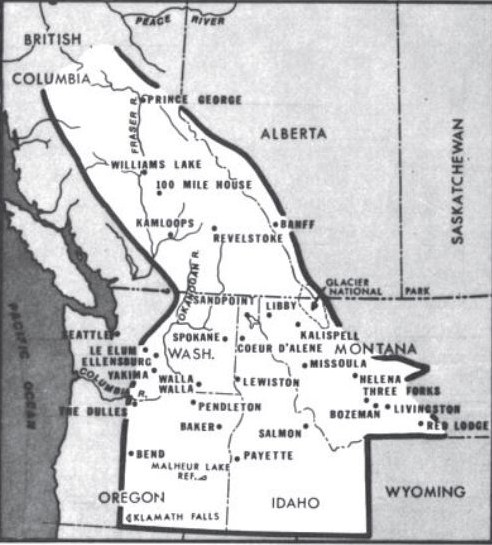
**1977**

*Autumn Migration, 1976*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Thomas H. Rogers**



After a very cold, wet August, September and October brought warm, extremely dry, stable weather. November continued the extreme drought, but temperatures were more nearly normal. What snow fell in the higher valleys quickly melted and snowfall in the mountains was far below normal. Many late stragglers were noted and northern species were often late in appearing, as were mountain species that migrate vertically

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This delay in migrant influx combined with lack of bird concentrations because of scarcity of weather fronts and ready availability of food, were presumably the causes of the impression of low bird numbers. Nevertheless many unusual sightings occurred.

LOONS, GREBES -- A reasonably certain sighting of a Yellow-billed Loon on Kinbasket L., Yoho N.P., B.C. Sept. 27 was highly remarkable (FW, *fide* RRH). An Arctic Loon on L. McDonald, Glacier N.P, Mont. Sept. 14 was joined by another Sept. 17; they were last seen Sept. 25 (JCB, JK & NP). One was on Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. Nov. 11-12 (JA; WH) and one was on the Snake R. at Asotin, Wash., Nov. 27 (DP & MP). A late Red-necked Grebe was still on Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., Nov. 8 (EJ). Two Horned Grebes on the Yakima R., n. of Yakima, were noteworthy (YAS). The Nampa, Ida. area had 250 W. Grebes Sept. 9.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES -- Southern Idaho and Malheur N.W.R., Bums, Ore., had hosted the White Pelicans. Up to 250 were on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello and 136 were in the Rupert area Oct. 16. At Malheur the peak of 1200 was Sept. 20. Nampa counted up to 40. A peak of 130 Double-crested Cormorants was on Am. Falls Res. Aug. 25. At least 14 were shot by hunters on the first day of duck season there. A **Cattle Egret** was sighted at Rupert, Ida. Aug. 24 (WHS). Three Washington localities had Great Egret sightings. One was at the Yakima R. mouth Sept. 25 (REW) and one-two were at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Sept. 10 & 21, and Oct. 7 & 9 (EH) and two were observed in the Clarkston area Aug. 26 – Nov. 30 (EM, JWW, JWo *et al*). Nampa had three Aug. 21 & Sept. 21 (G.E.A.S.). The latter locality also had up to three Snowy Egrets on the same dates; three were seen near Mud L., Jefferson Co., Ida. (PP). One appeared near Wallula, Wash. Aug. 14 (JG & LG) and one was still at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 2 (DD). Rupert, Ida. had 45 White-faced Ibis in September and Malheur N.W.R. had an unusually late record, Nov. 28. A **White Ibis** was identified Nov. 13 along the Snake R. downstream from the Birds of Prey Natural Area s. of Boise, Ida. (DC & SS). The bird was later found dead, apparently shot, and was preened as a specimen (BB). Three birds believed to be immature **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** were closely observed at Wilsall Res. just n. of Wilsall, Mont., Sept. 26 (PDS).

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., produced eight cygnets this year, contributing to a population there of 30. Up to 31 were seen at Malheur N.W.R. on aerial surveys. A flock of 15 flew over Nicholson, B.C. Oct. 24 (FK). One with a yellow neck band was sighted at Ennis, Mont. Sept. 19 (PDS). The heaviest Whistling Swan movement was through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. with a peak of 1500 Oct. 26. Goose and duck numbers were relatively low, apparently because mild weather held them in Canada. About 19,000 Canada Geese remained at McNary N.W.R. Burbank, Wash. in contrast to the normal 30,000. Malheur had over 5000. Whitman Mission pond, Walla Walla, Wash. had a **Cackling Goose** (KK). The only White-fronted Goose reported was one on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash., Oct. 31 & Nov. 14 (CC & REW). Late September saw a peak of 75,000 ducks at Malheur and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had its peak of nearly 32,000 in November. At McNary N.W.R. the peak of 16,000 ducks came in early October. The peak at Red Rock Lakes was 29,000 Oct. 7. Deer Flat N.W.R. remained *the* Mallard refuge, with 149,000 Nov. 17. Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. counted over 31,000 in late November, with 11,000 Pintail and as many Ruddy Ducks. Malheur N.W.R. had over 25,000 Am. Wigeon Sept, 20 and the lower St. Joe R. in n. Idaho had over 14,000 Nov. 18 (IFG). Overall duck use at Malheur was poor, owing to the low productivity of Malheur Lake. McNary N.W.R. experienced a serious Am. Wigeon die-off late in the report period. A single male **European Wigeon** was on the Columbia R. at Richland Nov. 26 (REW). Wood Ducks peaked at *60* in August at both Swan L., Lake Co., and Smith L., Flathead Co., Mont. Nearly 15,000 Redhead were on the Pend Oreille R. in n. Idaho Oct. 23 (IFG). Up to 45 Ring-necked Ducks were on Hayden L. in November; there are very few fall records for the species in n. Idaho (SGS). Three male and two female Oldsquaw appeared at Mann L. just e. of Lewiston, Ida. Nov. 12 (MK & EP). White-winged Scoter sightings in Yoho N.P. amounted to 25 birds, up from six last year. At least nine were on Medical L., Spokane Co., Oct. 18 (JA) and a female was sighted on a small lake 14 miles e. of Colville, Wash. Nov. 21 (WH, GV, BW *et al*). At least four Surf Scoters were on Medical L. Oct. 18 (JA; WH). A male was on the Naches R., a few miles w. of Naches, Wash. Aug. 12 (AR) and a Ø bird was found on a sewage pond near Polson, Mont. (DB). In Lake County, Mont., Ninepipe N.W.R. had 150 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 19 and nearby Pablo N.W.R. had 700 Nov. 1 (L.F.B.C.).

HAWKS -- An ad. **White-tailed Kite**, tardily reported, was sighted 10 miles w. of Dufur, Ore. July 10 (BH). About 11 sightings were obtained for the Goshawk, always rather rare in the Region. A Red-shouldered Hawk was reported at Malheur N.W.R. Aug. 14-15 (RS). That refuge had large numbers of Swainson's Hawk in September. Two weekend trips to Kilgore and Henry's L. in e. Idaho revealed 28 Ferruginous Hawks each time but the species was rare, as usual, elsewhere. The annual Bald Eagle concentration along lower McDonald Creek, Glacier N.P., Mont. peaked at 281 ad. and 96 imm. birds Nov. 25, the third highest total on record (ELR). Red Rock Lakes had a peak of 31 Nov. 16 (EDS). Only one Peregrine Falcon sighting was received, that from Montana (LS). Prairie Falcon sightings were up somewhat as were those for the Merlin, one of the rarer hawks of the Region.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Blue Grouse numbers appeared to be up. The Spruce Grouse was reported only for the Fortine, Mont., area and in the Seven Devils Mts., w. of Riggins, Idaho. A White-tailed Ptarmigan, the only one reported, was found in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness s.w. of Leavenworth, Wash. Four Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported near Kimberley, B.C. in

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October (MVW). Bobwhite appeared in the Browne (Tower) Mt. area just s.e. of Spokane and at Gardena, Wash. Two Mountain Quail were found along the Grande Ronde R. in Asotin Co., Wash (JWW) and the Rupert, Ida. area had 35 (WHS).

**S.A**

CRANES -- The yearling Whooping Crane that summered n. of Soda Springs, Ida. left Oct. 3. The first two Whooper chicks and their Sandhill Crane foster parents at Grays Lake, Ida., left the same day. Another chick left Oct 5 but the last one remained on the refuge until leaving with its foster parents Oct. 15. All Sandhill Cranes migrated from the valley by Oct. 18 (EWL).

Sandhill Crane numbers at Malheur N.W.R. were down from last year, with the peak of 1600 Oct. 3. A pair remained until Nov 29 several flocks passed over Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash m October and a group of eight was on the ground, unusual there. About 75 stopped near Lowden, Wash. Oct. 3 and two days later an imm. bird spent three days in a garden between two homes on the outskirts of Walla Walla! (SM).

SHOREBIRDS -- The Am. Golden Plover was added to Yoho N P's list when one was sighted Sept. 7. Up to four were at nearby Golden Sept. 9-Nov. 4 (RRH; FK). The species was also reported at Reardan and Richland, Wash. Yoho N.P. also had the Black-bellied Plover added to its list when one to two were sighted there Sept. 7, and Nicholson had one-two Sept. 12 & 14 (RRH & FK). The species also appeared at Bozeman, Richland and at Turnbull and McNary N.W.R. One Sept. 25 at Fortine, Mont was only Weydemeyer's second record there in some $0 years' observing. Two Upland Sandpipers were at Golden, B.C., Aug. 27 and at Nicholson the day before (FK) and one was reported at a gravel pit n. of *Belgrade*, Mont. Oct. 7 (KD). The species had not been reported from that area in recent times. Three Willets were at Turnbull N.W.R. Sept. 22 (FBH) and one was m the Wenas L. area n.w. of Yakima Sept. 29 (YAS). Toppenish N W.R., Yakima Co., had 300 Short-billed Dowitchers Oct 27, 60 remained through Nov. 13 (EH). One was reported at Wenas L Sept. 15 (YAS). A Stilt Sandpiper found Aug. 15 added that species to the Yoho N.P. list (RRH *et al*.). A Marbled Godwit appeared at *Calispell* L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Sept. 18 (WH & SAS). Shorebirds made a poor showing in n.e. Washington because of high water levels. However, hundreds of shore- birds, including 300 Marbled Godwits were at American Falls Res near Pocatello Aug. 10 (CHT).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- A sight record of a **Pomarine Jaeger** came from Cascade Res., Valley Co., Ida. [date ?] (RS) The only other state record is of one collected in 1919 near Rupert. Two imm. Parasitic Jaegers were observed carefully near Wilsall, Mont. Sept. 26 (PDS). An ad. Long-tailed jaeger, the first ever for Yoho N.P., appeared Sept. 12 at Wapto L. (CW *et al.*) The Nampa, Ida., area reported 200 Herring Gulls Aug. 11 (G.E.A.S) and one in a plowed field near Somers, Mont., Oct. 13-15 was identified as this species (NS). Singles were sighted during August, September and October in the vicinity of Yoho and Golden, B.C. (RRH). A Franklin's Gull at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 2 was very late (DD). This species was described as still relatively rare in the Bozeman area (PDS). A Bonaparte's Gull at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland Oct. 31 was the only sighting there this fall (CC & REW). One was sighted at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R. e. of Pasco, Wash. Oct. 17 (KK). The only Forster's Terns were at Fish L., Chelan Co., Wash., Sept. 12 (PC) The only Com. Terns reported were eight at Spillimacheen s. of Yoho Sept. 6 (FK). Nampa, Ida. reported five Caspian Terns Aug. 9 and nine Aug. 28.

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS -- Three belatedly reported Band-tailed Pigeons were seen up to July 24 in Mt. Revelstoke N.P., B.C. (JW). The species is very rare in interior British Columbia. An escaped Yellow-headed Parrot *(Amazona ochrocephala oratrix)* was found eating apples in an orchard at Sunny- side Game Range, Yakima Co., Wash. Nov. 26 in temperatures down to 10øF. (EH). Two Barn Owls were reported between Grangeville and Cottonwood, Ida. Nov. 27 (JL) and one or two were sighted in the Nampa, Rupert and Lewiston, Ida., areas and at Asotin, Wash. More ordinary were single sightings at Richland and near Yakima and Toppenish, Wash. One to two Flammulated Owls, tardily reported, were sighted on Hart Mt, Lake Co., Ore., at 6300 ft., May 9-June 20 and again Sept 1 (LRM). One was sighted at Rupert Sept. 26 (WHS) and an injured one picked up at Missoula was the second ever for that area (SF). The only Snowy Owl reported was one at Logan Pass in Glacier N.P., Mont. at 6600 ft., Oct. 19 (SB). Another belated report was of two Hawk Owls near the summit of Mt. Revelstoke July 30 (JW); a single bird was found in Yoho N.P. Oct. 16 (CW), new to the park list. A Burrowing Owl in the Pahsimeroi valley s of Salmon, Ida., Sept. 18 was Roberts' first for the area. A Barred Owl was heard in October in the Helena vicinity (GN & NN) and one was seen well on Browne (Tower) Mt. at Spokane Oct 8 (THR). A Spotted Owl was heard near Blewett Pass in n. Kittitas Co., Wash. Oct. 4 (TK). A new site for the Great Gray Owl was Jack Creek Canyon e. of Ennis, Mont., where one was seen Nov 28 (JGa); one was reported just s. of Targhee Pass w of Yellowstone N.P. in October (SC). One was found at L McDonald, Glacier N.P. Sept. 21 & Oct. 3 (JCB). Apparently this species was sighted at Warm L., Valley Co., Idaho (*fide* JH) A pair of Saw-whet Owls was duetting at Swauk Campground m the Wenatchee Mts. of w. c. Washington Oct. 7 (DP) and one was heard at Lavington, B.C. Nov. 7 (JGr).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A few Black Swifts were seen in the Golden-Field, B.C. area; the latest record was of two at Field Aug. 15. The only other sighting was near Leavenworth, Wash., where seven were feeding with a flock of Corn Nighthawks Sept. 2 (LG). Anna's Hummingbird again appeared in the Cashmere-Leavenworth, Wash. vicinity (WD, LG & JG) and at Yakima Nov. 9 (YAS). One lingered at a Yakima feeder at least until Dec. 4 (EH). An "unprecedented number" of reports for the species came from the c. and s Okanagan of British Columbia in the vicinity of Penticton, Kelowna and Naramata, the latest, Nov. 29 (VA; SRC; DR, DS; KT; RY). A Ø Anna's visited a feeder at Bozeman Sept 1-12 for the first local record and the third for Montana (JP, PD S *et al*.).

FLYCATCHERS AND LARKS -- The Potholes Res. area, Grant Co., Wash. yielded a sighting of two Ash-throated Fly- catchers Aug. 9 (PC) and one made a most surprising appearance in the Spokane Valley Sept. 6 (WH & THR). A late- reported sight record of an E. Phoebe at Malheur N.W.R. May 15 appears to be valid (DF). A single Gray Flycatcher was observed near Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. Aug. 24 (PP) A few Horned Larks in Yoho N.P. above timberline in September confirmed the species for the park (WM).

**S.A.**

JAYS, CROWS -- An amazing influx of **Blue Jays** produced sightings in every state and province in the Region and was the event of the fall season. Two sightings were w. of Calgary, Alta. and British Columbia recorded them at Kimberley, Revelstoke N.P. and near Yoho N.P. At the latter place they had been present May 26-Oct. 7 but no evidence of breeding was found Washington had them near Yakima, at Rich-

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land, Kamiak Butte in Whitman Co., Spokane and n. of Brewster. In Idaho they were reported at Lewiston Orchards, Moscow, Grangeville and Nampa. Montana reported them at Helena, Bozeman and Hamilton and Oregon had them at Umatilla and Bend. An extension of breeding range seems probable for the near future.

Ravens near Malheur N.W.R. have been fitted with colored wing markers. Sightings should be sent to Dick Stiehl at the refuge, P.O. Box 113, Burns, OR 97720. Include whether right or left wing or both, date, time of day, location, behavior of bird and color of marker.

BUSHTITS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS -- Ten Bushtits were found at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co. Nov. 25 for the only report (EH). A Pygmy Nuthatch was heard along Big Creek n.w. of Victor, Mont. Aug. 2 (DAK) and eight were observed at Wasa near Kimberley, B.C. (RRH). An apparently valid report of the species came from Bozeman Oct. 31 (GB). Bewick's Wren was again found near Asotin, Wash., of one bird Nov. 24 & 27 (DP & MP; JWW) and one appeared in Indian Canyon at Spokane (JA). A Canyon Wren was heard Aug 13 at *Crater* *L*. (JWh) and is the first for the park.

MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- The only Mockingbird reported was found on an island in the Snake R., Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa Nov. 6 (JH). Final tally of the nest box project on a farm w. of Spokane showed 209 W. Bluebirds fledged. Migrating flocks of Mountain Bluebirds appeared at only three localities: 100 s. of Kimberley Aug. 27; 104 in the Nampa area Sept. 19 and 75-100 in the Bigfork, Mont. area Sept 14. Otherwise only a few were reported. Water Pipits were reported in good numbers and from many localities. The earliest Bohemian Waxwing was a single bird in Yoho N.P. Aug. 27. Their numbers were low in e. Washington and in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia but appeared more nearly normal elsewhere. Gardiner, Mont., had large flocks from Oct. 8 on, with 1000-2000 on the 14th. Cedar Waxwing numbers seemed greater than normal. Oct. 30 was the latest date ever for Fortine, Mont. (WW). Three Loggerhead Shrikes, "doubtless wintering," were found e. of Beverly, Wash. Nov. 28 (DP & MP).

WARBLERS -- Lewis & Clark Trail S.P. near Waitsburg) Wash. had a Black-and-White Warbler Sept. 26 (MN). An imm male **Prothonotary Warbler** was banded and photographed on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., Aug. 19 (LRM). Five Tennessee Warblers in a mixed warbler flock were in a city yard in Kimberley Aug. 17 (MVW) and singles were seen Sept. 11-12 in the Nicholson, B.C. area (FK). An ad. male Magnolia Warbler stayed in Lavington, B.C. Nov. 15-27 (MC, JGr). Two Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warblers appeared at Malheur N W R. Oct. 2-3 with about 30 Audubon's (DD). Crater Lake N.P. reported Hermit Warblers Aug. 1 and 27 (GM). A singing male **Bay-breasted Warbler**, reported late, was at Malheur N.W.R. June 7 for Oregon's third record (DD). The only N. Waterthrush records were of two birds at Wasa, B.C. Aug. 17, one in Yoho N.P. Sept. 9 (RRH) and one in Lake Co., Ore. Aug 29 (LRM). The warbler migration around Spokane was described as extremely poor; whether it indicated actual low numbers or reflected the mild weather conditions is an open question.

BLACKBIRDS -- Bobolinks occurred in the Bozeman area and were last seen around Bigfork, Mont. Aug. 3. A few were at Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Sept. 18. A flock of 30 W Meadowlarks was still at Missoula at the end of November. Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., had six Yellow-headed Blackbirds until Nov. 26 and 100 were along Crab Creek w of Othello, Wash. the next day (EH). A few Brown-headed Cowbirds were with other blackbirds in the Othello area Nov 26 & 28 (DP).

FINCHES -- A tardily-reported male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. June 22 (LRM) Evening Grosbeak numbers were mostly low and their sightings scattered, with almost none reported after October. A single male Purple Finch, rare in Yoho N.P., was seen at Field Sept. 23 (RRH) and a few visited a feeder farther s. at Invermere Oct. 23 (PM) The species was reported near Leavenworth, Wash. until Sept 28 (LG) and two males were found at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co., Sept. 26 (EH). The House Finch was a visitor at a feeder in Bozeman Sept. 22 (RAH). Appearances of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were scant except in Yoho and Banff N.P., where a flock of 500 was near Columbia Ice Fields. A few were near Sun Valley, Ida. Nov. 12, and near Moses L., Wash. Oct. 20 **Lesser Goldfinches** were observed at Malheur N.W.R. at the end of the period. Common Redpolls had appeared only at Fortine, Mont Nov. 6 (late) and in the Yoho vicinity, first on Nov 7 Red Crossbill appearances were spotty but Yoho N.P. had very good numbers. A good spruce cone crop seemed to explain it by contrast, White-winged Crossbills there were down in numbers Swan L., s.e. of Bigfork, Mont. registered a few Sept. 26-Oct. 4

SPARROWS -- Wandering Green-tailed Towhees appeared in Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 18 & Sept. 24 (JWh). A **Baird’s Sparrow** was closely observed in sagebrush southwest of Boone Peak in the Owyhee Mts. of s.w. Idaho Sept. 19 (JH). This apparently represents only the second record for the state. A brood of Chipping Sparrows at Kimberley hatched Aug. 4 and three young were raised (MVW). The only record of the Clay-colored Sparrow was of one at Golden, B.C. Aug. 2. It was suspected that the species breeds in that area (RRH). Only a few Harris' Sparrows appeared. Tumalo, Ore., just n.w. of Bend, had one Nov 24 and a small flock two days later (JJ), and Malheur N.W.R. had one Nov. 28. One or two were seen near Asotin, Wash. Nov 20-27 (EM; DP, MP & JWW) and one was found in the Spokane Valley Sept. 29 (THR). Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had one Oct. 23 (FBH) and Bozeman had one Oct. 17 & 24 (PDS) Up to ten Golden-crowned Sparrows were recorded in Yakima and Klickitat Cos., Sept. 21 to the end of November (EH) and they were described as common at Lyle, Wash. Nov. 5 (DP) Two or three were in the Spokane area Sept. 21-30 (WH; THR) Link R Bird Refuge, Klamath Falls, Ore., reported a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 17 (SS) and one was at Spokane Sept. 19 (WH) and Oct. 10-14 (JA). Walla Walla, Wash. had one Oct. 10 & 12 (KK) A McCown's Longspur was observed at length between Stinkingwater Pass and Stinking Water Pass on Highway 20 east of Burns, Ore., Aug. 8 (CHW). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were a few Sept. 10-Oct. 1 at Reardan, Spokane and Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (JA) and one at Malheur N.W.R. the first of October (DD).

CORRIGENDUM -- In *Am. Birds* 30:99, delete the sentence referring to hummingbirds at Invermere, B.C.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, V. Andrew, Bill Belknap, Doug Bonham, Jacqueline C. Brewer, George Brewster, Sue Buchel, Steve R. Cannings, Dennis Cartwright, Phil Cheney, Mary Collins, Craig Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Dave DeSante, Wayne Doane, Kristi DuBois, Darrel Faxon, Frissell, (JGa) John Gaffney, (JG) Jacque and Larry Goodhew, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, (JGr) James Grant, Warren Hall, R. A. Hays, James Heckathorn, Bob Holfoss, R. R Howie, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Idaho Fish and Game Dept, Julie Johnson, Elly Jones, Jane Kapler, Thomas Kemp, Francis

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King, Daniel A. Knierim, Ken Knittie, Merlene Koliner, Joe Lint, Lower Flathead Valley Bird Club (LF.B.C.), Edward W. Loth, Wayne McCrory, Peggy MacPherson, Ed McVicker, L. Richard Mewalt, Shirley Muse, Gene & Norma Nixon, Mary Nowakowski, Nancy Paul, Dennis Paulson, Jean Perkins, Michael Perrone, Eleanor Pruett, Peter Pyle, Dorothy Redivo, Alan Richard, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Edwin L. Rothfuss, Lorelei Saxbe, Dennis Schmidt, Sid Sever, W. H. Shillington, Richard Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Robert Smith. Spokane Audubon Society, E. D. Stroops, Shirley G. Sturts, Norm Sudan, Steve Summers, K. Thom, Charles H. Trost, Glen Volyn, Carson Wade, Clarice H. Watson, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, (JWh) John White, M. V. White, (JWo) Jim Wolcott, Robert E. Woodley, 0W) John Woods, Yakima Audubon Society and Robin Yellowlees.

*Autumn Migration, 1976*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

August continued the pattern of the earlier summer months by having more than average rainfall. The remaining three months of the season were drier than normal with above-average temperatures. No heavy coastal storms occurred. The result was a delayed migration for waterfowl, and many lingering passerines. The season also brought the usual quota of displaced individuals, affording ample cause for wonderment.



LOONS, GREBES AND PELAGICS -- A Yellow-billed Loon was at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 30-Nov. 28: four others were in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound after Sept. 27. From Oct. 9 on there were up to SO Red-throated Loons at the Columbia R. mouth. The S00-600 Red-necked Grebes at Green P. e. of Port Angeles, Wash., Aug. 24 (TW) was an amazing concentration. Over 2000 W. Grebes were at Birch Bay, Wash., Aug. 4 (BR *et al*, *fide* VG), 7S00 at Campbell R., B.C., Oct. 10 (HT), and 1000 near Duncan, B.C., Nov. 20 (JCo). A Laysan Albatross was noted by Craig Berger. 12 mi. off Newport, Ore., Aug. 17 (f/de HN); another was found dead at Ocean Shores Sept. 11 (GVV, *fide* PM). The peak count for N. Fulmars this season was 219 off Westport Aug. 22 (next highest 36 Oct. 3

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there) (TW). Between 150 and 400 Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded on trips from Westport (TW); a few were seen out of Banfield1 B.C. in late September (MS, *fide* VG), and along the c. Oregon coast Aug. 28-29 (JG *et al*.). Up to four Flesh-looted Shearwaters were recorded on each Westport boat trip (TW); one was off Banfield Sept. 18 (MS, *fide* VG). Maximum count of New Zealand Shearwaters was *1232* Oct. 3; Sept. 16-26 large numbers were seen on the edge of the continental shelf off Washington (TW). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters were observed 30-40 mi. off Westport Oct. 3, and 6-9 on the edge of the continental shelf Sept. 16-26 (TW). One was seen off Cleland I, B.C., Sept. 1 (RWC, *fide* VG), one was dead at Westport Oct. 30 (BH-T), and one was seen at Seattle Nov. 20 (DP). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel maximum was 238 on Sept. 12 from Westport; one was found dead at Yaquina Head, Ore., Nov. 28 (RO, *fide* FR). On Aug 22 there were 51 Leach's Storm-Petrels recorded out of Westport; one was off Depoe Bay, Ore., Aug. 28 (JG), and a few were noted well offshore Sept. 16-26 (TW). Numbers of Brown Pelicans, more than half immatures, were high along the Oregon coast with smaller numbers along the Washington coast; maximum count was 300-800 around Tillamook Rock, just off the n. Oregon coast, Sept. 4 (TC).

HERONS AND WATERFOWL -- Green Herons were seen repeatedly on s. Vancouver I., at Seattle, and near Tillamook Bay, Ore., Gardiner, Ore. and 3 other localities during the period. An imm. Cattle Egret was found at Port Neville, Vancouver I. Oct. 1 (MR *et al*., *fide* VG). Great Egrets made the most widespread appearances ever; one was at the Sooke R. mouth, Vancouver I., Aug. 16-19 (ACH, VG *et al*., photo). Another was near Pitt Meadows, B.C., Sept. 8-6 (R & WR, *fide* VG) For w. Washington one or two Great Egrets were recorded at seven different localities from mid-August until Nov. 30. In w. Oregon Great Egrets were noted at 12 different localities; maximum 37 at Gardiner Aug. 29 (WT *et al*.). A Snowy Egret was observed at Seaside, Ore., Aug. 7 (DF, JG) and (the same?) one was subsequently at Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Sept. 19 (DDS, HN *et al*.). A Black-crowned Night Heron was at Seattle Nov. 20 (JW, *fide* PM), and up to seven were near Grants Pass, Ore., during September and October (SS). At Portland an unprecedented *18* used a roosting area all fall (JB, JG *et al*.). One and two *Least Bitterns* were seen 17 mi. n.w. of Medford from early September to late November (JH, MM). A flock of about 600 Whistling Swans arrived at Sauvie I. en masse Nov. 22 (HN *et al*.); small numbers were at Whidbey I., Wash, from Aug. 29 (EH, JW, *fide* PM), and at 14 other localities in the Region in numbers up to 48. Up to ten Trumpeter Swans were recorded at five localities on s. Vancouver I. after Nov. 13; singles were at Ocean Shores Nov. 27-28 (G & WH), and at Sauvie I. Nov. 21 (JG, MK). The first White- fronted Geese were 32 at N. Portland Aug. 31 (MK), and a small group heard over L. Oswego, Ore., that night (JBC). On Oct. 9 large numbers flew SE over Crane Prairie Res. in the e. Cascade Mts (LN). Two Snow Geese were near Pitt Meadows in s. British Columbia Aug. 24-Sept. 1 (RR, *fide* VG); on Oct. 13 a flock of 60 was at Ocean Shores (G & WH); the species was noted elsewhere in the Region in late October and afterward. By Nov. 19, 78-100 Gadwall were in n. Portland (TC, HN); eight were at Alsea Bay, Ore., Nov. 26 (E & EE, *fide* FR), and up to ten were at Saanich after Nov. 9 (VG *et al*.). Pintail (250) concentrated early at Everett, Wash., Aug. 19 (DP); smaller numbers were present at coastal points by Aug. 15-30. Single Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted at Seattle, Sauvie I., Tillamook and Corvallis, Ore., after Oct. 30. There were up to ten Eur. Wigeon around Victoria after early October (VG); later up to four were found at ten localities in the Region. A lone Am. Wigeon at Coos Bay, Ore., Aug. 29 (JBC *et al*.) was early. On Aug. 19 there were 50 N. Shovelers at Everett; on Oct. 10 & Nov 21 there were *1000* there (DP), the largest assemblage in the Region in ten years or more; up to 45 were found at six other locations. A Redhead was in Portland Nov. 3 (DDS), and two were at Tillamook Bay Nov. 28 (JBC, WT). Sixty Ring-necked Ducks at Forest Grove, Ore., Oct. 21 (HN), and 83 at Saanich Nov. 15 (M&TS, *fide* VG) were peak counts. Canvasback concentrated after mid-October in flocks to 600 at Samish I., Wash., the Forest Grove sewage ponds, the Columbia R. mouth, and Tillamook Bay. A male Tufted Duck was found again in late October at Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). Almost *1400* Bar- row's Goldeneye were at Capitol L., Olympia, Wash., Nov 14 (G & WH); six first were noted there Oct. 28. At Jervis Inlet, Vancouver I., there were 250 Barrow's Goldeneye Nov. 28 (TS, GC, *fide* VG). Lone female Oldsquaws were at Stanley Park in August (BK), at Campbell R. Aug. 14 & 20 (HT); at Westport (BH-T), and Cape Meares, Ore., Oct. 30 (DDS *et al*.). There were 30 Oldsquaws at Victoria, Oct. 22, and 18 at Sidney, B.C., Nov 4 (VG *et al*.). The concentration of *175* Harlequin Ducks at Campbell R., Aug. 20 (HT), is interesting. On Aug. 19, 250 male White- winged Scoters were at Whidbey I., and 150 male Surf Scoters were at Penn Cove (DP), early. 100 Surfs were at Protection I. Aug 14 (MS, *fide* VG). A female Ruddy Duck with nine young at the Everett sewage ponds Aug. 19 (DP), proves another breeding record in w. Washington. On Nov. 21, *56* Hooded Mergansers and 200 Com. Mergansers were counted at L. Selmac, Ore., (SS) At Ocean Shores 120 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted Sept 18 (G & WH), but this species was largely absent elsewhere until mid-November.

RAPTORS, GAMEBIRDS -- Victoria seems to be a migration funnel for Turkey Vultures; migrants passed S. until Nov 6, peak numbers were 158 there Sept. 27 and 100 at Saanich Oct 7 (VG *et al*.); elsewhere migrating vultures were observed at Stanley Park Oct. 2 (18 -- BK), at Deception Pass Oct. 3 (36 -- *fide* PM), and Grants Pass, Ore., Sept. 17 (44 -- SS). A late one was at Duncan, B.C., Nov. 13 (JCo). Two adults and two first- year White-tailed Kites were at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, all fall; the young apparently were raised on the refuge. A couple of White-tailed Kites n. of Medford also seemed to have nested undetected; they were accompanied by a fledgling Aug. 27 (J Collins). Two kites were observed throughout the fall near Riddle, Ore. (EP *et al*.). Two suspected '*harlani*' Red-tailed Hawks were reported -- one from Scappoose, Ore., Nov. 21 (JG, MK), the other from near Forest Grove Oct. 21 (GH, HN). Golden Eagles were recorded seven times in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al*. ), once in the Olympics (DS *et al*. ), three times in the Willamette Valley s. of Corvallis, (-- MN, *fide* LN), and near Medford (OS) all Nov. 28. About 63 Bald Eagles were reported from nine Oregon, five Washington, (omitting a "few" in the n lowlands), and two Vancouver I. localities; eight together near Sequim, Wash., Sept. 12 (*fide* DS), and the 12 at Campbell R Aug. 2 (HT) are of particular interest. Ospreys were seen regularly at Victoria until Sept. 15 (VG); other Vancouver I. sightings involved one at sea from Banfield Sept. 18 (MS *et al.*), a "last of the season" at Oyster Bay Oct. 8 (HT), one at Long Beach Oct. 11 (AD, *fide* VG), and seven at Sooke Oct. 29 (B& JM, *fide* VG). Ospreys were identified at Dungeness, Wash, Oct. 11 & 29 (DS *et al*.), and at Chinook Pass Nov. 11 (MC, *fide* PM); there were two other Washington sightings prior to Sept 16. In Oregon four Ospreys were observed near the Umpqua R mouth Aug. 29 (WT *et al*.), one was at Rogue R. Oct. 16 (OS), and one at in. N. Albany Oct. 13 & Nov. 16 (GG, *fide* FR). Three Gyrfalcons were recorded in the Region this season; one at Reifel Sanctuary (TW), one twice at c. Saanich in mid-November (RF; V & MG), and one at White City, near Medford, Nov 30 (MM, *fide* JH). A Prairie Falcon at Dungeness Spit Aug. 12 (KG,

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*fide* DS) was out of place; there were three sightings near Medford and two at Albany, Ore. Peregrines were found at only seven localities, but mostly in multiple sightings. In contrast, there have never been more seasonal sightings of Merlins; perhaps 40 individuals at 25 localities. On Aug. 10 ten Spruce Grouse were found at Hart Pass in Washington; two more were seen that day on the Pasayten R. (G & WH); four were observed at Manning P.P. Oct. 12 (VG). The only reported White-tailed Ptarmigan was also at Hart Pass Aug 11 (G & WH). A covey of 45 Bobwhite was seen at McKenna, Wash., Oct. 24 (JHO, *fide* PM). Sandhill Cranes stopped at Sauvie I. the first week in September; 30-40 were still there Nov. 30; a pair was at Davis L. Sept. 6 (*fide* LN) and 60 were at Campbell R. Sept. 19 (HT); in the Medford area up to 40 were seen the last week in November. Eight Virginia Rails were recorded in two marshes on Cortes I., B.C., Oct. 20 (HT); there were five other records from n. Washington s. to Corvallis, Ore.

SHOREBIRDS -- A late Semipalmated Plover was observed at Seattle Nov. 21 (BBe *et al*., *fide* PM). The 19 Snowy Plovers at Tillamook Bay Nov. 6 (HN) was a high count for this uncommon bird, HN had seen 12 there Sept. 25, and four there Sept. 18 (JG *et al.*); up to six were at Ocean Shores, Leadbetter Pt., and Yaquina Bay Aug. 16-Oct. 24. Ocean Shores hosted Am. Golden Plovers Aug. 21-Nov. 6, the peak counts being 50 Oct. 2-12, and 100 Sept. 18-19 (G & WH, DP). Up to six were seen from late August to mid-October at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (S.J.C.R.), (m.obs.), at Sauvie I. Sept. 11 (HN), and at Victoria Sept 8-Nov. 9 (VG *et al*.). On Aug. 26 there were 200 Com. Snipe near Pitt L., e. of Vancouver (RR, *fide* VG). One or two Long-billed Curlew were at Ocean Shores Aug. 20-Nov. 6 (mob.); ten were at Tokeland, Wash., Oct. 30 (BH-T), and pairs were seen at Westport Sept. 11, and at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26. Maximum Whimbrel numbers were, as usual, at Ocean Shores where 200 were counted Aug. 21; on Sept. 19, 100 birds were still there (G & WH, DP). On Aug. 7-8, two Solitary Sandpipers were recorded at Tipsoo L., 5300 ft. elev., in Mt. Rainier N.P. (RT); two were at Seattle Aug 16 and one there Aug. 21 *fide* PM). Ten Wandering Tattlers were seen at Ocean Shores Aug. 16 and eight Sept. 24; two at Florence, Ore., Nov. 26 (ES) were late. This season contributed a record number of Willet sightings; 6-10 birds were at Yaquina Bay Aug. 28-Oct. 23; 1-4 birds were at Tokeland Sept. 11-13, one was at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26 and single birds were at Ocean Shores Sept. 19, Oct. 2 and Oct. 10. On Aug. 18 there was an astounding total of *383* Lesser Yellowlegs at Iona I. (RP, *fide* BK). Thirty was the maximum for Red Knots, this group being at Leadbetter Pt. Aug. 21 (HN et el.). Ocean Shores also was the principal spot for Rock Sandpipers with 25-30 being there after Nov. 6 (G & WH, EH, *fide* PM); 40 at the Chatham Is., B.C., Nov 28 (MS, *fide* VG) was also an unusually high count. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were in the Region from Aug. 23 at Mitlenatch I., B.C., (RB, *fide* VG) to Oct. 23 at Ocean Shores; this species was sighted at five other localities. At Iona I., six were present Oct. 3 (VG). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported seen at sixteen different localities Aug. 24-Nov. 6 from Duncan, B.C., s to Medford; maximum *150* at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26 (DM, WT) Inland Baird's Sandpipers (singles) were at Tipsoo L., Mt. Rainer N.P., Aug. 7-8 (RT), at Medford Aug. 30 (OS), at Grants Pass Sept. 21 (SS), and two birds were at Sauvie I., Aug. 14 (HN). The 6-8 at S.J.C.R. Aug. 28 and the ten at Ocean Shores Sept. 24 are unusual aggregations; the single still at Yaquina Bay Nov. 28 (GG, DF, *fide* FR) was very late. Two Stilt Sandpipers were observed at Iona I., Aug. 9 (J&TI, *fide* VG), two were at Duncan Sept. 11 (JCo), and two were at 214 Yaquina Bay Oct. 9 (JA, *fide* FR) where one had been seen Sept 7 (DF). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was found and photographed at Bandon, Ore., Sept. 23-26 (TL *et al*.), possibly another was seen flying at S.J.C.R. Oct. 9 (DDS, HN). An ad. *Ruff* was at Ocean Shores Oct. 10-27 (JW, JS, EH, *fide* PM). An Am. Avocet was at Finley N.W.R. Sept. 30 (JAn, E & EE, *fide* FR). Red Phalaropes were seen on each of the boat trips from Westport, with 341 on Aug. 22 the high count (TW); up to 20 a day were noted at a few coastal points, particularly in November. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were identified at Whidbey I. and at Everett Aug 19 (DP), and at Victoria Aug. 1 (RS, *fide* VG).

**S.A.**

Ron LeValley has submitted a detailed description for a **Curlew Sandpiper** studied by him and Maggi Ford for 30 minutes at Seven Devils Wayside, Coos Co., Ore, Aug. 16, from as close as 25 feet. The bird was approaching basic or winter plumage. Darrell Faxon had previously submitted details of an observation made by him at Yaquina Bay, July 21, 1976, of possibly the same individual. We presume these are the first Oregon records for this species.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- From 12-26 Pomarine Jaegers were seen on each trip from Westport, up to three were seen at the Columbia R. mouth, at Gray's Harbor, and at Active Pass in the Gulf Islands Sept. 24-Oct 16 Observers thought it a poor year for Parasitic Jaegers, up to eight were at the Columbia R. mouth, Sept. 24-25, and at Active Pass from mid-September to Nov. 6 but most observations were of singles. Between 1-12 Long-tailed Jaegers were found on off- shore trips, and single birds were observed at Discovery Passage on the e. side of Vancouver I., the third week in August (AD, *fide* HT), at Westport Oct. 2 (TW), and at the Columbia R mouth, Sept. 25 (DM). Skuas were found on all three boat trips from Westport -- 3 on Aug. 22, 5 on Sept. 12, and 17 on Oct 3, during the cruise Sept. 16-Sept. 26 a total of 27 Skuas were counted, 13 of them on the first day (TW). Two Skuas were seen from the N.J.C.R. Sept. 11 (D & JHa, *fide* PM), and single birds were seen Oct. 1 at Ocean Shores (KB, *fide* PM), and at Active Pass (MVM, *fide* BK). Another was seen at Yaquina Bay Sept 25 (GG, *fide* FR). Glaucous Gulls all appeared at Bellingham, Wash., Nov 24 (TW) and at Campbell R. Nov. 30 (HT). For three days, Oct 9-11, a 'white-winged' gull frequented Stanley Park and was closely studied by Brian Kaukesk; his description points strongly to an **Iceland Gull** *(Larus g. kumlieni).* The imm. Black-headed Gull first seen at Victoria July 28 (RS, *fide* VG) was there Aug 6 (BHy, *fide* VG). Another Little Gull was found in the Region Nov. 30; this one at Seattle's Discovery Park (DP, DW *et al*, *fide* PM). The 500 Heermann's Gulls at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co, Ore., Oct. 16 (JBC) and the late 300 at Whidbey I. Nov. 7 (D & PE, *fide* PM) were high counts. On the boat trip Aug. 22 from Westport 140 Sabine's Gulls were counted; on Sept. 12 numbers were down to 90 and on Oct. 3 only 17 were seen (TW) Out of Banfield, B.C., however, on Sept. 18 almost 300 Sabine's Gulls were recorded, with 123 there a week later (MS, *fide* VG) Arctic Terns were seen Aug. 22 & Sept. 12 out of Westport with 113 birds the count on the latter date (TW). Arctic Terns were recorded in season coastally and in deepwater bays, maximum 50 at S.J.C.R. Aug. 13 (HN). Counts of 150 and 180 Caspian Terns were made at the Columbia R. mouth Aug. 13 & 28 (HN). Two Black Terns were seen at Iona I., Aug. 8-9 (DMa, *fide* BK), one at Whidbey I., Aug. 29 (EH), one was at Port Ludlow Oct. 7 (ESt, *fide* PM), and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 23-Nov 6 (J & GMa, *fide* PM; G & WH).

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Strait of Georgia after Nov. 1 (m.ob.). Eight were at Yaquina Head Nov. 13 (RO, *fide* FR). Cassin's Auklets were found on all offshore trips with maxima being 342 from Westport Aug. 22 (TW), and 38 from Banfield Sept. 18 (MS, *fide* VG). A belated report of a **Horned Puffin** found June 25 at the base of Cape Lookout, Ore., was received (BL). Only 14 Tufted Puffins were recorded offshore from Westport Aug. 22, seven on Sept. 12, and one on Oct. 3 (TW); one at Victoria Aug. 15 (KT, *fide* VG).

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- Thirteen Band- tailed Pigeons were still at Victoria Nov. 23 (LR, *fide* VG). It is highly doubtful that the single White-winged Dove found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 28, got there naturally (DF, HN). Single Mourning Doves were at Campbell R., where the species rarely occurs, Sept. 12 & Nov. 13 (HT). A Snowy Owl was at Boundary Bay Nov. 20 (TW). Pygmy Owls seem to have been much more in evidence this fall than normal, with 28 reports. Single Burrowing Owls were found at S.J.C.R. Nov. 27 (WHa, HN), at Yaquina Bay Oct. 18 (RO, *fide* FR), s. of Corvallis Sept. 20 (MB, *fide* FR), at Eugene from Oct. 24 on, and at Medford from late September to Nov. 30 (OS). A Barred Owl was heard Oct 4 at Colonial Creek Campground in N. Cascades N.P., Wash (DP). A Spotted Owl was seen through August in the Longmire area of Mt. Rainier N.P. (JAd *et al*., *fide* PM); a family was at Blewett Pass w. of Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 20 (T & TWe, *fide* PM). A Great Gray Owl was seen in Santiam Pass, Ore., Aug 29 (DDS *et al*.). A Long-eared Owl was found at Eugene Oct 30 (LN *et al*.), and another at Finley N.W.R., Nov. 26 (MB, GG, *fide* FR) and Nov. 27 (JBC). Ten Saw-whet Owls were recorded from Saanich and around Puget Sound s. to Eugene; of these, three were seen Oct. 23 on Oregon's Cascade Head (LN). A Poor-will was picked up dead from U.S. I-5 at Burlington, Wash, Sept. 16 (*fide* TW). On Sept. 1 there were 120 Com. Nighthawks at Saltspring I. (VG). Hundreds of Black Swifts were flying low over U.S. 101 near Sequim, Wash., Sept. 6 (*fide* DS) On Aug. 7 there were 100 Black Swifts at Duncan (JCo), and on Sept. 15 there were a like number at Sooke (B & JM, *fide* VG) One thousand Vaux's Swifts were at Corvallis Sept. 17 (DM) and "huge numbers" in Portland the last week of September (DDS). There were 200 at Sumas, Vancouver I., Sept. 19 (J & TI, *fide* VG), and 100 at Davis L. Ore., Sept. 11 (SG, *fide* LM) Anna's Hummingbirds were mostly in s. Vancouver I.; 3-5 were at Campbell R. after Nov. 9 (HT); two were at Duncan Nov. 28-30 (JCo), and six were at Saanich all fall (VG *et al*.). Others were noted at Seattle Oct. 23 (DHA, *fide* PM), at Corvallis Oct. 25 (FR), and at Brookings, Ore., Aug. 28 (SS). A male Allen's Hummingbird was engaging in courtship flight at L. Oswego, Ore., Aug 24 (I & CC). After mid-October, Lewis' Woodpeckers were prominent in the Medford area, with 38 birds seen near White City Nov. 11 (OS), 30 were at Shady Cove, Ore., Sept. 3 (EP *et al*.). A couple of Willamson's Sapsuckers were observed at Davis L., Ore., Sept. 4 (SG *fide* LM). Single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were near Blewett Pass, w. of Wenatchee, Sept. 25 (PC & PMa, *fide* PM), and e. of Ashland, Ore., Nov. 27 (OS). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found at Harts Pass Aug. 10-12 (G & WH), on the n.w. slope of Mt. Baker Nov. 14 (JD, *fide* TW), e of Rose L. also in the n. Cascades Oct. 5 (DP), and in Manning P P Oct. 12 (VG). Three E. Kingbirds were seen at Everett, Wash., Aug. 15 (EH) Four Tropical Kingbirds were found in the Region this fall, the first was at Harris Beach S.P., n. of Brookings, Ore., Oct. 9-10 (SS); the second was at Torino on Vancouver I. Oct. 11 (AD, *fide* VG), the third was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Oct. 20- 21 (DMa, MS *et al*., *fide* BK), and the fourth was at Ocean Shores, Nov 6-16 (DHa, J & GMa, mobs *fide* PM) A W. Kingbird was found at Malcolm I., B.C., Sept. 7 (FGH, *fide* VG).

S.A.

On Sept. 22 at Reifel Sanctuary in the Fraser R. delta, s. of Vancouver, Vic Goodwill watched a **Wied's Crested Flycatcher** for hours from as close as 30 ft. and obtained motion pictures; among field marks noted was the "large all-black bill, too stout for Ash-throated Fly- catcher." The bird was seen again Sept. 25 by others, including Brian Kautesk. The bird was seen again at Sea I., about 10 mi. to the N on Oct. 12, where it was seen by many observers and photographed; last date not reported. The species is reportedly new to Canada.

On Oct. 9 an Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Ocean Shores (DL, *fide* PM); one was also seen at Fern Ridge Res. Aug. 29 (SG, *fide* LM). Black Phoebes were reported from Grants Pass and one was at Brookings Sept. 18 & Oct. 10 (SS)

LARKS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Forty Skylarks were found at Sidney, B.C., Nov. 27 (VG, RS). One or two Bank Swallows were seen at Cowichan Bay Aug. 23, at Saanich Aug 26, and at Victoria Sept. 5 (VG *et al*.). A late Rough-winged Swallow was noted near Banks, Ore., Nov. 13 (TC). Throughout November four Blue Jays frequented a park at Fort Vancouver, Wash., (AA *et al*.); one was seen in N. Saanich Oct. 27 (ARD, *fide* VG) and one was at feeders in Duncan Nov. 23-29 (JC) On Sept. 23 there were 23 Com. Ravens at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., (MS, *fide* VG). Seven Clark's Nutcrackers were on Onion Mt., w. of Grants Pass, Oct. 13 (SS), and 48 were seen 25 mi e of Sweet Home, Ore., Sept. 24 (E & EE, *fide* FR). A Mountain Chickadee was found at Sauvie I. Oct. 30 (TC *et al*.). Several Boreal Chickadees were at Harts Pass in the N. Cascades Aug 10-12 (G & WH). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were abundant in stunted lodgepole pine on the s.w. side of Mt. St. Helens in s Washington, in November (DDS). A White-breasted Nuthatch was discovered at Merrill L. 14 mi. w. of Campbell R. Aug 10 (RWC *et al*., *fide* VG). A Mockingbird was seen July 28 and Aug 1 at Mitlenatch I., B.C., (RB, *fide* VG), and another was at Pacific City, Ore., Oct. 9 (FS). Fourteen W. Bluebirds were observed at Tugwell L., s. Vancouver I., Aug. 21 (VG, RS), and a family group was at Issaquah, Wash., Aug. 8 (JS, *fide* PM) Water Pipits were seen at numerous lowland localities after mid-September; 285 were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Oct. 4 (RR, *fide* VG). Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were seen at five places in the n. Cascades in October; one was at Harts Pass Aug. 11 (G & WH) and flocks were at Washington Pass Aug 31; one was at Bellingham Oct. 1, and a small flock was at nearby Lummi Flats Nov. 8 (JD, *fide* TW). The first N. Shrike of the season appeared at Saanich Sept. 28 (MG, LR). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Campbell R. during August (HT), one was at Saanich Aug. 14 (VG, RS), and one was found at Stanley Park Aug. 28 (BK). A Tennessee Warbler was at Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C., Sept. 21 (AG, GR, *fide* VG). A male Nashville Warbler was still at Saanich Nov. 15 (V & MG). Two Yellow Warblers at Saanich Oct. 5, one there Oct. 11 (VG *et al*. ), and single birds at the Skagit Flats Oct. 10 (DP), and at Tou Velle Park on the Rogue R. Oct. 16 (OS) all were late. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen along the Applegate R., in s.w. Oregon, Nov 13 (SS); 20-30 remained in Medford the first half of October (JH). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen s. of Davis L. Aug 13 (CS, *fide* LM) and again Aug. 22 (DG, *fide* LM); it represented the second record for w. Oregon. Immature **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen singly at Pitt Meadows Sept. 9 (R & WR, *fide* VG) and at Ocean Shores Sept 20 (DHy); the latter was apparently Wash-

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ington's first, and was carefully documented. Palm Warblers were seen on four occasions at Ocean Shores Sept. 16-Nov. 15 (m.ob.); this species was recorded also at Grayland, Wash., Sept. 27 (*fide* PM), and at three places on the Oregon coast Sept. 18-Oct. 10. A male Am. Redstart was s. of Davis L., Ore., Aug. 13 (CS, *fide* LM); a female was seen on Pine I., Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., Sept. 1 (DPC, *fide* VG).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS -- Up to four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Seattle Aug. 16 (EH) and Sept. 11 – 14 (*fide* PM); single birds occurred at Iona I. Aug. 24 (BH-T), at Malcolm I., and at Reifel Sanctuary Sept. 4 & 22 respectively (*fide* VG). A female N. Oriole was at Victoria Nov. 16 (RWC, VG, MS). A Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Saanich Oct. 27 (V & MG), another was seen there on Nov. 13 (RF, *fide* VG), and one was at Torino, B.C., Oct. 1 (AD, *fide* VG). On Oct. 24 seven Pine Grosbeaks were found w. of Leavenworth, Wash. (FK, *fide* PM); eight were seen at Manning P.P., Oct. 12 (VG). About 60 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were discovered at Bingen, Wash., Nov. 27 (DDS); four were at Victoria Oct. 23 (VG *et al*.), and two were on Mt. Provost, Vancouver I., Oct. 29 (JCo). A Com. Redpoll was seen at Dungeness Nov. 27 (DS). Two L. Goldfinches were seen at Salem Nov. 6; one was there Nov. 19 (FS); three were at Corvallis in November (LN). Hundreds of Red Crossbills in Santiam Pass Aug. 29 (DDS), but elsewhere only small numbers were noted. On Sept. 6 an ad. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was closely studied in Stanley Park; full details were reported (BK). A Lark Sparrow was seen at Banfield, B.C., Aug. 16 (RWC *et al*., *fide* VG); another occurred at Medford Oct. 16 (OS). Single Tree Sparrows were found at Pitt R. Sept. 26 (RR, *fide* VG), at N. Saanich Nov. 28-29 (V & MG, JBT), and at Kent Valley, Wash., Nov. 7 (JW, *fide* PM). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, meticulously described, was found at the Skagit Game Range near Mount Vernon. Wash., Nov. 8 (AR, courtesy PM); this is evidently the second w. Washington record, the first at the same place 1½ years earlier. A Harris' Sparrow was found at Kent Valley, Wash., Nov. 7 (JW, *fide* PM). Lapland Longspurs arrived after mid-September in n. Washington and at a few coastal points s. to Yaquina Bay; up to 45 were at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC) and at Ocean Shores (BH-T) during mid-October. A **Smith's Longspur** was discovered at Yaquina Head near Newport Oct. 17, by Darrel Faxon; he made careful observations and a written description, supported by color photographs (by Paul Reed); on Oct. 18 (RBa & RO) saw the bird. It constitutes the first recorded occurrence for Oregon, to our knowledge. On Oct. 25 Adrian Dorst found a bird on Cortes I. which he concluded was a **Smith's Longspur**, written description furnished (courtesy VG); his identification appears accurate. The only reported Snow Bunting was at Victoria Nov. 6 (IBS, *fide* VG).

OBSERVERS -- Julie Adam (JAd), John Annear (JAn), Judy Armstrong, Art Arp, Range Bayer (RBa), Blair Bernson (BBe), John Biewener, Mike Booty, Kathy Bowles, Bob Buchanan (BBu), Rob Butler, R. Wayne Campbell, Mike Carmody, D. P. Chapman, Phil Cheney, Gwen Colby, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, Irving & Clarabelle Curran, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Dave DeSante (DDS), Adrian Dorst, Jim Duemmel, Elzy & Elsie Eltzroth, Bob & Pat Evans, Darrell Faxon, Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Steve Gordon, AI Grass, Karl Gruebel, Warren Hall (WHo), Dudley & Jan Harrington (D & JHa), Bill Harrington-Tweit, F. Gordon Hart, Bob Hay (BHy), Dave Hayward (DHy), Gene Herb (GHe), Joseph Hicks, John Hoffman (JHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, A. C. Hollingworth, Eugene Hunn, John & Theresa Ireland, Brian Kautesk, Mark Koninendyke, Fay Krause, Dick Lindstrom, Tom Lund, Bruce Lyon, Don MacDonald, Phyllis Madden (PMa), Jim & Gloria Maender (J & GMa), Dave Mark (DMa), Phil Mattocks, Merle McGraw. Larry McQueen. B. & J. Micklejohn. M. Vincent Mowbray, Harry Nehls, Mike Newton, Lars Norgren, Robert Olson, Dennis Paulson, Michael Perrone, Roy Phillips, Eleanor Pugh, Bill Roe, Fred Ramsey, Alan Richards, Leila Roberts, Robin & Wilma Robinson. Mike Rodway. Glen Ryder, Ron Satterfield, Bill Savale, Emile Schoffelin. Floyd Schrock. Michael & Theresa Shepard, Doris Smith, Jan Smith, Eleanor Stopps (ESt). Steve Summers, Colleen Sweeney, Otis Swisher, J. B. Tatum, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, William Thackaberry, Ron Toonen, Gus Van Vliet, Terry Wahl, Doug Weehsler, Tom & Todd Weir (T & TWe), John Wingfield.

*The Winter Season, 1976-77*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Thomas H. Rogers**

The region's winter was almost uniformly mild and close to the driest on record. The valleys and slopes well up into the mountains, were snow free practically all winter. However, most reporters described a dearth of bird life and speculated that lack of snow made food easy to get, keeping birds widely dispersed and allowing northern birds, particularly the finches, to remain at higher latitudes and in the mountains. Dozens of semi-hardy species lingered late or wintered, and early spring arrivals were many. Lakes and reservoirs were low and numerous ponds and marshes completely dry.

LOONS, GREBES -- On Swan L., in Lake Co., Mont. single Com. Loons lingered until Dec. 6 and were on Flathead L., Jan. 29 & Feb. 1 (F.A.S.). They wintered in small numbers on Okanagan L. B.C. A Red-necked Grebe was at Yellow Bay, Flathead L., Dec. 16 & Jan. 3 (DS). Single Horned Grebes apparently wintered on Flathead L. and possibly on Swan and Bitterroot Lakes in n.w. Montana (F.A.S.) and on Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. (SGS). An Eared Grebe stayed as late as Dec. 18 near Somers, Mont. (F.A.S.), and Hayden L, Ida. had two Dec. 12 (SGS).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- A White Pelican, probably sick, and a Double-crested Cormorant were at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., Jan. 5 (WHS). A Great Egret wintered in the farmlands near Lowden, Wash. (DL). The Nampa, Ida., area

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had Black-crowned Night-Herons up to Dec. 27 (G.E.A.S.) and one was at Rupert Jan. 18 (WHS). An Am. Bittern at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., Feb. 21 was extremely early (EH).

WATERFOWL -- The mid-winter tri-state Trumpeter Swan survey around Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Mont., Feb. 9 revealed 839 adults and 178 cygnets, up 40% over last winter. In s.e. Idaho 26 Trumpeters appeared wearing orange neck collars that had been attached in 1976 at Grande Prairie, Alta. Two Trumpeters were on Vaseux L., s. of Penticton, B.C., Jan. 29 (SRC). At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. the birds peaked at 30 in early December. Freezing of lakes at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., in January caused Trumpeter numbers to drop to 17 and Canada Geese numbers to 546. However, McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. had nearly 800 Canadas in late January, increasing to over 40,000 in February. Approximately 500 were on Sprague L near Sprague, Wash., Feb. 27 and Toppenish N.W.R. Wash. had a similar number Feb. 15. The Nampa area had 6700 Dec. 5 and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., peaked at 4200 in February A White-fronted Goose was believed to have wintered at Richland, Wash. (REW). The Idaho Fish and Game Dept. counted 48,000 ducks and 14,000 Canada Geese on Am. Fall Res. s. Ida. Jan. 10-11. Peak duck numbers at Columbia N.W.R. were 53,000 in December, down from 94,000 a year ago but Mallards reached 57,000 on the Columbia R. in McNary N.W.R., Jan. 25 and Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, had over 402,000 of this species. At Malheur N.W.R. the January freeze drove most ducks out. Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida. had 18-24,000 Mallards compared to the normal winter population of 50! A Black Duck appeared at Livingston, Mont. in January (HC, BFi). A Eur. Wigeon was observed on several dates at Kennewick, Wash., Dec. 19-Feb. 12 (CCo, REW). A few N. Shovelers lingered in the Nampa area until Dec. 27 and Lewiston, Ida. had five Jan. 8. Toppenish Creek had two in late December. Wood Duck numbers at Deer Flat N W.R., Nampa reached 200 in January, and about eight wintered near Vernon, B.C. Okanagan Landing near Vernon, B C had an Oldsquaw Jan. 15 and a d Harlequin Duck was on the Okanagan R., s. of Vaseux L., Dec. 31 (SRC). A male Surf Scorer on Swan L. near Vernon Dec. 26 was most unusual (JG). A few Ruddy Ducks appeared on the Clearwater R., near Lewiston and small numbers lingered on Okanagan L. up to mid- January. Rupert reported one Jan. 21. Two Red-breasted Mergansers appeared at Salmon, Ida. Dec. 31 (HBR).

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Two Turkey Vultures near Madras, Ore, Jan. 19 were remarkably early (CS) and the Ellensburg, Wash area had two Feb. 23, and four the next day (Y.A.S.). At least 14 widely scattered reports of Goshawk sightings were received. A few localities recorded Cooper's Hawk. In s.e. Washington, mostly around Toppenish N.W.R., 42 days' observing yielded 14 sightings (EH) and the birds regularly picked off songbirds at feeders in Missoula, Mont (SF). A dark-phase Swainson's Hawk was carefully observed Dec. 18 near Wenatchee, Wash. (N.C.A.S.), and one was reported at Wenas L., Feb. 26 (Y A.S.). Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low in most 1ocalities but appeared normal at Salmon, Ida. and "hundreds" were reported in the Rupert, Ida. area (WHS). Ferruginous Hawks made remarkable winter appearances in five localities: one w of Blackfoot, Ida. Dec. 16 (CHT); in the Rupert, Ida., area (WHS); at Tumalo, Ore., Jan. 30 (JJ); one near Sheridan, Mont, Jan. 28 (TSB, CSu), and one in Helena (Christmas Bird Count) Bureau of Land Management Bald Eagle counts for Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d' Alene L. showed a rise in numbers from seven Dec. 3 to a peak of 73 (67 ad., six imm.), Dec. 29, then a drop to seven Feb. 23 (JLi). The mid-winter U.S.F. & W.S. census from Columbia Falls to Polson and Ninepipe N.W.R., Pablo and w. to Thompson Falls in n.w. Montana found only 16, "down significantly" (GH). High count in the Pocatello, Ida area Feb. 5 was 38, about one-half of which were immatures. This is about one-half the normal number (CHT). Single Gyrfalcons were sighted in two localities in e. Washington. Southern Idaho seemed to have good numbers of Prairie Falcons but reports elsewhere were rather sparse. Only four Peregrine Falcon sightings came in, all (but one in Oregon), from British Columbia. Single Merlins were sighted at 16 localities scattered over the region. American Kestrels wintered in large numbers in s. Idaho and sparingly at several other localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- The mild, almost snowless winter apparently made it easy for this group. Two Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen in the Flathead Valley near Somers, Mont, Feb. 2, where the species apparently is scarce (F.A.S.). The only other report was from Idaho: 12 at Nampa. Sage Grouse were reported at Rupert, Ida. and s. of Creston, Wash. Up to 30 Mountain Quail appeared in the Nampa area (G.E.A.S.) The Turkey population on Bozeman Pass, e. of Bozeman, Mont. was persisting. The only other record was of a male heard 5 mi n.e. of Lyle, Wash. (EH).

CRANES THROUGH COOTS -- Two Sandhill Cranes spent February in a field n.e. of Corvallis, Mont. (RS), and the species returned to Malheur N.W.R. by Feb. 13, eight days earlier than last year. The Nampa area had a Virginia Rail Dec. 30 (G.E.A.S.), one was heard at Toppenish N.W.R., *Dec. 21* (EH), and one was at a pond near Toppenish, Wash., Feb. 15 (ZB) Several Sofas were seen during late December and early January at Salmon, Ida. (HBR). Wintering Am. Coot numbers at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. were less than one-third of what they were last winter.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS -- In Idaho three Spotted Sandpipers persisted until Dec. 18 at Nampa (G.E. A. S.) and one was still at Salmon Jan. 16 (HBR)! A Greater Yellowlegs lingered at Nampa until Jan. 18 (G.E.A.S.) and one was found Dec. 25 near Springfield, Ida. (CHT). A Least Sandpiper stayed at the Yakima R. delta near Richland Dec. 4-Feb. 23 and about 30 Dunlin also wintered there (REW). A second-year **Glaucous Gull** was at the Coeur d' Alene city dump from at least Jan 29-Feb. 5 (BW, JA *et al*.) and an adult and two immatures were found on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Feb. 20 (SH, DP, MP) An adult was flushed from a Columbia R. island at Richland Dec. 11 (EH & REW). A gull believed to be a second-year Iceland Gull was observed at length and photographed Jan 29-30 and Feb. 5 at the Coeur d' Alene dump (BW, WH, ER, JR, THR & RW). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was along the Columbia R., at Alderdale, Wash., Dec. 30 (EH) and one was carefully identified Dec. 28 at Summerland, B.C. The species is very rare at any season in interior British Columbia (DC & RC & SC). Two ad. Thayer's Gulls were identified at Coeur d' Alene dump Feb. 19-21 (DP, JA, BW).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- Two Mourning Doves were seen near Ennis, Mont., Dec. 20 (CVD, LM, SMa & RAH) and one was e. of Bozeman Jan. 29 (JK). Twelve were found along the Flathead R. near Kalispell, Mont., Jan. 17 (BR) and Libby, Mont. had up to 27 (EE & RE). Twenty-five were still at Rupert at Christmas (WHS) and Nampa also had large numbers then (G.E.A.S.). Barn Owls were sighted at Lewiston, Rupert and Nampa, Ida., at Asotin, Walla Walla and Toppenish N W R, Wash., and at Umatilla, Ore. A Screech Owl at Sheridan, Mont in mid-January was noteworthy (JVB & TSB). A few Snowy Owls appeared in e. Washington from Spokane to Davenport. The Okanagan Valley of British Columbia had only two records, one at Vernon Dec. 30 (JTF) and one at Tranquille Jan. 2 (JAn) One at Bozeman Dec. 22-Jan. 4 was more unusual (HH, SCo, JF), Feb. 6 one appeared 25 mi. s.e. of Fortine, Mont. (WW); and one spent December and January in Pleasant Valley, 35 mi w of

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Kalispell, Mont. (BF). Only Canada reported the Hawk Owl; one at Edgewater n. of Radium Hot Springs, B.C., Feb. 21 (FK), one e. of Skookumchuck, B.C. (*fide* MVW), and one in Turner Valley in the mountains w. of Calgary. Alta. (MRL). The mild winter found several Burrowing Owls at Toppenish N.W.R. where they stayed in holes in the banks of Marian Drain, the main irrigation drain there, or lived in small pipes emptying into it (EH, Y.A.S). Two were at Rupert until Christmas (WHS) and one stayed at Pocatello until at least Dec. 18 (CHT). Besides four reports of Barred Owls from s. British Columbia one was noted four mi. e. of Pullman, Wash., Nov. 26-Dec. 17 (JWW) and one was sighted in Glacier N.P., Mont. (JDe, CM, NP, RT). The only Great Gray Owl reported was one perched on a telephone pole along the highway w. of Kalispell, Mont., Dec. 2 (BF). Short-eared Owls appeared scarce or rare in most localities. However, Toppenish N.W.R. had perhaps six (EH), and a small grassland near Vernon, B.C. had about eight wintering (JG). A single of the rarely observed **Boreal Owl** was photographed near Ross L., Yoho N.P., B.C., Dec. 8 (DHo) and another was observed from 15 ft. in daylight in the Chumstick Valley n. of Leavenworth, Wash, Jan. 6 (LG *et al*.). The only Saw-whet Owls were one at Orondo, Wash., Jan. 4 (PC & HO) and one freshly dead in a barn m West Richland, Wash., Jan. 26 or 27 (JD).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- One male and one female Anna's Hummingbirds were at a Yakima feeder Dec. 4 (CSL) and the species was reported again there Feb. 13 (Y.A.S.). One in West Wenatchee Jan. 5 was probably of this species (LG). More surprising was an imm. male at a Spokane feeder from Jan 10 (JA, JR *et al*.) for that city's second record-the first in winter An ad. female **Anna's Hummingbird** at a Lewiston feeder Nov. 20-Dec. 17 was Idaho's first (EMc, JWW, JWo). In British Columbia an adult and an immature were at Kelowna at least to December's end (RY) and two imm. were at Penticton Jan. 21 (SRC). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in the Nampa area Dec. 30 (SRu). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker stayed in Rupert until Feb. 4 (WHS). Belatedly reported were two White-headed Woodpeckers near Lakeside, Mont., Oct. 26 (EGR). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was observed at Bitterroot L, Mont., Dec. 15 (BF) and four sightings were made in the Yoho N.P., Nicholson area (RRH). About 100 Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co., Wash. (EH). Say's Phoebes apparently wintered for the first time on record at Penticton; two were there Dec. 27-28 and Feb. 18 & 23 (SRC). One was found near Wenatchee Jan. 24 (PC) and Toppenish N.W.R. had one Dec. 18 & Jan. 3 (EH). The species had returned to Malheur N.W.R., Feb. 15 (*cf* Mar. 9, 1976) and one was near Genesee, Ida. Feb. 17 (DLH) and one or two were in the Lewiston-Clarkston area Feb. 26-27 (EMc). Ten Violet-green Swallows over the Spokane R. below Spokane (WH) and along the Columbia R., w. of Quincy, Wash. (N.C.A.S.) both Feb. 26 were the earliest ever. Two of this species and one Tree Swallow along the Columbia R. at Beverly Feb. 20 were the earliest ever for e Washington by eight days (SH, DP, MP). Richland had four or five over the Yakima R. on the unusually early date of Feb 26 (EM).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- The Blue Jay invasion was impressive. The species was noted in the Bozeman area Dec. 26 (BRu, JRu, SR), at nearby Belgrade Feb. 12-13, and five regularly October through February in Sheridan, Mont. (JVB, TSB). Another sizable group was reported to have wintered in Twin Bridges, Mont. One stayed through the winter in Hamilton, Mont., and others in the same valley at Lick Creek Campground (*fide* RS). The Nampa, Ida., area reported a counted high of 18 on Feb. 21, but at least twice that number were believed present (JH) and the birds appeared consistently at Lewiston (DK) Six were seen 7 mi. e. of Moscow, Ida., Dec. 15 and one at the same location Dec. 20 & Jan. 3 (DLH). The Pullman-Moscow CBC had 24. In British Columbia one was at Nicholson Feb 20 (RRH), singles were at two feeders regularly in Kimberley (PM, MVW), three wintered at Revelstoke (JW), and Nelson had three Dec. 26 (AH, DH, VR). Blue Jays also appeared at Walla Walla and remained to the end of February (SM) and one was seen m Richland periodically Nov. 27-Jan. 22 (LL, REW). At Spokane up to ten frequented a feeder quite regularly at the w. base of Browne Mt. from fall through the winter period (JR, THR *et al*.). One in Helena overwintered and was frequently seen at a feeder (AS). A Com. Crow in Golden, B.C., Feb. 13, one in Field, B.C., Feb. 22 and a few at Brisco, B.C., Feb. 15, if overwintering, would have been the first recorded (RRH). Mountain areas reported moderate numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers, 25 was the largest group, at Browne Mt., Feb. 12. A Mountain Chickadee at Richland Jan. 23 was very unusual (EH). Twelve Com. Bushtits were positively identified in the Blue Mts. just e. of Walla Walla Dec. 18 (MC, KK, JWo). The only others were ten at Alderdale, Wash., Dec. 1 (EH). A Pygmy Nuthatch at Sheridan, Mont., Jan 4 was the first ever for that area (JVB, TSB). A Winter Wren at Nicholson, B.C., Feb. 26 was extremely early. It is believed that the species has never wintered there (RRH). A Bewick's Wren wintered one mi. n. of Asotin, Wash. and made the second record for that area (JWW). The species wintered at Walla Walla in numbers somewhat lower than seen in summer (KK). A Rock Wren was heard along Alder Creek in e. Klickitat Co, Wash., Dec. 30 & Mar. 4 (EH) and one wintered at Naramata, B.C. where winter records are few (JL). One was at Asotin, Wash., Jan. 25 (JWW).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- American Robins wintered sparingly, in contrast to last winter's hordes. A Varied Thrush appeared near Arrow Rock Res., e. of Boise, Feb 18 (EC). The only Hermit Thrush sightings were in February, one in Richland, Wash. (REW) and one in Hermiston, Ore. (CCo) Three Mountain Bluebirds at Minidoka N.W.R., Feb. 16 were the earliest on record there (WHS) and also were the earliest regionally. Golden-crowned Kinglets, normally rare in winter m the Yoho-Nicholson area, were seen a number of times during the period (RRH), presumably held by mild conditions. Water Pipits were feeding along the edge of the ice on the Yakima R at Richland Jan. 10-14 (EM). Five at Sunriver, Ore. were also unusual (JB). The Nampa area had rather large numbers in December (G.E.A.S.). The Bozeman and Gardiner, Mont areas seemed to have the biggest concentration of Bohemian Waxwings; some other areas had average or lower numbers, likely related to rather large numbers in the Yoho-Golden-upper Columbia R. Valley. Ten Cedar Waxwings were still at Nicholson, B.C., Dec. 24 (*fide* FK). In addition to the usual N. Shrikes, several reports of wintering Loggerhead Shrikes came in. One was at Asotin, Wash., Dec. 18-Jan. 25 for that area's first winter record (JWW). Toppenish N.W.R. had one Dec. 9 & 21 and Alderdale, Wash. had two Jan. 4 (EH). Columbia N.W.R. reported one Jan. 18 (DB). In Idaho two were reported at Salmon, Dec. 31 (HBR) and at Nampa there were two Dec. 18 and one Feb. 21 (G.E.A.S.).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -– Orange-crowned Warblers overwintered at Richland in small numbers (EM, EMi) and Hermiston, Ore. had one Jan. 10 (CCo). One or two were at Nampa on three dates Dec. 17-Jan. 1, and one found dead was preserved as a specimen (BS). Most surprising was a Nashville Warbler at a Pullman feeder on Dec. 23, for e. Washington's first winter record (IOB & JWW). A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler at Vernon, Dec. 23 was the first in winter there (PS). Two N. Waterthrushes on the Pocatello CBC were remarkable. Western Meadowlarks were two weeks early at Kimberley, B.C. (MVW) and Feb. 19 was a very early date for Coeur d'Alene (SGS). Bozeman had one January record (PDS) and four were

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near Kalispell in mid-January (F.A.S.). Only Toppenish N.W.R. reported wintering Yellow-headed Blackbirds, two Dec. 7 and one Jan. 22 & 27 (EH). A late Rusty Blackbird was at Nicholson, B.C., Dec. 5-13 (FK), the only locality reporting the species. A Brewer's Blackbird was at Colton, Wash., Jan. 22 OWW). Small numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds were regular with large flocks of Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds all winter at Toppenish N.W.R. (EH).

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks were unreported from e. Oregon, were very sparse or absent in e. Washington and the Okanagan of British Columbia but seemed more nearly normal elsewhere. However, moderate numbers were in the Golden, B.C. area and up to 60 frequented a feeder at Invermere, B.C. Supposedly, most of the birds stayed at higher altitudes or in the northerly parts of the region. One female Purple Finch was reported at Wiley City near Yakima Dec. 12 (EH). Wintering Cassin's Finches were practically nonexistent. Bozeman had its first winter record for the House Finch, with seven at a feeder in December and January (EHa, CH). Pine Grosbeaks went virtually unseen in the valleys. A few wintered in Bozeman and at Bigfork, a few were seen in the Yoho-Nicholson area and a few wintered at approximately 6000 ft. in Mt. Revelstoke N.P., B.C. (UW). Jim Grant strongly suspected an actual scarcity of the birds for he found none in the mountains at 4000-6000 ft. near Vernon. The only other locality reporting them was Bumping L. in the mountains w. of Yakima: one bird Dec. 14 (IL). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches seemed concentrated mostly in the Revelstoke-Glacier-Yoho N.P. area and in the Gardiner- Bozeman area. At Gardiner 2000+ were in one flock Jan. 18 (JQ). The same locality had 24 Black Rosy Finches Dec. 19 (JQ) and Pocatello had two Dec. 18 (CHT). Two Hoary Red polls were with Com. Redpolls at Nicholson Jan. 16-21 (FK, RRH). Practically all the Com. Redpolls appeared to have stayed in Canada; good numbers appeared around Mt. Revelstoke (JW) and Yoho N.P. (RRH). Pine Siskin reports were sparse; the birds may have wintered in northern and mountain areas for they appeared in Yoho N.P., Feb. 17 for that area's first winter record and increased in numbers all month (RRH). Twenty Am. Goldfinches at Revelstoke Jan. 1 supplied the first winter record in that area UW). Red Crossbills apparently stayed in the mountains for the most part. Around Revelstoke they were abundant all winter at 3000-4000 ft. (UW). In the mountains around Wenatchee, Wash. the population was still high (PC). White-winged Crossbills were found mostly in the Yoho-Nicholson area and were singing and carrying nest material in Mt. Revelstoke N.P. at 4000 ft., Feb. 23 (JW). Otherwise the species was seen only at Pocatello, a single bird Dec. 18 (CHT).

SPARROWS -- Wintering Rufous-sided Towhees were exceedingly scarce or absent from most localities. The Yakima area seemed to have the most; a feeder near Moxee had six at a feeder all winter. Spokane recorded a very early one Feb. 23 (JR). A few Savannah Sparrows wintered at Walla Walla (KK) and one was found on Sunnyside Game Range near Yakima Jan. 16 (EH). Sage Sparrows were sighted on Yakima Indian Reservation and at Hanford Atomic Energy Res. in late February (ZB & EH). At least two Dark-eyed Juncos were at Golden through January and were not using feeders and two were at Invermere Feb. 8 (RRH). Four Tree Sparrows on Yakima Indian Reservation, Feb. 27 were considered noteworthy (Y.A.S.). Nampa had Chipping Sparrows as late as Dec. 27 (G.E.A.S.) and one was with White-crowned Sparrows at Toppenish N.W.R., Dec. 21 (EH). A few Harris' Sparrows wintered. Of special note were two near Kalispell Feb. 15 (BR) and one at a feeder in that city (LB). A White-crowned Sparrow was found along the Flathead R. near Kalispell Dec. 23 (BR). A few Golden-crowned Sparrows were wintering in the brushy foothills of Yakima and Klickitat Cos., Wash. and one showed up at Umatilla N.W.R., Ore., Feb. 27 (CCo). White-throated Sparrows were reported along Rattlesnake Creek at Missoula (AB). A few Fox Sparrows apparently wintered in the Yakima area; the Ahtanum area had three Dec. 9 (ZB), and Toppenish N.W.R. had singles Jan. 15 & 29 (EH). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were found at Toppenish N.W.R. Dec. 14 and Sunnyside Game Range Jan. 16 (EH). Only Rupert reported Lapland Longspurs, a few in late December (WHS). Apparently very few Snow Buntings made it below the Canadian border. Most of the sightings, involving very moderate numbers, were in the Glacier-Yoho N.P. area, with an additional sighting at Kelowna.

OBSERVERS CITED -- UA) James Acton, (JAn) Jerry Ansell. Arnold Bolle. Ladd Bjorneby. Jay Bowerman, Dave Brown, J.V. & T.S. Burns, I. O. Buss, Zelia Butler, Dick & Rob Cannings, (SC) Sid Cannings, (SRC) Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Erwin Carson, Phil Cheney, Mark Conwell, (CCo) Craig Corder, (SCo) Sharon Cotterell. C. V. Davis, (CD) Jeff Dawson, (JDe) Jerry DeSanto, Esther & Ray Enders, (BF) Barbara Fenner, John Fisher, (BFi) Bebe Fitzgerald, Flathead Audubon Society, Jack T. Fowle, Sidney Frissell, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Larry Goodhew, James Grant, Gary Hagedom, Warren Hall, Camille Harper, (EHa) Ed Harper, Harry Hausser, R. A. Hays, James Heckathorn, Sue Hills, David L. Holick. (DHo) Dennis Horwood, Ann Howe, (DH) Dick Howe, R. R. Howie. (EH) Eugene Hunn, Julie Johnson, Jim Kamp, Dwight Kilgore, Frances King, Ken Knittle, C. S. Ladley, Don Lee, Lillian Leggett, M. R. Lein (JL) Jay Lewis, (JLi) Joe Lint, Isabelle Lynn, Peggy MacPherson, (EMc) Ed McVicker, (SMa) Sid Martin, (EMi) Ed Miller, Cindy Mish, (EM) Elisabeth Moore, Louis Moos, (SM) Shirley Muse, North Central Audubon Society. Howard Oswood, Nancy Paul. Dennis Paulson, Mike Perrone, Joyce Queckborner, Ed Reynolds. (JR) Jan Reynolds, Hadley B. Roberts, Vera Robinson, (SR) Sam Rogers, T. H. Rogers, (BR) Betty Rose, E. Gail Royer, (SRu) Sybil Rudisell, (BRu) Bob Rumely, (JRu) John Rumely, Ann Scofield, Belle Shaw, W. H. Shillington, P. D. Skaar, (CS) Christy Steck, Shirley G. Sturts, Dan Sullivan, (CSu) Charles Sundstrom, Ruby Sutherland, Pat Swift, Rick Trembath, C. H. Trost, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton. Mildred V. White, Robert Wilson. (JWo) Jim Wolcott, Robert E. Woodley, (JW) John Woods, Yakima Audubon Society, Robin Yellowlees.

*The Winter Season, 1976-77*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

Precipitation in the Pacific Northwest from November through February was at record low levels. Mid-January brought colder-than-normal temperatures to the Region for more than a week. A number of shorebird species were found at unprecedented dates and places, while certain expected winter resident predator species did not appear in the numbers they had in recent past years. Wandering finches were comparatively unrecorded. For a more complete overview of the Northern Pacific Coast Region's winter birdlife, reference to the Region's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) should be made, as those records are, for the most part omitted from the season's summary which follows.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS--Six Yellow-billed Loons were found in the region during the report period; two from s.e. Vancouver I., two from Puget Sound, one from Ocean Shores, Wash., and one from Yaquina Bay, Oreg., the latter bird observed only Jan. 22. On Feb. 26 there were *1300* Arctic Loons at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., B.C. Red-throated Loons were little reported and deemed to be scarce by observers who commented. At Cordova Spit, Saanich, B.C., Feb. 5 there were *127* Red-necked Grebes (VG, RS). On Dec. 11, *60* Eared Grebes were counted at Whidbey I., Wash. (TW). On two separate cruises off the Washington and Oregon coasts, Jan. 7-13 and 29-30, Terry Wahl saw up to seven Black-footed Albatrosses on four different dates and single Laysan Albatrosses off the Washington coast Jan. 29 and off the Oregon coast Jan. 30. A few N. Fulmars were off Washington, Jan. 7-13, and large numbers were feeding off Cape Blanco, Oreg. Jan. 30 (TW); 23 birds of this species were seen on LaPerouse Bank, off Vancouver I. Feb. 13 (MS, *fide* VG). Four Sooty Shearwaters were off Grays Harbor, Wash., Jan. 11, and six were seen off the coast Jan. 29 (TW). On Jan. 11 a single Short-tailed Shearwater was observed out of Grays Harbor and another was found off s. Oregon Jan. 30 (TW). A dead Leach's Storm-Petrel was picked up on a golf course at Metchosin, Vancouver I., Feb. 22 (*fide* VG). Single Green Herons were found at various dates in January at Olympia (G & WH, BH-T), at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Oreg. and at Tillamook (DDS). Numbers of Cattle Egrets in the region were at record levels, with six at Coos Bay, up to a dozen in Tillamook County, Oreg. single birds at Ocosta. Grays Harbor County, at Queets in Washington, and at Port Alberni, B.C.; a lone bird reached Cape Scott Light Station on the n.w. tip of Vancouver I., Dec. 28 (D & LW, *fide* VG)! At Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Oreg., up to 20 Great Egrets were found in January and February, while concurrently a half dozen were resident at Tillamook Bay. Single Great Egrets also were noted at Leadbetter Pt., Willapa Bay, Wash., Dec. 18 (EP, *fide* PM) and at Bay Center a few miles across the bay. Feb. 4 (BH-T). A Snowy Egret was at Coos Bay Dec. 12 to the end of the report period (AC, BF *et al*.). More than a dozen Black-crowned Night Herons remained in n. Portland all winter (HN); several birds also were seen in Seattle Dec. 26-Jan. 8 (*fide* PM), and one was observed at Salem, Oreg., Jan. 13 (TC). There were eight sightings of Am. Bitterns from w. Washington and n.w. Oregon Dec. 11-Feb. 15. A Least Bittern was seen repeatedly until mid-February at Medford (JH, MM).

WATERFOWL--Up to 85 Whistling Swans were noted in four localities on s. Vancouver I. at various times during the season (RWC, VE, *fide* VG, JCo); small flocks were reported wintering in the Columbia R. bottoms n.w. of Portland. Approximately 200 Whistling Swans were at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., near Florence, Oreg. Feb. 2 (CB), and twelve were at Nehalem, Oreg. Jan. 29 (JBC). Trumpeter Swans were more reported than ever before, with two reports of up to 120 individuals in January from Skagit County, Wash., being the peak concentrations; up to 60 were noted near Campbell R., B.C., Dec. 28 (*fide* HT) and 28 were recorded near Bamfield, B.C., Dec. 10 (KT, *fide* VG); other observations of up to five individuals were made from a number of localities on Vancouver I., from around Puget Sound, and from Sauvie I., on the Columbia R. 'Hundreds' of Brant were at Dungeness, Wash., Jan. 6 (KG, *fide* DS); 350 were at Tillamook Bay, Jan. 29 (JBC). An ad. Emperor Goose was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash. in flight but at close range Dec. 18 (DHn, *fide* PM). Single White-fronted Geese wintered at Grants Pass, Oreg., (S & PS) and at a spot 10 mi. n. of Gold Beach, Oreg. (WHo); one was seen at Dungeness in mid-January (KG, *fide* DS), another was at Ridgefield N.W.R., Feb. 5 (JBC *et al*.), up to three individuals were in the vicinity of Victoria, B.C., Jan. 26-Feb. 19 (VG, RS), and three were at Somenos L., Vancouver, I., Feb. 24 (JCo). Approximately 200 Snow Geese spent the winter at Sauvie I. and the nearby Ridgefield N.W.R.; two individuals were on Greater Chain I., n.e. of Victoria, Dec. 18 (RWC, *fide* VG).

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Gadwall were reported (aside from CBCs) at five different localities in w. Washington, s. Vancouver I., and n.w. Oregon in numbers of up to thirteen. Two male Eurasian Green-winged Teals were observed at Somenos L. and at Cowichan Bay, Jan. 7-Feb. 10 (JCo *et al*.); one was found at Sauvie I., Dec. 16 (TC). The *180* Green-winged Teal at Duncan, B.C., Jan. 15 (RS, *fide* VG) was a high concentration for that locality and date. A male Blue-winged Teal was noted at Ridgefield N.W.R., Dec. 16 (TC, JG), and a male Cinnamon Teal was found at Sauvie I., Dec. 11 & 19 (JG *et al*.). European Wigeon were found in small numbers as far s. as Delake, Lincoln Co., Oreg., with an estimated 15 individuals wintering in the vicinity of Victoria. Northern Shovelers were found in numbers of up to 100 at several places in w. Oregon during January and February (HN *et al*.). A flock of *220* Wood Ducks at Grants Pass, Feb. 5 (SS) was noteworthy; 14 were found at Duncan, B.C., Feb. 15 (VG). Up to four Redheads were on a pond near Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Oreg. after mid-January (JBC *et al*.), and up to five were found through the winter at Saanich, B.C. (VG *et al*.). Ring-necked Ducks were in good numbers at many favored localities on s. Vancouver I., in w. Washington, and in n. w. Oregon during the winter. In late December *1500* Barrow's Goldeneye were at Nanaimo, B.C. (JCo); *500* were at Olympia, Wash., Jan. 3 (*fide* G & WH). Up to 200 Oldsquaw spent the winter at Victoria (VG); there were 36 at Dungeness Bay, Jan. 6 (KG, *fide* DS), but otherwise a few were reported for Eld Inlet, in s. Puget Sound (BE, *fide* G & WH), and single birds were noted at Seattle Jan. 22 (DP, *fide* PM) and at Westport, Wash., Feb. 4 (TW). There were *170* Hooded Mergansers at Saanich Feb. 28, where 400 Com. Mergansers had been concentrated Jan. 16 (VG).

RAPTORS, CRANES, RAILS -- A lone Turkey Vulture was spotted at Medford, Oreg. Jan. 20 (MM, *fide* JH), another was at Seattle Jan. 22 (SP, *fide* PM), and two were seen the same day at Aurora, Oreg. (TC, JG). Nine White-tailed Kites wintered at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Oreg. an adult of this species was found 9 mi. e. of Bandon, Oreg., Jan 22 (JCs). Goshawks were reported sighted four times at three localities, Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted at a score of places with an estimated 30 individuals involved, and Cooper's Hawks were found at about 15 places with up to 20 individuals involved, all exclusive of CBCs. Rough-legged Hawks were very locally common at times during the season, with seven on each date at Portland Int'l Airport, Dec. 1 (DF), at Willapa Bay, and Ilwaco, Wash., Feb. 4 (BH-T), and at Ridgefield N.W.R., Feb. 5 (JBC *et al*.). One or two Golden Eagles were seen on s. Vancouver I. on several dates, near Rockport, Skagit Co., Wash., in the Cascades, and at Medford, at one time or another during the report period. A Golden Eagle was picked up near dead, apparently from starvation, at L. Cowichan, Vancouver I., Jan. 2 weighing just three pounds; by Feb. 28 the bird was up to nine pounds and ready to be released (JCo). Up to 700 Bald Eagles were present at Seymour I., B.C., in mid- February (GP, *fide* HT), and 352 were reported at the mouth of the Harrison R., mainland British Columbia, Jan. 19 (RWC *et al*, *fide* VG); the species was seen often on s. Vancouver I., in Skagit and Whatcom Cos., Wash., around Puget Sound, along the Columbia R. below Portland, and on the n w Oregon coast, adding up to the largest wintering numbers in a long time. A Marsh Hawk at Oyster R., Vancouver I., Jan. 3, is said to be the "first confirmed winter record for the Campbell R. area" (HT). Four Ospreys were seen in Washington and Oregon--one in December, the others in February. Reports of three Gyrfalcons were received, two from Washington and one from Oregon Single Prairie Falcons spent much of the winter at Sauvie I. near Corvallis, and n. of Medford. Surprisingly, one was seen on the coast at the mouth of the Pistol R., Curry Co., Oreg., Jan. 31 (WHo). About 20 Peregrines were recorded from a dozen different localities during the report period; the same statement summarizes the season's status for Merlins. On Dec 16 there were still two Sandhill Cranes at Ridgefield N.W.R., and 21 were observed at Sauvie I. nearby Dec. 19 (JG *et al.*). Virginia Rails were recorded up to six at a time in December, the most favored localities being Bellevue, Seattle, Vashon I., and Ocean Shores (*fide* PM), while on Cortes I., B.C., 14 birds were counted Dec. 13 (AD, *fide* VG). Single Sofas were reported from four different w. Washington locations up to mid-January.

SHOREBIRDS -- The 29 Semipalmated Plovers at Aberdeen, Wash., Feb. 19 (G & WH) were decidedly out of the ordinary. An Am. Golden Plover in full breeding plumage, seen initially at Tillamook Bay on the CBC, was still there Dec. 23 (DDS). Concentrations of 232 Black-bellied Plovers at Tillamook Bay, Jan. 23 (DF), and 275 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Jan. 29 (DF, HN) were unusual, as were 56 at Saanich, Jan. 5 (LR, *fide* VG). Up to five Whimbrels were seen one or more times during the winter season from Saanich, Victoria, Ocean Shores, Tillamook, and Yaquina Bay. A Wandering Tattler was well seen at Ocean Shores on the surprising date of Feb. 26 (DH, AR). Willets were present at favored places in the region in record numbers for any season; up to 24 were at North R., Willapa Bay, during mid- February (RE, BW, G & WH), 25 were at Yaquina Bay Jan 23 (TC), and ten were at Coos Bay for the CBC. Greater Yellowlegs, too, were present in surprising winter numbers, centered primarily in the s. Straits of Georgia and Puget Sound, the 34 at Victoria for the CBC being the top count, but 20 s. of Courtenay, B.C., Dec. 19, (*fide* HT) and the 15 at Sidney, B.C., Feb. 19 (RS, *fide* VG) also being noteworthy. There were five reports of Lesser Yellowlegs, involving single birds except for four at Ocean Shores, Dec. 19 on the Grays Harbor CBC. Twenty-two Red Knots were present at Coos Bay from late December-Jan. 13 (AC, SG). On Jan. 17 there were 66 Rock Sandpipers at Race Rocks near Victoria (MS *et al*., *fide* VG). From Dec 9-25 five Short-billed Dowitchers were present at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I. (JCo *et al*.); a dozen birds of this species were found at Turner, near Salem, Oreg. Feb. 25 (TC). There were 45 Long-billed Dowitchers at Westport, Wash., Dec 18 (LB, BH-T); up to 17 individuals were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., and at five other locations on Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia, mostly in February. Marbled Godwits also were present at some localities in surprising numbers, the 22 at Ocosta, near Westport, Wash., Dec 30 being the largest concentration (DP, *fide* PM); a dozen were at Willapa Bay, Feb. 13, (RE, BW) while other places where the species was noted were Tillamook and Coos Bay.

GULLS, ALCIDS, OWLS -- Nine Glaucous Gulls were seen at as many different localities from Campbell R., s. to Portland and Otter Rock, Lincoln Co., Oreg. at various times during the winter. Terry Wahl reports the Herring Gull to have been the predominant gull well offshore from Washington and Oregon during January. More than the usual scattered few wintering California and Ring-billed Gulls were present this winter in w. Oregon. On Dec. 4, 600 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. (MS, *fide* VG) with 73 in Hart Strait Dec. 23 (RWC *et al*., *fide* VG). Blacklegged Kittiwakes were observed to be fairly well distributed off the coast in January, with particular concentrations off s. Oregon at the end of the month (TW); 200 were at the s jetty of the Columbia R, Feb 24 (MSm), while small

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numbers were recorded at six other localities, including two at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Oreg., Feb. 28 (*fide* HN). Large numbers of Corn. Murres were noted well offshore in January, particularly opposite Grays Harbor and Gold Beach, Oreg. (TW). Small numbers of Marbled Murrelets were m the Victoria area all winter (VG). Up to 375 Ancient Murrelets were in the vicinity of Victoria in the latter half of December (VG); 40 were observed at Saanich Feb. 5 (*fide* VG). Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets were found in scattered places over the edge of the continental shelf off Washington m January, and a few Cassin's Auklets were noted off s. Oregon at the end of the month (TW). On Jan. 9 a single Horned Puffin was identified 70 mi. off the Washington coast (TW). Small numbers of Tufted Puffins were observed there Jan. 7-13, and one was seen off s. Oregon Jan. 30 (TW). A few Snowy Owls were to be found in the region's most favored localities for this species--the flats from the Fraser R delta s. to Seattle--after mid-December; individuals were also recorded at Leadbetter Pt., Jan. 29, and at Coos Bay Dec 18 (AM, *fide* AC). There were eight records of Pygmy Owls from w. Whatcorn and Skagit Cos., Wash., during the winter (TW). Single Burrowing Owls were found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 24 & 26 (MSm, HN *et al*.) and at Ocean Shores Dec. 19 & 30 and Jan. 9 (DP, D & RWo, *fide* PM); the same individual could have been involved in all the sightings. Short-eared Owls were reported in small numbers from w. Washington during the winter, but several observers characterized those numbers as better than the last two years. One or two Saw-whet Owls were noted at Victoria and at Seattle on several dates in December and in early February.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Anna's Hummingbirds were again recorded in surprising winter season numbers; six wintered at Campbell River, B.C. feeders (HT *et al.)* three were at Maple Bay near Duncan (JCo), up to a half dozen or more were noted at one time or another in Victoria and in Saanich (VG *et al*.), and there were "good numbers" at Bellingham (TW); one was at Bellevue, Wash., for a month starting in mid-December, and single birds were recorded at Garibaldi, Oreg., Jan. 23 (DF) and at Portland Feb 8 (ES). The only report for Lewis' Woodpecker was of five individuals at Ashland, Oreg. Feb. 13 (DDS). Two Black Phoebes were found along the Applegate R., near Ruch, Jackson Co., Oreg., Feb. 13 & 19 (DDS, TC, JG, MSm). Sixty Skylarks were found at American Camp on San Juan Wash, Jan. 1-2 (LA, *fide* PM) and 50 were observed at Saanich Dec. 28 (VG *et al*.). There were 25 Horned Larks at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 24 (HN *et al*.); one was at Victoria Dec. 18-27 (VG *et al*.). Violet-green Swallows were seen at Sauvie I. and at Saanich, Feb. 19, while Tree Swallows were noted back in the region Jan. 29 when one was seen near Grants Pass (PS), with observations being made as far n. as Vancouver I. and n. Washington by mid- February. A Blue Jay appeared at Victoria Jan. 21-22 and Feb 5 (VG *et al*.); one was at Duncan through the winter, and one was seen at Finley N.W.R., in Oregon Feb. 26 (SJ) Two Blue Jays were seen repeatedly at L. Vancouver, w of Vancouver, Wash., and two others came regularly to feeders in Washougal, 25 mi. farther e. through much of the winter (AA, JG *et al*.). A Scrub Jay frequented a feeder at Chehalis, Wash., from late December through January (KB, S & ER, *fide* PM). Single Black-billed Magpies were seen at Seattle, Dec. 13, Feb. 8 & 21 (EG, GK, B & PEv, *fide* PM) and at Des Moines, Wash., Jan. 14 (KS, *fide* PM). Two Plain Titmice were found at Medford Feb 19 (JG *et al*.). Red-breasted Nuthatches were little remarked upon, and seem to have been present in relatively low numbers this winter. Twelve Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Sauvie I., Feb 19 (DF, DI) and 30-40 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 24 (MSm *et al*.) were evidently newly arrived, since such numbers had not been recorded earlier in the winter from these locations. A Mockingbird was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, through December (WJ *fide* BK); one appeared m Portland in mid-January and remained for the rest of the winter (MK, HN *et al*.). Observers were generally agreed that Am Robins were virtually absent from w. Oregon in January and the first half of February, while Varied Thrushes were little noted anywhere in the region, with frequent comment upon their absence. Between 25-100 W. Bluebirds were present Feb. 15-17 at Metchosin, Vancouver I. (JR, *fide* VG); the total of 49 on the Dallas, Oregon CBC was noteworthy. A Townsend's Solitaire at Tillamook Jan. 23 was the only one recorded for the report period (DF, DI).

WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- Cedar Waxwing flocks were noted in Olympia until mid-January, but thereafter were sporadic (BH-T); they were absent from Portland until February. In Port Angeles, Wash., 50 Cedar Waxwings were seen Jan. 19 (KG, *fide* DS). Northern Shrikes were present only in small numbers, being seen at Campbell R., Victoria, and Dungeness on repeated occasions, at Ridgefield N.W.R. and at Vancouver, Wash., twice, and once at Westham I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., and at Tillamook Up to a half million Starlings were roosting at Gresham, Oreg, Feb. 24 (DDS *et al*.). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were noted at Saanich Dec. 14, at Esquimalt Jan. 6, and at Victoria Feb. 13 (*fide* VG). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Hoquiam, Wash., Dec. 19 (EH, *fide* PM). On the same date five Townsend's Warbler was on Hornby I., s. of Courtenay, B.C. (WF, JL, *fide* HT); other individuals of this species were recorded in the Seattle area until Jan 4, and on a number of CBCs. A Palm Warbler, first found on the CBC, was subsequently seen Dec. 30, Jan. 6 & Feb 26 at Ocean Shores (*fide* PM); another was seen repeatedly at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Oreg. after being first found Jan. 15 (HN *et al*.). Two Wilson's Warblers were seen at Bellevue, Wash., Dec. 11 (TWe, *fide* PM) and two were also recorded on the Coos Bay CBC. Two W. Meadowlarks were observed at Campbell R., Dec 12, one was there Jan. 3 and again Feb. 24 for the "first confirmed winter records for the area" (HT); Feb. 12 there were 22 W. Meadowlarks at Saanich, where almost that many had been seen Feb. 9 (VG *et al*.). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds was at Saanich, Dec. 4-5 (RS *et al*., *fide* VG). A male Hooded Oriole came to hummingbird feeders at Depoe Bay, Oreg. Dec. 1-29 and was photographed repeatedly (RB, TC *et al*.). An adult male N. Oriole was seen at Central Pt, Oreg., Dec. 11; presumably the same bird re-appeared there, Feb. 2-20 (Lois Smith, *fide* SS). A male Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Duncan, B.C., Dec. 30 (VG). There were six sightings of one or two Brown-headed Cowbirds at Vancouver, Saanich, Seattle and Olympia; ten individuals were at Ridgefield N.W.R., Jan. 30 (DDS).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were totally absent from much of the region this winter except for low numbers on s Vancouver I., and from Bellingham s. to Olympia. Purple Finches were scarce everywhere. February 1 at Paradise in Mt Rainier N.P., 18 Pine Grosbeaks were found (BH-T) Large numbers of Pine Siskins were reported only from Dungeness where they were present all winter (DS) A Lesser Goldfinch was recorded at Ridgefield N.W.R., Dec 16 (TC, DF, JG). Six Brown Towhees were counted at Medford Feb 19 (JG *et al.*) Up to four Savannah Sparrows

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were found at Ocean Shores Jan. 3 & 17 (G & WH) and at Seattle Feb. 11 (GUV *et al.*, *fide* PM). Lone Tree Sparrows were at Saanich Nov. 28-Jan. 22 (VG *et al*.) and at Coos Bay in late December (AC). Several Chipping Sparrows wintered at or near Medford (SS, JG *et al*.). The only report for Harris' Sparrow was one at Coos Bay in late December (AC). Single White-throated Sparrows turned up at Saanich Dec. 14-15 (RMG, V & MG *et al)* at Ocean Shores Dec. 18 (LB, BH-T, *fide* PM), and at Fife near Tacoma Jan. 16 (DE, *fide* PM). Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at five different localities at one time or another during the season. Up to 22 Lapland Longspurs were found on Greater Chain I., near Victoria Dec. 18-31 (RWC *et al*., *fide* VG); eight were at Ocean Shores Feb. 26 (DH, AR, *fide* PM). Snow Buntings were said to be "very scarce" at Bellingham this winter; single birds were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 14 & 26 (MSm, HN *et al*.), and at Ocean Shores Feb. 26, but 21 were at Leadbetter Pt., Feb. 8 (DH).

OBSERVERS -- Linda Anchondo, Art Arp, Range Bayer, Laurence Binford, Charles Bruce, Ken Brunner, R. Wayne Campbell, Jim Collins (JCs), John Cromer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., Dave DeSante, Adrian Dorst, Ruby Egbert. Doris Erickson, Val Eshleman, Betty Estes, Bob & Pat Evans (B & PEv), Ben Fawver, W. Fitzpatrick, David Fix, Eugene Gerzenstein, Jeff Gilligan, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Sayre Greenfield, Karl Greubel, Dudley P. Harrington (DHn), Bill Harrington-Tweit, Dave Hayward, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, David Irons, Stewart Janes, Winnie Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Grace Kent, Mark Koninendyke, J. Lunum, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Alan McGie, Merle McGraw, Harry Nehls, G. Palmer, Dennis Paulson, Evelyn Peaslee, Stella Porubov, Sam & Erma Rich, Alan Richards, Leila Roberts, John Royle, Ron Satterfield, Emile Schoffelen, Kathleen Seekins, Michael Shepard, Doris Smith, Mark Smith (MSm), Steve & Priscilla Summers, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, Gus Van Vliet, Terry Wahl, Don & Linda Weeden, Tom Weir (TWe), Burr Williams, Doug & Robin Wood (D & RWo).

*Spring Migration, 1977*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Thomas H. Rogers**

Effects of the continuing severe drought furnished the dominating theme for the story of bird activity during the region's spring. Water-associated birds were naturally affected most. Some species apparently moved northward with little pause or were diverted from their usual routes because of restricted water habitat. Both Egrets and Black-necked Stilts, normally rare, in most of the region made unprecedented appearances, presumably because drought to the south forced them northward. Scarcity of some groups, such as hummingbirds and warblers, may have been drought-related. Mild, very dry March and April resulted in many early arrivals, some extreme. May was about normal for both temperature and precipitation and in some cases slowed the trend toward early arrival; in other instances some very early appearances occurred during the month. The region entered the summer with the poorest prospects on record for water and vegetative growth with rivers, lakes and reservoirs low, ponds dry and the snow pack in the mountains almost nonexistent. In a region of normally dry summers it was almost certain that the worst was yet to come.

LOONS, GREBES -- An Arctic Loon in breeding plumage showed up on Emerald L., Yoho N.P., B.C., May 19 for the first spring record for that part of the province (DH, TH). A Red-necked Grebe at Three Forks, Mont., Apr. 11 made only the third local spring record there (SC, RL). Eared Grebes, formerly thought to be rare in Yoho N. P., were recorded on at least seven dates May 12-23 (RRHI). About 2100 were

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on Stinking L., Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., through April and were on territory by mid-May. Western Grebes there numbered only 730 compared to last year's 1700.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans numbered 200 on Am. Falls Res., near Pocatello, Ida., May 28 and one at Salmon, Ida., May 9 was HR's first there. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 25 active Double-crested Cormorant nests, up from 13 last year (MB).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES-- A **Cattle Egret** arrived at Rupert, Ida. May 9 and by May 17 seven were there (WHS). At Malheur N.W.R., the species continued to increase since its first appearance in 1974 (LDN). One just s. of Dillon May 7 provided Montana's first record ever (LM). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had two Great Egrets May 26 (EH, PM) and n Idaho had its first record of the species May 22 at Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L. (SS, THR, BW). A few were at Malheur N W R., in late March (DMF) and Ninepipe N.W.R. had one Apr 9 (BC). A pond 3 mi w. of Clarkston, Wash., had one May 29 (JR) and Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., hosted one Apr. 2 & May 2 (GS). The species was reported at Rupert May 2 (WHS). About 50 Snowy Egret nests were believed to be on an island in the Portneuf R., near Pocatello (CHT). One bird was in the Helena Valley, Mont., May 5 (RT) and the species was reported at Salmon, Ida. Apr. 24 (HBR). The Nampa, Ida., area reported four Apr. 26 (G.E.A.S.) and one was photographed along the Snake R., w. of Clarkston, May 1, having been first seen in late April (SM, JW). One was at Badger L., s of Cheney, Wash., May 20-27 (JA, WH, FO, BW). The old Black-crowned Night Heron breeding spot near St Andrews, Wash., was devoid of the birds, apparently the victims of cultivation and too much bird-watching. The species seemed in normal numbers elsewhere. A new colony was discovered on the Portneuf R., near the Trout farm; 60 young were banded there. Trout farm personnel were reported to be still shooting herons; efforts to stop it had limited success (CHT). A **Least Bittern** was found 3 mi s.w. of Malheur N. W.R. headquarters Apr. 29 (LDN). White-faced Ibises showed an increase over past years there; drought in Nevada was the suspected cause. Flocks of 90+ were regular there in May. Rupert, Ida. had 62 May 2 and Manhattan, Mont., the only other locality, had them Apr. 30.

WATERFOWL -- A Mute Swan was on a pond at the n. end of Okanagan L., B.C., Apr. 3 (JG). The peak of 11,118 Whistling Swans at Malheur was about 10% below last spring's and 50% below 1975's. Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had a peak of 25 in early May. Three were on Windermere L., s. of Radium Hot Springs, B.C., May 11 (JWo). Canada Geese nesting pairs were down 17% on Malheur Refuge, and 31% in the refuge vicinity. Seven Cackling Geese appeared at Reardan, Wash., Mar. 5 (JA). Three White-fronted Geese stopped at Mondovi, 7 mi. n.e. of Davenport, Wash., Mar 19-Apr. 3 (JA) and one was at Tranquille just w. of Kamloops, B.C., Mar. 12 (JAn). Because of water lack, Snow Geese peaked at Malheur at about 18,000, about a third of last year's number. The Nampa, Ida., area had 1000 Apr. 6. A **Ross' Goose** was with a flock of 9000 Snow Geese at Crane, just e. of Malheur Ref., Mar. 23 (DMF). A shortage of refuge reports made most waterfowl estimates risky Mallards at Turnbull peaked at 2000, two-thirds of last year's number. Pintails at Malheur reached 79,000 compared to 248,000 last year. "Huge flocks" tarried only a few days in stubble fields near Pocatello. At Turnbull they peaked at 1500, twice last year's number. Green-winged Teals at Malheur dropped to 3500 from 1976's 23,000. And Am. Wigeons dropped from 30,000 in 1976 to 5700, N. Shovelers from 17,000 to 4000; Canvasbacks from 4500 to 1500; and Ruddy Ducks from 21,500 to 19,000. Off the refuge duck pairs were down from 9060 pairs in 1976 to 1752. Surprisingly, Blue-winged Teals increased substantially at Malheur. Common Goldeneyes at 2000 at Turnbull were up nearly 100%. Unusual species records were: a **Black Duck** at Malheur May 5, the first since 1930 (DS, CT); single Eur. Wigeons at Kamloops Mar. 6 (JAn), at Reardan, Apr. 3, at Church Slough s. of Kalispell, Mont , Mar. 24 (LB), and at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont , Mar. 31 (DB). A male Wood Duck May 19 was the first for Glacier N.P., B.C. (JWo), and Yoho N.P. had three sightings in April and May. Two male Greater Scaup at Malheur May 7-8 may have wintered (DD). The Harlequin Duck was reported only from the Entiat R., Chelan Co., Wash., Apr 6 and at Longview, Alta., May 8. Montana's first Black Scoter, an Ø bird, appeared at Ennis May 29 (PDS, SC).

VULTURES, HAWKS: -- Unusual was the sighting of a Turkey Vulture, Apr. 17 w. of Kalispell (SJ, WJ). Goshawk numbers were encouraging, with 11 individual sightings and "unusually high numbers along Boulder R., s. of Big Timber, Mont." (VY). Numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks seemed reasonably good. A scattering of Swainson's Hawks was reported from c. Washington, s. Idaho, and the Bozeman and Helena areas. The scarce Ferruginous Hawk was sighted at six localities in Oregon and Washington, in the Flathead Valley s. of Kalispell, and on Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area s. of Nampa, where there were 15 pairs, with 32 pairs of Golden Eagles. Four active Bald Eagle nests were reported in Flathead County, Montana, one at Olney, one in a heronry near Kalispell and two near the mouth of the Flathead R. To the s.e., Swan L. also had one and two nests with nestlings were located about 60 mi n w of Helena (VY). Fifteen Prairie Falcon sightings were received, in addition to the report of *195* pairs [!?--Ed.] at Snake R. Birds of Prey Area. Four Peregrine Falcon sightings came in. There were nine reports of Merlins.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- A lone Bobwhite was noted in the Nampa, Ida. vicinity and six were found at Umatilla, Ore. A few Scaled Quail were in the juniper forest s e of Connell, and at the mouth of Crab Cr., Grant Co., Wash (EH, DW). The Wenas L. area n.w. of Yakima had eight Mountain Quail Mar. 25 (DHa). Japanese Green Pheasants were still holding on at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida, where at least one brood was seen. It has been four years since the last plant of the species there. The Nampa area had a Turkey sighting Mar. 28 and a few were seen near Lyle, Wash., on two dates in April. The species was mentioned without comment in the report from Montana's Flathead Valley.

**S.A.**

CRANES, COOT--Grays Lake N.W.R., in s e Idaho received 15-16 Whooping Crane eggs from Canada and about the same number from the captive flock at Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland, for placing in Sandhill Crane nests. Refuge personnel feared the young cranes would starve since the drought caused a great scarcity of frogs and insects. Three subadult Whooping Cranes from previous years' hatch had returned, an encouraging event, and the birds showed antagonism toward the Sandhill Cranes, suggesting that the former might eventually pair with their own species (CHT).

The only substantial information on Am. Coots indicated a decline at Malheur to 43,000 from 54,000 in 1976 and

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86,000 in 1975 and that, perhaps as a result, peak numbers at Turnbull N.W.R. increased to 5000 (2500 last year).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS -- Single Semipalmated Plovers, a species rarely seen in s. Idaho, appeared in the Pocatello vicinity (MRC, CHT) and up to 15 were at the Yakima delta near Richland. Ten Black-bellied Plovers at Three Forks, Mont., May 8 furnished only the second spring record for that area and three at the Yakima delta May 14 were REW's first ever in spring. Long-billed Curlew numbers dropped from 1180 in 1976 to 770 this year at Malheur. Only three nesting pairs were found in the remnant colony near Pocatello, expected to be soon wiped out by agriculture and development. A single bird was sighted at Nicholson, B.C., May 2 (FK). A **Whimbrel** was observed with a 'scope’ at 60 ft. at Mann's L., e. of Lewiston Orchards, Ida. May 29 (H). The only colony of Upland Sandpipers in the region, at Idaho Road in the Spokane Valley, comprised only four birds May 8 (JA) A Solitary Sandpiper at Tygh Valley just e. of Mt. Hood in Oregon May 2 was noteworthy (DD), as were 11 Least Sandpipers at a reservoir e. of Boise Apr. 24 (JH, NH, BS). A Short-billed Dowitcher at a pond 9 mi. s.e. of George, Wash., May 7 furnished the state's fifth record (DP), and three at Central Park between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., Apr. 30 made the first spring record and the second record ever for the locality (PDS). A Sanderling in breeding plumage May 22 was believed to make the fifth record for Malheur N.W.R. (AC, DMF). Northern Idaho had a Marbled Godwit at Mann's L, s e. of Lewiston Apr. 28 (JWW). American Avocets were down from nearly 4000 last year to about 1200 at Malheur but an influx was reported at Rupert, Ida., lending support to the hypothesis that drought drove shorebirds N. In line with this are a number of sightings in s. interior British Columbia, where the birds are of only casual occurrence. One in Yoho N.P. was the first there (RRH, DH).

**S.A**.

Black-necked Stilts, normally rare in most parts of the region, made a spectacular "invasion". At Malheur about 105 were on the refuge May 13 compared to 15 last year, apparently because their principal nesting area s. and e. of Burns was dry. Some birds may have been driven N by drought at Stillwater N.W.R., in Nevada. A few showed up in s. e. Washington at Richland, George, Othello and 25 mi w. of Soap L. In Montana they appeared at Ennis, at Swan L. in Lake Co., at Ravalli N.W.R. and Helena. In Idaho an influx was noted in the Rupert area and at Nampa

Wilson's Phalarope appeared at Dry L. near Fortine, Mont., in by far the largest numbers WW had ever seen there, with a peak of 112 May 22; 90 still lingered at the end of May. Only a few pairs normally breed there. Weydemeyer had four N. Phalaropes May 22, only his third spring record in more than a half century there. Single Glaucous Gulls were identified Mar. 13 & 20 at Coulee City and an Iceland Gull, at Electric City, Wash., Mar. 13 (BW). An ad. Herring Gull at Malheur Mar. 26 was the first confirmed sighting there and probably for e. Oregon (DMF *et al*.). One was reported near Missoula Apr. 9 (TD) and the species was reported for the Flathead Valley (NS). Surprisingly, the nesting colony of California and Ring-billed Gulls 4 mi s.e. of Bums, Ore., Was active even though the area, in an empty hay corral and normally completely surrounded by water, had no water at all. The 400 pairs, down from 500 last year, were about 70% Californias. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was collected at Ninepipe NWR, Apr 27, U. of Mont (BC, JS, DB) Two Caspian Terns at Three Forks May 18 and three at Ennis, Mont., May 29 furnished the third and fourth records for that area (RL, PDS, SC, RAH, ETH). The species, almost eliminated from the upper Snake R., was seen, (four), on Am Falls Res., and Market L. (MRC). Three Black Terns, common elsewhere in the region, were most noteworthy at Richland, Wash., May 30 (REW).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- Three Band-tailed Pigeons were seen May 21 near Page Springs, Malheur N.W.R (FR). The species is increasing as a migrant in s.e. Oregon (LDN) One was photographed at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co, Wash., May 19 (JWW). A male Flammulated Owl was seen and heard May 9, 6 ½ mi w. of Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash (EH). A nest of Great Horned Owls near Vernon, B.C., fledged two normal and one completely albino young (JG). The only Hawk Owls were one at Banff, Alta., Apr. 1 (HB), and one near Sorrento on Shuswap L., B.C., May 23-24 (JAn) A Barred Owl photographed at Kimberley, B.C., Mar. 29 was only the second for that locality (MVW). The species was reported for Glacier N.P., Mont., in March (JK) and was believed heard at Little Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell the same month (BF). A Spotted Owl was found a mile s. of Blewett Pass, Kittitas Co., Wash., Mar. 20 (BR). A Long-cared Owl was near Kalispell in late May (LB). Short-cared Owl numbers were high at Malheur, accompanying elimination of grazing and increased rodent populations.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A newly-discovered colony of White-throated Swifts at Dutch Cr., just s. of Fairmont Hot Springs, B.C., may be the most northeasterly in Canada (RRH). A few Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Parker Heights area s. of Yakima (Y.A.S.) and a male at Malheur May 29 added the species to the refuge list (KK) The only Anna's reported were two Ø birds that frequented a feeder all winter at Skaha L. near Penticton, B.C., and left the first week of April, returning briefly May 1 (SRC)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- April 9 was the earliest by three weeks for Williamson's Sapsucker, near Winthrop in e. Washington (CP, JP, KA). One was at Little Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell in April (BF). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were on Columbia N.W.R., at Crab Cr., May 29 (JA). Three Say's Phoebes Apr. 24 were new for HR at Salmon, Ida. Several Gray Flycatchers at Mill Creek 10 mi s.w. of White Swan, Wash., were the earliest ever by 11 days for e. Washington and furnished a new locality for the species. Several w. of Bickleton, Wash., May 3 were also in a new area (EH). Two very early Rough-winged Swallows were at Frenchglen, Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 25 (DMF).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- Blue Jays appeared in many places. New localities were Coal Creek up the North Fork of the Flathead R., n. of Columbia Falls, Mont.; at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont.; at a feeder in Nicholson, B.C., and in Yoho N.P. Except for two which wintered at Revelstoke and lingered to the end of May, all had apparently left for parts unknown. The other localities of occurrence were near Kalispell, in the Helena area, at Nampa, near Spokane, Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., Walla Walla, Richland, and Kimberley. The only Pinyon Jays reported were 16 seven mi e. of Sisters, Ore., May 29 (CR) and 4-6 at Gardner, Mont., during March and again May 3 (JEQ). A few Com Bushtits were found along Satus Creek 30 mi. s. of Toppenish, Wash. (EH). Additional sites for Bewick's Wren were Lyle, Wash., and Roza Dam and Wyler in the Yakima R. canyon, Kittitas Co., Wash. (EH). Two Rock Wrens appeared in a rock slide near Revelstoke, B.C., in late April (EC)

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THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- A W. Bluebird appeared Mar. 19-26 at Golden, B.C., where the species is rare (RRH). Kimberley reported "a good population" of Mountain Bluebirds and a flock of 150, about 90% males was observed at Penticton Mar. 23. An amazing flock of 220 was sighted in the Alvord Desert of s.e. Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 24. A flock was reported near Stevensville, Mont., Apr. 12. Elsewhere the usual small numbers seemed to prevail. Up to 100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets a day were seen in the vicinity of Spokane near the end of April. A movement N. of Bohemian Waxwings in Yoho N.P. culminated Mar. 29 in a flock of some 1000, the largest group on record there. Northern Shrikes lingered as late as Apr. 9 at Walla Walla, Apr. 10 in the Flathead Valley, and Apr. 12 in the Spokane area. A Loggerhead Shrike at Moberly, B.C., Apr. 24 furnished the first record for that locality and possibly the same bird was photographed Apr. 29 at nearby Golden (LW, FK, RRH).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Four Tennessee Warblers were well-described May 28 at Wapta L., Yoho N.P. (TH). Nashville Warblers were sighted only at Salmon, Ida. Richland, and Spokane and their numbers were down. A pair of "Myrtle" Warblers passed through Kimberley May 10 (MVW). A Hermit Warbler in Ephrata May 14-15 was the earliest ever by seven days for e. Washington (B J, SJa). A Blackpoll Warbler showed up near Missoula May 11 (DB) and Yoho N.P. had one May 27 (DH, TH). A window-killed Ovenbird was discovered May 12 at Pullman, Wash., \* Wash. State U. (GTA). Wilson's Warbler made a very poor showing in e. Washington but was mentioned for Flathead L., Lewiston, Ida. and the Yakima area. The Am. Redstart at Malheur May 22 and June 3-5 was noteworthy. Five singing males near Spokane May 16 were very early (THR) and a May 13 date for the species in the Flathead Valley was almost incredible (BF). The species was mentioned for the Helena and Bozeman areas.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS -- An encouraging number of Bobolink reports came in. At Kimberley the species was "very scarce but holding steady" and at Wolf Creek to the east a male was sighted May 21 (RRH). A small colony was located at Chase, e. of Kamloops, B.C. (JAn). Four males near Toppenish May 19 were the earliest ever by a week for e. Washington (EH). Helena Valley, Bozeman and St. Maries, Ida., also had Bobolinks. The Apr. 15 arrival at Fortine, Mont., matched the previous early date there. A female Rusty Blackbird was observed with Brewer's Blackbirds at Yoho N.P., Apr. 19 (DH, RRH) and two Com. Grackles appeared near Dixon, Mont, in mid-April (JB). An apparently authentic sighting of a male and a female **Scarlet Tanager** near the end of May in Livingston, Mont., provided the first record for the state (JSi, LS).

FINCHES -- A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Naramata May 29 was the first ever for s. British Columbia (DT). A male **Indigo Bunting** banded and photographed at Pocatello, Ida. apparently provided a first state record (JHJ). A male and a female Purple Finch were carefully identified May 22 near Thorp, n.w. of Ellensburg, Wash. (DP), and the species was recorded near Rock I. Dam, Yakima Co. (PC, HO). Eight House Finches at Fortune May 5, furnished the fourth and largest sighting there (WW), and Apr. 16 was a record early date for the species at Manhattan, Mont. (PDS). A heavy movement of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches of both races through Yoho N. P. peaked with a flock of at least *3000* in a snowstorm Apr. 16.

SPARROWS -- Several Grasshopper Sparrows at a pond 9 mi. s.e. of George May 7 set a new early record for e. Washington (DP), as did the species at Spokane with the same arrival date but down in numbers. The sparrow was believed nesting again in the Pocatello area (CHT). The Lark Sparrow, apparently rare in the Flathead Valley, was sighted May 27 near Bigfork, Mont. (MS). Washington's fourth **Black-throated Sparrow** was identified at close range south of Walla Walla in the Blue Mts foothills May 10 (KK, VK). Two **White-winged Juncos** were reported at Smith's Ferry, Ida. May 28 (BFo, BS, WHo) A remarkably late Tree Sparrow was at Whitefish, Mont., May 23 (RWW). Seemingly late single Harris' Sparrows were near Kalispell until May 2, (BRo) and at Seebe, Alta., May 13 (EHe). One that wintered in the Asotin, Wash., area was last seen Apr. 30 (EM). Single White-throated Sparrows were at Tranquille, B.C., May 11 (JAn), the Davenport, Wash. Cemetery "oasis", May 4 & 10, Ephrata, Wash., May 15 (DM), Malheur N.W.R., May 31--two birds, and the e. base of the Steens Mts , Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 24 (DMF). A lone Lapland Longspur was sighted near Creston, Wash., Mar. 22 (JS, RA). The species was noted at Rupert May 22 (WHS) and at Penticton, B C., Mar. 23, where they are uncommon any time (SRC). A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in full breeding plumage flying over Big Southern Butte in the Pocatello area May 8, was the first for Idaho (MRC). Yoho N.P. still had Snow Buntings Mar 27.

OBSERVERS CITED -- (JA) James Acton, George T Allen, (JAn) Jerry Ansell, Riley Atkins, Kerry Atkinson, Marcy Bishop, Ladd Bjorneby, H. Boerger, D. Bonham, J. Brown, Ernie Callin, Steve R. Cannings, Phil Cheney, Mark R. Collie, Alan Contreras, B. Cooper, Sharon Cotterell, T. Dahmer, Dave DeSante, (BF) Barbara Fenner, David M. Fix, (BFo) Bob Ford, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Warren Hall, Terry Hammell, (DHa) Dudley Harrington, (DH) Dennis Horwood, R. A. Hays, Eve T. Hays, (EHe) E. Hebron, James & Naomi Heckathorn, Hickman, (WHo) Waneta Holiday, R. R. Howie, (EH) Eugene Hunn, Bert Jahn, (SJa) Sylvia Jahn, (SJ) Steve Jamieson, Wanda Jamieson, Joseph H. Jeppson, Jane Kapler, Frances King, Ken Knittle, Vera Klopfenstein, Ron Lang, Phil Mattocks, Darlene Meyer, Lewis Myers, Shirley Muse, Ed McVicker, Larry D. Napier, Frank Ohme, Howard Oswood, Dennis Paulson, Curtis Pearson, Josie Pearson, Joyce E. Queckborner, Fred Ramsey, (BR) Bill Reichert, Jan Reynolds, Craig Roberts, Hadley B Roberts, T. H. Rogers, (BRo) Betty Rose, Belle Shaw, W H Shillington, (JSi) Judy Simpson, Lewis Simpson, Dick Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, (JSm) Jan Smith, Gene Stroops, Shirley Sturts, Mae Sudan, Norm Sudan, (JS) J. Suntum, Caryn Talbot, Dudley Taylor, Charles H. Trost, Richard Trueblood, Lynn Wade, R. W. Waldt, John W. Weber, Doug Wechsler, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, (JW) Jim Wolcott, (JWo) John Woods, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society, Vince Yannone

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**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls**

After 11 and 10 years, respectively, of devoted service, John B. Crowell, Jr., and Harry B. Nehls have asked to be relieved of their editorial chores. Their reports, always professional, have helped thousands to a better understanding of the birdlife of their region, and we thank them. The new editors will be Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene H. Hunn, both of the Univ. of Washington, Seattle. We are delighted to welcome them. Send all autumn migration season reports to Mattocks, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington. Seattle, WA 98195.

March brought average quantities of precipitation to the Pacific Northwest, thereby breaking the string of seven consecutive preceding months of considerably less-than-average rainfall. The pattern of less-than-average rainfall, however, resumed for April and May. Temperature ranges were approximately normal for the report period.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS -- Two dead Yellow-billed Loons were found on Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore., the first half of April (HN), single birds were seen at Yaquina Bay, Ore., on two March dates (*fide* FR), and the bird at Eld Inlet on s. Puget Sound was seen last on Apr. 8 (*fide* GH). Single Yellow-billed Loons were noted in the vicinity of Victoria twice in March and another remained at Cowichan Bay Mar. 10-Apr. 16 (VG). Approximately 2000 Arctic Loons each hour passed the s. jetty of the Columbia R., in migration May 7-8 (HN *et al*.). Two Eared Grebes were at Brookings on the s.w. Oregon coast Mar. 22 (CVO, one was at Scoggins Valley Park, Washington Co., Ore., Apr. 2 (HN), and numbers were present with many W. Grebes on Davis L., in the Oregon Cascades Apr. 23 (LM). A single Eared Grebe was noted at Quadra I., B.C., May 1 (HT) and one or two birds were in the vicinity of Victoria Mar. 9-Apr. 20 (VG *et al*.). The count of 3000 W. Grebes at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver I., Mar. 18 was by far the highest total for this species during the season. Good numbers of Black-looted Albatrosses were found at sea up to 100 mi. off the Washington coast the third week

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of April; on May 15, 62 were observed off Westport, Wash. (TW) A single Laysan Albatross followed the vessel from 25 mi. off Westport to within five mi. of the coast Apr. 15 (TW) Small numbers of N. Fulmars were found dead on Sunset Beach through much of the spring (HN); very few were seen at sea on the boat trips (TW). Although no Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded in April, 50 were counted at sea from Westport May 15; on the same day two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted (TW). Hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters were to be seen at the mouth of the Columbia R., after May 7 (HN), whereas good numbers were found at sea from Westport by the third week of April (TW). Three freshly dead Short-tailed Shearwaters were picked up on Sunset Beach May 21 (HN). Only one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was found on the April cruise from Westport, but on May 15 six were observed (TW). Small and scattered numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen moving steadily north- ward 100 mi. at sea Apr. 20-21 (TW). On Apr. 6, 1000 Brandt's Cormorants were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. (KS, *fide* VG). Green Herons were widely noted in w. Oregon, were reported from two w. Washington localities, and a single individual was found at Duncan, B.C., during the spring season. Four Great Egrets were at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al*.), one was at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific Co., Wash., Apr 9 (DD), and one was last recorded at Salem, where it had been much of the winter, Apr. 8 (RL). The Snowy Egret which had been at Coos Bay all winter remained for the spring season (AC). A Black-crowned Night Heron was found at Yaquina Bay, Mar. 10 (RB, *fide* FR).

WATERFOWL -- A Whistling Swan was at Davis L., Apr. 21, where six had been present Mar. 6 (LM). Four Trumpeter Swans were at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., until Mar. 19; two were at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 29 (VG, RS). 'Thousands' of Canada Geese migrated over Campbell R., B.C., Mar. 30 (HT), and 2900 were observed over Torino, B.C., Apr. 29-May 1, where many more were heard overhead in morning fogs (JCo). On Apr. 3 'thousands' of Brant had congregated at Jamestown Bay on Washington’s Olympic Pen. (DS); 2500 had been at Netarts and Tillamook Bays Mar. 12 (JBC *et al*.). Two 'Tule' Geese in company with eight other White-fronted Geese stopped at Cowichan Bay May 5-7 (JCo). A male Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal was at Saanich on Vancouver I., Mar. 17-Apr. 27 (VG *et al*.). On Mar. 12, 218 Green-winged Teal were at N. Saanich (VG *et al*.). A male **Garganey** was seen and photographed at Sea and Iona Is., s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 14, May 17 & May 28 (BM, VG *et al*.); although the bird would apparently constitute the first record for British Columbia (the species has been noted previously in both Alberta and Manitoba), one cannot entirely dismiss the possibility of it being an escaped captive. European Wigeons were recorded at a few favored places in the region until Apr. 21. Five individual N. Shovelers were last seen at Saanich May 26 (LR, *fide* VG), but four pairs were still at Duncan May 31 (JCo). On Apr. 23 several small groups of Redheads were noted on Davis L. (LM); five males were seen at Saanich Mar. 1 (M & BM, *fide* VG), and four individuals of this species were at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al*.). A concentration of 107 Ring-necked Ducks at Saanich Mar. 5 (VG *et al*.) is of interest. The 300 Canvasbacks at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*) comprised the largest reported concentration of the season for this species. A heavy migration of Greater Scaup occurred past the Columbia R. mouth Apr. 30 and May 7-8 (HN *et al*.); 1000 of these birds were 12 mi. n. of Nanaimo, B.C., Apr. 10 (HT). Two male Com. Goldeneye were at Genoa Bay, Vancouver I., May 31 (JCo), a pair was at Lost L., on the Santiam Highway, Marion Co., Ore., May 20 (ME, TF, *fide* AC). Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded at a number of lakes in Oregon's high Cascades after mid-April. Up to ten Oldsquaws wintered at Yaquina Bay, Ore., until Mar. 19 (RB *et al*.), 20 were at Olympia Apr 27 (RSt, *fide* GH), and good numbers could be found around s. Vancouver I. during March (VG). Single subadult male King Eiders were found Apr. 6 at Port Angeles, Wash, (WHo) and May 8 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R (DF *et al*.). Small numbers of Black Scoters were mixed into the flocks of other scoters streaming N. past the mouth of the Columbia R., Apr. 30 and May 7-8 (HN *et al*.); 50 were at Cannon Beach, Ore., Apr. 24 (DD). A concentration of 168 Hooded Mergansers at Saanich Mar. 5 (VG *et al.*) is of interest.

RAPTORS, GAMEBIRDS -- The first Turkey Vultures of the season appeared in mid-March as far north as Hood Canal in Washington and at Sooke, B.C., on Vancouver I. A nest of the White-tailed Kite was found at Finley N.W R this spring where none could be found last year, despite the presence of a pair there which, judging by the two immatures which accompanied it by late summer, had nested successfully. This year's nest, when checked May 9, held one egg and three dead young (*fide* FR). A Goshawk was observed e. of Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 3 (DS). Sightings involving approximately ten Sharp-shinned Hawks and a dozen Cooper's Hawks were reported from w. Oregon, w. Washington, and s. British Columbia. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen at Saanich Apr. 23 (RS *et al*., *fide* VG). Only three reports of Rough-legged Hawks--all from Oregon or Washington coastal points prior to the fourth week in March--were received. A copulating pair of Golden Eagles was observed n. of Victoria Apr. 30 (VG, RS); an immature was seen in the vicinity of Victoria Mar. 10-Apr 3 (VG *et al*.). Bald Eagles numbering up to ten in a day were seen during the report period at approximately a dozen localities, ranging from the Cascades to the coast, single Marsh Hawks were observed at Davis L., and at rive localities on s. Vancouver I., on various dates in March and April; two birds were seen in Tillamook County Mar 12 and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 30--altogether a very poor seasonal representation for this species. Ospreys were noted at a minimum of ten localities from s. Vancouver I southward during the spring season, most after mid-April Only three observations of Peregrines were reported Merlins were noted only slightly more frequently. Ruffed Grouse were almost totally unreported, except from Victoria. A small group of Bobwhite was near Salem, Ore., this spring (JS); ten of these birds were seen s. of Sequim, Wash., May 26 (DS). A Turkey was seen Apr. 21 on Sidney I., B.C., where the species was introduced about ten years ago (MGS, *fide* VG). On Mar. 16 approximately 100 Sandhill Cranes flew over Brownsville, Ore. (HTa, *fide* FR); one on Apr. 5, then three on Apr. 12 were at Dungeness (DS). Ten localities reported Virginia Rails, sometimes repeatedly this spring, with only half that many noting an occasional Sora.

SHOREBIRDS -- On Mar. 12 a flock of 70 Black Oyster-catchers was observed at Malcolm I., off Vancouver I., B C (F.G. Hart, *fide* VG). On Apr. 29 there were 280 Semipalmated Plovers at Torino, B.C. (JCo). Up to four pairs of Snowy Plovers were noted at Tillamook Bay, Sunset Beach, and Ocean Shores, Wash., in April. Single Black-bellied Plovers were found at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Ore , Apr. 20 (LM), and at Sauvie I., w. of Portland Apr 16 (JG, DI) Totals of 18, 30 and *86* Ruddy Turnstones were

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seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF *et al*.), at Ocean Shores, and on the Hoquiam, Wash. flats (G & WH) Apr 29-May 14. On Mar. 18 at Yaquina Bay 180 Black Turnstones were counted (DF, HN). Single Long-billed Curlews appeared at Corvallis Apr. 22 (E & EE, *fide* FR), at Yaquina Head Apr. 27 (JBC, *fide* FR), and at Ocean Shores May 23 (J & GM, *fide* GH); it is possible that the same individual was the subject of all three sightings. Numerous observations were made at coastal locations of Whimbrel Mar. 21-May 21, the 250 near Torino, B.C., Apr. 29 (JCo) being by far the largest concentration. A Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Yaquina Bay Apr. 21 (DFa, *fide* FR). A concentration of 60 Wandering Tattlers at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 8 (DF *et al*.) is noteworthy. A flock of Willets--number unspecified--was at Willapa Bay between Raymond and Tokeland in the first part of March (m.ob. *fide* PM). The 200 Red Knots at Ocean Shores Apr. 29-30 (G & WH) was by far the highest total for the season, the species being recorded only at three other localities. On Mar. 26 there were 50 Rock Sandpipers at Ocean Shores, where 20 were still present Apr. 29 (G & WH). Single Pectoral Sandpipers, rare in the region in spring, were observed at Corvallis Apr. 25 (HTa, *fide* FR) and at Port Townsend, Wash., May 21 (A & DSt). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at Clover Pt., Victoria, Apr. 20 (RS, *fide* VG); the bird is extremely rare in this region. Up to six Baird's Sandpipers were noted at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on three occasions Apr. 17-May 7 (DD, JG, DI, HN); a flock of *8000* Dunlin was there on the latter date (HN). Hundreds of Least Sandpipers were found Apr 23 at Davis L. in Oregon's high Cascades (LM). The 200 Short-billed Dowitchers at Yaquina Bay Apr. 19 (DF, HN) and the 900 Long-Billed Dowitchers near Tofino Apr. 29 were peak counts for these two species this season. Up to a dozen Marbled Godwits were recorded on three dates at Ocean Shores, and on one date at Sunset Beach, the s jetty of the Columbia R., and at Torino, Apr. 16-May 30. Two Hudsonian Godwits occurred at Ocean Shores May 14 (G & WH, AR). An estimated *20,000* Sanderlings were at Sunset Beach May 21 (HN). Single Am. Avocets were recorded at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 23 (SG, *fide* LM) and at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 19 (JSk, *fide* TW). Two Black-necked Stilts were found at Brownsville, Ore., Apr 25 (HTa, *fide* FR). On May 7, there were 40 Red Phalaropes at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF). Wilson's Phalaropes were seen a number of times during the spring in n Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia (TW, JCo, RS). Hundreds of N. Phalaropes were at Ocean Shores May 23 (J & GM, *fide* G & WH); 15 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 7 (DF) while very few were seen at sea from Westport May 15 (TW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- On May 15 eight Pomarine and 15 Parasitic Jaegers were recorded at sea out of Westport (TW). Other Parasitics were observed at the mouth of the Columbia R., at Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor and at Bellingham during May. Glaucous Gulls were reported seen on six occasions at various coastal points in the region, mostly in March. Small numbers of Herring Gulls were found along the Oregon coast in May after being very scarce all winter Occasional California Gulls were noted at coastal points after mid-March. Bonaparte's Gulls were in migration along the coast from mid-April to mid-May, with concentrations of up to 900 individuals seen at two places in the Strait of Georgia on the first three days of May. Blacklegged Kittiwakes were found at a few coastal points after mid-March, the 70 at Yaquina Bay Mar. 19 (RB, *fide* FR) being particularly noteworthy. In mid-April numbers of kittiwakes were moving N. at sea off Westport; in mid-May numbers were inshore there (TW). Up to a score of Sabine's Gulls were seen off the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 8 (DE *et al*.), and at sea from Westport May 15 (TW). On Apr. 23 there were ten Forster's Terns at Davis L, in the Oregon Cascades (AW, *fide* LM). An estimated 100 Com. Terns were noted at Ocean Shores Apr. 29 & May 14 (G & WH); it was the consensus that migrant numbers past the mouth of the Columbia R. were well below normal this season, although migrant Arctic Terns there were more m evidence than usual (HN *et al*.). As early as Apr. 16 there were 30 Caspian Terns at Ocean Shores (G & WH); two were at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Ore., Apr 22 (HN). On the evening of May 21 an estimated 5000 Com. Murres were trading in and out between the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia R. (JBC, JGO). Pigeon Guillemots were recorded mostly in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and of Georgia, but a few were also noted from time to time during the report period along the n. Oregon coast. Marbled Murrelets were less noted, but as many as six in a day could be found at Victoria in April and in May (VG). Cassin's Auklets were said to be in good numbers off Westport in mid-April and in mid-May (TW). On May 21 several dozen Rhinoceros Auklets were just off Sea Lion Caves, near Florence, Ore. (AC *et al*.); flocks of 15-20 birds were moving N. 100 mi off the Washington coast Apr. 20-21 (TW), a few Rhinoceros Auklets could be found at Victoria from Mar. 24 to the end of May (VG *et al*.). Tufted Puffins were present at sea off Westport in mid-April, but on May 15 a high count of 35 was made (TW).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- On Mar. 5, seven Snowy Owls were recorded on the Samish Flats, near Bellingham (TW); an individual was at Beaverton, Ore , for several days the second week of March (DF *et al.*) A Burrowing Owl was found e. of Harrisburg, Ore., Mar. 16 & 18 (HTa, *fide* FR); another was seen at Gold Beach, Ore., Mar 22 (CW), one was at N. Portland Apr. 9 (*fide* HN), and still another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., w. of Salem, Ore., May 4 (TM). Up to three Short-eared Owls were recorded at each of seven localities during the report period. Saw-whet Owls were reported from only three points.

S. A.

On May 3-6 a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was present at Howard Telosky's feeder, seven mi s of Campbell R. on the Strait of Georgia; the record is well documented through close observation and with some useful photographs. The bird was smaller than the Rufous Hummingbirds which were also present and which were dominated by the interloper; it moved with a quiet hum during the three times an apparent courtship flight was observed, and it had a decidedly forked rather than rounded tail, all of which serve to distinguish the bird from the more likely-to-occur Broad-tailed Hummingbird. It might be added that the bird was seen by a number of other observers. This represents the first regional record for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

An out-of-place Poorwill, which later died and was found to have no body fat or food in its stomach, was caught in a Portland warehouse May 3 (HN *et al*.). Up to a dozen Black Swifts were noted on s. Vancouver I. in the last three days of May (JCo, ARD, RM-G, *fide* VG). On May 16 there were 300 Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis, Ore., where a few had first

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appeared Apr. 18 (DM). Anna's Hummingbirds were noted singly near Campbell R., B.C., Mar. 16-23 (HT), at Corvallis Mar. 22 (DM), and at Bellingham Apr. 2 (TW); at Saanich four or five males were present through the spring and a lone female was observed three times Apr. 4-May 3 (VG, RS *et al*.); at Portland a g? Anna's acted territorially most of April and early May at Reed College (DD) and a pair was at the Hagenstein residence much of the spring (*fide* JBC). A Calliope Hummingbird appeared at Wolf Creek, Ore., Apr 14 (EP), two were seen at Eugene Apr. 19 (AC, *fide* LM), and one was seen Apr. 21 (LM). The only reported Lewis' Woodpeckers were the two found at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, May 28 (LM). A female Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at White Pass in the Washington Cascades May 1 (G & WH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES -- There were five observations of W. Kingbirds in w. Oregon and two in w. Washington this spring; surprisingly, five of the seven records came Apr. 22-29 and could probably be explained by the wind patterns prevailing in the last few days of the third week in April. A Say's Phoebe was noted at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., Apr. 13 (PD, *fide* TW). Willow Flycatchers were late and seemed down in numbers, but W Flycatchers seem to have been present in better numbers than several years ago when observers expressed concern about their status. A Bank Swallow was found in Manning P.P., B.C., May 27 (VG). A very early Cliff Swallow was at Roseburg, Ore., Mar. 12 (GG). Purple Martins appeared first in the second week of April at Fern Ridge Res., Portland, and Chehalem Mt., s.w. of Portland; on May 21-22 a few appeared at Gold Ray Dam, Jackson Co., Ore., for the first time in years (TL). Further evidence of the Blue Jay invasion to the Northwest of last fall and winter was furnished by records of individuals in this season at N. Bend, Ore., from last November to early April (BF, *fide* AC), at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 1-Apr. 9 (JCo *et al*.), and at N. Saanich Mar. 6 & Apr. 19 (*fide* VG). House Wrens were reported at Wolf Creek, Ore., by Apr. 19 (EP) and were thereafter noted at a number of locations in the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound trough as far n. as Quadra I., B.C. (HT). Bewick's Wrens were said to be very common at Campbell R. (HT) and to be readily found in the vicinity of Victoria (VG). Single Rock Wrens were seen at Portland Apr. 26 (DF *et al*.), at Eugene two days later (ME, *fide* LM), and at Vancouver, B.C., May 26-29 (DMa, RW). A Mockingbird was present at Sidney, B.C., May 5-16 (Mts. T. Flint, *fide* VG), a Gray Catbird was found at Quadra I., B.C., Apr. 17 (WD, HT), and a Brown Thrasher turned up at Shady Cove, Ore., May 25 (JH). Swainson's Thrushes were late in migrating, few being present by the end of May; several observers have commented on the relative absence of this species in the region this year, causing speculation concerning the possibility of some major disaster to large numbers of these birds during migration. Western Bluebirds continue to be decidedly uncommon, appearing only at relatively few favored localities. Individual Mountain Bluebirds appeared w. of Eugene Mar. 6 (AS, AP, *fide* LM) and at Ocean Shores Apr. 9 (G & WH). Townsend's Solitaires were recorded s. of Powers, Ore., s.e. of Brownsville, at Eugene and at Victoria in April, and at Wolf Creek and on the Olympic Peninsula in May.

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- On May 29 Wayne Hoffman found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Big L., on the Santiam Hwy., in Oregon's Cascade Mts , the bird was foraging in a stand of lodgepole pines and Douglas firs 15-20 feet tall; there was still a bit of snow on the ground. A large flock of Water Pipits was at Davis L., Apr. 23 (LM). A N. Shrike at Florence on the Oregon coast Mar. 25 (CW) was one of five March reports, the bird at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Ore. Apr. 2 (HN) was the last of the season. Hutton's Vireos were less uncommon than usual, at least in n.w. Oregon and s. Vancouver I. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Saanich May 29 (RS, *fide* VG). There were six reports of Nashville Warblers --some involving more than one individual--for w. Oregon Apr. 17-May 2. Good movements of Townsend's Warblers were noted at Corvallis Apr. 17 (LM), and in the Olympics May 5 (RJP, *fide* DS). The Palm Warbler which had been present at Scoggins Valley Park continued to be seen until late April (HN *et al*.). Common Yellowthroats arrived early, with the most striking evidence of that fact being the "many males" at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 6 (LM). Up to six W. Meadowlarks were recorded on the s. end of Vancouver I. in March. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were located at four places in the s. or middle Willamette Valley, at Sauvie I., at Siltcoos L., and at Davis L. in Oregon and at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., all after the first week of April. Northern Orioles were scarce, the only record n. of Corvallis being a female at Saanich, May 21 (RM-G, *fide* VG).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Five Black-headed Grosbeaks as far n. as Dungeness, Wash., Mar 28 (SS, *fide* DS) were inexplicably early, since it was a month or more until others were recorded in the region. A Lazuli Bunting at Grants Pass Mar. 25 (GG) was even farther ahead of the rest of its tribe, the next earliest recorded arrival not being until May 7 at Corvallis. While Purple Finches were said to be scarce on Vancouver I. this spring, they were unusually numerous in n.w. Oregon. A female Cassin's Finch was at an Olympia feeder Apr. 22 (G&WH): numbers of this species were seen at Davis L., Apr. 23 (LM). A Pine Grosbeak was observed 20 mi s.e. of Brownsville, Ore , Apr 24 (GG), five or six were seen at Big. L., Ore., May 9 (DD), and a pair were noted at Manning P.P., May 5 (VG) The concentration of 110 Am. Goldfinches at Scoggins Valley Park May 13 (HN) is noteworthy. A single Lesser Goldfinch was seen in Portland Mar. 14 (DD). A **Black-throated Sparrow** at Sutton L., n. of Florence, Ore., Apr 26 is said to have been recorded by good photographs (*fide* AC) Sage Sparrows were noted at Toledo, Ore., Apr. 12 (DFa), at Lebanon, Ore., Apr. 14 (WT), and at Olympia Mar. 16-Apr 3 (DH, G & WH). A Tree Sparrow was discovered at Oak Bay, Victoria Mar. 25 (M & BM, *fide* VG), and a Brewer's Sparrow turned up at Ocean Park, Pacific Co., Wash., Apr 22 (IB). A Harris' Sparrow was seen at Duncan, B.C., Mar 29-30 (JCo) and one was at Campbell R., B.C., May 2 (HT) White-throated Sparrows were observed at Eugene, at Dungeness, at Carnation, Wash., and at Saanich, the last date being Apr. 28. On Apr. 29 twenty Lapland Longspurs were at Ocean Shores (G & WH) and on May 7 two were found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF). A male **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was at Victoria May 1-3 (VG, RS *et al*.).

OBSERVERS -- John Annear, Range Bayer, Irving Burr, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, John B. Crowell, Jr, A. R. Davidson, Paul DeBruyn, Dave DeSante, W. DuBois, Mark Egger, E. & Elsie Eltzroth, Ben Fawver, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Ted Finnell, David Fix, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Vic Goodwill, Steve Gordon, David Hayward, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, David Irons, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Jim & Gloria Maender, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, Rob Mackenzie- Grieve, David Mark (DMa). Phil Mattocks Tom McCamant, 1040 *American Birds*, September 1977, Larry McQueen, Michael & Barbara Meiklejohn, Harry Nehls, James G. Olson, Al Prigge, R. J. Pringle, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Allan Richards, Leila Roberts, Ron Satterfield, Michael G. Shepard, Jeff Skriletz (JSk), Aaron Skirvin, Dory Smith, Stan Smith, Jerry Smith, Roger Stanley (RSt), Al & Debbie Staples (A & DSt), Ken Summers, Howard Taylor (HTa), Howard Telosky, William Thackaberry, Terence Wahl, Clarice Watson, Robin Weber, Al Winter.

*The Nesting Season, 1977*

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

**/Thomas H. Rogers**

Except for the Bozeman-Gardiner-Red Rock Lakes area in Montana, which enjoyed normal summer weather, the drought, with abnormally high temperatures, continued into June in nearly every part of the Region. July continued dry except for western Montana and adjacent mountainous Idaho, which were decidedly wet. Temperatures were generally subnormal. Waterfowl nesting suffered markedly in drought areas but other species appeared to have a good nesting season. Exposed mudflats attracted more late spring and early fall shorebird migrants than usual and some water-related species appeared in unusual numbers and places, supposedly driven in by worse drought to the south. Lack of water forced some early fall migration in the southwestern part of the Region.

LOONS AND GREBES--Two Com. Loon nests, one with two eggs hatched, were on two small reservoirs e. of Ashton, Ida. possibly in Wyoming June 19 (CHT). Two pairs with five young were at Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., July 28 (MB). Lake Roosevelt, Wash., had one June 12 and two July 16 and one was on Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., July 24. One was on Rufus Woods L., near Nespelem, Wash., June 22 and five were on the Columbia R., near Wenatchee, Wash. in June. At least one pair of Red-necked Grebes nested at Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., Ida. a new locality, and seven appeared on Upper Klamath L., Oreg., June 4. A "large number" nested at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. Fortine, Mont., was the only other locality that reported them. An albinistic Eared Grebe at Malheur N.W.R. appeared wholly whitish except for black in the primaries (DMF). Western Grebes had good nesting success in s.e. Idaho at Mud L., Jefferson Co., and at L. Walcott, but apparently not at Market L., near Roberts nor at Am. Falls Res. The species was at the Yakima R. mouth, Wash., *July 14*, Woodley's first ever for that month and the species was noted in June in the Columbia Basin e. of Wenatchee.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES -- Five White Pelican nests with a total of nine eggs were found on Gull I., in L. Walcott, Blaine Co., Ida. for the first known nesting in the state since the birds were all shot out from Blackfoot Res., *ca.* 1958. About 200 were loafing near the colony June 17 (CHT). Double-crested Cormorants had 25 nests at Mud L., 23 at Blackfoot Res., and perhaps 70 at L. Walcott. The colony at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. had 40 nests. Seventy pairs were at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Oreg. up from 40 last year, but the species failed to nest at L. Helena this year. A Great Blue heronry at Ninepipe had 87 nests. A **Green Heron** was near Arco, Ida. June 9 (CHT) and one was sighted at Market L., June 12 & 21 (MRC). A **Cattle Egret** was in a field near Rexburg, Ida. June 13 (MRC) and four were near Rupert (CHT). Refuge personnel at Malheur estimated 125 pairs of Great Egrets, down from 200 in 1976 but another observer found both Great and Snowy Egrets there in unusually high numbers in July compared to the

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previous two years (DMF). The Snowy was estimated at 50 pairs, down from 80, by refuge personnel. Black-crowned Night Heron numbers there remained steady. White-faced Ibises seemed to have good nesting success at Market and Mud Lakes and at Oxford, Ida. A flock of 40-50 was just s. of Rexburg July 30.

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., produced 66 cygnets but at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Malheur N.W.R., and Antelope L., near Harrison, Mont., nesting success was zero. Waterfowl production was down about 50% from last year at Turnbull N.W.R., and in e. Washington in general (JS). In the area surrounding Malheur N.W.R. only about 1500 ducks were produced, compared to nearly 18,000 last year, but they did better on the refuge, with nearly 16,000 young. However, Cinnamon Teal there had only about 2500 young, compared to over 17,000 last year. The species is normally the most or next to most abundant nester there. Lack of water there caused ducks to start leaving in late June. Duck production at Red Rock Lakes was about normal. Ninepipe N.W.R. had a **Ross' Goose** July 28 (F.A.S.) and two Snow Geese summered at Malheur N.W.R. (M.F.S.). Four pairs of Wood Ducks at a marsh n. of Polson, Mont., brought off 15 young and the species' success at Ninepipe N.W.R. seemed good. A male at L. Helena July 23 was unusual (SM). A female with eight nearly grown young at Dry L., July 10 gave the first ever record of nesting for the Fortine, Mont. area. A male Com. Goldeneye was on the Spokane R., in downtown Spokane July 13 (THR), and presumably the same bird was seen July 21 (JWW). A Bufflehead was at Malheur in early July (CB).

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A **Turkey Vulture** nest with one young at Black Rock Bay, Coeur d' Alene L, Ida. was apparently the first ever found in the state (DC, DJ). Six of the birds, mingling with ravens, were along the Thompson R., 70 mi w. of Kalispell, Mont., July 1 (BF) and one at Salmon, Ida. June 11 was unusual (HBR). Single Goshawks were reported at seven scattered localities and an active nest was located s of Stanley, Ida. (EHB). Ferruginous Hawks were more evident this summer at Malheur. One appeared near Helena and another from that area that had been shot was brought to the game department for nursing. The species was observed regularly near Three Forks, Mont. Golden Eagles seemed to be doing very well around Malheur Ref., reportedly in response to an increase among rodents and lagomorphs (DMF). Except for an active nest in June, the species went unobserved in the Bozeman area. One was noted in the Island L. area in Pleasant Valley between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., July 13 (F.A.S.). Several were brought to Montana's game department, victims of shooting, electrical burns, a mammal trap, a broken wing and apparent starvation (VY). A pair of Bald Eagles was high over Parker, Wash., July 13 (Y.A.S.) and a pair summered at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JAB). One was at Columbia Icefield, Banff N.P., Alta., July 31 (RJB). The Osprey population at Holter L. near Helena was maintaining itself (VY). One appeared near Seneca, Oreg., June 27 & July 12 (LDN). Prairie Falcon numbers appeared unchanged in the Malheur N.W.R. area. An active nest was found in s.e. Montana and the birds appeared at three localities in n.w. Montana. The Helena area had a sighting and two injured birds were brought to the game department. The only Peregrine Falcon sightings were one each from s. Idaho and w. Montana. The only Merlin sighting was in late June in the Okanogan Valley, Wash. (PC).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- In n. British Columbia a Spruce Grouse was seen 30 mi n.w. of Meziadin Jct, and a female of the Franklin's race, with small chicks, was on Hudson Bay Mt., 5 mi w. of Smithers (JDW) A Willow Ptarmigan was found in that general area on Mt. Cronin and a Rock Ptarmigan was sighted on Hudson Bay Mt. (JDW). Blue, Spruce, Ruffed and Sage Grouse had a good nesting season in the Salmon, Ida area, where numbers appeared to be up (HBR). Upland game birds had good nesting success in e. Washington although late broods of Gray Partridge appeared less successful (JS). Sharp-tailed Grouse continued rare in the Bozeman area. Two Mountain Quail were listed for s.w. Idaho June 26 (G.E.A.S.). Five Turkeys showed themselves on Yakima Indian Reservation June 30 (TS) and two adults and five young were seen just n. of Lyle, Wash., June 22 (TW *et al*.).

**S.A.**

From the 30 Whooping Crane eggs substituted for Sandhill Crane eggs at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., 20 young hatched but two died during a May snowstorm. Mortality of the remaining birds was high because of drought-caused inadequate food supply and easy access to the nesting and rearing areas for coyotes. Of six sub-adult birds from the 1975 and 1976 hatches, three returned to Grays L., one summered along the upper Green R., n.w. of Pinedale, Wyo., another was found along Henry's Fork of the Green R. near Lonetree, s.w. Wyo., and the sixth summered in the vicinity of Ouray N.W.R., Utah as it did in 1976. The bird near Lonetree was found dead May 29. Autopsy showed the cause to be a collision with an unknown object (RDr).

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS -- Greater Sandhill Crane nesting success at Malheur N.W.R. was 46%. The species apparently bred in Helena Valley, where two young appeared June 12 and one in July (GH) Numbers seemed to be up in the Bozeman area Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had at least eight nests, fledgling eight chicks (JAB). One bird was near Fortine July 10. The only previous records there were of one last year and in 1975 (WW). Young Virginia Rails were found at a new breeding site north of Dillon, Mont. (KA). A single Semipalmated Plover was at Reardan, Wash., July 20 (JA) and up to five were at the Yakima R. mouth. The first sighting, July 14, was three weeks earlier than any previous records (REW). Snowy

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Plovers were seen July 16 at Lower Borax L., s.e. Harney Co., Oreg. a known nesting locality, but no young appeared (DMF). Possibly the second sighting for Idaho of a **Mountain Plover** occurred May 29 about 35 mi n. of Arco (KM). A **Ruddy Turnstone** turned up m an irrigated field near Osgood, Ida. June 21 (MRC). A **Whimbrel** at L. Helena July 16 was the first ever for that area (SM, GH). Five pairs of Upland Sandpipers and two nests with eggs were found in Bear Valley n. of Seneca, Oreg. June 9 (HBN, MK). The species also appeared on the Reedpoint Breeding Bird Survey, Mont. At Malheur, where shorebird migration began early, there were 200 Willets June 22 but only eight, July 3. Two Red Knots were at Harney L. on the refuge, June 6 (TP, NC). A Dunlin was along the Yellowstone R., near Gardner, Mont., June 12 (JEQ). Two juvenile W. Sandpipers were at Malheur Ref. on the startlingly early date of July 6 (DMF). Malheur had 2500 migrating Am. Avocets June 22 and Am. Falls Res. in s. Ida. had hundreds June 25. Up to 30 were on the mud flats at the Yakima R. mouth in July. Black-necked Stilt numbers at Malheur were high, supposedly increased by birds forced N by the drought. They nested successfully in several locations near George and in the Potholes area s. of Moses L., Wash. (m.ob.). The species summered at L Helena, with up to three pairs present with no evidence of nesting (GH).

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS -- Malheur Ref had 4000 Wilson's Phalaropes June 22 and 13,000 on July 3. Williams L., B.C., had two California Gulls July 15-16 (JDW). This species, formerly rarely reported from s.e. Washington, made up about 5 – 10% of the gulls from Central Ferry to Clarkston along the Snake R., probably the result of damming the river (JWW). California Gulls were moving through the Malheur area June 22, when 4800 were seen. No gulls were produced in the California and Ring-billed colony 4 mi. s.e. of Burns, Oreg. but the colonies of both species in the Pocatello, Ida. area were mostly expanding their numbers (CHT). One or two Mew Gulls were sighted in the Smithers, B.C. area in July at Upper Gnat L., the Stikine R., and Kinaskan L., (JDW). About 250 pairs of Franklin's Gulls began nesting on Malheur L., but later deserted. One bird was sighted at Taylor Ranch Research Station, n.e. Valley Co., Ida., June 14 (CLE, TT) A Bonaparte's Gull was still at Malheur N.W.R., *June 22* (LDN) and an imm. bird was sighted in the Alvord Basin, Harney Co., Oreg., June 10 (HBN). Two Arctic Terns were at Upper Gnat L., B.C., July 8 (JDW). A Caspian Tern, rare in interior British Columbia, was at Tranquille June 6 (GA). The species, becoming rare on the Upper Snake R., in Idaho, was noted only at Island Park Res., two non-nesters June 18, and at Am. Falls Res., six non-nesters June 25 (CHT).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS -- The only Band-tailed Pigeons to venture into the Region were one at Malheur June 27 (LDN) and one at Taylor Ranch Research Station May 29 (CLE, TT). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo self-destructed on a glass door at Echo, Oreg., about June 19 (RGS, HMS) A Black-balled Cuckoo appeared for a week starting June 23, at Helena (LS, m.ob.) and a road-killed one was found on the Portneuf R. bridge on Highway 30 w. of Pocatello June 10 (JHJ). The first nesting record for Washington for the **Flammulated Owl** was obtained at Scotty Cr. Campground, 5 min. of Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., with a pair at a nest hole in early July (DH *et al*.). An adult and a newly fledged young were photographed at Penticton for the second breeding record for British Columbia (SRC). A breeding colony of about 15 Burrowing Owls was found in w. Whitman Co., Wash., July 7 (JWW). Little Bitterroot L., Flathead Co., Mont., had a Barred Owl June 23, through July (BF). Pairs with young were observed near Republic, Wash., June 27 (TW) and near Middleport, Wash., June 29 (TW) & July 10 (RD, RH). One or two were at the bog on Calispell Peak n.w. of Cusick, Wash., June 5 & 23 (JA, WH). A pair of Spotted Owls inhabited the forest near Blewett Pass, Wash in June and July (m.ob.). Great Gray Owls nested again at the site in Hodgman Canyon s. of Bozeman, Mont, and brought off one young (m.ob.). One was sighted in s e Idaho near Henry's L., July 26 & 28 (MF, JAB, DM) and on Bishop Mt., s. of Island Park (MRC). Short-eared Owls were described as far fewer than usual in the valley s. of Flathead L., Mont., very scarce at Salmon, Ida. and were not sighted in the vicinity of Yakima Indian Reservation. No other reporting localities mentioned them. "Many" Saw-whet Owls were heard near Wickiup Res., 20 mi s.w. of Bend, Oreg. the night of May 28 (GG, DMF).

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- A half-grown nestling Black Swift was found near Armstrong, B.C. at the Harland Cr. site that normally is protected by a waterfall, but was dry this year (JG). Both species were on the wing at Avalanche Camp, Glacier N.P., Mont Four White-throated Swifts were around a quarry near Kamloops, B.C., June 4 for the most northerly record in the province (GA). The species apparently is becoming regular at Steens Mt., Harney Co., Oreg. where up to a dozen were found in July (DMF). Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared rather far north and west Three were at Oliver, B.C., June 9 (RC), a male was at Wickiup Res., s.w. of Bend May 29 and the birds were sighted at various spots in Malheur N.W.R., May 22 (DMF, GG). A female was regular at Richland, Wash, through July (REW) and the species was regular at Parker, Wash. (Y.A.S.). An ad. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird appeared at Windfall Campground, Grant Co., Oreg. July 9 (DMF *et al*.). A male Anna's Hummingbird was at Summerland, B.C. in mid-July (RL)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MARTINS -- Lewis' Woodpeckers seemed scarce but were seen oftener than usual at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. where at least three nests were found. An encouraging number of Williamson's Sapsucker sightings came in, including several nesting observations. One, possibly two, broods of White-headed Woodpeckers were raised at Naramata, B.C., in July (EH) and the species was seen regularly at Tieton Ranger Station w. of Yakima

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(Y.A.S.). Sightings also occurred in Klickitat County, Wash., and on Yakima Indian Reservation (EH). Nests of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker were spotted in Hyalite Cr. Canyon s. of Bozeman (EHa, CH); along the S Fork of the Salmon R., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (DAK), and at Calispell Peak bog in that county (JA, WH). The species was noted at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima. An E. Kingbird was foraging along the Deschutes R. at Lapine S.P., Oreg. July 31 (JC). Singing male Least Flycatchers were discovered June 28 at White Mud L., near Colville, July 1 three mi. w. of Winthrop, Wash. (TW, FM), June 11 at Heyburn S.P., Ida., (BW, SS *et al*.), and June 16 along the Wenaha R., in e. Oregon (SS). Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. had several Gray Flycatchers June 18 (EH) and the species was noted at Malheur N.W.R. (DMF). A **Purple Martin** was sighted at Twin Falls, Ida. June 25 (GG).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES -- The pair of Blue Jays that wintered in E. Helena lingered until late July but apparently did not nest (GH) but the species bred at Union, Oreg. (KS). "Thousands" of Clark's Nutcrackers were reported making daily trips from Douglas fir to limber pine forest in the Sun R. region n.w. of Great Falls, Mont. (SH). Several Com. Bushtits were sighted at Lyle, Wash., June 18 and a pair had a nest at Satus Cr., Yakima Co., July 4 (EH). Two nests with eggs and young were located at 5500 ft. elevation in the Pueblo Mts., between Fields, Oreg. and Denio, Nev., July 16 (DMF). Two pairs of Pygmy Nuthatches were sighted 6 mi. n. of Polson, Mont. (F.A.S.). A Winter Wren at Bishop Mt., 15 mi. s. of Island Park, Ida., June 16 apparently extended the known range of the species (MRC). The only Mockingbirds to be noted were two s. of Ellensburg, Wash., near the e. end of Murray Wildlife Recreation Area (DH, KZ). At least three pairs of Gray Catbirds were believed nesting 12 mi n.e. of Pendleton, apparently the westernmost site for Oregon (DSI). Also on the w. edge of the species' range were a pair at Toppenish N.W.R., Wash. (EH), and "many" in the Blue Mts. of n.e. Oregon (m.ob.). Four at Williams L., B.C., apparently were n. of the known range of the species (JDW). A pair of Veeries at the Pendleton catbird site also was w. of previously known sites for the state (DSI) and one was at Satus Cr., Klickitat Co., Wash., July 4 (EH). Western Bluebirds at a farm w. of Spokane occupied 36 nest boxes and brought off 219 young. A male **Wheatear** was photographed at the entrance road a few miles w. of Malheur N W R., June 22 (Robert F. Ringlet).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A wandering Tennessee Warbler stopped at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., June 5 (JWW). A **Virginia's Warbler** banded and photographed at Hart Mt., Lake Co, May 29 was Oregon's first ever (LRM). Seebe, Alta, had a Magnolia Warbler May 29 (J JR) and a Townsend's Warbler in the Elkhorn Mts., s.e. of Helena was a rare find (GN, NN). Two N. Waterthrushes were at Crescent Cr. on the e. slope of the Oregon Cascade Mts., June 4 to at least early July and another was on the Little Deschutes R., 12 mi from Crescent Cr. Camp during the same period (AC, ME, SG, m.ob.). American Redstarts were found in June and July at their nesting areas along Crescent Cr, and at Davis L. (AC), one in female plumage was at Malheur N.W.R., June 11 (HBN, MK), and three were at Cascade Meadows w. of Wenatchee, Wash., June 11 (MC). Bobolinks were again seen at the John Sudan farm e. of Bigfork, Mont. (F.A.S.) and near Salmon, Ida. where they are extremely scarce (HBR). An active **Bobolink** nest was found at Toppenish N.W.R., for the first definite nesting record for Washington (EH) The Tricolored Blackbird colony showed fair numbers at Upper Klamath L., near Klamath Agency, Oreg., after much reduced numbers the last two years (HBN, MK) A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was well described at Kalispell, Mont., in June (BR). Common Grackles were sighted at Twin Falls, Ida. June 25 (GG).

FINCHES -- A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted at Ketchum, Ida. July 30 (WHS) and a male was in Burns, Oreg. June 5-11 (CG). Another male not in full plumage was sighted at Field, Oreg. June 10-11 (HBN, MK) and a pair nested at Barnhartvale near Kamloops, B.C. (RR, DL). This is the first breeding record for s. British Columbia and one of very few reports of the species w. of the Rockies in the province. An ad. male was seen at Naramata, B.C., May 29 (SRC) and a singing male was at Helena June 25 (GH). An ad. male Indigo Bunting in riparian habitat in the Sun R. Range n.w. of Great Falls, Mont., July 31 was the most westerly indication of breeding in the state (SH). Another male was found n. of Spencer, s.e. Idaho July 20 (KM), and a male with some imm. plumage was sighted in Chewelah, Wash., June 25 (JA, WH). What was believed to be a Ø Painted Bunting was observed at Malheur N.W.R. at a ten-ft distance June 11 (HBN, MK). Purple and Cassin's Finches were together at about 500-ft elevation near Lyle, Wash., June 18 (EH). Black Rosy Finches, some feeding young, were observed in alpine areas of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Oreg. (DMF). Hart Mt., Lake Co., Oreg. yielded two Lesser Goldfinches July 12 (DMF) and at least three were near Lyle, Wash., June 18 (EH). Six-ten White-winged Crossbills were in spruce-fir areas in Franklin Co., Ida. during July (KS)

SPARROWS -- A single Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Wenatchee Guard Station, Asotin Co., Wash, July 1. The species was looked for there last year without success (RT). Another was reported on the w side of Lewis Peak e. of Walla Walla, Wash. in July (KK). Single Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from near Bigfork, Mont. (JSu); in the Nampa, Ida area (G.E.A.S.), and at Keller Ferry, Lincoln Co., Wash (DAK), but were not found at the usual breeding grounds near Asotin, Wash. Black-throated Sparrow numbers were up in the Alvord Basin, s. Harney Co, Oreg., and two adults were at the northernmost known spot, Wrights Pt., just s. of Burns (DMF). Sage Sparrow numbers apparently had built up well in the Alvord Basin after very low numbers in 1974. A Clay-colored Sparrow was sighted July 2 & 9 near Valley, Wash (JA). Several singing male White-crowned Sparrows of

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undetermined race were at Howard L., in the n.w. part of Yakima Indian Reservation June 30 (EH). Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen during June and July in the mountains around Smithers, B.C. (JDW).

OBSERVERS CITED--James Acton, Kathleen Anderson, Gerry Ansell, John A. Beam, Erik H. Bergman, Marcy Bishop, Cathy Bolles, R.J. Butot, Richard Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Mike Carmody, Dean Carrier, Phil Cheney, Nell Cobb, Mark R. Collie, Alan Contreras, John Contreras, (RD) Richard Donham, (RDo) Rod Drewien, Charles L. Elliott, Mark Egger, Barbara Fenner, Mike Fitzpatrick, David M. Fix, Flathead Audubon Society, Cal Giesler, Greg Gillson, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Sayre Greenfield, Warren Hall, Camille Harper, (EHa) Ed Harper, Dudley Harrington, Steve Harvey, (EHi) Erland Hindson, George Holton, Rick Hudson, Eugene Hunn, David S. Irons, Don Johnson, Joseph H. Jeppson, Daniel A. Knierim, Ken Knittle, Mark Koninendyke, Ray Leiner, Dick Low, Ken MacKenze, Dan Makenna, Sid Martin, L. Richard Mewalt, Fran Morlock, Larry D. Napier, Harry B. Nehls, Gene Nixon, Norma Nixon, Tom Pogsdon, Joyce E. Queckborner, J.J. Riddell, Ralph Ritcey, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Betty Rose, Lorelei Saxby, Hilda M. Saylor, Ralph G. Saylor, Terry Selam, W.H. Shillington, Kimberly Smith, Malheur Field Station, (JS) Jim Stout, Shirley Sturts, (JSu) John Sudan, Tom Thurow, Ron Toonen, C.H. Trost, Terry Wahl, John W. Weber, J. Dan Webster, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society, Vince Yannone, Kathleen Zinn.

*The Nesting Season 1977*

**NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/Eugene Hunn and Philip Mattocks, Jr.**

The Region continued into the breeding season in the grip of drought. At Seattle June and July rainfall was but 43 percent of normal (0.96 in.) and temperatures were 1.90 F above average. Dry conditions were somewhat moderated in July, and their impact on bird distributions was not obvious. Owing to a temporary breakdown in communications during the transfer of editorial duties, this summary does not include the observations of many Vancouver, B.C. collaborators. Highlights missed here will be included with the fall summary. Non-standard abbreviations used are: S.J.C.R., South Jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., Oreg. and V.I., Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS--Common Loons nested at Pye L., n. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT) and may also have nested at two lakes near Victoria, V.I. (*fide* VG). Common and Arctic Loons were still moving N past Oregon and Washington coastal points through mid-June. The few Common and Arctic Loons were joined all summer on salt water by numbers of Red-throateds along Oregon and Washington coasts and about Victoria. Six **Yellow-billed Loons** in both nuptial and basic plumages were reported in late June and July at several points on the Queen Charlotte Is. shores (B.C.P.M.). There is but a handful of previous summer records for the Region. A few Red-necked Grebes summered near Victoria (RS, JTa), while single Horned Grebes were reported from Tillamook Bay, Oreg., Ocean Shores, Wash., and Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. Western Grebes were notably scarce this summer at Bellingham, Wash. (TW), but 300 were at Pt. Grenville on the Washington coast July 9 (G & WH), a good mid-summer concentration. A Pied-billed Grebe nest was reported from Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Oreg. and five were found in the Victoria-Saanich area. Black-footed Albatrosses were noted off the Queen Charlotte Is., five on June 19 (B.C.P.M.), and by Terry Wahl's Westport trips, June 26 & July 17 (68 each). TW's two cruises also reported N. Fulmars (6, 38) and Pink-footed Shearwaters (129, 117) as well as a few Flesh-footed Shearwaters (1, 2), which are rare but regular visitors offshore May through October in the Region. Only Sooty Shearwaters were reported inshore. He reported that storm-petrel numbers have been down all year; Fork-taileds were noted June 26 (2) & July 17 (23) off Westport, but no Leach's were observed. Both Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants nested in good numbers on Mandarte I., S.), Georgia Straits, B.C., with 840 and 501 nests respectively, June 22 (B.C.P.M.). The Pelagic Cormorant also nested on the nearby Race Rocks, with 389 nests on June 21. Brandt's Cormorants were unusually scarce in the Victoria and Saanich area (VG). Also noteworthy were 20 Pelagic Cormorants in s. Puget Sound near Olympia all summer, although no nesting was noted (BH-T, G & WH). Green Herons were well reported n. to Agassiz, in the Fraser R. valley, B.C., where there were four on July 10 (MS). The high count was along the Chehalis R., near Oakville, Thurston Co., Wash., July 22 (G & WH). Only one Great Egret report came in, a single bird at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. July 28 (DI, DFi).

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans in the S. Vancouver I. colony numbered at least 48, including six half grown young July 23 (*fide* VG). Two **Trumpeter Swans** were found near Elma, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 11 & July 12 (G & WH, KB), and one immature was near Gold R., on the w. side of Vancouver I. all summer (HT). Neither bird was injured. An odd-plumaged Brant was noted in Lincoln County, Oreg. at the Salmon R. mouth June 12 (DFi). Other Brant reported were six at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 11 & 24 and July 15, and singles at Victoria, June 1 & July 6. These are normal numbers. It should be noted that summer Brant plumages are frequently not reliable for subspecific identifications. A healthy **White-fronted Goose** at Ocean Shores June 11 & 24 (G & WH) provides the first June record for Washington. A second White-fronted Goose, a sickly adult, was at the S.J.C.R., July 16 (HN, CS).

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Blue-winged Teal were unusually numerous along the Oregon coast (*fide* HN), and a pair at the Applegate R. mouth, Josephine Co., June 11, was a first for that southern location (SS). Blue-winged and unidentified female teals bred at several S. Vancouver I. locations (*fide* VG). The Hoges reported a Blue-winged or Cinnamon brood breasting the Black R. current near Oakville, Thurston Co., Wash.; unusual habitat for a puddle duck. A female N. Shoveler with six young at Cannon Beach, Oreg., provided an unusual nesting report w. of the Cascades. The young were grown by July 30 (*fide* HN) A second brood was reported at Seattle's Montlake fill July 4-10 (EG, KB). A Wood Duck brood at Progress, near Portland, Oreg., June 23 was the only nesting report received (DFi). Five male Ring-necked Ducks in three s. British Columbia locations June 4-18 suggested the possibility of breeding (RS, CRu, RRo, HT, KC), a rare occurrence in the Region. A few Pintail and Am. Wigeon summered on Vancouver I., as usual. So did scattered Greater Scaup and Com. Goldeneye; the scaup were noted in Oregon and Washington as well with 75 at Ilwaco, Pacific Co., Wash., June 17, a high count Barrow's Goldeneyes raised young on mountain lakes in Manning P.P., B.C., and near Santiam Pass s. of Mt Hood, Oreg. A female Bufflehead in Seattle until June 29 (EG), and single Oldsquaw in early July at two localities in s. British Columbia and a male in Tillamook County, Oreg. were notable summer stragglers. Good numbers of Harlequin Ducks summered throughout Georgia Strait; the high count of 150 was at Mandarte I. (JSm, *fide* VG). No nests were reported. White-winged and Surf Scoters summered all along the coast and into Victoria as usual. High counts were 120 White-winged in Oregon at Cape Lookout June 15 (HN, CS), and 104 Surf Scoters at Victoria's Clover Pt., June 1 (RS, HH). The only Black Scoters were three well n. in Georgia Straits, July 7 & 28 (HT), with one at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. July 31 (ME). Hooded Mergansers nested in Oregon, near Forest Grove, Washington Co., in Washington near Oakville, Grays Harbor Co., and on Vancouver I., n to Campbell R. Common Merganser broods were also reported from Oregon; two at Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., and one near Forest Grove, in Washington near Oakville (2 broods), and in British Columbia on s. V.I.'s Sooke R. (several broods) and Cowichan Bay (also several broods).

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH QUAIL -- Goshawks nested in Oregon near Zig Zag, Clackamas Co, where an adult was feeding a juvenile June 16 (ESc) Singles were also noted in Washington near Packwood, Lewis Co., and in British Columbia near Campbell R., V.I. The seven Sharp-shinned Hawks reported were all on V.I. There were three Cooper's Hawks reported also, one at Olympia, Wash., and two from Victoria, B.C. The precise nesting status of these species in the Region needs further study. Two Red-tailed Hawk nests were cited, both by Vancouver I. reporters. Single Golden Eagles were reported in Jackson County, Oreg., (ME), and at three Vancouver I. locations. A summer concentration of Bald Eagles at Active Pass in Georgia Straits had a minimum of 74 on June 4, forty-four of which were immatures (RS). Other reports came from scattered Vancouver I. sites, the Washington coast with 13 in Clallam County, June 27-July 5 (ME), and s. to the Salmon R., Lincoln Co, Oreg. A pair of Marsh Hawks at Ocean Shores, Wash, all summer was noteworthy although no nest was found. There were three other w. Washington sightings, and Vancouver I. also reported an individual. Eight known Osprey nest sites on s. V.I. were checked. Two were successful, three were not, and the success of the remaining three was uncertain (HT, VG, RS). More than 30 individuals were noted in Washington and Oregon with notable concentrations the 15+ counted along the Rogue R., s. Oreg., (ESc), and the eight along the outer beach of Clallam County, Wash. (ME). These are good numbers. Few falcons were reported. The single Prairie Falcon in Deschutes County, Oreg., July 18 was just e. of the Cascades crest (ME), and three Merlins were reported from V.I. Four Ruffed Grouse broods on VA. were noted HT reported a good year for Ruffed Grouse around Campbell R., V.I. The Bobwhite in Washington is apparently widely distributed in prairies and clearcuts in Thurston and Pierce Cos. BH-T found nine calling males at two new locations there this summer. The northernmost California Quail was a pair near Courtenay, V.I. (LS, HT). Mountain Quail were reported only from Lincoln County, Oreg. and near Malahat, VA., where they are probably remnants of an introduced population.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS: -- Virginia Rails bred in Oregon (at Progress near Portland), Washington (Nisqually N.W.R.), and Vancouver I (Saanich). An ad. Virginia's and breeding Soras were at Beaver Pond, Manning P.P., B.C., July 4 (RS) American Coots bred at Saanich, V.I. for the only nesting reported. Black Oystercatchers were common and nested at several points in the Victoria area. No Semipalmated Plover nests were reported, but low numbers were present on Iona I., B.C., through mid-June, and large numbers were along the Oregon and Washington coasts after mid-July. In contrast, numbers at Victoria in late July were eight this year compared to 37 in 1976 (*fide* VG). Snowy Plover bred successfully at its n. outpost at Ocean Shores with four pairs nesting and three young banded (JaS). The Am. Golden Plover at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., June 17 was unique (HN, DFi, EW). Black-bellied Plovers summered throughout coastal areas and the Georgia Straits with the high count 70 at Leadbetter Pt., June 17. A trickle of fall migrant Ruddy Turnstones was noted in late July, with two in Grays Harbor, Wash., on the 14th, a record early date for the state (BH-T). A Black Turnstone held on at Ocean Shores until June 11, a record late spring date, while the first fall bird was a single there on July 15 (G & WH). The Longbilled Curlew July 26 at the Komo Kulshan Guard Station in Washington's N. Cascades defies explanation (BU, *fide* TW). A few Whimbrel were reported from several localities on the s. Washington coast throughout

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June, and by mid-July hundreds had gathered at Ocean Shores and Leadbetter Pt. in fall migration. Spotted Sandpipers bred at Progress, near Portland, at Seattle's Montlake fill, and at several Vancouver I. points. A single Solitary Sandpiper July 25 near Monroe, King Co., Wash., was the only one reported of this scarce migrant (MC). Both yellowlegs were widely noted in July, probably early fall migrants, although five Greater Yellowlegs June 17 at Leadbetter Pt. may have summered. AC found an unusually high percentage of Lesser Yellowlegs at inland Oregon locations. The first Wandering Tattler returned to s. V.I., July 13 (M & VG) and had reached the S.J.C.R. by July 30 (HN) The only Willets were one at Ocean Shores June 11 (G & WH), and six in Oregon at Yaquina Bay July 31 (ME). This species is rare n. of the Columbia R. Fourteen Surfbirds returned to Ocean Shores July 15 (G & WH) and 37 to the Victoria area on July 18 (RS). Red Knots apparently summered at Ocean Shores as 20 were there June 11 & 24 (G & WH). Sanderlings returned early and in large numbers with the vanguard of 500+ at Ocean Shores July 15. Unusual numbers were observed at Willamette Valley, Oreg. reservoirs in late July (AC), perhaps attracted by the extensive exposed mud produced by the recent drought. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen in Seattle July 10-11 (KB† FK). Small numbers of Semi-palmateds pass through the Region in both spring and fall. However, there is great danger of confusing them, especially in fall, with the gray, short-billed, juvenile male Westerns. The vanguard of fall Western and Least Sandpipers appeared at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., July 7, when MS counted 6500 Westerns and 3000 Leasts. The only Baird's Sandpipers were in Oregon; three at Agate L., Jackson Co., July 30, and three more at Yaquina Bay July 31 (ME). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was early at Saanich, V.I., July 21 (M & VG). A very few Dunlin apparently summered on the s. Washington coast, although the single near Nanaimo, V.I., July 20 may have been an early fall migrant. Short-billed Dowitchers are clearly the common summering Dowitcher. From 40 to 100 individuals were seen on the Washington coast throughout June, and BH-T saw a cloud of 3000 on an island in Willapa Bay, Wash., June 29. The Short-billeds also beat their Long-billed kin back to the Victoria, V.I., area by two days, arriving July 5 (MS), and then outnumbering the Long-billed there through the end of July (RS, VG). By contrast the Long-billed is far more frequent in late fall and winter. The single **Stilt Sandpiper** at Yaquina Bay July 28 was seen by several observers (DFi, DI, BO). Marbled Godwits were noted only at Ocean Shores where 28 lingered through June 24 (G & WH). Phalaropes were few and scattered. TW had two Red and three N. Phalaropes off Westport July 17. VG and RS make a strong circumstantial case for nesting by Wilson's Phalarope on a pond at Cowichan Bay, V.I., where a territorial male was encountered July 7 and three young were noted July 20-23.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- TW's pelagic trips had good variety but small numbers of jaegers June 26 & July 17 out of Westport, Pomarine (1, 7), Parasitic (0, 2), Long-tailed (0, 3), and "South Polar" Skua (2, 5). (For a recent analysis of the West Coast Skuas see *Auk* 94:417). The earlier skuas furnished the only recent June records for these waters. Otherwise, a single Parasitic Jaeger was found by MS in s. Georgia Strait June 30. Glaucous-winged and W. Gulls continued their miscegenating ways! The large Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay island colonies appeared thoroughly and randomly mixed (BH-T). To the south, two apparently pure Glaucous-wingeds showed up in a Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., Oreg., Western Gull colony (DFl) In Puget Sound, however, Glaucous-wingeds are all alone; a 50% reduction in the Swinomish, Snohomish Co, colony was thought owing to food supply reduction (TW) On V.I. only Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported nesting, with 423 nests counted on Race Rocks and 1666 on Mandarte I. (B.C.P.M.). California Gulls apparently move to the coast down the Columbia R., from their inland breeding colonies, beginning to arrive about mid- June (HN, DFi). By July 21, 7000 adults were counted in the mouth of Willapa Bay (BH-T) and 5000 were at the S.J.C.R., July 30 (HN). The importance of the Columbia R. route versus the Fraser R. in British Columbia is highlighted by the low numbers noted on V.I. in late July A new nesting species for the Northern Pacific Coast Region is the **Ring-billed Gull**. Jack Smith of the Washington Dept. of Game discovered 20 nests on Snag I., Willapa Bay, in 1976. That site had none this summer, but nine nests with photogenic eggs and chicks were among the Caspian Terns on Whitcomb I, in Grays Harbor (BH-T). Ring-billed Gulls nest fairly commonly to the e. but are a welcome addition to the Regional breeding fauna. A few Mew Gulls summered as usual on s. V.I. although no nests were noted. A few fall birds were s. to Yaquina Bay by July 28. Franklin's Gulls were at Victoria's Clover Pt., hot spot July 8, an adult, and again on the 30th, an immature (M & VG, RS). TW noted that numbers about Bellingham were far below normal However, s. Oregon birders were surprised by three near Medford, Jackson Co., a new location (AC, DFi, ME) How do Bonaparte's Gulls do it? They were still migrating N. in numbers at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., June 15, and at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., June 17, but were back at Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay by the hundreds in mid-July. Most intriguing is a possible nesting site at Pye L., n. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Bonaparte's Gulls are not now known to nest in our Region. Heermann's Gulls arrived at Ocean Shores by June 11 (G & WH) with numbers building to 5000 adults (with but four immatures) by July 21 in Willapa Bay (BH-T) However, numbers about Victoria were down from last year (*fide* VG). The Hoges counted 200 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Ocean Shores throughout the summer, somewhat fewer than normal, and there were none offshore (TW), which is typical. Seven Sabine's Gulls were found out of Westport July 17 (TW) for the only report

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**S.A.**

A few **Common Terns** are not unusual in mid-summer at coastal points. However, the seven pairs of small terns found nesting on a rough sandy beach on Jetty I., in Everett harbor, Snohomish Co., Wash., by DM June 9 & July 21 were unprecedented. Although the nests and eggs were photographed, it is still not certain if the terns were Common or Forster's. Either would be a Regional first. Forster's breeds e. of the Cascades and is extremely rare at any time on the w. side. Common Terns are not known to breed w. of the Continental Divide, to our knowledge! Adult and juvenile Com. Terns were positively identified at the nest site in late August (KB, PWM?). This, and the fact that Forster's Tern typically builds its nest on aquatic vegetation in freshwater marshes points strongly to *Sterna hirundo*.

Two Arctic Terns were noted offshore from Westport July 17 (TW) for the only report. Caspian Terns were noted often in small numbers n. to Neah Bay, Clallam Co, Wash. (BP), and to Cortes I., s. Straits of Georgia June 27 (CS). Their center of abundance, however, is between the Columbia R. mouth and Grays Harbor. BH-T counted 2040 nests at the latter location. Only 30 nests were successful in Willapa Bay; a large colony of previous years was apparently wiped out by high water. A single Black Tern strayed to Monroe, King Co., Wash , July 17-22 (MC) and a few were found in the Rogue R. valley, Jackson Co., Oreg., July 30 for the first local record (AC, ME, DFi). A single **Horned Puffin** was seen June 9 and off-and-on all summer in Oregon at Cape Lookout, Tillamook Co. (JG, m.ob.). Another single individual was photographed at Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., Wash., July 2 (RRi). In addition, three small nesting colonies of this species were found by B.C.P.M. biologists this summer on the w. coast of the Queen Charlotte Is., for a first Canadian and Regional breeding record. This represents an extension of about 100 km. S. from their previous southernmost colony on Forrester I., Alaska.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- Barred Owls were nesting again at Colonial Cr. Campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., where they were first found in 1974. Another westside Barred Owl location is Cortes I., n.w. of Powell R., in the Georgia Straits, where a single bird was noted June 29 (MS, CS). Short-eared Owls nested this June at Sand Pt., in Seattle, for a local first, but the nest was destroyed by vandals (FS). A pair was near the Ocean Shores Game Range throughout June and was seen in display flight (G & WH). A probable family group was seen near Bellingham July 13 (DMc, *fide* TW), and other sightings suggestive of nesting came from near Vancouver, B.C. Up to six Poorwills at Roxy Ann Butte, Jackson Co., Oreg., in our Region's "little California" were unique Black Swifts gave cause for comment. Although fairly common and regular to the n. of the Columbia R., this summer they were noted numerous times and various places throughout w. Oregon (*fide* AC). Anna's Hummingbirds were again present all summer at Saanich, V.I., where an immature was seen from June 27 into July (RM-G, *fide* VG) and in Bellevue, King Co., Wash , one-two through July 10 (BMl), but nests were not found. A female hummingbird seen on Leadbetter Pt., at close range but briefly June 17 exhibited some features of both Anna's and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (HN†). An Acorn Woodpecker at Cornelius, Washington Co., Oreg., was at the species' n.w. limit (DFi). A Lewis' Woodpecker at the Nisqually N.W.R., June 11 (J & GM) was unusual, since there are no recent breeding records for the Region. The male Williamson's Sapsucker at White Pass in the Washington Cascades June 4 was an e. slope species at the w. edge of its range. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported only from a restricted area in the N. Cascades. Nests were found July 3 at Hart's Pass on the Cascades crest (MPe), and July 16 near Mt. Baker (DV, *fide* TW), both Whatcom County, Wash. There were four E. Kingbirds at Agassiz e. of Vancouver, B.C., July 10 (MS) and a single at Victoria June 27 (EL, *fide* VG), but no nesting activity was reported. The W. Kingbird, however, nested again at Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash. (G & WH, BH-T), and strays appeared in coastal Tillamook and Lincoln Cos, Oreg. in mid-June (DFi, HN). The four Ash-throated Flycatchers at Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford, Oreg, July 30 were not unexpected (ME), and two Black Phoebes nearby, just s.w. of Medford at Ruch, are regular in that area. A Bank Swallow in the mountains of Skamania County, 15 km w. of Trout L., July 30 was perhaps an example of post-breeding up-slope drift from the e. side breeding populations (BH-T). Cliff Swallows "increased tremendously this year" at Portland, nearby Sauvie I., and on the Oregon coast (DFi *et al*.), and were present in higher-than-usual numbers near Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Our precious few Purple Martins had an up year with nesting pairs double that of 1976 at Florence in coastal Lane Co., Oreg. at Portland (TL), and in Seattle and Tacoma (DFe). Other colonies held their own, as at Fern Ridge near Eugene, Oreg. at Olympia and L. Whatcom, Wash. At one nest reported from Saanich, V.I., adults were feeding young July 8 (M & VG).

PARIDS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Plain Titmice were common near Medford as usual at the n. extreme of their range (ME), and Com. Bushtits ranged N to Campbell R., their n. limit (HT). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Manning P.P., July 3 represented perhaps the fifth park record (RS). The uncommon House Wren increased near Tacoma and nested near Campbell R, VA. A **Mockingbird** was at Eugene, the last week in July (JC, *fide* AC). Details of a sighting of a **California Thrasher** at O'Brien, Josephine Co., Oreg., June 18,

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have been submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee (TT, PN, *fide* AC). There are but a few sight records of this species n. of the California line. A Townsend's Solitaire nest with three eggs was photographed June 12 near Crow, Lane Co., Oreg. in the Coast Range where only one previous nest was known (*Condor* 51: 190). The nest was on the ground in a clearcut at *ca*. 500 m. elevation; by June 23 three young had hatched (ph-ME). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested as usual at their n. limit near Medford. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing near McCleary, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 21 was a first for w. Washington in summer (PWM?). It breeds commonly on the e. slope of the Cascades, however, and in the mountains of Vancouver I. Red-eyed Vireos were located again this year on the Rogue R., near Shady Grove, Jackson Co., Oreg. June 13 (SS). This marks the s.w. extremity of their breeding range. California observers should be on the lookout. The Red-eyed Vireo is not uncommon n. through the Willamette Valley of Oregon (AC) and the Puget Sound area, and may be found n. to Cortes I., near Campbell R, V.I. (MS, GS). It avoids the immediate coast and the w. slope of the Coast Ranges, however. Ten Black-throated Gray Warblers on Cortes I., June 28-30 were a bit far w. at this species' n. limit (MS, GS). Hermit Warblers were apparently breeding at two Mason County, Wash., locations, n.w. of the species' favorite haunts. Two were noted at Jarrell Cove S.P., on Hood Canal June 12 (KSc) and three were singing at Staircase Campground, Olympia N.P., June 9 (BH-T). BH-T had Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and Hermit Warblers all together at the latter site. **Northern Waterthrushes** may nest in the isolated Am. Redstart colony just e. of the Cascades crest in c. Oregon along Crescent Cr, Deschutes Co. (AC, ME *et al*.). This location is several hundred kilometers s. and w. of the nearest known breeding colonies. Yellow-breasted Chats singing near Portland June 5 & 7 were unusual (DFi). A chat was also along the Rogue R., in s. Oregon July 11 (ESc).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS -- **Bobolinks** on Tatoosh I., Clallam Co., Wash., June 4-5 (2 males, 2 females), provided the second record for w. Washington (BP). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are scarce breeders with us; this year they nested near Vancouver, B C., and on Sauvie's I., near Portland (DI). A few strays appeared on V.I., n. to Campbell R. A small colony of **Tricolored Blackbirds** nested near Eagle Pt., Jackson Co., Oreg., (CRo, *fide* AC). This location is across the Cascade crest from, and about 75 km. w. of the northernmost regular breeding site at Klamath L., Oreg. Northern "Bullock's" Oriole nests were found well n. at Saanich and near Courtenay, V.I., while DFi estimated a population of near 150 for Sauvie's I. The Lazuli Bunting is relatively uncommon in w. Washington and British Columbia; a singing male was at Abbotsford, B.C., June 18 (*fide* VG), two males were found near McKenna, Pierce Co., Wash. (BH-T), while 21 males were near Portland (DFi). Pine Grosbeak reports are always welcome. Three were at Manning P.P., July 3-5 (RS) and a single male was found at Rainy Pass, Skagit Co., Wash., June 4 (TW). Both sites are on the Cascade crest. Six Lesser Goldfinches were at their n. limit at Scappoose Bottoms, Columbia Co, Oreg., June 5 (DFi), and a group was well n on the coast at Devil's L., Lincoln Co., Oreg., July 28 (DF0 Red Crossbills were well reported throughout, both on the coast and in the Cascades. Outstanding were the 30 White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Rainier N.P., July 14 & 24 (CC†, TB, MD). This species is rare and irregular at any season s. of the International border Brown Towhees were numerous at the n. limit of their range near Medford (ME, AC). The male **Grasshopper Sparrow** singing at Sea I, near Vancouver, B.C., in early June was extraordinary. The bird was last seen June 18 (ph. BMa, AG, JFu, ES1, MW). This species is generally restricted to the arid interior e. of the Cascades where it is uncommon and local. The pair of **Black-chinned Sparrows** reported near Medford in late May was seen again July 23 & 29 (SG, CRo). This is the second report for the Medford area and the species is unknown elsewhere in the Region. The only Fox Sparrows reported were several singing males on the s.w. side of V.I. near the Jordan R (M & VG). These are no doubt of the race *fuliginosa*, which is said to reach its s. limit of breeding in adjacent coastal Washington. Two male White-crowned Sparrows were singing the *pugetensis* song pattern at Huckleberry Meadows, 15 km. w. of Trout L., Skamania Co, Wash, at 1600 m elevation July 30 (BH-T). Probable *pugetensis* were singing just e. of the crest on June 30 at Howard L., Yakima Co., at a similar elevation (ESH) This coastal lowland race appears to be rapidly colonizing clearcuts and other open areas in the s. Cascades of Washington.

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*End 1977*