

Oregon—Washington



Steven Mlodinow
4819 Gardner Avenue
Everett, Washington 98203
(SGMlod@aol.com)

Gerard Lillie
329 SE Gilham
Portland, Oregon 97215
(gerardl@teleport.com)

Bill Tweit
P.O. Box 1271
Olympia, Washington 98507-1271
(Sebnabgill@aol.com)

This spring was a daunting season to report. First of all, the parade of rarities that started about two years ago continued. For the seventh season of the last nine, there were first state records, this time including two potential firsts for the Region: Little Curlew and Eastern Towhee. Additionally, there was a total of 26 sightings deserving boldface, involving 20 species—a flood of vagrants far beyond that encountered during any recent spring. Compare these totals to spring 1997, when only five species were

boldfaced, and spring 1995, when there were only four. The reasons for the upsurge in rarities during the last two to three years are unclear. The increasing number (and avidity level) of birders is certainly part of the story, but there must be more. Maybe we've just been exceptionally lucky of late.

This spring, however, provided far more for the discriminating student of birdlife than mega-rarities. Consider this list: American White Pelican, White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern, and Black Tern. These interior species exploded onto the westside, mostly in unprecedented numbers, and several from this list saw a dramatic increase on the eastside as well. Though increases in White-faced Ibis and Black-necked Stilt could be attributed to an upswing in local breeding populations, this cohort of species strongly suggests a movement from the northern Great Basin into our Region, most likely due to drought.

There were other "invasions" as well. Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widely reported, and Eurasian Wigeon were found on the eastside

in numbers more typical of the westside. Finally, reports of Manx Shearwaters and Tricolored Blackbirds continued to increase.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane); L.K.N.W.R., (Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos), O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor), Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark), W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla); Y.R.D. (Yakima R. delta, Benton, WA) "Eastside" and "Westside" denote the areas to the east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The peak count of Red-throated Loons at Boiler Bay, Lincoln, was 1500 on 6 Apr, while the peak for Pacific Loons there was 8000 on 10 May (PP). A Pacific Loon at Priest Rapids 22 May was quite late for the eastside (M Bentley). A well-described Arctic Loon was seen by an experienced observer near Sequim, Clallam 31 Mar (N. Ball); this follows about 3 this winter in nw. Washington. A tally of 204 Common Loons at Wickiup Res., Deschutes 15 Apr was extraordinary for an inland site (CM, MM). Yellow-billed Loons included one at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 5-12 Mar (DP) and a late bird at Boiler Bay 10 May (DMa). Only 2 Clark's Grebes were reported on the westside away from F.R.R., a bit below average: Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 1 Apr (HH) and Tulalip Bay, Snohomish 9 May (DB).

Laysan Albatross continues to be a regular part of the Regional pelagic avifauna: singles were off Newport 24 Mar and 5 May (GG) and off Westport 6 May (BL). Northern Fulmar numbers were low, averaging <100 per trip. Flesh-footed Shearwaters are now rare during spring, so one off Newport 5 May was noteworthy (GG). Continuing their apparent expansion into the ne. Pacific, Manx Shearwaters were again in evidence this spring. One off Westport 24 Mar was the Region's earliest ever by about two weeks (RTS, †BTW, †SM), and 2 were off Westport 6 May (BL). From shore, singles were seen at Boiler Bay 9-10 May (†PP) and Ecola State Park, Clatsop 26 May (DMa). Additionally, one to 2 Manx/Black-vented Shearwaters were at Boiler Bay 10-11 Apr (†PP). The

Region's first Manx was not identified until 1990. Now, 6 or more per year is not an unusual count. A Leach's Storm-Petrel off Newport 24 Mar was a month early (T. Shelmerdine).

American White Pelicans numbers on the westside have been slowly increasing over the last decade, but this spring saw an enormous influx during mid-to-late May, with a top count in w. Oregon of 16 at Tillamook 19–20 May (CR) and a maximum in w. Washington of 81 at Lummi Bay, *Whatcom* 28 May (V. Shahan). Two Snowy Egrets were at the W.W.R.D. 9 May (†BTw); they have increased over the past 10 years and are now annual in Washington. Cattle Egret numbers were a bit above average with one near Burns, *Harney* 28 May (DH, AE), 4 near Lakeview, *Lake* 27 May (DT), and one at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 14 May (MD, MLD). Green Herons are rare on the eastside away from *Klamath*, so one at Page Springs, *Harney* 19–20 May was noteworthy (AC, HH).

"Stumpy," the one-footed Emperor Goose, remained throughout the spring at Pt. Angeles, *Clallam* (S. Pink). A Blue Goose, very rare in the Region, was near Stanwood,

SA White-faced Ibis again irrupted into the Region. This spring, w. Oregon reporters didn't even try to estimate the total number of birds involved. Washington tallied at least 261 ibis, 132 of which were on the westside. To understand the significance of this, consider that only 231 White-faced Ibis had been recorded in Washington prior to 2000, 59 of which were from the westside. At least as surprising were 15 ibis found prospecting for nest sites at Kahlotus L., *Franklin* 25 May (BF, SM, BTw, RTS), with actual nest building noted 31 May (MD, MLD). The nearest breeding location is about 250 mi to the south!

Washington records this spring included: 30 near Asotin 7 May (BW); 25 at Y.R.D. 9–11 May (BTw, BW); 26 near Long Beach, *Pacific* 11 May (RR); 15+ at Brady, *Grays Harbor* 11 May (K. Sable); 1 at Othello, *Adams* 13 May (RH); 10 at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 15 May (RH); 37 at Kahlotus L. 17 May (DR); 48 at Hooper, *Adams* 17 May (BF); 21 at Ilwaco, *Pacific* 19 May (MP); 31 at Ridgefield 20 May (WC); one at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 21 May (W. Paulson, S. Nord); one at Kent, *King* 26 May (DB); and 15 at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 26 May (TA).

Snohomish 5–7 Apr (TA). Two Snow Geese at Sprague L., *Adams* 30–31 May were more than a month late (WH, JA). Five Ross's Geese were found on the westside this spring, perhaps a bit below average for the last decade, but well above pre-1990 numbers; in e. Washington, where also rare, 17 were at McNary N.W.R. 31 Mar (MD, MLD), with 5 remaining to 7 Apr (BN). Black Brant, typically rare away from saltwater, were seen at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 16 Mar (SM, RTS, BL), F.R.R. 19 Mar (DDW), Sauvie I./Ridgefield until 11 Apr (HN), and near Banks, *Washington* 14 Apr (HN). The winter's **Whooper Swan** was last seen on the Oregon side of L.K.N.W.R. 7 Mar (MM). Likely unprecedented were 26 Eurasian Wigeon on the eastside this spring, with a maximum of 5 at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant* 28 Mar (RH), including a very late bird at Stinking Water Marsh, *Harney* 27 May (PS). Extremely rare for the eastside were single Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at Y.R.D. to 12 Mar (RF) and at Othello, *Adams* 25 May (BF); the latter bird was also probably the latest ever for the Region. On the westside, reports of this subspecies remain high, totalling 9 pure birds (latest on 2 May) and 5 hybrids. Tufted Ducks were at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 23 Mar–8 Apr (TR, DDW), Astoria, *Clatsop* until 20 Mar (TT), and Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 7–8 Apr (PtS, DB); the Region averages about 2 per spring, and eastside records away from the Columbia R. are most unusual. A concentration of 20,000 Surf Scoters at Pt. Whitehorn, *Whatcom* 5 May furnished the best Regional tally in years (*vide* TRW). A Surf Scoter at Vantage, *Kittitas* 12 Mar was the only eastside report (CW). A Long-tailed Duck near Bridgeport, *Douglas* 20 May–9 Jun was likely the latest ever on the eastside (ph. R. Hendrick). The only other eastside Long-tailed Ducks were 2 near Asotin 7 Mar, with one remaining until 13 Apr (C. Vande Voorde, J. McCormick).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A White-tailed Kite at Summer L., *Lake* 28 May was in e. Oregon, where very rare (D. Haller, S. Haller). The Spencer I., *Snohomish* Red-shouldered Hawk was last seen 21 Mar (DB), while another was over Naselle, *Pacific* 21 May, providing Washington with one of its latest spring records (†A. Richards, †A. Musche). For the 2nd consecutive spring, Swainson's Hawks invaded the westside, where normally extremely rare. Singles were at O.S. 14 Apr (PWS), near *Snohomish* 3 May (SM), Eugene 9 May (DDW, B. Bumstead), Crocker L., *Jefferson* 11 May (B. Sundstrom),

and Scatter Creek, *Thurston* 12 May (BTw). A bird appearing to be a typical Prairie Merlin was on Fir I., *Skagit* 22 Apr (v.t. SM, DD); this race is probably very rare to extremely rare in the Region. There were 8 Gyrfalcons this spring, including a late bird near Quincy, *Grant* 8 Apr (DS); the Region averages about three records per spring.

A **Common Moorhen** was at Elk R., *Curry* 16–17 May (†TJW) to be followed by a pair courting at Malheur 27 May–2 Jun (RK), there are only about 10 previous Oregon records, mostly from May–Jun and mostly from Malheur. Five Pacific and 2 American Golden-Plovers this spring was about average. Single Pacifics were at Bandon, *Coos* 9 May (TR), N.S.C.B. 12 & 18 May (TR), Clatsop Spit 21 May (TT), and near Sequim, *Clallam* 9 May (TA, S. Gerstle). Americans were at N.S.C.B. 4 & 9 May (TR). Black-necked Stilts continued their apparent range expansion, with unprecedented numbers in e. Washington and on the westside. The previous spring high count for Washington of 51, set just last year, was exceeded by tallies of 100+ at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 25 May (TA) and 76 at Othello, *Adams* 25 May (SM, CB). In w. Oregon, where normally rare, 12 were reported from 6 locations 23 Apr+. In w. Washington, where normally very rare, reports included 7 near Westport 9 Apr (G. Wiles), 2 at Crockett L., *Island* 26 Apr (TA, SM), up to 15 at Ridgefield 8–29 May (BTw), one near Sequim, *Clallam* 9 May (S. MacRobbie), and one in Redmond, *King* 13 May (D. DeSilvis). The *Island* and *Clallam* birds provided first county records. Three American Avocets returned to Crockett L., *Island*, where they bred last year, by 13 May (SM, KA), and 2 were at L. Sammamish, *King* 26 May (P. Burr). In w. Oregon, where rare, avocet reports included 2 at N.S.C.B. 25 May (DL, KC) and one at F.R.R. 29 May (DDW).

A tally of 20 Lesser Yellowlegs near *Snohomish* 3 May was probably the highest ever for Washington during spring (SM), while 21 at Clatsop Spit 30 Apr was very high for spring in Oregon (TT). Eighteen Solitary Sandpipers this spring (mostly 19 Apr–13 May) was below the recent average of about 26 per spring; 5 were in Washington and 13 in Oregon, including a late individual near suitable breeding habitat at Olollie Meadows, *Marion* 27 May (SD). Two Willets at the W.W.R.D. 9 May (BTw) and one at Sprague, *Lincoln* 11 May (JA) provided the first spring e. Washington records since 1997. A **Little Curlew** at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* 6 May was the Region's first and about the 6th for North America (†SM, †RTS). A Whimbrel at

Othello, *Adams* 25 May provided e. Washington's first spring record in > 8 years (SM, CB, BF). A Long-billed Curlew was at F.R.R. 6 May (S. Gordon); they are rare on the westside away from the coast. Eastern Washington's 2nd **Black Turnstone** was at Y.R.D. 15–16 May (BL, NL); the first was at Quincy, *Grant* 24 Aug 1997. A Red Knot was at Summer L., *Lake* 27 May (RG), and 5 Sanderlings were at W.W.R.D. 9–10 May (BTw), both species are very rare during spring on the eastside. Five Semipalmated Sandpipers 25 Apr–14 May was a smidgen above the average of 4 per spring. The only Baird's Sandpiper was at Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln* 14 Apr (JA); the Region averages 3–4 per spring. Five Pectoral Sandpipers this spring 16–22 May was better than average. The nominate Rock Sandpiper at O.S. was last seen 10 Mar (DB). Last year, Oregon's 4th spring Ruff was at L.K.N.W.R.; this year, single **Ruffs** were there 3–10 Apr (DH, †KS) and 1 May (KS). Wilson's Phalaropes were unusually widespread on the westside, with a maximum of 22 at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 16 May (D Faxon). An impressive 20,000 Red-necked Phalaropes moved past Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 9 May (PP).

Jaeger numbers were very low; only 6 Pomarines and one Parasitic were found on pelagic trips. The smelt run on the lower Columbia R. was the best in years, and attending this bounty were large numbers of gulls, including 5000 Mews and 3300 Herrings at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 16 Mar (SM, BL, RTS); these tallies represented record or near-record numbers. This spring's incursion of Franklin's Gulls along the coast was likely unprecedented. Singles were at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 28 Mar, 6 Apr, and 23 May (PP) and at Tillamook Bay 13 May (CR); in addition, 2 were at Astoria, *Clatsop* 12 May (MP) and 3 at Boiler Bay 19 May (PP). In e. Washington, where barely annual during spring, 5 were at Jamison L., *Douglas*, 19 May (DS). An imm. Little Gull was at P.N.P. 1–11 Mar (VN), and an ad. was there 11–20 Mar (VN), a fairly typical spring for this species. An ad **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at F.R.R. 17–21 Mar should provide Oregon's first record (†T. Snetsinger, AC, DDW). Three thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes at Boiler Bay 2 Mar provided an extraordinary count from shore (PP); pelagic numbers were also quite high in Mar and Apr (BTw). Casual in e. Oregon, and perhaps unprecedented anywhere on the eastside during May, were single Black-legged Kittiwakes at Adel, *Lake* 5 May (G. Clark) and Frenchglen, *Harney* 27 May (C. Lawes, H. Horvath).

Two Arctic Terns had returned to the tiny Everett colony by 9 May (DB). Another Arctic at O.S. 14 Apr was two or more weeks early (PWS). Forster's Terns irrupted onto the westside. In Oregon, 14 were at F.R.R. 23 May (D. Farrar), 2 were at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 21–26 May (EM), 2 at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 27 May (K. Sparkman), and 2 at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 28 May (NW). In Washington, 2 were near Snohomish 28 May (SM, DD) and 3 at Camas, *Clark* 24–27 May (N. Wendt); this species has been recorded on the westside during only two of the previous six springs! Another eastside species, Black Tern, is typically a rare-but-regular stray to the west. This year, 20 Blacks had arrived at F.R.R., their only westside breeding location, as of 9 May (HH), and 33 others were seen in w. Oregon 13–31 May, including 14 at Baskett Slough 29 May (RG). In w. Washington, one was at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 15 May (B. Shelmerdine), 3 were at Stanwood, *Snohomish* 22 May (DB), and 3 were at Ridgefield 20–31 May (WC); excluding F.R.R., about 6 Black Terns per spring is normal for the westside. The Marbled Murrelet concentration off P.N.P. peaked at 301 on 14 Mar (VN). Cassin's Auklet numbers remain low, with a peak pelagic count of only 48 off Newport 22 Apr (GG); 200 off Neah Bay 12 May, however, provided a good near-colony count (S. Horton).

OWLS THROUGH THRASHERS

There were 8 Snowy Owls this spring, including a late bird near Boardman, *Morrow* 4 Apr (CC, JC) and an extraordinarily tardy individual near Vernita Bridge 25 Apr (ph. DG). A Northern Hawk Owl near Leavenworth, *Chelan* 7 Mar provided the 6th record since Oct of this very rare visitor (†J. Lehmkuhl). The only westside Burrowing Owl was the wintering bird at Baskett Slough, *Polk*, which remained until 4 Mar (RG). A White-throated Swift was in nw. Oregon, where casual, at Cape Meares, *Tillamook* 5 May (W. Gross). Rare in w. Oregon was a Black-chinned Hummingbird at Eugene 13 May (LM). An early Costa's Hummingbirds was near Medford, *Jackson* 21 Mar (DV), followed by 4 elsewhere in w. Oregon during May; Oregon averages about one per spring. There were only 3 Calliope Hummingbirds on the westside this spring: Eugene 15 Apr (LM), Silverton, *Marion* 19 Apr (P. Reid), and Washougal, *Skamania* 2 May (WC); last spring there were 16. The status of **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Oregon is not clear, but the species is probably regular in the far e. parts of the state. A male at Sisters,

Deschutes 23 May clearly did not fit that pattern (J. Gerke), while another male at Salem 1 May provided the first westside record (JL). A Lewis's Woodpecker was at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 6–15 May (CW), w. Washington averages one per spring.

A Western Wood-Pewee at Skagit W.M.A. 26 Apr was more than two weeks early and provided Washington with its 5th Apr record (SM, TA). Willow Flycatchers were again found in early May this year, with singles at Klamath Falls 2 May (DH), Portland 7 May (JG), Gresham, *Multnomah* 7 May (T. Jones), and a singing bird at Othello, *Adams* 6 May (BF); the bulk of the Region's Willow Flycatchers arrive in the last week of May and first week of Jun. Single Least Flycatchers were at Fields, *Harney* 26 May (AC, HH) and Everett 30 May (DB), plus 4 were at Hardy Canyon, *Yakima* 27 May (DG, PtS); the Region averages about two per spring, mostly during late May. Hopefully, Hardy Canyon will be checked for signs of breeding activity this summer. Rare for w. Oregon was a Gray Flycatcher at Eugene 29 Apr (S. Gordon), almost all westside records are from late Apr and May. A cooperative and calling Dusky Flycatcher at Rockport, *Skagit* 29 Apr was w. Washington's earliest ever by more than 10 days (SM, DD, GT); 4 Dusks near Portland during early May were also unusual. Washington's 5th **Eastern Phoebe** was at Leavenworth, *Chelan* 24 May–Jun (K. Haire, B. Lambert, †MR); Washington's 3rd and 4th were recorded just last year 27 May–3 Jun. Six Say's Phoebes, 3 per state, were on the westside 23 Mar–21 Apr; the Oregon tally was fairly typical, but Washington averages only about one per spring. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Eugene 13 May was n. of that species's usual range in w. Oregon (LM). Western Kingbirds at Mt. Vernon, *Grant* 8 Mar (S. Enright) and Monument, *Grant* 10 Mar (T. Hunt) were about five weeks early for Oregon. Eight Western Kingbirds at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 4 May provided an excellent count for the westside (DM), and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** there 12 May was about the 14th for Oregon, most of which have been during May or Nov (ph. TJW).

Loggerhead Shrikes were near Port Angeles, *Clallam* 21 Mar (BN), Detroit Flats, *Marion* 24 Mar and 20–21 Apr (SD), and Cape Blanco 3 May (TJW); the westside averages about 3 per spring. Plumbeous Vireos are reported annually during late May and early June from se. Oregon but are rarely documented. One at Fields, *Harney* 23 May was from a typical location (T. Shelmerdine), but one near Sisters, *Deschutes* 28 May was

well nw. of most reports (†SS). A Gray Jay near Creswell, *Lane* 18 Apr provided a very rare Willamette Valley record (N. Strycker). The Redmond, *Deschutes* Blue Jay remained through Mar (S. Pierce), and one was at Richland, *Benton* 2 May (C. Simonen); the Region averages about 3 per spring. A Western Scrub-Jay in cen. *Wheeler* 12 May was well away from this species's usual range in Oregon and is likely a sign of continuing range expansion (J. Geier). The Monmouth, *Polk* Black-billed Magpie seems to be settling in, as it remained through May (S. Burgett); this species is very rare on the westside away from the Rogue Valley, and most records are from fall and winter. Three Rock Wrens, rare on the westside, were in suitable breeding habitat at Pyramid Rock, *Clark* 30 May (B. Shelmerdine). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Redmond 7 May (K. Owen) and Gresham, *Multnomah* 6–13 May (W. Stone, B. Altman) were well n. of this species's usual range in s. Oregon. A Mountain Bluebird at O.S. 2 May was on the outer coast, where extremely rare, and about a month late for a westside stray (TA). Five Northern Mockingbirds in w. Oregon (4 Mar–6 Apr) was about normal, but only one was reported from e. Oregon: near Burns, *Harney* 13–15 May (W&P Bowers). The lone Washington mockingbird was at Richland, *Benton* 5–20 Mar (RF). A Sage Thrasher, very rare in w. Washington, was at Bothell, *King* 13 May (HO, J. Opperman).

SILKY-FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Oregon's 4th and 5th **Phainopeplas** were recorded from Camp Sherman, *Deschutes* 20 May (J. Wolf) and Bend, *Deschutes* 23–24 May (†J. Meredith); Oregon's last record had been in 1987. A Tennessee Warbler was at Malheur 26 May (JG); they are annual in se. Oregon 20 May–15 Jun. Oregon's 12th **Cape May Warbler** remained at Gold Beach, *Curry* to 4 Mar (DL, KC). Palm Warblers are uncommon on the outer coast from Sep into Mar, but May records are very rare throughout the Region; this year singles were at Othello, *Adams* 6 May (BF), Ridgefield 8 May (H. Gilmore), and Tillamook 13 May (M Lofton, P. Bernardi). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Jackson Bottoms, *Washington* 9 Mar (D. Manzer), and a Hermit Warbler was at Eugene 25 Mar (LM); both were about a month early. Spring Blackpoll Warblers are not quite annual in Oregon, and most occur in the se. between mid-May and early Jun. This year one was at Upper Klamath L. 17 May

(†DH), and another was on the outer coast at Lincoln City 29 May (PP). Black-and-white Warblers were at Fields, *Harney* 10 May (A. McGie), nw. *Polk* 12 May (B. Millikan), Hooper, *Adams* 14 May (†BF), and Klamath Falls 27 May (D. Robberson); the Region averages about 5 per spring, not including Jun. Washington's first **Mourning Warbler** was at Lyons Ferry St. Pk., *Franklin* 26 May (BF, †SM, †BTw, †RTS), while Oregon's 5th was at Malheur that same day (HH, MD). Oregon's 10th **Summer Tanager** remained at Cedar Mills, *Washington* until 4 Apr (C. Dubosch), to be followed by that state's 11th and 12th at Portland 7 May (JG) and Malheur 27 May (L. Goodhew). Washington's 2nd was at Ridgefield 26 May (†PWS); prior to Jun 1999, Oregon had only 6 records and Washington but one. Is this a sign of range expansion and/or a population increase?

Eastern Washington's first Green-tailed Towhee away from the Blue Mountains was near Hatton, *Adams* 16 May (†CC, JC, BF). If accepted by the O.B.R.C., an **Eastern Towhee** in W. Linn, *Clackamas* 3 Apr would provide a first Regional record (†J. McMahon). American Tree Sparrows, very rare in w. Oregon, were at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 24 Mar (Mark Miller) and Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 14 Mar (T. Blount). Another at Sand Hills, *Adams* 14 Apr furnished Washington with its 3rd latest record (BF). A very rare spring migrant Clay-colored Sparrow was near Tampico, *Yakima* 12 May (DG). Eight Brewer's Sparrows were at Detroit Flats, *Marion* 20 Apr (SD); this is one of a few regular locations for Brewer's in w. Oregon, and summer records here have indicated possible breeding. A Vesper Sparrow in *Benton* 10 Mar tied the record early date for e. Washington (BL, NL). Lark Sparrows were at F.R.R. 15 Apr (AC), Detroit Flats 27 Apr (SD), and Cape Blanco, *Curry* 8 May (TJW); this species is rare in w. Oregon away from the Umpqua and Rogue Valleys, with most records being from Mar–Jun. Grasshopper Sparrows are almost never found during migration on the westside, so one at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 7 Apr (W. Hoffman) and another at Sauvie I. 13 May (I. Thomlinson) were exceptional, and the former bird may have been the earliest ever; others in *Linn*, *Polk*, and *Lane* were at known or potential breeding locations. The only spring Swamp Sparrow was at Monroe, *Snohomish* 11 Apr (TA). Rare for far e. Washington was a Golden-crowned Sparrow at Silver L., *Spokane* 31 Mar–1 Apr (WH, JA). One of the 6 **McCown's**

Longspurs found at L.K.N.W.R. during Feb lingered to 4 Mar (PS, DT); Oregon had only four previous records.

The Region averages about 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks each May. This May there were 4 in Oregon and 4 in Washington, all males. In Oregon, singles were at Twickenham, *Wheeler*, mid-May (B. Sharp), Bald Peak, *Washington* 10 May (K. Kirk), Port Orford, *Curry* 27 May (L. Miller), and near Sauvie I. 28 May (P. Davis). In Washington, singles were at Marrowstone I., *Jefferson* 24 May (ph. P. Fiedler), Creston, *Lincoln* 26 May (M Frobe), Machias, *Snohomish* 28–29 May (S Jacobs, Y. Bombadier), Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 29 May (†R. Sikes). Lazuli Buntings are not annual in Washington w. of the Puget Trough, so singles at Bottle Beach, *Grays Harbor* 28 Apr (D. Froehlich) and Orcas I., *San Juan* 31 May (G. Benton) were noteworthy. **Indigo Buntings** arrived in unprecedented numbers and early, with 6 in Oregon and one in Washington: near Burns, *Harney* 20 Apr (W.&P. Bowers, B. Cummings), Cape Blanco, *Curry* 29 Apr (TJW), near Fields, *Harney* 10–22 May (A. McGie, D. MacDonald), Brookings, *Curry* 10 May (J. Bischoff, B. Stewart), Washougal, *Skamania* 17 May (†WC), Cape Blanco 22 May (TJW), and Millacoma Marsh, *Coos* 23 May (TR); there are only 10 previous Washington records and about 43 from Oregon.

A female Bobolink at Seattle 1 Jun was about the 2nd for spring in w. Washington (†S. Terry). Tricolored Blackbirds returned to their only known Washington breeding location at Wilson Cr., *Grant* by 8 Apr (M Breece), with maximum counts of 20 males and 8 females before May's end (SM, CB). Small numbers were reported elsewhere in e. Washington, but only 3 males at Othello, *Adams*, 4 Apr (†B. Senturia) and one male near Alderdale, *Klickitat* 12 May (†S Johnston) were adequately documented. In Oregon, out-of-range Tricolored Blackbirds were at N.S.C.B. 24 May (TR) and Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 11 Mar into Jun (W. Gross, HN, GG, m. ob.). Notably, the latter bird looked like a perfectly typical Tricolored but sang more like a Red-winged Blackbird and actually paired with a female Red-winged before disappearing in Jun. A Rusty Blackbird, rare but regular in Washington Nov–Mar, was at W.W.R D 10 Mar (AS, DG). A **Common Grackle** near College Place, *Walla Walla* 14 May was about the 6th for Washington (†MD, MLD), while one along the Deschutes R. in *Wasco* 24 Mar (E. Stone) was Oregon's 25th or so,

Middle Pacific Coast

about half of the Region's records are from May. Washington's 2nd **Great-tailed Grackle** remained at Stanwood, *Snohomish* until 10 Mar (SM). Oregon's only Great-tailed was at Wood R. Wetlands, *Klamath* 13 May (KS); one or 2 per spring in se. Oregon is the norm. Washington's 4th **Hooded Oriole** was at Bothell, *Snohomish* 13–16 May (D. Yalowicki, †B. Bell, †MR, v.t. SM). Pine Grosbeaks are rare even during winter in the Columbia Basin, but 2 at Burbank, *Walla Walla* 29 Apr were unprecedented (D&J Johnston). Less unusual, but still noteworthy, was a pair near sea level at Sequim, *Clallam* 17 Apr (K. Wiersma). Three White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Spokane, *Spokane* 7 Mar provided the spring's only record of this mountain nomad (JA, WH).

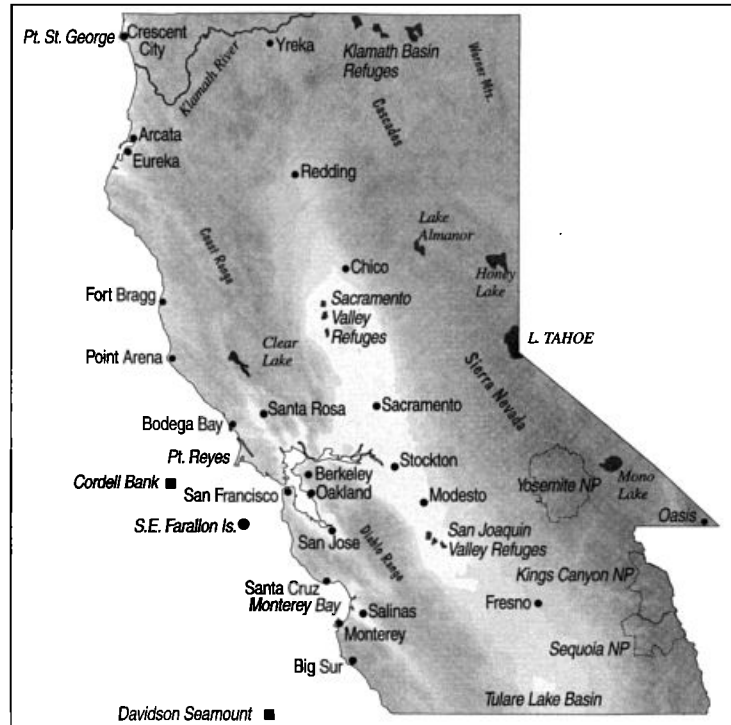
Corrigendum

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported at Astoria 5 Apr 2000 was actually seen 4 May.

Addendum

Washington's 4th **Black-backed Wagtail** was at L. Sammamish, *King* 26 Nov (†M. Bailey).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Tom Aversa, Casey Beachell, David Beaudette, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Anne Esche, Ruth Fischer, Bob Flores, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Denny Granstand, Warren Hall, David Haupt, Hendrik Herlyn, Dan Heyerly, Randy Hill, Ray Korpi, Bruce LaBar, **Bill LaFramboise** (Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, John Lundsten, David Mandell (DMa), Larry McQueen, Ed McVicker, Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Hal Opperman, Michael Patterson, Diane Pettey, Phil Pickering, Craig Roberts, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, Marcus Roening, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Owen Schmidt, Tom Sellers, Ryan T. Shaw, Stephen Shunk, P. William Smith, Kevin Spencer, **Dan Stephens** (*Chelan*), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), **Paul Sullivan** (PS, E. OR), Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, David Tracy, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Charlie Wright, Bob Woodley.



Don Roberson
(Thrashers to Finches)
282 Grove Acre Avenue
Pacific Grove, California 93950
(creagrus@montereybay.com)

Daniel S. Singer
(Herons to Shorebirds)
c/o Arroyo & Coates
500 Washington Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, California 94111
(dsg@isp.net)

Steven A. Glover
(Doves to Wrentit)
6526 Conestoga Lane
Dublin, California 94568
(Sgloverccc@aol.com)

Scott B. Terrill & Thomas P. Ryan
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)
H. T. Harvey & Associates
3150 Almaden Expwy., Suite 145
San Jose, California 95118
(sterrill@harveyecology.com)
(tryan@harveyecology.com)

Spring 2001 was rather mild and dry; it was especially dry in the northeast, where drought seriously affected waterbirds in the Klamath Basin and Sierra Valley. The sunny skies may have affected the number of migrants recorded, with many birds overflying our Region. Big Sur Ornithology Lab, *Monterey* reported captures down 47% from their May average, and Coyote Creek Field Station, *Santa Clara* banded only one MacGillivray's Warbler all spring. A very impressive appearance of "southeastern" vagrants began in mid-May and extended well into June (see the Summer report for additional details). As with the last major influx of such species in the southwest in 1992, this pattern correlated with atypical weather conditions over the Gulf of Mexico during the major trans-Gulf passerine migration period. These species have been increasing in the southwest for years, but such large influxes appear to be a recent phenomenon (see Terrill et al. 1992, *A.B.* 46: 1109–1111 and Patten & Marantz 1996, *Auk* 113: 911–923 for further discussion). We welcome Tom Ryan to our group of Regional editors. Reports of