

oregon-washington region



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This summer was wet and sea surface temperatures soared, as an El Niño event at least as strong as the 1982/1983 event appeared to affect our Region. Sea surface temperatures in July off Newport, Oregon, reached almost to 20°C (R. Lowe). On the ocean, the indications of seabird breeding success were grim, again. Most Common Murre colonies in Oregon experienced abnormal levels of adult mortality on top of breeding failure, and Cassin's Auklets remained very scarce off the Washington coast. A strong northward movement of Brown Pelicans and Heermann's Gulls and a strong flight of Elegant Terns completed the El Niño picture.

Aside from the excitement that a family of Blue Grosbeaks created in Oregon and a White-winged Dove in Washington, the landbird picture was relatively dull.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (*Fern Ridge Res., Lane Co., OR*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney*

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

LOONS TO RAPTORS

A Yellow-billed Loon at Swantown, *Island, WA*, July 8–13 (PL, †SM) provided a 2nd consecutive summer report from Whidbey I. Unusual summer reports of Horned Grebe on the westside included one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion, OR*, June 10 (JL) and three at Ebey's Landing, *Island, WA*, July 4 (SM). Similarly unusual eastside reports of non-breeding Red-necked Grebes were singles at Sprague L., *Adams, WA*, June 5

(PtSu) and on the Snake R. at Ice Harbor Dam, *WA*, June 6 (M&MLD). The breeding colony of Western and Clark's grebes at F.R.R. was checked July 27, but no young were seen (A&TM). Summer reports of Clark's Grebe away from breeding areas included three from the Oregon coast: at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, June 1 (KM); at the Siuslaw R. mouth, *Lane*, June 9 (TM); at S.J.C.R., July 16 (MP); and one n. of range in the interior on the Colville Plateau, *Okanogan, WA*, July 20 (*vide RR*).

Although there were some relatively large counts of Black-footed Albatross, such as 126 June 14 at Heceta Bank, *Lane, OR* (GG, MH), and 156 July 13 off Westport, *WA* (TW), no Laysan Albatrosses were found. Last summer, six Laysan were reported. Northern Fulmar numbers were below last year's very high numbers. Counts ranged from six on the June 14 trip to Heceta Bank, *OR* (GG, MH), and 13 on the July 13 trip off Westport, *WA* (TW), to 500

found 14 mi off Alsea Bay, *OR*, July 30 (RL). One fulmar seen well inside the Strait of Juan de Fuca, off the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam*, July 19 (BT), was very unusual for summer. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were weak, averaging 25 per trip, with the peak count of 41 on the July 26 trip off Depoe Bay, *OR* (GG, MH). A Flesh-footed Shearwater off the Strait of Juan de Fuca, *Clallam, WA*, July 15 (BT) provided the only report. Sooty Shearwater numbers were extremely low until late July. Both Oregon trips and the July 13 Washington trip averaged 150 per trip; the July 26 trip off Westport found 2461 (TW). A **Manx Shearwater** reported from Admiralty Inlet, off Port Townsend, *Jefferson*, July 9 (†GGe) furnished an unprecedented report from inshore waters and, if accepted by the Washington Bird Records Committee, will represent about the 6th Washington record. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel counts averaged a respectable 80 per trip, and Leach's Storm-Petrel were reported on 3 of the 4 July trips, with a peak of 16 off Westport July 13 (TW).

The Am. White Pelican that wintered near F.R.R. was present throughout the summer (*vide TM*), a highly unusual occurrence on the westside. One Brown Pelican was n. to Sekiu, *Clallam, WA*, by July 22 (DFi). On the outer coast, large numbers were reported from *Tillamook, OR* (HN), n. to *Grays Harbor, WA* (BT), with a high percentage of first-year birds.

Seven Brandt's Cormorant nests at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln, OR*, July 10 had all or most of the large young dead in the nest (RL). This very late season mortality was also observed in the poor years 1993 and 1996. An early July survey of Pelagic Cormorant colonies on the c. Oregon coast showed 79% of the 10-year mean; they may be less affected by the ocean conditions (RL). A Cattle Egret at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark, WA*, June 6 (JE) furnished a very unusual summer record for the westside. The number of Black-crowned Night-Heron reports from the westside was astounding: one at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk, OR*,

June 22–24 (BTi, RG); seven at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA, July 8 (JE); one in Portland, OR, July 12 (*vide* HN); one in Salem, OR, July 17 (T. Reed); one at Denman, WA, *Jackson*, OR, July 20 (PaSu); and 47 along .5 mile of the Chetco R. estuary, *Curry*, OR, July 24 (DM). They do not breed on the westside.

An impressive number of breeding reports of uncommon waterfowl included: Green-winged Teal broods at Deer Lagoon, *Island*, WA, July 4 (SM) and at Freeland, *Island*, WA, July 6 (SM); a N. Pintail brood at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, OR, July 18 (JL); Blue-winged Teal brood at Ankeny N.W.R. July 18 (JL); N. Shoveler broods at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, OR, July 16 (RG) and at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA, July 13–26 (SM); Am. Wigeon at Everett, *Snohomish*, WA, June 14 through the period (SM); 7 broods of Lesser Scaup at Deer Lagoon, *Island*, WA, July 6 (SM); and a Com. Goldeneye brood at Winthrop, *Okanogan*, WA, July 17 (GGe). Five Redheads at F.R.R. June 26 (DG) indicated this westside location should be watched for breeding by this eastside species. Greater Scaup reports from Sanpoil, *Ferry*, WA, June 19 (PtSu); Forest Grove, *Washington*, OR, June 25 (HN); Deer Lagoon, *Island*, WA, July 6 (SM); and O.S. July 30 (T. Aversa) were about normal for this scarce summer species. The number of Oldsquaw reports was a bit above average: a female at the Siuslaw R. mouth, *Lane*, OR, June 25–28 (B&ZS, DH); one at Hastie Lake Rd., *Island*, WA, July 4 (SM); a male at Swantown, *Island*, WA, July 4–8 (SM, PL); and a male at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA, July 7 (PL).

Small numbers of White-tailed Kites were reported: one was at F.R.R. June 26 (DG); one was at the Siltcoos R. mouth, *Lane*, OR, July 5 (B&ZS); and one was at *Tillamook* Bay, OR, July 5 (JG, GL), with two there 18 July (JG). Equally small numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks were reported. The only westside reports were of birds at Cloverdale, *Tillamook*, OR, July 26 (DFi) and at Sutherlin, *Douglas*, OR, July 27 (K. Wilson). In e. Oregon, where they are still very notable, an immature was at the s. end of Upper Klamath L., *Klamath*, July 24 (H. Sands) and another immature was at Goose Lake S.P., *Lake*, July 31 (F. Isaacs). An ad. Golden Eagle in the Puget Lowlands at Silverdale, *Kitsap*, WA, June 9 provided a remarkable summer sighting (TB). Merlins at Sanpoil, *Ferry*, WA, June 19 (PtSu) and s. of Arlington, *Gilliam*, OR, June 8 (HN) were the only reports. The discovery of a Peregrine Falcon aerie under the I-90 bridge in

Spokane, WA, generated a lot of media interest and birder enthusiasm (D. Mann, JA), as it apparently was in part the result of reintroduction efforts.

CRANES THROUGH ALCIDS

Sandhill Crane surveys at Conboy Lake N.W.R., *Klickitat*, WA, and adjacent sites located 14 nesting pairs (JE). These pairs, the only known breeders in Washington, fledged five colts. This survey represents the largest number of breeding pairs ever found in the state. Summering records elsewhere in the Region included one flying N of Port Orford, *Curry*, OR, June 15 (T. Wahl) and up to 10 on Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA, June 15 (E. Anderson).

There were 2 reports of Pacific Golden-Plover: one at the S. Jetty of the Siuslaw R., *Lane*, OR, July 15 (B&ZS), and one at the New R., *Coos*, OR, July 22 (DL). Black-necked Stilts bred at 2 new locations in e. Washington. Thirty found nesting near Wallula, *Walla Walla*, June 6 (M&MLD) and five nesting at Dallesport, *Klickitat*, July 13 (W. Cady) both furnished first county breeding records. The 31 Am. Avocets breeding at the same location near Wallula (M&MLD) also represented a first county breeding record. Three Solitary Sandpiper reports included two from the interior (JA, BW) and one from the coast (BT), a normal total for summer. Semipalmated Sandpiper reports totaled 58, including seven from w. Oregon, five from e. Oregon, six from e. Washington, six from coastal Washington, and 34 from the Puget Trough. These are better totals than the previous 2 summers. An ad. **Red-necked Stint** at S.J.C.R. July 19 (†MP) furnished the first Oregon report since 1984. One Pectoral Sandpiper was reported, at O.S. July 29 (E. Deal), which is about normal. Good counts of Short-billed Dowitchers on the coast consisted of 4500+ at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific*, WA, July 18 (H. Gilmore) and 1300 at O.S. July 21 (R. Sullivan). Red-necked Phalarope numbers were very poor off the Washington coast, averaging 20 per trip (TW) during July. Larger numbers were found off s. Oregon: 100 offshore June 26 (DFi) and 500 at the N. Jetty of Coos Bay July 10 (DL).

Jaegers were very sparingly reported: three Pomarines, five Parasitics, and two jaeger (sp.). Three South Polar Skuas off the Strait of Juan de Fuca, *Clallam*, July 14 (BT) were the only ones reported. Franklin's Gulls are being reported more widely in summer; previously their summer distribution was confined to their breeding areas in e. Oregon. Unusual reports included one at

Florence, *Lane*, OR, June 10 (DPe); one at Atkins L., *Douglas*, WA, June 12 (G&W Hoge); one at Port Townsend, *Jefferson*, WA, June 29 (*vide* RR); one adult on Sauvie June 30 (M. Nebeker); one adult at Tillamook Bay, OR, July 12 (DB); and one adult at the Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*, WA, July 30 (M&MLD). Heermann's Gulls poured N again, and for the 3rd consecutive year the proportion of first-year birds was high (BT). They were first noted at New R., *Coos*, OR, June 4 (DL&KC). By July, very large numbers were in Washington: 1170 at Grays Harbor July 13 (TW) and 2950 at Whidbey I., *Island*, July 26 (SM). A pair of Glaucous-winged x Western Gull hybrids nested on a piling in the Willamette R. near Oregon City, for the 3rd breeding record in the valley (E. Specht, T. Janzen), with three juveniles observed July 25. They successfully bred here in 1993 and 1995.

Counts of Arctic Tern peaked at 10 at the Port of Everett June 22 (SM), and juveniles were noted July 6 (AS) & 20 (SM), indicating successful breeding at their southernmost colony in the West. Four Forster's Terns at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, OR,

SA Elegant Terns are a singular indicator of El Niño conditions in our Region. The 1983 event brought the first Washington records, and numbers did not appear again until 1990, not a classic El Niño, but definitely a warm water year. They reappeared with the 1992 event, with a small echo flight in 1993 as El Niño conditions remained. The 1997 event brought large numbers north again. The first report was of two at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, June 10 (DPe) and the only other June report was of five off Seal Rocks, *Lincoln*, OR, June 12 (DFi). Reports started increasing July 6, with 30 on the *Lane* and *Lincoln* coast (DH, J. Simmons). The sum of the peak counts on the Oregon coast was more than 330, with the highest count about 200 at the Rogue R. mouth, *Curry*, July 29 (DM). In Washington, the first report was of 97 at O.S. July 16 (R. Sullivan), building to 125 July 19 (D. Wright). By July 20, two Elegant Terns were in Puget Sound, on Whidbey I. (C. McNerny), remaining through July 26 (SM). Sightings from other areas in Washington included one at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific*, July 17 (H. Gilmore), and 10 at Neah Bay and 10 at Sekiu, both *Clallam* and both July 22 (DFi). The Washington totals were about 150.

SA Common Murres had another disastrous breeding season, for their 7th consecutive year. Only the Tatoosh I., WA, population bred successfully (J. Parrish); the much larger Oregon colonies had very low reproduction and high adult mortality (remainder of this account from R. Lowe, USFWS). On June 9, the first indications of elevated adult mortality were reported from the beaches immediately north of Coos Bay, and by June 12 reports were coming from Seal Rock on the central Oregon coast. By June 25, mortalities were reported from Leadbetter Pt., WA, north of the breeding colonies. This was the first indication of early northward migration. Observations of the Two Arches Rock colonies June 24 found no more than 2–3% of the birds returning to the colonies with fish, and no chicks were observed. Numerous adults in the vicinity were very stressed and appeared weak. On June 27, the murre colony at Gull Rock near Otter Rock was completely abandoned by the 22,000 murres that breed there.

Meanwhile, beached bird counts continued to escalate. The June totals for 2 Oregon beaches exceeded all years' prior to 1996 by a factor of 3 to 4. On June 26, over 20 fresh murre carcasses were near Pt. Grenville, WA, and 50 were at Ocean Shores. The highest recorded density was June 30, when 123 carcasses were found on a 6.5 mi beach transect near Seaside, OR, exceeding the maximum rate ever at this location. The first dead juvenile was recorded in the Newport area July 7.

Mortality of adults continued through July at the same pace in northern Oregon, while mortality from the Grays Harbor to Pt. Grenville area doubled in late July. Counts of large numbers of murres moving north along the northern Oregon coast at the end of July included 1075 murres flying past the Columbia R. South Jetty during a one-hour period! A July 30 boat survey from Tillamook Bay to Seaside found huge flocks of murres flying north, and only small numbers flying south carrying fish. No chicks on the water were seen; in a normal year, thousands would have been seen.

Conditions on the southern Oregon coast for murres may have been better. There was high mortality in the Coos Bay area from early to mid-June, but it subsided after that. South of Coos Bay, mortality has apparently been very low. Chick production apparently occurred all along the southern Oregon coast, although production is likely below normal. At Bandon on July 2–3, numerous unattended murre chicks in the colonies were being killed and eaten by gulls, and 19 dead murre chicks were counted on the beach opposite the colonies.

July 3 (BTi) provided a very intriguing mid-summer record of this eastside species, especially as Black Terns are breeding nearby. A **Least Tern** at the S. Jetty of the Siuslaw R., Lane, June 8 (†D. Schrouder, †P. Sherrell) represented the 4th Oregon record and the first since 1976. Black Tern breeding was confirmed again at F.R.R. when an adult was seen feeding a fledgling July 27 (A&TM); this is the only known westside breeding colony.

Remarkable numbers of Ancient Murrelets were seen along the Oregon coast, where they are unknown as breeders. Most were found by Fix during Marbled Murrelet surveys. Three were off Florence, Lane, June 12; one was off Devil's Elbow S.P., Lane, July 12; one was off Neahkahnie Mt., Tillamook, July 13; one was off Siletz Bay, Lincoln, July 14; and one was off Hunter Cr., Curry, July 17. Additionally, Merrifield had four at Yaquina Head, Lincoln, June 29, and two there July 13, and Lowe had an adult with a flying juvenile off Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, July 30. Cassin's Auklet numbers on the ocean off Washington were exceedingly low; Tweit

saw about one per day off the Olympic Pen. July 14–18, and July pelagic trips off Westport found a total of five (TW). Small numbers were displaced into the Strait of Juan de Fuca: two off Port Angeles, Clallam, July 7 (PL) and 15 off there July 19 (BT), and one in Admiralty Inlet July 8 (PL). They may have been displaced into onshore areas off Oregon, as both Fix and Lowe noted many close to shore throughout the summer. Two **Horned Puffins** at Harris Beach S.P., Curry, July 7 (CD) provided the 2nd summer record for the 1990s.

DOVES TO MIMIDS

A **White-winged Dove** at Pelican Beach on Cypress I., San Juan, July 19 (†K. Serres) will provide the 2nd Washington record, if accepted by the Washington Bird Records Committee. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Fields, Harney, June 11 (HN); most recent Oregon records of this vagrant are from this locale. Great Gray Owl breeding was noted at Shale City, Jackson, OR, with two young seen July 20 (PaSu) and at Havillah, Okanogan, WA, where a pair with young

was seen June 21 (PtSu). There are still very few confirmed breeding records from Washington, all from the n. interior. Black Swifts were noted as usual at Salt Cr. Falls, Lane, the only known Oregon breeding location (m.ob.). A Red-naped Sapsucker at Easy Pass, Skagit, WA, July 2 (T. Aversa) was in an area of the N. Cascades where this eastside species seems to regularly cross the crest. Conversely, a mixed pair of Red-naped and Red-breasted sapsuckers feeding young at Cold Cr. Camp Ground, Deschutes, June 29 (J. Burns) was in an area of the Oregon Cascades where the westside species seems to regularly cross the crest.

The Least Flycatcher tally was six, including an active nest at Holliday S.P., Grant, OR, June 20 (DH) and singles at Malheur June 3 (R. Smith); Bone Cr. Canyon, Malheur, OR, June 19 (M&MLD); Curlew, Ferry, WA, June 19–24 (PtSu); and Page Springs Camp Ground, Harney, OR, June 23–24 (J. Wahlund). Several Ash-throated Flycatchers were found n. of the interior Umpqua Valley in Oregon, which is the limit of their usual westside range. One was at the Hwy 101 crossing of the Chetco R., Curry, OR, June 4 (B. Stewart); two were in Eugene, OR, June 5 (DG); one was at Portland, OR, June 29 (K. Jones); one was at Everett L., Skagit, WA, July 1 (G. Bletsch); and two were in appropriate looking breeding habitat on the s. side of Mt. Pisgah, near Eugene, July 8 (A. Prigge, H. Bartels). Western Kingbirds bred on the westside near Ankeny N.W.R., Marion, OR (JL), and near Dallas, Polk, OR (BTi), and singles were found in potential breeding areas at Marblemount, Skagit, WA, June 8 (SA) and at Spanaway, Pierce, WA, June 8 (TB). Eastern Kingbirds apparently prospecting on the westside were at Marblemount, Skagit, WA, June 8–22 (SA, BK); in Curry, OR, June 14 (T. Wahl) for the 3rd county record; at Friday Harbor, San Juan, WA, June 20 (SA); at Spencer I., Snohomish, WA, June 28 (SM); and at the Sandy R. mouth, Multnomah, OR, July 12 (R. Korpi).

Bank Swallows apparently breed on the westside in the upper Skagit R. valley, as up to five were noted near Marblemount, Skagit, WA, in June (SA, BK), with a pair observed copulating June 8. One in the Puget lowlands at Spencer I., Snohomish, WA, June 1 (SM) resists categorization. A Clark's Nutcracker sighting on Orcas I., San Juan, WA, July 25 (BN) is equally puzzling. Misplaced corvids at Malheur included a Steller's Jay throughout the period and a W. Scrub-Jay June 1 for a first Malheur record (CH). Adult Bushtits with young along the

Snake R. at Morgan Cr. Canyon, *Baker*, June 22 (M&MLD) probably represented a first county breeding record. Rock Wrens occasionally breed just w. of the Cascade crest; a family was in a clearcut near Breitenbush Mt., *Marion*, OR, July 6 (JL). A nesting pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on Mt. Pisgah, near Eugene, *Lane*, OR, was confirmed July 12, when the nest was found (A&TM). The nesting attempt, the first in the Willamette valley, was apparently unsuccessful as no adults were in attendance July 27, and 4 unhatched eggs were in the nest. Another gnatcatcher nest, s.w. of Beulah Res., *Malheur*, OR, July 4 (E. Henze, M. LaFaive), may be the first for *Malheur*. The singing Gray Catbird at Oakridge, *Lane*, July 17–20 (DM, m ob) provided the 2nd w. Oregon record. Breeding records for N. Mockingbird are still rare, so the nest with three young in Bone Cr. Canyon, *Malheur*, OR, June 20 (M&MLD) was noteworthy. Other mockingbird records included one at Coos Bay, OR, June 5 (DL&KC); two at Vernita, *Benton*, WA, July 14 (PtSu); and one at Sisters, *Deschutes*, OR, July 15 (J. Glubka).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

Red-eyed Vireo records were notable for varying reasons. One at Jasper, *Lane*, OR, bred with a Cassin's Vireo, but the nest failed and the only egg in the nest appeared to be a cowbird's (m.ob.). Vagrants were at Malheur June 5 (CH) and at Harbor, *Curry*, OR, July 24 (DM). The rest of the vagrant list included a N. Parula at Malheur June 12 (M&MLD); male Chestnut-sided Warblers at Lakeview, *Lake*, OR, June 2 (F. Isaacs) and at Newport, *Lincoln*, OR, June 22 (EH); male and female Black-and-white Warblers at Fields, *Harney*, OR, June 12–13 (Maitreya, M&MLD); and a male Ovenbird at the s end of Upper Klamath L., *Klamath*, OR, June 23–July 12 (DV). A female Chestnut-sided Warbler with a brood patch netted near L. of the Woods, *Klamath*, OR, July 14 (DV) furnished a very intriguing record. American Redstarts bred in the upper Skagit valley at County Line Ponds (G. Bletsch, D. Beaudette), with a nest found June 9 for the 2nd w. Washington breeding record. A male and a female were at Beaver Cr., *Wasco*, OR, June 28–July 13 (GG, MH, HN), there are few recent breeding records for the Oregon Cascades.

Only two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, at Bend, *Deschutes*, OR, June 8 (S. Walkley) and near Cape Ferrello, *Curry*, OR, July 15 (J. Bischoff), well below last summer's total of nine. A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** with two fledged young found n.w.

of Brogan, *Malheur*, July 9 through the period (†F. Zeilemaker, m.ob.) provided a first Oregon breeding record, and only the 3rd state record. Lazuli Buntings are sparse w. Washington breeders: two at Scatter Cr., *Thurston*, June 12 (B. Shelmerdine) and one male at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, June 26 (JE) were locally rare. Indigo Buntings, annual vagrants, were widely reported from Oregon: a male at Denio Cr., *Harney*, June 14 (M&MLD); a male at Portland June 20 (S. Nielsen); a male in the Trout Creek Mts., *Harney*, June 22 (E. Dale); one e. of Milton-Freewater, *Umatilla*, July 4 (M&MLD); and one at Forest Grove, *Washington*, July 20 (L. Ficere). An apparent Indigo × Lazuli hybrid was at Mt. Pisgah, near Eugene, OR, June 28 (M. Cutler, P. Vanderheul). A male Indigo was paired with a female Lazuli in Eugene in 1994.

We now expect to find territorial male Clay-colored Sparrows annually in e. Washington; this summer's reports included one at Espanola, *Spokane*, June 7 (JA); two at Cameron Lake Rd., *Okanogan*, June 16 (PtSu); and up to three at the Spokane location where breeding has occurred for several years (JA). Brewer's Sparrows are rare at any season on the westside, so one on Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, WA, June 4–5 (*fide* RR) was unexpected. Even more unexpected was the report of two on Lower Table Rock, *Jackson*, OR, July 18 (DV), especially since one had a brood patch! A mid-summer Vesper Sparrow on the outer coast is also surprising: One was at Bayocean, *Tillamook*, OR, July 19 (BTi).

Black-throated Sparrow numbers show tremendous annual variation in e. Washington; this year's total of 11 reports is the 3rd highest summer total. One was near Vantage, *Kittitas* (†B. Bell, PL) June 4–29 (PL); a singing male was on the Hanford Reach, *Franklin*, June 26 (JA); up to three singing males were in the Rattlesnake Hills, *Yakima*, June 28–July 12 (AS); five were at Wanapum Dam, *Kittitas*, July 14 (PtSu); and one was n. to Bridgeport, *Douglas*, July 20 (*fide* RR). Grasshopper Sparrows are rare breeders in w. Oregon. One was seen feeding a fledgling near Lower Table Rock, *Jackson*, July 18 (DV), and they were found breeding near F.R.R. (*fide* TM). We offer no context for reports of breeding plumaged male Lapland Longspurs at 2 different *Lake*, OR, locations—at Sycan Marsh June 13 (C. Miller) and at Hart Mt. July 11 (P. Vanderheul)—except to say it happens.

The Tricolored Blackbird colony at Stanfield, *Umatilla*, OR, held 40 pairs June 7 (HN); this is the n.e. corner of their range.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds breed sporadically on the westside. This summer, small numbers nested at Sauvie (DB) and nearby at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark* (JE), and a family was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR, July 17 (BTi). Great-tailed Grackles went unreported this period; are they experiencing technical difficulties with their range expansion? Red Crossbills were common in the Wallowa Mts. July 12 (D. Herr) and in the Mt. Hood area July 26 (D. Luthoff), but were almost absent in the lowlands of w. Washington (BT, SM). White-winged Crossbills staged a small invasion. The first report was one at Tiffany Mt., *Okanogan*, WA, June 15 (PtSu). There were many in the Wallows n. of Tollgate, *Union*, OR, July 12 through the period (D. Herr, M&MLD) and numbers were at Rainy Pass in late July (J. Duemmel). In the Oregon Cascades, a pair was s. of Melakwa L., s.w. of McKenzie Pass, *Lane*, July 28 (R&K Krabbe). Pine Siskin numbers seemed very low (HN, SM, BT). A male Lesser Goldfinch at Duvall, *King*, WA, July 1 (†B. Helmboldt) provided a first county record.

EXOTICS

The Monk Parakeet colony at the Portland, OR, airport was active this summer, and there were many reports from other parts of n.e. Portland in late July (HN).

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