

The Region had another truly exceptional fall, with 24 species deserving boldface including three potential first state records (one of which was a first Regional record). Warblers and seabirds were particularly well represented, and one wonders about El Niño effects on the latter group. There were, however, a number of fascinating stories beyond mega-rarities. Many rare and uncommon shorebirds showed up in exceptional numbers, particularly in eastern Washington, causing several single-day and seasonal high-count records to fall. Sea ducks staged an unprecedented invasion into the eastside. Red-shouldered Hawks, Black Phoebes, and Western Scrub-jays continued to expand their ranges rapidly (note the lack of northern species expanding their ranges).

The fall was cool and exceptionally dry, with less than 50% normal rainfall during each month essentially throughout the Region. Temperatures were below normal for almost all areas through most of the fall, but October was the coldest, with much of the Region averaging 3-8° F below average. The effect this had on birdlife was not apparent.

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

LOONS THROUGH CRANE

A Red-throated Loon, very rare for the eastside, was at Wells Dam 17 Oct (DB). Peak counts such as the 3000 Red-throated and 18,000 Pacific Loons at Boiler Bay 25 Nov have been fairly typical since regular surveillance began there a few years ago (PP). Two Pacifics at L. Roosevelt 4 Sep were about a month early for the eastside (BT). Nine Yellow-billed Loons 4 Oct+ was distinctly above normal; additionally, one of these was at Woodland, Cowlitz 15 Nov, providing only the 4th w. Washington freshwater record (†BT), while e. Washington's 6th was at Wanapum Dam 24 Nov+ (†SDs). Ten Clark's Grebes remained at FR.R., their sole westside breeding locale, until 11 Sep (DI), while 3 at Penn Cove, Island 28 Sep provided w. Washington with one of its few records of multiple birds (vt. SM). Only 4 other Clark's Grebes were reported from the westside, 18 Sep on, a subpar fall.

A total of 15 pelagic trips reported, providing excellent fall coverage particularly in Oct, with five trips. Black-footed Albatross averaged almost 150 per trip, indicating excellent numbers. Only 2 Laysan Albatross were found this fall, the lowest total since 1997: one off Westport 7 Sep (BT) and one off New-

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port 26 Oct (GG). Northern Fulmars were reported in well-above-average numbers from shore, and one found its way to L. Union, Seattle 4-5 Nov (K. Li), providing an extremely rare record for the inner Puget Sound area. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were phenomenal, averaging over 600 per trip, with a peak count of 1757 off Westport 3 Aug (BLB). This fall's 27 Flesh-footed Shearwaters was unremarkable, but the peak of 7 off Newport 26 Oct was a new Oregon high count. Buller's Shearwater numbers were low, with a peak count of 127 off Westport 21 Sep (BT). Sooty Shearwater numbers were good in Aug, at 5100 per trip, but dropped rapidly to average 90 per trip in Oct. Short-tailed Shearwaters were found on only one trip, 86 off Westport on 21 Sep (BT). A Greater Shearwater off Westport 24 Aug (photo by C. Artuso, †BLB) was Washington's first and only the 5th for the ne. Pacific. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel counts were generally low, averaging about 15 per trip, except for a peak count of 427 off Westport 21 Sep (BT), which likely consisted largely of migrants from farther north. A total of 13 Leach's Storm-Petrel represented an average

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SA A GLOBEC cruise off the Oregon coast found 2 **Dark-rumped Petrels** and 2 likely **Cook's Petrels**. Single Dark-rumped were ca. 83 km w. of Port Orford, *Curry* 8 Aug and ca. 83 km w. of Florence, *Lane* 10 Aug (†D. Ainley, T. Ryan, C. Alexander, C. Tynan). The 2 *Cookilaria* were together ca. 140 km w. of Florence 1 Aug (†D. Ainley, C. Alexander); all other species were eliminated except De Filippi's Petrel (*P. defilippiana*). There are two previous Dark-rumped records that fall within the purview of this Region, both outside the official 368-km (200-nautical-mile) limit: 423 km off Pt. St. George 10 Sep 2001 and 497 km off Cape Arago, *Coos* 19 Oct 1986. The approximately 13 California records span late Apr to late Aug. The only previous Regional record for Cook's Petrel was of a dead bird found at Grayland, WA on 15 Dec 1995. Peak occurrence in California is May through October. Do these sightings merely represent better coverage, or do they indicate the influence of oceanic events?

fall. A **Manx Shearwater** was off Tierra del Mar, *Tillamook* 7 Sep (†WG) and at Boiler Bay 18 Nov (PP), and single Manx/Black-vented Shearwaters were reported from Boiler Bay 13 Aug, 6 Sep, 11 Oct, and 9 Nov (PP). A Black-vented Shearwater reported off Clatsop Spit 17 Nov will await O.B.R.C. review (†MP, †TT).

Almost totally unexpected was the subad. **Blue-footed Booby** near Newport 7-9 Sep (ph. GLA, ph. AJ, m. ob.). The only previous Regional record came from Everett 23 Sep 1935. Most California records fall between late Jul and late Oct. Almost ho-hum by comparison was the Region's 4th **Brown Booby**, an ad. female, off Westport 5 Oct (S. Mills, ph.. BT, †BLB); the Region's first was as recent as 1997, three of the four have been recorded during Oct, and one was earlier this year. Thirty-three American White Pelicans at Sauvie I. during mid-Sep provided an excellent count for the westside (HN), while up to 10 at Coos Bay 4 Aug—2 Sep (TR) and 3 at Astoria 8 Nov (D. Haller) were on the outer coast, where not annual. Tallies of 2000 Brown Pelicans and 3500 Brandt's Cormorants flying past S. Beach, *Lincoln* 13 Oct were among the Region's highest ever (WH). Lingering late again this year, 600+ Brown Pelicans headed s. past Boiler Bay 22 Nov (PP). No Cattle Egrets were reported for the first time in more than 20 years. An ad. **White-faced Ibis** at Potholes Res., *Grant* 9 Sep furnished only the 6th fall/winter record from Washington (vt. SM). Singles at F.R.R. 1-9 Aug (P. Sherrell, J. Sullivan) and Brownsville, *Linn* 12 Aug (J. Fleischer) were equally unusual for w. Oregon.

Single migrant Emperor Geese were at Sauvie I. 14-15 Oct (I. Tomlinson) and McMinnville, *Yamhill* 30 Nov (C. Karlen). "Stumpy," the Port Angeles Emperor Goose, which was first found on 5 Jan 1999, survived at least through 12 Oct (SM, DD). An ad. and imm. Blue Goose were near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 3 Nov+ (vt. SM, DD), and an ad. was at Fir I., *Skagit* 24 Nov+ (vt. SM, S. Pink); there are fewer than 20 records for Washington, but almost half have been since 1990. A flock of 150 Snow Geese migrating s. over Malheur 23 Aug was more than a month early (DE), and 3 at F.R.R. during early Aug were earlier yet (TM). Representing an above-aver-

age fall, this season's errant Ross's Geese included 5 in *Walla Walla* 23 Nov (MD, MLD), plus singles at Junction City, *Lane* 12 Nov (JS) and near Port Orford, *Curry* 25 Nov (TJW). A Black Brant, extremely rare in e. Washington, was at Wenatchee 8 Oct+ (†DB). Five others were in the Willamette Valley from F.R.R. northward 1 Nov+; interior westside Brant seem to be increasingly regular. Five Eurasian Wigeon were found on the eastside from 9 Oct+. Common Teal are rarely reported before Dec because males need to be in "breeding" plumage for identification. This year, however, nice males were at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 9 Nov (DD), near Sequim 10 Nov (E. Kridler), and at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 21 Nov (P. Tilley, GG, HN). A hybrid Common x Green-winged Teal was at Crockett L., *Island* 24 Nov (SM, S. Pink). A tally of 125 Blue-winged Teal at F.R.R. 2 Aug was likely a Regional record high count for fall (S. McDonald). Last winter's Common Golden-eye x Bufflehead hybrid was again at Wenatchee 20 Nov+ (B. St. George, DB). A Barrow's Goldeneye, very rare on the s. Oregon coast, was near Empire, *Coos* 26 Nov (TR).

Very late for e. Washington were Ospreys at Sun Lakes, *Grant* 22 Nov (B. Shelmerdine) and Richland 24 Nov (BL, NL). White-tailed Kite 3, seemingly still on the increase, were widespread throughout the westside n. to *Thurston*, with a maximum of 21 at F.R.R. 26 Nov (D. Johnson). Red-shouldered Hawks continued to spread rapidly within the Region. Ten years ago, there were only two Washington records and but a handful from e. Oregon. This fall, there were at least 9 in Washington from mid-Sep onward and about 11 in se. and e.-cen. Oregon 7 Aug—8 Nov. In Washington, birds away from their usual haunts in the sw. included singles at Skagit W.M.A. 25 Sep (†TA) and 24 Nov+ (†M. Don-

ahue, A. Knue) and 2 at Conboy L., *Klickitat* 5 Sep (†JE). HawkWatch International observers at Chelan Ridge, WA found 7 Broad-winged Hawks, including one late bird on 25 Sep. In Oregon, at Bonney Butte, they had just one, but that bird was also late—23 Sep (D. Helzer). Two single Ferruginous Hawks e. of Brookings 26 & 28 Oct (DM), plus one at Agate L., *Jackson* through Nov (J. Livaudais), provided very rare westside records. Three Gyrfalcons were a bit below average: near Baskett Slough, *Polk* 24-30 Nov (J. Jebousek, KS), at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 3 Nov (D. Manaer, GG), and at Warrenton, *Clatsop* 28 Nov (MP). Twelve westside Prairie Falcons, all in Oregon, was well above the norm. A group of 310 Wild Turkeys along Upper Dry Creek, *Umatilla* 30 Nov must be a Regional record (MD, MLD); given such numbers, one must be concerned about the effect this introduced species has on native mast-eating birds, particularly Ruffed Grouse. A Sandhill Crane at Sauvie I. 4 Aug was a month early (D. Bailey).

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Rare on the eastside, single American Golden-Plovers were at Y.R.D. 8 Sep (BL, NL, DR, C. Simonsen) and at Lind Coulee, *Grant* 12 Nov (ph.. S. Ray); the latter was the latest ever for e. Washington by two or more weeks. Also intriguing was an unidentified golden-plover near 2400 m in Horseshoe Basin, *Okanogan* 13 Sep (RH); this is probably the Region's first alpine golden-plover record. On the westside, the peak golden-plover tally was 39, including 22 Pacifics and 17 unidentified, at O.S. 28 Sep (S. MacKay); otherwise, westside golden-plover reports included approximately 34 Pacifics, 17 Americans, and only 6 unidentified, a subpar count in each category. Observers familiar with Common Ringed Plover heard this species' call uttered by a bird on Leadbetter Pt. 24 Nov (J. Starfire, T. McKee); unfortunately, the bird did not cooperate, and no other points of separation from Semipalmated Plover were noted. A breeding Black-necked Stilt remained at Baskett Slough, *Polk* to 27 Aug (KS), while 5 lingered at F.R.R. to 4 Aug (NS, DF). Rare westside American Avocet sightings included 3 at Agate L., *Jackson* 2 Sep (N. Barrett), 2 at Tulalip Bay, *Snohomish* 6 Sep (M. Reed), and one near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 14 Sep (GA).

A flock of 220 Lesser Yellowlegs at Soap L.,

SA Sea ducks invaded eastside waterways, particularly in Washington. Surf Scoter was clearly the main participant, with approximately 276 reported, over 10 times the recent norm. Most were found 8-23 Oct, and peak tallies were 55 at the Coulee Lakes, *Grant* 14 Oct (DSC) and 48 at Potholes Res., *Grant* 9 Oct (BF). White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks were found in about twice their usual numbers with 33 of the former and 16 of the latter. Most White-wingeds were found 12 Oct—2 Nov, with a maximum of 13 at Rock L., *Whitman* 14 Oct (C. Swift). Long-tailed Ducks were mostly seen from 2-24 Nov, with high counts of 5 at Wanapum Dam 24 Nov (SDs) and 4 at Soap L., *Grant* 11 Oct (DSC). Notably, Surf Scoter numbers along the coast also seemed robust with a maximum of 15,000 at South Beach, *Lincoln* 13 Oct (WH).

Grant 30 Aug easily exceeded the previous Washington maximum (SM). This fall's 80 Solitary Sandpipers eclipsed last fall's record total of 73. Seventy were on the eastside, and almost all were during Aug, with a peak count of 12 at McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla* 17 Aug (MD, MLD). A Long-billed Curlew at Columbia N.W.R., *Adams* 7 Nov was more than two months late for e. Washington (BF). A Hudsonian Godwit at Bandon, *Coos* 8 Sep added to about 15 previous Oregon records (AJ). Bar-tailed Godwits again had a strong showing in Washington, with 2 at O.S. 29 Aug (ph., RS, PtS) and singles at Blaine, *Whatcom* 28 Aug (†J. Duemmel), Westport 19 Oct (vt. SM), and at Tokeland, *Pacific* 18-26 Aug (ph., RS, PtS) and 6-13 Oct (vt. SM); this brings the southbound total to approximately 8 birds. Consider that the first Washington record was in 1973 and that there were only 19 records for the entire 1990s. Single Marbled Godwits, not quite annual in e. Washington, were at Y.R.D. 27 Aug (BW, BL, NL, RF), W.W.R.D. 24 Aug (MD, MLD), McNary N.W.R. 2-7 Sep (TA), and Cassimer Bar, *Okanogan* 21 Sep (M. Spencer); the latter record was apparently the latest ever.

Very rare for the eastside were single Ruddy Turnstones near Monse, *Okanogan* 6 Aug (HO) and at Gutierrez Ranch, *Crook* 16 Aug (CG). Semipalmated Sandpipers had an average showing, with 41 on the eastside and 16 on the westside through 15 Sep. The maximum was 15 near Corfu, *Grant* 20 Aug (CW). A concentration of 210 Baird's Sandpipers at St. Andrews, *Douglas* 30 Aug (SM) far exceeded Washington's previous maximum of 150. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Soap L. 15 Nov was two days shy of e. Washington's record-late date (BF). The Region had 26+ Sharp-tailed Sandpipers 20 Sep—29 Oct, the best total in more than ten years and quadruple the recent average of about six per fall. Six of these were from the eastside, which had only 15 previous records: 3 at Othello 3-13 Oct (TA, BF, ph. RH) and up to 3 at Lind Coulee, *Grant* 4-6 Oct (†DSc). The maximum of 11 near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 14 Oct (GA, K. & J. Wiggers) eclipsed the previous top Washington count of 6 at Leadbetter Pt. during Oct 1978. A Regional total of 33 Stilt Sandpipers, mostly 20 Aug—10 Sep, was unremarkable; several, however, were quite late, including one at O.S. 12 Oct (K. Brown) and one at Vancouver, *Clark* 20 Oct (WC). Eighteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers more than trebled recent norms. Twelve were scattered in singles and pairs along the Oregon coast 23 Aug—29 Sep; in Washington, all sightings were from the Puget Trough, where very rare, including one at Samish Flats 4-6 Sep (A. Roedell, G. Bletsch), 4 on Fir I., *Skagit* 7 Sep (†MB), and another there 15 Sep (DD, vt. SM). The Region averages about 4 Ruffs per fall, mostly from late Aug to late Sep. This

year, there were 8 in Oregon and 2 in Washington during this time frame. Additionally, a number of late Ruffs were found including singles at Bandon 9-15 Oct (DL, KC), F.R.R. 27 Sep—1 Nov (JS), Foulweather Bluff, *Kitsap* 19 Oct (†BN), and Elma, *Grays Harbor* 17 Nov (ph. RS, PtS), plus 2 at Junction City, *Lane* 16 Nov remaining near Eugene into Dec (†DDW). Short-billed Dowitchers appeared on the eastside in unprecedented numbers, with 20 in e. Washington and 3 in e. Oregon, including a maximum of 5 at Lind Coulee 9 Sep (SM) and 2 rather late birds at Othello 4 Oct (BF); e. Washington has recently averaged only 6 per year. Once again, Red-necked Phalaropes were scarce on pelagic trips, with only 247 tallied. Eastside Red Phalaropes are not annual, so singles at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 22 Sep (MD, MLD) and Soap L. 12 Oct (†MB) were noteworthy. Late fall storms also forced a number of Red Phalaropes close to shore, with a maximum of 2000 at Boiler Bay 9 Nov (PP); the same weather drove 10 into w. Oregon's interior, where very rare, 14-16 Nov. The seasonal pelagic trip total was 281.

Excellent numbers of Pomarine Jaegers were reported from pelagic trips, 326 total, with a peak of 103 off Westport on 5 Sep (BLB). Long-tailed Jaeger numbers, however, were mediocre, with 63 total. South Polar Skua numbers were up, following a surprising number of summer reports, with 40 off Washington and 13 off Oregon. Interesting jaegers away from pelagic trips included e. Washington's 2nd Pomarine Jaeger at Wenatchee 6 Sep (†DB) and single Parasitics there 30 Sep and 18-19 Oct (DB); Parasitics are very rare in e. Washington, occurring mostly during mid- and late Sep. A Parasitic at O.S. 21 Nov was about three weeks late (TA).

Thirty-one Franklin's Gulls away from their se. Oregon haunts represented the best fall since 1998; there were 15 in w. Washington, 11 in e. Washington, and 5 in w. Oregon. The top count was 7 at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 22 Sep (MD, MLD). Eastern Washington's 2nd Little Gull was at Wenatchee 16 Aug (†DB). A Mew Gull at Wenatchee 17 Aug was exceptionally early for e. Washington (DB), as was one at Malheur 7 Sep for e. Oregon (DE). A tally of 10,000+ California Gulls off Tatoosh I., *Clallam* 14 Sep was among the Region's highest ever (BB). Similarly, 770

Thayer's Gulls at Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 12 Oct (SM, DD) furnished the Region's 2nd highest count ever, after the 1950 seen there 6 Nov 1999. A nicely described ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Port Angeles 4 Sep provided Washington's 3rd and w. Washington's first record (†BN). Three Glaucous Gulls, from 10 Nov on, was typical of recent years. A tally of 4000+ Sabine's Gulls off Tatoosh I. 14 Sep more than quadrupled the previous Washington maximum (BB). On scheduled Washington pelagic trips, Sabine's Gulls were also numerous, with a total of 1015, but Sabine's were very scarce off Oregon, with only 64 seen. Interestingly, after last year's major incursion, a subpar 2 Sabine's Gulls were found on the eastside: L. Roosevelt, *Lincoln* 4 Sep (BT)

and Y.R.D. 21 Sep (BL, NL). A Black-legged Kittiwake, rare in the Puget Trough, was at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 3 Nov (G. Oliver).

Elegant Terns made a fair showing in Oregon, with 22 at Coos Bay 5 Aug (TR), 2 near Florence 6 Aug (P. Sherrell), 5 near Seaside, *Clatsop* 7 Aug (TT, MP), and one at Newport 15 Sep (J. Fontaine). Arctic Tern numbers on pelagic trips were quite low, totaling only 121, but one at Redmond, *Deschutes* 5 Sep provided a very rare eastside record (K. Owen). There were only 2 westside Forster's Terns: singles at Lost Creek Res., *Jackson* 2 Sep (N. Barrett) and at Big L., *Linn* 16 Sep (DDW, P. Sherrell, JF). A peak tally of 20,000 Common Murres headed s. past Boiler Bay 18 Nov (PP). Xantus's Murrelets are irregularly reported: 2 off Westport 5 Sep (†BLB) and 5 off Newport 5 Oct (GG). The peak tally of 665 migrant Cassin's Auklets off Westport 14 Oct was absolutely dwarfed by the 4000+ found off Newport in calm seas 19 Oct. The local breeding population is reflected in Aug/Sep counts; they averaged about 40 per trip, reflective of a recovering population. Similarly, Tufted Puffin numbers off Westport averaged 2 per trip this fall; a few years ago they averaged 2 per year. A Horned Puffin off Westport 5 Sep (ph. S. Mills, †BLB) was the first-ever early fall record from a pelagic trip, though there are several such records from land. Eastern Washington's 8th Ancient Murrelet was at Lyle, *Klickitat* 20 Aug (B. Hansen, S. Johnston); previous records span 10 Aug—3 Dec.

PIGEONS THROUGH WAGTAILS

Band-tailed Pigeons, rare on the eastside, were near Hart's Pass, *Okanogan* 8 Aug (HO) and at Fields 27 Sep (S. Wright). Washington's 2nd Eurasian Collared-Dove remained



While guiding a birding tour of the state, Alvaro Jaramillo and George Armistead found this subadult Blue-footed Booby, Oregon's first, at Yaquina Head on 7 to 9 (here) September 2002. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

SA Bushtits are hardly known for vagrancy. Last summer one was found at Potholes Res., Grant, and we marveled that it was ca. 100 km away from the nearest populations in Yakima. Well, this fall at least 25 were found at Potholes Res. 20-25 Oct (G. Shugart, BF, RH), and specimens collected from the flock were found to be *P. m. plumbeus* (DP), the nearest population of which exists nearly 300 km away in ne. Oregon. Paulson reviewed Washington specimens in the Univ. of Puget Sound collection and found that one Bushtit collected decades ago in Yakima was also a *plumbeus*; the remainder were, however, of the expected coastal races. The fascinating questions are: where did these birds come from, and how long have they been here?

at Wenatchee through 3 Sep (DB), while the long-staying bird at Joseph, *Wallowa* remained until 4 Aug (Paul Sullivan). Amazingly, another appeared on 4 Aug at Kinney L., *Wallowa* (T. Shelmerdine), providing about the 6th record for Oregon. Oregon's 8th **White-winged Dove** was at Newport, *Lincoln* 11-14 Oct (ph. D. Kasper); almost all Regional records have been May—Nov. Five **Burrowing Owls** in w. Oregon from 25 Sep on represented an above-average fall. Increasing observer effort has led to increasing numbers of **Boreal Owl** reports; this fall birds were reported from the Washington Cascades in *Chelan* (DB), *Kittitas* (SDs, CW, RTS), *Pierce* (BLB, M. Roening), and *Lewis* (BT) and from Oregon's *Wallowa* Mountains (D. Herr, MD, MLD). All were 13 Sep—28 Oct. Very rare in Oregon e. of the Cascades, a **Black Swift** was at Malheur 6 Sep (DE). Impressive as it sounds, the peak count of 11,000 **Vaux's Swifts** roosting in Eugene 10 Sep was distinctly below average (M. Rudolph). A **White-throated Swift** at Manson, *Chelan* 24-31 Oct was Washington's 2nd latest ever (VN).

Rare on the eastside, an **Anna's Hummingbird** was at Canyon Terrace, *Benton* 30 Aug (BL, NL), and a pair was at Bend throughout the fall (D. Tracy). This fall's **Costa's Hummingbird** was at Tigard, *Washington* 25 Sep (T. Stainbrook). A **Calliope Hummingbird** at Bend 6 Oct was about a month late (J. Moodie). Oregon's 15th **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was a juv. at Long Cr., *Grant* 8 Sep (†SM), providing the Region's first Sep record; most have been Oct—Feb. Very rare e. of the Cascade/Warner Mts., a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was at Frenchglen, *Harney* 5 Oct (C. Butler). A **Lewis's Woodpecker**, very rare on the Oregon coast, was at Seaside, *Clatsop* 12 Oct (S. Warner). In w. Washington, where rare, one was at Ridgefield 11 Sep (TA).

A **Western Wood-pewee** at Ridgefield 5 Oct furnished Washington's 3rd Oct record (vt. SM). An unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher at Corvallis, *Benton* 28 Nov was six or more weeks late, no matter what the species (M. Rudolph). A **Gray Flycatcher** at 1923 m near Junior Pt., *Chelan* 24 Sep was the latest ever for Washington (DB). A **Dusky Flycatcher** at Portland 25 Sep provided a very rare fall record for nw. Oregon (WG). A **Least Flycatcher** was at Washtucna, *Adams* 1 Sep (BF, SM, RH); of late, this species has been nearly annual during fall in Washington,

mostly 28 Aug—15 Sep. Washington's 5th **Black Phoebe** was at Ridgefield 11 Sep+ (†TA), while last year's bird near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum* returned 16 Oct+ (K. Knittle); 5 more in nw. Oregon were n. of their usual haunts, while 2 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. 5 Oct provided a very rare e. Oregon record (K. Spencer); this species's range continues to expand rapidly.

Only 3 **Say's Phoebes** were found in w. Oregon away from the Rogue R. valley, a poor fall. However, one at O.S. 9 Sep was only about the 11th for w. Washington during fall (BW). Washington's 4th and the Region's 7th **Vermilion Flycatcher** was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 1 Nov (†GA); prior records were Oct—Mar. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 23 Nov was well n. of its usual range and three months late (C. Karlen). **Tropical Kingbirds** continue to be found in numbers, with 5 in Oregon 12 Oct—28 Nov and 4 in Washington: Bay Center, *Pacific* 12 Oct (ph. RS, PtS), Tokeland, *Pacific* 13-21 Oct (ph. RS, PtS), near Elma, *Grays Harbor* 23 Nov (†B. Ramsey, †K. Brown), and near Edison, *Skagit* 17-29 Nov (K. Ramsa, K. Kemper, ph. J. Eisner). The latter two records doubled the total of Washington records away from the Outer Coast/Olympic Pen. An **Eastern Kingbird** at Ritzville, *Adams* 28 Sep set a record Washington late date by eight days (DSc). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Salishan Spit, *Lincoln* 7-11 Nov (R. & D. Roberts, ph. PP); there are about 16 previous Oregon records, all May—Nov and most May—Jun.

Rare for the Oregon coast were single **Loggerhead Shrikes** at Clatsop Spit 28 Oct (TT) and Sixes Estuary, *Curry* 20 Nov (DM, KG). A **Black-billed Magpie**, very rare on the westside, was near Monmouth, *Polk* 27 Sep (fide P. Adamus). Only 3 **Blue Jays** were found, well below the recent 7-8 per fall average, with singles at Springfield, *Lane* 19 Oct+ (S. Maulding), near Coburg, *Lane* 25 Oct (R. Holland), and at Othello 20 Oct—11 Nov (RH). **Western Scrub-Jays** continue to show signs of range expansion. The most notable extralimital records include one at O.S. 7 Sep (BW), 5 at Ft. Simcoe, *Yakima* 22 Sep (K. Turley), one near Hines, *Harney* 30 Sep (P. Bowers), 2 at Burns 9 Oct+ (R. Vetter), and one near the Cascade Crest at McKenzie Pass, *Lane* 6 Oct (DF, V. Arnold). Very rare for e. Oregon, a **Purple Martin** was at Malheur 6 Sep (DE). A tally of 4100 **Violet-green Swal-**

lows at Ridgefield 5 Oct was the highest ever for Washington (SM). The traditional **Barn Swallow** roost near Dayton, *Yamhill* peaked at an impressive 100,000 on 13 Sep (FS).

Rare w. of the Cascades in Washington was a **Rock Wren** at Joemma S. P., *Pierce* 20 Oct (H. Jennings); one at Cape Ferrello, *Curry* 4 Sep was similarly unusual for the Oregon coast (DM). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Tumalo Res., *Deschutes* 21 Sep was well n. of its limited Oregon breeding range (†J. Gerke). *Coos's* 2nd **Mountain Bluebird** was at N.S.C.B. 27 Sep (TR); this species is very rare w. of the Cascades during fall, and most such records are from Nov. A **Dusky Thrush** was belatedly reported but exquisitely documented from a yard in Mt. Vernon, *Skagit* 27 Jun, furnishing the contiguous United States' first record (†P. Alexander); there are, however, two late fall/winter records from the vicinity of Vancouver, British Columbia. A **Gray Catbird** near Williams, *Josephine* 18 Sep was in w. Oregon, where extremely rare (†DV). Five **Northern Mockingbirds** away from their localized breeding areas in Jackson was about average; Washington records include singles at O.S. 19 Oct (DD, vt. SM) and Ridgefield 24 Nov (R. Spaulding). **Single Brown Thrashers** near L. Creek, *Jackson* 24-25 Sep (†J. Kemper, J. Harleman) and **Plush, Lake** 5 Oct (†HH) added to approximately 22 prior Oregon records. A **Sage Thrasher** at Gutierrez Ranch, *Crook* 15 Nov was over six weeks late (CG). Formerly somewhat regular, but now very rare on the westside, a **Bohemian Waxwing** was near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 15 Nov (GA). Oregon's 2nd **Yellow Wagtail** was at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 8 Sep (†FS); Oregon has one previous record: 31 Aug 1997. See *Birders Journal* (Heindel 1999) for a fine review of this species' occurrence in North America.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Washington's 12th **Tennessee Warbler** was banded along the Little Spokane R., *Spokane* 24 Aug (ph. M. Frobe); most previous records have been late Aug—mid Sep. In Oregon, where annual, **Tennessees** were near Brookings 5 Sep (DM) and at Malheur 6 Sep (AC, DF) and 20-21 Sep (TR). The westside's 3rd **Virginia's Warbler** was near Brookings 23 Sep (†DM); prior records were also from Oregon during fall. Washington's 8th **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Brier, *Snohomish* 2 Nov (†G. DiBernardi), while one at Burns 12-13 Oct (R. Vetter, J. Suther) added to about 35 previous Oregon records; most Regional records have been mid-Sep to mid-Nov. **Black-throated Gray Warblers** are very rare in far e. Washington, so one at Kahlotus, *Franklin* 9 Sep was noteworthy (SM). Similarly, a **Hermit Warbler** was of note at Malheur 18 Sep (TR). **Single Prairie Warblers** were at the Deschutes R. mouth, *Sherman* 21

Sep (D. Bailey), Seaside 22 Sep (†MP), and at the Pistol R. mouth, Curry 12 Oct (†AC, HH, NS); all but one of Oregon's previous 11 records were coastal, and most were mid-Sep—mid-Oct. Washington's 2nd Bay-breasted Warbler was near Potholes Res., Grant 21 Sep (†DSc). Washington's 14th Blackpoll Warbler was at Richland 11 Sep (NL, RF, C. Simonsen), while 2 near Brookings 23 Sep were on the Oregon coast, where very rare (DM); Blackpolls at Malheur 14 Sep (GLA) and 20-21 Sep (TR) were in se. Oregon, where annual.

This fall's yield of Black-and-white Warblers included singles at Peoria, Linn 10-16 Sep (M. Campbell), Malheur 20 Sep (S. Greenberg), and Eugene 22 Sep (M. Maffei). Rare migrants on the westside, 2 American Redstarts were at Marymoor Park, King 22 Aug (M. Hobbs), and one was at Portland 17 Sep (WG, R. Smith). Ovenbirds at Malheur 8 Sep (DF, AC) and N. Bend, Coos 1 Nov (S. Townsend) were the Region's first during fall since at least 1994. Northern Waterthrushes, very rare migrants on the westside, were at Skagit W.M.A. 18 Aug (TA) and Florence, Lane 19 Oct—Dec (AC, NS, HH). A male Hooded Warbler at Malheur 8 Sep (AC, vt. SM, DF) was joined a day or two later by another male (GLA), with at least one bird lingering until 21 Sep (†K. Smith); there were 10 prior Oregon records. A MacGillivray's Warbler at Lind Coulee 5 Oct was provided e. Washington's 3rd latest record (†DSc). A Wilson's Warbler at Moses L., Grant 1 Nov was more than a month tardy (DSc), while a Yellow-breasted Chat at Coppei Cr., Walla Walla 21 Sep was likely the latest ever for Washington (MD, MLD); almost as noteworthy was a chat at Creswell, Lane 20 Sep (NS). Oregon's 16th Summer Tanager was at S. Beach, Lincoln 21 Nov (†E. Horvath); nine of the 16 have been since May 2000.

Single American Tree Sparrows, extremely rare in sw. Oregon, were at Brookings 15 Nov (KG) and Floras L., Curry 25 Nov (TJW). Oregon's 3 Clay-colored Sparrows 31 Aug—2 Nov made for the lowest fall total since 1997. In Washington, singles at Windust S. P., Franklin 21-22 Sep (BL, MD, MLD) and Wenatchee 6 Sep (DB) were more typical of the last few years. Brewer's Sparrow sightings

from w. Oregon seem to be steadily increasing; this fall there were 5 birds 17-31 Aug. A Brewer's at Windust S. P. 21-22 Sep may have been the latest ever for Washington (BL). A Lark Bunting at Bandon, Coos 17 Aug was about the 24th for Oregon (JG, O. Schmidt); previous records were scattered throughout the calendar and state.

A Red Fox Sparrow at Puget I., Wahkiakum 11 Nov was about the 13th for Washington (†BT, BLB). West of the Cascades, where rare, single Slate-colored Fox Sparrows were at Kent, King 8 Nov (†CW), Florence, Snohomish 10 Nov (SM, DD), and near Monroe, Snohomish 29 Nov (vt. SM). Swamp Sparrow numbers were superb,

with 15 in w. Oregon, 9 in w. Washington, and 5 in e. Washington, where barely annual, including 3 at Wenatchee 23 Nov (DB). Likely a first for the Region, an apparent ad. Golden-crowned x White-throated Sparrow hybrid was at Brookings 10 Oct (ph. S. Chambers). The status of *pugetensis* White-crowned Sparrows e. of the Cascades is poorly known, but 5 at Wahluke Slope, Franklin 2 Sep highlight the likelihood that this taxon is a regular migrant in the Columbia Basin (SM, BF); one wonders, do they remain to winter or go farther south? Eight Harris's Sparrows in Washington and 2 in Oregon represented an above-average fall and included 2 that were about a month early at Lind Coulee 15 Sep (†DSc). Chestnut-colored Longspurs flooded the Oregon coast. The first was found at Floras L., Curry 11 Oct (HH, ph. NS, AC). After a three-week lull, 2 were found at N.S.C.B. 2 Nov, and another was there 8-10 Nov (†TR), 3 were near Seaside 2-30 Nov (†TT, MP), one was at Clatsop Spit 2 Nov (†MP), and 3 were near Cape Blanco 7 Nov (TJW). Eleven birds in all. There were about 12 prior Oregon records, mostly early Oct—early Nov and mostly from the westside.

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, very rare during fall, were at Bend 14 Sep (D. Tracy) and Milwaukie, Clackamas 4 Nov (JG). A Black-headed Grosbeak at Bennington L., Walla Walla 26 Oct was more than a month late (MD, MLD). An Indigo Bunting at Fields 5 Sep added to about 50 Oregon records, most of which come from Apr—Jun (SM). Tricolored Blackbirds, first found in Wash-

ington in 1998, continued to make news. Sightings from Othello and vicinity included a male and female 9 Sep (vt. SM), 2 males 12 Oct (BF), and one male 4-8 Nov (BF); this area has generated many reports over the last few winters. Tricoloreds were also recorded for the 3rd consecutive fall/winter at Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark, with 3 there 30 Nov (vt. SM, DD). Washington's 13th Common Grackle was near Kennewick, Benton 19 Oct and 13 Nov (ph. DR). A distinctly odd icterid was photographed in Auburn, King 19-21 Oct (M. Willison, ph. RS); careful analysis by Jaramillo strongly suggests that this bird is an ad. female Great-tailed Grackle x Brewer's Blackbird hybrid, though the extent of dark marking on the head and breast seems anomalous for this combination. No combination can fully explain this bird's parentage without invoking some aberrancy. Representing a typical fall, single Rusty Blackbirds were near Bayview, Skagit 17 Nov (†CW, SDs) and at Shillapoo Bottoms 30 Nov (vt. SM, DD). A Purple Finch, rare in far e. Washington, was at Elk, Spokane 13 Oct (MM). Errant Lesser Goldfinches were at Lacey, Thurston 16 Aug (†S. Mills) and W. Richland 17 Nov (B. Kaiser, NL, C. Simonsen); there were only six prior records away from Klickitat/Clark. A flock of 2000 American Goldfinches near Eugene 1 Oct was likely a Regional record (D. Heyerly).

ADDENDUM

A flock of 11 Band-tailed Pigeons at Steamboat Rock, Grant 5 Jan 2002 (BF, RH) was accidentally not included in the winter report. Band-tailed Pigeons are extremely rare in e. Washington during winter.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): George L. Armistead, Gail Aslanian, Tom Aversa (WA), David Beaudette, Bob Boekelheide, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), Duncan Evered, Daniel Farrar, Ruth Fischer, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Ken Goldwater, Wink Gross, Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, David Irons, Alvaro Jaramillo, David Lauten, Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Tom Mickel (Lane), Matt Moskwik, Don Munson, Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Hal Opperman, Michael Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, Doug Schonewald (DSc), Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Karen Sparkman, Dan Stephens (Chelan), Noah Strycker, John Sullivan, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, Todd Thornton, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. 🐦



This Chestnut-collared Longspur at Floras Lake, Curry County, Oregon 11 October 2002 was the vanguard of an unprecedented irruption along the Oregon coast. In all, 11 Chestnut-collareds were found, more than all previous records of this species from Oregon combined! Photograph by Noah Strycker.