Two late Rock Wrens were found at Frenchglen Dec. 18 (CDL), and one in Webber Canyon s. of Benton City, WA, Jan. 25 supposedly wintered (REW). At least three Canyon Wrens wintered in the vicinity of Perma, MT (DSt, DT *et al.*). A few Bewick's Wrens were seen in the Asotin vicinity Dec. 3 (C.B.) and Jan. 28 (MK, OM), and at Moscow, ID, Dec. 17 (JP, DP). Malheur had its 2nd winter record of W. Bluebird when one appeared near Frenchglen Dec. 18 (CDL). Twenty of this species were sighted at Kendrick, ID, Jan. 11 (CCo). A few Mt. Bluebirds wintered in the Pocatello area. Most remarkable was a report of Swainson's Thrush at Sorrento, BC, Dec. 20 for the area's first winter sighting (RRH). Hermit Thrushes wintered in normal numbers in the Richland area, e.g., three were seen at the Yakima R. delta Jan. 6 (REW), and one appeared at Walla Walla Feb. 4 (SM). One feeding on ice covered Benson Pond, Malheur, supplied the refuge's first winter record (AMH, CDL). One was at Washington State University's research station s. of Orondo, WA, Feb. 5 and another appeared near Pocatello Dec. 17 (JT, VT). Kamloops was visited by a N. Mockingbird Feb. 27 (EM). By far the largest concentrations of Bohemian Waxwings were reported at Kamloops and Penticton, few or none appearing south of the border until February. About 1000 were counted from Orondo to L. Chelan, WA, Feb. 19-20. Elsewhere numbers were relatively sparse. None was reported from Idaho and only very few from w. Montana. Only a sparse scattering of Cedar Waxwings was reported except for 653 on the Blitzen Valley, OR, CBC and 100 at the Tricities Jan. 22 (AS). Spokane's CBC counted 37 N. Shrikes--the 33-year average is 10. The species was little mentioned elsewhere. Six Loggerhead Shrikes were present near Frenchglen Dec. 18, and a northbound migrant appeared at Malheur Field Station Feb. 24 (CDL). One was sighted near Cloverdale, OR, Jan. 15 (LR) and one appeared w. of Walla Walla Dec. 11 (HW). Four were counted Dec. 23 on the Bruneau, ID, CBC (AL). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Sorrento, BC, Dec. 20 made the first interior winter record for the province (RRH). One was sighted at Richland Dec. 17, and two at Pasco Dec. 18 and Jan. 11 (REW). In Idaho one appeared in Boise Dec. 23 (AL) and one was along the Portneuf R. near Pocatello Dec. 18 (DTa). Lone Yellow-rumped Warblers put in appearances at

Oliver, Vernon, and Kamloops (first winter records there) in January (DB, PR, RRH). Lewiston had one Dec. 10 and Clarkston found 10 on Dec. 20 (JP, DP). At Dixon, MT, two appeared Dec. 9 (DT), and one was sighted at Wenatchee Feb. 2 (JT).

SPARROWS TO BLACKBIRDS -- Remarkable was a Chipping Sparrow at a Missoula feeder Dec. 18-Jan. 13, after which it disappeared, probably caught by a N. Pygmy-Owl (DT) Moses L. had a Savannah Sparrow Feb 18 for the only report (EH, S.A.S.) Single Fox Sparrows were reported from Oliver Dec. 28 (*fide* RRH) and at a Leavenworth feeder (*fide* RF), and three were on the Wenatchee CBC. A very late Lincoln's Sparrow was near the Portneuf R. Dec. 17 (JT, VT) The only White-throated Sparrows reported were at the trout farm n. of Pocatello Dec. 17 (*fide* CHT) and at Ft. Boise W.M.A, Canyon, ID (AL). In addition to the usual wintering White-crowned Sparrows in e. Washington and Oregon, a few Golden-crowns were noted: three at Richland Dec. 2 and one Jan. 17 (REW), and one at Parker, WA, Mar. 2 (BR, GR) A few Harris' Sparrows were noted in s. Idaho, e. Oregon and Washington, and s. interior British Columbia, One in Bend was the first reported there since 1977 (*fide* TC). Another was seen in Wasco, OR, Jan. 21 (PM, LW). Snow Buntings were almost completely absent. Single Lapland Longspurs were noted near Mansfield, WA, Jan. 26 (DW) and at Hart L., Hart Mt. National Antelope Ref., OR, Dec. 31 (MA, AA). A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds wintered near Othello (WRR) and one was sighted at McNary N.W.R. Feb. 5 (MD, MLD). A few Yellow-headed were wintering with other blackbirds, including a few Brown-headed Cowbirds, near a cattle feedlot outside of Jerome, ID (CW, CHT). Two Rusty Blackbirds stayed in Kamloops Dec. 1-31 (SR, RRH), and one was at Oliver Dec. 28-Feb. 26 (DB). Walla Walla College farm was visited by one Dec. 30 (KK). A Brown-headed Cowbird was sighted in Vernon in mid-February (PR) and three appeared in the Oliver area Jan. 15 (DB). Several were found with other blackbirds near Warden, WA, Mar. 1 (BR, GR).

FINCHES -- A well-described photographed **Brambling** visited a Vernon, BC, feeder Feb. 2 & 12 (*fide* PR). Three male Purple Finches were present in

Lakeview Feb. 10-17 (MA, AA), and five females were carefully identified near Waterville, WA, Feb. 5 (AS). The species was reported near Hayden L., ID (KBo, RCB), and at Thompson L. near Harrison, ID (IWN). Cassin's Finch numbers were high in the Missoula area during the February sub-zero weather. They also showed high, even record-breaking, winter numbers in the Penticton- Vaseux, BC, area and at Spokane, Walla Walla, Cle Elum, and the Leavenworth-L. Wenatchee area, Washington. A few Purple Finches were believed to be mixed with them at Leavenworth. Red Crossbill sightings were sparse, the most impressive being of 300 in the s. Okanogan, BC, in late December. The Loup Loup summit area w. of Okanogan, WA, had "many" Feb. 11 (AS). A single Red Crossbill at Umatilla Dec. 28 was notable (TG). Common Redpoll sightings were very meager, although 370 were counted in the Shuswap L area, BC. American Goldfinches, which winter at Helena only about one year in 10, frequented a feeder there Dec. 27-Feb 27 (ASc). The largest concentrations of Evening Grosbeaks appeared at Prince George and Williams L., BC, in the Spokane area, and at Helena. At the latter locality, hundreds, along with many House Sparrows, were found dead in December, mostly in the vicinity of feeders. Investigation ruled out pesticide or herbicide-treated seed, but Salmonella poisoning was indicated for the House Sparrows.

CORRIGENDA -- In AB 42:464, line 26 of the 2nd column should read "A female Red-breasted Merganser at the Yakima R. mouth ...", not an Oldsquaw. The photo of a male Hooded Oriole, AB 42:372, was taken by Bob Gabriel, not Tom Crabtree.

OBSERVERS CITED (subregional editors in boldface) – Dave Anderson, Anne & Merle Archie, Janissa Balcomb, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Karen Bordens (KBo), R. C. Bordens, George Brady, Doug Brown, Ken & Val Brunner, Chris Carey (CC), Debbie Carnevali, Patricia Clark, Collette Cozort (CCo), Tom Crabtree, Grant Craig, Gary Davidson, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, Ray Duff, Ray Ekstrom, Sharon Freshman, Ron Friesz, George Gerdts, Win. R. Good, Trevor Goward (TGo), Tony Greager, Carl Gruener, Lucinda Haggas (LHa), Marc Hallet (MHa), Larry Hammond (LH), Winnie Hepburn, David Herr (DHe),

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Ann Marie Housley, R.R. Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, Holly Hutsell (HH), Steve Jackson, Bert Jahn, Ken Knittie, Merlene Koliner, Bob Krepps, Al Larson, Louise LaVoie, C.D. Littlefield, Tracy Lloyd, Eric McAlary, Opal McIntyre, Christian F. Miller, Craig Miller, Rudy Miniutti, Pat Muller, Shirley Muse, Larry Napier, John W. Nigh, Betsy Nordell, Jeff & Deanna Palmer, Wm. R. Radke, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Phil Ranson, Sandy Rathbone (SRa), Lou Rems, Syd Roberts (SR), Tom Scribner, Murray Schumaker (MSc), Linda Schumaker, Ann Scofield (ASc), Carolyn Seachris (CSe), Seattle Audubon Society (S.A.S.), Connie Sherer (CSH), Aaron Skirvin (ASk). Mrs. D.E. Smith (DES), Jack Smith (JSm), Mark Smith (MS), Jeff Snyder (JS), Elmer Specht (ESp), Gretchen Steel, Dan Stephens (DS), Andy Stepniewski (AS), Esther Stewart (ES), John Stewart (JSt), Don Stoecher (DSt), Shirley H. Sturts, Keith, Carrie, & Kim Sturts, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Charlie Swanson (CSw), Marjorie Swanson (MSw), Colleen Sweeney (CS), Jerry Tangren (JT), Dan Taylor (DTa), Larry Thieman, Joel Tinsley (JTl), Van Truan, C.H. Trost, Dave Truchel (DT), Carole Vande Voorde, Bill & Cheryl Webb, Linda Welland, Herb Wilson, Fred Wiltse, R.E. Woodley, David Wright, Philip L. Wright.

*The Winter Season 1989-1990*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

/ **Bill Tweit**

The winter of 1988-1989 in the Pacific Northwest was marked by two extraordinary occurrences: a major oil spill and a major freeze. Some 231,000 gallons of oil were spilled when an oil barge collided with its tug at

the mouth of the Grays Harbor estuary on the Washington coast on December 22nd. Oil and oiled birds washed up on beaches from northern Oregon to mid Vancouver Island. Alcids appeared to be the hardest hit. Counts of salvaged specimens from the Washington coast were received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (JAt) and the Burke Museum at the University of Washington (DP), and are cited below. These counts do not include birds recovered from Oregon or British Columbia beaches, or even all of the Washington beaches. Many victims of the spill probably never washed ashore. The freeze, caused by the very strong Arctic high pressure system that moved south in the first week of February, brought snow and record low temperatures, winds and severe wind-chill factors to all parts of the Region, except southernmost Oregon. In southern Puget Sound, fairly thick ice formed on salt water. Observers reported Western Grebes and dabbling ducks frozen into the ice on salt water as well as fresh water areas, and loons and grebes trapped in narrow leads of open water among the ice. Five species of falcons could be found at one location in one day on the Samish River flats, in northern Puget Sound, Skagit County, Washington. The raptor populations wintering in this area and the nearby Skagit River flats were censused this winter for the first time using a Christmas Bird Count format, coordinated by Bud Anderson of the Falcon Research Group. The results, which are incorporated in this report, are not comparable with previous years as there had been no previous censuses of this type. Hopefully this survey will continue. The last two winters have been notable for the magnitude of reports of lingering species; this winter represented a return to more expected levels even before the big freeze. The report from Victoria, Vancouver Island, was not received for inclusion in this column.

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ABBREVIATIONS – S.F.W.R.C. = Skagit Flats Winter Raptor Census, WA, S.J.C.R. = South Jetty of the Columbia R, OR, V.I. = Vancouver Island, BC. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO EGRETS -- As happened last winter, Red-throated Loons were found in unusual numbers on inland waters, with nine reports along the Columbia R. (HN, Denise Caldwell) and birds at Salem (Glen Lindeman) and Forest Grove, OR (Joe Evanich). Two Pacific Loons wintered inland at Forest Grove (VT, Donna Lusthoff) and there was one sighting on the Columbia R. at Portland (11). Eleven Red-throated, 50 Pacific, and three Common loons were part of the known oil spill mortality (DP, JAt). The six Yellow-billed Loon reports were below the long-term average, but not for the recent past. There was one from Oregon, off Manzanita, Tillamook, Feb. 5 (Durrel Kapan), and two Washington reports on Feb. 4 at Seattle (Keith Carpenter) and Feb. 11 at Point Roberts (Mark Oberle, Gerald Poynter). During December, singles were noted in British Columbia in the lower Fraser R. on Dec. 4 (Brian Self) and throughout the month at Stanley Park, Vancouver (Mike Toochin *et al.*). The only January report was of a bird at Saltspring I. in the Gulf Islands, BC, on the 21st (RTo *et al.*). Five Horned, six Red-necked, and 820 Western grebes were part of the reported oil spill mortality (DP, JAt).

#### S.A.

Winter identification of Clark's Grebes from W. Grebes has become a major problem in the Vancouver area. A significant number of the Clark's Grebe reports in this area may be erroneous. It seems that even though the two species are readily identifiable in breeding plumage, there are a few "intermediate" individuals in winter showing head patterns between typical Western and typical Clark's. Some of these have been called Clark's by some observers, Western by others, and hybrids (?) by still others. The identification literature offers little help, either failing to describe

There were 6 reports of apparently two Clark's Grebes from the Vancouver area. The one report substantiated by details from West Vancouver Dec. 16 (BK) described a bird in a plumage similar to breeding plumage. Six birds were noted, none with details, from Oregon: two found oiled at Cannon Beach, *Clatsop*, Jan. 13 (*vide* HN), one at Tillamook Bay Feb. 26 (RG), one



on the lower Coos River Jan. 22 (LT), and inland singles at N. Portland Jan. 29 (JJ) and Foster Res., *Linn*, Feb. 19 (LW, PMu). There are still no locales in the Region where Clark's can be expected. Some 78 N. Fulmars, one Sooty and 28 Short-tailed shearwaters, and two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (DP, JAt) were among the reported victims of the oil spill. Otherwise, there were 3 reports of live Short-tailed Shearwaters along the Oregon coast in December (David Irons, Tim Shelmerdine, Gerard Lillie), and 100+ were seen off Bandon Jan. 8 (DF). One Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was found dead at the S.J.C.R. Jan. 25 (MP). These were average numbers of live tubenose sightings for the Region. The only report of Brown Pelican was of one (unaged) on Puget Sound in Pierce from Jan. 1 to Feb.4 (*fide* TB); record numbers were found during the winter of 1987-1988. One Double-crested, seven Brandt's, and five Pelagic cormorants were salvaged from the oil spill (DP, JAt). Double-crested Cormorants are showing increasing numbers in Marion in the Willamette Valley (BB). The number of Great Egrets reported this fall was lower than usual, and wintering numbers were also lower. One lingered until Dec. 11 in the lower Fraser R., BC (BL), for the 3rd winter record for the area. There were only 2 Washington reports (G & WH, AR), down from 7 and 5 the previous two winters. As usual, large numbers were found only along the southern Oregon coast (DF). After only one report this fall, unexpected numbers of Cattle Egrets were found during December and early January. There were two in s.w. Washington (Ruth McCausland, AR) and four from the n.w. Oregon coast (MP, BTi, SJ, TS). The latest and farthest north was one Jan. 7 at Delta, BC (BL). At least two Green-backed Herons were present until Jan. 15 in the Vancouver, BC, area (B & PS, George Smith, BK), where they are casual in winter.

WATERFOWL -- Tundra Swan numbers seemed to be reduced in n.w. Oregon (HN). Up to 1000 Snow Geese wintered on Sauvie I., OR (HN). This is the only locale in the Region where wintering numbers this large are found, other than the river deltas of n. Puget Sound and the lower Georgia Strait. Four Ross' Geese were seen with the Sauvie I. Snow Geese on Feb. 28 (FIN); they are rare in western Oregon. Five Emperor Geese were reported from the s. Oregon coast (JG, LT, John Crocker) and one was at Quamichan L. on V.I. (WW). The Regional average for the last few years has been

about six. The 16 reports of Eur. Green-winged Teal, including 7 from Oregon, 3 from Washington, and 6 from the Vancouver, BC, area, were twice the recent average. Two Green-winged Teal were among the oil spill victims (DP), and they and N. Shovelers were found frozen in the ice when the freeze hit n Oregon (BB). The 'summer' teal are appearing more often in winter in the Pacific Northwest. Blue-winged Teal, which are very rare in winter, were found in Washington on Dec. 3 at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark* (Nancy Ellifrit, *fide* WC) and Dec 31 at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* (BSc, *fide* TB), and in Oregon on Sauvie I. Feb. 11 (Sheri Erickson) and at Beaverton, *Washington*, Feb. 24 and later (Stefan Blair). Cinnamon Teal, now reported annually, were found in exceptional numbers. Three wintered until Jan. 15 at Reifel I., BC (JI). In Washington, a pair was at Nisqually N.W.R. throughout December (BSc, *fide* TB). In Oregon, 34 individuals were reported, including 24 wintering at the Astoria Sewage Ponds, *Clatsop* (MP). With these numbers, it becomes difficult to sort out the first migrants. In western Oregon, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, and N. Pintail were all in good to excellent numbers (FIN, DF) before the freeze. The only effect of the freeze appeared to be that they concentrated on the remaining open fresh water. In Washington, where there was little open fresh water, the numbers of Mallards and Am. Wigeon on Puget Sound increased greatly (VN). An imm. male Tufted Duck was noted at Blackie Spit, Surrey, BC, Jan. 29 (Tom Hanrahan, RT0). An ad male Tufted was on Orcas I., WA, from Jan. 1 (Andy Stepnewski) to Jan. 29. A first-winter male was at the Monmouth Sewage Ponds, Polk, from Jan. 2 on (RG), and a male was on the lower Columbia R. near Svenson, *Clatsop*, OR, from Jan. 25 on (MP). This is the usual number of reports of this species. The hybrid male Tufted Duck x scaup reappeared in Seattle on Jan. 8 for its 3rd winter (Ruth Taylor, EH). A **King Eider** seen at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, Dec. 27 (†MK) furnished the 13th report for Washington. Diving duck specimens salvaged from the oil spill included one Greater Scaup, one Harlequin Duck, and one Oldsquaw; 28 Black, 135 Surf, and 685 White-winged scoters; and 10 Bufflehead. These White-winged Scoters represented almost 9% of the specimens received. The preponderance of White-wingeds over Surf Scoters in the mortality is surprising, as White-wingeds were not thought to be that much more abundant than Surfs in the affected areas.

RAPTORS -- There were four reports of wintering Turkey Vultures, which is about average. Two were seen in the San Juan Is., WA (Ward Beecher, ML), and two more in Oregon, near Lebanon, Linn (Jeff Harding, *fide* ME) and at the Yachats River, Lincoln (Ethel Reed, *fide* DFa). Four Osprey reports from western Oregon (Annie Briggs, Bob Hanauska, Bob O'Brien) and one from Olympia, WA (B & GR) were also about

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average Nineteen Black-shouldered Kites were reported from s.w. Washington, with the farthest north being a pair at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* (Verna Timm). Last winter's 16 reports had been the highest ever for the state, and 12 the winter before that also set a record. In Oregon there were at least 58 kites noted, not including CBC totals. Kites seemed to be even more numerous than usual along the coast (HN, DF, SH). Bald Eagle numbers along the Oregon coast were at normal levels, or a bit above (HN). In Washington, 200 were counted along one stretch of the Nooksack R., *Whatcom*, Jan. 6 (Doug Dobbys, *fide* TW). Normally, only 250 winter in the watershed. With 269 censused, Bald Eagle was the most common raptor in the S.F.W.R.C. (BA). Northern Harrier was a distant third on the S.F.W.R.C., with 93 reported (BA). There were good numbers of harriers this winter in w. Oregon (HN). The 40 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk, 37 of Cooper's Hawk, and 7 of N. Goshawk were all well below the usual number of reports for each species. Cooper's numbers were thought to be unusually low in w. Oregon this winter (HN, JJ). At least 14 reports of Red-shouldered Hawks from s.w. Oregon this winter, including two north to the Fern Ridge Res. area, *Lane*, Dec. 3 (SH, ME, TM), was two more than last winter's record number. They were reported north to *Coos* on the coast, and in the interior from *Jackson*, *Josephine*, and *Douglas*. Red-tailed Hawk was the 2nd most common raptor on the S.F.W.R.C.; 228 were counted, of which five were identified as *harlanii* (BA). It was a good winter for Rough-legged Hawks. Seventy-two were counted on the S.F.W.R.C. (BA), and numbers were reported south to the

Willamette Valley (HN). Fifty Merlin reports (in addition to the five from the S.F.W.R.C.) and 35 Peregrine reports (with an additional five from the S.F.W.R.C.) were both well below recent years' totals. Gyrfalcons and Prairie Falcons, however, were both in average numbers. There were four Gyrs in n.w. Washington, three sightings in the Vancouver area, and one along the Oregon coast at Cape Meares, *Tillamook* (Nick Lethaby). Four Prairies were reported from n.w. Washington, one wintered in the Vancouver, BC, area (m.ob.) for the 2nd record for that area, and seven were reported from the w. Oregon interior.

RAILS TO SANDPIPERS -- The Sora reports included one Jan. 7 at Reifel I., BC (†JL), where they are very rare in winter, and two on the Oregon coast where they are regular in winter (JG, MP, LT). Three Sandhill Cranes remained until Dec. 24 at Delta, BC (JL, Rick Toochn), well north of their usual wintering area along the Columbia R. The O.D.F.W. winter shorebird survey found 39 Snowy Plovers on Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook*, Jan. 7 (Joe Pesek, *fide* ME), the highest winter count ever for this location. After the big freeze, counts from this spot ranged from zero (CR) to four later in the month (RG). Counts of Semipalmated Plovers along the Washington coast were lower than those of the last 2 winters, but one at Iona I., BC, Feb. 4 (†Martin Gebauer) furnished the 5th or 6th winter record for the Vancouver area. During the early February freeze, HN noted a high mortality of Killdeer on the Oregon outer coast. No Greater Yellowlegs were reported in the Vancouver area after the freeze (*fide* DK); up to 24 had been reported immediately prior. Willets were noted only at their usual wintering locations: Port Angeles (SS) and Willapa Bay (BS) in Washington and Yaquina Bay (Laimons Osis) in Oregon. A Whimbrel wintering at Surrey, BC (†WW *et al.*) for the 2nd winter record in the Vancouver area also disappeared at the end of January, just before the freeze. Elsewhere, Whimbrels wintered only at their usual locations: three at Port Angeles (BT) and one at Tokeland on Willapa Bay (G & WH). The flock of wintering large shorebirds at Tokeland included 20 Longbilled Curlew and 150 Marbled Godwits (TB). This is the only locale in the Region where either species winters in numbers. There were 10 reports of Ruddy Turnstone, fewer than last winter but still more than normal. There were three reports of Red Knots.

One at Delta, BC, Dec. 10 (†BL) provided the 3rd winter record for the Vancouver, BC, area; the other two had no details. Small numbers of Least Sandpipers were reported north to the Vancouver, BC, area, about as usual Western Sandpipers were almost unreported, except from the Vancouver area where up to 93 were seen in December (*fide* DK). There was only one report after that, indicating they may have left the area. Flocks of Long-billed Dowitchers were noted before and after the freeze, from Vancouver, BC, south. Red Phalaropes did not appear onshore in numbers: two were at Ocean Shores, WA, Dec. 3 (Patrick & Ruth Sullivan), two were at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, and some were at the S.J.C.R Feb. 5 (MP).

LARIDS, ALCIDS -- Two Pomarine Jaegers at Ocean Shores, WA, Feb. 10 (G & WH) and one at Nehalem Sewage Ponds, *Tillamook*, Jan. 15 (S.J.T.S.) represented an average number of winter records for Pomarines. The imm. **Franklin's Gull** found at the Monmouth Sewage Ponds, *Polk*, OR, Dec. 27 on the Dallas CBC only stayed for one additional day (RG), for the 2nd or 3rd Oregon winter record. An 'ad Little Gull seen with Bonapartes at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, Jan. 26-27 (†VN, †Hank Vail) provided one of very few winter records for the Region. The adult **Common Black-headed Gull** at Vancouver found during the fall was seen until Dec. 17 (†WW), for the first British Columbia winter record. Only a few gull specimens were salvaged from the oil spill in Washington (DP, JAt): eight Mew, one Herring, one Thayer's, 26 Westerns, 61 Glaucous-wingeds, 15 Western x Glaucous-winged hybrids, and 34 Black-legged Kittiwakes. However, a Jan. 13 survey of gulls at the Elwha R. mouth in the Strait of Juan de Fuca (BT), well inshore from the oiled waters, showed that 25% of the Mews and over 3% of the Glaucous-wingeds showed oil on their plumage. Surveys of the large gulls at the dump near Olympia, WA, on two dates in January found at least eight adults that appeared to be Glaucous-winged x Herring Gulls (†DF). Birds appearing to be of this hybrid combination have been occasionally reported from this site in past years. Reports of 14 Glaucous Gulls, 10 of which were from Washington and British Columbia, were about average. Prior to the early February storm, there were only 3 reports of five-plus kittiwakes along the coast. After the storm, 30 were at S.J.C.R. Feb. 8 (HN) and 500 were at

Ocean Shores, WA, Feb. 10 (G & WH). Inland, one was found freshly dead at the Monmouth Sewage Ponds, *Polk*, OR, Feb 15 (*fide* HN). An oiled **Red-legged Kittiwake** that was recovered off the beach at Rockaway Beach, *Tillamook*, Jan 16 (*fide* HN) died at a rehab. center. This was the 7th record for Oregon. No fewer than 5876 Com. Murre specimens were recovered from the oil spill in Washington alone (DP, JAt), and many were salvaged in Oregon as well (HN). Just 5 days before the spill, 7000+ murrees were counted flying north along the coast at Grays Harbor (BT, EH); obviously very large numbers of murrees were in the area and vulnerable to the spill. Other oiled alcids in Washington included: one **Thick-billed Murre**, nine Marbled and nine Ancient murrelets, 165 Cassin's Auklets, five **Parakeet Auklets**, 42 Rhinoceros Auklets, eight Tufted Puffins, and eight *Horned Puffins*. Surprisingly there were no Pigeon Guillemots reported. The Thick-billed Murre was only the 2nd specimen for the state, and there are very few recent records for Parakeet Auklet and Horned Puffin. Apparently, five **Horned Puffins** were salvaged in Oregon (*fide* HN) and several **Parakeet Auklets** in British Columbia (*fide* Mike Force). Large numbers of Ancient Murrelets were in the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca during December and early January. Six hundred were seen off Victoria, V.I., Dec 14 (WW), and 102 were moving SE past Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, Dec. 10 (VN) into Puget Sound. The last reports were of

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100+ off Point Wilson, *Jefferson*, WA, Jan 14 (BT, BS) and 18 off Point Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA, Jan 29 (BL)

OWLS TO WRENS -- Only two Snowy Owls were reported. One wintered along Boundary Bay, BC (*fide* DK) and one was on the Samish Flats, *Skagit*, WA, on Feb. 18 only (IW). This was even fewer than the four individuals of last winter, and the lowest Regional count in recent memory. Only 11 N. Pygmy-Owls were noted, below average. Burrowing Owls, rare but regular winterers in w. Oregon, were noted at 3 traditional locations for them: the Eugene airport (TM), the Corvallis airport (ME), and w. of White City, *Jackson*

(June Babcock, *vide* MM). One was seen Feb. 1 & 5, when it was taken in a weakened condition to a rescue clinic in Delta, BC (K. Ernsley, *vide* DK), provided the 2nd Vancouver area record since 1983, and followed a wintering record last year. A Great Gray Owl that appeared for one day in Vancouver, Jan. 8 (†Richard Cannings), and another reported from Langley, s.e. of Vancouver, Jan. 1 (Glen Ryder) furnished the only reports. Nine sightings of Long-eared Owls from 6 locations equaled last winter's impressive numbers. Moderate numbers of Short-eared Owls were reported. The total was 57, but south of the Vancouver, BC, area the most seen in any locale was five. Anna's Hummingbirds were reported to have survived the freeze, even in the Vancouver, BC, area (Valerie Parker, *vide* DK). An Anna's in Port Angeles, WA, Jan. 25 (†Peter & Ann Burr) provided the first *Clallam* record. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** wintered at a North Bend, *Coos*, feeder and was last seen Feb. 18 (LT), for the 9th record for western Oregon. Returning Rufous Hummingbirds were later than the last 2 years. After one was seen Feb. 2 in the Coos Bay, OR, area (Jack Thomas) there were no further records until singles were seen on the Oregon coast at Astoria, *Clatsop*, Feb. 21 (MP) and Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, Feb. 25 (Wes & Florence Bell). Severe winter weather usually precipitates movement of Red-breasted Sapsuckers into the lowlands. Increased numbers were noted at Vancouver, BC (*vide* DK), the Skagit flats (EH, Robert Ashbaugh), Seattle (KA, RTh), San Juan I. (ML), and Vancouver, WA (*vide* WC). Most reports were of five or fewer, but 30 were seen in a single park in West Vancouver, BC, Feb. 5 (BK). Three Say's Phoebes in *Jackson*, OR (MM, Richard Erickson) in January and early February were in an area where a few winter. One at West Point, Seattle, Feb. 26 (TRh) was the first of an unusual spring flight (see spring report) A Tree Swallow at Tillamook, OR, Jan. 8 was apparently wintering (JJ), which is highly unusual for this species in the Region. Tree Swallow migration had been earlier than usual the last 2 years. This year, the first Oregon sightings did not come until the last days of January: the 28<sup>th</sup> in Portland (Mike Houck) and the 29<sup>th</sup> at Agate Lake, *Jackson* (HS). The first Washington record was Feb. 16 (BT) and the first British Columbia record Feb. 22 (RP, *vide* DK). Undoubtedly, the freeze impacted their northward migration, as it did that of Violet-green Swallows. By the end of February, Violet-greens had been reported only once: one near Coquille, *Coos*, OR, Feb. 11 (LT). Normally, they are widespread by the end

of the month. Four Barn Swallows lingered as late as Dec. 15 at Delta, BC (JI, *et al.*). Unusual numbers of Horned Larks were noted in *Marion* and *Polk* in the Willamette Valley immediately before and during the cold snap (BB). A small invasion of Steller's Jays was noted in the Seattle area, in conjunction with the freeze (KA). Common Ravens were noted 3 times this season in lowland areas of southern Puget Sound, where they are normally unknown (John Gatchet, Jon Jensen, Ted Mallory). They are regular in the north Puget Sound lowlands; their absence in nearby areas of south Sound is puzzling. Mountain Chickadee, an incursive species in the Region, went unreported this winter. Rock Wrens, scarce winterers, were noted at Vancouver, Dec. 1 to Feb.5 (WW *et al.*), and Dec. 24 at Yaquina Head, OR (Anthony Floyd).

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS -- Early sightings of W Bluebirds in Washington included two seen Jan. 13 in *Cowlitz* (Sherry & Arden Hagen, *vide* WC) and one Feb. 1-4 in *Pierce* (Eileen Orcutt, *vide* TB). Then, there were no sightings of flocks in Washington until the end of February (George Walter, AR), later than usual. There were 7 sightings of Townsend's Solitaire, all from Washington and British Columbia This is about the normal number for a winter. The cold spell in February concentrated numbers of Hermit Thrushes along roadways in the Coos Bay area in s. Oregon (LT), otherwise they were sparingly reported, Varied Thrushes appeared in some parts of the lowlands in very large numbers during and after the cold snap. They seemed most numerous in areas along saltwater, such as Coos and Yaquina Bays, OR, the San Juan Is., and Point No Point, WA (LT, DFa, ML, VN). Mortality in these areas was conspicuous, with many reports of roadkills and of birds seen weakly foraging. Lesser numbers, but still well above normal, were noted in the Willamette Valley (BB) and the Seattle and Tacoma areas (KA, TB). There was only one N. Mockingbird reported in the Region, in early December near Salem (*vide* BB). Usually, there are around 5 reports, with several staying through the winter. A **Brown Thrasher** wintering in a yard northeast of Salem, OR, from early December until Feb. 24 (†LW, †PMu, BB) represented the 4th record for western Oregon. Bohemian Waxwings were very scarce, with only 2 reports all winter: one in December in Waldport, *Lincoln*, OR (Roy Lowe) and 15 just before the freeze

on Jan. 29 in Seattle (KA) Cedar Waxwings were uncommon in western Oregon (HN) and in the Seattle area (RTh), but were more common than usual in the San Juan Is., WA, before the freeze (ML). A **Phainopepla** found by Bill Zannah, Doug, and Nancy Stotz on Dec. 22 near Gold Hill, *Jackson*, OR, spent the next month and a half occupying a small Oregon White Oak loaded with mistletoe (†DF, †LW, †PMu). This bird, apparently an imm male, was last seen Feb. 8 (MM). It furnished the first record for the Region and the 2nd for Oregon; the first record was in 1957 in *Harney*, OR. Northern Shrike numbers were down somewhat in all parts of the Region. Loggerhead Shrikes appeared twice: Jan. 4 at Agate Lake, *Jackson*, OR (HS) and Feb. 3-6 at Delta, BC (†BK, †B & PS); they are accidental at any season in the Region. A Yellow Warbler lingered until Dec. 23 in Portland (JG, CR). The last winter record was in 1983. A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** that appeared in Powers, Coos, OR, in early January (Dave Shea, *fide* LT) disappeared by Jan. 31. This was the 2nd winter record, and the 6th at any season, for w Oregon. A Black-throated Gray Warbler wintering on the Univ. of Washington campus in Seattle was probably the same individual that was there last year (RTh). It died during the colds nap (\* Burke Museum). A male Black-throated Gray Warbler was also seen in Portland until Jan. 25 (JG). Townsend's Warblers were widely reported in Oregon (HN), but in only small numbers in w. Washington and not at all in British Columbia. There were seven Palm Warblers noted. Five of those were December reports, from Saanich, V.I. (†J.B. Tatum), Ocean Shores (EH) and Seattle, WA (†BS), and Astoria, OR (MP). These were probably not wintering birds, as most were in continuously birded areas. In Oregon, Palms apparently wintered at Yaquina Bay (Robert Olson, *fide* DFa) and at Coos Bay (LT). Five Com. Yellowthroats were reported from Washington and British Columbia, where they are usual winterers. They were near Delta, BC, Feb. 11-26 (†BL), and in Washington in Kent, *King* (†DF), Marysville, *Snobomish* (Scott Atkinson), Bow, *Skagit* (GRa), and Federal Way, *King* (Ilene Marckx, *fide* TB).

BUNTINGS TO FINCHES -- A male Dickcissel was in Astoria, *Clatsop*, from Dec. 10 (†MP) to Jan. 15, for at least the 3rd Oregon record. Possibly the same bird

appeared in Manzanita, Tillamook, 35 mi down the coast from Astoria, Jan 27

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to the end of the period (HN, †LW, †PMu) Ten Am Tree Sparrows in the Vancouver, BC, area (*fide* DK) and one at the Forest Grove Sewage Ponds, Washington, OR, Jan. 27-29 (VT) was about normal for the Region, although there are usually some sightings from *Washington* as well. A Chipping Sparrow at the Forest Grove Sewage ponds Jan. 27 (†DF) was very unusual; well documented winter records are scarce. Washington's 2nd winter **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found Dec. 3 on the Samish Flats, *Skagit* (†BS). It remained until the end of the period (m.ob.). In Oregon, where there are more winter records, a Clay-colored wintered at the same North Bend feeder as last winter (BG, LT). After 2 years of high abundance, counts of Savannah and Lincoln's sparrows dropped to more normal levels. Swamp Sparrow numbers were also well below those of the last 2 winters. There were no British Columbia reports, only one Washington report (†BS) and 7 reports from Oregon (although more were reported on Oregon CBCs). Five reports of White-throated Sparrow north of Oregon were also a bit low. In w. Oregon, they were widespread in good numbers (HN). Only four reports of Harris' Sparrow, two in British Columbia and one each from Oregon and Washington, made the lowest total in many years. There were no reports of Lapland Longspurs, a sporadic winterer, other than a few on CBCs. An ad **Rustic Bunting** found Dec. 11 (†EH) at the Kent Sewage Ponds, *King*, WA, was in exactly the same location as the bird that wintered there in 1986-1987. The inescapable conclusion is that it is the same individual, and Washington observers are speculating about where it spent 1987-1988. The site is intensively birded, so if it wintered locally that season, it used a different territory. This year, as previously, the bunting remained through the end of the period. Small numbers of Snow Buntings wintered along the outer coast. The largest flock was of 50 at Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook*, OR, Jan, 1 (BTi, *fide* BB). There were at least 5 reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds from the Vancouver, BC, area (†Pat Miller, †JL, †BL, JI, Audrey Ostrom), where they are very rare winterers, and only

one from the rest of the Region, in Coos Bay, OR (BG). There were no Rusty Blackbird reports this winter, after much higher than usual numbers the previous 2 winters. Two reports of N. Orioles, both with no details, came from Ashland, *Jackson*, and Newport, *Lincoln*, in Oregon. Both appeared at hummingbird feeders in early February. If the reports are correct, the correlation with the freeze is probably not accidental. A male **Brambling** was seen Dec. 28 to Jan. 1 just north of Steilacoom, Pierce (†MK), for the 4th record for Washington. Red Crossbills were noted as common only on the San Juan Is. (DP, Tom Hahn) and the nearby n. Olympic Peninsula (SS) They were scarce in the Seattle area (RTh) and southwestern Washington (BT), and throughout western Oregon (HN). Small numbers of Com. Redpolls were seen throughout the winter in the Vancouver, BC, area, more than in the last 2 winters. One at a Seattle feeder from Feb. 25 to the end of the period (EH, m.ob.) was rare that far south. Both Pine Siskins and Am Goldfinches were patchily distributed. In w. Oregon, both species were in lower numbers than usual (HN). Good numbers of siskins were reported from the n. Olympic Peninsula (SS) and northwestern Washington (TW). Well above average numbers of goldfinches wintered in the Vancouver to Bellingham area (TW, DK). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce throughout the Region.

INITIALED OBSERVERS, (**With subregional editors in boldface**) -- Kevin Aanerud, Bud Anderson, James Atkinson, Barb Bellin, Thais Bock, Wilson Cady, Merlin Eltzroth, Darrel Faxon (DFa), **Dave Fix**, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Barbara Griffin, **Steve Heintl**, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, **Jim Johnson**, Sheran Jones, Brian Kautesk, Martin Kraft, **Doug Kragh**, Bill Lamond, Mark Lewis, John Luce, **Phil Mattocks**, Tom Mickel, Marjorie Moore, Patrick Muller, **Harry Nehls**, Vic Nelson, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Alan Richards, Craig Roberts, Howard Sands, Bill Schaff (BSc), **Dory & Stan Smith**, Bernie & Prue Spitman, Tom Staudt, Bob Sundstrom, Verda Teale, Bill Tice (BTi), Rob Thorn (RTh), Larry Thornburgh, Rick Tootchin (RTo), **Terry Wahl**, **Wayne Weber**, Linda Welland.

*Spring Migration 1989*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

After a very cold February and early March, the weather turned more seasonable, although mostly cool and very wet, helping to relieve the winter's dryness. April was mostly warm and somewhat dry. May again turned cool and wet in most areas. The migration timetable, insofar as observers commented, showed no consistent deviation from the normal, probably reflecting the great diversity of the Region. Mild weather in late March at Fortine, Montana, speeded up the duck migration, but thawing of ponds at Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, was several weeks late. Waterfowl and diving birds were late and many land birds were early at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon. The Salmon, Idaho, area and the Lewiston, Idaho/Clarkston, Washington area reported some record early arrivals but no correlation with weather was offered for these latter areas. Water conditions appeared good in most areas for the approaching summer.

LOONS TO IBISES -- Common Loons were appearing in the Region as early as March 24. A pair was nesting on Murphy L. near Fortine, MT (WW), and a pair was nesting on Wenatchee L., *Chelan*, WA (RO). A vagrant Red-necked Grebe appeared at Rowena, OR, Apr. 2 (DL). Three pairs of Red-necked Grebes arrived at Bull L., s.e. of Fortine (WW). Only three appeared at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID (LDN). A single bird at the Yakima R. delta, Richland, WA, May 9 & 15 made Woodley's first spring record there. The first spring migrant Am. White Pelicans at Malheur N.W.R., *Harney*, OR, were reported Mar. 18. About 1600 pairs were using the nesting islands there. A few pelicans appeared in the vicinity of Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA. One was sighted at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT, May 13 (VV) and single birds were seen May 1 on McArthur L., *Boundary*, ID (PH, SHS), and at Sunnyside

on Pend Oreille L., *Bonner*, ID (EC). A Double-crested Cormorant was also sighted May 1 at Sunnyside (EC). These birds were starting to arrive at Columbia N.W.R. Apr. 17 (WRR). Lind Coulee, *Grant*, WA, had three Clark's Grebes May 13 (BT), and Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT, and C.J. Strike Res., *Onybee*, ID, each had one (DH, AL, JS). American Bitterns were observed throughout the winter at Columbia N.W.R. Single Great Egrets were noted at Kootenai N.W.R. (RDC); at Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, ID (SP); at Siphon Pond, Pocatello, ID (CHT); and at St. Maries Gun Club ponds, *Benewah*, ID (JP, DP). Snowy and Cattle egrets were reported for the Rupert, ID, vicinity (WHS). Two Green-backed Herons appeared at Cascade Locks, OR, Apr. 22 (DA, DL) and another was at Mosier, OR, the next day (DL). One was sighted near Thorp, WA, May 18 (DPa, TS) and one was along the Clark Fork R. just w. of Missoula, MT, May 19 (CM). It looked like a very good nesting season in store for Black-crowned Night-Herons at Malheur N.W.R. Silcott I. on the Snake R. w of Clarkston, WA, had an adult in breeding plumage Apr. 2 (CG). An ad night-heron at Thompson L., *Kootenai*, ID, May 31 was the latilong's 2nd (SHS). A record 3500 pairs of White-faced Ibises were estimated for the Harney Basin around Malheur, and a colony of 50 pairs, the first on record, was found at Summer Lake, OR (MS).

WATERFOWL -- The largest concentration of Tundra Swans, numbering 900+, was along Crab Cr. e. of Wilson Creek, WA, Mar. 3 (BT). About 300 Trumpeter Swans were present in the Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. area, Lima, MT. Nest numbers were down a bit there. Two Trumpeters frequenting a lake n.w. of Kamloops, BC, were suspected of nesting (RRH). Four of the birds still persisted at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney,

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WA. At Malheur only 2 Trumpeter nests had been located and the spring census revealed only 19 birds. Their numbers have been declining there in recent years, presumably because of a shortage of winter food during severe cold spells. Three Trumpeters appeared on a pond at Plaza, WA, Mar. 13 (CG) and one at

Columbia N.W.R. in late March (WRR). Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID, counted 300 Greater White-fronted Geese and 400 Snow Geese Mar. 9 (NS). Seventy of the former at Tranquille, BC, made an unusually large number there (SR). Notable was a Snow Goose at Kamloops Mar. 26 (RR). Some 2500 Ross' Geese were sighted near Hines, OR, Apr. 13 (CR). Two appeared at Sunnyside May 1 (EC). A Brant was reported at Abert L., *Lake*, OR, in late May (CC). An apparent Wood Duck x Cinnamon Teal hybrid male was photographed and sketched in May at Warm Springs, MT. The nest box being occupied by its supposed mate is being watched (DS, KS). A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was sighted in the Hines area Apr. 13 (CR). A hybrid male Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was reported Apr. 22-23 at the Frenchman Hills-Dodson Road junction, *Grant*, WA (DPa). A scattering of Eurasian Wigeons was reported, with a notable "many" at Ninepipe N.W.R. (PD, PLW). Four Greater Scaup at Summer L. (MA), one at Anna Res., *Lake*, OR (MS), and one at Boardman, OR (PM, LW), all in March, were unusual, as were 16 Oldsquaw on Kamloops L., BC, Apr. 13 (SR). Two Harlequin Ducks were seen s.w. of Hood River, OR, Apr. 22 for a rare spring sighting (DA, DL). Surf Scoters peaked at 30 at Tranquille, BC, the first week of May (SR) for the only report. Five female and one male Red-breasted Mergansers were identified at Kootenai N.W.R. Apr. 26 for the first record there (LDN).

VULTURES TO CRANES -- A Turkey Vulture over Hampton Slough, Columbia N.W.R., May 3 was unusual (WRR). An Osprey lingered near Malheur headquarters Apr. 21-May 30 (m.ob.) and one was sighted to the south in the Blitzen Valley May 27 (*vide* GI). One was reported from Anna Res. May 11 (MS). A Black-shouldered Kite was reported at Gloyd Seeps n. of Moses Lake, WA, Apr. 23 (SV, JV). Bald Eagle numbers in the Harney Basin peaked at 160 Mar. 20-21 (GI). Thirty-six were feeding on a cow carcass near Kamloops Mar. 29 (SR). The pair at Kootenai N.W.R. began incubating around Mar. 23 and hatched one young Apr. 24, two weeks later than last year. Two other nests around Bonners Ferry were unsuccessful (LDN). Five sightings each of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were reported. Sage Grouse males at 2 leks at Foster Flats near Malheur totalled 50 in mid-April (CR). Five leks at Hart Mt. National Antelope Refuge,

OR, totalled up to 94 males (BP). Three Sage Grouse occupied a lek along Highway 395 at Izee Road s. of John Day, OR, Mar. 24 (PS). In n.e. Oregon, 14 Wild Turkeys were observed on Troy grade and 38 on Lost Prairie between Troy and Flora (PS). The species was reported near Fernan L., Coeur d' Alene, ID (*vide* SHS) and in the Yakima R. canyon area n. of Yakima, WA (EH). A major push of 7000-10,000 Sandhill Cranes passed Kamloops Apr. 23, for the largest single-day count on record for that area (SR). St. Andrews, WA, had 1200 Apr. 21 (PMA). Unexpected was the species at Sunriver and Bend, OR (DD, CMi), and at Prairie, ID (AL). Some were in the Blackfoot R. valley e. of Missoula, along with a Whooping Crane, in mid-April (PD). A Whooper also appeared at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. at about the same time (*vide* PLW).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS -- Up to four Black-bellied Plovers appeared at Summer L. in April (Crawford, CC, CCh, CMi, MS) and one was sighted at Flagtaft L. n. of Plush, OR, May 14 (DS, BS). The species was also noted at Indian Creek Res. e. of Boise, ID (CS). Kamloops had a Lesser Golden-Plover May 13 (ASu, RRRH). Up to a dozen Snowy Plovers were seen at Summer L. Apr. 27 (CMi). About 250 Semipalmated Plovers were counted there during a spring shorebird census Apr. 27 (CC, CMi, MS). Two were noted at Bend (TC) and three at Emmett, ID (ST). Black-necked Stilts were nesting at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR). They were also seen near George, WA (BT); at the Yakima R. delta (REW); Reardan, WA (HV), Emmett, ID (ST); and Bruneau, ID (AL). An Am. Avocet was found near Douglas L. in the s. Okanagan Valley, BC, about Apr. 15 (RM), and the Kelowna, BC, vicinity had a copulating pair at Robert L. (RC) and another pair at Alki L. (WCW), both May 21. The first Willet for *Deschutes* was recorded at Bend May 16 (TC). An astounding 24 Whimbrels were reported at Malheur N.W.R. May 20-21 (m.ob., *vide* GI). One Whimbrel showed up at Revelstoke, BC, May 24 (WD, DPo). Two Long-billed Curlews were seen at Kootenai N.W.R. Nesting by Long-billeds has been confirmed in n. *Boundary*, ID (LDN). Eight Marbled Godwits appeared at Summer L. Apr. 27 and one showed up s. of Burns May 3 (CMi). One was sighted at Revelstoke May 24 and a Red Knot was there the next day (WD, DP). Summer L. had a Red Knot Apr. 27 (CMi, MS) and a Sanderling May 4 (CC). One

Sanderling was at Tranquille Apr. 27 (RR). Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed at 2 spots in the Okanagan Valley, BC (RC). An impressive 6000 Least Sandpipers visited north Abert L., *Lake*, OR, Apr. 27 (MA). Baird's Sandpiper, rare in the Region in spring, numbered 10 at Malheur Apr. 22 (JB, CMi) and one was at Summer L. May 7 (SS, PS, TM, AM). The only Pectoral Sandpipers reported were 20 around Kamloops May 13 (RRH). North Abert L. hosted 300+ Dunlin Apr. 27 (MA) and a few were noted at Malheur. Tranquille had two Mar. 27-Apr. 9 (SR) and Separation L. in the Kamloops area had seven May 13-15 (RRH). One photographed at Ft. Boise W.M.A., *Canyon*, ID, was a vagrant (CK). Bend had a Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 30 (TC). A Franklin's Gull appeared at Coeur d' Alene L. Apr. 30 (DJ) and one at Swan L., Vernon, BC, May 21 was noteworthy (RC). Mann's L., Lewiston, ID, had a vagrant Bonaparte's Gull May 4 (C.B.). Summer Lake had a Herring Gull Mar. 4 (AA, MA) and two adults of the species were sighted both near Ellensburg (PMA, BT) and at Vantage, WA, Mar. 11 (BT). One Herring Gull was sighted at Clarkston Apr. 6 (CV) and six were at the Orofino, ID, sewage ponds Apr. 11 (CV, OM, MK). Two at Brown's L. s.e. of Ovando, MT, in April made the latilong's first record (PH, JM, PLW). Hood River, OR, had a report of Thayer's Gull Apr. 4 (DA, JE), and one was sighted at Hayden L., ID, Mar. 20 (PH). *Hood River's* 3rd Western Gull was at Hood River May 20. It was being harassed by a Glaucous-winged Gull (DA). A first-year Glaucous-winged appeared at Vantage Mar. 11 (BT) and one lingered at the Yakima delta until the very late date, for there, of Mar. 10 (REW) Alki L. had one May 21 (GD). Two imm. Glaucous Gulls frequented Coeur d' Alene's landfill Mar. 18 (JP, DP). A few Caspian Terns were noted at Ft. Boise W.M.A and Indian Creek Res. May 6 (ST). Hood River was visited by a Com. Tern May 20 (DA, DL) and Clarkston had seven Forster's Terns May 25 (CV).

PIGEONS TO HUMMINGBIRDS -- More Band-tailed Pigeons than usual, 25, were sighted near Hood River May 20 (DL). The Birds of Prey Natural Area had two Barn Owls May 20 (AL) and one was sighted Apr. 16 on Bateman I. near the Yakima delta, where nesting is suspected (REW). At least 30 Flammulated Owls were found in the Kamloops area in May (RRH *et al.*) and at least three were noted at Blewett Pass w of



Wenatchee, WA, May 12-13 (PMa, JK, PS, CV). One was at Buckhorn Springs in the Blue Mts., n.e. OR, May 28 (PS) The mountains e. of St. Ignatius, MT, furnished a sighting of a Great Gray Owl (EB). Two N. Saw-whet Owls were sighted at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID (AL, ST). In Washington one was calling along the San Poll R. s. of Republic Mar. 12; five were heard at Blewett Pass May 14 (BT), and the species was suspected of nesting at Rose Cr. Preserve n. of Pullman

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(JP, DP). Two White-throated Swifts 4 mi. w of Coeur d' Alene were latilong firsts (RB) Malheur N.W.R. had three Vaux's Swifts May 13 (*vide* GI). One near Pocatello May 13 was highly unusual (CHT). A White-throated Swift was sighted at the Barry Ranch e. of Adel, OR, May 30 (MA). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Mitchell, OR, Apr. 29 was well w. of its normal range (PM, LW). A Costa's Hummingbird was noted at Cottonwood Creek, s. of Fields, OR, May 20 (DSw). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird visited a feeder near Culdesac, ID, May 12 for that area's first report since 1980 (KB, CV).

WOODPECKERS TO PIPITS -- Unusual were Lewis' Woodpeckers near Vantage, WA (BT), at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR), and near Cataldo, ID (SW). An Acorn Woodpecker near Summer L., on May 27-28 made a rare sighting, (*vide* CMi). Winter Ridge, w. of Summer Lake, had a Red-breasted Sapsucker Apr 2 (FZ). A White-headed Woodpecker was sighted along Daggett Creek n.e. of Boise Apr. 9 (CS). Crawford Caves, *Pend Oreille*, WA, provided a sighting of a Three-toed Woodpecker May 21 (JP, DP), and two Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen near Blewett Pass May 13 (JK, PS, CV). A surprising 100+. W. Wood-Pewees were grounded by a rainstorm May 27 at Tranquille (SR). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at Cherry Springs s. of Pocatello May 21 and June 1 (DSt, BF). An Alder Flycatcher was singing on territory at Malheur N.W.R. May 28 (TC, JG). Least Flycatchers were reported as regular in the Bitterroot Valley, *Ravalli*, MT (DH), and a sighting was reported for Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (CDM). Single birds were found at 2 different spots at

Malheur May 29 (TC, JG; JE, HN). A vagrant Gray Flycatcher was described at Turnbull N.W.R. Apr. 22 (HV). Some of this species were back in the Oliver-Summerland, BC, area by May 20 (RC). A nest of the species was found near Summerland (ILR). A real rarity was a **Black Phoebe** described at Clear L., *Yakima*, WA, May 21-26 (GG, EH, AS, BT, GW, SRa). A Say's Phoebe was in Hood River Apr. 4; the species is a rare migrant there (DA, JE). Two Purple Martins were seen near Cascade Locks, OR, Apr. 30 and May 20 (DA). Two to three Bewick's Wrens were found in s. *Wasco*, OR, May 21 (DA, DL). On Mar. 26 a Marsh Wren was at The Dalles, OR, where it is rare (DL). The only Sage Thrashers reported were one near Baker, OR, Mar. 25 (PS, TW) and one at Indian Creek Res. May 20 (AL). A Plain Titmouse was sighted near Hart Mt., Plush, OR, May 28 (MA). A N. Mockingbird was found near Frenchglen May 27 (PM, LW). A Sprague's Pipit remained for sometime at Bean L., s. of Augusta, MT (JM, SRe, CP).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES -- A Tennessee Warbler at Saddle Mt. N.W.R., *Grant*, WA, was the first for that area (WRR, JC). Singles of the species were reported at 2 localities at Malheur May 28 (PM, LW, TL). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was found along the Owyhee bluebird trail in the Owyhee Mts. of s.w. Idaho May 30 (AL), and two were at Page Springs May 21 (MD). A Hermit Warbler was seen s. of Mt. Rainier N.P. May 14 (JK, PS, CV). Abert L. had a Palm Warbler m late May (CCh). A female Black-and-white Warbler was near Hart Mt. May 28 (MA) and three May sightings were made at Malheur (CO, MO, TW, m.ob.). One reported at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was new to the refuge list (*vide* CDM). A N. Waterthrush was banded at Cherry Springs May 13 (DSt) and one was found at Medicine L., e. of Harrison, ID (SW). A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared 5 mi. w. of Helena May 29 (JS) and a female was seen at Malheur headquarters May 28 (JE, HN). The latter place also had a female Indigo Bunting May 29 (TC, JG). A Lark Sparrow was noted at Kamloops May 13 (RRH, RR). At least one Black-throated Sparrow had returned to Wanapum S.P., Vantage, by May 30 (KA) Eastern Oregon's 2nd **Lark Bunting** was spotted near Princeton May 28 (BG). A Baird's Sparrow was sighted at Bean L. s of Augusta, MT (JM, SRe, CP). A few Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared at Hart Mt National Antelope Refuge (DS,

BS), one was noted at Ellensburg Mar 4 (BT), and Summer L. had one Apr. 11 (MS). In Idaho single birds were at Cherry Springs May 5 (DSt, BF) and in Swan Valley, *Bonneville* (ES), the same day. A White-throated Sparrow was found along the Frenchman Hills road s.w. of Moses Lake, WA, Apr. 14 (GH, WH), and Malheur had one May 20 (MD). A Harris' Sparrow that wintered near Culdesac was still there Apr. 28 (m.ob.) One was sighted at Richland Apr. 19 after the species was absent since December (REW). A Chestnut-collared Longspur at Fortine, MT, was the first there since 1936 (WW). A male Bobolink was singing at Plush, OR, May 28 (MA) Tamarack Ridge w. of Cataldo had 25 on May 26 (SW). Most surprising was the discovery of a colony of Tricolored Blackbirds near Hermiston, OR, far north of their previously known breeding range (PM, LW). Common Grackles continue to expand their range into w. Montana. They have occurred at Dixon for several years (DT, PD, PLW), at Missoula the last 2 years (PMc), at Deer Lodge (DS), and at Ravalli this year (JM) Two were apparently nesting in Aberdeen, ID (DB), and some were reported in Georgetown, ID (*fide* CHT). A "Baltimore" N. Oriole was reported at Kalispell, MT, June 1 (*fide* Marcy Bishop). Purple Finches were reported for the Hayden L., ID, vicinity (KB, PH). A flock of 15+ of these birds was found along upper Taneum Creek s. of Cle Elum, WA, May 21 (BT) and five were noted at Cle Elum May 12 (EH). An out-of-place Red Crossbill was reported at Fields May 27 (SG).

ADDENDUM -- Some 2000 Oldsquaw were on Green L. near 70 Mile House, BC, in April, 1988 (RM).

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*Spring Migration, 1989*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ **Bill Tweit and Steve Heint**

It was a rather stormy spring, which may have had an effect on both breeding and migratory species. All three months were wetter than normal. In the northern half of the Region, March began with snowstorms, and then continued with rain on all but four days. The rains tapered off after the first week of April, the rest of the month was slightly warmer than average. Mid and late May saw more stormy periods. The shorebird migration was lackluster, with lower than usual numbers of most of the regular migrants and all of the scarcer 'eastern' migrants such as stilts, avocets, and

Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers. There were more than the usual numbers of some of the interior passerines that are casual migrants on the west side: Say's Phoebe, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Lark Sparrow, and Black-throated Sparrow. The summary of sightings from Vancouver Island was not available in time for inclusion in this report.

ABBREVIATIONS -- R.S. = Ranger Station; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., OR; V.I. = Vancouver I., BC; W.R.A. = Wildlife Recreation Area.

LOONS TO HERONS -- A late spring migration of Pacific Loon was noted at Florence, OR, May 20 (300+ in V2 hour) (SH) and at Ocean Shores, WA, May 26 (10 per minute) (G & WH). Such is not noted every year. There was only one report of Yellow-billed Loon, for the lowest spring total in years, one at Yaquina Bay, OR, Mar. 18-23 (Dave & Mary Copeland, Jack Corbett). Three reports of Red-necked Grebe along the Oregon coast May 5-13 were unusually late, as the last sightings are usually in late April. Some or all of the 800 W. Grebes on Bellingham Bay, WA, May 25 (TW) may have remained to summer in that area, an occasional occurrence. The only documented report of Clark's Grebe was of two at Ocean Shores May 12 (†G & WH). There were 2 pelagic trips off Westport, WA, Apr. 9 and May 7 (TW), and TT was stationed on a boat off Oregon during April and May. Counts of Black-footed Albatross ranged from nine on Apr. 9 to 75 on May 7, which are normal numbers. Northern Fulmars were almost nonexistent. The only report was of two May 7. Apparently none was seen in April, when they still should have been present in wintering numbers. Pink-footed Shearwaters were not reported until May 7, when one Flesh-footed Shearwater was also found. Sooty Shearwaters were found in the low thousands off both Oregon and Washington during April and May. Small numbers (35) of Short-tailed Shearwaters were with the Sooties off Washington Apr. 9. Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen off Heceta Head, OR, Apr. 16. None was found off Washington in April, and 26 were seen May 7. The only Leach's Storm-Petrel was one seen inland near Salem, OR, May 26 (Glen Lindeman), for one of very few inland records unrelated to fall storms. The northward movement of Brown Pelicans was strong and early. Pelicans were at

Yaquina Bay, OR, Apr. 19 (*vide* DFa) and at Ocean Shores Apr. 25 (THas). By May 30, 120 were counted in Grays Harbor (Dan Guy, Max Zahn, *vide* JS), certainly the largest spring count ever for Washington. Aside from 106 Great Egrets in the Coquille Estuary, OR, Apr. 1 (SH, DF<sub>i</sub>), there were only 3 reports of Great Egrets this spring. The Coquille estuary concentration had dissipated by the end of April. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noted at 2 locations, both areas where breeding is possible. Two were at Finley N.W.R. May 17 (KM) and three were at Reifel Ref., BC, May 8 (JI), with one remaining at Reifel until the end of the month.

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WATERFOWL, RAPTORS -- A Black-bellied Whistling- Duck at Vancouver, WA, from late April through the end of May (Tony Fuchs, JS, †GW) was not toe-clipped and showed no other signs of captivity. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has no records of this species in captivity in either Oregon or Washington. This was the first report of this species in Washington, and now the Records Committee must wrestle with theories about the bird's origin. The last of the wintering Trumpeter Swans in the Puget Sound area and Willamette Valley appear to have left in mid-March. The 20 Trumpeters at Reifel I., BC, Mar. 31 (JI) and one Apr. 9 and May 21 at Saanich, V.I. (J.B. Tatum) were the last reported. Observations of migratory groups of Greater White-fronted Geese included 700 over Toketee R.S., OR, Apr. 17 (DF<sub>i</sub>) and 800 at S.J.C.R. May 9 (HN). The latter number was unusually large for a coastal locale. The two Emperor Geese that wintered on Coos Bay, OR, until Apr. 9 (m.ob.) were the only ones reported; no migrants were noted. Wood Ducks are plentiful in the Columbia R. bottomlands, but 120 at Scappoose, OR, Mar. 22 (NH) made a large number for such an early date. Three Eur. Green-winged Teal, a lower than average number, were reported this spring. The last were Apr. 9 at both Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, WA (Jim Duemmel) and Reifel I., BC (RT<sub>o</sub> *et al.*). A female N. Shoveler with 10 chicks at Fort Stevens S.P., *Clatsop*, May 3 (HN) represented a very unusual breeding record for w. Oregon as well as being early. Hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon were reported from Seattle through Mar. 18 (EH, Bob

Sundstrom), Vancouver, BC, Mar. 10 (Jost von der Linde), and Surrey, BC, Apr. 17 (H & JM). Most Eur. Wigeon left by mid-April, but a male May 27 at Auburn, WA (TB), was the latest ever for the Region. Three Tufted Duck reports were average for spring, with only the ad male at Kerby, *Josephine*, OR, Mar. 11 (†JGi) being well documented. The bulk of the Turkey Vulture migration in s.w. Oregon occurred Mar. 28 through Apr. 1 (Eric Sutterberg, SH). North of the southern Willamette Valley, migration did not progress until after Apr. 10 (HN). The only migratory group noted in Washington was at Port Townsend Apr. 1 (DP), and only singles were noted in mainland British Columbia. After the very large numbers of Black-shouldered Kites reported during the winter, the spring counts tapered off quickly. Small numbers remained throughout the spring at Raymond, WA (m.ob.), Nehalem Meadows, OR (m.ob.), and at Talent and Denman W.R.A., both in *Jackson*, OR (MM, Otis Swisher). Breeding is possible at all 4 sites. A single kite on the Skagit Flats, WA, Apr. 1 († Hal Opperman) furnished the northernmost record for the Region and was only 45 miles south of Canada. Reports of both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were much scarcer than average, but this may have been an artifact of reporting. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported 3 times in Oregon north of their regular haunts in the Brookings/Harbor area, which has become typical for this expanding species. A Swainson's Hawk at Randle, *Lewis*, WA, May 15 (THas, Kevin Aanerud, Paul Cozens) provided a very rare spring record for the Region. The latest Rough-legged Hawks were singles on Apr. 16 at Carlton, OR (JJ) and at Surrey, BC (Jack Williams). All other reports were from March. The 16 reports of Peregrines were about half the average for the spring season. Merlin numbers seemed to be average. The last Gyrfalcon reports were Mar. 12 in n.w. Washington (Joe TerLouw, *fide* TB) and Mar. 22 in the Vancouver, BC, area (MPr).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS -- The first Soras were noted Apr. 6 at Finley N.W.R., OR (RG), Apr. 14 at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA (Robert & Georgia Ramsey), and Apr. 9 at Pitt Meadows, BC (Dan Bastaja). Nehls reported smaller than normal numbers of Black-bellied Plover on the Oregon coast throughout the period, and no large flocks were reported elsewhere. The spring Lesser Golden-Plover flight seemed smaller than

average as well. There is no ready explanation why spring numbers of these two species should positively correlate, but in most springs they seem to. There were nine golden-plover reports, four from Oregon and five from Washington. One was identified as *fulva* (DP) and two in Washington were called *dominica*. There is only one previous Regional report of *dominica* in the spring (AB 41: 479). Until the spring status of the two golden-plovers is better understood, all spring reports of *dominica* should be documented. Two Black-necked Stilts near Ashland, OR, Apr. 20 (Ray Skibby) were the only ones reported. This was the 2nd consecutive spring of small numbers in w. Oregon of this sporadic spring invader to the Region. Seven Am. Avocets, another sporadic invader, made an average showing. Greater Yellowlegs numbers were normal, with flocks of 100+ reported throughout the Region in April. Both Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers, scarce regular spring migrants, were noted in average numbers. Relatively large flocks of 350 Whimbrels near Tillamook May 5 (Craig Roberts) and 200 at Yaquina Bay May 6 (SJ) were illustrative of the good numbers on the Oregon coast, but Whimbrels were almost unreported elsewhere. The largest number of Red Knots reported was only 200 along southern Grays Harbor, WA, Apr. 23 (GW), and only five were noted in Oregon. From one to three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported in the Vancouver, BC, area from Apr. 30 to May 18, and none was reported elsewhere. The W Sandpiper peak counts were of 15,000 at Bandon, OR, Apr. 28 (DFi), 12,000 at Nisqually N.W.R., WA, Apr. 30 (RTh), and 10,000 at Reifel I., BC, Apr. 27 (JI). These reflect the usual timing and numbers for these locations. Only two Baird's Sandpipers, rare spring migrants, were noted. One Apr. 30 at Iona I., BC (MPr), was typical of their timing in the Region, but the other at Olympia, WA, May 14 (BT) was late. Eight Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from Apr. 15 to May 21, somewhat fewer than average. A male **Ruff** at Reifel I., BC, Apr 8-14 (†MPr, JI) provided the 2nd spring record for the Region, both from the Vancouver area. The reported flocks of Short-billed Dowitcher, an abundant spring migrant, were also small. About 5000 at Grays Harbor Apr. 23 (GW) and 200 at Bandon, OR, Apr. 28 (DFi) were the largest flocks reported. Numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes, another sporadic visitant from the east, were much lower than in most years. Red-necked Phalaropes were unusually conspicuous along the outer coast during May. Counts of hundreds came from all

coastal locations from May 7 to May 26. One in alternate plumage on Yaquina Bay Mar. 11 (BB) was very early. Despite this heavy onshore movement, only the typical small numbers were noted inland. The only Red Phalarope reports were of one at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR, Mar. 10 (RG) and 100 seen 20 mi off Heceta Head, OR, May 4 (TT). None was seen on pelagic trips off Westport on Apr. 9 or May 7 (TW).

LARIDS, ALCIDS -- Very small numbers of Pomarine Jaegers, fewer than 10 each trip, were seen in April and May off Westport (TW). Six Parasitic Jaegers seen off the Oregon coast Apr. 15 (TT) were quite early. They may have been associated with a pelagic movement of Bonaparte's Gulls noted the next day. Otherwise, small numbers of Parasitics were noted during May off the S.J.C.R. and Grays Harbor, as is normal. An ad Little Gull off Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, Mar. 10-12 & 24 (VN, m.ob., ph.) furnished the 9th Regional spring record. Over 7000 Bonaparte's Gulls off Point No Point Apr. 6 (VN) made the largest migratory group noted. A migratory movement was also noted 20 mi off the Oregon coast Apr. 16, when 500 were seen headed north (TT). There were 4 reports of Glaucous Gulls, a lower than average number, with the last noted Apr. 26 at Vancouver, BC (MPr). An apparent first-year **Iceland Gull** photographed at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, Mar. 20 (EH, VN, ph. FS) may have provided the first record for Washington. If not a pure *kumlieni*, the bird was probably a hybrid Thayer's x Kumlien's. This was the first Regional record for an Iceland type since 1987, when a possible individual was seen in Oregon, and 1984 to 1985,

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*This gull in Clallam County, Washington, on March 20, 1989, was believed to be a (Kumlien's) Iceland Gull, and if so it would probably represent the first state record. Photograph/Fred Sharpe.*

when several were found in the Vancouver, BC, area. Black-legged Kittiwakes were virtually unreported this spring. Only two were reported from Oregon, both in March at Bandon (DFi). Singles were noted along the Washington coast, except for Apr. 9 when 50 were seen at Grays Harbor (TW). Only one Sabine's Gull was noted off Westport May 7 (TW); this was also a very low number. At least 1000 Common Terns in the Grays Harbor channel May 6-14 (DP, G & WH, BT) made a very large concentration for spring. The only other sighting was of 12 at S.J.C.R. May 16 (PP). As with Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns were also very scarce on the May 7 pelagic trip off Westport, with only two seen (TW). Three Forster's Terns at Fern Ridge Res., OR, May 16 (SH) and single Black Terns Apr. 30 and May 24 in *Snohomish*, WA (THas, Terri Spencer) represented the only reports of the 'eastern' terns. Common Murres, Cassin's Auklets, and Tufted Puffins were in low numbers on the April and May pelagic trips off Westport (TW), but Rhinoceros Auklets were in normal numbers. The oil spill last December off Grays Harbor may have been the cause of this discrepancy, as murres and Cassin's Auklets were found dead in much larger numbers than were Rhino Auklets.

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS -- The last Snowy Owl report, after the poorest winter flight in decades, was of one seen at Richmond, BC (JL), Mar. 17. A Burrowing

Owl was at Tenmile on the Oregon coast Apr. 10 (*vide* DFa) for a very rare coastal record. A Barred Owl at Larch Mt. May 8 provided a first record for *Multnomah*, OR (Dave Irons, PP). The season's first Com. Poorwill was found in the Rogue R. valley Apr. 19 (HS). North of there poorwills are accidental, so two in Eugene, OR, Apr. 30 (Bob Bender) and one in Portland May 6 (Owen Schmidt) were noteworthy. Black Swifts were first reported May 10 (RT0) in British Columbia, but most of the reports came after May 22. Vaux's Swifts were reported in only moderate numbers, with the main movement seeming to be a few days late. An ad male Black-chinned Hummingbird at a Corvallis, OR, feeder May 20 (Elizabeth MacDonald) was a rare find for western Oregon. An Anna's Hummingbird nest was found in Seattle Apr. 8 (RTh). Actual nest reports of this species are still scarce. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** reported at Shelton, *Mason*, Apr. 14 (Andrew & Shirley Beelick) would, if accepted, provide the first record for Washington. A male Costa's Hummingbird at a Roseburg, *Douglas*, feeder Apr. 27 to the end of the period (Gwynn Black, m.ob.) furnished the 9th record for western Oregon. There are also over 5 British Columbia records. Calliope Hummingbirds are rare vagrants from the interior in the Vancouver, BC, area. Singles were seen there Apr. 21-26 (RT0, m.ob.) and May 6 at Reifel I. (JI). The major wave of Rufous Hummingbirds was noted during the first third of April in the Willamette Valley and the Puget Trough (HN, SH, EH, RTh). A Lewis' Woodpecker at Kalaloch, *Jefferson*, WA, Apr. 29 (TH) may have provided a first county record; they are especially rare on the outer coast. Red-naped Sapsucker records included one in Vancouver, BC, Apr. 21-23 (†MPr, †Wayne Weber), a window kill Apr. 10 in Seattle (*vide* PM, \*U.W. Burke Museum) and two on Mary's Peak in the coast range of *Benton*, OR, Apr. 8-9 (RG). Also on Mary's Peak were a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** Mar. 23 (†RG) and a male Apr. 8 (†Al McGie). Williamson's are very rare in the Region, while a few Red-naped occur away from their breeding range on the Cascade Crest annually.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS -- Except for the phoebes, flycatcher migration was on time and unremarkable. Olive-sided Flycatchers were first reported Apr. 20 in Vancouver, BC (DT), with most of the 23 other sightings in May. The first W. Wood-

Pewee was also reported from Vancouver, BC, Apr. 30 (JL, RT0). First arrival dates for Hammond's Flycatcher were Apr. 15 in Oregon (JJ), Apr. 21 in Washington (FS), and Apr. 19 in British Columbia (DT). No migratory movements of Hammond's were noted. No Dusky Flycatchers were reported from the n. Willamette Valley, where a few spring vagrants have been found each of the past few years. A Gray Flycatcher, a rarity anywhere in the Region, was in Ashland, OR, Apr. 13 (MM). The first Western Flycatchers were noted Apr. 11 in Oregon (JJ) Apr. 13 in Washington (Jack Davis), and Apr. 17 in British Columbia (H & JM). Again, no migratory concentrations were reported. An **Eastern Phoebe** at Reifel I., BC, May 13 (†Dale Jensen, †Gerry Ansell) furnished the first record for the Region, although the species breeds in n.e. British Columbia. There were nine Say's Phoebe reports, an exceptional number, from Washington, with the latest on Apr. 7 (THAs), and five more in Oregon north of their regular range in the southern valleys. Even in the Rogue valley the seven reports in March were well above the average number. There were 10 reports of Western Kingbirds in Oregon north of their usual breeding range, seven from Washington, and three from the Vancouver, BC, area. This was average or somewhat below average. Breeding Horned Larks have almost disappeared from the Puget Trough and the Willamette Valley. This spring, 2 pairs were apparently breeding on Ft. Lewis, WA (GW), a pair was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR, May 6 (*vide* BB), and a singing bird was near Silverton, *Marion*, OR, May 13 (BB). Purple Martins appeared on schedule, with the first sightings in mid-April. One at Reifel I., BC, May 18 (JI) furnished the first well-documented record for the Vancouver area since 1979. Formerly, they occurred there regularly. Tree and Violet-green swallow migration did not appear to be adversely affected by the inclement weather. Very early N. Rough-winged Swallows included one at Toketee, *Douglas*, OR, Mar. 12 (DFi), one at Willamina, *Polk*, OR, Mar. 17 (RG), and four Mar. 21 at Auburn, *King*, WA (JGa). There were six reports of Bank Swallow May 6-30: three from Vancouver, BC (MPr, JI), two from Washington (DP, RTh), and one from Oregon (SJ). This was a few more than usual of this interior species for spring. A Cliff Swallow in *Yambill*, OR (*vide* BB), Mar. 8 was very early, but otherwise they were normal or later than their usual end of March arrival. Barn Swallows appeared to arrive on time, beginning Mar. 25.

CORVIDS TO SHRIKES -- Odd corvids included two Black-billed Magpies at Boring, *Clackamas*, OR, Apr. 30 (Dorothy Fagner) and a Blue Jay reported Apr. 2 on Whidbey I., WA (Don Cannell), that had apparently been in the vicinity for 2 months. Peak Bushtit nest building time in the Seattle

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area this spring was 3 weeks later than in 1988 (Mike Donahue). Canyon Wrens were reported from 3 new locations in *Douglas* in the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi, Ron Maertz). It is likely that small numbers of this eastside species have been breeding unnoticed in the area for some time. The Rock Wren that wintered at Vancouver, BC, was last seen Mar. 18 (DT *et al.*). Migrant Rock Wrens were noted in Oregon near Eugene May 2 (SH) and at Corvallis May 5 (Merlin Eltzroth). The first House Wrens appeared, as usual, before Apr. 15 in Oregon and after that date in Washington. There were 175 W. Bluebird pairs on Ft. Lewis, WA, this spring, compared with 220 and 160 in the last 2 years, respectively (GW). The success of the first nesting was mixed, probably because of the poor weather in May. Thirteen Mountain Bluebirds were reported during March through Apr. 13, somewhat above average numbers. The number of Townsend's Solitaires reported was also above average. There were 32 sightings through Apr. 16. Very early Swainson's Thrushes were found Apr. 21 in Vancouver, BC (DT, RT), and the next day in *Coos*, OR (Larry Thornburgh). Otherwise, they appeared May 5-9 throughout the region. Migratory movements were heard May 9 & 10 in the Willamette Valley (SH, Dennis Rogers) and May 26 in the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi). The only N Mockingbird observations were four in Oregon (Steve Ominski, Durrel Kappan, Norm Barrett). A Sage Thrasher in Seattle May 11 (†Paul Murtaugh) provided the 2nd *King* record. The last N. Shrike reports were Mar. 19 in Washington at the Skagit R. delta (Dave Baker) and Apr. 10 in the Fraser R delta, BC (JI). Four Loggerhead Shrike reports were more than usual. Shrikes were seen in Vancouver, BC, Apr. 8 (Bill Lamond), in Seattle Apr. 10 (†THas), at

Yaquina Head, OR, Mar. 22 (Kathy Liska), and in the *Douglas* Cascades, OR, May 8 (DFi).

VIREOS TO FINCHES -- Both Solitary and Warbling vireos were on time, in the first and second halves of April, respectively. Red-eyed Vireos are very rare on the outer coast; two were at Airport Heights, *Coos*, OR, May 27 (Ben Fawver). The first wave of Orange-crowned Warblers was Apr. 7 in Oregon and s.w. Washington (SH, BT), and the first individuals were reported in British Columbia the day after. Succeeding waves were noted in Oregon Apr. 16 (SH) and along the Washington coast Apr. 29 (G & WH). Yellow, Black-throated Gray, and MacGillivray's warblers and Com. Yellowthroats arrived on time, and no migratory concentrations of these species were reported. However, the Wilson's Warbler migration was unusually prominent this spring. One at Grants Pass, OR, Mar. 22 (Jim Miller) was very early. Otherwise the first arrivals were on time in early April in Oregon and late April in Washington and S British Columbia. A large coastal movement was noted at Astoria, OR (MPa), and Grays Harbor, WA (G & WH), Apr. 29-30. In the Puget Trough and in the mountains, Wilson's migration was still going strong at the end of May, when 150 were seen at Reifel I., BC (JI), 40 were in Discovery Park, Seattle (RTh), and numbers were moving in the *Douglas* Cascades, OR (DFi). The rare warblers this season were all in Oregon. A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in Portland May 17 (Joe Evanich) was the 7th for w. Oregon, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Airport Heights, *Coos*, May 27 (Barb Griffin) furnished the 2nd state record, and male Black-and-white Warblers were in Eugene Feb. 26 to Apr. 8 (Bruce Ostyn, mob.) and Thornton Creek, *Lincoln*, May 24 (DFa). Western Tanagers were on time in late April. Late movements were noted in Portland May 20-25 (GL) and in the *Douglas* foothills May 25 (DFi). The first Black-headed Grosbeak was in Ashland, OR, Apr. 18 (HS), and other first arrival dates were in the last third of April. Lazuli Bunting arrival was in mid-April on their breeding grounds in s. Oregon and in May at their scattered breeding locales in the Cascade foothills. Extralimital birds were noted at 2 locations on the n. Oregon coast (MPa, DFa) and in Seattle and Bellingham (RTh, TW). First Chipping Sparrow arrival dates were Apr. 3 at Salem, OR (Don Pederson), Apr 8 at Ft Lewis, WA (GW), and Apr 16 at

Reifel I., BC (JI), their typical arrival pattern Vesper Sparrows also arrived on schedule: Apr. 1 at 2 Oregon locales (JJ, Paul Sherrell). Singles at Surrey, Apr. 10 (JM) and another in Vancouver May 19 (MPr) were among few records for the s.w. British Columbia area. Lark Sparrows at Newton Hill, *Lincoln*, OR, May 21 (Janet Lamberson), Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, May 22 (†VN), and Finley N.W.R., OR, May 28 (KM) represented unusually late dates for this casual migrant. A Black-throated Sparrow at Seattle May 19-20 (†THas, †RTh) provided the 7th w. Washington record. A Sage Sparrow was seen near Ashland, OR, Mar. 31 (MM). In w. Oregon, the Sage Sparrow is rarer than the Black-throated, even though Black-throateds are much scarcer than Sage in the interior. Savannah Sparrow movement was noted Apr. 29 on the Washington coast (G & WH) and May 7 at Seattle (EH) Grasshopper Sparrows returned to their Eagle Point, *Jackson*, OR, colony by May 5 (HS); this isolated colony is at least 3 years old. Large numbers of Golden-crowned and Fox sparrows were noted in migration on the Washington coast Apr 29 & 30 (G & WH, JGa). The timing of the movement was normal, but both species were unusually conspicuous, perhaps concentrated by poor weather. The only Lapland Longspur reports were of four at Ocean Shores, WA, Apr. 28-30 (JGa) and a very late bird on the *Lane*, OR, coast May 24 (Ruth Warren). The **Rustic Bunting** that wintered at Kent, WA, was last seen Apr. 9 (JGa). Snow Buntings were noted Mar. 26 at Port Angeles, WA (Tom Plath) and also May 7 on Mt. Hood, OR (GL, Tom Staudt). The latter record was unusually late and furnished one of very few spring records in the Cascades One Tricolored Blackbird returned to an old colony site in the Portland area Apr. 1. A new colony was found in N Portland Apr. 29 (JGi, m.ob.), with as many as 12 males present. Thirty-eight Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported away from their scattered breeding locales. Northern Orioles were first reported from Oregon in mid-April and then in early May in Washington and British Columbia A singing male "Baltimore" N. Oriole was in Woodburn, *Marion*, OR, May 29 and later (†BB). Red Crossbills were numerous in the San Juan Is., WA (TH). Sparse numbers were reported from other parts of western Washington (G & WH, TW) and the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi), and they were unreported elsewhere. The few Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak reports indicated unremarkable numbers.

INITIALED OBSERVERS (**Subregional editors in boldface**) -- Barb Bellin, Thais Bock, Darrel Faxon (DFa), **David Fix** (DFi), Roy Gerig, John Gatchet (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Tom Hahn, Todd Hass (THas), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Steve Jagers, Jim Johnson, **Doug Kragh**, Gerard Lillie, John Luce, Hue & Jo Aim MacKenzie, **Phil Mattocks**, Kathy Merrifield, Marjorie Moore, **Harry Nehls**, Vic Nelson, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Michael Price, Howard Sands, Fred Sharpe, Jeff Skriletz, Terry Thompson, Rob Thorn (RTh), Rick Toochn (RTo), Danny Tyson, **Terry Wahl**, George Walter.

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*The Nesting Season, 1989*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ **Thomas H. Rogers**

June in the Region was unusually hot and dry nearly everywhere. July varied from somewhat cool to warmer than usual, but with few exceptions continued dry. Low water levels at American Falls Reservoir, Idaho, provided fabulous mudflats for migrating shorebirds. Conversely, a good water supply at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge provided excellent nesting habitat for waterfowl and other water-related species. The continuing trend for more southerly nesting species to appear farther north suggests that they may be early warning indicators of the "greenhouse effect."

ABBREVIATIONS -- Hq. = Headquarters, W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area. Place names in *italics* are counties.



LOONS TO IBISES -- A pair of Com. Loons at Lost L. near Wauconda, WA, brought off young for the 2nd successive year (RF, EH). Young were raised on Murphy L. near Fortine, MT (WW). Others in breeding plumage were noted in *Grant* (KS) and *Okanogan* and on the Columbia R. near Entiat, WA (RF). They were nesting on Wenatchee L. and Eight-Mile L., Chelan, WA (RO). One was at the Pack R. delta e. of Sandpoint, ID, in June (SHS), and one on Ennis L. n. of Ennis, MT, was unexpected (WEH). A Horned Grebe in alternate plumage at Camas N.W.R., Hamer, ID, was most unusual (WEH). Malheur N.W.R. *Harney*, OR., reported a sighting of only one Horned Grebe. in late July (CB). That refuge had about 288 Eater Grebe nests (GI). A Red-necked Grebe was on a nest on Sidley L., near Oroville,

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WA (EH), and the species was again breeding at Silver L. in Harriman S.P., ID (CHT) A brood of four young left the nest on Bull L. near Fortine for the only report for that locality (WW). Very few W. Grebe nests were found at Malheur and the 20 Clark's Grebes that summered there failed to nest because of a shortage of vegetation for nesting substrate (GI). A pair of Clark's Grebes was with small chicks on Moses L., Grant, WA, June 10 (EH), and the species nested successfully on Saddle Mountain L., Grant, WA (WRR). One was sighted in Idaho near Roberts, and on Island Park Res., Fremont, and two were on Ennis L., Ennis, MT, July 8 (WEH). Apparently a latilong first was a Clark's at Willow Creek W.M.A. June 17 (PM, LWe). American White Pelicans were reported all summer in Washington from Okanogan to the Tricities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland area), the largest number 200-300 on Potholes Res (RF, WRR, REW, JA). Supposedly there were no nesting attempts s. of the Region because of drought conditions. Some 1515 pairs at Malheur produced 910 young (GI). A few were reported in s.w. Montana. American White Pelicans numbered 150-200 at Ft. Boise N.W.R., Nyssa, ID, July 2 (ST), and "large numbers" were reported along the Snake R. in s. Idaho, presumably because the species was not nesting at Great Salt L. this year (*fide* CHT). Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants were described as plentiful at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, ID (WHS). Cormorant nests

in the Harney Basin, including Malheur, totalled 849, up from last year but below the 1987 total Minidoka N.W.R. had 20+ cormorant nests (SB). The Potholes colony of Double-crested Cormorants contained 285 occupied nests (CG). Up to 20 fed and roosted at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, during the summer (WRR). The colony at Ninepipe N.W.R., Pablo, MT, contained 80 birds (WEH) and the species had 75-80 nests, an increase, at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JB). Vagrant birds appeared on Napier L. s. of Kamloops, BC, June 18 (one) (RR) and at Tranquille, BC, June 27-29 (four--one with a leg band) and July 15-19 (one) (SR). A single bird at Ft. Boise N.W.R. was noteworthy (ST). Malheur counted 494 Great Blue Heron nests, down a bit from last year. Potholes Res. had 99 active nests (CG). Great Egret nesting increased significantly in the Harney Basin; the 675 nests counted made the 2nd-highest number ever (GI). The Potholes colony had 31 active nests of these birds (CG). One Great Egret appeared on Saddle Mountain N.W.R. July 10 (WRR). One sighting was made at Red Rock Lakes, where the species is very rare (JB). Single Great and Snowy egrets appeared at Ft. Boise N.W.R. July 2 (DJ), and both species were reported at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, (MT *fide* PLW). Numbers of Snowy Egrets in the Harney Basin improved over 1988's record low, with 35 nests counted (GI). Up to four Cattle Egrets appeared near Burns, OR. in July (CBa) and one was noted near Pocatello, ID, June 12 (WEH). An imm. Green-backed Heron was observed near Leavenworth, WA (RO). The Harney Basin showed an increase in Black-crowned Night-Heron nests, with 315 counted (GI). Their nests at the Potholes were conservatively estimated at over 200 (RF). The species appeared at Saddle Mountain N.W.R. July 10 (WRR). At Tranquille, BC, one imm. bird appeared July 15; subsequently, numbers increased to three immatures and one 2nd-year bird (SR) Thompson L. near Harrison, ID, had one June 12 and July 6 (JN) and perhaps the same one was seen regularly at Coeur d' Alene L. near Harrison in late July (SHS). White-faced Ibises set a new record for the number of nests in the Harney Basin with 4110 nests in 9 colonies (GI).

WATERFOWL TO TURKEY -- An imm. Tundra Swan that summered in Malheur's Blitzen Valley was captured and banded (GI, DR). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., near Monida, MT, had a poor year for

Trumpeter Swans, with only about 30 cygnets produced (JR). It was even worse at Malheur, where only one nest succeeded and the two young were presumably lost (GI). The 4 or 5 pairs at Harriman S.P. also had very few young (JS). Some Trumpeters were transplanted to Grays Lake N.W.R., ID (SB). A pair of banded and wing-marked ad birds was observed at Springfield Bottoms along American Falls Res., ID, July 19-26, and two ad birds were on Camas N.W.R. June 12 (CHT). Mute Swans with a cygnet were observed s of Livingston, MT. The species has become established there and is spreading. Most of the birds have been captured and removed, in conjunction with plans to reintroduce Trumpeters in their place (WEH). Waterfowl numbers showed an increase at Columbia N.W.R. but very few broods were found in the Fortine vicinity, a minor nesting area (WW). Ross' Geese were sighted on Pend Oreille L. at Sunnyside, ID, May 7 (RB). A brood of Corn Goldeneyes was on Browns Lake s.e. of Ovando, MT, June 27 for apparently a new latilong record (PLW). The species was using nest boxes at Robinson L., n. of Bonners Ferry, ID (JM). Surprising were two pairs of Greater Scaup on Sidley L., *Okanogan*, WA, June 16 (EH). Immature Hooded Mergansers on the Jefferson R. w. of Three Forks, MT, suggested breeding there (WEH). Turkey Vultures, normally rare at Red Rock Lakes, were sighted numerous times there (JB). Many more Osprey nests were found along the Wenatchee R. between Wenatchee L. and Monitor, WA: 28, compared to 14 last year. A pair of Bald Eagles nested at Wenatchee L., outcome unknown (RO). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had one unsuccessful nesting attempt by Bald Eagles (JB). Nestling Bald Eagles were reported at the upper end of Bowman L., Glacier N.P., MT, and "several" nests were reported in *Lincoln*, MT (*fide* WW). Two imm Bald Eagles at Pend Oreille L., ID, were still coming to their nest to roost July 20 (RB). One or possibly two adults were sighted along the Salmon R. n. of Salmon, ID, in late July, for apparently the first record there (LH). A Broad-winged Hawk was reported on the n. slope of the Trout Creek Mrs. s.e. of Fields, OR (PP). Rare were sightings of a Ferruginous Hawk close to Spokane June 24 (JA) and of two near Cottonwood, ID, July 15 (C.B.). One Merlin, 13 Peregrine Falcon, and 5 Prairie Falcon sightings were reported. No Gray Partridges were found on a 1500-mi tour of c. and w. Montana, despite careful searching. The hard winter was suspected of having affected them (WEH). Several

broods of Wild Turkey were seen in the Fernan L. area, Coeur d' Alene, ID (FA).

RAILS TO TERNS -- At least six Yellow Rails were found near Ft. Klamath, OR, June 24 (m.ob., *fide* TC). Sandhill Cranes were increasing their numbers and expanding their range in the Lemhi Valley, ID. A group of five was seen June 29 near Leadore (HBR). Vagrant birds appeared at Prairie, Hill City, and in Stanley Basin, ID (AL). Noteworthy Semipalmated Plover sightings were made at Harney L. in July (CB), near Cottonwood, ID, July 15 (WH, CV), and near American Falls Dam July 29 (CHT). Two pairs of Mountain Plovers showed strong indications of nesting near the Big Snowy Mrs. north of Ryegate, MT (KSA). Two pairs of Black-necked Stilts were sighted near George, WA, June 11 (EH), and 2 pairs nested at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR). The species again appeared at Reardan, WA, but in reduced numbers; one pair with young was seen there in late July (JA). Notable was a Greater Yellowlegs at Muskrat L., n.e. *Okanogan*, WA, June 15 (EH). Unusual were single Solitary Sandpipers at Cottonwood (WH, CV), along Eagle Cr. near Leavenworth, WA (RO), and near Sisters, OR (LRe). A Willet at Little Camas Prairie n.e. of Mountain Home, ID, was presumably the latilong's first (AL). One pair of Upland Sandpipers was sighted several times in May in the traditional nesting area in the Spokane Valley just east of the Idaho state line (EC). Two Uplands were seen in Round Valley, Cascade, ID, June 15, and one July 3 (AL). A Whimbrel was identified near Canyon Cr., MT, May 25 for a latilong first (DS). A Long-billed Curlew and its nest were photographed May 8 between Bonners Ferry, ID, and the Canadian border, and 6 pairs were sighted in that area May 16-June 1 (EC). Their numbers were

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increasing in the Lemhi Valley where a flock of 19 was seen near Leadore June 29 (HBR). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had several sightings of a small flock of Marbled Godwits in June (JB). Unusual was the sighting of four Semipalmated Sandpipers at Separation L. in the Kamloops, BC, area (RRH). Single Short-

billed Dowitchers were identified on Springfield Bottoms (CHT) and at Carey L., Carey, ID (DT). The species appeared near Sisters July 11 (LRe). A Red Phalarope was reported 8 mi s.s.e. of Burns, OR, on the highly unusual date of June 7 (CB). Over 4000 shorebirds were sighted on the mud flats at American Falls Res. July 29 (CHT). Stinking Lake at Malheur had 14 Bonaparte's Gulls June 20 (GI) and Columbia N.W.R. had 12 on June 17 (WRR), both surprising dates. Up to 15 Caspian Terns were sighted near the Coeur d' Alene R. mouth, Harrison, ID, in late July-early August (SHS) and one was at Denton Slough, Pend Oreille L., ID, June 16 (SHS, DG, PS, CHT). One was found at Tranquille, BC, July 8 & 19 (SR). A Common Tern and seven Forster's Terns at Sidley L. June 16 made rare sightings there (EH). Black Terns were nest-building at Lost L. and Beaver L., *Okanogan*, June 24 (RF).

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS: -- The Kamloops-N. Thompson area, BC, furnished sightings of 75+ Flammulated Owls, the vast increase being the result of new surveys (RRH *et al.*). Seven or eight were heard on Scout Mt. s. of Pocatello in late June (JT, LW), and three were heard just e. of nearby Justice Park, July 3 (CHT, CW). Five Spotted Owls were found near Liberty, WA, June 13 (EH). In the area from Wenatchee L. to the Cascade Mts. crest, the number of breeding pairs of the species was believed to be about the same as in other years (RO). An adult and fledgling Barred Owls were sighted m Woods Gulch near Missoula, MT (JBr). It is believed that the species is not rare in that area now (PLW). A dead Great Gray Owl, cause of death unknown, was found hanging on a fence at Joseph Plain w. of Whitebird, ID, July 15 (C.B.). A Boreal Owl was heard near Elk City, ID (SBa). A N. Saw-whet Owl responded to a taped call near Prairie, ID, June 10 (ST). One was incubating 6 eggs in a nest box near Twisp, WA, June 18 (GB). Eleven Black Swifts were sighted over Lightning Cr. n. of Clark Fork, ID, June 16 (SHS, CHT, DG, PS). Five appeared along the Lochsa R. at Boulder Cr. in Idaho June 17 and one was found on Joseph Plain July 15 (C.B.). Feeding at a low elevation near Winthrop, WA, were 75-100 of this species June 18 (RF). They were noted feeding over the Nat'l. Bison Range, Moise, MT. and Ninepipes, N.W.R. They are known to nest behind waterfalls in the Mission Mts. to the east (PLW). A vagrant Black

Swift appeared over Lookout Mt., *Hood River*, July 22 (DA). An out of place White-throated Swift was sighted near Burnt R. Canyon, *Baker*, OR, July 2 (PM, LWe). Revelstoke, BC, had a report of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird July 11 (MT, DP). Anna's Hummingbirds were reported in the upper Wenatchee Valley, WA, but numbers appeared to be down (RO). Female Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were believed present at feeders at Coeur d' Alene and Hayden Lake, ID (RBe, PH), at Rupert, ID (WHS), and at a feeder at Dale, OR, July 23 (MC, DL). An Allen's Hummingbird became a window casualty at Rupert (WHS). Several areas reported a drop in hummingbird numbers but Acton saw very good numbers at his Spokane feeders and over 400 were banded and 40 returnees caught near Troy, MT (KB).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS -- Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed in the big burned area in the Wenatchee vicinity (RO) and two were sighted e. of Oroville, WA, June 16 (EH). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had a sighting June 11 (JR). A Red-headed Woodpecker was identified just n. of L. Helena, MT, June 4 (TB, EB). Several Red-breasted Sapsuckers were sighted e. of the Cascade Crest in the Wenatchee area (BO). Pairs of Williamson's Sapsuckers were found at Bonaparte L. and near Lost L. in mid-June (EH). The species was found at numerous sites in the Missoula area (PLW). Surprising was a nesting pair on Scout Mt, ID (JT, CHT, CW, LW) The Chumstick Canyon area n w of Wenatchee had a breeding pair of White-headed Woodpeckers (RO) and one was just e. of Vaseux L. in the Okanogan Valley, BC, May 27 (PPa). A Three-toed Woodpecker was sighted w. of Smith's Ferry, ID, July 15 (AL) and two were found in Glacier N.P., MT, July 11 (WEH) The Nat'l. Bison Range had five July 9 (WEH). A Black-backed Woodpecker was at a nest near Lost L. in mid-June (EH) and a pair was carrying food to a nest cavity near Red R. Ranger Station s. of Elk City, ID, July 4 (SBa). A Least Flycatcher was reported at Malheur N.W.R. Headquarters June 5-6 (PP, CDL) and another was seen closely and its song taped at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, WA, June 14 (JA). One was seen and heard at Moreland, ID, June 12 (WEH, CHT, CW) and one was found later at Pocatello (CW). They were heard and seen at 2 places in Glacier N.P. in late June (KA) Two Gray Flycatchers spent the summer just e. of Oliver, BC (SC), and two

were nesting at Summerland, BC (LR). An adult and an imm. Gray Flycatcher were reported n. of New Meadows, ID, July 22 (WH, CV). Several Cordilleran Flycatchers were found on Scout Mt., ID, June 12, and the species was subsequently found in at least 6 different places in the Pocatello area (CHT, CW). One was seen and heard near Driggs, ID, June 17 (SP). A sighting of Cordilleran Flycatchers s of Cottonwood, ID, July 15 was significant (C.B.). A singing Pacific-slope Flycatcher was reported near Nespelem, WA, June 14 (EH). An E. Phoebe was seen at Revelstoke during early July (DP). Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen July 27 near Lyle, WA (EH), and one probably of this species was sighted in Norton Canyon w. of Ephrata (NL). Once fairly common in the Columbia Basin, they probably have lost their tree-cavity nest sites to starlings (RF). One was found along Mink Cr. Road s. of Pocatello in early June (DS) and another was sighted in junipers n. of Holbrook, ID, July 7 (CHT, CW) Extraordinary was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher described at Clinton, BC, June 25-27 (*vide* RRH).

SWALLOWS TO WARBLERS -- An amazing roost concentration of swallows, estimated at 20,000-40,000, mostly Violet-green but with a few Tree, Cliff, and Barn swallows, was encountered near Rocky Point on Klamath L., OR, July 29-30 (CJR). A group of Blue Jays was reported near the Chelan, WA, airport (SE, *vide* RF). Observers are requested to report sightings of Com. Ravens marked with yellow wing tags in *Douglas*, WA, this spring. Report to George Brady (WA Dept. of Wildlife, Box 535, Pateros, WA 98845--phone 923-2326) date seen, number of birds, tag number if possible, and name, address and phone number of observer. Pygmy Nuthatches were reported breeding near the confluence of the Wenatchee R. and Peshastin Cr. (RO). A Bewick's Wren was in Fulton Canyon, *Sherman*, OR, June 10 (PM, LWe). A sighting of a Gray Catbird, occasional to rare at Red Rock Lakes, was made June 6 (JR). Two N. Mockingbirds summered at the s. end of Flathead L., MT (MTh), and "a flock" visited near Boise for about a week around June 1 (RV). Sprague's Pipits were present most of the summer at Bean L. south of Augusta, MT (PHu). Two singing male Orange-crowned Warblers were seen, in June, along the Pahsimeroi R. near Ellis, ID (*vide* CHT). A male and female N. Parula were reported at Malheur N.W.R. Headquarters June 12 (DM) and a male was

identified there the next day (CDL, HN). Single male Chestnut-sided Warblers were sighted at Penticton, BC, June 13 (SC) and at Revelstoke, BC, June 23-July 31 (DP, JW). The s. Blitzen valley of Malheur had one Chestnut-sided on June 8 (CB), and Malheur Headquarters had a male Magnolia Warbler June 8 (AM). Two male Black-throated Blue Warblers were spotted at Camas N.W.R. June 11 (JT, LW). A Black-throated Green Warbler was seen and heard at Revelstoke July 3 (DP, WWe). A Black-and-white Warbler was reported at Red Rock Lakes May 29 (*vide* JB). Single Ovenbirds were sighted at Malheur June 7 (PP) & 18 (BL, CO), and two were heard at Granite L. n. of McCall, ID, July 22 (WH, CV) One was seen and heard at Shuswap L. n. of Salmon Arm,

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BC, June 15 (CH). A N. Waterthrush was carefully observed in the vicinity of Rocky Point, Klamath L., July 27 (CJR). Red Rock Lakes had one June 2 (JB). A Yellow-breasted Chat was found June 1 & 15 in the Helena Valley, where it is very rare (DE).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES -- A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported at Malheur June 14 (*vide* GI). Two Indigo Buntings were sighted at Revelstoke June 26 and later (DP) and a male and a female were at Scotch Cr., Shuswap L., the last half of July (*vide* SRA). Green-tailed Towhees, normally occasional to rare at Red Rock Lakes, were seen regularly there (JB). Two pairs of Black-throated Sparrows were again found s. of Vantage, WA (JA, EH), and a singing male was sighted on Burch Mt. n. of Wenatchee June 12 & 14 (RO). Regular sightings of male Lark Buntings occurred at Red Rock Lakes in June and early July (JB). A single bird appeared near Leadore May 22 (HR). Baird's Sparrow was located near Bean L., MT, in early June (PD, DTr) and one was collected there a few days later (PLW, DH). A vagrant Le Conte's Sparrow was spotted at Clearwater L., Wells Gray Park, BC, June 24 (CH, *vide* RRH). Two Bobolinks were sighted at Grays L., *Bonneville*, ID, June 24 (CV, HV) and three males were reported at Roaring Springs Ranch, *Harney*, OR, June 10 (CB). A small colony of Tricolored Blackbirds was

found near Hermiston, OR, July 20 (PSu). Malheur Headquarters had a Great-tailed Grackle June 1 (JG, SJ, RS) and June 5 (CB). Common Grackles brought off a brood of five at Aberdeen, ID (DBu), and young birds were found at Ashton, ID, July 22 (CHT, CW). A male "Baltimore" N. Oriole appeared at Kalispell, MT, in early June (*fide* PLW). Several Lesser Goldfinches summered in the Pocatello vicinity, indicating an established breeding population there (CHT, CW).

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*The Nesting Season, 1989*

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ **Jim Johnson and Bill Tweit**

It did not seem to be a very remarkable breeding season. There were few comments on passerine breeding success. On the ocean, there was an almost complete lack of the normal wind-driven upwelling. As a result, sea surface temperatures were up to 5°F warmer than usual. The lack of upwelling may have disrupted seabird breeding in a manner similar to the 'El Niño' effect and caused low counts of tubenoses in July off Washington. Returning adult shorebirds from the high Arctic, such as Whimbrel, "peep," and Short-billed Dowitcher, seemed a bit early and in low numbers.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Iona = Iona Island sewage ponds, Vancouver, BC; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., OR; V.I. = Vancouver Island, BC; W.A. = Wildlife Area.

LOONS TO PELICANS -- There were reports of immature Com. Loons accompanying adults on 3 different lakes in the Cascades of Washington (Bob Kuntz *et al.*). There are few recent breeding records for the state. They are not known to breed in Oregon, so a breeding-plumaged bird on Diamond Lake, *Douglas*, in the Cascades July 7 (DFi) was probably a summering non-breeder. Small numbers of summering Red-throated, Pacific, and Common loons were reported from coastal areas. No June migrations or large summering concentrations were reported. A subad Yellow-billed Loon at Bullard's Beach S.P., *Coos*, June 4 (David Anderson) provided about the 5th summer report for Oregon. Small numbers of summering Horned, Red-necked, and Western grebes were also reported from coastal areas. The only flock of summering W. Grebes was of 350 on Bellingham Bay, WA (TW). The 2nd and 3rd records of summering Clark's Grebes in the Region were of one at Seaside, *Clatsop*, OR, June 26 (MPa) and a pair on Agate Lake,

*Jackson*, OR, July 22-Aug. 3 (MM, HS). Reports from pelagic waters included one trip off Westport, WA, July 22 (TW), and notes from observers on fishing vessels off the Oregon coast (PS, TT). Black-footed Albatrosses were in large numbers, with 150 off *Lane*, OR, June 13 (PS) and 208 off Westport in July (TW). Small numbers (29) of N. Fulmars were seen off Westport (TW) and none was reported off Oregon. Low numbers were also recorded this spring. From 1981 to 1987, summering fulmars numbered in the hundreds. Very low numbers, reminiscent of summer counts prior to 1981, have been found these last 2 years. Fifty Pink-looted Shearwaters off Florence June 19 (TT) made a high count for June, but only 12 off Westport in July represented a very low count. Sooty Shearwaters and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels exhibited similar patterns, with relatively high counts off Oregon, especially in June, and low counts off Washington in late July. Two thousand Sooties off Oregon contrasted with a paltry 250 off Washington in July, and 100 Fork-tailed off Oregon contrasted with two off Westport. The only Leach's Storm-Petrel report was of 50 off Florence, OR, July 27 (TT). For the 2nd year in a row, none was seen off Washington even though they are the more numerous breeder of the two storm-petrels. Up to 20 Am. White Pelicans, rare in summer, were on Hyatt Res. and adjacent Howard Prairie L., *Jackson*, OR, during early July (HS, MM). Following large numbers this spring, the excellent numbers of Brown Pelicans reported from the s. Washington coast included all age classes. Of the 250 at Westport July 22, one-third were post-breeding adults and 10% were young of the year (BT, TW). The farthest north was one July 11 on the Chain Islets, Oak Bay, V.I. (Howard Rands, *vide* BW). Brown Pelicans are still very rare on V.I.

HERONS TO HAWKS -- The only Great Egret report was of one at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, OR July 17 (SH). Usually there are several reports. Unusual reports of summering or late migrant waterfowl included a Trumpeter Swan at Saanich, V.I., June 6-29 (RS), a swan (sp.) at Miller Sands I. in the lower Columbia R., July 21 (*vide* HN), a Snow Goose at Iona on

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June 1 (TP). A Redhead was at Eckman L., *Lincoln*, OR June 18 (Roy Lowe), an Oldsquaw at Central Saanich, V.I. July 8 (JGa, KT), and an ad male White-winged Scoter inland on Fern Ridge Res. July 10 (SH). Gadwalls are very rare breeders in any part of western Oregon and in western Washington away from Puget Sound. Pairs were noted on the Oregon outer coast June 2 at Ft. Stevens S.P. and S.J.C.R. (HN). Buffleheads are also very uncommon breeders in Oregon; a pair and six ducklings were at Diamond L., *Douglas*, July 7 (DFi). More female plumaged Harlequin Ducks than usual summered at Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, WA (BP), and there were several other unusually high June counts from areas where post-breeding Harlequins summer: 40 at Clover Pt., Victoria, V.I., June 17 (RS), 24 at Point Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA, June 21 (WW), and 25 at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, WA, June 25 (SS). Black-shouldered Kites were reported from 2 locations in Oregon: an immature was on the outer coast at Warrenton, *Clatsop*, July 6 (MPa), and an adult was in the Rogue valley at Denman W.A., *Jackson*, OR, July 10 (HS). In Washington, 2 pairs and one immature were noted at their only known breeding locale at Raymond, *Pacific*, June 22 (EH) and one was along Puget Sound at Nisqually N.W.R. June 28 (Dennis Bolton). The number of *Accipiter* reports was above average: 15 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk, 12 of Cooper's Hawk, and 2 unusual lowland summer records of N. Goshawk: an immature at Ocean Shores, WA, July 28 (G & WH) and an adult at Corvallis, OR, July 24 (Rich Hoyer). The only Red-shouldered Hawk report was of one near Talent, *Jackson*, OR, July 26 (HS). There were 4 reports of summering Merlins, a larger than normal number. One was from the s. Oregon Cascades July 1 (DFi) where they are not known to breed. The other 3 were from the Vancouver, BC, area, and one of those appeared to be of a family group (TP). There were 3 reports of summering Peregrines in Washington, and 2 reports from the Vancouver, BC area.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS -- A Sandhill Crane on Sauvie I., OR, throughout July (JJ, NL) provided the first summer record for the area, as did one July 6 at Sequim, *Clallam*, WA (G Fagerlund, *vide* SS). June reports of summering Black-bellied Plovers included 23 at Boundary Bay, Delta, BC (WW), numbers on Grays Harbor and Leadbetter Point, WA, June 20 & 21 (DP), and 25 on Dungeness Spit June 25 (SS). The

Dungeness Spit birds were mainly in basic plumage; no notes were submitted on the others. Peak counts during July were of 50 at Dungeness Spit July 9 (SS), 45 molting adults July 22 at Ocean Shores (EH), and 150 at Mud Bay, Delta, BC, July 27 (JAM). There were 2 June reports of Lesser Golden-Plover, and 7 July reports. None of the reports indicated subspecies; observers should identify Golden's by subspecies whenever possible, as they likely originate from different areas. Snowy Plovers were found at their northernmost breeding locale at Ocean Shores, WA; breeding success was unknown. The maximum count was of three May 30 (Paul Hicks). Five summering Semipalmated Plovers were reported during early June from Iona, where they have bred (Danny Tyson). The first migrants were noted July 2 at Central Saanich, V.I. (BW), June 23 at Delta, BC (GP), and July 12 at Clatsop Beach, OR (HN). The peak counts were of 200 July 23 at Iron Springs, *Grays Harbor*, WA (EH), and 400 at Tillamook Bay July 26 (HN). A pair of **American Avocets** successfully bred at Serpentine Fen, Surrey, south of Vancouver, BC, this summer. Two fledged chicks were noted June 19 (JL). This is the same site where 2 pairs attempted to breed in 1988 for the first Regional record. Avocets are rare breeders even in eastern British Columbia. The other Am. Avocet report for the summer was of one at Portland, OR, June 3 (Greg Gillson), at the site where one was found in 1988. The first returning Greater Yellowlegs were found in the Vancouver, BC (GP), and Ocean Shores, WA (DP), areas June 20, and the peak count was of 50 at Sauvie I., OR, July 30 (JJ, NL). Fifty-seven Lesser Yellowlegs, an unusually high number, were found in the Vancouver, BC (MPr, GP), and northwestern Washington (DP) areas July 1 & 2. The only Solitary Sandpiper reports received were 2 from Oregon in late July (DFi, JJ, NL). The largest reported Whimbrel numbers were 50 each at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, WA, July 9 (SS) and at Tokeland, *Pacific*, WA (EH), lower than the usual peak counts. A Marbled Godwit at Sidney Spit, V.I., June 2 (J & RS) furnished the first June record for the Victoria area; they are rare there at any season. A Ruddy Turnstone at Iona June 1-5 (RT) was highly unusual. As usual, the first southbound arrival dates for the rock shorebirds, including both turnstones, Surf-bird, and tattler, were July 15 in all parts of the Region, except that 100 Surf-birds were early at Seal Rocks, OR, July 8 (*fide* DFa). Some 125 Ruddy Turnstones at Bandon Marsh, *Coos*, OR, July 31 (LT) and 500 Surf-birds at Seal Rocks

July 15 (*fide* HN) were both very large counts for the Region. Five Red Knot reports were all from late July, except one at Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR, July 1 (MPa), a very early date for knots. A molting Sanderling at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, WA, June 25 (SS) furnished the only summering record, and the first migrants appeared July 9 at Dungeness (SS). Up to three Semipalmated Sandpipers remained until June 5 at Iona (RT), where the first return migrant appeared June 20 (JL). The peak Semipalmated count at Iona was of 195 July 9 (MPr) when Westerns also peaked locally. The largest groups of Semipalmateds away from the Fraser R. delta were of five each on Sidney Spit, V.I., July 8 (JGa, KT) and at Whidbey I., WA, July 9 (DP). Usually the first W. Sandpipers are found in the last days of June in all parts of the Region, but this summer they seemed earlier with 15 at Iona June 20 (JL) and 30 at Crockett L., Whidbey I., WA, June 25 (MD). The peak counts of adults were lower than usual: 5000 at Iona July 9 (MPr), 400 at Courtenay, VA., July 19 (Barbara Sedgewick), 1000 on *Grays Harbor*, WA, July 22 (EH, G & WH), and 2000 at Tillamook Bay July 26 (HN). Least Sandpipers arrived just a few days later than Westerns, and peak counts of adults were low: 125 at Sidney Spit, V.I., July 8 (JGa, KT), 50 at Delta, BC, July 15 (GP), 40 at Grays Harbor, WA, July 22 (BT), and 250 at Tillamook Bay, OR, July 26 (HN). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at Iona June 29-July 2 (†RT, †H & JAM) furnished the 3rd record for the Vancouver area and the Region, all during the summer from Iona. There were 8 reports of Baird's Sandpipers during the period, roughly normal. During early June there were 10 reports of Pectoral Sandpipers, from the Oregon coast (HN, SH) and Iona (RT), which was above average, and which exceeded the 7 reports of returning migrants. A Stilt Sandpiper at Warrenton, OR, July 19-23 (MPa) furnished the only report. Short-billed Dowitchers returned early to the outer coast. First arrivals were at Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay June 20-21 (DP) and peak counts were well below normal: 500 on Grays Harbor July 22 (EH, G & WH) and 150 at Warrenton July 17 (MPa). Long-billed Dowitchers tend to appear later than Short-bills, and in Puget Sound and Willamette Valley locations rather than on the outer coast. Peak counts were of 250 at Reifel I., BC (TP), and 800 at Sauvie I. (JJ, NL). Small numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were noted during June in western Oregon and in the Vancouver, BC, area, but no breeding was noted. There were only 7 July reports. Red-necked Phalaropes reappeared in July, and three

Red Phalaropes were noted off Westport July 22 (TW, BT).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS -- A Parasitic Jaeger at Clover Pt., Victoria, V.I., June 20 (*vide* DFr) was highly unusual. Fifty-eight Pomarine Jaegers and six S. Polar Skuas off Westport July 22 (TW, BT) were high counts for July. A: single S. Polar Skua seen 12 mi off Depoe Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, July 3 was early and close to shore (TT). Three July reports of Franklin's Gulls, 2 from the Vancouver, BC, area and one from Oregon (Bob O'Brien), were expected. An ad Little Gull was seen July 13 at Clover Pt. (RS) and July 15 at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA (FS) Little Gulls are still rare in the Region at any season. Summering Bonaparte's Gulls included 50 at Grays Harbor June

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20 (DP) and 35 at Delta, BC, June 16 (GP) By the end of June, migrants were being reported, with high counts of 450 at Iona July 18 (JL) and 250 at Clover Pt. July 23 (RS). The first northbound Heermann's Gulls were reported off the Coos R. mouth, OR, June 20 (LT). In some years northbound birds do not appear until July. Five days later the first Heermann's were reported from the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca (MD). No Sabine's Gulls were reported off either Oregon or Washington; usually a few are present in July. No summering Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, nor were any summering Com. Terns reported, although in July individual Com. Terns were reported from Delta, BC (GP), Clover Pt. (RS), and Westport (TW, BT). The isolated colony of Arctic Terns, found in 1977 in the Everett, WA, harbor, persists. Two pairs, one on a nest, were there July 2 (EH). Two immatures seen there with four adults Aug. 5 (Scott Ray) indicated successful breeding. Three Forster's Terns were at Fern Ridge Res., OR, June 23 (SH). This species, rare elsewhere in the Region, is found here nearly every spring/summer. A Black Tern near Vancouver, *Clark*, WA, June 11 (Jeff Skriletz) was unexpected. Common Murres apparently had poor reproductive success this year, probably correlated with the lack of upwelling this spring and summer. They may also be suffering from lingering

impacts from the winter oil spill. Only one chick was noted with the adults moving north past Westport July 22 (TW, BT) and only one chick was noted with the first groups of adults to reach the Strait of Juan de Fuca July 26 (DFr). A *Marbled Murrelet* egg that fell out of an old growth W. Red Cedar was found on Long I., Willapa N.W.R. in Willapa Bay, WA, July 22 (JA). A very large count of Marbled Murrelets was of 360 on the ocean off the Siuslaw R. mouth, *Lane*, OR, in June (SH). This count may indicate that the Siuslaw R. watershed, which drains part of the southern Willamette Valley cutting through the Coast Range, is a most important drainage for Marbled Murrelet. Other high counts of Marbled Murrelet, which is a possible candidate for threatened status, included 70 at Point Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA, June 21 (WW) and up to 30 off Sidney, V.I. (J & RS). Only 16 Cassin's Auklets were found off Westport on the July 22 pelagic trip (TW, BT). This low number may also correlate with the lack of upwelling this year and impacts from the winter oil spill as well.

CUCKOOS TO WRENS -- A malnourished ad **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found road-killed in Victoria, V.I., July 5 (*vide* BB, \*Royal B.C. Museum). There are only 3 previous records for the Victoria area, the last in 1904. The subspecies was not reported. A Flammulated Owl was heard in Sam's Valley, *Jackson*, OR, June 5-6 (June Babcock). There are few records for the Rogue valley but it probably breeds regularly there. One Spotted Owl was reported from s.w. British Columbia, where the species undoubtedly deserves endangered status. Barred Owl reports continued to increase. There were 5 from southern V.I. (*vide* BB). The two breeding records from the Vancouver, BC, area (Colin Butt, Carlo Giovanella, Gretchen Long) were the 3rd and 4th breeding records locally. Another breeding record came from the McKenzie R. drainage, *Lane*, OR (SH), and a pair was found between Lemolo L. and Diamond L. in the s. Oregon Cascades (*vide* DFi). The first sightings in Washington and British Columbia of Com. Nighthawk, always our last migrant, were all June 4. The number of reports of nighthawks in the Puget lowlands, where the breeding populations have been reduced for some years now, seemed to be better than usual. The colony of Black Swifts at Salt Creek Falls, *Lane*, had as many as 11 birds this year (NL). This is the only known breeding location in



Oregon, although two at Pamellia L., *Linn*, July 1 (Roy Gerig) might have been from another breeding location. A male Calliope Hummingbird coming to a feeder throughout June at Yachats, *Lincoln*, OR (*vide* DFa), was very rare on the outer coast. A female just over the Oregon Cascade Crest in Lane July 15 (SH) was less unexpected. A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers was at Conde Cr, Jackson, OR, July 6 (HS), this east-slope species might breed regularly in *Jackson*. A White-headed Woodpecker near Glacier, *Whatcom*, WA, June 23 (Pat Wharton) was another wanderer from the east slope of the Cascades. The status of Three-toed Woodpecker on V.I. is undetermined, so an adult male seen at Battleship L., Strathcona Park, in the Courtenay area June 25 and July 9 (Willie Haras, Joan Cartwright, Vi Chungranes) was of interest. More than usual numbers of Willow Flycatchers were noted in the Sequim area, *Clallam*, WA (SS). A Least Flycatcher at Iona June 28-29 (†RT, †Glen Thomson) furnished the 8th record for the Vancouver, BC, area. A spate of Eastern Kingbird records included one from Oregon, at Denman, W.A., *Jackson*, June 7 (HS, ph.); two from Washington, June 15 at the Washougal R. hatchery, *Clark* (Wilson Cady), and June 25 at Indianola, *Kitsap* (†Hank Vail); two at Courtenay, V.I., July 7 (Dianne Maloff); and seven in the Vancouver, BC, area (m.ob.) during June. These records do not include sightings from the few known breeding locales in the Region. For years, Purple Martin populations on southern V.I. have been reduced to 6 pairs or fewer at the Cowichan R. estuary, where two adults and two immatures were seen June 30 (RS). This year, at least three were seen during July around the docks at the Nanaimo harbor, 50 km north of the Cowichan (Mike Bentley, Bill Merilees), indicating the population may be recovering. A family group was seen in 1988 at Campbell R, another 130 km north of Nanaimo. Two martins summering in Bellingham, WA, where they have not been seen for years (*vide* TW), were also a hopeful sign, especially after the first martin record in years for the Vancouver, BC, area this spring Martins continued to do very well on Fort Lewis, WA, breeding in houses and snags (GW). This is the northern extent of sizeable martin populations. A Rock Wren was on Saddle Mt, *Clatsop*, in the Oregon Coast Range June 24-27 (Durrell Kapan, MPa), where territorial individuals have been noted previously. They are unknown as breeders west of the Cascade range.

THRUSHES TO FINCHES -- A Ruby-crowned Kinglet nest found at 4300' in Cat Basin, near High Divide in the Olympic N.P., WA, Aug. 7 (CC) confirmed suspicions that the species nests in the Olympic mountains as well as in the Cascades. Three singing male kinglets in Royal Creek Basin July 12 provided additional confirmation of breeding in the Olympics (FS). The number of W. Bluebird pairs nesting on Fort Lewis, WA, was 178 pairs, down from 212 in 1988 (GW). Total production in the area, their northernmost regular breeding site, was comparable to 1988 with over 700 fledglings produced. Two Townsend's Solitaires were gathering nesting material June 7 at Mt. Douglas Park, Saanich, V.I. (RS), this would be an unusually low-elevation breeding record. More Swainson's Thrushes than usual were noted this summer in the Sequim, *Clallam*, WA, area (SS). A N. Mockingbird at Denman W.A., *Jackson*, OR, July 10 (HS) was the only one reported in the Region this summer. Up to 12 Red-eyed Vireos found on Sauvie I. all summer (m.ob.) evidenced a continuing westward increase of this species along the lower Columbia R. Singing male Nashville Warblers at 3 locations in the upper Cowlitz R. drainage, *Lewis*, WA, in June (BT) probably signified another area of range expansion over the Cascades from the east. Currently, they are known to breed sparingly in eastern *Skagit* and *King* of Washington. Two pairs of Hermit Warblers were found on Fort Lewis, WA, this summer (GW), in a locale and habitat from which the species disappeared during the 1970s. This is at the northern edge of their historic range. A male Am. Redstart at Sauvie I., OR, July 4 (Anthony Floyd) furnished an unusual mid-summer record. An Ovenbird singing in the Santiam Pass area, *Linn*, OR, July 14 (John Crowell) provided the 4th record for western Oregon A singing N. Waterthrush recorded at the Ashland Pond, *Jackson*, OR, June 4 (Bruce Stewart) was a vagrant, as the only spot where this species may breed in the Region is the Salt Creek Bog, *Lane*, OR. A few were noted there June 22 (SH).

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There seemed to be fewer W. Tanagers than usual in the Sequim and Bellingham areas (SS, TW). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were at the Eagle Point colony in *Jackson*, OR, June 10 (MM). This was the 3rd

consecutive year for breeding here, the only known locale in the Region. A male Bobolink June 5 on Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, WA (BP), provided a very rare summer record. There were very few Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported this summer; only 6 reports were received. A **Common Grackle** at Reifel I., Delta, BC, June 25 to July 3 (†Gerry Ansell, †RT, †WW) furnished only the 2nd record for the Vancouver area and the 2nd summer report for the Region. Several Cassin's Finches were found just west of the Cascade Crest in *King* this summer (CC). They seemed to be breeding in the mosaic of old-growth and clearcuts at 4000'. They are known to breed west of the Crest in the Subalpine Fir zone, usually above 4500'. This report is from a lower elevation but the cutting activity may create a niche for them. The elevation is well above typical Purple Finch elevation. The Sitka Spruce cone crop on the Washington outer coast was outstanding, so Type III Red Crossbills were abundant there and apparently bred (TH, JA). Small numbers of Type III Reds were found in the southern Washington Cascades during July (BT). Type IV Red Crossbills were numerous in the San Juan Is., WA, during June (TH). Reds of unknown type were well reported through much of the rest of w. Washington and s. British Columbia. In the Oregon Cascades, there were huge numbers of Type II from mid-June on (JJ, BT). Reds of unknown type were numerous throughout western Oregon. With the Reds in the Oregon Cascades were small numbers of White-winged Crossbills. Ten were at Gold L., *Lane*, July 22 (JJ, SH, Dave Irons). and three were at Larch Mt., *Multnomah*, July 29 (JJ). Four White-wingeds were also noted at Cypress P.P., in W. Vancouver. July 22 (WW). Neither Pine Siskin nor Evening Grosbeak was well reported with the only indication of numbers of either coming from the central Washington Cascades (CC). Finally, in the "No comment" category is the Eur. Tree Sparrow that began visiting a North Bend feeder, *Coos*, OR. July 17 (Barbara Griffin, MM) and was joined by a 2nd bird July 28. This is the same yard that held a Yellow-throated Warbler and a Clay-colored Sparrow this spring.

INITIALED OBSERVERS (**Subregional editors in boldface**) – Jim Atkinson, Barbara Begg, Chris Chappell, Mike Denny, Darrel Faxon, **Dave Fix**, **Dave Fraser**, Jeff Gaskin, Tom Hahn, Steve Heinl, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Nick Lethaby, John Luce,

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End 1989

1990

*Autumn Migration, 1989*

**OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION**

**/Bill Tweit and David Fix**



This was not a fall to gladden the heart of just any birdwatcher, as in many areas negative data were easier to obtain than positive. Offshore, tubenose, jaeger, and alcid numbers were quite low; along the coast shorebird numbers were generally poor and occasionally dismal; and inland passerine migration was generally left unremarked. On the west slope of the Cascades, August and September were drier and hotter than average, and October was an unremarkable transition to a wet November that brought serious flooding to northwestern Washington, but the end of the month saw no snow in the Oregon Cascades. In the interior the opposite pattern prevailed, with August being the wettest month and the following months being drier than average. Sea surface temperatures continued

above average through August. The new Oregon/Washington Region is smaller than either of its parent regions. We believe that the smaller size, and recognition of state borders, should spur observers to provide much more detailed information on migration in the Region as a whole, and the differences between patterns in the interior and along the coast. We encourage observers to submit notes on even the commonest migrants, as we wish to greatly increase our knowledge of timing, and age and sex differences of our migratory populations. We are excited about the new Region, and hope that some of our excitement is contagious.

ABBREVIATIONS -- N.A.R. = National Antelope Refuge; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; W.W.R.D. = Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS -- Of the six Pacific Loons reported from the Cascades and east, a somewhat below average total for fall, three were in October (DL, PMu, LW, RW) and the rest in November (JA, PS, DF<sub>i</sub>). The 2 reports of Yellow-billed Loon, one at Port Ludlow, *Jefferson*, WA, Nov. 5 (†TSc) and one in the Coquille R. estuary, Coos, OR, Sept. 17 and Oct. 4 (MS, PS), made the lowest fall total in the decade. The latter loon was probably the bird seen <mailto:volkenandgail@gmail.com> here this summer. Three juv. Pied-billed Grebes were noted on a mountain lake in White Pass, WA, on the very late date of Oct. 22 (AS). There were more inland reports of Red-necked Grebes than usual: two each in e. Washington and Oregon, and another inland in w. Oregon at Fern Ridge Res. Three downy young W. Grebes on Banks L., WA, Oct. 28 (DP) fit into the same category as the late juv. Pied-billed. The Bellingham Bay flock of W. Grebes contained at least 18,000 on Nov. 21 (TW); this is the largest known wintering concentration in the Region. As closer attention is given to separating Clark's from Western grebes, it becomes difficult to compare reports with

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those of previous seasons and so each year's observations define our expectations. This fall, two Clark's remained in e. Oregon as late as Nov. 13 (LR) at Suttle Lake, *Jefferson*. In w. Oregon, apparent migrant Clark's appeared in August at Fern Ridge Res. and Dorena Res., *Lane* (SH) and at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln* (Kathy Liska). There were three more coastal reports in October (DL, MP, Bill Stotz) and one at Diamond Lake, *Douglas* (DFi). There were 8 pelagic trips out of Westport, WA (TW), from Aug. 12 to Oct. 8, and 3 off Oregon during September and October from Garibaldi, *Lincoln* and Charleston, *Coos* (TC, DFi, JJ). Three Laysan Albatross were reported, the first out of Charleston on the early date of Sept. 16 (LT) and October birds off Westport (TW) and Garibaldi (JJ). Smallish numbers of N. Fulmar, fewer than 50 per trip, were reported during August and September. In October, over 500 per trip were off Westport and many were off Garibaldi. There were only two reports of Flesh-footed Shearwater, both in August off Westport. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers also seemed low, with only 2 trips finding more than 100. Buller's Shearwater numbers were also lower than average; the peak counts were just over 100 Sept. 9 & 12 out of Westport. Usually Buller's numbers peak in October. The clouds of Sooty Shearwaters that often appear at river mouths and estuaries in fall were not very noticeable this fall. The high counts were of 200,000+ Aug. 21 at Grays Harbor (BL) and 50,000 Aug. 24-26 at S.J.C.R. (MP). Pelagic trip counts were similarly low. No Short-tailed Shearwaters were reported on pelagic trips and there were only 3 reports from shore, in November along the Oregon coast (MP, BBe, JJ). In the same vein, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel numbers were very low off Westport all fall, with a peak of only 35 on Aug. 19. No pelagic trips reported Leach's Storm-Petrel, which is the typical fall pattern, but the warmer sea surface temperatures might have altered that. It was an excellent fall for records of Am. White Pelican. At least 400 were in e. Washington on Potholes Res. (WR) and on the Columbia R. between the Yakima R. and the W.W.R.D. (RW, TG). The last report was of one Nov. 27 on the Columbia R. off Richland (RW). In central e. Oregon, where they are rare, pelicans were reported from Ochoco L., *Crook* (LR) and Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* (*vide* TC). On Hyatt Lake, *Jackson*, in the s. Oregon Cascades, pelican numbers peaked at 200 in early August (RS). This was

the largest group of pelicans reported in w. Oregon since the early 1950s when numbers frequented Fern Ridge Res. in summer. Brown Pelicans flew north in smaller numbers and left earlier than in any fall since 1984. They peaked in mid-September on the s. Washington coast at 200 on Grays Harbor and at 300 on Willapa Bay (DP, CC). Immatures and subadults predominated this fall. Southbound migration was noted off the Oregon coast from mid-October (*vide* DFa) into early November (DFi, SH). There was only one observation in November in Washington, on the 13th at Grays Harbor (Brad Holm). Two inland Double-crested Cormorant counts were noteworthy for their magnitude: 650 at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes*, Sept. 18 (CM) and 54 at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, Oct. 2 (RW), where they are increasing annually. Great Egret numbers were average in most areas: 16 were reported in western and 41 in eastern Washington, and 160 in western Oregon. A Snowy Egret was on Sauvie I., OR, Aug. 11-30 (JJ, Bill & Tim Shelmerdine); they are rare north of Coos Bay. A late Snowy Egret was at Summer Lake in the Oregon interior Nov. 16 (Marty St. Louis). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** at Crockett Lake, Whidbey I., WA, Oct. 14-28 (Bob Merrick, m.ob.) provided the 2nd record for Washington. The first record was also of a fall immature, in 1974. The Cattle Egret flight was quite poor, for the 3rd fall in a row. Only five were found in w. Oregon (*vide* DFa and HN), one in w. Washington (Dory & Stan Smith), and two at Othello in e. Washington (WR).



*Immature Little Blue Heron at Crockett Lake, Washington, October 23, 1989. Photograph/Scott Ray.*

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WATERFOWL TO GROUSE -- Early Tundra Swan reports in Oregon were of one at Rock Creek Res., *Wasco*, Sept 9 (DL) and 50 in the mid-Willamette valley (RG) Oct. 5. After mid-October, small numbers were reported at several w Oregon locales. The first Washington reports and the first large flocks came in November, as usual. Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to decline at Malheur N.W.R. Only two broods were successful this year, producing only three cygnets, and the peak fall count was of only 19 (TC). A Black Scoter, the rarest of the scoters in the interior, in *Jefferson*, OR, Oct. 15 to the end of the period furnished only the 2nd county record (TC). Eighteen Surf Scoters reported in e Oregon, eight in e. Washington, and 11 in the s. Oregon Cascades made better than average numbers. However, the five White-winged Scoters reported from e. Oregon, eight from e. Washington, and one from the Willamette valley were fewer than average for fall. The fall count of 731 Barrow's Goldeneyes roosting on Capitol Lake, Olympia, Nov. 25 (G & WH) was lower than in the last several years, but the peak of 300 on Diamond Lake, *Douglas*, OR, at the end of November made about normal numbers (DFi). There were seven interior Red-breasted Mergansers reported, somewhat better than average, all but one from Oregon. Migrant Turkey Vulture flocks were noted throughout the fall on the west side. The largest flocks were: 150 Aug 24 near Ashland, OR (RS), 180 Sept. 18 near Ashland (RS), 200 Sept. 26 near Port Angeles, WA (*fide* FS), 200 Oct 1 at Winlock, *Lewis*, WA (*fide* HN), and 100 in early October over Salem, OR (*fide* BBe). There was only one report of migrant vultures on the east side: 10 in one hour Sept. 3 over Red Top Mt., *Kittitas*, WA (RT). One near Liberty, *Kittitas* Nov. 21 (Bert Jahn) was very late for the interior. The west side numbers of Black-shouldered Kites were somewhat subdued, all reports coming from traditional locales. Five birds were reported from Washington and 16 from Oregon. An adult at Klamath Forest N.W.R., e. Oregon, from Nov. 4 on (JC, SS) was probably the same bird reported there last year. *Accipiter* numbers were underreported this fall. We request that

all observers report all *Accipiter* sightings or a summary of sightings. Western Washington observers generally thought both species were widespread. The only migratory report was of 23 Sharp-shinned and six Cooper's hawks in 5 hours over Robinson Canyon in the e. Washington Cascades Oct. 3 (RT). There were 9 N. Goshawk reports, most from the west side. The only migratory flock of Swainson's Hawk reported was of 12+ near Walla Walla Sept. 2 (BT). Five "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported, all from the west side. An imm Ferruginous Hawk Aug. 29 and an adult Sept. 28 in the Rogue valley, *Jackson* (†HS) furnished the first convincing sightings of Ferruginous in w. Oregon in over a decade. Rough-legged

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Hawks were sparsely reported, with only 15 sightings, 11 of those from the interior. Merlin numbers were normal on the west side, and there were 13 reports from the interior. Peregrine reports included 22 in w. Washington (including 3 reports of *tundrius*), normal numbers from w. Oregon, four from e. Washington, and three from e. Oregon. Gyrfalcons were at 3 w. Oregon estuaries (m. ob.); one of those was reportedly of the white morph (*fide* NL). This number is well above expected for Oregon, especially since there was only one report each from w. Washington (FS) and e. Oregon (SS). A report from Hart Mountain N.A.R. indicated that productivity for Sage Grouse in 1989 was below average throughout s.e. Oregon (TC). Despite this, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife lifted a moratorium on hunting Sage Grouse and authorized taking 2000 grouse.

SHOREBIRDS -- The shorebird season in w. Oregon was highlighted by a most impressive showing on Sauvie I., one that put interior-valley shorebirding into a new perspective for the many birders involved. The reason for the concentration was unknown. Heavy coverage throughout the fall resulted in the discovery of a number of Willamette valley rarities, as well as close tracking of the comings and goings of routine species. In e. Oregon, the water levels of Malheur, Mud, and Harney lakes continued to recede, providing

extensive mudflat habitat for shorebirds. However, coastal migration was quite poor. Several Washington shorebird enthusiasts had the discomfiting experience of spending the day looking for shorebirds and finding none. The peak Black-bellied Plover count on the coast was of 600 Sept. 15 at Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA (G & WH), and in the interior was 11 at the W.W.R.D. Sept. 19-20 (TG, MD). The peak count of Lesser Golden-Plovers was a piddling 34 at Ocean Shores Aug. 28 (DB). None of the westside reports of goldens indicated age, and only half included race. The peak count of *fulva* was of five Sept. 21 at S.J.C.R. (*fide* HN) and of *dominica* four Sept. 17 at S.J.C.R. (MP). Inland, there was only one report of a single at W.W.R.D. Sept. 17 (AS). A few Black-necked Stilts were still at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 15 (TC), late for this species. The last Am. Avocet was also late: Oct. 8 in *Benton*, WA (TG). There were 2 westside reports of avocets, both from Oregon in August, about normal. A single Aug. 5 at the mouth of the New River, *Curry* (*fide* LT), was rare for the coast, and seven Aug. 26 at Green Peter Res., *Marion* (Rich Hoyer, Jr.) made an unusual count. Peak counts of Greater Yellowlegs were of 110 at Sauvie I. Sept. 12 (JJ, NL), 75 at Ocean Shores Sept. 17 (BT), and 11 Aug. 27 at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton* (RW). The peak count of Lesser Yellowlegs was also at Sauvie I., 123 Sept. 12 (JJ). The Lesser peak at the Yakima R. delta was of 50 Aug. 23 (RW). Solitary Sandpipers were scarce, except at Sauvie I. where the peak was nine (JJ). Elsewhere there were only 20 reports. There was only one report of Whimbrel away from Puget Sound and the coast, at Sauvie I. Aug. 22 (DI). Long-billed Curlews were seen in good numbers in coastal Washington, with 110 on the Long Beach Peninsula Aug. 30 (BS) and 51 at Tokeland Sept. 19 (G & WH). However, in Oregon, only singles were seen at 5 sites. There was one report each of the two rare godwits: a juv. Hudsonian at the Nehalem Sewage Ponds, *Tillamook*, OR, Aug. 10 (MP) and an adult Bar-tailed at Tokeland Aug. 26 (EH). The Bar-tailed was possibly the same individual reported since 1987 at Tokeland. Marbled Godwit numbers peaked in Washington at 150 at Tokeland Aug. 26 (EH) and in Oregon at 20 at Bandon Sept. 10 (DFi), average for fall in Washington but poor in Oregon. Inland, two at Reardan, *Lincoln*, WA, Aug. 26-28 (JA, JW) were the first in several years there, and two were at Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake*, OR, Sept. 10 (MM). A Ruddy Turnstone at Reardan Aug. 26-28 (JA, JW) provided the first local record and the only interior report. Red Knots were less common

than usual this fall. None was reported from the interior, and peak coastal counts were of five at Bandon Sept 3-10 (DFi) and six at Ocean Shores Aug 25-27 (K & JW). Aside from a healthy peak of 6000 at Ocean Shores Sept. 15 (G & WH), Sanderlings were scarcely reported from the coast. Sixteen were found on the east side, about average. Up to 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers were found on Sauvie I. through Aug. 22 (JJ). In less favored parts of the Region, Semipalmateds were scarce. There were only five found in all of w. Washington, and 13 elsewhere in w. Oregon. A combination of underreporting and scarcity must account for only 4 reports from the interior. Western Sandpiper peaks included 8000 at Nehalem Bay, Tillamook, OR, Aug. 19 (HN), 5000 on Sauvie I. (HN), 5000 at Bandon Aug. 25 (SH), and 5000 at Grays Harbor Sept. 16 (BS). Generally, the peak of juveniles at one or more of these locales is in the tens of thousands. Baird's Sandpipers were reported in numbers more nearly representing average. The peak count was of 50+ in the interior near Banks L., *Douglas*, WA, Aug. 27 (G & WH) and 30 on the coast at Ocean Shores Sept. 15 (G & WH). However, Pectoral Sandpipers numbers were best termed abysmal. The peak count was of only 18 birds at, where else, Sauvie I. Sept 14 (JJ). Reports from both the interior and the coast indicated that Pectoral numbers were about 10% of numbers seen in a "good" year. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reports were also below average, with two seen in Oregon and one in Washington. The only Dunlin report of note was of 150 at Willow Creek W.M.A., *Gilliam*, OR, Nov. 11 (PMu, LW), a very high count from an interior locale. Stilt Sandpiper was the only shorebird appearing in above average numbers this fall. It was their best showing ever in Oregon where the peak in the interior was of seven at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 23-Oct. 13 (TC, m.ob.). This was the first record for the refuge! Two were reported elsewhere in e Oregon. In w. Oregon there were up to 12 on Sauvie I. (NL) and 10 elsewhere. There were 26 reported from e. Washington, with 13 at Reardan Aug. 26 (JA) the highest count, and w. Washington had an additional fourteen. The last in the Region was Oct. 22 at Bandon (LT). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were typical of a low year: one each at Ocean Shores (G & WH), S.J.C.R. (MP), and Sauvie I. (JJ) during early September. There were eight Ruffs reported, with the peak count coming from, of course, Sauvie I., where three were present Aug. 24 to Sept. 14 (JJ, HN, m.ob.). The others were at Ocean Shores Aug. 27-28 (BS), Crockett L.,

Whidbey I., WA, Sept. 4-11 (K & JW), the south shore of Grays Harbor Sept. 16 (BS), S.J.C.R. Aug. 30-Sept. 6 (MP), and Bandon Aug. 26 (JJ, SH). The peak count of Short-billed Dowitchers was of 400, primarily juveniles, at Grays Harbor Sept. 9 (BT), and the last report was of 40 juveniles there Oct. 8 (BT) when they were evenly mixed with Long-billed. As usual, small numbers of Short-billed were found in the interior, with 25 at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 9 (SH, JJ) the high count. A minimum of 5000 Long-billed Dowitchers at Malheur (TC) in mid-September was probably one of the largest concentrations ever noted in the Region. Elsewhere, peaks were of 450 at, again, Sauvie I. Oct. 27 (HN) and 160 at the Yakima R. delta Oct. 17 (RW). The peak pelagic trip count of Red-necked Phalaropes was of 1774 Aug. 12 off Westport (TW). Counts tapered off rapidly after that; none was seen off Oregon in September. Onshore, there were up to 1000 per locality in n. Puget Sound from mid-August through Sept. 13 (DB, VN) and they seemed to be well reported from the interior. Red Phalaropes were seen on all pelagic trips. They peak was also in August: 131 on the 19th (TW). Two were found in e. Washington, where rare: an immature at W.W.R.D. Sept. 17 (AS) and one near Cle Elum, *Kittitas*, Oct. 7 (B & GR).

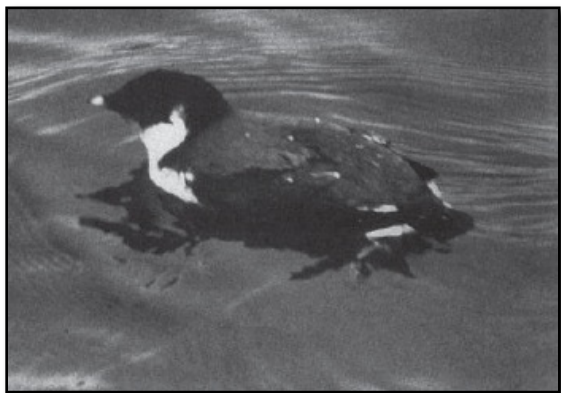
JAEGERS TO ALCIDS – Pomarine Jaegers were seen 8 times from shore and on all pelagic trips with a peak of 41 Sept. 9 off Westport (TW). Parasitic Jaeger numbers were definitely lower than average in n. Puget Sound and the coastal estuaries: the peak shore counts were of six at both S.J.C.R. (MP) and Ocean Shores (DP). Only one was reported

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from the interior, an immature at the W.W.R.D. Sept. 2-17 (BT, AS). After outstanding counts of 100 Long-tailed Jaegers per day offshore in 1988, this fall was worse than average with only 11 sightings for the season. South Polar Skuas did not appear until Aug. 25 when one was off Cape Foulweather, OR (Terry Thompson); most of the September pelagic trips recorded two per trip and the Oct. 8 trip found three. Nine Franklin's Gulls on the west side of the

mountains made the lowest count since 1983, less than a quarter of average. One at the Hood R. mouth, OR, Oct.1 (DL) furnished the only interior report. At least four Little Gulls (two adults, two 2nd-winter) in the Seattle-Everett area Aug. 12-Nov. 5 made the expected number in recent years. An imm. Little Gull at John Day Dam on the Columbia R. Nov. 21-26 (PMu, LW, m.ob.) was the first for e. Oregon. Eastern Washington observers thought that Bonaparte's Gulls occurred in larger than average numbers; 92 at W.W.R.D. Oct. 29 (PB) was the maximum count. A Mew Gull was at McNary Dam on the Columbia R. Oct. 21 (DL, PS); they are rare that far into the interior. A California Gull seen Sept. 2 at the Rogue R. mouth had been banded July 2, 1989 at Mono Lake, CA (RE). This was surprising, as the usual assumption is that all the California Gulls appearing in fall in our Region are from the colonies east of the Rockies. Apparently, some come from the Great Basin, on the south coast at least. There were two W. Gull reports from eastern Oregon, neither with details. Inland records of Westerns, especially away from the Columbia R., should be documented. Glaucous Gull reports included five first-winter birds on the westside and an adult at Eugene Nov. 21 (SH). Adults are very uncommon in the Region. Inland, imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Reardan, WA, Sept. 3 (†JA) and at Sheridan Sewage Ponds, *Yamhill*, OR, Nov. 26-27 (JJ, RG), both for first county records, and an adult was at Bellingham, WA, Sept. 3 (TW). Numbers of adult Sabine's Gulls were seen migrating south Sept. 7 off *Tillamook* (TT) and Sept. 9-12 off Westport (TW). One Sabine's was at the Yakima R. delta Sept. 16 (RW) for the 5th record there. Very few imm. Sabine's were noted on the pelagic trips. Two were seen in Puget Sound, where a few are found annually, Sept. 24 (Dick Snyder) and Oct. 7 (†VN). An imm. Caspian Tern at S.J.C.R. Nov. 4 (MP) was very late: usually the last Caspians leave in early October. **Elegant Terns** were found again this fall on the s. Oregon coast. They were unrecorded in the Region prior to 1983, and since then they have appeared only in 1987. Two were at the mouth of the Chetco R., *Curry*, Aug. 31 (MD), two adults and a banded immature were at the mouth of the Rogue R. Sept. 8 (†RE), and 20 were there Sept. 14 (Rick & Jan Krabbe). The band could not be read. The Com. Tern showing was typical, with small numbers along the outer coast and much larger numbers in Puget Sound, up to 500 at Tacoma, WA, Sept. 10 (Thais Bock). The usual few interior reports included two at W.W.R.D. Sept. 20-

Oct. 7 (MD), one at Mosier, *Wasco*, OR, Sept. 9 (DL), and eight at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes*, Sept. 29 (CM). Sparse numbers of Arctic Terns were reported offshore, generally fewer than 10 per trip with a maximum of 50 Sept. 18 off Depoe Bay, *Lincoln* (TT). Onshore, two at Agate L. Aug. 22 (Otis Swisher) furnished the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Jackson* record, and one at Yaquina Bay Sept. 24 (JJ) was the last report. It was not a good season for Com. Murres. Above normal numbers died off this summer along the Oregon coast (Range Bayer, HN) and below normal numbers were seen on pelagic trips off Westport all fall (TW). Very low numbers of chicks were seen accompanying the adults north (TW, BT). Xantus' Murrelets were seen 10 mi off Lincoln City, OR, Sept. 9 (TT) and from shore at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, Oct. 24-25 (HN), while none was seen off Washington. Unusually early Ancient Murrelets were an immature at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, Sept. 13 (TC) and one unaged at Boiler Bay Sept. 30 (GL, TSt). Normal arrivals were in late October in Puget Sound, numbers building to 156 Nov. 21 off Point No Point (VN). There were 2 inland records of **Ancient Murrelet**: one on the Snake R. 2 mi



*An Ancient Murrelet well inland at John Day Dam, Oregon, November 23, 1989. Photograph/J. O'Brien.*

above the Grand Ronde mouth, *Asotin*, WA, Nov. 2 (†Don Carrell) and another at John Day Dam on the Columbia R. Nov. 23-26 (DL, CM, m.ob.). Cassin's Auklets are not usually seen from shore, but this fall small numbers, up to 25, were seen at several Oregon locations during August and September (MP, MD, GL,

TSt). Offshore, generally small numbers were noted off Westport until Oct. 7-8 (TW) when a substantial southward migration was noted. Rhinoceros Auklets were scarce off Westport until October (TW), but were seen in more than the usual small numbers along the Oregon coast this fall. Sixty at Yachats, *Lincoln*, Oct. 1 (Kathy Merrifield) made a very large number for Oregon. Tufted Puffins were virtually absent on pelagic trips off Westport (TW), and they were still feeding young in burrows on Haystack Rock, *Clatsop*, OR, Sept. 11 (TC), which may indicate that earlier breeding attempts failed. A Horned Puffin was found dead on the beach n. of Waldport, *Lincoln*, OR (Roy Lowe) and two were seen 15 mi off Cascade Head, OR, Nov. 3 (TT).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS -- A flock of 75 Band-tailed Pigeons at Bandon Sept. 9 was the largest flock reported in Oregon. The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has considered closing the season. Eight Band-taileds were in Bend during the first week of October (Jacques DeKalb); they are rare in central Oregon. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Hart Mountain N.A.R. in late August (Steve Herman). There are fewer than 10 recent records for Oregon. Two apparently migratory Flammulated Owls were found in Washington this fall: one was roosting in a thicket near Plain, *Chelan*, Aug. 30 (BL) and one in Indian Canyon, *Spokane*, Sept. 24 (JA, Warren Hall). The lone Snowy Owl report, of one immature Nov. 21 on the Hanford Res., *Benton*, WA (PB), did not inspire hopes for a good flight year. A handful (10) of Short-eared Owls had appeared in w. Oregon by the end of the period. Up to three **Boreal Owls** were reported near Waldo L. in the central Oregon Cascades Sept. 28 through Nov. 4 (TC, Steve Gordon, m.ob.). Their response calls were tape recorded, and details have been submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee. The sightings were in the subalpine Cascades south of Three Sisters Wilderness. At least three Boreals were found Sept. 9-Oct. 14 in the Wallowa Mts. (PS), where their presence was only recently documented. Late Com. Nighthawks included one in North Richland, WA, Sept. 29 (RW), one at W.W.R.D. Oct. 7 (MD), and an incredibly late bird in the Spokane valley Nov. 9 (†Larry Thieman). A few Com. Poorwills also malingered in Washington: one was in Selah, *Yakima*, Sept. 25 (Virginia & Harold Vredenburgh), and a later one in *Skagit* Oct. 2 was also



west of its usual range (K & JW, Univ. Wash.). Nowadays, Lewis' Woodpeckers are scarce fall visitants to

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the upper Willamette valley. This fall 38 individuals were reported, well above average numbers. The largest group was of 22 in w. *Polk* Oct. 20 (RG) and the range of dates was from Sept. 2 (MP) to Oct. 25 (RG). They were also in high numbers in the Rogue valley (MM) and along the Columbia R. in *Klickitat*, WA (m.ob.). They are regular in both areas. **Acorn Woodpeckers** made their 4th appearance in Washington, at the mouth of the Klickitat R. Up to nine were seen Oct. 12



*Female Acorn Woodpecker at Lyle, Washington, October 29, 1989. Photograph/Scott Ray.*

and later (Roger Contor, m.ob.), including at least five males and one female. A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 13-15 (SS) was rare in the interior. The last Williamson's Sapsucker was reported Sept. 16 at Field Spring S.P., *Asotin*, WA (J & DP).

FLYCATCHERS TO TROGLODYTES -- The last of 4 Olive-sided Flycatcher reports was Sept. 13 in the Rogue valley (HS). Movements of W. Wood-Pewee were noted Aug. 25 at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla*, OR

(TG), and Sept. 3 at Washtucna, *Adams*, WA (BT), both interior locations. Willow Flycatchers were almost unreported; the last were two Sept. 21 at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, WA (B & GR). Two Least Flycatchers were reported from the interior, where they appear to be rare annual migrants: one Aug. 25 at Hat Rock S.P. (TG) and one Aug. 28 at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA (EH). Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers were underreported. Last sightings were Sept. 20 (Hammond's) in the s. fork of the Stillaguamish, *Snohomish*, WA (CC), and Sept. 3 (Dusky) at Washtucna (BT). Pacific-slope Flycatchers were reported through Sept. 24 on the west side (SH). On the east side, migrant groups of Western types of unknown species were noted Aug. 25 at Hat Rock S.P. (TG) and Sept. 3 at Washtucna (BT). The last report of a "Western" was of one at Vantage Sept. 14 (PMA). A late departing Say's Phoebe was at Rufus, *Sherman*, OR, Nov. 25 (PMu, LW). Migratory groups of Western and Eastern kingbirds were noted Sept. 3 in *Grant*, WA (BT). The last W. Kingbird was Oct. 1 near Yaquina Head on the Oregon coast (DFa), and the last Eastern was Sept. 11 in Yakima (Paul Roetsma, *fide* BBo). A Purple Martin near Bend, OR, Sept. 15 (TC, Dave Stejskal) provided the first *Deschutes* record. Martins are not regular migrants east of the Cascades. The main exodus of Violet-green Swallows took place Aug. 22 to Sept. 15 (HN) and the last was a very tardy bird at Kent, WA, Nov. 4 (John Gatchet). Bank Swallows are sparse migrants on the west side; 13 sightings this fall were average. Both Blue Jay records were in Washington: at Albion, *Whitman*, Oct. 8 into December (J & DP) and at Chelan Falls, *Chelan*, Oct. 30 (VN). A Scrub Jay was at Astoria Sept. 10 (H. Brunner). They are very rare on the Oregon coast north of *Coos*, although their range is expanding. Clark's Nutcrackers are irregular on the west slope. Two were found in the Washington lowlands: one on the coast at Ocean Shores Sept. 9 (RW) and one along Puget Sound at Edmonds Oct. 30 (Steve Linjord). Nutcrackers staged a minor incursion into the Douglas-fir forest of n.e. *Douglas* in the Oregon Cascades this fall (DFi). A Wren tit near Black Rock in the Coast Range of w. *Polk* Oct. 29 (RG) was at the n. edge of their Willamette Valley range, which is expanding north. Bewick's Wrens are also expanding their range, east into the interior. One was near the Snake R. in *Asotin*, WA, Oct. 15 (*fide* TR) and there were 2 sightings at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 15 (MD) & 29 (Clarence & Marilyn O'Leary).

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS -- The last W. Bluebird sightings away from their regular wintering areas were of 20 in *Whitman*, WA, Nov. 11 (J & DP) and one at Coos Bay (BG) Nov. 18. The Corvallis bluebird trail fledged 223 young in 1989, the 2nd-best year for the trail (ME). A vagrant Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Malheur Aug. 24 (ME). Swainson's Thrushes went virtually unreported aside from a few reports of late birds through mid-October. There were no records of migratory movements. The first Hermit Thrush migrants were found Sept. 3 in the interior at Washtucna (BT) and Sept. 10 on the coast at S.J.C.R. (MP). No migratory concentrations were reported. Oregon's 3rd **Wood Thrush** was at Fields, *Harney*, Oct. 14 (SS, JC, ph.). The previous 2 records were



*Wood Thrush at Fields, Harney County, Oregon, October 14, 1989. Photograph/Steve Summers.*

both sight reports in May 1980. Only one N. Mockingbird was reported, Sept. 17 at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, WA (B & GR). They seem to occur less often than formerly. The last Sage Thrasher report was at Saddle Mountain N.W.R., *Grant*, WA, Sept. 12 (WR). American Pipits migrants seemed unusually abundant along the outer coast in mid-September (HN, BT, DP). The first N. Shrike was at Ocean Shores Oct. 6 (B & GR). Although it is difficult to quantify from the reports, shrike numbers seemed below average. Late Solitary Vireos were at Richland, WA, Sept. 21 (RW) and near Walla Walla, WA, Oct. 3 (MD). Warbling Vireos are among the more common insectivorous migrants through the interior; concentrations were found Aug. 24 in Richland (RW)

and Sept. 3 in Adams, WA (BT), and the last sighting was Sept. 19 in Richland (RW). The only Red-eyed Vireo migrants seen were in Tigard, *Yamhill*, OR, Sept. 7 (Tom Love) and in Washtucna, *Adams*, Sept. 3 (BT). Fall migrant Red-eyed Vireos are probably vagrants on the west slope, but are certainly annual in the interior. Orange-crowned Warbler, another of the most common insectivorous migrants, was poorly reported. In e. Washington, movements were noted Sept. 3 (BT), 7 (AS), & 20 (RW). Nashville Warblers are very uncommon fall migrants on the west slope. There were 2 records: one Sept. 18 in Sedro Wooley, *Skagit*, WA (K & JW), was catching fruit flies inside a supermarket, and another Oct. 1 near Salem, OR (*vide* BBe), was late. Yellow Warbler flocks were found Aug. 23 and Sept. 1 in Richland (RW), and the last were seen Oct. 1 in w. Oregon

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(Gerald Smith, DFi). Two Black-throated Blue Warblers, regular Oregon vagrants, were at Malheur Sept. 26-30 (Bill Tice, m.ob.). The first waves of Yellow-rumped Warblers appeared Sept. 10-14 at Vantage, WA (PMa). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Richland Aug. 23 (RW) was rare that far east. In the interior, migrant Townsend's Warblers were noted in the first week of September (PMa, BT, TG), while on the coast, migrants were noted in October (MP, DFa). A Hermit Warbler at Hyatt Res., *Jackson*, OR, Sept. 30 (RS) was late. An ad. † **Prairie Warbler** Aug. 24-Sept. 3 near the south jetty of the Coquille R., *Coos* (DFi, m.ob., ph.) furnished the 2nd Oregon record. The first was also on the coast, in September 1980. Nine Palm Warblers were found along the coast and one in the interior, an average fall number; the first on Sept. 9 (*vide* DFa) was very early Blackpoll Warblers, also regular Oregon vagrants, were at Malheur Sept. 9 (JJ, SH) & 24 (TC). The sole Black-and-white Warbler was near Portland on the early date of Sept. 2 (R. Howe, *vide* HN). Seven Am. Redstarts, all immatures or females, were found in the interior from Aug. 23 (TG) to Sept. 16 (TC). Three N. Waterthrushes were found Aug. 29 to Sept. 23 (m.ob.) in *Harney*, OR, where they are regular migrants, and a vagrant was at Seattle Aug. 17 (Kevin Aanerud). MacGillivray's Warblers, common migrants, were also underreported. The last was Oct. 1

at Toketee, *Douglas*, OR (DFi). Large migratory concentrations of Wilson's Warblers were found in the interior: 75 at Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, Aug. 18 (JA) and 230 in *Adams*, WA, Sept. 3 (BT), and the last was on the coast at Tillamook Bay Oct. 22 (RG). A **Canada Warbler** at Seaside, *Clatsop*, Oct. 29-Nov. 1 (DI, m.ob.) provided the first western Oregon record and the 2nd or 3rd for the state.

GROSBEAKS TO WEAVER FINCHES -- An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen along the John Day R. Aug. 29 (RG) apparently provided the earliest fall record in Oregon of this vagrant. A Chipping Sparrow was at Yaquina Head Oct. 28-29 (JJ); they occur rarely in fall migration on the Oregon coast and are almost never found farther north. Waves of Savannah Sparrows appeared in Yakima, WA, Sept. 8 (BBo) and at Grays Harbor Sept. 17-23 (BT, DP). The first Lincoln's Sparrows were at Fern Ridge Res., OR, Aug. 28 (SH) and the peak was of 20 at Washtucna, *Adams*, Sept. 3 (BT). Only five Swamp Sparrows were reported, all from w. Oregon. About 30 White-throated Sparrows were reported, an average number. Seven of the 11 Harris' Sparrow sightings were from e. Oregon, the usual pattern and a somewhat heavier sprinkling than usual. The first Lapland Longspurs appeared inland at Reardan, WA, Sept. 2 (JA) and coastally in both states Sept. 6 (BS, MP). Lower than average numbers were on the Washington coast, but 70 at Yaquina Bay Oct. 28 (DL) made a high count for Oregon. Two **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** at Diamond L., in the *Douglas* Cascades, one Sept. 13 and another Oct. 3 (†DFi), furnished the 5th and 6th records for Oregon. A Bobolink at Ocean Shores, WA, Sept. 17 (BT, TSc) was a first for *Grays Harbor*. Tricolored Blackbird distribution in Oregon is puzzling. Thirty were found in Prineville, *Crook*, Oct. 21 (TC, CM); they are not known to breed within 150 mi of there. Rusty Blackbirds, rare but regular in the Region, were seen at the s. jetty of the Coquille R., *Coos*, Sept. 17 (PS) and at Agate Lake, *Jackson*, Sept. 18 (MM). A Great-tailed Grackle at Fields, *Harney*, Oct. 14 (SS, JC, ph.) was the first female and the first in fall for Oregon. A minor invasion of Pine Grosbeaks was noted in October in the s. Washington Cascades (AS), with small flocks noted in most of the higher elevation areas. Red Crossbills were present throughout w. Washington during the fall, and were unreported elsewhere. A few

White-winged Crossbills appeared to be breeding in August in the central Oregon Cascades, at Cultus and Waldo lakes (TH). Others were sighted as far south as Diamond L., *Douglas* (DFi, MS). Small numbers were also in the Wallowa Mts. all fall (BBE, DSu, LW). In Washington, small numbers were seen at higher elevations all along the n. border (EH, AS, JA), and a few were even found with the Reds in the w. Washington lowlands (TH, CC). These were not invasion numbers, but White-winged were certainly distributed more extensively than usual. Common Redpoll flocks began appearing in e. Washington in November (AS, JA, J & DP) auguring a better flight than the previous 2 winters. The largest numbers of Lesser Goldfinches ever recorded in Washington were in the Lyle, *Klickitat*, area during October and November (m.ob.); up to 80 were recorded. The Eur. Tree Sparrow reported all summer at BG's North Bend, *Coos* feeder was present Sept. 1-10, and returned Nov. 11. An immature was present to Sept. 12.

INITIALED OBSERVERS, *with subregional editors in boldface* – Jim Acton, Phil Bartley, Dave Beaudette, Barb Bellin (BBE), Bob Boekelheide (BBo), Jim Carlson, Chris Chappel, **Tom Crabtree** (eastern Oregon), Mike Denny, Darrel Faxon (DFa), **Merlin Eltzroth** (Corvallis area), Richard Erickson, Roy Gerig, Tony Greager, Barbara Griffin, Tom Hahn, **Steve Heintz** (western Oregon), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Dave Irons, Jim Johnson, Nick Lethaby, Gerard Lillie, Bob Lewis, Donna Lusthoff, **Phil Mattocks** (Washington), Craig Miller, Marjorie Moore, Patrick Muller (PMu), Harry Nehls, Vic Nelson, Jeff & Deanna Palmer, Michael Patterson, Dennis Paulson, William Radke, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Lou Rems, **Tom Rogers** (eastern Washington), Howard Sands, Martha Sawyer, Tom Schooley (TSc), Fred Sharpe, Andy Stepnewski, Tom Stoudt (TSt), Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Bob Sundstrom, Terry Thompson, Larry Thornburgh, Rob Thorne, Terry Wahl, Linda Welland, Keith & Jan Wiggers, Jeff Wisman, Robert Woodley



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*The Winter Season, 1989-1990*

## OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

/Bill Tweit and Jim Johnson

Observers in all parts of the Region agreed that the winter was mild and dry. There was substantially more open fresh water than normal, especially in the high desert parts of the interior. Interior observers attributed a broad variety of unusual winter records to the mild winter: American White Pelican, Ferruginous Hawk, Canada Goose, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Lapland Longspur. Precipitation was less than 50% of normal in the interior, and much closer to normal on the west side of the Cascades. A major wind storm hit the Columbia basin January 8, with gusts up to 81 mph, but no effects were noted on birds. On the west side, a major storm February 10 drove Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and Black-legged Kittiwakes onshore in Washington and left numbers of seabirds dead on the beach in northwest Oregon. For the second consecutive winter, Bud Anderson conducted a mid-winter survey of the raptor populations on the Skagit and Samish flats of northwestern Washington. The winter was notable for low numbers of Rough-legged Hawk and record low numbers of Snowy Owls. The

spice of the winter was a splendid number of 'eastern' birds, including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Hooded Warbler, three records of Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and good numbers of Swamp Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Harney, OR; S.F.W.R.C. = Skagit Flats Winter Raptor Census; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS -- There were only three reports of Red-throated Loons from the Portland area of the Columbia R. (JJ, David Irons, GGi, DL), fewer than the last two winters, when unusual numbers have occurred. Pacific Loons at Wallowa L., OR, Jan. 13 (DL) and in *Chelan*, WA, in December (DP, RO-T) were the interior reports. There were four Yellow-billed Loons reported from Washington: one on the outer coast (Bob & Georgia Ramsey, JS), two along the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Mark

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Oberle, RM). One additional was found north of Puget Sound (Dave Cellimer). Oregon had an additional two reports: one on the outer coast at Netarts Bay, *Tillamook*, Feb. 19-March 5 (Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine) and one on Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, Dec. 31-Jan. 3 (DFi, Steve Heintl). The Fern Ridge bird furnished the second inland record in Oregon for this species. This total of six was slightly above recent winter averages. A count of 47 Horned Grebes on the Columbia R. at Hood River, OR, Feb. 25 (DA, DL) made a very large number for the interior, where Horned Grebes only winter regularly at favored sites on the Columbia. A Red-necked Grebe at Richardson Point, *Lane*, OR, Feb. 18 (*vide* BC) was unusual; the only regular wintering locales in western Oregon are a few coastal sites. An Eared Grebe at the Philomath Sewage Ponds, *Benton*, OR, Dec. 19 (RHo) was unusual for the same reasons. There were four Clark's Grebe reports, but only two with details, from Washington. One at Tokeland, *Pacific*, Jan. 14 (†G & WH) was felt to be an

intergrade. The other substantiated report was from Winslow, *Kitsap*, Feb. 3 (Paul Cozens). There were eight individuals reported from Oregon, none with details. Six were at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, Dec. 10 (KM), one was at Seaside, *Clatsop*, the same date (MP), and one was at Hammond, *Clatsop*, Dec. 17 (DL). Until the wintering status of Clark's and intergrades is more fully understood in the Region, observers are urged to document their sightings. The pelagic trip out of Westport, WA, Jan. 20 (TW) found only a few more tubenoses than were reported from shore: three Black-footed and one Laysan albatrosses, eight N. Fulmars, one Sooty and 17 Short-tailed shearwaters, and no storm-petrels. Two Black-footed Albatrosses were seen from shore at the Coos R. mouth, *Coos*, OR, Jan. 16 (DFi); they are very rarely seen from shore at any season. Seven N. Fulmars, one Short-tailed Shearwater, and one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel were found dead on Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, OR, Feb. 11 (MP). Two Short-taileds were seen at S.J.C.R. Dec. 31 and another was found dead on Clatsop Beach Jan. 6 (MP). Three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen in Washington: on Puget Sound near Kingston, *Kitsap*, Jan. 1 (Jan Sleight), on Willapa Bay, *Pacific*, Jan. 27 (MD), and in Port Angeles, *Clallam*, Feb. 10 (*vide* FS). After above average numbers all fall. Am. White Pelicans in Washington wintered on the Columbia R. near Richland. The high count was of 28 on Jan. 30 (RW). That number had dwindled to one by Feb. 28. None wintered in eastern Oregon, but 47 lingered as late as Dec. 10 at Cold Springs N.W.R., *Umatilla* (Paul Sullivan), near the Washington stretch of the Columbia where they wintered. Double-crested Cormorants were more common than usual on the Columbia R. in *Hood River*, OR (DA, DL). One immature was at Clarkston, WA, on the Snake R. during January (J & DP, CW), where they are rare in winter. Numbers of wintering Great Blue Herons were down from the last few years' levels at Malheur (GI) and at Summer L., *Lake*, OR (MSL), even though the winter was milder than the last two. A first-year **Little Blue Heron** appeared at Brownsmeade, *Clatsop*, Jan. 20 (MP, m.ob.) and was present through the end of the period. This was the 3rd record for Oregon, and came on the heels of Washington's 2nd record, Oct. 14-28, 1989. A few more Cattle Egrets than had appeared this fall were reported in December. On Dec. 1, nine were in *Tillamook*, OR (*vide* JJ), and one in *Lincoln*, OR (*vide* BB). One of the *Tillamook* birds remained until Feb. 3 (CR). One that appeared in Seattle Dec. 17 was found

dead Dec. 25 (Kaethe Barton, Fred Bird, \*Univ. Wash.).

WATERFOWL TO FALCONS -- Trumpeter Swans in n.w. Washington were distributed farther away from the estuarine areas than in past years, as standing water in the inland areas was almost unfrozen this year and they seemed to be taking advantage of the usually unavailable habitat (TW). Up to 18 Trumpeters wintered at Maple Grove, *Polk* (RG), their only known wintering location in w. Oregon. In e. Oregon, the Trumpeter Swan population at Malheur has been declining. Only 20 were counted there this winter (GI); at least five more were seen in northern *Lake* (MSL, GI). Greater White-fronted Geese returned early to the interior. A flock of 25 migrants was found Jan. 10 at Rest L., *Lake* (MSL). The first arrivals at Malheur were Feb. 11 (GI) at which time 250 were at Rest L. Migrant Snow Geese were first noted Feb. 22 at Malheur (GI) and on the 23rd in *Lake* (MSL). The only Emperor Geese reported were two at Charleston, *Coos*, OR, Jan. 20 to Feb. 15 (m.ob.). Numbers of Canada Geese wintering at Malheur were increased 170% from last winter (GI), probably in response to the mild conditions. There were only three reports, below average, of Eur. Green-winged Teal, all from the west side. A bird identified as a male Mallard x Gadwall hybrid was at Eckman L., *Lincoln*, OR, Jan. 21 (†KM, †Roy Lowe). The peak count of Eur. Wigeon was of 40 birds, with three hybrids, on the Samish flats, *Skagit*, WA, Feb. 3 (BT). There were five eastside reports of Eur. Wigeon, which is average: one on the Snake R. at Clarkston, WA (CVV, J & DP), three along the Columbia R. (RW, DA, DL, CC), and one at Klamath Falls (SS). There were two reports of 'pure' Tufted Ducks, one Dec. 11 to 13 near Lynden, *Whatcom*, WA

## S.A.

For the second time in recent years, a duck that had been identified as a Tufted for several consecutive winters has been re-identified as a **Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid**. The bird that has wintered on the Monmouth sedimentation ponds, *Polk*, OR, for three years was present this winter (m.ob.) as was the hybrid which has wintered on Green Lake in Seattle for four winters now (m.ob.). We urge observers to be careful with Tufted Duck identification, especially of those

(Paul DeBruyn, *vide* TW). Another was found near Cave Junction, *Josephine*, OR Feb. 17 (*vide* HN), near where one was reported last winter. The species composition of the scaup flocks wintering on the Columbia R. has changed markedly recently. Lessers used to predominate, but they are now becoming more and more difficult to find (RW). Large counts of Greaters on the Columbia included 80 in Richland, WA (RW), and 500 east of Cascade Locks, OR (DA, DL). There were no Oldsquaw reports from the interior, which is unusual. However, interior reports of scoters, which included two Surfs at Suttle L., *Jefferson*, OR (LR), a Surf and a White-winged on Ana Res., *Lake*, OR (MSL), and 15 White-wingeds on Fish L., *Chelan*, WA, in December (*vide* RO-T), were about average. A few Turkey Vultures appeared very early. One in the Blitzen Valley Jan. 18 (GI) was the earliest ever for the Malheur area. The following day, a kettle of 12 was noted over Ashland, *Jackson*, OR (*vide* MM), and there were two more reports from the Rogue valley in January. Migrants were reported throughout w. Oregon in February, as usual. Two late vultures were reported in n.w. Washington in December, one at Lummi flats, *Whatcom* (Frank Lapansy,

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*vide* TW), and one on Lopez I., *San Juan* (Ward Beecher). The northernmost lingering Osprey was at Nolte S.P., *King*, WA (Joe Terlouw), Jan. 18, and three more were in Oregon. A few Ospreys attempt to winter

annually. Thirty Black-shouldered Kites were reported from w. Oregon; of those, 14 were in the Rogue valley. The adult kite reported this fall at Klamath in the Oregon interior was last seen Dec 22 (SS). There were six Washington kite sightings, a lower number than in the previous 3 winters. All were from customary locales in the s.w. corner. Some Washington observers commented on the unusual numbers of Bald Eagles this winter, both in the Columbia basin (KK) and in the Puget Trough (BT), but the S.F.W.R.C. count of 249 was slightly lower than the 1989 count. The N. Harrier count on the S.F.W.R.C. (75) was down by 20% from 1989. Just over 50 each of both Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk sightings were reported, with the majority of each from the west side. Thirteen N. Goshawk sightings were received. As expected, two-thirds were from the eastside. Only two Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in Oregon away from *Curry*, one at Central Point, *Jackson* (*vide* MM), and one at Coos Bay, *Coos* (*vide* LT). The Red-tailed Hawk count on the S.F.W.R.C. of 228 was equal to the 1989 count. Two Ferruginous Hawks wintered in the Columbia basin near Boardman, *Umatilla*, OR (CC), and one was seen near Clyde, *Walla Walla*, WA, Dec. 28 (MD). Ferruginous do not winter regularly in the Region, except in southeastern most Oregon. The numbers of Rough-legged Hawks on the S.F.W.R.C. (46) were off by a third from last winter. Rough-legged numbers were down as well in w. Oregon (JJ) and at Malheur (GI). There were 68 Merlin reports, most from w. Washington, although a surprising number (23) were from e. Washington Twenty-one Peregrine reports from w. and two from e. Washington, and two from e. Oregon, were average. Gyrfalcon reports included two on the Oregon coast (m.ob.), one along the Washington coast (Alan Richards, RM), three in n.w. Washington (DSS, S.F.W.R.C.), four in e. Washington (BT, GGe, Jerry Hickman, *vide* TR), and two in e Oregon (DL, Julia McHugh). Prairie Falcon reports from the west side included one in *Skagit*, WA, in January (*vide* Bob Kuntz) and a well above average 12 in Oregon. They are very rare on the Oregon coast, where there were two reports: one at Tillamook Dec. 16 (Otis Swisher, GGi) and the 3rd *Coos* record at Myrtle Point Jan. 15 (LT).

CBANES TO SHOREBIRDS -- Two Virginia Rails along Asotin Cr., Asotin, Feb. 10 furnished J & DP's

first winter record for s.e. Washington. Wintering Sandhill Cranes normally are found only along the lower Columbia R. near Portland. This winter, records from elsewhere included one at Myrtle Point, *Coos*, OR, Jan. 15 (LT) for the 3rd county record, seven at North Albany, *Benton*, OR, Jan. 26-28 (*vide* DS), three wintering near Lynden, *Whatcom*, WA (TW), and one wintering at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA (D & SS). Six Snowy Plovers during December at Bayocean, *Tillamook*, OR, their northern wintering limit, were not present later (CR). Farther south, near Bandon, *Coos*, 15 were noted Jan. 20 to Feb. 4 (*vide* DSw, *vide* BC). The two Mountain Plovers reported, without details, south of Bandon Dec. 6 (Bill Stotz) would furnish the 5th record for Oregon if acceptably documented. A Lesser Yellowlegs was at Alsea Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, Dec. 17 (KM); they are very rare in winter. A Willet wintered on Ediz Hook, *Clallam*, WA, where one has been present every winter since 1980 (D & SS). The other Willet reports were also from their usual locales: nine on Willapa Bay (RM) and four on Yaquina Bay (JJ). Eight Whimbrels wintered at Ediz Hook (D & SS); they have become regular winterers there in the last decade. A few Ruddy Turnstones winter there in most mild winters. There were 30 at Ediz Hook (D & SS) and four reports along the Oregon coast. The other lingering shorebirds were underreported. There were some almost incredible shorebird records from e. Oregon, apparently a function of the mild winter conditions. Seven Semipalmated Plovers at Malheur Dec. 16 (Dave & Charlotte Ganskopp) were very late. Seven W. Sandpipers arrived at Malheur *Feb. 14* (GI). The previous early arrival date there was April 2. There was also an early W. Sandpiper in eastern Washington, Feb. 25 near Toppenish, Yakima (Debie Brown). A late Dunlin was at Haystack Res., *Jefferson*, Dec. 17 (LR). The most extraordinary of this collection was a **Wilson's Phalarope** at Summer L., *Lake*, OR, Dec. 19 (GI, CM), remarkable for its tardiness.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS -- Two Pomarine Jaegers were found on the Jan. 20 pelagic trip out of Westport (TW). They are apparently scarce but regular in the winter off our coast. An imm. Franklin's Gull Dec. 1 off Speiden I., *San Juan*, WA (DP), was about a month late. An adult Franklin's Gull at Chickahominy Res., *Harney*, OR was reported without details Jan. 13 (Forrest Cameron). If correct, this would be the first mid-winter record for

the Region. Two adult Little Gulls wintered on American L., *Pierce*, WA (TB, m.ob.), for their 2nd year in a row at this location and one of few winter records for the Region. Interior Mew Gulls included at least one in Spokane (JW) and a dozen at Hood River, OR (DA, DL); they are rare at all seasons east of the mountains. An adult *glaucoides* **Iceland Gull** was reported at the base of the north jetty of Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* Jan. 21 (†Hendrik Herlyn, RHo), but was not present subsequently. If accepted by the records committee, this will be the first Oregon record. A W. Gull was at the John Day Dam on the Columbia R. Jan. 14 (JJ); they are very rare in the interior. Glaucous Gull reports were about average, including four in the interior: two immatures at Spokane (JA) Dec. 9, a first-year bird at Richland Dec. 22 to Jan. 13 (RW), and an adult on the Columbia R. south of Chelan Falls, *Chelan*, WA, Dec. 28 (DP). On the west side, there were seven first year and 2nd-year birds in Washington, and nine in Oregon, including at least one 3rd-year and one adult. Adult Glaucous Gulls are quite rare in the Region. The pelagic trip off Westport Jan. 20 found 481 Black-legged Kittiwakes (TW). Small numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared in Puget Sound and the e. Strait of Juan de Fuca after the early February storms (DP, m.ob.) The Jan. 20 Westport pelagic trip reported 10,600 Com. Murres and one **Thick-billed Murre** (TW, †BT, photos) The Thick-billed, which furnished about the 7th record for the state, was the westernmost alcid recorded that day. Also recorded were 346 Cassin's Auklets, four Rhinoceros Auklets, and no puffins of either species. Ancient Murrelets remained in large numbers until late January in the e. Strait of Juan de Fuca and Admiralty Inlet (BS). Small numbers of Ancients, up to 15, were reported as usual along the Oregon coast during December. The inland Ancient found in November on the Columbia R. at John Day Dam was last reported Dec. 3 (DL). One Tufted and twelve Horned puffins were picked up dead on the beach at Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, OR, between Feb. 11 & 18 (MP, HN), and one was reported live off the nearby S.J.C.R. Feb. 17 (MP)

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PIGEONS TO TROGLODYTES -- It is tempting to attribute a Rock Dove nest with begging young found

Dec. 22 in a Bellingham stable (Geri Walker) to the mild winter, but that may be making too much of a good theory. On the other hand, what other reason is there? The only Snowy Owls found were in e. Washington, three near Moses Lake, *Grant*, Dec. 28 to Feb. 25 (Ron Friesz, BS) and one near Davenport, *Lincoln* Jan. 16 to Feb. 10 (JA). This was the lowest total in years, and the first winter in memory that there have been no Snowy Owls found in w. Washington. Six Burrowing Owls near Burns, *Harney*, OR, Feb. 18 (Barbara Chadwell) beat the previous first arrival date for the county by 9 days. Four Burrowing Owls wintered at regular locales in w. Oregon. They are rare in w. Washington, where they were found on Ediz Hook and Dungeness Spit, *Clallam* (Ken Brunner, D & SS). Six Long-eared Owls wintering at E.E. Wilson W.M.A., *Benton*, OR (m.ob.), provided the only report of this uncommon species on the west side. Short-eared Owl numbers were apparently underreported, but it was clear it was not a good year for them. A Boreal Owl was found Dec. 20 west of Conconully, *Okanogan*, WA (AS, GGe). There have been several fall records from this area. Anna's Hummingbirds were able to survive the mild winter in the interior at Wenatchee, WA (RO-T), and Bend, OR (TC). Rufous Hummingbirds were first noted Feb. 7 in *Coos* on the s. Oregon coast (*fide* LT) and Feb. 17 on Vashon I., *King*, WA (Joy Nelson), roughly average for arrivals. Unusual numbers of Lewis' Woodpecker were reported through the winter at Lyle, *Klickitat*, WA (WC, m.ob.), where up to 20 were seen, and in the n. Willamette valley, where there were 24 reports (*fide* BB). The Willamette valley numbers would have been typical 15 or more years ago. At least four members of the flock of Acorn Woodpeckers found last October at Lyle remained through the winter (WC, m.ob.), for Washington's first winter record of the species. The first Washington record of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was of an adult male found at Ellensburg, *Kittitas*, Dec. 17 (PM) until Feb. 18 (†BT, m.ob.). An early Red-naped Sapsucker was near Ochoco L., *Crook*, OR, Feb. 24 (TC). There were 3 winter records of Red-breasted Sapsucker in the east slope of the Cascades in Washington, where it is scarce but regular. The 3rd *Lincoln* record of White-headed Woodpecker, very rare in w. Oregon, was near Toledo Jan. 22 (DFa). An **Eastern Phoebe** at Bay Center, *Pacific*, Dec. 16 to 23 (†Dick Wilson, photos) furnished the first record for Washington. The first migrant Say's Phoebe was at Fairbanks, *Wasco*, OR, Feb. 4 (DA, DL). Tree Swallows were not early; the

first were along the Columbia R., *Clark*, WA, Jan. 31 (WC), about 20 days before they were first sighted farther south, and on the east side the first were at Summer L., *Lake*, OR, Feb. 27 (MSL). Violet-green Swallows were first noted Feb. 26 near Corvallis, *Benton* (*fide* ME), and Feb. 27 near Yelm, *Thurston*, WA (Robert Smith); often they are widespread by the end of the month. The last fall migrant Barn Swallows were noted Dec. i near Finley N.W.R., *Linn*, OR (*fide* ME), and Spanaway L., *Pierce*, WA (Sam Agnew, *fide* TB). The usual few Blue Jay records included one at Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, from October until Dec. 6 (Steve Gigliotti) and one through the winter at Albion, *Whitman*, WA (J & DP). Red-breasted Nuthatches were in very high numbers in the Spokane and nearby *Whitman* areas (TR, BT) and in *Lake*, OR (MSL). A Rock Wren at Seattle Feb. 21 (KA) provided the only report for the region, although they winter sporadically on the west side. A Bewick's Wren at Little Spokane River Park, *Spokane*, Dec. 9 to Feb. 24 (JA) furnished the northernmost record for e. Washington. Bewick's are steadily expanding their interior range along the river corridors. They were found in 2 areas of the Butter Creek drainage, *Umatilla*, OR (CC), 30 mi s. of the Columbia, and they wintered successfully, as is now usual, along the Snake R. near Clarkston (CVV, J & DP) and along the Columbia R. below the Snake confluence (CC).

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS -- Western Bluebirds are rare in winter in Washington, so the following records were noteworthy: a female wintering in Parker Heights, *Yakima* (AS), and a pair in Olympia, *Thurston* (Lola Smith), Dec. 23. Washington's first migrant bluebirds appeared at Ft. Lewis, *Pierce*, Feb. 23 (George Walter). American Robins were abundant in the north half of *Harney* this winter, apparently responding to a good crop of juniper berries (GI). Thousands were present in the forests north of Burns. Thousands also wintered near Irrigon, *Umatilla*, in the cultivated Columbia basin (CC). Varied Thrushes were only sparingly reported, and no major influxes occurred into the interior. A N. Mockingbird in Bend Dec. 18 to 24 (Bob LeBlanc, TC) furnished the 2nd *Deschutes* record. In w. Oregon, up to two mockingbirds were at Denman W.R.A., *Jackson* (*fide* MM), and one was at Beaver Creek, *Lincoln*, Feb. 17 (*fide* DFa), a slightly below normal number of winter records for the west



side. A flock of 100+ Am. Pipits, rare in winter in the interior, was at the Umatilla N.W.R., OR, Jan. 20 (CC). Numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were low throughout e. Oregon, except for the n.e. corner (TC, JJ), and equally low in Washington's Columbia Basin (RW). They were in normal numbers on the east slope of the Washington Cascades from Ellensburg, *Kittitas* (PM), north, but relatively scarce along the e. border of the state until February (KK, JW, CVV). No Bohemians were reported west of the mountains, which is unusual. Northern Shrikes were reported in normal numbers in *Umatilla*, OR (CC), but were scarce in the Columbia basin just to the north (RW), and were elsewhere unremarked. A wintering Loggerhead Shrike was seen near Prineville, *Crook*, OR, Dec. 30 (LR), and another near Irrigon Feb. 18 (CC) had either wintered or was an early migrant. An Orange-crowned Warbler wintered at Irrigon (CC), and another along the Snake R. near Clarkston Feb 11 (*vide* CVV) was a very early migrant or a winterer. Wintering Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers in the interior were above average (J & DP, m.ob.). There were only two Palm Warbler reports from Oregon, both in December: at the Salmon R. meadows, *Tillamook*, on the 10th (JJ), and at *Tillamook* on the 16th (JJ). Washington had one December record, at Tokeland, *Pacific*, on the 9th (BT), and two February records: Washougal, *Clark*, on the 24th (WC) for a first county record, and Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, on the 26th (JS). There were two reports of Com. Yellowthroat each from Washington (Scott Atkinson, Keith Brady) and Oregon (JJ, m.ob.). A male **Hooded Warbler** at Pullman, *Whitman*, Dec. 1 to 11 (J & DP) provided the 2nd Washington record. The first was also a winter record in 1975-1976 in Seattle.

GROSBEAKS TO WEAVER FINCHES -- The three Rose-breasted Grosbeak records included a male at a feeder in Chehalis, *Lewis*, WA, Jan. 13 to 16 (George & Betty Wister, JS, m.ob., photos), one at a Florence, *Lane*, OR, feeder Dec. 6 to 14 (m.ob.), and a male at a feeder near Brookings, *Curry*, OR, Nov. 26 to Dec. 6 (*vide* Jim Rogers) There are fewer than 10 records for Washington and not quite 20 for Oregon. American Tree Sparrow numbers were low; the largest flock reported in the interior, where they are regular, was of 13 near Bridgeport, *Douglas*, WA, Dec. 20 (GGe). Eight were found in w. Washington and two in w. Oregon (*vide* HN, NL), where they are casual. A Chipping

Sparrow was at the Skagit flats, *Skagit*, Jan. 10 (†RM) for one of very few well documented winter records for the Region. A Vesper Sparrow, also unfamiliar in the winter in the Region, was at Sauvie I. Dec. 23 (†NL). The earliest previous arrival date for Sage Sparrow in the Malheur area was Feb. 17, but GI found one on Feb. 14 this winter. Swamp Sparrows were well distributed and in excellent numbers. Five were found in w. Washington (EH, BT), including the first *Clallam* record at Ozette L. Jan. 14 (FS), two in e. Washington (JW, RW), 35 were found in w. Oregon, and one in e. Oregon near Umatilla (KK, CC). The largest number was 20 at the Rain R. Reserve, *Tillamook*, Dec. 16 (JJ *et al.*), one of the highest counts ever for the Region. White-throated Sparrows also seemed more common than usual, with an unusually high proportion of adults reported. Eight were in w. Washington and 24 were reported from w. Oregon. In the interior, one in Bend Jan. 27 (TC) furnished the 5th *Deschutes* record and one wintering along Asotin Cr., *Asotin*, provided one of very few s.e. Washington records. Nine Harris' Sparrows were reported from e. and five from w. Oregon, and seven from w. and five from e. Washington. A winter adult **McCown's Longspur** at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Klamath*, Jan. 13-15 (†SS, Ray Ekstrom) provided the 3rd Oregon record. One of the two previous records was also of a winter bird in *Klamath*. Lapland Longspurs do not winter regularly in e. Washington. This winter small numbers were found with the Horned Lark and Snow Bunting flocks in *Douglas* Jan. 21 (AS), two were north of Anatone, *Asotin*, Jan. 27 (J & DP, CVV), and three were near Moses L., *Grant*, Feb. 25 (RM). On the west side, two were at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, Jan. 12 (RG) and 15 at Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA, Jan. 19 (G & WH). Small numbers of Snow Buntings were reported from the interior and from the west side as far s. as Neskowin Beach, *Tillamook*, Dec. 30 (*vide* HN). Wintering Red-winged Blackbirds were more common than usual at Malheur (GI) and the Summer L. area, *Lake*, OR (MSL), attributable to the mild conditions. The minor flight of Pine Grosbeaks noted in the Cascades during the fall did not materialize in the lowlands. There were two reports from w. Washington (Hal Opperman, Phil Hotlen) and three from the east slope of the Cascades (AS, GGe, RO-T), the normal low numbers. Small numbers of Red Crossbills were noted in

S.A.

**Tricolored Blackbirds** appear to be undertaking a major range expansion in eastern Oregon. In the summer of 1989, a Tricolored colony was located near Hermiston, *Umatilla* (AB 43; 1345), along the Columbia R. and over 300 mi northeast of their regular breeding areas in *Klamath*. During the fall, records represent the largest winter numbers recorded in Oregon.

s.w. Washington (G & WH) and they were otherwise ignored. White-winged Crossbills were scarce. There were two reports from s.w. Washington (John Paterson, RM). In Oregon, 20 were at Crater Lake N.P. Dec. 29-30 (MM) and two were in Elgin, *Union*, Jan. 13 (JJ). Common Redpolls were widely distributed in the higher elevation areas of e. Washington, but were uncommonly reported in e. Oregon. There were four sightings in w. Washington (KA, BS, Barbara Bashaw, Mary McKnight) and two in coastal Oregon, where they are always rare: one at Florence, *Lane*, Dec. 16 to Feb. 14 (Ruth Warren), and another at Astoria, *Clatsop*, Feb. 1 to 17 (*fide* MP). Lesser Goldfinches wintered in several areas where they are unusual. Up to 30 were at Lyle, *Klickitat* (BT), for the first winter records for Washington. Also along the Columbia R. was one in Rufus, *Sherman*, OR, Feb. 17 (JJ), they are infrequent away from The Dalles. A pair was at Garibaldi, *Tillamook*, Dec. 19 (CR); they are rare on the n. Oregon coast. Evening Grosbeaks were fairly common in the Olympia area (G & WH), sporadic in the Oregon desert (GI, MSL), and unremarked elsewhere. The pair of North Bend, *Coos*, OR, Eur. Tree Sparrows reported since the summer of 1989 was present through Jan. 20 (*fide* ME), and an adult appeared at an Astoria, *Clatsop*, feeder Dec. 2 to 4 (*fide* MP).

CORRIGENDA -- Craig Miller should receive credit for finding the Boreal Owls in the central Oregon Cascades (AB 44:152). The Nashville Warbler reported in Sedro Wooley, WA, Sept. 18, 1989 (44:153) was actually a Com. Yellowthroat.

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*Spring Migration 1990*

**OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION**

**Bill Tweit and Dave Fix**

April in much of the Region was warmer than average, although a major cold front on April 19 halted migration for a short while in central Oregon. May was not particularly pleasant. Most parts of the Region were cool and wet, particularly during the latter half of the month. Storms at the end of the month brought May precipitation above average for the month, new snow to the mountains, and a few Red Phalaropes onshore. There were several notable shorebird concentrations in the western half of the Region, inland from the outer coast. The Kirtland Road Sewage Ponds, near Medford

in the Rogue valley of Oregon, had excellent numbers and species diversity throughout April and early May. Between three and four thousand "peep" were counted there April 29 (MM). Pastures in the Chehalis valley west of Elma, Washington, held large numbers of shorebirds May 17-18 (RM, JS) and fields in the Skagit valley, Washington, held very large numbers of Whimbrels in early May (BK). Relatively few of the eastside species such as avocet, stilt, Say's Phoebe, and Rock Wren appeared on the west side this spring. This was an above average spring for eastern vagrant warblers in southeastern Oregon, with records of twelve individuals of seven species in Harney County alone. Numbers and movements of the regular migrant passerines were largely unremarkable.

ABBREVIATIONS -- Fields = Fields, *Harney*, OR; Finley = Finley Nat'l Wildlife Ref., *Benton*, OR; K.R.S.P. = Kirtland Road Sewage Ponds, near Medford, *Jackson*, OR; Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., *Harney*, OR; O.S. = Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA; Sauvie = Sauvie Island, *Columbia*, OR; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., *Clatsop*, OR. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS -- Strong migration of Pacific and Common loons was noted along the Washington coast Apr. 22-26 (CCh, BT), with hundreds per hour noted. A pair of Com. Loons on a nest at Lost Lake, *Okanogan*, May 5 (SJ) was one of the few pairs still breeding in Washington. Yellow-billed Loons at Sequim Bay, *Clallam*, WA, and Netarts Bay, *Tillamook*, OR, both Mar. 5 (BT, CR), had wintered locally. Another was on Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, Mar. 19 (Range Bayer), perhaps the most frequent site for the species in Oregon. The Horned Grebe at Bend, OR, Mar. 25 (IC) was two weeks earlier than the average arrival there. There was only one report of Clark's Grebe from w. Oregon, in Central Point, *Jackson*, May 14-18 (Ray Skibby, HS). This species is rarely reported in the Rogue valley. There were two w. Washington reports: one wintering on Willapa Bay Mar. 23 appeared to be an intergrade (†G & WH) and another was reported without details at Dungeness, *Clallam*, May 26 (FS).

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There were two pelagic trips off Westport, WA, Apr 22 and May 5 (TW); the April trip was cut short by bad weather. Some 83 Black-footed Albatrosses, 12 N. Fulmars, three Pink-footed Shearwaters, and four Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found in May; only the albatross numbers were average. Low numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were found on both trips (4,500 and 6,500), and three Short-tailed Shearwaters were found in April. In Oregon, two Black-footed Albatrosses were found dead on *Coos* beaches in mid-April (BG, Jack Thomas) and a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was seen between the Coos Bay jetties Mar. 11 while the observer (Dan Matthews) was surfing! American White Pelican colonies at Malheur showed a decline this year; 930 nests were counted. In late May, 200 pelicans at Malheur were killed in a die-off of unknown origins (Gary Ivey). Above average numbers were reported throughout e. Washington, where they do not breed. The normal time period for northern migration of Brown Pelicans into our Region is June-July, but in recent years a few have appeared in May. This spring saw a significant increase in sightings in April and May. The first was an immature flying north past Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, OR, Apr. 1 (Mike Noack). By the middle of April, it had become obvious that a small movement of post-breeding Brown Pelicans (or mostly non-breeding?) was underway in Oregon. On Apr. 22, six adults, a subadult, and an immature were at *Grays Harbor*, WA (BT). The number at Grays Harbor had increased to 30 at the end of April (FS) and 51 by May 18 (RM). Some 525 Double-crested Cormorants on Bellingham Bay, WA, Mar. 17 (TW) made a high count for that area, where their numbers continue to increase. A Double-crested Cormorant at Ochoco L., *Crook*, OR, Mar. 24 (J & RK) was 22 days earlier than average.

HERONS TO MERGANSERS -- The first Great Egret sighting this spring in e. Washington was of two April 14 at Potholes S.P., *Grant* (TSc), which seems an early date for this newly established breeder. Oregon's 3rd **Little Blue Heron**, which appeared Jan. 15 near Brownsmeade, *Clatsop*, remained until Mar. 23 (PSh, m.ob.). Again this spring, White-faced Ibises appeared in w. Oregon. On the coast, three put down briefly at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, May 6 (*vide* HN), one flew past the

Yaquina Bay jetties May 16 (*fide* DFa), and three were at Tillamook May 22 (CR). In the Willamette valley, a flock of 18 was at Finley May 17-18 (HH, RH). Ibises have now shown up in spring migration in w Oregon in about half of the recent spring migrations. Between Apr. 27 and May 3, a "massive flight" of Greater White-fronted Geese moved through *Lincoln* on the Oregon coast, arriving from the east over the Siletz and Alsea R. drainages, and moving north up the coast. Thousands were seen flying northward from Yachats to Lincoln City (DFa *et al.*). With them were small numbers of Snow Geese and quite a few Canada Geese. On the Washington coast, a good movement was noted Apr. 29 (EH, FS). A **Ross' Goose** at Seattle Apr. 24 (Erica Norwood, †BSu, m.ob., ph.) furnished the 4th w. Washington record; all are spring records. Other Ross' records away from their main migrational path in s.e. Oregon included the first for *Deschutes*, OR, at Hatfield L. Apr. 30-May 1 (TC), one at Reardan, *Lincoln*, WA, Mar. 5 (JA), and one at Clarkston, *Asotin*, WA, May 5-12 (J & DP, m.ob.). The two Emperor Geese that had wintered at Charleston, OR, were still there Apr. 8 (*fide* L. Thackaberry). In Washington, there were two sightings from *Clallam* (D & SS, TB) and three from along Puget Sound (S. Johnson, J. Carroll, R. Droker). Almost all of these may have been fetal birds, as only one sighting was not either from fresh water or associated with Canada Geese. Blue-winged Teal were in very low numbers throughout the spring in e. Washington (JA, PM, G & WH). There were two reports of hybrid teal: a Cinnamon x Green-winged at Hatfield L., *Deschutes*, OR, Apr. 15 (TC) and a Cinnamon x Blue-winged at Diamond L., *Douglas*, OR, May 28 (DFi). A brood of 10 Gadwall at Siletz Bay furnished a first *Lincoln*, OR, breeding record (Bob & Dona Morris). Gadwalls are rare breeders along the outer coast, but are increasingly common elsewhere, especially in the Puget Sound area. There were 13 reports of Eur. Wigeon from e. Washington and 5 from e. Oregon, an above average number of spring reports for e. Washington. An ad. male King Eider at LaPush, *Clallam*, WA, May 28-June 1 (Matt Nixon) provided the latest ever spring record of this rarity. Two broods of Hooded Merganser, a scarce nesting bird in Oregon, were encountered: a brood of 10 on the Umpqua R. at Tyee, *Douglas*, June 6 (DFi) and another brood on Cabell Marsh, Finley, May 27 (K. Merrifield).

KITES TO QUAIL -- In Oregon, reports of Black-shouldered Kites away from the Rogue valley were few, as most of the wintering birds elsewhere disappear by late winter. There was one report from the coast, near Florence (TM), and 3 from the Willamette valley, in *Benton* (*fide* ME) and at *Finley* (HH). In the Rogue valley, 2 nests were located in s.e. Medford Mar. 30 (MM, OS). Although fledged young have indicated breeding in several areas of the state over the past 15 years, very few actual nests have been located in Oregon. In Washington, there was only one report away from their 2 regular locales: one at Nisqually N.W.R. Mar. 30 (Harold Fray). The regular locales are Toledo, *Lewis*, where one was seen Mar. 28 (Ray Scharpf) and Tokeland, *Pacific*, where two adults were watched in aerial displays Apr. 15 (BL). The albino Red-tailed Hawk near Philomath, *Benton*, OR, persisted into its 18th spring (ME). Rough-legged Hawks were sparingly reported, not surprisingly after a mediocre winter. The last report was Apr. 15 at Tokeland, WA (BL). American Kestrels seldom draw comment in our Region owing to their general abundance and inconspicuous migrations. A migratory movement was witnessed Apr. 29, along the *Tillamook*, OR, beaches (SR). The latest coastal migrant Merlins were May 3 at Bandon, OR (DFi), and May 12 at Leadbetter Pt., WA (TB). Inland, the last was Apr. 11 at Sauvie (JJ). There were no Merlins reported from the eastside of the Cascades. Nine Peregrine reports from w. Washington were fewer than half of average, and there were few reports from w. Oregon. Occupancy of Oregon nest sites this spring was about the same as in the previous several years (Joel Pagel). East of the Cascades, three were reported. Gray Partridge have not been reported in the Hart Mt., *Lake*, OR vicinity since the mid-1960s. A pair was seen on Hart Mt. Apr. 30 (G. Kiester). Two Spruce Grouse on Pine Grass Ridge, *Yakima*, May 12 (†Ken Bevis) were far south of their normal range in the n. Washington Cascades. California Quail populations near Spokane were "huge" (JR), probably reflective of the mild winter.

SHOREBIRDS -- Two Lesser Golden-Plovers, both described as *fulva*, were reported from Oregon. One was seen May 11-12 at K.R.S.P. (OS, MM) and the other at Finley May 19 (M & EE). Seven were reported from Washington, none identified to subspecies. The earliest were two at Ocean Shores Apr. 21 (BW) and

five were near Elma, *Grays Harbor*, May 17-18 (RM, JS). These are average spring numbers. There were only 3 Oregon reports of Snowy Plover, but surely more were noted. Two were at their northernmost breeding locale at Ocean Shores Apr 21 (K. Brown) and one was seen the same day elsewhere

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on *Grays Harbor* (J. Wingfield). The first returning Black-necked Stilts were in the Klamath Basin, OR, Mar. 24 (PSu) and they and Am. Avocets had returned to central Washington by Apr. 1 (AS). The only westside stilts were two at K.R.S.P. Apr. 10 (Dick Cronberg) and one there Apr. 22 (MM), and the only westside avocets were one at K.R.S.P. Apr. 23 (MM, OS) and one at Forest Grove, *Washington*, OR, May 6 (JG). Both species are casual on the west side of the Cascades. The peak counts of Greater Yellowlegs were of 58 at Olympia, WA, Mar. 27 (Janet Partlow) and 50 at K.R.S.P. Apr. 16 (MM). Lesser Yellowlegs are rarer spring migrants, more common in the interior than the west side. The westside peak count was of eight at K.R.S.P. Apr. 22 (MM), and there were at least 9 other westside reports. The eastside peak count was of 17 near Bend Apr. 30 (TC). There were 10 reports of Solitary Sandpiper on the east side and fourteen more from the westside, the earliest Apr. 15 at W. Richland, *Benton*, WA (BW). These are average numbers for this scarce migrant. Willets were recorded 3 times from areas where they are unusual: one at Diamond L., *Douglas*, OR, Apr. 29 (DFi), three at Boardman, *Morrow*, OR, May 8 (CCo), and one at Kahlotus, L., *Franklin*, WA, May 12 (J. & M. Hirth). The peak coastal count of 150 Whimbrels near Tillamook, OR, May 9 (HN) was overshadowed by the count of 750 in Skagit valley fields, *Skagit*, WA, May 5 (BK) and 450 near Elma, *Grays Harbor*, WA, May 17-18 (RM, JS). We are accustomed to believing that Whimbrels are primarily coastal migrants in our Region. If they prove to be regular in these numbers in these more inland locales, we shall have to revise our thinking. The peak count of Marbled Godwit, 200 at Ocean Shores Apr. 20 (G & WH), was a very large spring count. One at Finley May 18 (AF) was one of few ever discovered in the Willamette valley. Six Marbled Godwits Apr. 24 in the Warner Basin, *Lake*, OR (Bill Pyle), and eight at

Malheur between Mar. 24 and Apr. 26 (WC, S. Freshman, CM) were the only interior migrants reported. Forty Ruddy Turnstones in fields near Elma May 18 (JS) made a high count for a non-coastal spot. There was only one eastside Ruddy report, a single at Boardman, *Morrow*, OR, May 8-14 (CCo). Red Knot counts were lower than normal this spring in w. Oregon. The highest count there was of 27 at Bandon May 3 (DFi). As usual, numbers of knots were on Grays Harbor, WA, from Apr. 23 through May 12 (DFi, John Gatchet), but the high count was only 150+, which is low. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from the west side, and four from the east side, below average counts. The peak counts of W. Sandpipers were of 320,000 at one spot on Grays Harbor Apr. 26 (CCh) and 10,000-15,000 at Bandon May 3 (DFi). Always rare in spring on the west side, three Baird's Sandpipers were found, at the K.R.S.P. Apr. 16 (HS, OS), Sauvie Apr. 21 (JJ), and Aberdeen, WA, Apr. 29 (BL). The peak count on the east side was large, 18 at Malheur Apr. 26 (CM). Pectoral Sandpipers are also scarce spring migrants on the west side: two were at Seattle May 13 (MO). The eastside reports totaled 16 from 3 sites, about normal. Short-billed Dowitcher numbers peaked on the outer coast during the last week of April. Some 20,000 were at one site on Grays Harbor Apr. 26 (CCh), and 400 each were at Tillamook (HN) and Bandon (DFi). Seven reports of Short-billed Dowitchers came from inland areas, with six seen in w. Oregon and Washington, one at Boardman, *Morrow*, OR, May 5-8 (Donna Lusthoff, C & MCo), and six in *Grant*, WA, May 12 (BT, DPa) that were thought to be *bendersoni*. We urge observers of spring migrant Short-billed Dowitchers on the eastside of the Cascades to pay attention to subspecies, when possible. A fair showing of at least 26 Wilson's Phalaropes in w. Oregon included 12 at K.R.S.P. May 11-12 (MM) and seven in Finley (HH), but there was only one sighting in w. Washington, in Seattle (EH). Ten pairs were potential breeders at Diamond Lake, in the s. Oregon Cascades, but the heavy rains of late May flooded out at least one nest (DFi). Some 125 Red-necked Phalaropes, with 10 Red Phalaropes, at the K.R.S.P. May 22 (HS) had probably been driven inland by the late May storms. The Reds represented the first spring record for the Rogue valley and one of few inland spring records in the Region.

JAEGERS TO DOVES -- Jaeger migration was almost undetected this spring. There were no Oregon sightings. In Washington, only eight Pomarines and two Parasitics were seen on the 2 Westport pelagic trips (TW), plus one Pomarine (RM) and seven Parasitics (B & GR), seen from shore at the Grays Harbor channel. An ad. Little Gull was at Point No Point on Puget Sound Mar. 6-Apr. 8 (VN) and possibly the same bird was at Seattle Apr. 5 (RM) for the 10th spring record. An adult also appeared during March 1989 at Point No Point. Bonaparte's Gull migration was noted along the outer coast May 3 at Bandon (DFi) when flocks were steadily moving north along the beaches. Six Heermann's Gulls were early at Ocean Shores May 18 (G & WH), possibly correlated with the early appearance of Brown Pelicans. Three of the 4 Glaucous Gull reports were from March on the lower Columbia R. system (NL, BT), probably attracted by the large smelt run. The only Sabine's Gull report was of two on the pelagic trip off Westport May 5 (TW). The only known Caspian Tern breeding locales on the west side of the Cascades are on the s. Washington coast. For at least a decade, steadily increasing numbers have been reported on Puget Sound, but no attempts at breeding have been noted. This spring, the highest numbers ever were reported on Bellingham Bay, in northern Puget Sound, with lots of courtship display and nocturnal flights inland noted there, but no breeding (TW). Common Terns went almost unreported this spring, except for the May 3-5 period. On May 3, northbound migrants were passing Bandon on the s. Oregon coast (DFi) and on May 4 & 5, peak counts were reported from Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor (G & WH, TW). Two ad. Arctic Terns had returned to their breeding site at Everett, *Snobomish*, WA, by May 23 (RM). A **Forster's Tern** in basic plumage at Everett Mar. 17 (DPa) had probably wintered there. If so, this would be the first winter record for the Region. A pair of Ancient Murrelets in breeding plumage found off Port Angeles, WA, May 29 (JS) were either very late migrants, or from the vestigial breeding population on the Olympic Peninsula. Fifteen Marbled Murrelets noted Apr. 8 flying down the Waatch R., *Clallam*, from the old growth Cedar Reserve 2.5 mi upstream (FS) helped define the nesting chronology of this species. Band-tailed Pigeons continued uncommon, or at least uncommonly reported. In Oregon, it has seemed that reasonable numbers have been reported only along the outer coast, with only a smattering reported elsewhere. In

Washington, they still seem relatively numerous around Puget Sound, and are scarcer along the coast. Observers are urged to pay attention to this species. A migrant Mourning Dove over the ocean 10 mi off Bandon Apr. 16 (Terry Thompson) had little to coo about. In the same vein, dove numbers were way down around Spokane (JR).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS -- Departure dates for wintering owls were Mar. 3 for three Snowy Owls near Moses Lake, *Grant*, WA (MD), Mar. 15 for two Burrowing

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Owls near the K.R.S.P. (MM), and Apr 9 for Short-eared Owls at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR (*vide* BB). There are no confirmed breeding records for Great Gray Owl in Washington, so a report of a hooting bird in *Okanogan* Apr. 7 (AS) was pretty exciting. A Boreal Owl near Rogers L., *Okanogan*, WA, Apr. 12 (RM) was in an area where they are being found regularly. Two Black Swifts were at Fort Rock S.P., *Lake*, May 6 (Mike Houck); they rarely occur in e. Oregon. Vaux's Swifts appeared first in the Willamette valley Apr. 12 (RH) but did not appear in Washington until 3 weeks later, May 4 (FS). White-throated Swifts returned early. Three at Smith Rocks S.P., OR, Mar. 26 (CM) were 3 weeks earlier than average for c. Oregon, and they had returned to 2 e. Washington sites before April (RM, MD). A White-throated Swift at Lower Table Rock Apr. 28 (Stewart Janes, OS) was a first for *Jackson* and one of few for w. Oregon. An Anna's Hummingbird nest near Portland (J. Beckman) had two young on Apr. 16. They had apparently fledged by Apr. 27. There are still very few definite breeding observations of this recent colonizer. Two Costa's Hummingbirds showed up this spring in Oregon, both males at feeders. One was in Sutherlin, *Douglas*, Apr. 4 (KW) and another was in Ashland May 7 into June (J. Babcock). There are still no accepted Washington records of this spring vagrant. There were 2 reports of Broad-tailed Hummingbird in e. Oregon, where they are uncommon. A male was in Andrews May 27 (JG, NL) and a female was in Fields May 26-28 (m.ob.). Continuing their winter abundance,

Lewis' Woodpeckers were well reported from the central Willamette valley, with most noted mid-March to April. On the east side, the first Lewis' returned to *Deschutes*, OR, Mar. 28 (Dave Danley), about a month early for the area, and to e. Washington Apr 18 in *Okanogan* (SJ). At least one pair of the **Acorn Woodpecker** flock that appeared near Lyle, *Klickitat*, in October, 1989 nested (WC) for the first Washington breeding record.

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS -- The only report of Least Flycatcher, an uncommon spring vagrant, was at Fields May 26-30 (HN, m.ob.). The first arrival dates for Hammond's Flycatcher on the west side were about a week earlier than average: Apr. 7 near Salem, OR (Roy Gerig) and Apr. 15 near Tacoma, WA (CCh). A large migratory movement was noted in the interior *Harney*, OR, May 26-30 (SH, JJ) with "hundreds recorded daily." Migratory concentrations of Hammond's have been reported in the interior in the last week of May other years, but not in such impressive numbers. A male Gray Flycatcher 9 mi e.n.e. of Riverside, *Okanogan*, WA, May 16 (SJ) was in the gap between the Okanogan valley population in British Columbia and the Washington populations on the e. slope of the Cascades. The presence of three Pacific-slope and no Cordilleran Flycatchers with the large concentration of Hammond's in *Harney* May 27 (SH, JJ) was intriguing. Otherwise, Pacific-slope Flycatchers arrived on time, with no migratory concentrations reported. There was only one report of Cordilleran Flycatcher, at Bend, OR, May 3 (TC). A Black Phoebe in Fields May 20 (Dale Blackburn) was an e. Oregon rarity. Only five Say's Phoebes were reported from the westside, somewhat below average for this regular wanderer from the east. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, a rare vagrant to w. Washington, was at Auburn May 27-30 (Bob Willison). Reports of Purple Martins indicated the arrival of small numbers at or near known colonies during mid-April or early May, the first report from Fort Lewis, WA Apr. 12 (GR). Large migratory concentrations of Violet-green Swallows were noted Mar 4 along the Snake R. south of *Asotin*, WA (CVV), and Mar. 5 along the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Sequim, WA (BT). Very early N. Rough-winged Swallows were at Skagit Wildlife Area, WA, Mar. 2 (*vide* BK) and at Salem Mar. 19 (Bill Tice). A Bank Swallow at Hammond, *Clatsop*, OR, May 20

(MP) was the only report west of the Cascades, where this swallow is a rare migrant. A Cliff Swallow in the Rogue valley Mar. 9 (Jim Livaudais

) was perhaps the earliest ever spring arrival for the Region. With habitat for Gray Jays becoming increasingly scarce and fragmented in the Oregon Coast Range and along the outer coast, all sightings in those areas are of interest. A pair was seen carrying nest material in Little Lobster Valley, west of Corvallis, Mar. 17 (D. & E. McDonald) and they were noted at Eden Valley, *Coos*, Apr. 29 (Geoff Keller). Two Bushtit nests, one to the west and one to the east of Cle Elum (BSu, Hal Opperman), were the 2nd and 3rd known nests for Kittitas. The source of the range expansion was probably over the Cascade Crest from w. Washington. Red-breasted Nuthatches were super abundant this spring in the s. Oregon Cascades, appearing to be among the half-dozen most common forest birds there (DFi). Rock Wrens are casual in the westside lowlands. There were 3 reports this spring, Apr. 18 in Seattle (James West), May 13-14 in coastal *Lane*, OR (Tom & Billy Jo Smith), and May 17 in Eugene (T & AM).

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS -- Thrush migration went virtually unremarked, with no mention of night migration of Swainson's heard this spring. The first Swainson's was at Sauvie Apr. 21 (JJ) and a few migrants were still present in Washtucna, *Adams*, WA, May 28 (BT). Migrant Veeries, or possibly vagrants, were at Malheur May 24 (James Davis) and at Fields May 31 (K & JK). The first Veery in Washington was May 14 in *Okanogan* (SJ). The pair of N Mockingbirds wintering near Medford was seen Mar. 25 (HS) and the usual handful of spring records in e. Oregon consisted of two in *Harney*, one May 15 (K. Larsen) and another May 27 (JG, NL, GL). A Sage Thrasher Mar. 4 at Fort Rock S.P. was 3 weeks earlier than average for central Oregon. Others at Enterprise, *Wallowa* May 12 (PSu) and in downtown Eugene Mar. 23 (David Jones, PSh) were in parts of Oregon where they are casual. The last Bohemian Waxwings of the relatively small winter numbers were singles in Richland, WA, Mar. 12 (BW) and at Frenchglen, *Harney*, OR, Mar. 18 (AF, Marty Campbell). The last N. Shrikes were Apr. 2 on the west side in *Polk*, OR (Barb Rupers), and Apr. 7 on the east side in *Grant*, WA (MD), about average for final departure. A pair of apparently territorial Hutton's

Vireos at Wenas Cr., *Yakima*, May 26 (EH) represented a significant range expansion in to the east slope of the Washington Cascades for this sedentary species. *Harney* in e. Oregon held an excellent number of eastern warblers, including three Tennessee Warblers: a female in Catlow Valley May 27 (JJ, SH), and a male and a female at Fields May 30 (SH, JJ). There was one other Oregon record, at Paulina Marsh, *Lake*, May 13 (B & TS), and one documented Washington sighting, at Washtucna, *Adams*, May 28 (†BT, †BL). Washington has far fewer records than Oregon. A first-year male Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Malheur May 30 (SH, JJ, m.ob.), a Magnolia Warbler was at Fields May 25 (PMu, LW), and a male **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Page Springs, Malheur, May 27 (R & JK, m.ob.). There were three *Harney* records of Black-and white Warbler: one at Malheur May 13-14 (John Chappo), a first-year male at Malheur May 26-29 (HN, m.ob.), and a female at Alvord Ranch May 27 (JJ, SH), and none elsewhere. The only Am. Redstart was in the Alvord Basin,

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*Harney*, May 27 (JG, NL, GL), and two of the 3 Ovenbird records were from Malheur May 27-30 (MP, LW, PMu, m.ob.). The other Ovenbird was a male in Richland, WA, May 31 (†BW). Except for Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, few concentrations of the regular migrants were found (JA, DFi, BT), and most comments indicated that the local breeders were on time. As is usual for Oregon, a few Palm Warblers were encountered: one at Yaquina Bay Mar. 2-5 (Roy Lowe), and at the S.J.C.R. Apr. 14 & 28 (IMP). A N. Waterthrush at Paulina Marsh, *Lake*, May 13 (BS) was early for a vagrant and could have been a migrant returning to the small local breeding population. Waterthrushes were back at that breeding area at Gilchrist, *Deschutes*, OR, May 13 (B & TS). There were two very early Yellow-breasted Chats in Oregon: one near Prineville, *Crook*, Mar. 24 (R & JK), and another Apr. 5 south of Gold Beach, *Curry* (SR). Their normal arrival time in much of the Region is early May.

**BUNTINGS TO FINCHES** -- There were four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Harney* May 25-31 (m.ob.), all

males, and one Indigo Bunting in *Harney* May 31 (K & JK). Both are regular spring vagrants in e. Oregon. Arrival of Chipping Sparrows was a few days earlier than usual, with one near Salem, OR, Mar. 15-16 (Jack Evans), one in Corvallis, OR, Mar. 30 (RH), one in Sutherlin, *Douglas*, OR, Mar. 31 (KW), one in Bend, OR, Apr. 1 (TC), and one near Synarep, *Okanogan*, WA, Apr. 19 (SJ). The rarest sparrow of the season was the Brewer's Sparrow with *Zonotrichia* in n.e. Portland Apr. 25 (JJ, David Bailey). Other eastside sparrows that stray more regularly to the westside included a Lark Sparrow at Skykomish, WA, May 28 (D. Batchelder, S. Givan) and a Sage Sparrow at Seattle Mar. 31 (K. Aanerud). A singing Grasshopper Sparrow near Eagle Point, *Jackson*, OR, May 6 (HS) made the 4th consecutive year at that site, the only breeding locale on the westside. Five Swamp Sparrows were noted on the westside, four probably being remnants of the good wintering numbers. A 2<sup>nd</sup>-year Swamp Sparrow netted at the S.J.C.R. May 5 (MP) was most likely a migrant and furnished the latest spring sighting for w. Oregon. After a good winter for White-throated Sparrows, a few lingered late: one at Sauvie Apr. 29 (JJ), one at Silver L., *Lake*, OR, May 13 (B & TS), and one to mid-May at Bend (TC). White-crowned Sparrow migration was below average in the Spokane area (JA, TR), and unmentioned elsewhere. The 2 isolated colonies of Tricolored Blackbirds in n. Oregon both were occupied this spring, with 15 birds at Portland (JJ) and 20 at Hermiston, *Umatilla* (PSu). A large colony was reported this spring near the Medford airport, *Jackson* (L. & C. Morris); there are several colonies in the Rogue valley. A Great-tailed Grackle was at Malheur May 16-17 (Dan Browder, Larry Hammond). Most Oregon records are spring records. A Pine Grosbeak amid the wheat fields at Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, May 8 (JA) was surprising. Red Crossbills appeared in notable numbers in several areas. Type III birds were widespread and common throughout the Puget Trough from Bellingham south to Corvallis (TW, CCh, EH, BT, JJ, RH) during mid-April and May. Crossbills of unknown type were also reported along Washington's outer coast (G & WH, MO), were very numerous at lower elevations in central Oregon (TC), and were numerous in pines in the Spokane area (JR). The only reports of White-winged Crossbills were in Washington: one to three at Ocean Shores Apr. 7-May 12 (Bob Morse, MD) and 30 near Arlington, *Snobomish*, May 27 (†TSc). The remnants of the wintering Com. Redpolls trickled north throughout March (JA, SJ), except for one very late bird in Albion,



Whitman, WA, May 4-6 (J & DP). The few reports of Evening Grosbeaks from the lowlands indicated there were normal numbers (TW, TR, TB).

EXOTICA -- The Crested Caracara that appeared in the fall of 1989 in *Curry*, OR, remained about 4 mi up the Rogue R. from Gold Beach until at least Mar. 17 (Angie Cromack, Dorothy Gray). A Eur. Goldfinch visited a feeder at Toketee R.S., in the Douglas Oregon Cascades, May 10-12 (DFi, Martha Sawyer). The North Bend, *Coos*, OR, pair of Eur. Tree Sparrows, present since summer 1989, continued to visit BG's feeder.

CORRIGENDUM -- The winter column indicated that the Hooded Warbler in Pullman furnished the 2nd Washington record. It was the 3rd overall record, and the 2nd winter record.

INITIALED OBSERVERS, with subregional editors in bold face -- Jim Acton, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Wilson Cady, Chris Chappel, Craig & Marion Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), Mike Denny, **Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth** (Corvallis area), Darrell Faxon, Anthony Floyd, Jeff Gilligan, Barbara Griffin, Steve Heinel, Hendrik Herlyn, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Rich Hoyer, Eugene Hunn, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Karen & Jerry Kearney, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Bob Kuntz, Bruce Labar, Nick Lethaby, Gerard Lillie, **Phil Mattocks** (Washington), Tom & Allison Mickel, Craig Miller, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue v alley), Pat Muller, Roger Muskat, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Mark Oberle, Jeff & Deanna Palmer, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson (DPa), Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Jan Reynolds, Craig Roberts, **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), Skip Russell, Howard Sands, Tom Schooley, Fred Sharpe, Bill & Tim Shelmerdine, Paul Sherrell, Jeff Skirletz, **Dory & Stan Smith** (Olympic Peninsula), Andy Stepnewski, Paul Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom, Otis Swisher, **Carol Vande Voorde** (Clarkston area), Terry Wahl, Linda Welland. Katie Wilson, Bob Woodley



*The Nesting Season 1990*

## OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

/ **Bill Tweit, Jim Johnson, and Philip W. Mattocks Jr.**

A cool, damp May continued into a cool, damp June. Snow fell in the Cascades, Olympics, and Okanogan highlands June 10 and 11. After mid-month, the weather dried and warmed. July was warmer than average, with some heavy precipitation in the interior late in the month. The few indications of breeding success we received were not encouraging. There was a marked drop in nesting numbers of grebes, herons, and pelicans at Malheur. Nesting success of Western Bluebirds was below average, certainly attributable to the inclement spring. An unusually strong northward movement of Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, and Elegant Terns may have been correlated with elevated sea surface temperatures. Coastal upwelling was below average, but the effects were not apparent until fall. First breeding records included Washington's first observed Marbled Murrelet nests, and the first records of Acorn Woodpecker and Northern Mockingbird, and

Oregon's first confirmed record of Black-chinned Sparrows. The above average spring flight of eastern vagrants continued into early June, with most records coming from Harney County in southeastern Oregon. The highlights included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, eastern Veery, and Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, and Kentucky warblers. Washington got its first Piping Plover record.

Abbreviations: Davis (*Davis L.*, Klamath and Deschutes, OR); Fields (*Fields*, Harney, OR); Malheur (*Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, Harney, OR); O.S. (*Ocean Shores*, Grays Harbor, WA); Sauvie (*Sauvie I.*, Columbia, OR); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R.*, Clatsop, OR).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS -- The largest summering flock of Pacific Loons reported was 150 at S.J.C.R. (MP). Until recently, Com. Loons were thought to no longer breed in Washington. Three pairs of Com. Loons nested on Chester Morse Res., *King*, this summer (EH) and another pair nested unsuccessfully on Hozomeen L., *Whatcom* (BK). Only one colony of 75 nests of Eared Grebes was found on Malheur this summer (GI). Western Grebes had a good year at Davis (LM), but none were found nesting in the Harney Basin (GI) where they normally are abundant breeders. The summering W. Grebe flock on Bellingham Bay, WA, numbered 500 (TW), probably normal numbers for there. Only a few Clark's were present at Malheur this summer (GI), but there were five sightings of Clark's Grebe from western Oregon, where they are unknown as breeders. Possibly they were displaced from the interior. The summer's three pelagic trips included two from Westport, WA, July 14 and 31 (TW) and one from Charleston, OR, June 27 (Tom Staudt). A Laysan Albatross was seen June 23 about 12 mi w. of Tillamook Head, OR (Terry Thompson). Northern Fulmars were found on all three pelagic trips; the counts ranged from eight off Oregon to 166 July 31. Both Pink-footed and Sooty shearwaters were seen on all three trips, with counts increasing from the small numbers seen off Oregon in June, to 109 Pink-foots and 7000 Sooties at the end of July. Small numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen on all three trips, with a peak of 28, and only one Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen July 14 off Westport. Leach's forage farther offshore and have become

increasingly difficult to find on pelagic trips in recent years, even though they are the more abundant breeder in the Region. About 940 pairs of Am. White Pelicans, fewer than average, nested on Malheur, and only 75 young were produced. Laboratory analysis of the 250 pelicans found dead in the Malheur area in late May failed to identify any disease problems. Pesticide poisoning from the wintering grounds is suspect (GI). Non-breeders from Malheur, and possibly other colonies, were spread throughout eastern Washington. Over 1000 non-breeding pelicans were reported from there (m.ob.) with a peak count of 722 on an aerial survey of the Columbia R. (Lisa Fitzner *vide* Ron Friesz). They also summered in western Oregon on Howard Prairie L., *Jackson* where the peak count of 50 was July 8 (MM). Following the unusually early spring arrival of Brown Pelicans, excellent numbers summered along the southern Washington coast. The peak count was 500 at O.S. June 18 (G & WH). Nesting numbers of all species of herons in the Harney Basin were much lower than the record levels of recent years (GI). The nest counts included 164 Great Blue Herons, 125 Great Egrets, 30 Snowy Egrets, and 105 Black-crowned Night-Herons. In eastern Washington, up to 20 Great Egrets were seen at the recently established colony near Moses L. One Snowy Egret, a rare visitant, was there July 8 and Aug. 18 (JW, Maurice Vail). White-faced Ibis numbers were also down at Malheur, where only 2860 nests were found (GI). Both the N. Pintail brood at Nehalem, *Tillamook*, July 23 (HN) and the Gadwall brood at Smith L., *Clatsop*, July 1 (HN) are very rare breeders in western Oregon. There was also a spring breeding record for Gadwall in western Oregon this year. The species could undertake the same population explosion there that it has shown in the Puget Sound region since the 1970s. The Bufflehead broods at Diamond L. in the southern Oregon Cascades (DFi), Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane*, WA, June 10 (G & WH), and Big Meadow L., *Pend Oreille*, WA, June 28 (ASt) and the Lesser Scaup brood at Sidley L., *Okanogan*, WA, July 20 (DC) are scarce breeders in any part of the Region. Unusual summering ducks included a female Oldsquaw in breeding plumage on Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, June 3 (KM), another female at O.S. July 20 (G & WH), and a male King Eider at LaPush, *Jefferson*, WA, until June 4 (RM).

KITES THROUGH PHALAROPES -- The two Black-shouldered Kite nests found near Medford, *Jackson*, OR, this spring were apparently unproductive (*vide* MM). There were no reports of kites outside the Rogue valley this summer. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest was found July 4 near Sumner, *Coos*, OR (Geoff Keller); this is the only known Oregon nest in recent history. An adult Red-shouldered at

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Page Springs, Malheur, July 19-22 (WCa) was an eastern Oregon rarity. A Merlin nest discovered in the Skagit R. drainage in the north Cascades (Bud Anderson) is apparently the third nest found in Washington. A Merlin was also found July 7 in the southern Washington Cascades (ASt). As many as 60 Black-bellied Plover summered on Grays Harbor, WA (DPa). The first Lesser Golden-Plovers, subspecies not identified, were at Bandon, *Coos*, OR, July 18 (LT) and the only other report was three adult *fulva* at O.S. July 29 (BL). Snowy Plover reports included two pairs at Bayocean, *Tillamook*, OR, June 30 (m.ob.) and two adults and three immatures at O.S. July 4 (BW). An adult male **Piping Plover** at Reardan, *Lincoln*, July 13-16 (†RM, m.ob., photos) furnished an unexpected first Washington record. At least 30 Semipalmated Plovers summered on Grays Harbor, WA (DPa). The peak number of migrants was 450 at Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, OR, July 26 (HN). There were six reports of Solitary Sandpiper from the interior and one from the coast. Washington's remnant population of Upland Sandpipers numbered two this year (JA). It is hard to imagine that this population will survive much longer. The highest count of summering Whimbrel during June on Grays Harbor, WA, was 17 (DPa) and the peak count of migrants was 200 at Tokeland, *Pacific*, WA, July 15 (RM). Migrant Long-billed Curlew flocks included 76 west of Boardman, *Umatilla*, OR (CC) and 32 at Tokeland July 15 (RM). A Ruddy Turnstone at Malheur June 2 (Verne Marr) was a late and rare migrant in the interior. Fall arrival dates for the rock shorebirds included Ruddy Turnstone July 11 at Bandon (LT), Black Turnstone July 14 near Anacortes, WA (M & MLD), and 110 Surfbirds July 8 at Yachats, *Lincoln*, OR (KM). The first Semi-palmated Sandpipers were reported June 30 at Crockett L., *Island*

WA (M & MLD) and July 2 at Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR (MP). Large numbers of W. Sandpipers were reported early: 500 at O.S. June 28 (DPa), 1300 at Bayocean, *Tillamook*, OR, June 30 (JJ, JG) and in the



*The Piping Plover at Reardan in eastern Washington on July 15, 1990, provided a first state record. Photograph / James F. Acton.*

interior 300 at Boardman, *Umatilla*, OR, July 4 (CC). The peak count of 800 Least Sandpipers at Tillamook Bay on July 23 (HN) was quite large. Baird's Sandpiper numbers were average. An adult Stilt Sandpiper at S.J.C.R. July 22-23 (MP) and two at the W.W.R.D. July 20 (KK) were the only reports of this scarce migrant. There were two Ruff reports: an adult Reeve at S.J.C.R. July 25 (MP) and an adult male at Sauvie July 26 (NL, JJ). At least 50 Short-billed Dowitchers summered on Grays Harbor, WA (DPa). The first coastal migrants were noted June 25 at Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR (MP). Interior Short-billeds included two at Reardan, *Lincoln*, WA, July 16 (EH, PM, DPa) and 13 at McKay Creek N.W.R., *Umatilla*, OR (PSu). Red-necked Phalaropes were quite scarce both on the ocean and on Puget Sound (TW).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS -- Up to four Bonaparte's Gulls summered at Malheur (GI). Heermann's Gulls moved north in large numbers. By the end of June 300 were at Grays Harbor (DPa) and 900 were there July 31 (TW). Most of the June birds were adults, and by the end of July fair numbers of

immatures appeared. There were no reports of summering Black-legged Kittiwakes. Caspian Terns appeared again in large numbers in Puget Sound, with 300 seen near Anacortes July 14 (M & MLD) and immatures at Bellingham July 28 (TW), but there are still no signs of breeding anywhere on Puget Sound. Elegant Terns came north into our Region again; the only previous years with significant movements were 1983 and 1987. About 30 were at the Rogue R. mouth in OR, in mid-July (*fide* JJ) and numbers were at Yachats and Waldport, *Lincoln*, July 22 (*fide* DFa). The small Arctic Tern colony at Everett, WA, produced at least one young this year (ASt). Two Arctics were a very surprising find inland at Sauvie July 19 (NL); mid-summer records are rare even on the outer coast. Two **Marbled Murrelet** nests with chicks were located in the Stillaguamish R. drainage of western Washington by WA Dept. of Wildlife research crews (TH, Ann Eissinger). The nests were on horizontal branches in older conifers and were monitored using video cameras. The single chick from one of the nests fledged by flying over 20 miles directly to Puget Sound! Band-tailed Pigeons showed a slight increase in northwestern Washington this season; no comments were received on their status in Oregon. There were an outstanding number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the eastside in June. In Oregon, where there were six previous modern confirmed records, there were three records: one west of LaGrande, *Union*, June 23 (CC), one at the refuge HQ at Malheur June 23-28 (L. Hammond), and one window kill at Bend June 18 (*fide*, TC). One seen just north of the state border along the Milton-Freewater Hwy, *Walla Walla*, June 5 (†MLD) was the first Washington record in over ten years. A Flammulated Owl was heard at Eagle Point, *Jackson* June 1 (MM *et al.*); this species is probably more common in the Rogue valley than currently realized. A Flammulated heard calling at the southern base of Dread and Terror Ridge, *Douglas*, July 16 (DFi) is the first westside record n. of the Rogue valley since a pair summered at Perry Butte, *Douglas*, in 1985. Reports of Barred Owls continue to increase, both in the Puget Trough (IW) and in Oregon, where a pair and a juvenile in the Columbia R. gorge June 24 (JJ) provided the first *Multnomah* breeding record, a pair and a juvenile near Diamond L., *Douglas*, provided the first breeding record for that area (DFi), and an adult with three juveniles was at Klamath Agency, *Klamath*, July 8 (NL). The only Great Gray Owl report was of one at Klamath Agency, a traditional area, June 7 (HN) and

the only Boreal Owl report was of one calling June 31 at Rogers L., *Okanogan*, WA (BT, BL), which may also be a traditional area.

#### S.A.

Two hybrids between Spotted and Barred Owl, called "Sparred" Owl, were found in the Region this summer (TH, Eric Forsman). One adult male was described as "looking superficially like a pale Spotted Owl, but is larger (700 grams) than a normal male Spotted. Has barring on back of nape and head like a Barred Owl. The round spots on top of the head are replaced by rectangular bars. The breast looks sort of like a Spotted, but has larger white areas, and a more barred appearance across the throat, and a large buff patch on the upper breast: Facial disks are paler than a Spotted, but darker than Barred. The tail bars are farther apart than in a Spotted. His call is intermediate between a Barred and a Spotted Owl. It goes Hoo--hoo-hoo-hooawww! The call ends with a downward inflection, much like the last note of the Barred Owl call." This bird was paired with a female Barred for the last two seasons near Mt. Baker, WA. It is

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH THRUSHES --  
Common Nighthawks were

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fairly common this summer on Fort Lewis, WA (GW), and apparently had good breeding success. Nighthawks have become scarce breeders in the Puget Sound

lowlands. What appears to be a small population of Com. Poorwills was discovered in the *Douglas* southern Oregon cascades about 12 mi west of the Cascade

Crest. Four birds, sounding like *P. n. californicus* of the Rogue valley instead of the eastslope, *P. n. nuttalli*, were calling from Dread and Terror Ridge at about 4000' July 16 & 17 (DFi). At least 9000 White-throated Swifts were massed along the escarpment at Ephrata, *Grant*, WA, June 12 (Ben Feltner, which seems like more than the entire number known from all colonies in the state! Up to 100 Black-chinned Hummingbirds in Fields June 23 (JG) is also an impressive number for this uncommon breeder. Two male Costa's Hummingbirds, now annual in Oregon, were found in the Rogue valley: one at Ashland May 7 to June 20 (*fide* MM) and another at Phoenix June 14 (*fide* MM). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, uncommon and local in Oregon, was at Stukel Mt. near Klamath Falls July 16 (Mike Robbins). Washington's first nesting Acorn Woodpeckers at Lyle, *Klickitat*, were present through the summer (PM, WC, photos). A Red-naped Sapsucker, casual on the westside, was a window kill in Lake Oswego, *Clackamas*, OR, July 21 (*fide* HN). Three-toed Woodpeckers are scarce in the Oregon Cascades. A pair was found near Gold L., *Lane*, June 17 (JJ) in the central Cascades. Another pair found near Howard Prairie L., *Jackson* (June Babcock), was extremely far south. Willow Flycatchers seemed to be more numerous than a decade ago in northwestern Washington (TW). Vagrant Least Flycatchers included one at Fields June 3-4 (JG) and another at Malheur June 4 (PP). In Washington, a pair of Least's nested on the westside near Monroe, *Snohomish* (Bill Boyes, m.ob.), June 15 to July 16, when the nest was apparently destroyed by a predator. In e. Washington, there were an unprecedented number of records. Single singing males were at Wenas Campground, *Yakima*, June 15-July 5 (Merrill Peterson *et al.*), along Umtanum Cr., *Yakima*, June 27 (MO), south of Nighthawk, Okanogan, July 6 (WW), at Oroville, Okanogan, July 20 (DC), and at Metalline Falls, *Pend Oreille*, June 19 (DC). A pair of Gray Flycatchers at Bachelor Prairie, *Lincoln*, July 16 (DPA, BSu) extended the known range of Gray Flycatcher in Washington 30 mi east. Wandering Ash-throated Flycatchers included two on the Oregon coast, at Yaquina Bay June 3 (KM) and at North Bend June 4 (BG), and one just north of their limited Washington range at Hardy Canyon, *Yakima*, June 2 (Rob Thorne). Washington's third Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was captured onboard a fishing boat 10 mi n.w. of Grays Harbor July 15 (Phil Anderson *fide* TW, \*Univ. Puget Sound). Adult Horned Larks feeding begging fledglings

near Cathlamet, *Wabkiakum*, July 29 (Alan Richards) were probably of the *E. a. strigata* race, which



*An adult female Acorn Woodpecker peering from the first known Washington nest of the species at Lyle, Klickitat County, on May 3, 1990. Photograph/ Wilson Cady.*

## S.A

The recognition of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers as distinct species poses special problems for Pacific Northwest observers. Johnson's 1980 monograph on the Western Flycatcher complex (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zoo.* 112:1-151) incorrectly implies that a broad gap where neither species nests separate Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers in e. Washington. No such gap exists. Western Flycatchers nest throughout e. Washington in suitable habitat between 2000 and 3500 feet. Singing territorial males recorded this summer along the eastern base of the Cascades in *Kittitas* (EH), in the Okanogan valley along the Canadian border (DC, EH), and along the eastern boundary of the state in *Pend Oreille* (RM), *Spokane* (JA), and *Walla Walla* (JW), all gave typical Pacific-slope vocalizations. Many of these were tape recorded. However, two territorial males W. Flycatchers tape recorded June 23 in *Whitman* in s.e. Washington exhibited a perplexing mix of vocalizations (F.H). Their full song was like

notes in the first song position. Additional singing males in s.e. Washington in *Whitman* and *Columbia* seemed to be intermediate (EH). Johnson describes a "Northwest Volcanic Regions" subpopulation of the Cordilleran Flycatcher, including birds from n.e. California north to s.e. Washington. According to Johnson, several features of the advertising songs in this subpopulation "fall neatly between the coastal series and...far interior samples" (1980:67) while males of this subpopulation may give either type of position note. Thus, a feature considered the best distinction between the two species appears to be of no use in e. Washington. Furthermore, nesting habitat which Johnson considers typical of this subpopulation hosts both species in e. Washington, although the singing Cordilleran type Flycatchers in *Whitman* were on steep wooded hillsides, rather than in the riparian corridors apparently preferred by Pacific-slopes. It is dear that identification of these two species in our Region is not simple, and that some singing males may currently be unidentifiable. Observers should watch for further evidence of sympatry or contact

seems to be reduced to a few isolated populations in the lowlands of western Washington. A flock of 3000+ Bank Swallows in Irrigon, *Umatilla*, OR, July 28 (CC) was a large concentration for the region. Scrub Jays continue to inexorably expand their range north and west. Three found at Westport, *Clatsop*, OR, June 25 (MP) were 25 mi east of the mouth of the Columbia R. To the north, Scrub Jays have become abundant in Chehalis, *Lewis*, and at least three pairs bred successfully in the Olympia area (BT). Western Bluebirds suffered the worst year since 1985 on the Corvallis Bluebird Trail (ME) and breeding success was lower than the previous four years on Fort Lewis, WA (GW), which was mostly attributable to the cold, damp May and June. An apparent eastern Veery (resembling *C. f. fuscescens*) was in Fields June 2 (JG, m.ob.) and another Veery was at Pike Creek, OR, June 4 (GI). The isolated population of Veeries in the Ochoco Mts., OR, was much scarcer than past years (TC), but they seemed to be in greater numbers than previously in the Blue Mts. near Walla Walla (M & MLD).

MIMIDS THROUGH FINCHES -- A vagrant Gray Catbird was at Malheur June 6 (JG). The first breeding record of **Northern Mockingbird** for Washington was furnished by a pair west of Moses Lake, *Grant*, seen carrying food July 6 (DPa, BSu). Three young were seen there July 17 (JA, Warren Hall). In

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Oregon, there were three records from *Harney* in early June (JG, BTi, Roy Gerig), one record on the outer coast at Netarts, *Tillamook*, July 17 (Craig Roberts), and one remnant of the pair this spring near Medford (Howard Sands). The *Harney* list of spring vagrant warblers includes 12 individuals of seven species from the spring report and another 15 individuals of ten species in early June. They included a N. Parula at Frenchglen June 5 (PP), two Chestnut-sided Warblers at Malheur June 3 (BTi, JG) and one in Frenchglen June 4 (JG), a male and female Magnolia Warbler at Malheur June 3 (TC, m.ob.) and another male there June 5 (JJ), a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at

Malheur June 20 (GI, DBy), a **Black-throated Green Warbler**,



*Black-throated Green Warbler at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, Oregon, June 5, 1990. Sixth state record. Photograph/ Jim Johnson.*

(sixth Oregon record) at Malheur June 4-5 (JG, JJ, TC, photos), a male **Blackburnian Warbler** (fourth Oregon record) at Page Springs June 2 (BTi, †Robbins King, photos) a, female Black-and-white Warbler at Fields June 6 (PP), a male Am. Redstart at Malheur June 5-12 (m.ob.), Ovenbirds at Malheur June 3-4 (T & AM, TC, m.ob.) and Fields June 4 (JG) and a **Kentucky Warbler** (second Oregon record) at Frenchglen June 8 (†SS, Jim Carlson, m.ob.). There were no vagrants reported elsewhere. More attention is being paid to hybridization between Townsend's and Hermit warblers. Three hybrids were seen at Davis June 13-17 (LM) in the central Oregon Cascades at the southern edge of Townsend's breeding range, In the southern Washington Cascades at the northern edge of the Hermit's breeding range, hybrids were seen at Cedar Falls, King, June 9 (EH) and in the Potato Hill area, Yakima, June 17 and 24 (ASt, BT). An apparently pure male Hermit Warbler singing on Sumas Mt., Whatcom, June 2 (Jim Duemmel) was only 20 mi south of the Canadian border and far north of their usual range. Hermits are accidental in British Columbia. A singing N. Waterthrush at Lost L., Linn, June 19-July 3

(PP, Dave Irons) is the first indication that nesting may occur in Oregon away from their limited range in the Salt Cr. and Little Deschutes R. drainages. Rose-breasted Grosbeak records included a territorial male at Copper Cr., Walla Walla, June 10-17 (†M & MLD, photos), about the eleventh for Washington, and a male at Lake Oswego, Clackamas, OR, June 7 (*vide* HN). A male Indigo Bunting at Grants Pass June 10-30 (m.ob.) provided only the fifth or sixth western Oregon record. At least three Green-tailed Towhees were at Lewis Peak, Walla Walla (KK, m.ob.), one of only two known locations for this species in Washington. A breeding family of **Black-chinned Sparrows** on Stukel Mt., s.w. of Klamath Falls, found July 17 (SS, TC) furnished the first breeding record for Oregon and only the seventh state record. At least one pair of Black-throated Sparrows bred successfully at the Vantage, Kittitas, location (EH, ASt) where the first Washington breeding station was documented in 1987. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Indian Ford



*The exceptional May push of eastern strays into the interior of the West continued into June. This Blackburnian Warbler, the fourth for Oregon, was at Page Springs on June 2. Photograph/ Stephen P. King.*

Campground, Deschutes, June 19 (†DBy) was very late. White-crowned Sparrows of the coastal race, *Z. l. pugetensis*, are continuing to expand their breeding range into Washington's interior. Several territorial males were in the Potato Hill area, along the Cascade Crest in

*Yakima* this summer (ASt, BT). Tricolored Blackbird populations in Oregon seem healthy. The Portland colony was occupied throughout the period (JJ), despite development adjacent to it. There was a good-sized colony at the Medford airport (*fide* HN). In eastern Oregon, a colony with eight males was reported from the John Day drainage near Clarno, *Wheeler* (Chuck Trost). The spring incursion of Type III Red Crossbills into the western lowlands from Portland north continued into late June (JJ, EH, TW). Small numbers of unknown type Red Crossbills were on the Washington coast (Evelyn Peaslee, Georgia Ramsey). Type II Red Crossbills were noted at Kamiak Butte, *Whitman*, WA, June 23 (EH) and Type IV June 24 in the Blue Mountains of Washington (EH). White-winged Crossbills were scarce, with reports of 15 in the *Lane* Cascades of central Oregon June 11 (PSu) and small numbers in the *Okanogan* highlands of northern Washington in mid-July (WW, ASt).

Exotica: Up to three White Storks were seen in southern King, WA, throughout the summer (m.ob.). They had apparently escaped from a local private collection. BG now has young of the year Eur. Tree Sparrows coming to her feeder in North Bend, OR.

Initialed Observers, **with subregional editors in boldface**: Jim Acton, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Danny Bystrak, Wilson Cady, Dick Cannings, Craig Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), Mike & Merry L. Denny, **Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth** (Corvallis area), Darrell Faxon, Dave Fix, Jeff Gilligan, Barbara Griffin, Tom Hamer, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Gary Ivey, Ken Knittie, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Bob Kuntz, Bruce Labar, Nick Lethaby, Larry McQueen, Kathy Merrifield, Tom & Allison Mickel, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Roger Muskat, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Mark Oberle, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson (DPa), Phil Pickering, **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), Andy Stepnewski, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Bob Sundstrom, Larry Thornburgh, Bill Tice, Terry Wahl, George Walter, Wayne Weber, Jeff Wisman, Bob Woodley.

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