**1995**

*Autumn Migration, 1994*

**Oregon/Washington Region**

**BILL TWEIT AND JEFF GILLIGAN**

The fall weather was a continuation of the current drought theme, with rainfall well below normal in all parts of the Region through early October. Late October brought snow to the mountains and November precipitation was normal on the westside. November was cooler than average in the interior, but otherwise temperatures were near average.

 

Ocean productivity continued to be very low; Sooty Shearwaters, storm-petrels, phalaropes, and jaegers were very scarce. Most westside observers who commented on the shorebird migration indicated that numbers for most species were generally poor, particularly for both species of golden-plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Ruff. Blue Jays staged a tremendous fall invasion into the Region, with at least 38 individuals reported. The Red-breasted Nuthatch movement through the interior was also spectacular.

**Abbreviations**: Fern Ridge *(Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR);* Fields *(Fields, Harney OR);* Malheur *(Malheur M.W.R., Harney, OR)*; Sauvie *(Sauvie L, Columbia, OR);* S.J.C.R. *(south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR);* O.S. *(Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA)*; W.W.R.D. *(Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA).*

**LOONS TO DUCKS**

The total of 14 Pacific Loon reports from e. of the Cascades (m.ob.) was relatively normal and considerably below last fall's record numbers. Four Yellow-billed Loons were reported from expected locales: one adult at Point Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA Sept. 11-15 (*fide* M. Price), one near LaConner, *Skagit*, WA Nov. 24 (G. Ritlin), one at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR Nov. 1+ (JL), and one near Ilwaco, *Pacific*, WA Nov. 13+ (MP). Clark's Grebe reports away from normal haunts included one at Beulah Res., *Malheur*, OR Sept. 3 (AC), one at Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, OR Sept. 18 (JG), one at O.S., Oct. 7 (†G & WH), one at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, WA Oct. 16 (SM), one at Vashon, *King*, WA Oct. 23 (R. Sanders), and three at Westport, *Grays Harbor*, WA Nov. 1 (†G & WH). There were 11 pelagic trips off Westport, WA (TW) and 6 off Oregon (BOB, SR, GG, SD, PaSu, MH). Three Laysan Albatross were found Sept. 11, two off Westport (TW) and one off Charleston (†MH); none was reported later. Northern Fulmar numbers were very low until Sept. 24, when 50 were found. Pink-footed Shearwaters were found in normal numbers, but for the 6th consecutive fall Flesh-footed Shearwaters were very scarce. Only four were found, from Sept. 16+. Buller's Shearwater numbers were low as well; they peaked at 79 off Westport Oct. 8. Sooty Shearwater numbers were abysmal: 14 of the 17 counts were less than 1,000! The peak was only 2,250 Aug. 13, almost certainly the lowest ever peak count for fall pelagic trips. There was only one report of numbers seen from shore, 400/min. were flying S past Long Beach, *Pacific*, WA Aug. 20 (B. Duell). As usual, a few Short-tailed Shearwaters appeared in October; 25 were counted Oct. 8 and two were at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Nov. 18-22 (VN). Very few Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel were seen each trip off Washington through

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the end of September, but they were only found off Oregon Aug. 20& 27 (TJ, GG). They disappeared in October for the first time ever. Coastal numbers of Brown Pelicans were good, and several were on Puget Sound, where they are accidental, including one at Olympia Sept. 26 (MC) providing a *Thurston* 2nd, one at Point No Point, *Kitsap* Sept. 30 (VN), and one near LaConner Oct. 29 (*fide* K & JW) for a *Skagit* first. Great Egret numbers were very large; the total was certainly over 600. Peak counts were: 50 at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Sept. 2 (JE), 92 at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA Sept. 5 (BW), 67 at Davis L, *Deschutes*, OR Sept. 11 (CM), 150 in *Grant*, WA in mid-September (RHi), and 115 at Fern Ridge Nov. 5 (R. Kelsh). Interior reports of Cattle Egret predominated over coastal reports, continuing the trend of 2 of the last 3 falls. The interior records included one at Summer L., OR Aug. 15 (CM) representing a 3rd Lake record, one at *Malheur* Sept. 4 (AC), one e. of Pateros, Okanogan, WA Oct. 28 (D. Swedberg), and 25 at Othello, Adams, WA Oct. 25—Nov. 3 (RHi, PB). Only two were reported from the westside: one north of Albany, *Linn*, OR Oct. 29 (SR) and one at Redmond, *King*, WA Nov. 15 (†B. Dolphin). The number of fall reports of Green Heron from the interior is increasing. The six reports included singles at Crow Butte S.P., *Benton*, WA Aug. 20 (M & MLD), at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA Aug. 27 (BT), at Mosier, (Vasco, OR Sept. 11 (DB), near Pendleton, Umatilla, OR Sept. 28 (DS, ph.), and at *Malheur* Oct. 14 (T & AM). They are not regular breeders in the interior, so an apparent nesting at Prineville, *Crook*, OR with three young noted Sept. 16 (TC) is significant. Black-crowned Night-Herons are sporadic on the westside: four were at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Aug. 15-17 (JE) and four were at Fern Ridge Aug. 14 (T & AM). A Mute Swan resided on the Snake R. from Lower Granite Dam to Clarkston throughout the fall (*fide* MK); this exotic appears to be increasing in the Region. The **Whooper Swan** found at Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake*, Nov. 10+ (M. St. Louis, m.ob.) provided Oregon's 2nd record, and is likely the same individual that first appeared in the California portion of the Klamath basin in the winter of 1991-1992. The single Emperor Goose reported was at Everett, WA Oct. 20 (G. Toffic). Of the >20,000 Canada Geese surveyed in the Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA area Nov. 9, less than 1,000 were the "Dusky" race (JE), an alarmingly low number as this area is the center of their winter range. Over half of the total numbers were "Cackling" geese, an unusually high number (JE). Cackling geese were also reported more frequently than usual from the Puget Trough this fall (SM, BT). A brood of Ring-necked Ducks at Gold L., *Lane*, OR Sept. 2 (T & AM) were at the s. edge of their breeding range. A ? Tufted Duck at Columbia N.W.R., *Adams*, WA Oct. 10-17 (RHi) was the only report of this rare species. Seven Oldsquaws, a number slightly above average, were found in the interior, all in e. Washington Oct. 22+ (m.ob.). Ten Surf and 26 White-winged scoters in the interior was roughly average.

**KITES TO PHALAROPES**

White-tailed Kites were reported from all their accustomed Washington locations, including two adults feeding a juvenile at Frances, *Pacific*, Sept. 18 (SM, RR) and a juvenile Nov. 21-22 at the Raymond, *Pacific*, site that has not held kites for several years (C. Linsenmeyer). There were numerous reports of Red-shouldered Hawks away from their regular range in s.w. Oregon: two at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR Aug. 26—Oct. 30 (F. Schrock, MH), one immature at Lost L., Santiam Pass, *Linn*, OR Sept. 2 (MC), one at Davis L., Deschutes, OR Sept. 18-20 (TC), one at Ilwaco, *Pacific*, WA Sept. 18 (†RR, *et al.*), one at *Malheur* Sept. 24 (T. Morgan), one near Creswell, *Lane*, OR Oct. 24 (K. Jones), one near Siletz Bay, *Lincoln*, OR Nov. 6 (SR), two at Fern Ridge Nov. 6+ (T & AM), and one at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Nov. 21 (S. Pinnock). The records from Lost L. and Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades and the record from the interior at *Malheur* were quite unusual. The Gyrfalcon at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* Nov. 6-12 (JL., *et al.*) was one of the most accessible individuals in w. Oregon in several years. The only other reports came from *Skagit*, WA (K & JW, T. Becker). For the 2nd consecutive fall, Duemmel found no White-tailed Ptarmigan in the N. Cascades. A ptarmigan female and chick were found Aug. 18 near Monogram L., N. Cascades N.P., *Skagit*, WA (Gary Bletsch) and one was at Big Snow Mt., *King*, WA Sept. 21 (EH). The last fall with a total golden-plover count surpassing 100 was 1988, when 251 were reported. Since then, totals of both species have been much lower. The Am. Golden-Plover peak count was 12 at O.S. Aug. 4-11 (SM, PtSu), a total of 18 were reported elsewhere on the westside and four were reported from the eastside (BW, JA, MD). The Pacific Golden-Plover numbers were even smaller: four each at O.S. Aug. 4-19 (SM, RR) and S.J.C.R. Aug. 26—Sept. 17 (MP), one at Nehalem, *Tillamook*, OR Aug. 22 (HN, SR), one at McVay Beach, *Curry*, OR Sept. 7-12 (DM), one at *Tillamook*, OR Sept. 18 (JG), one at Swinomish Slough, *Skagit*, WA Oct. 9-10 (K & JW), two on San Juan I., WA Oct. 9 (K & JW, SM), and one at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA Oct. 18 (D & SS). Two atypical flocks of Am Avocet were found on the westside: up to 15 were on Whidbey I., *Island* WA Aug. 13-20 (HO, RR, SM) and 14 were at Sauvie Aug 6—Sept. 30 (DB, JJ, S. Jaggers). The only other westside report was one at Fern Ridge Sept. 5 representing a 2nd *Lane* record (P French). The count of 5,000 avocets at Abert L., *Lak*e, OR Sept. 4 (C. & M. O'Leary) is only one-seventh of the fall 1993 census there. A normal number of Solitary Sandpiper reports entailed five from westside and 30 from the eastside, with one very late at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA Oct. 4-7 (BW). Upland Sandpipers are outstanding rarities on the coast: one was at O.S. Aug. 27-30 (†CCh, †VN) and another at *Tillamook*, OR Sept. 18 (M. Sheppard). A Hudsonian Godwit at Summer Lake W.M.A., *Lake* Sept. 2-7 (CM) provided about the 3rd e. Oregon record. Bar-tailed Godwits are annual in fall on the outer coast: one ad. male was at O.S. Aug. 19 (†RR) and one was reported again at O.S. Sept. 3-4 (T. Peterson), but a juvenile at Kennedy Cr., *Mason* Oct. 1 (†CCh) provided only the 2nd lower Puget Sound record. The number of juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper reports did not measure up to the high counts of adults in July. Only eight were reported on the east-side and 18 on the westside. Small numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from numerous locations, with a peak of 100 on Sauvie Sept. 25 (DB), but most localities reported less than ten. Four Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reports was representative of recent fall totals: one at O.S. Sept. 18-19 (E. Larson, PtSu), one at Bandon, *Coos*, OR Oct. 5 (DM), one at Sauvie Oct. 9 (JJ) and one at S.J.C.R. Oct. 15 (MP). Stilt Sandpiper numbers were also low: nine were reported from e. Washington and 16 were found on the westside including the first *Lane* record at Siltcoos Outlet, OR Aug. 23 (P. Sherrell). No Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported for the first fall since 1977. Three of the 4 Ruff records constituted the 4th, 5th, and 6th records for e. Washington: one juvenile at McNary Aug. 15-17 (†T. Greager, †PB) for the first Walla Walla record, a juvenile at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton* Sept. 26 (BW), and a different juvenile there Oct. 7 (BW). The only other report was one at O.S. Aug. 12 (G. Gerdts). Red-necked Phalarope numbers on the ocean were unbelievably poor, ten of 15 pelagic trips found ≤20 and the peak was only 500 Aug. 27 (GG). Their distribution may have shifted somewhat to inside waters, if the count of >4,000 at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA (VN) Sept. 1-3 was any indication. Coastal Red Phalarope reports were almost

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non-existent; inland reports were one near Pendleton, *Umatilla*, OR Sept. 28 (†DS, ph.) and one at Richland, *Benton*, WA Oct. 5-6 (BW, PB).

**JAEGERS TO OWLS**

Numbers of jaegers offshore were poor all fall; the peak counts of Pomarine and Long-tails were 15 Sept. 1 and six Aug. 27, respectively (TW). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Sept. 3 (VN) was very unusual on Puget Sound. Four Parasitic Jaegers were reported from the interior Sept. 10-14, and they were more common than usual on Puget Sound (VN, SM). One Pomarine Jaeger, very rare away from the outer coast, was on Puget Sound off Winslow, *Kitsap* Oct. 16 (†SM). Only 12 South Polar Skuas were reported, with a peak of four off Westport Sept. 24 (TW). At least 27 Franklin's Gull reports from the westside was an improvement from the low numbers of 1989-1993: >22 in w. Washington with the latest at Everett Nov. 8 (SM), two at Sauvie (DB, SR), one at S.J.C.R. (M. Edgington), one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR Oct. 14 (R. Gerig), and two at Monmouth, *Polk*, OR Oct. 18 (SD). Interior reports included six in e. Washington through Oct. 23 (PB) and one at Davis L., Sept. 11 (CM) for a *Deschutes* 2nd. The usual Little Gull reports were an immature at Everett, WA Oct. 8-10 (†SM) and adult at Mukilteo, *Snohomish*, WA Nov. 19 (SM). An ad. Com. Black-headed Gull off Seattle Oct. 27 (†RR) provided about the 8th Washington record. Heermann's Gulls are unexpected inland, so singles in the Willamette valley at Monmouth, *Polk* Oct. 13-28 (B. Tice) and at Fern Ridge Nov. 19 (R. Kelsh) were noteworthy. Mew Gull reports have increased in frequency from the interior, six were reported from Aug. 21+ (D. Lusthoff). California Gull numbers were below normal on the westside (HN, TW). Glaucous Gulls were sparingly reported, with four from the interior and eight from the westside. An ad. **Ross' Gull** in the interior at McNary Dam on the Columbia R., Nov. 27—Dec. 1 (†PB, m.ob.) was seen in both states, providing the first record for Washington and the 2nd for Oregon. Sabine's Gull numbers were very low offshore, with only 96 reported on all 17 pelagic trips. The only interior report was one immature at Summer L., OR Sept. 2 (CM) for a Lake 4th. Elegant Terns were found in lower numbers than the previous 2 falls: two at *Tillamook* Bay, OR Aug. 6 (T. Shelmerdine), ten at Siuslaw R. mouth, *Lane*, OR Aug. 20—Sept. 11 (T & AM), two at Charleston, *Coos*, OR Sept. 9 (PaSu) and six on both sides of the Columbia R. mouth Sept. 17 (D. Paulson, HN). The largest reported count of Com. Tern was 2,000 at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Sept. 1-3 (VN). Interior numbers were quite good: 32 in Oregon and 49 in Washington. An ad. Arctic Tern at W.W.R.D., Sept. 5 (†AS) was an interior rarity. Forster's Terns at Oak Bay, *Jefferson*, WA Aug. 28 (N. Ball) and at Everett, WA Nov. 8 (SM) were unexpected, but singles at Fern Ridge Sept. 2 (MH) and 17 (P. Sherrell) were at the only westside location where they are regular in fall. Common Murre numbers off Westport, WA showed a peak of almost 3,000 in early August (TW), as the Oregon population moved N. After that the highest count was only 625, and by September they became scarce along the entire outer coast (TW, HN). An Ancient Murrelet on the Columbia R. at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA Sept. 23 (S. Ray) was a remarkably early interior record. On Puget Sound, hundreds were off Point No Point, *Kitsap* in mid-November (VN), and a vast improvement over the 1993 numbers there. Cassin's Auklet numbers also showed a peak in early August off Westport (404), but succeeding counts were all fewer than 15 birds (TW GG, BOB, SD), which should fuel concerns about the breeding population of this species in the Region! A Cassin's Auklet in Pickering Passage, *Mason* Sept. 15 (†J. Grettenberger) is the farthest south record for Puget Sound. Other Puget Sound records included one at Point No Point Oct. 27 (VN). Rhinoceros Auklet numbers along the Oregon coast were very low (HN), with peak counts of ten. Tufted Puffins were also difficult to find offshore all fall (TW). An ad. Horned Puffin at O.S., Aug. 7 (†SM) may be the same individual noted at Pt. Grenville in June. Common Poorwill are very rare on the westside; singles were found in Bellingham, *Whatcom*, WA Oct. 14 (*fide* TW) and n. of Newport, *Lincoln*, OR Oct. 6 (C. Philo, D. Faxon). There were no Snowy Owl reports, accurately predicting poor winter numbers. A Boreal Owl was found near Tollgate, *Umatilla*, OR Oct. 2 (M & MLD) where they have been found regularly and two were at the s. edge of their known Oregon Cascades range, near Brokentop Mt., *Deschutes*, Sept. 14 (CM, TC, ph.). A Barred Owl that spent Oct. 18 in a tree in front of the downtown Portland public library (HN, m.ob.) was a strong indication that the species is producing well in its new range.

**HUMMINGBIRDS TO FINCHES**

Anna's Hummingbirds were at Wapato, *Yakima*, WA Aug. 23—Oct. 11 (AS) and at Walla Walla, WA Sept. 21 (M & MLD), away from their regular range in *Klickitat* in e. Washington. A Red-breasted Sapsucker was a rare vagrant to *Malheur* Oct. 15 (T & AM). A male Williamson's Sapsucker on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap*, WA Sept. 17 (J. Oakland) was an even rarer vagrant to the westside. The only Least Flycatcher report was one at Washtucna, *Adams*, WA Aug. 28 (BT). An imm **Eastern Phoebe** at Seattle Sept. 4 (†SA) would be the 3rd Washington record, if accepted by the records committee. Two extralimital Ash-throated Flycatcher reports included one at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA Aug. 16 (RR) and one at Seattle Oct. 30 (†R. Robinson). The only Tropical Kingbird report was from Astoria, *Clatsop*, OR Nov. 1 (MP). The usual handful of November Barn Swallow reports consisted of one near Roosevelt, *Klickitat*, WA Nov. 3 (G & WH), two at Vancouver, *Clark*, WA Nov. 5 (BT, SM) and one at Prineville, *Crook*, OR Nov. 5 (PaSu).

**SA**-The Blue Jay invasion greatly exceeded the previous record fall counts of 15 in 1990 and ten in 1991. The first reports were two in Cheney, *Spokane*, WA Sept. 24-25 (*fide* F. Wood) and one at *Malheur* Sept. 29 (R. Smith, S. Jones). By the end of November, >20 had been reported from e. Washington and >three from e. Oregon. At least nine were in the Spokane, WA area (*fide* JA, TR)! On the westside, the first report was one at Seattle Sept. 29 (*fide* EH); five others were found in w. Washington and three in w. Oregon included one near Leaburg, *Lane* Oct. 12 (V. Hempel), one at Bayshore Beach, *Lincoln* Nov. 10+ (L. Osis), and one at North Plains, *Washington* Nov. 13+ (J. Watkins). There were no indications of other corvids staging movements.

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at *Malheur* Sept. 22 (D. Anderson) was a regular vagrant. The ad. male Indigo Bunting at Spokane, WA (†JA, ph., m.ob.) Sept. 23—Oct. 2 represented about the 7th Washington record The Chipping Sparrow at Port Angeles, *Clallam* Oct. 24—Nov. 1 (B. Norton) was late. Five reports of Clay-colored Sparrow was a bit more than usual for fall: singles were at Washtucna, *Adams*, WA Aug. 28 (BT), Spokane, WA Sept. 23-28 (†JA), Harbor, *Curry*, OR Oct. 9 (DM), Brookings, *Curry*, OR Oct. 14-16 (C. Dillingham), and Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR Oct. 22 (C. Lawes) A juv. Black-throated Sparrow on Wahluke W.R.A., *Grant* Aug. 28 (AS, JA) was the only indication that birds from the summer invasion actually bred in Washington. The Lark Bunting on Tatoosh I., *Clallam* Aug. 19 (B. Paine), provided about the 10th Washington record. Swamp Sparrow reports included four from the interior: at Fields Oct. 15 (T & AM), near Ellensburg, Kittitas WA Nov 5 (HO), near the mouth of the Little Spokane R., Spokane, WA Nov. 20 (JA), and at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*, WA Nov. 28

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(JA). In w. Washington, three were at Spencer I., *Snohomish* Oct. 25-29 (SM), one was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* Nov. 5 (D. Nunnallee), one adult was at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark* Nov. 5 (BT, SM), one was at Everett, *Snohomish* Nov. 20 (I. Ulsh), and one was near Monroe, *Snohomish* Nov. 24 (SM). Great-tailed Grackles bred at *Malheur* this summer (*fide* U.S.F.W.S.); up to six males and two juveniles were present this fall. A Com. Grackle at Denman W.R.A., Oct. 3-5 (†BT, †SM, †H. Sands) provided a Jackson first and about the 15th for Oregon. A male Hooded Oriole in North Bend, *Coos*, OR Sept. 11 (B. Griffin) provided about the 2nd fall record for Oregon. A minor Pine Grosbeak flight reached the e. Washington lowlands, with >10 reports, and there were 2 reports from the Willamette valley (GL, JL). Red Crossbills were found on the westside from the n. Olympic Peninsula (D & SS, G & WH) s. to *Douglas* in Oregon (K. Wilson). They were only noted as common in the central Oregon Cascades in early September (AC) and in the Wallowas in November (JJ). Pine Siskins were noted in moderate numbers in n.w. Washington through November (TW, JD), but were found abundantly s. to the n. Willamette valley (JE, G & WH, RR, HN). A Lesser Goldfinch in Everett, WA Sept. 3 (†SM) was a *Snohomish* first, and singles at Florence, *Lane* Sept. 1 (B & ZS), Aloha, *Washington* Oct. 18 (K. Smith), and South Beach, *Lincoln* Nov. 23 (SR) were all locally rare in w. Oregon. Five were at Lyle, *Klickitat* (MD), and their only habitual Washington locale.

**Initialed observers, with subregional editors in boldface**: Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Scott Atkinson, David Bailey, Philip Bartley, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Michael Carmody, Chris Chappel, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Tom Crabtree, Mike & Merry L. Denny, Steve Dowlan, Jim Duemmel, Joe Engler, Greg Gilson, Randy Hill (RHi), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Matt Hunter, Tim Janzen, Jim Johnson, Ken Knittle, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area), Gerard Lillie, John Lundsten, Donna Lusthoff, Tom & **Alison Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Steve Mlodinow, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob O'Brien, Hal Opperman, Mike Patterson, Robert & Georgia Ramsey, **Russell Rogers** (Washington), Tom Rogers, Skip Russell, **Dory & Stan Smith** (*Clallam*), Andy Stepnewski, Bill & **Zannah Stotz**, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Paul Sullivan (PaSu), Dan Svingen, Terry Wahl, Keith & Jan Wiggers, Bob Woodley

*The Winter Season, 1994-95*

**Oregon/Washington Region**

**BILL TWEIT AND JIM JOHNSON**

It was a generally unremarkable winter, both for birds and climate. Three of the six boldfaced birds were from southeastern Washington locations, an interesting mix of Garganey, "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull, and Common Grackle. There were few conifer finches, few northern raptors, and few vagrants. The weather was generally mild and precipitation was either average or below average, except that severe flooding was associated with coastal storms in mid-December and early February. Snowpacks in the Washington Cascades approached long term average levels, indicating a lessening if not an end to the drought conditions that have prevailed for almost a decade.

**Abbreviations**: McNary *(McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla, WA)*; Sauvie *(Sauvie L, Columbia, OR).*

**LOONS TO WATERFOWL**

The usual modest number of interior Red-throated Loon reports were from the Columbia R., one at Priest Rapids Dam, *Yakima*, WA Dec. 31 (AS) and two near Portland (*fide* HN), as were the 2 Pacific Loon reports from the interior: two at McNary Dam Dec. 3 (PB) and one at Richland, WA Dec. 15—Jan. 23 (BW). There were only 4 reports of Yellow-billed Loon, which has become a typical number in recent winters. They included one at Beckett Pt., *Jefferson*, WA Jan. 7 (D. Buckley), one at Fort Canby S.P., *Pacific*, WA Dec. 3-21 (MP HN), one at Drayton Harbor, *Whatcom,* WA (*fide* TW), and one at Netarts Bay, *Tillamook*, OR Jan 7-8 (CR, m.ob.). Two of the Clark's Grebe reports were from unusual areas: one far north at Bellingham, WA Dec. 18 (TW) and one in the Willamette valley at Henry Hagg L., *Washington*, OR Dec. 18—Jan. 2 (HN). The only report from usual areas was four in *Curry* on the s. Oregon coast (CD). The January 21 pelagic trip off Westport, WA found low numbers of N. Fulmar, one Pink-footed Shearwater and a few Short-tailed Shearwaters (TW); Pink-footeds are normally absent in winter. The only onshore record of Short-tailed was one seen at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Dec. 4 & 15 (VN). American White Pelican continue to winter in small numbers in the Columbia basin, with a high count of 15 at Hanford, *Benton*, WA Jan. 21 (SR). There were 3 late Brown Pelican records in Oregon; the latest was at Hammond, *Clatsop*, Jan. 14 (*fide* HN). Unusual numbers of Great Egrets included one near Arlington, Snohomish, WA Dec. 27 (D. Brock), one in Puyallup, *Pierce*, WA Jan. 20 (M. Roening), six near Eugene, *Lane*, OR Feb. 26 (T & AM), and one near Auburn, *King*, WA Feb. 28 (TB). Black-crowned Night-Herons are regular winter visitors at a few locations on the westside; a new roost with 11 birds was discovered in Eugene, *Lane*, OR this winter (T & AM). We will continue to track Mute Swan sightings as their numbers expand in our Region; one—two were with other swans on the Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, WA from Dec. 29—Feb. 28 (JD) and one was at McNary Feb. 9-19 (M & MLD). Two Ross's Geese,

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rare winterers, were found: at Eagle Point, *Jackson*, OR Jan. 4 (MM) and at Kent, *King*, WA Jan. 13-25 (D. Beaudette, m.ob.). Six Emperor Goose reports was a welcome number; the winter of 1988-1989 was the last winter with more than a couple of reports. Singles were at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, WA Dec. 10 through at least Feb. 20 (D & SS), at Bay City, *Tillamook*, OR Dec. 17 (m.ob.), at the mouth of the Umpqua R., *Douglas*, OR Dec. 27 (RM), and at La Push, *Clallam*, WA Feb. 14 and reportedly several months prior (BN). Two were at Netarts Bay, *Tillamook*, OR Dec. 13—Jan. 7 (m.ob.). The census of Brant on the Oregon coast Dec. 28-29 produced an abnormally low count of 708 (R. Lowe). A female **Garganey** at Richland, *Benton*, Dec. 15 (†BW, m.ob., ph.) through at least Jan. 1 provided the first record for the interior and only the 3rd for Washington. The number of Cinnamon Teal reports was unexpected, with seven in Oregon and two in Washington. Possibly a record number of Eur. Wigeon reports from the interior included one at Richland, *Benton*, WA throughout the period (m.ob.), one at Bend, OR Dec. 18 (PtSu), one at Pateros, *Okanogan*, WA Dec. 29—Jan. 29 (AS), one male at Clarkston, *Asotin*, WA Dec. 31 (M & MLD) through at least Jan. 27 (Dsv), two males at McNary Jan. 27 (M & MLD), and one at Prineville, *Crook*, OR Feb. 5 (PtSu). Both Tufted Duck reports were of females: one at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA Jan. 17-31 (SM, m.ob.) and one in s.e. *Polk*, OR Jan. 28—Feb. 9 (RH). It is difficult to rule out hybrid origin with reports of females. A count of 2,000 Greater Scaup on L. Chelan*, Chelan*, WA Feb. 8 (SR) was a good indication of the numbers wintering in the interior along the Columbia. It was formerly thought to be rare in winter. As usual, all but one of the 19 Red-breasted Merganser reports from the interior were along the Columbia R. The exception was one at Potholes Res., *Grant*, WA Feb. 7 (SR).

**RAPTORS TO ALCIDS**

The number of reports of both Turkey Vulture and Osprey were in line with recent mild winters, with most reports from Oregon. Ten Turkey Vultures were found in December and January (m.ob.). Eleven Osprey were found in Oregon, with at least three wintering near Eugene (*fide* TM), and one was near Sequim, *Clallam*, WA Dec. 1 (SA). White-tailed Kites were reported from 3 of their usual s.w. Washington locations (B & GR, BT, M & MLD). In Oregon, their numbers did not match last winter's high counts: 17 were in the Rogue valley (*fide* MM), two wintered near Eugene (*fide* TM), six were in *Polk* Dec. 15 (RG), one was in *Benton* Feb. 19 (PlSu), and one was in *Yamhill* Feb. 20 (T. Janzen), where they are very rare. At least 22 Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Oregon, mostly from the s. coast, the Rogue valley, and *Douglas*. On the coast, two were observed nest building at Brookings, *Curry*, Feb. 5 (CD), one of very few known nests in Oregon. Three wintered at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane* (*fide* TM), which is becoming typical for that area. North of there, the species is still irregular: one at Ankeny N.W.R., Jan. 2 (K & S Sparkman) was probably a *Marion* first, one was at Scappoose, *Columbia*, OR Jan. 14 (*fide* HN), and one was at Ridgefield N.WR., *Clark*, WA all winter (U.S.F.W.S.). Ferruginous Hawks occasionally winter in the interior and even less regularly in the Rogue valley; five were reported in the interior this winter (M & MLD, BW, PaSu) and one was n. of Medford, *Jackson* through Jan. 29 (*fide* MM). Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low throughout the Region (BT, TM). An ad. Golden Eagle was highly unusual on the outer coast at *Tillamook*, OR Jan. 8 (JJ, DB). Six were found in the w. valleys, where they winter sparingly. Gyrfalcons were well distributed, with five in w. Washington (m.ob.), one in w. Oregon at Finley N.W.R., Benton, November—Feb. 11 (m.ob.), and four in e. Washington (CCo, *fide* PM, SR, JA). A Pacific Golden-Plover on the Samish Flats, *Skagit*, WA Feb. 19-21 (BL & NL) probably wintered nearby, providing about the 4th recent winter record. In the last few winters, several credible reports of Lesser Yellowlegs have been received, indicating the species is rare in winter but not exceptional. Up to five were at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, OR from mid-January+ (*fide* JJ), a very large winter number. Neither Long-billed Curlew nor Marbled Godwit are regular in winter except on the s. Washington coast. Three Long-billed Curlews wintered at Bandon, *Coos*, OR (AC) and two were at Netarts Bay, *Tillamook*, OR Jan. 19 (PaSu). Two Marbled Godwit reports were received from Puget Sound: one at Skagit Bay Jan. 1-2 (*fide* BK) and one on Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, Feb. 19-21 (D & SS). Dunlin numbers in the Willamette valley appear to be higher than most observers assume; they peaked at 20,000 at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, OR in mid-January (D. Gleason, B. Cooper), even higher than last winter's numbers there. A handful of Red Phalaropes were found, all on the outer coast in January, except one at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Dec. 3 (VN). The Jan. 21 pelagic trip off Westport, WA found 18 (TW). One Pomarine Jaeger was found on the Jan. 21 pelagic trip (TW), and one was seen from shore at N. Head, *Pacific*, WA Feb. 5 (M & MLD); these are typical winter numbers. The Franklin's Gulls found in December in the Willamette valley were probably very late migrants: one at Keizer, *Marion*, Dec. 17 (BB) and one at Forest Grove, *Washington*, Dec. 18-26 (B. Wong, D. Lusthoff). Little Gulls have wintered on American L., *Pierce*, WA for 7 consecutive winters: an ad. was reported Dec. 11 & 29 (BN). An adult was at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Feb. 28 (VN), another Puget Sound location with multiple winter records. Common Black-headed Gull records are increasing annually in Washington, the 3rd and 4th reports for the year were adults at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, Dec 22 (†VN) and Edmonds, *Snohomish*, Dec 27 (D. Duffey). The status of Mew and Thayer's gulls in the interior deserves continuing attention; currently, most of the records are from the Columbia Basin in Washington. That pattern was evident this winter, with Mew Gull records of one adult at Ice Harbor Dam, *Walla Walla*, Dec 3—Jan. 23 (M & MLD, AS), three at Wallula, *Walla Walla*, Jan. 2-27 (M & MLD), one at Richland, *Benton*, Jan. 10 (CV), and one at Manson, Chelan, Feb. 20 (EH). The only Thayer's Gull report also fit the pattern with one 3rd-year bird at Ice Harbor Dam throughout the period (m.ob.) A first-winter **"Kumlien's" Iceland Gull** was generally on the Idaho side of the Snake R. at Clarkston, *Asoti*n, from Dec. 18 (†DSv) through at least Jan. 8 (†JH), when it was seen from the Washington shore. Pending the Bird Records Committee acceptance of the report, this furnishes the 5th Washington record. An ad**. Slaty-backed Gull** was at Sauvie Jan. 7-23 (DB, m.ob. ph.) for the 2nd Oregon occurrence. A Slaty-backed Gull was also reported at Tacoma, WA without details Dec. 24 (RS) through Jan. 10 (BR & GR *et al.*), at the site where a well-documented adult spent last winter Western Gulls appear to be rare but regular on the Columbia R. upstream to the Snake R. confluence. This winter, one adult was at McNary Dam through December (m.ob.), three adults were near Wallula, *Walla Walla*, Feb. 10 (M & MLD), and two adults were on the lower Snake R. at Ice Harbor Dam Jan. 4-6 (AS, SR). Glaucous Gull numbers continue to be elevated from the long-term average: w. Washington had at least nine birds and e. Washington had seven. Black-legged Kittiwakes went almost unreported. Over 500 Cassin's Auklets off Westport, WA on the Jan. 21 pelagic trip (TW) indicates the wintering population off Washington is still in good numbers, as compared to the poor status of the breeding population. A Parakeet Auklet was found dead on the beach at Clatsop

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Beach, *Clatsop*, Dec. 12 (*fide* HN); Oregon has had many fewer recent records than Washington.

**OWLS TO WRENS**

Snowy Owl numbers returned to the disappointing levels of the last decade after an upsurge last winter. They were absent on the westside, and only three could be found in e. Washington: one near Moses Lake, *Grant*, Dec. 15 (M & MLD) to Feb. 19 (EH), one ad. male near Reardan, *Lincoln*, Jan. 17 (JA), and one near Withrow, *Douglas*, Feb. 19 (EH). Burrowing Owls are rare in winter anywhere in the Region. In the interior, one in N. Richland, *Benton*, WA Dec. 8 (PB) could have been a late migrant, but one at George, *Grant*, WA (SR) definitely wintered. On the westside, one wintered in the Willamette valley near Shedd, *Linn* (RH) and two wintered on the s. coast at Gold Beach (CD). Barred Owl reports continue to pour in from new areas and unusual locations: one was in Pullman, *Whitman*, WA Feb. 23 (DJ), a pair was heard in the Oregon Coast Range near Crow, *Lincoln*, Jan. 14 (*fide* TM), one was calling on Peavine Ridge, *Curry*, OR Feb. 22 (DM), and one was at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR Feb. 22 (RH). The imm. female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found in Salem in November (reported then as a Red-naped) reappeared Feb. 3+ (†BB, m.ob.) for Oregon's 7th record. Hopefully, the Red-naped Sapsucker reported at *Walla Walla*, WA Jan. 2 (R. Lepaine) was identified correctly, as Yellow-bellied is almost as likely to occur at this season. One Red-naped Sapsucker, near Bend, OR Feb. 5 (PaSu), was carefully identified. The Red-breasted Sapsucker in Pasco, WA Dec. 17 (TG) furnished a 2nd *Franklin* record. The first was in the winter of 1992-1993 (see *AB* 47: 295). Five Black-backed Woodpecker appeared at Riverside S.P., near Spokane, WA at a relatively low elevation in a freshly burned Ponderosa Pine stand (JA), indicating how quickly this species can colonize new habitat. There were an remarkable number of reports of lingering swallows of several species. Generally, only Barn Swallows linger past November in the Northwest, but only one of the reports was of Barn Swallows: two at McNary Feb. 11 (M & MLD). Other reports included ≤four Tree Swallows at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, OR to Dec. 4 (TM), one Tree at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR Dec. 14 (RH), one Tree at Medford, OR Dec. 29 (*fide* MM), a Violet-green at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, OR Dec. 27 (JJ), and a N. Rough-winged at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Dec. 24 (VN). The Blue Jay invasion that began in the fall continued into the winter, although many birds disappeared during January. Without repeating all of the fall report records that remained into December and January, the following records indicate the scope of their winter distribution. At least four additional birds were noted in e. Washington during December. The only Washington individuals that were reported to remain through the winter were one near Blaine, *Whatcom* (*fide* TW) and four in the Clarkston, *Asotin* area (*fide* RR). Both the w. Oregon birds, in *Lincoln* and *Washington* disappeared during December. A Scrub Jay in Netarts, *Tillamook* on the Oregon coast Dec. 17—Jan. 19 (DB, JJ, PaSu) and two at a feeder in Tacoma, *Pierce*, WA October—February (*fide* TB) were both in counties with few previous records. A minor number of westside Mt. Chickadee reports were received, non-invasion numbers: one in Mt. Vernon, *Skagit*, WA Dec. 4-23 (*fide* BK), one near Roseburg, *Douglas*, OR Dec. 17 (*fide* RM), and one at Bayview, *Skagit*, WA the last 2 weeks of December (*fide* BK). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Bellingham, WA in December (TW) provided one of very few recent north Puget Sound records.

**THRUSHES TO FINCHES**

Thirteen reports of N. Mockingbird, all from the westside, provided the highest winter numbers in the last 2 decades. Eleven of the reports were from Oregon. In contrast to last winter, Bohemian Waxwings were widely reported from the east-side, although they were not as numerous as many winters. Spokane, WA had more Cedar Waxwings than Bohemians (TR)! They are very rare in the Willamette valley, but one was in Monmouth, *Polk* throughout February (B. Tice, RH). Loggerhead Shrikes, which are very rare in winter, were carefully reported from 3 e. Washington locations: one on the Hanford site, Benton, Jan. 7 (NL), and singles near Beebe and St. Andrews, Douglas, Feb. 19 (EH). The male **Black-throated Blue Warble**r that appeared on Mercer I., *King*, Nov. 2 stayed through the winter, for the first winter record for Washington (M. Hatheway, m.ob.). Higher than normal numbers of Palm Warblers were reported, including six on the Oregon coast, one on the Washington coast, and one inland at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Jan. 13-16 (WC): Wilson's Warblers were extremely rare in winter, with one on the Samish Flats, *Skagit*, WA Dec. 3 (*fide* BK) and one in Sequim, *Clallam*, Dec. 17 (B. Long); there are now reports in 3 of the last 4 winters. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Ashland, *Jackson*, Dec. 14—Jan. 25 (M. Uhtoff) furnished the 3rd winter record for Oregon. An ad. male Black-headed Grosbeak that came to a feeder at St. Helens, *Columbia*, Feb. 18+ (*fide* HN) is probably the first over-winter record for Oregon. Another Oregon winter first was the Green-tailed Towhee at Riverton, *Coos*, Dec. 24-26 (D. Fix, m.ob.). Swamp Sparrow numbers did not approach the dizzying heights of last winter, in fact their numbers were about one-sixth of those from last winter, more like the recent average. Eleven were reported from w. Oregon, although their *Tillamook* stronghold was inaccessible due to flood conditions. Eastern Washington had two: at McNary through at least Jan. 4 (M & MLD) and at Whatcom I., *Benton*, Feb. 25 (M & MLD). Six reports from w Washington included two in *Clallam* (B Long), one in Snohomish (SM), one in *King* (TB, EH), one in *Skagit* (*fide* BK), and one in *Clark* (WC). Rusty Blackbirds are rare in winter, but are found almost annually. Two were at the Walla Walla College Dairy Farm, *Walla Walla*, Jan. 7-8 (M & MLD). A **Common Grackle** at the Walla Walla College Farm Jan. 1-7 (LG & JG, m.ob., ph) provided the first Washington record since 1982, and the 2nd Regional record in 6 months. Northern Orioles were in Medford, *Jackson*, until Jan. 22 (*fide* MM) and in Eugene, *Lane* Feb. 28 (*fide* TM); there are about 13 previous winter records for Oregon. Prior to this winter, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch have been found at only one location in the Oregon Coast range, on Mary's Peak, *Benton*, where eight were present this winter (J. Lundsten, m.ob.). Up to twenty were on Sugarloaf Mt., *Polk*, Jan. 26-27 (BB), about 30 mi n. of Mary's Peak. They are not known to breed in the Coast range. Red Crossbills were scarce in most of w. Washington (BT) and White-winged Crossbills were unreported anywhere in the Region Pine Siskins were reported in average or smaller numbers on the westside (TM, BT). A small flight of Pine Grosbeaks reached the w. Washington lowlands for the first time in 10 years, including >six in Bellingham throughout the period (TW), three in Mt. Pleasant, *Skamania,* Dec. 8 (WC), five at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, Dec 21 (VN), one at Sequim, *Clallam*, Dec. 30 (D & SS), 12 at Discovery Bay, *Jefferson*, Jan 28 (BN), two on Mt. Persis, *Snohomish*, Feb. 11 (JD), and one on San Juan I., *San Juan*, Feb. 21 (S. Peterson). Evening Grosbeaks were almost unreported (BT, TM).

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*Spring Migration, 1995*

**Oregon/Washington Region**

**BILL TWEIT AND GERARD LILLIE**

For the most part, the weather in March and April was cool and unsettled. This was followed by an unusually warm and sunny May. This warm weather could have allowed for an inconspicuous passage of passerines, for several observers commented on the mundane aspect of this spring's small bird migration. Although arrival dates were much as expected, numbers were quite low. The shorebird migration was characterized by low numbers of the "eastern" shorebirds, such as Solitary, Semipalmated, Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers, and regular numbers of the other species. Rarities included two Black-throated Blue Warblers in Washington, a Cape May Warbler at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, and a Dickcissel in Washington.

**Abbreviations**: Malheur *(Malheur N.W.R., Harney Co., OR)*; O.S. *(Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA);* Sauvie *(Sauvie I., Columbia and Multnomah Cos., OR);* S.J.C.R. *(south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR).*

**LOONS TO FALCONS**

The only Pacific Loons in the interior were two at Priest Rapids, *Yakima*, WA Apr. 30 (AS). Only one Yellow-billed Loon was reported, at the S.J.C.R., Mar. 26 (MP), but this was enough to snap a string of 2 springs with no reports. Four Clark's Grebes were reported from the westside through May 14 (GG, SM, DL, DBa) and on the eastside there were 4 May sightings away from known breeding areas (BW, N. Ferguson, R. Johnson, JA). Black-footed Albatross were regularly seen on all pelagic trips: >100 were off Newport, OR Apr. 8 (GG) and 214 were off Westport, WA Apr. 22 (TW). Northern Fulmar numbers were high in April, with 1,280 off Westport Apr. 22 (TW). Low numbers of Pink-footed Shearwater were reported from all 6 April and May pelagic trips, averaging six per trip with a peak of only 14 May 20 (TW). A rare April record of Flesh-footed Shearwater was off Newport, OR Apr. 9 (GG). Low to average numbers of Sooty Shearwater were off Oregon (GG); 130 May 14 was the high count. In contrast, the Washington counts ranged from 2,200-6,300 (TW). Eight Short-tailed Shearwaters were fewer than were found last spring; all were on the Mar. 11 trip off Newport, OR (GG). For the 2nd consecutive spring, no Murphy's Petrels were found on either April trip surveying waters beyond the shelf edge. Maybe the April 1992 occurrence was an anomaly. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were observed in good numbers both on pelagic trips and over nearshore waters. The pelagic trip high counts were 160 Apr. 22 off Westport (TW) and 115 May 14 off Newport (GG). From shore, approximately 200 were seen at the mouth of the Rogue R., *Curry*, OR May 16 (C. Dillingham). Sightings from shore of smaller numbers continued through the 3rd week of May. A Leach's Storm Petrel off Westport May 6 (TW) was unusual for spring over the shelf. American White Pelican are unusual in spring in w. Oregon: 18 were at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane* May 8 (B. Combs) and six were at Tillamook Bay May 8 (HN). Brown Pelicans generally arrive in April; the first this year was at the S.J.C.R., May 13 (MP) and none was reported from Washington during the period. Three White-faced Ibis were reported in w. Oregon this spring, where this species is considered a vagrant, with about 20 prior records. On May 1, singles were at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington* and the Fernhill Wetlands, Forest Grove, *Washington* (GG), and a later bird was at Commonwealth L., *Washington*, May 6 (J. Lawes, A. Ross). The Mute Swan that wintered at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*, WA was last reported Apr. 19 (M & MLD). The first *Benton* record of Ross's Goose was at Richland, WA May 1-9 (BW) and the only other Washington report was at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Wall*a, May 5 (BW). Eight Eur. Wigeon were reported from e. Washington from Mar. 4 (J. Wissman) through Apr. 26 (M & MLD), average numbers for this scarce but regular interior migrant. Four Tufted Duck reports is somewhat above average; they included a possible hybrid at Quartermaster Harbor, Vashon I., *King*, WA Mar. 12 (I. Eisenhart), an ad. male near Omak, *Okanogan*, WA Apr. 2 (†S. Johnson), a male at Cascade Locks, Hood River, OR Apr. 17 (DBa), and at Bay City, *Tillamook*, OR Apr. 16-30 (SRu, m.ob.). Heartening numbers of breeding Harlequin Duck were located in the n. Oregon Cascades (B.L.M.). Twenty-one were found in the Mollala R. basin, *Clackamas*, Apr. 27 and 34 were in the Quartzville Cr. basin Apr. 28. Three nests had been located in the Mollala basin by the end of the period, and >6 were found in the Quartzville Cr. basin. At least 2 of the nests were in nearly identical locations as in 1994 (SD). A male was seen on the Nestucca R. in the Oregon Coast Range May 10 (SD). Old-squaw are very rare spring migrants in the interior; four were on Medical L, *Spokane*, WA Mar. 28—Apr. 23 (K. Stewart, JA). There were "many" White-tailed Kite sightings from the Rogue Valley, *Josephine* and *Jackson*, during March (*fide* RT), but they were poorly reported elsewhere in w. Oregon. However, in Washington there were several reports away from their traditional range; one at O.S., Apr. 26 (C. Anderson), one at Seattle May 8 (MS), and one at Kent, *King*, May 22 (D. Burris). The only Red-shouldered Hawk reports away from *Curry* on the s. Oregon coast were one near Kernville, *Lincoln*, OR Mar. 5 (DF) and one at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Mar. 4-17 (B. Feltner, BL). Gyrfalcons were well reported, reflecting above-average winter numbers. The bird that wintered at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR was last reported Apr. 10 (JSi), and in e. Washington they were

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found at Moxee, *Yakima*, Mar. 4 (AS), on the Colville Plateau, *Okanogan*, Mar. 15 (SRa), along Dodson Rd., *Grant* Mar. 18 (L. Cook), and near Leahy, *Douglas* Mar. 18 (KK, SRa). A Prairie Falcon at Point-No-Point, WA May 1 provided a first *Kitsap* record (VN) and was very late for the westside.

**SHOREBIRDS TO ALCIDS**

Both species of golden-plover are rare spring migrants on the outer coast: one Pacific was at Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, OR May 6 (MP) and three Americans were at S.J.C.R., *Clatsop*, OR May 13 (SRu). A Snowy Plover on the end of Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, May 8 (D. Stuhr) was one of very few Washington records away from the s. coast. The usual handful of Lesser Yellowlegs records included one very early in the interior at Dodson Rd., *Grant*, WA Mar. 18 (GG) and 3 westside reports at their more typical time: two at Forest Grove, *Washington*, OR Apr. 22 (TJ), three at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR Apr. 25 (TJ), and one at Bay City, *Tillamook*, OR May 4 (HN). Solitary Sandpipers are another uncommon spring migrant: one at the Lower Winchuck R., *Curry*, OR Apr. 21-23 (DM), three at the E.E. Wilson W.M.A., *Benton*, OR Apr. 26-28 (A. McGie), one at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington*, OR Apr. 30 (GG), and one at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR May 11 (TJ). The peak Whimbrel counts were normal numbers from expected locales: >400 on the Skagit Flats, *Skagit*, WA Apr. 25—May 4 (*fide* BK) and 300-500 at the Wilson R. meadows, *Tillamook*, OR May 4-6 (HN, PaSu). Sightings from westside locales where they are rare included one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR Apr. 16 (J. Anderson, m.ob.), three at Kent, *King*, WA Apr. 26 (RR), and 12 at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA May 21 (SM). There were also a couple of Long-billed Curlew reports from unusual westside locales: one in the Cascades at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR Apr. 26 (BB, JLu) and one on Puget Sound at Deer Lagoon, *Island*, WA May 20 (SM). Hudsonian Godwits are accidental in spring; one at Mohoff Pond, Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR May 10-12 (SD, †BB, m.ob.) was apparently a Willamette Valley first. The Valley also had 2 notable Marbled Godwit records: one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, May 1 (JLu *et al*.) and one was at Baskets Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, May 9 (B. Tice) for possibly the first county record. Red Knots were not reported in particularly large numbers, with peak counts of 16 at Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, OR May 15 (HN) and 300-400 at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor*, WA Apr. 25 (S. MacKay). Two very unusual inland reports included one at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane*, WA May 20 (MS) and one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR May 29-30 (JLu). There was but a single Semipalmated Sandpiper report: one at Crockett L., *Island,* WA May 16 (SM); only 2 Pectoral Sandpiper reports: three at Crockett L, *Island*, WA May 20 (SM) and one at O.S., May 22 (B & GR); and only 2 Baird's Sandpiper reports: one in n. Portland, OR Apr. 29 (HN) and one near Canby, *Clackamas*, May 9 (ES). Three Stilt Sandpipers were at Summer L., *Lake*, OR May 12 (C. Miller); they are not reported every spring. Although the pelagic trips did not report good numbers of Red-necked Phalarope, with a peak count of only 250 off Newport May 14 (GG), there were indications of good coastal migration: 30 birds per minute flew past the S.J.C.R., May 7 (MP) and 215 were at Swantown, *Island* WA May 20 (SM). Only one Red Phalarope was reported, off Westport May 6 (TW). Pomarine Jaegers were recorded on most of the pelagic trips, with higher numbers in March (10) and April (11) than in May (3-4). There were four coastal reports of Parasitic Jaeger May 7-22, about average, and one Puget Sound report, off the Mukilteo to Clinton ferry May 23 (GT), where they are irregular in spring. Franklin's Gulls are rare on the westside in spring, and most records are from May, so a series of records in imm. plumage at Crescent L. W.M.A., *Snohomish*, WA Mar. 3 (JO), at Canby, Clackamas, OR Mar. 4 (TJ), and at the mouth of the Chetco R., *Curry*, OR Apr. 8 (DM) was quite unexpected. Little Gulls were reported from 2 customary locales, with one at American L., *Pierce*, WA through Apr. 15 (PtSu) and two at Point No-Point, *Kitsap*, WA, also through Apr. 15 (VN). Common Black-headed Gull reports continue to increase in Washington; an adult was at Point-No-Point Mar. 9-20 (†VN). The coastal Bonaparte's Gull migration extended into late May: 500 were at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR May 20 (J. Girke) and a heavy movement was observed along *Clatsop*, OR beaches May 21 (MP). A Thayer's Gull on the Colville Plateau, *Okanogan*, WA Apr. 2 (AS) was an unusual spring record in the interior. Western Gulls are rare on the Columbia R. east of Portland, but are apparently regular. One was at Bonneville Dam Mar. 14 (DBa) and another was farther upriver at Priest Rapids, *Yakima*, WA Apr. 30 (AS). Seventeen Glaucous Gulls were reported from the westside, which is an excellent spring total, but there were only 3 reports from the interior (BW, M & MLD). Black-legged Kittiwakes were only reported from pelagic trips, with a peak of 350 Mar. 11 (GG) and much smaller numbers on the others. Sabine's Gulls were also sparingly reported, with a peak of 24 seen off Westport May 20 (TW). Early arrival dates for Caspian Tern were at Waldport, *Lincoln*, OR Mar. 19 (JSi) and at Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA Mar 28 (BW). The peak counts of Com. Tern were from Grays Harbor, WA in late May: >200 May 18-20 (B. Morse, TW). They were scarce elsewhere; the only Oregon report was 20 at Garibaldi, *Tillamook*, May 17 (JG). There were an unusual number of onshore Arctic Tern reports, starting with an incredibly early report from their colony in Everett, WA Mar. 7 (JF). Three pairs were found nesting at Everett May 30 (F. Bird) On the Oregon coast, one was observed from Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, May 6 (PaSu), 20 were seen from the S.J.C.R., May 13 (MP), and 50 were at Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, May 15 (HN). In contrast, only six were found offshore on the pelagic trips

**SA**-The censuses of Marbled Murrelet off Point-No-Point, *Kitsap*, in n. Puget Sound this spring rivaled those from spring 1993 off Everett. There were 700 counted from Feb. 28—Mar. 2, with 400 on the last day (VN). The concentrations off Everett were one—two months later in the spring, but similar in size.

Cassin's Auklet numbers off Westport continue to be pathetic; they averaged just over ten per trip (TW). We assume that these counts continue to reflect dramatic decreases in the local breeding populations

**PIGEONS TO MIMIDS**

Band-tailed Pigeon are rare in e. Washington; one was at Wapato, *Yakima*, Mar. 18 (S Pink). Spotted Owl breeding was very sparse in both the c. Oregon Cascades and the n Oregon Coast Range. Of the approximately 40 pairs monitored in the Cascades n. of the S. Santiam R., *Linn*, only 6 were found to be nesting. None of the Coast Range pairs n of the Alsea R., *Lincoln* and *Benton*, were breeding (SD). Adding to our litany of Barred Owl records from new areas are the following: one heard at Wilhoit Springs, Clackamas, OR Mar. 21 (TJ) and one at Mary Young S.P., *Clackamas*, May 8 (TJ, GG). A Boreal Owl heard in the Salmon R Meadows, *Clackamas*, on the s. flank of Mt Hood Apr. 16 (TJ, ES) provided the 2nd report for the Mt. Hood area. Long-eared Owls are seldom reported from the Olympic Pen.; one was in the Olympic N.F., *Jefferson* (T10N, R24E) Apr. 24 (B. Shelmerdine) Anna's Hummingbirds are not regular in w Washington away from Puget Sound and Puget Trough, so singles at West Dungeness, *Clallam*, Mar. 27 (SS) and at Crescent L., *Clallam*, May 22 (B. Baldwin) were noteworthy. Similar to last spring, there were 3

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westside records of Calliope Hummingbird: one e. of Oregon City, *Clackamas*, OR Apr. 21 (S. Roe), one at Hillsboro, *Washington*, OR May 8 (SW), and one at Seattle May 18-21 (D. Paulson). Lewis' Woodpecker has become very rare in w. Washington; one was at Mount Vernon, *Skagit*, May 8 (*fide* BK). In Oregon, a newly reported Acorn Woodpecker colony in Hillsboro, *Washington*, may have been there several years (SW) and another "new" colony was reported from the city of Yamhill, *Yamhill* (DL). Both of these are at the n. edge of their Willamette Valley range. The imm. female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Salem, *Marion*, OR remained through Mar. 19 (BB). A White-headed Woodpecker on Orcas I., Apr. 15 (†M. Rowse) furnished a *San Juan* first and one of less than ten w. Washington records. Most of the previous records are also from spring. Olive-sided Flycatchers appear to be reported from the westside lowlands less frequently than just a few short years ago. Formerly, Lillie saw >10 per spring in Mt. Tabor Park in Portland, where he saw none this year and one last year. In fact, the only report from w. Oregon was at the S.J.C.R., May 8 (HN). They were less common than usual in s Puget Sound (BT), but were found more commonly n. of there. A very early Willow Flycatcher was at Mt. Tabor Park in Portland Apr. 30 (JG), the earliest Washington bird was 2 weeks later May 13 (P. Hicks). Dusky Flycatchers are only found regularly extending well w. of the Cascade Crest in s. Oregon, so reports of a migrant on the outer coast May 8 at S.J.C.R. (HN) and of seven in the lowlands near Skykomish, *King*, WA May 25 (B. Boyes) were interesting. Gray Flycatchers are not regular anywhere w. of the Crest, so >one present May 4-18 at the Santiam Flats, Detroit Res., *Marion*, OR (BB, m.ob.) was unexpected. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Santiam Flats May 19 (JLu) was unusually far north and at a high elevation. Two Ash-throateds reported from *Curry* on the s. Oregon coast May 13 (J. Blithe) and 22 May (AB) were less surprising. Only two W. Kingbird were found in w. Oregon n. of their usual range, while nine were found in w. Washington. In total, these are roughly average numbers. Blue Jays remained into the spring after a very extensive winter incursion. One was carrying nesting material at Clarkston Heights, *Asotin*, WA Apr. 3 but was not seen after Apr. 13 (*fide* MK) and two were at Wallula, *Walla Walla*, WA Apr. 9 (M & MLD). Blue Jays also attempted nesting in 1991 after a strong winter invasion. The Scrub Jay chronicles include one at North Tacoma, *Pierce*, WA Mar. 6–Apr. 6 (W. Peterson, S. Garrett), one at Ft. Lewis, *Pierce*, WA Apr. 3 (*fide* E. Hunn), and one at Knappa, OR May 13 (HN). Western Bluebirds are very local breeders in w. Washington; a nest found in e. *King* May 28 (H. Opperman) provided one of very few recent county breeding records. Five N. Mockingbird reports included one near Spokane, WA from Mar. 7–mid April (JA), one near Sisters, *Deschutes*, OR Mar. 22–late April (J. Meredith), one in Corvallis, *Benton*, OR Apr. 29-30 (JSi), one at Malheur May 20 (*fide* HN), and one in Harbor, *Curry*, OR May 22 (DM). Sage Thrashers are rare vagrants to w. Oregon; two were at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, Apr. 26 (BB, JLu) and one was there May 4-5 (BB, PaSu). A Brown Thrasher that wintered at Klamath Falls, OR remained into late March (*fide* HN).

**SHRIKES TO FINCHES**

More than 9 reports of Loggerhead Shrike on the westside is probably the highest spring total ever. They included one at Marymoor Park, *King*, WA Mar. 12 (A. Coles), one at Canby, *Clackamas*, OR Mar. 20-21 (PaSu, TJ, ES), one in s. Salem, *Marion*, OR Mar. 27 (CL *et al.*)*,* two at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR (BB), one at Magnuson Park, *King*, WA Apr. 2 (MS), two at Jetty I., Everett, *Snohomish*, WA Apr. 22 (JF), and singles at Santiam Flats May 12 & 21 (JLu, BB). The male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** that wintered on Mercer I., *King*, for Washington's first winter record was last observed Apr. 5 (M. Hatheway). Then, a 2nd male appeared at a feeder in Olympia, *Thurston*, WA Mar. 6-20 (L. Smith, ph.; m.ob.). A male **Cape May Warbler** was at *Malheur* May 21 (HN *et al*.). The remainder of the warbler news was relatively mundane. Single Palm Warblers, very rare in spring, were at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Mar. 4 (P. Cozens) and at Point-No Point, *Kitsap*, WA Apr. 20 (VN). A Black and-white Warbler was at Malheur May 19 (M & MLD). A coastal Am. Redstart along the Winchuck R., *Curry*, OR May 19 (AB) was a vagrant, as were two at Fields, *Harney*, OR May 22+ (JG), while a singing male in the Cascades at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR May 22-23 (JLu) was probably a wanderer from the eastside populations. An Ovenbird was at *Malheur* May 27 (HN). A singing Yellow-breasted Chat at Kent, WA May 20-29 furnished a King rarity (DBe). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at *Malheur* May 27 (HN). Indigo Buntings made an exceptional appearance in w. Oregon: a male returned to a feeder for the 2nd consecutive year in Elsie in the Coast Range, *Clatsop*, May 16 (E. Harding), a male was in a Eugene park, *Lane*, May 19+ (*fide* HN) and a male was 4 mi up the Rogue R., *Curry*, May 26+ (C. Dillingham). A **Dickcissel** photographed at a feeder at Edison, *Skagit*, May 24 (G. Johansen) would provide the 4th Washington record, if accepted by the Records Committee. American Tree Sparrows are very rare on the outer coast; one at Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, May 6 (CL) furnished the 5th coastal Oregon record and the 2nd latest for the state. Two Clay-colored Sparrows had returned to their 1994 breeding site near Spokane, WA May 16 (JA). Out-of-place Brewer's Sparrows included: one at Santiam Flats, *Marion*, OR Apr. 4 (BB), singles at Seattle, WA Apr. 27 and May 3 (C. Hill, DBe), and a 2nd bird at Santiam Flats May 19 (JLu). Last May there was a record incursion of Black-throated Sparrows into the Region. This spring only one was reported from the entire Region, in Portland, OR May 9-29 (S. Vermilya, *fide* HN). There was one report of Swamp Sparrow, at Ridgefield N.WR., *Clark*, Apr. 26 (M. Roening). A male **Chestnut-collared Longspur** on Soap Lake Rd., Okanogan, WA May 27 (†G. Revelas) was the first sighting of this species in Washington since 1975! Reports of Tricolored Blackbird from e. Oregon, where their status is still in flux, were of a male at Hood River Apr. 8 (PaSu), 20 at Bridge Creek Pond, *Wheeler*, May 13 (DL) and a male 5 mi e. of Burns, *Harney*, Mar. 25 (C. Corder) is the farthest east record to date. Yellow-headed Blackbirds, normally very uncommon and local in w. Washington, were relatively numerous this spring; with 28 reports and eight more from n.w. Oregon. One Great-tailed Grackle was at Malheur Apr. 30+ (HN, m.ob.); they are now regular there.

**Initialed observers, with subregional editors in boldface**: Jim Acton, David Bailey, Alan Barron, **Range Bayer** (*Lincoln*, OR), Dave Beaudette, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Bureau of Land Management, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, Steve Dowlan, Daryl Faxon, John Flavin, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Tim Jantzen, Jim Johnson, Ken Knittle, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area), Bob Kuntz, Bruce Labar, Cindy Lawes, John Lundsten, Donna Lusthoff, Steve Mlodinow, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, John O'Connell, Mike Patterson, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, Scott Ray (SRa), **Russell Rogers** (Washington), **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), Skip Russell (SRu), Jamie Simmons, **Dory & Stan Smith** (Olympic Peninsula), Mike Smith, Elmer Specht, Andy Stepnewski, Paul Sullivan (PaSu), Sara Wagner, Terry Wahl, Bob Woodley.

*The Nesting Season, 1995*

**Oregon/Washington Region**

**BILL TWEIT AND JIM JOHNSON**

June and July rainfall were near normal, and July temperatures were slightly above average. A strong storm system passed through July 8-9 causing, a lot of damage east of the Cascades in Oregon. It appeared a number of bird nests and young were destroyed, reported Nehls. Even though the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) event in the southern hemisphere has concluded, the continental shelf waters of our Region continue to be relatively inhospitable. Seabird breeding numbers on the Washington coast were apparently low again this year (*fide* TW), and murres had another disastrous breeding season off Oregon (*fide* HN). Pelagic trip counts of Sooty Shearwater, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, and Cassin's Auklet were particularly disappointing. Onshore, observers recorded high percentages of hatching year (HY) Brown Pelican and Heermann's Gull, which are generally indications of ENSO conditions. However, Elegant Terns seem to be the most consistent indicator of ENSO conditions, and none appeared. Perhaps related to these disturbances was the Caspian Tern colony failure in Grays Harbor. Unfortunately it coincided with the failure of the Everett colony, due to human disturbance.

**Abbreviations**: Fields *(Fields, Harney Co., OR);* Malheur *(Malheur N. W. R., Harney Co., OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA)*; S.J.C.R. *(south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR).*

**LOONS TO DUCKS**

One of Washington's few pairs of breeding Corn. Loon, near Lester, *King*, failed this summer due to predation (EH). Unusual non-breeding Red-necked Grebe reports came from several locations: >three on the Oregon coast in *Lincoln* (m.ob., *fide* RB), two on Eld Inlet, *Thurston*, WA (B. Estes), and 15 at Gibson Spit, *Clallam*, WA July 21 (BN). At least one pair bred on Sullivan L., *Pend Oreille*, WA, with three young noted July 22 (RW); they breed at few locations in the Region. Western Grebe summering numbers on Bellingham Bay, WA appear to be on a declining trend (TW). In e. Oregon, where they breed in relatively few locales, 12 pairs were present with some displaying at Beulah Res., *Malheur*, June 15 (AC). One Clark's Grebe was at Diamond L., *Douglas*, OR July 28 (DM), w. of the known breeding range, and birds at Bully Creek Res., *Malheur*, OR June 16 (AC) and Thief Valley Res., *Union*, OR June 16 (PaSu) were closer to known colonies but may have been non-breeders. Large numbers of N. Fulmar appeared at the end of July off Westport, WA: >900 July 29, while only 14 were found July 16 (TW). For the 3rd consecutive summer, Sooty Shearwater numbers were low; the July pelagic trips off Westport produced counts of 1,150 and 650 (TW). Eleven Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen from the Port Angeles-Victoria Ferry, *Clallam*, WA July 7 (PL) were an indication that their feeding activity continues to be displaced into inland waters. The pelagic trip counts of four and 51 off Westport were correspondingly low (TW). Over 80% of the Brown Pelicans in July at Grays Harbor, WA were first-year birds (TW), a very high percentage. Apparently their later than normal post-breeding dispersal (*see Spring report*) was not due to lack of breeding success. A count of >10,000 Double-crested Cormorants on Sand I. in the Columbia R. estuary July 11 (D. Fix) is indicative of their current abundance on the coast. Single Cattle Egrets in Naselle, *Pacific* (A. Richards), and in full breeding plumage at Fishtown, *Skagit*, July 20 (B. Anderson) furnished exceedingly rare summer reports for Washington. Black-crowned Night-Herons are rare visitors to the westside: An immature was at S.J.C.R., June 29 (MP) and an adult was at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA June 20 (C. Thomas, E. Sproul). Five White-faced Ibis at Atkins L., *Douglas*, WA June 3 (D. Stephens) were the only reports away from their breeding areas. An imm. Trumpeter Swan summered at Eckman L., *Lincoln*, June 6+ (D. Faxon, R. Lowe, m.ob.), very unusual on the Oregon coast. A Mute Swan appeared at S.J.C.R., June 29 (MP), destination unknown. They continue to reproduce successfully at Seattle; three young were noted June 30 (MS). Two successful nests of N. Shoveler at Mollala, *Clackamas*, June 16 and July 3 (ES, TJ) provided possibly the first confirming evidence of breeding w. of the Cascades in Oregon. American Wigeon are rare breeders throughout the Region; broods were observed at Molson, *Okanogan*, WA July 13 (PL) and at Monument, *Grant*, OR July 4 (AC). Lesser Scaup breeding records came from 2 usual Puget Sound locations: Deer Lagoon, *Island* July 2 (SMl) and Everett, *Snohomish*, July 25 (SMl). In the Oregon Cascades, >four Harlequin Duck broods were produced in the upper Molalla Basin, *Clackamas*, and >nine broods were above Green Peter Res., *Linn* (SDo). They are very rare in the Oregon Coast Range, so a brood seen on the Nestucca R., *Tillamook*, in July where a hen with brood was seen in July of 1994 was exciting (*fide* SDo). There were 4 breeding records of Com. Goldeneye, a very rare breeder, from n. Washington: on Big Meadow L., *Pend Oreille*, June 9 (AS); on the Pend Oreille R. at Usk, *Pend Oreille*, June 11 (AS); and 2 broods at Oroville, *Okanogan*, June 6 (PtSu). Buffleheads are also rare breeders in the Region; they bred at Big Meadow L., *Pend Oreille*, WA (AS), and a male at Bully Creek Res., *Malheur*, OR June 16 (AC) was in appropriate breeding habitat.

**OSPREY TO PHALAROPES**

Osprey bred at Pasco, *Franklin*, WA (RW); although they are common breeders elsewhere in the Region, they are generally unusual in the lower Columbia Basin. A White-tailed Kite at the Raymond Airport, *Pacific*, WA June 19 was at a location that has been vacant for several years (RW). In Oregon, one at the Newport

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Airport, *Lincoln*, June 8 (*fide* RB) was an early fall dispersant. A new Peregrine Falcon breeding location in e. Washington was located in *Yakima* (*fide* AS) and an adult and an immature along the Columbia R., *Benton*, July 23 (AS) could represent another location. Six Yellow Rails at Fort Klamath, *Klamath*, June 30 (PaSu) indicate that this isolated population remains extant. A high count of 6 nesting pairs of Sandhill Crane on Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat*, WA produced four young, only one of which survived (JE). This is their most consistent breeding location in the state. Six Black-bellied Plovers at Atkins L., *Douglas*, WA June 4 (AS) were very late migrants for the interior. An ad. Pacific Golden-Plover at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA July 6 (PL) was the only report of either species. The Semipalmated Plover near Conconully, *Okanogan*, WA June 10 was near where a territorial pair was found in 1991 (D. Paulson); the only Regional breeding records are a handful from the outer coast. The high count of Semipalmated Plovers was 5,600 at O.S., July 31 (SMa). A territorial Solitary Sandpiper in the Oregon Cascades at Olallie Meadows, *Marion*, July 1-12 a) provided the first evidence of breeding in the state since the 1980s, when ≤2 pairs were present at Gold L. bog, *Lane*, for several summers. Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers were lower than last summer's high counts, with a peak of 12 adults on Whidbey I., *Island* WA July 8 (SMl). An ad. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Crockett L., *Island* July 2-5, (†SMl, m.ob.) was the first adult recorded in Washington. An ad. Reeve at Kent, *King*, WA July 27-28 (DV, m.ob.) furnished the first summer record for the Region since 1990. Wilson's Phalaropes displayed nesting behavior at 2 w. Oregon locations: in the n. Cascades e. of Timothy L., *Clackamas*, June 21 (TJ) and in the Willamette Valley at Baskett Slough N.W.R., at the same site where nesting was confirmed in 1994 (SDo). A female Red Phalarope at Bend, OR July 14 (TC) had confused the high desert with the high Arctic.

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS**

Parasitic Jaegers are quite uncommon in spring on Puget Sound; one at Seattle June 1 (S. Atkinson) was also late. Adult Long-tailed Jaegers were found in the Strait of Juan de Fuca July 7 (PL) and in the interior at the Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*, WA July 22 (M & MLD). They are very rare anywhere except in offshore waters. Franklin's Gulls are becoming scarcer on the westside. This summer's records included three at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA June 22 (DV), an adult at Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR July 1 (DB, JJ), a HY bird at Blaine, *Whatcom*, WA July 6 (C. Miles), and one immature at Bottle Beach, *Grays Harbor*, WA July 22 (SMa). The Heerman’s Gull population evinced the largest percentage of HY birds recorded at Grays Harbor, WA since 1983 (TW). Their northward movement was large as well; 550 were at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, WA by July 5 (PL). Four Ring-billed Gulls were found nesting at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA (J. Flavin); the species had not been found breeding in Puget Sound previously. Two Glaucous-winged x Western Gull nests on concrete pilings at Willamette Falls, Oregon City, *Clackamas*, were found June 27 (TJ); this is the only known location away from marine waters where intergrades breed.

**SA**-The large Caspian Tern breeding colonies at Everett, WA and Grays Harbor, WA were both almost unoccupied this summer, for very different reasons. The Everett colony had occupied a temporarily bare area on a construction site at a naval base; this summer the Navy "discouraged" their breeding efforts at the site (*fide* F. Bird). There were no obvious reasons behind the Grays Harbor colony disappearance, especially since some Caspians apparently nested in both Willapa Bay and the mouth of the Columbia River (BT). Since both colonies numbered in the thousands, displaced Caspian Terns seemed to be everywhere (BT, TW). In Bellingham, WA, at least 300 summered on warehouse rooftops and exhibited courtship behavior, without breeding (TW). The impacts to the Pacific Coast population of the temporary (we hope) loss of 2 of their largest colonies remain to be determined.

Elegant Terns were not reported this season for the first time since 1990, even though both Brown Pelican and Heermann's Gull numbers were indicative of ENSO-type conditions. The Arctic Tern colony in Everett, WA was not vacated; 3 pairs produced five offspring (J. Flavin). In addition, ad. Arctics were found away from the colony this summer: one in Bellingham, *Whatcom*, WA June 21 (TW) with roosting Caspians and one at Deer Lagoon, *Island*, WA July 2 (SMl). Similar to last summer, large numbers of Com. Murre (2,400) were found off Westport, WA in mid-July (TW), probably indicating early departure from the colonies. One Ancient Murrelet at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, OR July 1 (*fide* RB) was at a location that has produced several summer records. Extremely low numbers were noted on pelagic trips off Westport, WA in July (TW), with a peak count of only *three*. One, seen well inside Puget Sound, near Lopez I., *San Juan*, June 29 (J. Nestler) raises some hope that a few were successfully foraging in inside waters.

**CUCKOOS TO MIMIDS**

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Fields June 24 (T. Love); they are almost annual vagrants in s.e. Oregon. A male Costa's Hummingbird was in Bend, OR June 5 (*fide* TC); the majority of the Oregon records are from that area. An ad male Allen's Hummingbird in Sutherlin, *Douglas*, July 22-24 (†K. Wilson) was one of very Oregon records away from the s. coast. A Red-naped Sapsucker nested with a Red-breasted Sapsucker in the Oregon Coast Range in the Five Rivers area of s.e. *Lincoln* in early June (*fide* RB). The hybrid young fledged June 27 Records of pure pairs nesting on the w. slope of the Cascades are not unexpected, but are worthy of mention: A pair fledged two young in the Abbott Burn, w. of Timothy L., OR (ES, TJ), for a *Clackamas* first nesting record, and a pair were near Rockport, *Skagit* WA June 25 (SJo) A Williamson's Sapsucker pair was found along Bridge Cr., s. of Ironside Mt., *Malheur*, June 16 (AC), the very edge of their breeding range in s.e. Oregon. Two males and a female leaving a cavity in Abbott Burn (JJ, ES, PS) furnished an unusual west slope record and provided the first evidence of breeding in Clackamas, OR Also on the westside of the Oregon Cascades, 5 nests were found between Fish L. and Dead Indian Rd., *Jackson*, June 22 (HS *et al*.). White-headed Woodpecker records from the edge of their Oregon breeding range included one at Eldorado Campground, *Baker*, July 2 (AC) and one June 22 in e. *Jackson* (HS). Black-backed Woodpecker breeding in *Malheur* was confirmed by Bureau of Land Management biologists in June at Ironside Mountain (*fide* AC) An above-average number of Least Flycatcher reports included singles at Eloika L., *Spokane*, WA June 4 (JA); Spokane, WA June 8 (JA); Monroe, *Snohomish*, WA June 10 (B. Boyer); Willow Cr., *Gilliam*, OR June 11 (C. Corder); Spring Cr. Forest, *Union*, OR June 17 (MP); a male at Champney's Slough, *Okanogan*, WA June 20 (SJo); and >two at Noisy Cr. Campground, Sullivan I.., *Pend Oreille*, WA July 8 (NLa). A Least Flycatcher nest was found at Holliday Wayside near Mt. Vernon, *Grant* July 3 (AC); the only known Oregon nesting locale Ash-throated Flycatchers at Oaks Bottom, Portland, OR June 14 (R. Shepard *fide* HN) and at Wenatchee, *Chelan*, WA July 14 (KK) were local rarities. A very healthy smattering of E. Kingbird from the westside included 7 Oregon records from June 19 July 21 from *Clackamas* (TJ), *Tillamook* (P. Kearney, *fide* HN), *Coos* (DM), *Clatsop* (MP), *Linn* (JL), *Marion* (JL) and the Sandy R. delta, *Multnomah*, June 30 (PaSu), where nesting has been documented recently. The smaller number of w. Washington records included one from Monroe, *Snohomish*, June 28 (KK) and two from *King* in July (E Mahaffy, D. Beaudette). Bank Swallows are rumored to nest w of the Cascades in *Snohomish*, WA, and reports of singles at Sultan July 8 (SMl) and at Startup July 9 (KK) lend credence to that. Three other Bank Swallow reports from the westside were probably migrants. A Scrub Jay was at Seattle, WA July 30 (E. Norwood); this is still n. of their

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regular range. A singing Rock Wren on Kelly Butte, *King*, WA July 4 (EH) added to the number of w. Cascade locations where the species probably breeds. Three singing birds on Saddle Mt., *Clatsop*, July 1 (MP) apparently represent a 3rd breeding location in the Oregon Coast Range. In the lower Rogue R. valley, they were observed throughout the summer at Lost Creek L. Dam and Applegate Dam (J. Livaudais, *fide* HS). Northern Mockingbird reports included one at Cove Beach near Arch Cape, *Clatsop*, OR July 3 (J. Martin), one at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA July 23 (JE), and an apparent breeding pair with a juvenile near the Vernita Bridge, *Grant*, WA June 11-13 (T. Greager, AS). The only confirmed Washington breeding record is also from *Grant*, in 1990. A **Brown Thrasher** at American Camp, *San Juan*, June 26 (†J. Desgrollier *et al*.) furnished the first multiple observer record for Washington.

**VIREOS TO FINCHES**

A *plumbeous* Solitary Vireo was at Fields June 12 (DB); there are now >3 records from there. Oregon observers are continuing to find new Red-eyed Vireo breeding locations in the lower Columbia R. drainage. In addition to known areas at Sauvie I. and the Sandy R. delta, three were at Smith-Bybee Lakes Natural Area, between Portland and Sauvie I., July 8 (HN); several were near Roslyn L., Clackamas, June 22—July 9 (PS), and one was on Grand I., *Yamhill* July 4 (*fide* BB). With the exception of the Chestnut-sided Warblers, all warbler vagrants were species expected almost annually. A male Tennessee Warbler was at Fields June 7 (T. Kenefick). Northern Parulas were found at Granite Falls, *Snohomish*, WA June 22 (†DV) and there was a female at *Malheur* June 15 (†AC). *Four* Chestnut-sided Warblers were found: An ad. male at Hanford Site, *Benton*, WA June 20 (†C. Duberstein), an ad. male at Wapato, *Yakima*, WA June 23 (†B. Boekelheide), one at Fields June 26 (*fide* HN), and a singing male at Mares Egg Spring, *Klamath*, OR July 1-15 (PaSu) was seen carrying food July 9 (M. Moore). A singing male "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Seattle, WA June 22 (†SJo); there are very few June records of this form. A male Black-and-white Warbler was at Malheur June 11 (DB). American Redstarts were at Boardman, *Morrow*, OR June 11 (PaSu), and at Fields June 13 (DB) & 21 (*fide* HN). Ovenbirds were at *Malheur* June 4 (PaSu) and at Fields June 9 (S. Russell). A N. Waterthrush along Lava Cr., s.w. of Lemolo L., *Douglas*, OR June 18 (R. Maertz) was roughly 15 mi s. of a known nesting site at the Salt Cr. bog in the central Oregon Cascades. The singing Wilson's Warbler along E. Camp Cr. in extreme s.w. *Baker* July 2 (AC) was in an area where their breeding status is not well known. Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chat were at the Sandy R. delta, *Multnomah*, OR during the period (DB, PaSu); they were found nesting here last year for the first time in decades. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are annual vagrants in Oregon: A male came to the same feeder in Cape Meares, *Tillamook*, June 10 (J. Thompson, *fide* HN) that it frequented last year and one was at Silver L., *Lake*, June 9-15 (R. Elston). The male Indigo Bunting at Eugene, OR from May—June 22+ (T. Shelmerdine) was presumably the same bird present last year. Green-tailed Towhees are regular breeders at only 3 locations in the Blue Mts. of Washington: at Biscuit Ridge and Lewis Peak, *Walla Walla*, and at Wenatchee Guard Station, *Asotin*. They were found at Biscuit Ridge and the guard station this summer (KK, JA). Clay-colored Sparrows are rare breeders in Washington: Two males returned to the location e. of Spokane where they bred last summer (JA), although there was no indication of successful breeding this year. Others were at Camas Cr. Burn, *Chelan*, June 10 (MS) and a very rare westside summer record came from Olympia, *Thurston*, where a male was present June 14—July 2 (†E. Kraig, †M. Carmody, m.ob.). Vesper Sparrows are gradually becoming more difficult to find away from their primary nesting areas on the westside, so one at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA July 4 (BN) and two in s.w. *Clackamas*, OR June 21-23 (TJ, PaSu) were noteworthy. A Lark Sparrow near Breitenbush, *Marion*, OR June 29 (S. Sparkman *fide* BB) was unexpected; they are very rare away from the Rogue and Umpqua valleys. One pair of Black-throated Sparrow on territory near GI Ranch, *Crook*, OR May 21 (HN) was the only report of this species, which inundated the region last spring/summer. Indications of the coastal race of Fox Sparrow (*P. i fulignosa*) breeding in the San Juan Is. were obtained in 1992. Further evidence comes from Sucia I., where many were found singing this summer (C. Blake). Tricolored Blackbirds continue to turn up in new locations in Oregon; four were found at Forest Grove, *Washington*, June 6 (M. Harris *fide* HN), a new location for this species in the Willamette Valley. Apparently they were not present at their n.e. Portland location (JJ). In e. Oregon, three males were at Wamic, *Wasco*, July 15 (D. Lusthoff). Yellow-headed Blackbird are rare breeders in w. Washington: Three males and two females were breeding at Deer Lagoon, Island (SMl). A male Great-tailed Grackle remained through the summer at *Malheur* (HN), their only regular haunt in Oregon. The best White-winged Crossbill invasion since 1992 was restricted to Washington mountains. They were reported from the Blue Mts., with ten at Anatone Butte, *Asotin*, June 13 (KK); the Selkirk Mts., with flocks at Salmo Mt., *Pend Oreille*, July 10-22 (T. Andrews, RW); the Okanogan Highlands, with 50 at Rogers L., *Okanogan*, July 23 (SMl) and 88 at Thunder Mt., *Okanogan*, July 30 (AS);, and the Cascades, with two at Rainy Pass, *Snohomish*, July 23 (SMl), >three at Pratt L., *King*, July 28 (N Ferguson), and numbers at Slate Pass, *Okanogan*, July 29 (J. Duemmel).

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*End 1995*