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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 251.

oregon-washington region



BILL TWEIT, GERARD LILLIE, and STEVE MLODINOW

Following an extremely wet winter, the spring weather was actually somewhat drier than average in most parts of the Region, but it was also cool and windy so that both humans and birds seemed to regard it as more winter than spring. Throughout the west side, temperatures for much of March and early April were as much as 10 degrees below normal. There was snow on the Willamette Valley floor in late March and the freezing level dropped to ~1000 ft. in the northern Willamette Valley 8 April. Below normal temperatures continued into May, when they averaged 5.8° F. below normal in Portland, 6.4° below in Eugene, and 6.1° below in Medford. The cool climate delayed snow melt in the mountains, where a deep snow pack had accumulated with many sites reporting record snow depths.

The weather played a major role in migration. Many species arrived at expected dates, but numbers were small compared with the rest of their populations. It seemed that the majority of land bird migrants were

one to two weeks late. Very late snowmelt held up dispersal of mountain species once they arrived, maybe by as much as three weeks. On 8 May, Gillson had none of the obvious forest birds (Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch etc.) at Lost Lake in the Oregon Cascades and on 11 June there was still three–five feet of snow at Santiam Pass with no Fox Sparrows or Nashville Warblers, generally common by that date. Lowland observers remarked on *very* large numbers of Western Tanagers. Westside observers were treated to unusual numbers of montane and interior species in the lowlands, some lingering quite late: Calliope Hummingbirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Solitaires, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

The oil spill created by the grounding of the *New Carissa* off Coos Bay, Oregon, apparently caused some level of Snowy Plover mortality, and necessitated more frequent beach surveys for dead birds. As of 10 March, two Horned Puffins, two Parakeet Auklets, two Ancient Murrelets, 13 Rhinoceros Auklets, one Short-tailed Shearwater, one+ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel and one+ Leach's Storm-Petrel were found (BL0, RL). Some of these mortalities may have been unrelated to the oil spill.

Abbreviations: D.F. (*Detroit Flats, Marion Co., OR*); F.R.R. (*Fern Ridge Res., Lane Co., OR*); 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. (*s. jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., OR*); W.W.R.D. (*Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla Co., WA*).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Pacific Loon migration was heavy throughout May: 3000+ passed Heceta Head, Lane, OR, in 30 minutes 2 May (RRb) and 200+/hour passed Boiler Bay, Lincoln, OR, 25 May (PP). Yellow-billed Loons at Sequim Bay, Clallam, WA, 18 Mar (GK) and at Tulalip

Bay, *Snohomish*, WA, 9–14 May (M. Reed) were the only reported. Five Clark's Grebes were found on the w. side, where scarce (SM, AC, TR, DL, KC, MH). Two Laysan Albatrosses off Westport, *Grays Harbor*, WA, 14 Mar (BT) and singles at the 600 fathom point off *Lincoln*, OR, in mid-May (S. Kupillas) and found dead on Thiel Cr., *Lincoln*, OR, beaches during May (BLo), indicate their increased abundance in the Region. Winter low numbers of N. Fulmar continued through spring; pelagic trips averaged only nine, with a peak of 30 (TRW, GG). A Pink-footed Shearwater off Depoe Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, 20 Mar (GG, MH) was early. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters off Westport 24 Apr (BT) were the only reported Photos of a partially decomposed **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** on the beach at Newport, *Lincoln*, 26 Mar (D. Leal) will be examined by the O.B.R.C.; if correct this would represent the northernmost record for the species in the n.e. Pacific. Sooty Shearwater numbers remained low on pelagic trips, although numbers onshore in May seemed typical for spring, with several hundred off Cape Arago, *Coos*, OR, 29 Apr (BP), 100 off Coos Bay, *Coos*, OR, 4 May (DL, KC), 800 at O.S. 5 May (TA), and "many" from S.J.C.R. 23 May (MP). From late April onward large numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen from shore. The largest concentration was 300+ off Boiler Bay 4 May (PP). Other high counts included 50 at Neah Bay, *Clallam*, WA, 8–9 May (BB, BN), and 15–20 at Grays Harbor 8–9 May (B. Bell, SM). Mortality was apparently above average, as 29 were found during May on beached bird surveys at Thiel Cr., *Lincoln*, OR (BLo); the 22-year average annual total for these surveys is five or fewer. Leach's Storm-Petrels are even rarer near shore, but two were seen at Boiler Bay 7 May (PP) and four were dead in May on the Thiel Cr. beached bird surveys (BLo).

For the 2nd consecutive spring unusual numbers of Am. White Pelicans were on the w. side, with seven reported from F.R.R. and the nearby Corvallis area (m.ob.), Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR (TT), Grays Harbor (CK, TA, PtSu), and at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, OR (D. Pederson, m.ob.). Brown Pelicans arrived later than the previous 2 years; the first were two at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, OR, 20 Apr (Bureau Land Mgmt.), and they were noted along the coast n. to Grays Harbor by mid-May (m.ob.), but May numbers remained low (DL, KC, GL). An alternate-plumaged **Red-faced Cormorant** at the mouth of the Elwha R., *Clallam*, WA, 8 May (†SM, †SP) was the 2nd well-docu-

mented sighting s. of Alaska (pending W.B.R.C. review); the first was at Masset Sound, Queen Charlotte Is., B.C., in April 1988 (Campbell et al. 1990, *The Birds of British Columbia*). Great Egret nesting was recorded again at Pony Slough, *Coos*, OR (*vide* HN); they are recent breeders on the w. side and up to three remained at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA, during May (JE), another recent w. side breeding location. A Cattle Egret, rare in spring, was near Merrill, *Klamath*, OR, 4 May (F. Mayer). White-faced Ibis at W.W.R.D. 8 May (DR), 12 near Brookings, *Curry*, OR, 17 May (DM), at Frenchman Hills Rd., *Grant*, WA, 21 May onward (†M. Schmuck), and at Othello, *Adams*, WA, 31 May (RH) were all locally rare.

The Emperor Goose wintering at Tillamook, OR, remained until 19 Mar (C. Roberts) and the resident bird remained at Sandy R., *Multnomah*, OR (m.ob.). The wintering Ross's Goose at Kent, *King*, WA, remained through 15 Apr (RO, m.ob.); 18 at Steigerwald N.W.R., *Clark*, 13–19 Apr (WC, m.ob.) was an exceptionally large number for w. Washington. Four westside reports of Com. Teal and one of an intergrade was about average (GL, RK, SM, BTi). A Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal was at Dodson Rd., *Grant*, WA, 20 May (SJ). Much larger than typical numbers of Gadwall appeared in March, with maxima in *Lane* in mid-March of 150 on the Delta Ponds and 200 on the Kirk Pond (DI). Only four Eur. Wigeon were reported from the interior, but on the w. side a count of 60 at Samish Flats, *Skagit*, WA, 15 Mar (D. Paulson) was large; one wintering in w. Eugene, *Lane*, OR, stayed through period (DI). Four Tufted Ducks, a good spring total, were reported at Bingen, *Klickitat*, WA (WC), Rowena, *Wasco*, OR (D. Roll), Warrenton, *Clatsop*, OR (MP, TT), and Oak Harbor, *Island*, WA (SM). A female **King Eider** at the S. Jetty of Coos Bay, *Coos*, 29 Apr (BP, ph.) was apparently the latest in spring for Oregon. A Harlequin Duck pair was along Bryce Cr., *Lane*, OR, 5 May (*vide* TM), an area where not reported previously. A Long-tailed Duck at Vantage, *Kittitas*, WA, 14 Mar (K. Dumroese) provided a rare spring interior record.

White-tailed Kite numbers remained at record levels. At least 31 were found in w. Oregon, headlined by the first nesting record for *Curry* 4 mi up the Rouge R. from Gold Beach (CD). Notable concentrations included five+ at a roost site near F.R.R. in March (DI), seven in the White City area, *Jackson*, 1 Mar (E. Setterberg), and five in the Illinois and Applegate valleys, *Josephine*,

1 May (PaSu); one near Prineville, *Crook*, 3 Apr (MC) was an e. Oregon rarity. The w. Washington count was 11+, mostly in *Lewis* and *Thurston* and in March (RO, R Woodin, PtSu, BT). One at Kent, *King*, 13 Apr (RO) was notable (they are casual n. of Olympia) and one at Ilwaco, *Pacific*, 15 Mar (J. Meyer) was the only coastal report. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks just s.w. of F.R.R. 19 Mar (LM) may suggest local breeding, pairs near Grants Pass and Myrtle Pt. were in areas where they may breed regularly. Four others were reported in w. Oregon, and two in e. Oregon n. of Lonerock, *Morrow*, 24 May (J. Olson) were rare. A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Wenas Cr., *Yakima*, 30 May (†WC, m.ob.) provided the 2nd documented spring record for Washington. Two Gyrfalcons were reported from w. Oregon, near Brownsmead, *Clatsop* (MP), and at Fernhill, *Washington* (HN).

CHARADRIIFORMES

Thirteen Pacific Golden-Plover were reported, all but one from Oregon. Nine at Cape Blanco, *Coos*, 27 Apr (DM) was the largest group, and one at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, 25 May onward (J. Lundsten, PaSu) was astonishing both for the lateness and the Willamette Valley location. Six Am. Golden-Plovers were reported, all from coastal Washington, as were six golden-plover sp., the total of 25 was well above average for spring. A pair of Snowy Plovers at Midway Beach, *Grays Harbor*, 25 Apr (RR, SRI) and one at Westport 22 May (PtSu) were away from their 2 known breeding sites in Washington. Black-necked Stilts were noteworthy both in the interior and on the w. side, where rare migrants. At least 125 were found at numerous sites in e. Washington (m.ob.), probably the highest total ever for this relatively recent addition to the area. On the w. side were four in the Willamette valley (K. Merrifield, P. Muller, L. Weiland, SD), and 11 at Steigerwald N.W.R. 17–19 Apr (WC, PtSu), a first *Clark* record and probably the largest number ever found in w. Washington. Five Am. Avocet in w. Oregon were also unusual, with two in the Willamette valley (MC, P. Vanderheul, A McGie), and three on the outer coast (D DeWitt, S. Russell). The w. side total of 79 Lesser Yellowlegs was large; at least a dozen more were in the interior. The largest groups were 24 at Seaside, *Clatsop*, OR, 25 Apr (MP), and at least 3 concentrations of 10+ in n. Puget Sound (SM). Solitary Sandpiper numbers were also above average, with a minimum of 20, 12 of them in w. Oregon. The Upland Sandpiper at Cape Blanco,

Curry, 22 May (†TJW) furnished about the 2nd w. Oregon record.

Over 1000 Whimbrels were in the Elk R. meadows, Curry, 18 May (TJW, DM), a large flock for this Region. Long-billed Curlews, rare transients in inland areas on the w. side, were reported in April with two at Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA (JE), and near Lebanon, Linn, OR (RG), and singles at Fernhill Wetlands, Washington, OR (RK), and Finley N.W.R., Benton, OR (L. Fitts, JS). A Black Turnstone at the Fernhill Wetlands 25 Apr (HN) provided a surprising inland record. Only three Semipalmated Sandpipers, all from n.w. Washington (SM, PtSu, CK), was below average for this scarce spring migrant. Three Baird's Sandpipers was about average, with birds at Othello, Adams, WA (SJ), Seattle (SM, K. Aanerud), and Kent, King, WA (PtSu). Wilson's Phalarope numbers on the w. side were above average, but did not approach the impressive numbers noted last spring; as usual, all of the 19 reports were from the Willamette valley and the Puget Trough. The largest numbers were seven at Baskett Slough N.W.R. 18 May onward (RG, RRb) and five near Mt. Vernon, Skagit, WA, 8 May (CK).

Pelagic trips reported below-average numbers of jaegers (TRW, GG), although three Long-tailed Jaegers, two off Westport 24 Apr (BT) and one there 31 May (P. Anderson), provided the 3rd consecutive spring this rare spring migrant has been reported. Onshore and in Puget Sound, unusual numbers of Parasitic Jaegers were seen through the period, with at least 28 reported, including one-two off Boiler Bay 25–29 May (PP, TB), three at Bellingham, WA, 21–30 May (TRW), and one at Bayview, Skagit, WA, 31 May (CK).

A Franklin's Gull at Potholes, Grant, WA, 23 May (PtSu) was the only e. Washington report, but four in w. Oregon was notable, with singles near Canby, Clackamas, 5 Apr (D. Shank, ES) and at Brookings, Curry, 29 Apr (DM), and two at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, 23 May (DF). A **Little Gull** at Mann L., Harney, 22 Apr (DE) was a first s.e. Oregon record. Other than an adult at Blyn, Clallam, WA, 20 May (GK), Heermann's Gulls were unreported, making quite a contrast with last spring. The controversial **Slaty-backed Gull** near Sequim, WA, remained through 2 Mar (G. Revelas, †BN). At least 24 Glaucous Gulls, above average for spring, were reported, primarily from w. Oregon. For the 2nd consecutive spring Black-legged Kittiwakes were numerous on both pelagic trips and along the coast. March/April pelagic trip counts averaged 120; highs from shore

included 100 at Cape Arago, Coos, OR, 3 Mar (TR) and 35 at O.S. 5 May (TA). Sabine's Gulls presented a different picture. An unusual 54 were observed from shore in Oregon (m.ob.), but pelagic trip counts were low (13/trip) until late May, when 300+ were off Westport (P. Anderson). The peak onshore count was 35 from Cape Meares, Tillamook, OR, 1 May (T. Love).

Common Terns are rare inland in spring, but one was at Cassimer Bar, Okanogan, WA, 13 May (TA) and four were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. 18 May (RG). The coastal peak count was an exceptional 800 at O.S. 20 May (TA). Arctic Terns were barely reported, but three returned to the Everett, WA, breeding colony 29 May (SM). A **Least Tern** at Fernhill Wetlands 6–10 Mar (†HN, ph., m.ob.) was astonishing for the early date, inland location, and rarity in the Region; it was Oregon's 6th (pending O.B.R.C. review). At least 26 Black Terns were on the w. side, including eight at F.R.R. (PSh) where they have nested in the past few years. Other reports, all from 17 May onward, were from Fernhill Wetlands (N. Dietrich, M. Marsh), Mollala, Clackamas, OR (ES), Baskett Slough N.W.R. (RG), Tangent, Linn, OR (RG), and Beaver L., Skagit, WA (RF).

Four **Parakeet Auklets**, the first since Feb 1997, included two found dead along the Thiel Cr. beaches, Lincoln, OR, 7–8 Mar (BLo, RL) and singles off Westport 14 Mar and 24 Apr (†BT). A imm. **Whiskered Auklet** at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., WA, 16–17 May (†SM, †D. Duffy, †KK) provided the first well-documented sighting (pending review by the W.B.R.C.) s. or e. of the Aleutian Is. Some previous pattern of vagrancy exists, with 2 records from St. Lawrence I. (Byrd and Williams 1993, *Birds of N. Am.*) and one from Honshu I., Japan, some 700 mi s. of their known range in Asia (Brazil 1991, *Birds of Japan*). Two **Horned Puffin** were found dead along the Thiel Cr. beaches 8 Mar (BLo, RL).

PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES

A **White-winged Dove** near Redmond, King, 19 May was only Washington's 3rd (†J. Meyer). Yellow-billed Cuckoos average about one per year in Oregon, with most recent records coming from s.e. vagrant traps; typical of this pattern was one at Malheur 31 May (PaSu). Two westside Burrowing Owls was about average, with birds e. of Salem to 12 Mar (SD) and at Skagit W.M.A. 20–21 Mar (T. Nowak). A Great Gray Owl nest with young near Bonaparte L., Okanogan, 21 May provided a rare Washington breeding record (RH). The 2nd Coos

Com. Poorwill was s. of Bandon 26 May (TR); it breeds only ± 50 mi to the s.e., but vagrant records are few. A concentration of 15,000 Vaux's Swifts at a Eugene chimney provides a stunning high count (DH) A White-throated Swift near Troutdale, *Multnomah*, 2 May was in n.w. Oregon, where accidental (P. Osburn). Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Klickitat, *Klickitat*, WA, 8 May (WC) and at Portland 26 May were w. of their normal range (HN). Costa's Hummingbirds were unrecorded in the Region prior to 1972, but a couple each year in s. Oregon has been the norm over the last decade. This spring one was in Bend 28 Apr onward (D. Tracy) and another at Grant's Pass (DV). Over 20 Calliope Hummingbirds in the Willamette Valley between late April and late May was several fold more than normal; it is usually quite scarce w. of the Cascades.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were part of the irruption of eastside birds, with four in w. Washington and three in w. Oregon 2 Apr–12 May (M. Carmody, J. Flynn, J. Starfire, DBc, TJ, J. Sulzmann, DH, RK) Acorn Woodpeckers were seen throughout the spring at their one Washington outpost near Lyle, *Klickitat*, with a maximum of three 21 Mar (WC, SP). Highly unusual were three Red-naped Sapsuckers, rare w. of the Cascades, near Ryderwood, *Cowlitz*, in late April (*vide* A. Richards), Mcleary, *Grays Harbor*, 20 Apr (M. Storm), and Toledo, *Lincoln*, OR, 22 May (DF).

Willow Flycatchers at Jamestown, *Clallam*, WA, 8 May (BB) and at Applegate, *Jackson*, OR, 28 Apr (DV) were at least a week early. A few Least Flycatchers are found most years e. of the Cascades. This year records included an early arrival at Oroville, *Okanogan*, WA, 12 May (TA) and more typical reports from Lower Hardy Canyon, *Yakima*, WA, 29–31 May (R. Shaw, WC), and Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, 30 May (JA). Gray Flycatchers, rare-but-annual during spring in w. Oregon, were at Detroit Flats, *Marion*, 25 Apr and 21 May (RG). The **Eastern Phoebe** in the Coquille Valley, *Coos*, remained until 20 Mar (DL, KC). Say's Phoebes were one of the heralds of this season's invasion of "eastside birds" w. of the Cascades. The first appeared in late Feb, and the peak was in Mar, coinciding with its normal arrival on the eastside. Overall 31 were in w. Oregon and eight in w. Washington, representing a 10-fold increase from the usual spring. Also, one at Moclips, *Grays Harbor*, WA, 15 Mar (*vide* JF) was on the outer coast, where casual. Western Kingbirds also irrupted into the westside, though not in such a

dramatic fashion. Nonetheless, 30 at Cape Blanco, *Coos*, OR, during late April/early May was an impressive total (TJW). Eastern Kingbirds are rare and local w. of the Cascades, but one at Waldport, *Lincoln*, OR, 20 May (J. Glover) and another at Cape Blanco 30 May (TJW) were on the outer coast, where casual.

A N. Shrike at Weir Prairie, *Thurston*, WA, 23 Apr was about 2 weeks late (CK). One to two Loggerhead Shrikes are typical for spring w. of the Cascades, but this season there were six at Spencer I., *Snohomish*, WA, 28 Mar (SM, JF), Brookings, *Curry*, OR, 14 Apr (DM), Graysmarsh, *Clallam*, WA, 18 Apr (S. Atkinson), D.F. (two) 18–29 Apr (SD), and near Littlerock, *Thurston*, WA, 5 May (B. Shelmerdine). Six Blue Jays were reported this spring, a bit above average, but unusual were four on the westside at Albany, *Linn*, OR, 13 Apr (J. Boydenson, JS), Gimple Hill Rd., *Lane*, OR, 23 May (fide S. Gordon), Logan, *Clackamas*, OR, 25 May (T. Tracy), and Pt. No Pt., *Kitsap*, WA, 26 May (VN). A W. Scrub-Jay at Westport 22 May was on the Washington outer coast, where rare (PtSu). The Sky Lark of undetermined subspecies remained near Sequim until 7 Mar (G. Toffic).

One-thousand N. Rough-winged Swallows at Columbia N.W.R., WA, 20 Apr was an impressive concentration (RF). Mountain Bluebirds staged a major movement in w. Washington lowlands during mid- to late March (m.ob.). Townsend's Solitaires were also seen in unusual numbers in w. lowlands, and Varied Thrushes were widely reported as lingering late at low altitudes—both likely a function of heavy and late mountain snow pack. Ten thousand Am. Robins at Ridgefield, *Clark*, WA, 5 Mar provided a high count even for this abundant species (J. Lewis). Bucking the trend towards late arrivals, a Swainson's Thrush at Skagit W.M.A., WA, 4 Apr (JF, SM) was at least 2 weeks early. Sage Thrashers, less-than-annual in w. Oregon and casual in w. Washington, were at Newport, *Lincoln*, OR, 26–30 Apr (DF), Oregon City, *Clackamas*, OR, 9 May (N. Wallwork), Coos Bay, OR, 19 May (DL, KC), D.F. 21 May (K. Owen), and along Martin Rd., *Skagit*, WA, 29 May (DBe). These vagrants occurred well after their return to eastside breeding areas, in distinct contrast with irruptions of Say's Phoebes, W. Kingbirds, and Mt. Bluebirds, wherein the bulk of vagrants coincided with their return to the eastside. A N. Mockingbird was in Seattle 29 May (K. Jacobsen); only a couple are seen annually in w. Washington.

A well-described **Tennessee Warbler** at Washtucna, *Adams*, 24 Apr (†DR) was about Washington's 10th and the earliest for the Region by almost a month; two in Oregon, where almost annual on the eastside but casual on the westside, were at Mt. Pisgah, *Lane*, 15 May (L. Block) and Eugene 22 May (R. Titus). A N. Parula was near John Day, *Grant*, OR, 27–29 May (C. Corder, J. Stevens); there are ± 40 Oregon records, but only a handful away from *Harney*. A male Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Malheur 27–31 May and a 2nd was there 28–31 May (TJ); there are now ± 35 Oregon records. A Magnolia Warbler at Malheur 28 May (DE) was also about the 35th for Oregon. A Hermit Warbler at Eugene 4 Apr was 2 weeks early (T&AM). Palm Warblers are regular winterers on the outer coast, but are casual in spring elsewhere, so one near Lebanon, *Linn*, OR, 8 May was exceptional (R. Krabbe). Blackpoll Warblers in *Harney* this spring, at Frenchglen 22 May (D. Gutcher) and Malheur 30 May (S. Wright), were typical. Two Black-and-white Warblers in *Harney* was also about normal, with a female at Malheur 27 May (TJ) and a male there 28–29 May (TJ). An Ovenbird was on the outer coast at Cascade Head, *Lincoln*, 24 May (PP); there are ± 40 Oregon records, many from late May but mostly from s.e. vagrant traps.

Six late Am. Tree Sparrows at Skagit W.M.A., WA, 4 Apr (SM) was a good westside count. Even later was one at Richland, *Benton*, WA, 17 Apr (BW). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Brookings, *Curry*, OR, 24 Mar was either a very early vagrant or had wintered locally (DM). Another there 31 May was at a more typical date (DM). A 3rd was at Thornton Cr., *Lincoln*, OR, 9 Apr–6 May (DF). Brewer's Sparrows are annual at D.F., but one there 30 Mar was at least 2 weeks early (SD). Another was on the outer coast at Bandon, *Coos*, OR, 23 May, where accidental (S. McAllister). Lark Sparrows are rare on the outer coast n. of *Curry*, so one at Cascade Head, *Lincoln*, OR, 24 May was notable (PP). Black-throated Sparrows are local and uncommon e. of the Cascades, but rare to the west. A westside irruption began in late May, with individuals at Government I., *Multnomah*, OR (DE), Yachats, *Lincoln*, OR (L. Hemphill), Mt. Pisgah (PSH), and Carnation, *King*, WA (SP). Previous irruptions to the westside have also occurred in late May/early June.

There are fewer than 20 w. Oregon records of Sage Sparrow, so one at Detroit Flats 26 Mar was notable (SD). A Lark Bunting near Medford, *Jackson*, 27 Apr–4 May

(DK), the earliest in spring by over 2 weeks, was about Oregon's 21st. A "Red" Fox Sparrow was reported from D.F. 18 Apr (SD). A "Sooty" Fox Sparrow was 2 weeks late in Seattle 18 May (TA). A Swamp Sparrow at Detroit Flats 8 May (SD) was at least 3 weeks late, and apparently a northbound migrant; though a number are found each winter, spring migrants are scarce. The good winter for White-throated Sparrows translated into a good spring, with the most noteworthy being one at Seattle 16–17 May, at least 2 weeks late (TA, D. Garcia). Golden-crowned Sparrows stayed weeks late on the westside (m.ob.), and were unusually numerous in e. Washington (BW), including one at Davenport, *Lincoln*, 6 May, where less than annual (JA). A Lapland Longspur at Ocean Shores 22 May was also late (SRi). More Lazuli Buntings than usual were found w. of the Cascades, including one at Port Angeles, WA, 29 May on the Olympic Pen., where casual (T. Drake). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, rare-but-regular in Oregon, were at Hunter Cr., *Curry*, 18 May (G. Sevey) and Eagle Pt., *Jackson*, 17 May (V. Christensen).

A colony of **Tricolored Blackbirds** last summer near Wilson Cr., *Grant*, provided Washington's first record. At least five returned there 7 May (RF), and one–three others were at Othello, *Adams*, 30 May (†BT, †SM); 400 at Powell Butte, *Deschutes*, 9 Mar provided a remarkable Oregon high count (J. Meredith). Yellow-headed Blackbird numbers were well above normal on the westside, including three on the outer coast, where barely annual, at Pony Slough, *Coos*, 7 May (TR), Gearhart, *Clatsop*, 8 May (S. Hagen), and Coos Bay 23 May (TR). Great-tailed Grackles arrived in s.e. Oregon ca 1980 and have been regular since in May and June, but failed to expand further into our Region. This spring there were five, all in *Harney*, with one at Fields 14 May (M) and 3 there 30 May (GL, JG), and one at Malheur 29–30 May (B. Griffin). Common Grackles at LaGrande, *Union*, 1–6 May (J. Hart) and Fields 21 May (M) were about the 20th and 21st for Oregon, about half of which are from May.

A male **Baltimore Oriole** in Echo Valley, *Chelan*, 31 May (†VN) was only Washington's 3rd, and the first since 1987! Two were in Oregon at Mt. Vernon and John Day 18 Apr–18 May (ph., A. Frost, T. Winters) and Malheur 29–31 May (JG, GL, PaSu); there were ± 26 previous Oregon records, but only two since 1992. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches are not annual to w. lowlands, so 10 at Pt. Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA, 13–16 Apr were a

surprise (K. Irvine, B. Bell). Six Purple Finches at W.E. Johnson Park, *Benton*, 10 Mar (BW) were rare in the Columbia Basin. A White-winged Crossbill at O.S. 25 May (P.W. Smith) was on the outer coast, where accidental. Lesser Goldfinches in Washington are well established only in *Klickitat*, so one at Richland, *Benton*, 1–26 Mar was a good find (BW).

ADDENDUM

King's first Upland Sandpiper, at Seattle 18 Aug 1998 (TA), was inadvertently left out of last fall's column.

EXOTICS

Two Mute Swans were at Poulsbo, *Kitsap*, WA, 11 Mar (I. Paulsen). An apparently pure Am. Black Duck at Everett 31 May may be all that remains of this introduced population (SM). The Monk Parakeet colony at the Portland Airport still held 10 birds 14 Mar (S. Orlovski).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface):

Jim Acton, Tom Aversa, **Range Bayer** (*Lincoln*, OR), David Beaudette (Dbe), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Bob Boekelheide, Wilson Cady, Kathleen Castlein, Alan Contreras, Marcia Cutler, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, **Colin Dillingham** (*Curry*), Steve Dowlan, Joe Engler, Duncan Evered, Darrel Faxon, Robert Flores, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Dan Heyerly, Randy Hill, Matt Hunter, David Irons, Tim Janzen, Stuart Johnston, Craig Kemper, **Merlene Koliner** (Clarkston area), Ray Korpi, Gene Kridler, Bruce Labar, Bill & Nancy LaFramboise, Dave Lauten, Gerard Lillie, Bob Loeffel (Blo), Roy Lowe, Maitreya (M), Alan McGie, Larry McQueen, Allison & **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Steve Mlodinow, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton, Roger Orness, Mike Patterson, Bob Pease, Steve Pink, Phil Pickering, Scott Richardson (SRI), Roger Robb (RRb), Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (Washington), Paul Sherrell (PSh), Jamie Simmons, Elmer Specht, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), **Paul Sullivan** (PaSu) (eastern Oregon), Bill Tice (BTi), Todd Thornton, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Bob Woodley.

Bill Tweit, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507, and **Gerard Lillie**, 329 SE Gilham, Portland, OR 97215 (gerardl@teleport.com), and **Steve Mlodinow**, 4819 Gardner Ave., Everett, WA 98203 (SGMlod@aol.com)



middle pacific coast region



Adult Little Gull in alternate plumage at Stockton, California, 3 May 1999, one of five or six (!) in northern California this spring. Photograph/Ed Harper

DON ROBERSON, STEPHEN C. ROTTENBORN, SCOTT B. TERRILL, and DANIEL S. SINGER

La Niña replaced El Niño, after the briefest of "normal" times, and the spring was characterized by strong winds and unsettled weather. Rough seas during much of the period restricted offshore birding, although these same conditions brought high numbers of typically pelagic species inshore. It was during such gales that a Short-tailed Albatross was recorded from shore for the first time in 100 years!

Landbird migration along the coast was generally considered late. It did not affect March-arriving species, but April–May migrants (small flycatchers, thrushes) were often two weeks tardy. In mid-May the dam broke and migrants poured through coastal and Central Valley pathways. Banders at Big Sur River mouth, *Monterey*, broke many records, including 83 Yellow-breasted Chats (with 17 on 18 May; banded birds here should be credited to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab). Numerous wintering waterfowl stayed late, and many feeders had lingering *Zonotrichia* sparrow into May.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I.

(*Southeast Farallon I.*); N.S. (*National Seashore*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); R.S. (*Regional Shoreline*); S.R. (*State Reserve*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. These include C.B.R.C. review species and claims of first county records.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

The Yellow-billed Loon wintering off Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, was last seen 27 Mar (RT). Single Pacific Loons at L. Mendocino, *Mendocino*, 27 Mar (GEC) and Shoreline L., Mountain View, *Santa Clara*, 23 May (C&C Wolfe) were rare inland in spring. Apparently brought inshore by persistent strong NW winds, a juv. **Short-tailed Albatross** between Pebble Beach and Pt. Pinos 1 May (†Cho, Jtz, †BHL, †DHpt), 9 May (†TLo), and 10 May (†DR, RC) was the first seen from shore in *Monterey* in more than a century and the 4th Regional record in 8 months. If populations continue to increase, this species may again become a regular visitor to the e. Pacific. Sixty Black-footed Albatrosses seen from Pt. Pinos 1 May (GET) exceeded all previous onshore counts, attesting to the effects of strong onshore winds on pelagic birds. Dark *Pterodroma* seen during high winds included one on Monterey Bay, *Monterey*, 7 Apr (RT) and