

Oregon/ Washington Region

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The summer weather was basically warm and dry, a continuation of the long-term drought conditions. On the ocean, even though the El Niño/Summer Oscillation (ENSO) event was officially finished, warm water upwelling remained below average off both Oregon and Washington. As a consequence, abundance and breeding success of many seabird species remained low. The early shorebird migration was unexciting, as was the June vagrant showing. The season's best birds were the Semipalmated Plovers nesting on the Oregon coast and the Black-throated Sparrows appearing almost everywhere.

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

Loons to Ducks

Western Grebes nested at Fern Ridge Res.,

Lane, OR for the 3rd consecutive year (UP); they are not known to breed w. of the Cascades elsewhere in the Region. Three Clark's Grebes also summered on Fern Ridge Res. (UP); they are scarce breeders even on the eastside. There were 2 pelagic trips off Westport, WA, July 9 & 16 (TW), and one off Newport, OR July 31 (GG). Northern Fulmar numbers were low, ranging from 3–23. Pink-footed Shearwaters were not found until July 16. An early Buller's Shearwater was off Newport July 31. Sooty Shearwaters were incredibly scarce; the count of 57 July 9 was probably a record low for July and 75 July 31 was not much better. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel numbers were low, ranging from 2–23. One on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, n. of Port Angeles, July 8 (PL) was not surprising as they tend to disperse into the inland waters when ocean conditions are poor. Very high numbers of Brown Pelican were at O.S., July 30 (G&WH), indicating another strong northward post-breeding dispersal. A belated report of a Snowy Egret at Dungeness N.W.R., *Clallam* May 16 (†T. Parker) provided the 3rd spring record in 1994, the best spring total for Washington yet. Black-crowned Night-Herons are not known to breed on the westside: Summering records included ≤ 21 summering at the mouth of the Chetco R., *Curry, OR* (CD); one at O.S., July 5 (RW) for the 3rd local record; three immatures near Tou Velle Park, *Jackson, OR* July 11 (*vide* HS); and one immature at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln, OR* July 26 (*vide* RB).

Green-winged Teal, Am. Wigeon, and Lesser Scaup are scarce breeders in the region; all 3 species bred at Everett, *Snohomish, WA* (SM) and Lesser Scaup bred also at Deer Lagoon, *Island, WA* (SM). A ♀ Harlequin Duck with four chicks on the upper Nestucca R., *Tillamook, OR* July 1 (HN) furnished the 2nd nesting record for the Coast Range. Two Oldsquaw at S.J.C.R. to July 6 (MP) and an imm. male on the Siuslaw R. estuary, *Lane* in July (m.ob.) provided very rare summering records for Oregon.

Kites to Phalaropes

The first White-tailed Kites of the post-breeding movement were at S.J.C.R., July 22 (MP) and the Siuslaw R. estuary, *Lane, OR* (B&ZS). In Washington, breeding kites were re-

ported from the usual locations at Frances, *Pacific* and Curtis, *Lewis* (B&GR), and one near Carlsborg July 7 (*vide* D&SS) is a *Clallam* first. The Peregrine pair breeding in downtown Seattle generated almost daily media coverage as the female died but, with help, the male fledged two of the chicks (Falcon Research Group). A pair breeding in Portland brought off one young; they apparently bred last year as well (*vide* HN).

There was only one Am. Golden-Plover report, an adult at O.S., July 26 (†RN). A pair of Semipalmated Plovers was found breeding at Coos Bay (C. Halett, B. Casler, M. Stern), providing the first Oregon record and the farthest south on the Pacific coast. The nest was found May 18 and the eggs hatched June 8. One chick fledged, and both it and the adults were banded. Apparently a pair was found breeding there in 1993 as well. Four Black-necked Stilts at Tou Velle Park, *Jackson, OR* July 8–11 (MM) were very unusual on the westside. American Avocets at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion, OR* June 5 (D. Pederson) and near Everett, *Snohomish, WA* June 28 (SM) also provided unexpected summer records on the westside. An ad. Bar-tailed Godwit south of Seal Rocks, *Lincoln, OR* July 31 (†DF) furnished the fourth county record. Atypical numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers included high counts of ≤ 18 at several n. Puget Sound locations in July (SM) and at least four at O.S. (BT, RN). An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at Reardan, *Lincoln, WA* July 14–17 (JA) was the only report of this scarce migrant. A Wilson's Phalarope nest with two downy young was found at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk* June 12 (P. Bernardi, S. Dowlan) for one of the first breeding records from the Willamette Valley.

Gulls to Alcids

A Long-tailed Jaeger on Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln, OR* July 11 (RG) is noteworthy for the onshore location and the early date. Increasing numbers of Franklin's Gulls are being reported in summer away from their s.e. Oregon breeding areas. Six were at W.W.R.D., June 3 (MD), one was on Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln, OR* June 6 (*vide* RB), and one was near Everett, *Snohomish, WA* June 18 (SM). A pair of Glaucous-winged x Western gulls bred for the 2nd consecutive year on the Willamette R. near Oregon City, *Clackamas* (T. Janzen); intergrade breeding is generally confined to the outer coast. The Caspian Tern colony in Everett, WA numbered 2600 adults (J. Flavin) and fledged roughly 1500 young. The only Elegant Terns reported were three at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln, OR* July 24 (KM) and one at S.J.C.R., July 24 (SRA). Also in Everett, 3 pairs of Arctic Terns fledged four young (SM). Black Tern breeding was confirmed for the 3rd consec-



utive year on Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR July 13 (UP); this is their only known west-side breeding locale.

Very large numbers of Com. Murres (1763) counted off Westport in early July (TW) probably evidenced early northward dispersal and low breeding success (RB). This is the 4th consecutive year of low breeding success. An unusual number of summer records of Ancient Murrelet included one at Yaquina Head, Lincoln, OR July 4–17 (KM), one at Port Angeles, Clallam, WA July 8 (PL), one at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, OR July 12 (fide RB), and one at S.J.C.R., July 18 (SRa). Cassin's Auklets were very scarce off both Westport and Newport (TW, GG), with a peak count of only 10. In inland waters, one was off Port Townsend, Jefferson, WA July 6 (PL), indicating some foraging shift to inside areas. A Horned Puffin reported at Pt. Grenville, Grays Harbor June 11 (L. Carpenter) provided the 3rd Washington report in the last year.

Owls to Mimids

One Boreal Owl was seen in the Oregon Cascades near Waldo L., Lane July 31 (SR), the farthest south location for this species in the Region. Two singing Least Flycatchers were at Eloika L., Spokane June 13–29 (JA) and one was at Winthrop, Okanogan June 25 (AS); these are normal summer numbers in contrast to the 1993 incursion. Up to four E. Kingbirds found near Everett, Snohomish apparently bred (SM); this is the farthest west breeding location in Washington. Similarly, in Oregon 2 pairs bred for the 2nd year at the mouth of the Sandy R., Multnomah (BA), also the farthest west breeding location.

Horned Larks have become scarce as breeders in the Puget Trough: A pair was at McChord A.F.B., Pierce in May (fide CCh) and a fledgling was found at Port Angeles, Clallam July 26 (D&SS). Breeding Scrub Jays were found at Enumclaw for a first King record (D. & N. Morningstar) and the farthest north breeding in Washington. A pair of W. Bluebirds produced 2 broods near Sequim (fide D&SS); they appear to be recolonizing the n. Olympic Pen. Northern Mockingbirds are scarce visitors to the Region; records included five in e. Oregon (HN, MD, DA, DB), one at Wahluke, Franklin, WA June 20 (AS), one at Brookings, Curry, OR July 9 (CD), two at Central Point, Jackson, OR July 24 (MM), and one at the Siuslaw R. mouth, Lane, OR July 30 (B&ZS). Red-eyed Vireos were found fairly widely in w. Oregon, where they are usually quite limited in distribution. More than 10 pairs were at the mouth of the Sandy R., Multnomah (BA); one was at Talent June 28 (F. Ramsey) for one of few Jackson records; singing birds

were found near Stayton, Marion (RG) and Eugene, Lane (m.ob.); and a female with a brood patch was mist netted near Oakland July 16 (R. Harper) for the first Douglas breeding record.

Warblers to Finches

The only vagrant warbler reports were a ♂ N. Parula at Waldport, Lincoln, OR June 19–22 (DF) and a ♀ Black-and-white Warbler mist netted at Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA (BA). A N. Waterthrush was at Eloika L., WA (JA), the only known Spokane location for the species, and two singing birds were near Salt Cr. Falls, Lane (m.ob.), their only known w. Oregon breeding location. Four pairs of Yellow-breasted Chat at the Sandy R. mouth, OR (BA) provided the first Multnomah breeding records.

A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak, an annual vagrant, was at Cape Meares, Tillamook, OR May 28–July 12 (m.ob.). There were more reports than usual of Lazuli Bunting in Whatcom (TW), King (EH), and Snohomish (SM) in w. Washington, where they normally are uncommon. A ♂ Indigo Bunting found in Eugene, OR June 5–July 16 (P. French) was found nesting with a ♀ Lazuli Bunting. A pair of Clay-colored Sparrow breeding near Spokane produced two fledglings (JA) July 13 for one of few documented breeding records in Washington. A single was at Toats Coulee, Okanogan, WA June 1 (R. Lindstrom).

SA The immense numbers of Black-throated Sparrows reported this spring continued into the summer. Additional spring records from w. Washington included one at Carnation, King May 1 (B. Chubb), five at Ocean City S.P., Grays Harbor May 2–5 (C. Anderson), May 19 at Everett, Snohomish (T. Peterson), May 30 at Richmond Beach, King (D. Beaudette), June 6–7 at Point No Point, Kitsap (VN), and June 9 in Camas, Clark (W. Cady). There were 2 additional w. Oregon records: one at Lower Table Rock, Jackson June 16 (HN) and one at Eugene June 19 (m.ob.). In e. Washington, birds were at Bridgeport S.P., June 11 (†K. Irving), three s. of Moxee, Yakima June 19 (AS), two at Rock Cr., Klickitat June 19 (†MDo), 12 along Priest Rapids Res., Yakima June 19–July 7 (AS), >nine at White Bluffs June 20–July 5 (AS), and one in w. Benton July 8 (AS). In addition to the large numbers in e. Oregon this spring, singles were at Painted Hills N.M., Wheeler June 24 (M. LaFaive) and at Warm Springs Res., Malheur July 3 (PS).

A census of the Bobolinks in the Toppenish, Yakima colony found 80–100 individuals (B. Boekelheide); this is the farthest west colony in Washington. In Oregon, where Tricolored Blackbirds are expanding their range, three males were at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Polk June 2 (D. Copeland), a male was at Clarno Pond, Wheeler June 11 (PS), and two males were at Wamic, Wasco June 26 (DL); the Portland colony was apparently not occupied (HN). After appearing in 1993, Yellow-headed Blackbirds apparently bred again in n.w. Washington, near Wiser L., Whatcom (fide TW). Two ♂ and a ♀ Great-tailed Grackle were at Malheur for the 2nd consecutive summer (HN).

Red Crossbills were common in a few n.w. Washington areas, such as Whidbey I. and near Port Angeles, Clallam (CCh), and in the n. Oregon Cascades during July (HN, SR). Pine Siskin numbers were low in n.w. Washington (TW) and on the n. Olympic Pen. (RN). Reports on the minuscule Lesser Goldfinch population in Washington included seven at Maryhill, Klickitat June 18 (†MDo) and three at Lyle, Klickitat June 2 (AS).

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