

Oregon–Washington



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This summer provided two main themes for Pacific Northwest birders. First, the influx of Great Basin species that began this spring led to a number of unusual breeding attempts/records involving White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, and Black Tern. Additionally, American White Pelicans were found on the westside in unprecedented numbers. The second theme involved vagrant "eastern" warblers. Eight species of these warblers were found this summer, the best such total in at least a decade. Most were in se. Oregon, as is usual. "Best Bird" honors goes to Malheur's Worm-eating Warbler, which was Oregon's second, and to Chelan's Northern Hawk Owl, a Regional summer first.

Weatherwise, the westside was normal to wet this summer, but the eastside remained very dry.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, *Lane*); 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 areas east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A Horned Grebe nest was found at Mud L., *Okanogan* 6 Jul (AS); they are extremely rare breeders in Washington. Clark's Grebes are casual at best during summer in w. Washington (and rare at any time), so a concentration of 20 at Vancouver L., *Clark* 8–21 Jun was most astounding (WC, TA). A **Short-tailed Albatross** off Newport 24 Mar was about the 6th for Oregon and 8th for the Region over the last 50 years (ph. TS); most have been Nov–Jan. A Northern Fulmar was seen from shore at O.S. 14 Jul (PL); they are rare from shore in Washington, especially during summer. Offshore, numbers of fulmar averaged 85 per trip (TRW), indicating a poor summer. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers, however, were exceptional, averaging 175 per trip (TRW). Sooty Shearwaters often congregate just inside the mouth of Willapa Bay during late summer, but an estimated 200,000 on 13 Jul topped anything seen in recent years

(PL), and a count of 27,500 off Westport 15 Jul (BTw) was also very high. Two Manx Shearwaters were at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 22 Jun, and one was there 9 Jul (PP).

Large numbers of American White Pelicans were still wandering around the westside this summer, with maxima of 70 at N. Portland 26 Jul (T. Clark), 45 at F.R.R. 27 Jul (DaF), and 30 at Vancouver L., *Clark* 21 Jun (TA, SG). Brown Pelican numbers this summer were the poorest in several years (HN, BTw); time will tell if they are late or if the autumn peak is truly low. A Snowy Egret at Everett, *Snohomish* 7 Jul provided *Snohomish* with its first record of this rare-but-annual summer visitor to Washington (vt. BL, NL). A Green Heron, very rare in e. Washington, was at Bingen, *Klickitat* 16–17 Jun (WC, KK). As many as 13 White-faced Ibis remained at L. Kahlotus, *Franklin* until 13 Jun; some of these were carrying nest material, but the flock abandoned the area by the end of Jun (TA, BF, KK).

The Port Angeles Emperor Goose survived another summer (PL). A tally of 44 Black Brant at Tillamook Bay 2 Jun was exceptional for summer (JG, OS). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Beulah Res., *Malheur* 16 Jun provided the first Regional summer record (J Gatchett); this species is rare in e. Oregon at any time. A brood of Northern Shoveler, a rare breeder in Oregon, was at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 29 Jun (AC). Greater Scaup are very rare on the eastside during summer; this year, there were 3 at Lost L., *Okanogan* 2 Jun (BF) and 5 at L. Lenore, *Grant* 25 Jun (TA). Records of rare westside breeders included a brood of Lesser Scaup at Deer Lagoon, *Island* (SM, RR), two broods of Lesser Scaup at Stanwood, *Snohomish* (TA, SM, DD), and a brood of Green-winged Teal at Everett (SM). Bufflehead broods were at L. Lenore, *Grant* 3 Jul and Baker L., *Okanogan* 4 Jul (PL); they are very rare nesters in Washington. A Common Goldeneye brood was among the many Barrow's at L. Lenore, *Grant* 25 Jun (TA); not only was this the Region's southernmost breeding record, but it comes from an area with no trees! The Barrow's here breed on the nearby cliffs.

The robust Osprey colony at Everett, *Snohomish* boasted 23 nests with 54 young during mid-Jul (E. Schulz). Though increasing in the Region, Red-shouldered Hawks are still rare during summer n. of southernmost Oregon. Thus, singles near Halsey, *Linn* 20 Jun (AC), Coyote Cr., *Lane* 13 Jun (LM, D Arendt), and Spencer Cr., *Lane* throughout the summer (G. Clarke) were noteworthy. Even more unusual was an ad. near Brady,

Grays Harbor 22–31 Jul, which provided Washington's first summer record (ph. RS). Washington's 4th record of a northbound **Broad-winged Hawk** was near Joyce, *Clallam* 4 Jun (†DB). A **Rough-legged Hawk** near Ritzville, *Adams* 5 Jun was about six weeks late and may be the first ever for the summer season (BN). A California Quail in a subalpine meadow at 4000 ft in *Marion* must have been a wee bit confused (SD). One of this spring's **Common Moorhens** remained at Malheur until 18 Jul (CG). Twelve Sandhill Cranes, very rare during summer on the westside, were at Sauvie I. 1–16 Jul (M. Stern); 2 of these appeared to be Lesser Sandhills (HN).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Neither golden-plover is quite annual during summer, though Pacifics are almost so. This summer, an American Golden-Plover was at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 13 Jul (T. Love), and single Pacifics were at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 16–19 Jun (M. Cutler, PVV) and N.S.C.B. 20 Jun (TR); mid-Jun records of golden-plovers are almost unprecedented. Eight ad. Black-necked Stilts hatched 3 young at Ridgefield (RS, PtS), and 2 ads raised 5 young at Baskett Slough, *Polk* (M. Cutler, H. Batchelder), providing the westside with its first breeding records. Additionally, 2 nonbreeding stilts were at F.R.R. 2–14 Jun (D. Brown, M. Maffei). Single American Avocets, very rare on the westside during summer, were at F.R.R. to 5 Jun (DDW) and Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion* 11 Jul (JL). Solitary Sandpipers were unusually numerous this summer, with 13 reported, starting with 2 early birds at Riverbend, *Pend Oreille* 25 Jun (RAR) and peaking with 4 near Chesaw, *Okanogan* 21 Jul (BL, NL); the Region averages 4 per summer. An Upland Sandpiper was at N.S.C.B. 20 Jun (DL, KC), but this species is very rare on the westside anytime and casual during summer. A Whimbrel at Summer L., *Lake* 4 Jun was on the eastside, where very rare (RG). For the 4th consecutive summer, Bar-tailed Godwits were found in the Region, with 2 at OS 7 Jul (SM, DD, RR) and one remaining until 13 Jul (PL); Bar-tailed were formerly accidental as early as Jul. A late northbound Sempalmated Sandpiper was at Tenmile Cr., *Coos* 9 Jun (DL, KC), while a slightly early southbound individual was at Riverbend 25 Jun (RAR). A total of 45 southbound Sempalmateds was reported, a bit below average, with a maximum of 12 near Sequim, *Clallam* 15 Jul (SM, RR). Two Baird's Sandpipers at Baskett Slough 19 Jun furnished a highly unusual midsummer report (EM). Eight Pectoral Sandpipers this summer was well above average, and one w. of Othello 1 Jul

was early (BL). An early southbound Dunlin was at Deer Lagoon, *Island* 14–28 Jul (SM, RR); another Dunlin was at Clatsop Spit 10 Jun (JG, OS), and 2 were at N.S.C.B. 9 Jul (TR). A juv. Stilt Sandpiper on Fir I., *Skagit* 28 Jul was three weeks early (ph. RS, PtS). A male Wilson's Phalarope performing distraction displays at Brady, *Grays Harbor* 7 Jul (SM) provided the first nesting evidence in w. Washington since 1975! This species was also found breeding in w. Oregon, where very rare: several nests were at Baskett Slough (RG), one pair nested at F.R.R. (DDW, D. Brown), and nesting may have occurred at Jackson Bottom (HN).

Eight South Polar Skuas were seen on four pelagic trips off Westport (TRW)—excellent for mid-summer. Franklin's Gulls continued to wander the Oregon coast, with singles at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 29 Jun (PP), N.S.C.B. 4 Jul (DL, KC), and Brookings, *Curry* 13 Jul (DM). In e. Washington, one was at W.W.R.D. 1–2 Jun (KK) and 2 there 17 Jun (BL, NL); one was at Othello, *Adams* 5 Jun (BF); one was at L. Lenore, *Grant* 25 Jun (TA); and 2 were at Paterson Slough, *Benton* 30 Jun (BL, NL). Franklin's are barely annual during summer in e. Washington and extremely rare on the outer coast. A first-summer **Little Gull** was at Everett from mid-Jul–1 Aug; it was found dead on the last date (EH, *Univ. Puget Sound). Washington has only three previous summer records. A concentration of 7000 California Gulls at Cultus Bay, *Island* 22 Jul was exceptional (SM, DD). Black-legged Kittiwakes, mostly nonadults, summered in unusual numbers. Early concentrations were on the outer coast, with maxima of 250 at Clatsop Spit 10 Jun (JG, OS) and 200 near O.S. 1 Jun (PWS). Later, some moved into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, with a maximum of 75 at Sekiu, *Clallam* 15 Jul (SM, RR). Point Wilson, *Jefferson* furnished the most easterly record on 12 Jul (PL).

An Arctic Tern, very rare on the eastside, was at Confluence S.P., *Chelan* 13 Jun (†DB); most eastside records are from fall. Very rare for the westside during summer was a Forster's Tern at Brookings, *Curry* 29 Jul (DM) and one at Vancouver L., *Clark* 20 Jun (TA, S. Gerstle). Eight Black Terns chose to summer at Ridgefield, building at least three nests and providing w. Washington's first breeding record (J. Engler, BTw). In w. Oregon, Black Terns occupied one of their two known nesting locations, F.R.R. (DDW). An Ancient Murrelet was at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 9 Jul (PP); this species is very rare during summer in Oregon. Although most pelagic species seemed to find good forage this summer,

Cassin's Auklet numbers remained disappointingly low offshore, averaging 5 per pelagic trip (TRW). For the 4th summer of the last 5, Horned Puffins were found on the Oregon coast. One was at Cape Foulweather, *Lincoln* 23 May and 29 Jun (DFi, DP), and possibly the same bird flew by Boiler Bay 9 Jul (PP).

Five Band-tailed Pigeons were near Chelan 7 Jun (M. Spencer); they are rare on the slope of the Cascades. A **Northern Hawk Owl** was in seemingly appropriate breeding habitat near Sugarloaf Lookout, *Chelan* 1–12 Jul (F deJong, DS); this is the Region's first summer record. Great Gray Owls are still rarely encountered in Washington, so one near Walker Cr., *Okanogan* 1 Jun was noteworthy (BF). A Costa's Hummingbird was at Indian Ford Cr., *Deschutes* 1 Jun (JL); Oregon averages about one every other summer. Three Acorn Woodpeckers near Lyle, *Klickitat* 7 Jun demonstrated that this species maintains its foothold in Washington (WC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Least Flycatcher numbers were down this summer, with one near Juntura, *Malheur* 27 Jun (TS) and one along Maloy Rd., *Yakima* 9 Jun (KK); the Region has averaged about 9 per summer over recent years. Washington's 5th **Eastern Phoebe** remained at Leavenworth, *Chelan* until 26 Jun (SA, †MD, vt. SM). An Ash-throated Flycatcher, casual during summer in w. Washington, was at Port Stanley, *Island* 18 Jul (†L. Falb); singles at Mt. Pisgah, *Lane* 6 Jul (D. Smith) and summering at Eugene, *Lane* (LM) were much closer to this species's usual range in sw. Oregon. An Eastern Kingbird, extremely rare on Washington's outer coast, was on Tatoosh I., *Clallam* 6–7 Jun (RP, TWo). Nine Clark's Nutcrackers below 500 ft elevation near Lyle, *Klickitat* 16 Jun were most unexpected, especially during summer (WC).

Very rare in e. Washington, a Purple Martin visited Bingen, *Klickitat* 11 Jul (WC). New Bank Swallow colonies continue to be found on the westside, where currently very local about 10 birds were nesting near Auburn (B. Pendleton), and 20 were nesting near Carver, *Clackamas* (ES). A recently discovered colony near Castle Rock, *Cowlitz* sported 75–100 nest burrows (J. Sheldon). A Mountain Chickadee in Redmond, *King* 17–31 Jul provided a possibly unprecedented summer lowland westside record (G. Oliver). A Rock Wren at Clatsop Spit 3 Jun was well away from breeding habitat and on the outer coast where extremely rare (TT). Broods of Bewick's Wrens near Elgin, *Union*, at Washtucna, *Adams*, and L. Kahlotus, *Franklin* provided evidence of con-

tinued range expansion (W. Stone, CC, SM, DD). A Canyon Wren, first found in Mar, remained at Beacon Rock, *Skamania* to 16 Jun (WC), and one was at Table Mt., *Skamania* 11 Jun (C. Chappell); this species is extremely rare in w. Washington. Five Northern Mockingbirds this summer, about average, included singles at Tatoosh I., *Clallam* 8 Jun (RP), near Six Prong, *Klickitat* 2–11 Jul (WC), at O.S. 13 Jul (A. Dean, PL, vt. BTw), Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook* 17 Jul (*fide* CR), and Falls City, *Polk* 26 Jul (B. Tice).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Virginia's Warbler was at Castle Rock, *Malheur* 16 Jun (J. Gatchett); they were first found summering in se. Oregon during 1998. Washington's 11th **Northern Parula** was a cooperative singing male at L. Ozette, *Clallam* 2 Jun–3 Jul (S. Gremel); seven of the previous 10 records were 30 May–13 Jul. One of the most peculiar finds of the summer was a male Yellow Warbler paired with a female American Redstart near Tenino, *Thurston* 20 Jun (P. Hicks). The redstart was subsequently found sitting on a nest, but some time after 28 Jun, the nest was abandoned, perhaps due to a severe storm. Redstarts are rare and very local breeders on the westside. There was a mini-invasion of Chestnut-sided Warblers, with singles at Malheur 10 Jun (M&J Rodegerdts), Catlow Valley, *Harney* 7 Jul (TM, A. Mickel), and Upper Klamath L., *Klamath* 11 Jul (J. Field); there are now approximately 40 Oregon records. A Magnolia Warbler was near Sublimity, *Marion* 17 Jun (JH, B. Thackaberry); there are now about 35 Oregon records, though relatively few from mid-summer. Similarly, Blackpoll Warblers are annual in Oregon but with relatively few mid-summer dates. Thus, one near Ashland, *Jackson* 16 Jun was noteworthy (R. Ketchum). Black-and-white Warblers were at Fields, *Harney* 3 Jun (TB), Brookings, *Curry* 1 Jul (DM), and near Agency L., *Klamath* 16 Jul (B. Wieland); the Region averages approximately 3 per summer. Oregon's 7th **Prothonotary Warbler** was banded at Upper Klamath L. 2 Jul (ph. B. Wieland); most previous records were 19 Aug–19 Oct, and this is the first for Jul. Oregon's 2nd **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Malheur 10–11 Jun (AC, HH); the previous state record was also at Malheur 16 Sep 1990 (Gilligan et al., *Birds of Oregon*). Washington's 16th Ovenbird was singing at Vancouver, *Clark* 15 Jun (†J. Johnson). Northern Waterthrushes again occupied their only known w. Oregon breeding site at Salt Cr. Falls, *Lane* (HH). A Yellow-breasted Chat near Camp Bonneville, *Clark* 1 Jul was the 25th in

w. Washington since 1970 (WC); most have been late May–late Jun.

Green-tailed Towhees in Washington are known to breed only at a few locations in the Blue Mts. A singing male near Copper Cr., *Walla Walla* 30 Jun was in the Blue Mts. but at a new location for this species (KA, SM). Green-tailed were also at their established site at Biscuit Ridge, *Walla Walla* (KK, BL, NL). A Clay-colored Sparrow was near Blueslide, *Pend Oreille* 25 Jun (RAR); this species is a very rare summer visitor to e. Washington, with most records from near Spokane. Even more unusual was a summer Clay-colored on the outer coast at Brookings, *Curry* 16 Jun (DM). Four Brewer's Sparrows at Big Meadow, *Linn* 5 Jul would suggest breeding nearby (RG), but one at F.R.R. 6 Jul was a very rare summer stray (V. Arnold, K. Fairchild); until recently, this species was considered strictly a vagrant on the westside. Two Black-throated Sparrows occupied their traditional site near Vantage, *Kittitas* 9 Jun–29 Jul, for the only Washington record this year (KK, BS, BL). A Lark Bunting near Eugene, *Lane* 11–24 Jun furnished Oregon with its 23rd or so record (DH); very few have been from mid-summer. A **Gray-headed Junco** in the Trout Cr. Mts., *Harney* 9 Jun provided Oregon's 6th record (SD); a small breeding population likely exists in extreme se. Oregon, as nesting was confirmed in *Malheur* during 1999. For the 3rd consecutive summer, a Lapland Longspur was found on the Oregon coast: one was at Clatsop Spit 3 Jun (TT). There are now 7 Regional summer records.


The spring's invasion of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued. Nine were found in Oregon, mostly in early and mid-Jun, well above the roughly 5-per-summer average. Washington, averaging only about one per summer, had 2: one near Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 1 Jun (P. Conklin) and another near Leavenworth, *Chelan* 23 Jun (†MD). A Lazuli Bunting near Lebam, *Pacific* 7 Jul furnished what is probably Washington's westernmost summer record (SM, RR, DD). Washington's 12th **Indigo Bunting** was at Roy, *Pierce* 10 Jun (†I. Holmquist); five of Washington's records have been during this and last May/June. In Oregon, an Indigo Bunting was near Alpine, *Benton* 17 Jul (E. Eltzroth); there are now about 50 Oregon records. Thirty Tricolored Blackbirds were still present at Washington's sole breeding colony near Wilson Cr., *Grant* 10 Jun (BS), and 3 remained until 23 Jun (BL, NL). A singing male **Rusty Blackbird** on Tatoosh I., *Clallam* 22–23 Jun was wholly unexpected (RP, TWo). Not only did it provide the Region's first summer record, but this

species is casual on Washington's outer coast at any season.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Scott Atkinson, Tom Aversa, David Beaudette, Trent Bray, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, Daniel Farrar (DaF), David Fix (DFi), Bob Flores, Chuck Gates, Roy Gerig, Steve Gerstle, Jeff Gilligan, Jeff Harding, Hendrik Herlyn, Dan Heyerly, Eugene Hunn, Kraig Kemper, Bruce LaBar, **Bill LaFramboise** (Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Paul Lehman, John Lundsten, Larry McQueen, Ed McVicker, **Tom Mickel** (Lane), Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Robert Paine, Diane Pettey, Phil Pickering, Craig Roberts, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Richard A. Rowlett, Owen Schmidt, Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, P. William Smith, Elmer Specht, **Dan Stephens** (*Chelan*), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), **Paul Sullivan** (PS, E OR), Ruth Sullivan, Todd Thornton, Patti Van Vlack (PVV), Terry R. Wahl, Tim Wootton.



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