

Oregon & Washington

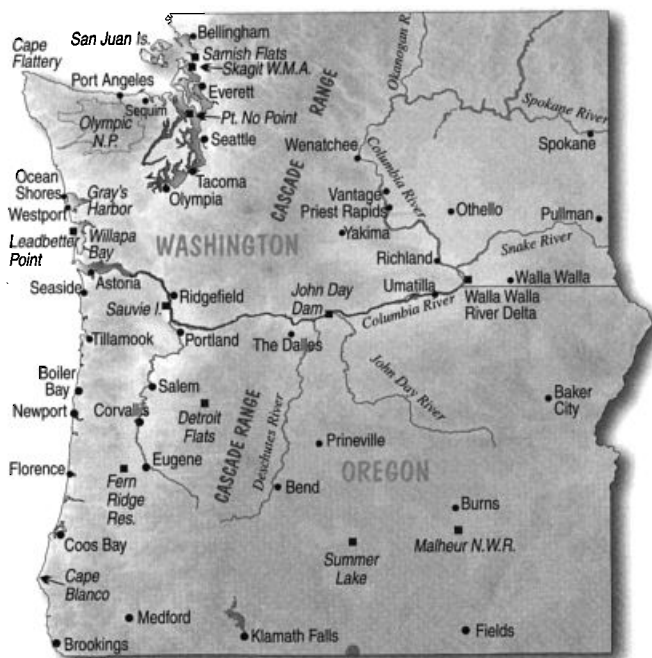
The Region's fall weather can be summarized by two words: warm and dry. From August through October, the Region's temperatures averaged about 2° C above normal, though in November, temperatures dropped, averaging about 2.5° C below normal. August was exceptionally dry, with most of the Region experiencing less than half of normal rainfall. Subsequently, precipitation was only 70–90% of normal, excluding western Washington, where several large October storms caused widespread flooding. There was no clear effect of weather on birds this fall, excepting that October and November windstorms carried many starving Northern Fulmars into Washington's sheltered marine waters.

The fall was a good one for rarities. There were 29 records deserving boldface, including three potential first state records. Among vagrants, warblers were particularly well represented, with 25 species reported. Wandering woodpeckers also made the news, including several unprecedented occurrences. The season's big headline, however, was one of numbers. Consider the following single-site, single-day totals: 150,000 Red-throated/Pacific Loons, 800,000 Sooty Shearwaters, 50,000 Northern Shovelers, 150,000 scoters, 34,000 American Coots, 33,000 scaup, 8000 Black-bellied Plovers, 6000 Mew Gulls, 15,000 Vaux's Swifts, 200 Lewis's Woodpeckers, 4000 Violet-green Swallows, and 300 Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Additionally, state record high counts were set for Great Egret, American Kestrel, Marbled Godwit, Surf-bird, Long-billed Dowitcher, South Polar Skua, Yellow Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Black Rosy-Finch. Why? Part of the answer likely lies in increasing observer attention to common species. Though perhaps not as "good" as actual population increases, this is still a most welcome trend.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., 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); P.N.P. (Point No Point, Kitsap, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). "East-side" and "westside" denote locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH QUAIL

A total of 150,000 Red-throated/Pacific Loons flew past Boiler Bay, Lincoln 20 Nov (PP). Oregon's 2nd Arctic Loon stopped at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 22–23 Nov (†WH). Up to 200 Common Loons gathered on Wickiup Res., Deschutes



5–19 Oct, an impressive concentration for a freshwater location (JS, C&MM). Representing a modestly subpar fall, single Yellow-billed Loons were at Port Townsend, Jefferson 8 Nov (S. McDougall), Rosario Head, Skagit 8–14 Nov (G. Bletsch), and N.S.C.B. 24 Nov (TR). For the first fall in at least 10 years, there were no Clark's Grebes reported from w. Washington. In w. Oregon, several pairs with young remained at F.R.R. to 29 Aug (JS), but only one was found elsewhere, a lone bird at Floras L., Curry 6 Sep (D. Heyerly).

Fall pelagic trip coverage included 10 trips out of Westport, one out of Ilwaco, and four off the cen. Oregon coast. The 9 Aug Westport trip had one Laysan and 596 Black-footed Albatrosses (BT); otherwise, Black-footed numbers were mediocre, and no other Laysans were reported. A Short-tailed Albatross, banded in Japan this spring and radio-tagged in the Aleutians this Aug, flew s. past Washington and Oregon during late Nov, ranging from 20 to 100 km offshore (R. Suryan); this Short-tailed was about the 7th for both Washington and Oregon.

Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were excellent, averaging over 300 per trip, and 16 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were reported from 30 Aug on, about average. Pink-footeds were also seen in above-normal numbers from shore, with tallies of 50 at Boiler Bay, Lincoln 21 Sep (PP) and Siltcoos L. outlet, Lane 28 Sep (J. Fontane). Buller's Shearwater numbers were quite low until 5 Oct, when 705 were found off Westport. Sooty Shearwater numbers were good in Aug,

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with two mid-Aug trips totaling 13,000 and 23,000, but most of the Sep/Oct counts were below 500. From shore, Sooty Shearwater numbers were excellent, with peaks of 800,000 along Clatsop Beach 25 Aug (LC, MP) and 250,000 at Klipsan Beach, Pacific 17 Aug (MD, MLD); unlike as for fulmar, no unusual mortality was noted. Only 11 Short-tailed Shearwaters were found offshore, all in late Sep and Oct.

SA Northern Fulmars appeared in record numbers along the Region's coast. Peak tallies from Oregon's shore included 7000 at Boiler Bay 31 Oct (PP) and 5000 at Seaside, *Clatsop* 19 Nov (SW), and Washington's top coastal count was 800 at Westport 6 Nov (CW). Unfortunately, large numbers were found dead on beaches as well. Fulmars also staged an unprecedented invasion deep into the Puget Trough, where extremely rare. These birds arrived in two waves, one in mid-Oct and one in mid-Nov, both associated with strong westerlies. Peak counts included 109 at P.N.P. 11 Nov (VN) and 90 at Seattle 11 Nov (J. Nance). Past Puget Trough records have correlated somewhat with coastal die-offs, likely representing oceanic food scarcity. Notably, organized pelagic trips, almost all prior to Oct, gave little hint of the invasion to come, averaging under 200 per trip until 27 Sep off Westport, when 1231 were reported (BT).

However, a few Short-taileds arrived in the Puget Trough, where not annual, including 3 at P.N.P. 11 Nov (VN) and one at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 17 Nov (DD). Manx Shearwater sightings continue to proliferate. A Manx was off Depoe Bay, *Lincoln* 16 Aug (†T. Guy), 2 were at Leadbetter Point, *Pacific* 10 Aug (†CW), and one was at O.S. 1 Aug (†M. Donahue); several others were reported from shore without documentation. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel over Astoria Canyon, *Clatsop* 13 Sep provided the 2nd Regional record this year and Oregon's first since 1996 (†GG, †T. Shelmerdine, †T. Snetsinger). Adding to the menagerie of tubenoses in the Puget Trough this fall was Skagit's 3rd Leach's Storm-Petrel, found in a Burlington parking lot 31 Oct (E. Lark, ph. KW). Atypically, several Leach's were reported from shore along the outer coast, mostly during mid-Oct and mid-Nov.

Westside flocks of American White Pelicans were formerly most unusual, but they have been found increasingly over the past few years. Groups of 25 and 34 spent most of the summer and then lingered into early Sep at ER.R. and Sauvie I., respectively (m. ob.); the only w. Washington sighting was of 2 at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 30 Oct (DD). Great Egrets seem to be increasing throughout the Region. A tally of 144 at Ridgefield 25 Sep was likely a record count for Washington (S. Hagen), while 190 on Sauvie I. 14 Aug was equally unusual (HN). To the n., 9 Greats were found at scattered locations in *Snohomish* during Aug, unprecedented for the n. Puget Trough. A Snowy Egret was n. of its usual range at Toledo, *Lincoln* 9 Nov (C. Philo). Cattle Egret numbers remained very low: 5 near Sylvana, *Snohomish* 25 Oct–1 Nov (SM, DD), 3 at Dallesport, *Klickitat* 29 Nov (SJ), and singles at Florence 8 Nov+ (SM, DD), Astoria, *Clatsop* 2 Nov (*vide* LC), and North Cove, *Pacific* 9 Nov (PtS, RS). A Green Heron, rare in e. Washington, was at Paterson Slough, *Benton* 28 Aug (C. Merkley), and up to 2 frequented Bingen, *Klickitat* 19 Aug–24 Sep (SJ). Black-crowned Night-Herons were well reported in w. Oregon, including one high in the Cascades at Gold L. near Willamette Pass, *Lane* 8–9 Aug (J. & K. Fairchild). Most unusual for fall, stray White-faced Ibis visited Tumalo Res., *Deschutes* 11 Aug (JM) and Vanport Wetlands, *Multnomah* 19 Sep (JFi, B. Stites); almost all of the Region's vagrant ibis occur during spring/summer.

Two Pink-footed Geese of unknown origin graced Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 5 Nov+ (ph. RS,

PtS). This species has been recorded about 15 times in North America but never w. of Pennsylvania. Thus, captive origin would seem likely, but apparently Pink-footeds are exceedingly unusual in captivity in North America (per G. Toffic). The long-staying Port Angeles Emperor Goose remained throughout the period (BN). A Snow Goose at Summer L., *Lake* 16 Aug was more than a month early and may have summered locally (PaS). Errant Ross's Geese included one at Fernhill Wetlands 9 Nov+ (MMi, HN), 2 at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 10 Nov+ (JP), and one near Four Lakes, *Spokane* 10–11 Nov (MH, JA); this represents a better-than-average fall.

Seven eastside Eurasian Wigeon were found 22 Oct+. Eurasian Milfoil, considered a nuisance weed in Washington's waterways, is prime food source for many waterbirds. One



These two Pink-footed Geese were discovered at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, Washington on 2 November 2003, a week after passage of a storm system with powerful northeasterly winds. However these birds arrived here, they remained through the season and drew hundreds of birders to Washington's Outer Coast. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

heavily infested stretch of the Columbia R. near Vantage, *Klickitat* harbored 34,000 American Wigeons on 12 Nov, probably the largest concentration ever in e. Washington (RH, JT); one wonders how many Eurasians were hiding among the throng. Even more impressive, a report of 50,000 Northern Shovelers from L. Abert, *Lake* 14 Sep was unprecedented for the Region (T. Seager). A Common x Green-winged Teal near Florence, *Snohomish* 30 Oct provided a record-early arrival of Common Teal genes (SM), but no pure Common Teal were reported.

A male Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid was near Maryhill, *Klickitat* 28 Nov (DMA, vt. SM); no pure Tufteds were identified. Scaup also gathered in large numbers near Vantage, with 33,000 present 12 Nov, probably a Washington

record high count (RH, JT); the majority of scaup here are typically Lessers. A stunning concentration of 150,000 scoters was located between Cooks Chasm and the mouth of the Yachats R., *Lincoln* 4 Nov (R. Lowe). Both White-winged and Surf Scoters appeared in near-normal numbers on the eastside. Thirty-seven Surfs were found in the period 20 Sep–17 Nov, with a peak of 13 near Fishhook Park, *Walla Walla* 2 Oct (C. & F. Simonen), and there were 16 White-wingeds 27 Sep–17 Nov. Also noteworthy were 9 Surfs high in the Cascades w. of Santiam Pass at Big L., *Linn* 14 Oct (JF). A Black Scoter at McNary Dam 9 Nov added to only eight previous eastside records, most of which have been Sep–Nov (MD, MLD, J. Gatchett). Only 3 eastside Long-tailed Ducks were located: singles at Bingen, *Klickitat* 6 Nov (SJ) and 8 Nov near Parkdale, *Hood River* (SJ) and at McNary Dam (MD, MLD, PaS). The Common Goldeneye x Bufflehead hybrid returned to Wentachee, *Chelan* 28 Nov for the 3rd consecutive winter (DB).

An Osprey at Redmond, *King* 26 Nov was very late for Washington (M. Hobbs). White-tailed Kites are increasing on the Westside, as evidenced by 14 at Puget I., *Wahkiakum* 29 Nov (BT); one in the Cascades at Washington's Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch 7 Oct was clearly out of place (D. Harrington). Counts of 115 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Oregon's Bonney Butte Hawkwatch 4 Oct (D. Helzer) and 114 there 13 Oct (DBy) were exceptional. There were 5 Red-shouldered Hawks in Washington this year. In w. Washington, a record-early bird was at Ridgefield 13–16 Aug (TA), another (or the same) one was there 2 Nov (†BT), and one was at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 14 Sep (†E. Newbold). In e. Washington, 2 Red-shouldered were at Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat* 4 Sep (JE). Red-shouldered Hawks also continue to increase in Oregon, with about 50 w. of the Cascades and, e. of the Cascades, 3 in *Deschutes*, 2 in *Harney*, and *Mal-*

heur's first near Vale in late Sep (E. Marple). Three Broad-winged Hawks were reported from the Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch, including 2 on 24 Sep (D. Harrington), while 11 passed the Bonney Butte Hawkwatch 4–30 Sep, including a peak of 8 on 30 Sep (MMi). A single late Broad-winged stopped at Fields, *Harney* 18 Oct (Maitreya). A Swainson's Hawk, extremely rare on the outer coast, was near Brookings, *Curry* 4 Oct (TR). A concentration of 60 American Kestrels at Conboy N.W.R. 5 Sep was likely a record for Washington (JE). The fall was better than average for Gyrfalcons, with 6 in Washington and one in Oregon, including early birds at Vantage, *Kittitas* 4 Oct (SM, C. Beachell) and Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 11 Oct (T. Janzen). It was a distinctly subpar fall for Prairie Falcons

w. of the Cascades, with singles near Monroe, *Snohomish* 22 Nov (MB) and at F.R.R. 26 Oct (JS). A wayward Ruffed Grouse at Windust Park 15 Sep was approximately 80 km from the nearest suitable habitat and likely a *Franklin* first (†CW, F. Boesche). A total of 54 Mountain Quail was tallied along the N. Fork of the John Day R., *Grant/Umatilla* 19 Aug, in an area where normally hard to find (MD, MLD). A collection of 34,000 American Coots took advantage of the milfoil near Vantage 12 Nov (RH, JT).

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS

A tally of 8000 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* 30 Aug was the Region's highest ever (CW). On the westside, the fall was a good one for Pacific Golden-Plovers but poor for Americans, with a final count of approximately 25 Americans, 68 Pacifics, and 21 unidentified. The peak count of 6 Americans and 38 Pacifics came from O.S. 4 Oct (CW, RTS, TN). On the eastside, however, American Golden-Plovers had their best year since 1996, with 6 detected 20 Sep–5 Oct, plus one early bird at Potholes Res., *Grant* 10 Aug (DG, ph. J. Flynn); most eastside records have been early Sep–late Oct. A Snowy Plover near Florence, *Snohomish* 2 Sep was only the Puget Trough's 3rd (ph. KW, JW); amazingly, the 2nd was just this spring in Seattle! Two Snowies at Stinking L., *Harney* 23 Sep were very late for the eastside (NS). An estimated 2000 Killdeer at Cold Springs N.W.R., *Umatilla* 25 Sep was among the Region's largest concentrations ever (CC, JC). A Black-necked Stilt at Priest Rapids, *Grant* 5 Oct was about a month late (AS, ES), while one at the New R. 3 Aug was only the 3rd for well-birded Coos (J. Heaney). A flock of 24 American Avocets (rare on the westside) at F.R.R. 3 Sep set a westside record (D. Fix, DI, L. McQueen, PSh), while one at Alice Bay, *Skagit* 29 Nov+ furnished a record-late date for Washington (P. Webster). Four others were in w. Oregon 3 Sep–14 Nov.

This fall was exceptional for Solitary Sandpipers yet did not match autumns of 2001 and 2002. A total of 34 Solitaries was seen on the eastside, and 24 were on the westside, with a maximum of 9 at Othello, *Adams* 29 Aug (BF) and late birds at Y.R.D. 2 Oct (NL) and Finley N.W.R., *Benton* 6 Oct (RC, JF). A Whimbrel, rare on the eastside, visited Wenatchee/East Wenatchee 15–19 Sep (DB). The fall was a marvelous one for Hudsonian Godwits, with 5 in Washington and 3 in Oregon adding to about 41 previous Regional records; 6 were on the westside 20 Sep–19 Oct, another was near Ellensburg, *Kittitas* 21 Aug (†SDs), and a record-late bird was at Tokeland, *Pacific* 26 Oct–16 Nov (†R. Robinson, J. Hadley, ph. RS, †BT, †R. Lawson). For only the 2nd fall since 1975, there were no Bar-tailed Godwits documented. A count of 1400 Marbled Godwits at Tokeland 12 Nov shattered Washington's previous high count (E. Hunn). On the eastside,

where rare, 4 Marbled Godwits were at Heron L., *Spokane* 26 Aug (F. Haywood, J. Alonso), and singles were at Cold Springs Res., *Umatilla* 3 Sep (CC), W.W.R.D. 11 Sep (TA), and LaGrande, *Union* 25 Sep (TB). An ad. Ruddy Turnstone, very rare for the eastside, was at Potholes Res., *Grant* 3–4 Aug (ph. DSc, DB). A gathering of 650 Surfbirds at the Siuslaw R. jetties, *Lane* 5 Aug provided a record-high Oregon count (J. Fontane, M. Iliff). A Red Knot, extremely rare in the Willamette Valley, was at F.R.R. 14 Oct (D. Arendt, DDW). Thirty Sanderlings, well above normal, were detected on the eastside, punctuated by 17 at Potholes Res. 20 Sep (DSc), the highest e. Washington tally since 1980. It was a good fall for Semipalmated Sandpipers, with 85 in Washington and 17 in Oregon, nearly evenly split between eastside and west. The peak tally was 20 at Lind Coulee, *Grant* 6 Sep (CW, RTS, TN), plus singles at Y.R.D. 1–3 Oct (BW) and L. Sammamish, *King* 1 Oct (C. Haynie) were the Region's first for Oct. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers appeared in numbers again this fall, with 17 recorded 15 Sep–27 Nov. The top count was 5 near Florence, *Snohomish* 8 Oct (JW, KW), while one near Walla Walla 27–29 Sep added to approximately 17 previous eastside records (MD, MLD). Stilt Sandpipers were also reported in above-average numbers, with 47 on the eastside and 12 on the west; following the pattern of the last few years, some stayed quite late, including one at Soap L., *Grant* 22 Oct (TA), 3 at Lind Coulee 24 Oct (RH), and one near Florence, *Snohomish* 25 Oct (SM, DD). Seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers this fall was near normal: up to 4 at N.S.C.B. 23 Aug–2 Sep (TR, K. Fairchild), plus singles at Tillamook Bay 24 Aug (R. Smith), O.S. 26 Aug (†PtS, RS), and Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 1–8 Sep (DW, BWA, ph. GGe, ph. RS). It was a Ruff fall again, with 11 found in the Region, including 3 on the eastside, from which there were only about 15 previous records: Lind Coulee 23 Aug (BL, NL), Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 11 Sep (TA), and Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 5 Sep (JM). Also of note was a Ruff at O.S. 29 Nov that was about two months tardy (PtS, ph. RS); at least 4 different individuals stopped near Florence, *Snohomish* 30 Aug–25 Sep (JW, vt. KW, GA, vt. SM). It was another good fall for eastside Short-billed Dowitchers, with about 15 in Washington and 3 in Oregon, 25 Aug–11 Sep; one wonders if recent increases there are due to improved observer awareness. A Short-billed at Coos Bay 27 Nov was about a month late (TR). A Washington record-high 1510 Long-billed Dowitchers were near Florence, *Snohomish* 25 Oct (SM, DD). Continuing a long-term trend, offshore phalarope numbers were quite low, with peaks of only 262 Red-neckeds and 80 Reds off Westport 9 Aug. A gathering of 5000 phalaropes at Summer L., *Lake* 9–10 Aug was about evenly split between Wilson's and Red-necked (DT). Rare in the Willamette Valley, 4 Red Phalaropes were at Halsey, *Linn* 30 Oct (JF), one was at

F.R.R. 30 Oct (L. Gilbert), and another was at Fernhill Wetlands 18 Oct (L. Meserve).

Jaeger numbers offshore were rather unsatisfactory this fall, with Pomarines averaging a paltry 6 per trip and a total of only 14 Long-tailed Jaegers all season. In contrast, South Polar Skuas set records, with counts of 30 off Westport 5 Oct (BLB) and 7 off Newport 4 Oct (GG). Away from the coast, 4 Parasitic Jaegers were found on the eastside, where not annual, including 2 at W.W.R.D. 13 Sep (MD, MLD), another there 14–16 Sep (MD, MLD), and one at Soap L., *Grant* 17 Aug (ph. DSc, DB); a Parasitic at P.N.P. 19 Nov was about three weeks late (TA). There were 16 Franklin's Gulls away from e. Oregon, including 9 in e. Washington, 5 in w. Washington, and 2 in w. Oregon; this is, perhaps, average for the last few years but well below the numbers of a decade ago. Little Gulls have also declined over the last decade, and for the first fall since 1993, there were no Regional records. Heermann's Gulls again visited in good numbers, with 5000 at Siletz Bay, *Lincoln* in early Aug (PP, WH) and another 5000 flying s. past Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 17 Nov (PP). A Mew Gull at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 2 Sep was a month or so early for the eastside (SM), while a maximum of 6000 flew past Boiler Bay 2 Nov (PP). A tally of 10,000 California Gulls at Siletz Bay in early Aug was among the highest ever for the Region (WH, PP). Western Gulls very rarely stray from coastal waters, except along the Columbia R. and the Willamette R., where they are regular in small numbers e. to the Tri-Cities and in the n. Willamette Valley. Interior Western Gulls elsewhere this fall included one at Moses L., *Grant* 15 Nov (DSc) and *Josephine's* first at L. Selmac 17 Oct (DV). Five Oregon and 3 Washington Glaucous Gulls 13 Oct+ represented the best fall since 1994. An astonishing 15 Sabine's Gulls were found on the eastside 7–25 Sep; oddly, only one was found in the Puget Trough, at Dash Pt., *Pierce* 21–30 Sep (CW). Offshore, Sabine's seemed to pass through late, with 371 off Westport 5 Oct (BT) but none off Oregon during Aug and Sep (GG) and only 95 off Washington during the same time period (BT). A Black-legged Kittiwake, rare in the Puget Trough, was at P.N.P. 10–19 Nov (VN).

Only 5 Elegant Terns were found this fall, all along the Oregon coast 1–27 Aug. Common Tern numbers were exceptional on the eastside, with over 150 found during Sep, punctuated by 41 at Sprague L., *Adams* 1 Sep (SM, BF). Arctic Terns were extremely scarce offshore; only 10 were noted all season. A Forster's Tern stopped at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 16 Oct (DD); they are nearly annual in the Puget Trough, mostly in Oct and Nov, considerably later than elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. The 10 Forster's in w. Oregon were all during Aug, including maximum of 7 at F.R.R. 9 Aug (DI). Three juv. Black Terns at F.R.R. 3 Sep were present three weeks after the mass departure of local breeders (DI), and a very rare westside fall migrant was at Van-

port Wetlands, *Multnomah* 10 Sep (JFi). After a reasonable breeding season, Common Murre numbers appeared normal offshore. Several Cassin's Auklet counts exceeding 100 off Oregon and Washington seemed to indicate a rebounding population, as did an average of 2.5 Tufted Puffins per trip.

PIGEONS THROUGH PIPITS

Rare on the eastside, 3 Band-tailed Pigeons were near Chinook Pass, *Yakima* 30 Aug (AS, ES), and one was at McCall Basin, *Yakima* 24 Aug (AS, ES). Washington's 3rd Eurasian Collared-Dove was near Silvana, *Snohomish* 9 Oct (†DD). Oregon's 7th White-winged Dove was at Astoria, *Clatsop* 4 Sep (†MP). A w. Washington record-high 600 Mourning Doves were at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 29 Nov (SM, CW, RTS, TN). A Great Gray Owl was near Clearwater Guard Station, *Garfield* 20 Sep (P. Sprague); there are still very few records from Washington's Blue Mts. Representing a typical fall, single Boreal Owls were located at Freezeout Ridge, *Okanogan* 25 Oct (AS, ES), in *Wallowa* near Tollgate 27 Sep and 26 Oct (MD, MLD), and at Todd L., *Deschutes* 4–10 Oct (PaS). Eugene's Vaux's Swift roost peaked at 15,000 in the period 16 Sep–3 Oct (DI), and a roost in n. Portland still had 10,000 on 13 Oct (R. Thompson). A stray Anna's Hummingbird was near Wapato, *Yakima* 8 Sep–5 Oct (AS, ES); this species is still rare in e. Washington away from *Klickitat*. Three Costa's Hummingbirds in Oregon this fall, all on the westside, was above average. The fall was a good one for Lewis's Woodpeckers, highlighted by a stunning 200 near Balch L., *Klickitat* 25 Oct (WC). Single Lewis's, rare in w. Washington, were at Mt. Pleasant, *Skamania* 1–14 Sep (WC) and Steigerwald L., *Clark* 15 Sep (WC). Acorn Woodpeckers wandered far and wide. One on White's Ridge, *Yakima* 1 Sep was only Washington's 2nd away from *Klickitat* (†RH), while another at Bend 20 Nov was *Deschutes*'s first (DH). Less displaced, but still noteworthy, was an Acorn near Oakridge, *Lane* 10 Sep (DI), and the small resident population in Washington persevered, with 5 found near Balch L. 20 Sep (J. Bragg). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Mary's Peak 2 Sep provided a very rare Coast Range record and was a first for *Benton* (D. Robinson); 2 seen 19 Sep were also just w. of the Cascade crest near Waldo L., *Lane*, where nearly annual (A. Prigge). Red-naped Sapsuckers are very rare w. of the Cascades, so singles at Vancouver, *Clark* 12 Nov+ (R. Korpi), Portland 19 Sep (GL), and near Brookings, *Curry* 21 Nov (DM, Phil Hicks) were noteworthy. Similarly, Red-breasted Sapsuckers are rare e. of the Cascades; thus, singles near *Yakima* 23 Sep (M. Roper) and at Lostine R. Canyon, *Wallowa* 24 Sep (TB) were nice finds. Finishing off the cadre of stray woodpeckers, a White-headed at Summit L. 13 Aug was likely *Clackamas*'s first (E. Specht).

For the 5th consecutive fall, Least Flycatch-

ers were identified in the Region, with singles at Wahluke Slope, *Franklin* 31 Aug (SM, BF, DSC) and at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla* 9 Sep (JC, CC); most fall records have been late Aug–mid-Sep. A rash of tardy *Empidonax* in Oregon included a Willow at Portland 14 Oct (E. Knight), a Hammond's at Riley, *Harney* 18 Oct (CG), a Dusky at Malheur 12 Oct (J. Carlson), and a Pacific-slope at Portland 16 Oct (GL). Another Dusky at Eugene 8 Sep furnished a very rare fall Willamette Valley record (DI). Two Black Phoebes were found in Washington, both probably returning birds: Ridgefield 13–22 Aug (†TA) and near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum* 17 Aug–29 Nov (KK, vt. BT); Washington has only five records. Another Black Phoebe near Frenchglen 28 Sep was only the 2nd for heavily birded *Harney* (D. Smith). A Say's Phoebe near Silverdale, *Kitsap* 25 Oct+ was about the 12th for fall in w. Washington (BWa), while 6 in w. Oregon was near average. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Steigerwald L., *Clark* 29 Aug was about the 16th for w. Washington (WC); most have been from mid-May through late Jul. Another Ash-throated near Lebanon, *Linn* 7 Aug was n. of that species' range in w. Oregon (B. Thackaberry). Washington's 5th Vermilion Flycatcher graced Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 30 Nov (ph. C. Standridge); the late-fall date is consistent with previous records. There were 8 Tropical Kingbirds this fall, including early birds at Oysterville, *Pacific* 20 Sep (CW, ph. MD) and N.S.C.B. 25 Sep (TR); of the remaining 6, 4 were in Oregon and 2 in Washington, with one at Gearhart, *Clatsop* remaining through Nov (MP, SW). A Western Kingbird near Ilwaco, *Pacific* 2 Sep was on the outer coast, where very rare during fall (D. Paulson). Washington's 3rd Scissor-tailed Flycatcher of the year, and 6th overall, was at Seattle 2 Aug (ph. S. MacKay, M. Miller), while another near Burns, *Harney* 3–23 Oct was about the 18th for Oregon (J. Schultz, NS).

There were 2 westside Loggerhead Shrikes: one at F.R.R. 16 Oct (A. Orahoske) and a late bird near Brownsville, *Linn* 20 Nov (R. Campbell). A Blue-headed Vireo in Eugene 10 Sep was Oregon's 9th and *Lane*'s first (DI, L. Irons); most previous records were 9 Sep–5 Oct. A Hutton's Vireo, extremely rare in e. Washington, was on White's Ridge, *Yakima* 6 Oct (BF). Four Blue Jays in Washington and 3 in Oregon, 12 Oct+ was near normal. Western Scrub-Jays continue to wander and colonize, with an especially lost bird in the Blue Mts. on Devil's Tailbone Ridge 1 Aug (P. Wik) and 4 at the Bonney Butte Hawkwatch 20 Sep (D. Manzer); less peculiar but also noteworthy were individuals in *Clatsop*, *Pacific*, *Skagit*, *Clallam*, and *Kitsap* 30 Aug–26 Oct. A kettle of 95 Common Ravens at Florence, *Snohomish* 9 Aug provided an exceptional count for the westside (SM, DD). A concentration of 4000 Violet-green Swallows at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 15 Sep was extraordinary (W. Weber). A Rough-winged Swallow near

Vantage, *Kittitas* 24 Nov was about two months late (B. Sundstrom). Though a far cry from gatherings of recent years, 50,000 Barn Swallows were near Dayton, *Yamhill* 24 Sep (D. Albright, C. Karlen), and 20,000 were at F.R.R. 17 Aug (DI, PSh).

The only lowland Mountain Chickadees were 4 in s. *Klickitat* 22 Sep–30 Oct (SJ). An estimated 300 Chestnut-backed Chickadees near Jewell, *Clatsop* 31 Aug likely set a Regional record (LC). A White-breasted Nuthatch near Wood L., *Mason* 18 Aug (MM) was a vagrant, but from where? With the Puget Sound population now extirpated, the nearest source would be either *S. c. aculeata* from *Clark* or *S. c. tenuissima* from *Kittitas*, both about 200 km away. A Rock Wren, rare w. of the Cascades in Washington, was on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 22–24 Oct (BWa). Bewick's Wrens, like Western Scrub-Jays, continued to expand in the Region, leading to some birds appearing in most unlikely situations. Topping this fall's list was a Bewick's at nearly 1800 m near Bear Gap, *Yakima* 10 Aug (AS, ES); other notable strays were at Sprague L., *Lincoln* 28 Sep (MB, MH) and Frenchglen, *Harney* 10 Oct (MD, MLD). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Prineville Res. 15 Aug was a *Crook* first (ph. CG). A Mountain Bluebird, very rare w. of the Cascades during fall, visited Thornton Creek, *Lincoln* 27 Aug (D. Faxon); most such records have come from Nov. A Townsend's Solitaire at O.S. 19 Oct was on Washington's outer coast, where not annual (AS, ES). Gray Catbirds at East Wenatchee, *Douglas* 23 Sep (DB) and Tumalo S.P., *Deschutes* 6 Oct (SS) were late, though Washington records from mid- to late Sep have increased greatly over the last few years. Only 3 Northern Mockingbirds were noted in Oregon away from their localized *Jackson* breeding areas, while Washington had singles near Joyce, *Clallam* 2–4 Sep (K. Ladenheimer) and at Bingen, *Klickitat* 28 Nov (DMA, SM). Washington's 8th Brown Thrasher was at Spokane 1 Oct (W. Hall, JA). Long overdue, Oregon's first Red-throated Pipit defied conventional wisdom by appearing at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 6–11 Oct (C&MM, ph. DT); the Region's only other record comes from San Juan I. 14–16 Sep 1979.

Oregon's 3rd Blue-winged Warbler was at Riley, *Harney* 9 Sep (AC, D. Farrar, S. Steinberg). Washington's 2nd Golden-winged Warbler was on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 11–12 Sep (ph. BWa, D. Watkins, BN); the first was in *Spokane* 20 Aug 1998. This fall's only Tennessee Warbler was at Redmond, *Deschutes* 2 Oct (K. Owen). Five Nashville Warblers in w. Washington early Aug–early Sep were most unusual; most w. Washington Nashvilles are found during spring. The westside's 4th Virginia's Warbler was at N.S.C.B. 11–13 Sep (TR, D. Lauten, D. Pettey); past records were all from Oregon during fall. Washington's 12th Northern Parula was at North Beach, *Pacific* 7 Sep (vt. BT, T. Schooley); the two prior fall records were on 18

Aug and 1 Sep. A stunning 200 Yellow Warblers were in Tumalo S.P. 1 Sep (DH, S. Kornfeld). Adding to about 40 previous records, Oregon had 3 Chestnut-sided Warblers: near Sisters, *Deschutes* 1 Sep (H. Horvath), at Fields, *Harney* 3 Sep (vt. SM), and at Bend 7 Sep (J. Moodie). A Myrtle Warbler at Skagit City 9 Aug was about a month early (SM, DD). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Tacoma 27 Nov was more than six weeks late (R. McNair-Huff). A Hermit x Townsend's Warbler at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 29 Aug was e. of the Cascades, where Hermit genes are rare (SM). A **Blackburnian Warbler**, approximately Oregon's 10th, was near Sisters, *Deschutes* 19 Aug (DT); this was the earliest during fall by nearly a month. Vagrant **Yellow-throated Warblers** provided Washington's 2nd and Oregon's 5th record near Asotin 19 Oct (†C. Vande Voorde, †L. LaVoie) and at Frenchglen, *Harney* 1–26 Oct (S. Wright, ph. NS), respectively; the only previous fall record is of a bird that attempted overwintering in *Okanogan*, WA. Palm Warblers are very rare on the eastside and rare on the westside away from the outer coast. Stray Palms were widespread this fall, including 3 from the interior west and eastside birds at Malheur 13 Sep (NS) and 30 Sep–2 Oct (NS), Sprague L., *Lincoln* 28 Sep (MH), and 2 at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 9–11 Oct (D. Petzey). Adding to 14 previous records, Washington had 2 different **Blackpoll Warblers** at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 6 (†CW, RTS, TN) & 15 Sep (†CW) plus another bird at Sprague L., *Lincoln* 9 Sep (†TA); most prior Washington Blackpolls were late Aug–early Sep. Not to be outdone, Oregon had 5 Blackpolls 31 Aug–20 Sep; during recent years, Oregon has averaged about 2 per fall, with a great majority of these from the southeast. The Region's only Black-and-white Warbler was at Prineville Res., *Crook* 10 Aug (CG). An American Redstart at Ridgefield 16 Aug provided a rare westside record (WC), while 3 at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 30 Aug were an unusual number for migration on the eastside (SM, RH). Three Ovenbirds this season brought Oregon's total to nearly 50: Bend 7 Sep (JM), North Bend, *Coos* 16 Oct (S. Townsend), and Elk R., *Curry* 24 Nov (J. Rogers); most fall records have been during late Aug and early Sep. Very rare on the westside, a Northern Waterthrush was in Seattle 21 Aug (TA), and a more adventurous bird landed on a boat 17 km off Garibaldi, *Tillamook* 4 Oct (fide C. Roberts).

A Chipping Sparrow at Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 27 Nov was more than two months late (DWa). Washington's 5 Clay-colored Sparrows this fall were unprecedented, but a single in Oregon was somewhat disappointing. Notably, all were from the westside, including one at Steigerwald L., *Clark* 30 Aug, about two months early for the westside (WC). A migrant Vesper Sparrow, now noteworthy in w. Washington, was at Seattle 19 Sep (K. Aanerud). A single Lark Sparrow, rare on the Oregon coast, was at

Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook* 7 Sep (DMA). A gathering of 275 Savannah Sparrows at Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 15 Oct set a Washington record (R. Rogers). Single Slate-colored Fox Sparrows were at Portland 1 Sep (GL) and Puget I., *Wahkiakum* 29 Nov (BT); recent records have demonstrated that this taxon is regular w. of the Cascades, often occurring surprisingly late in the fall. Swamp Sparrow numbers were good again this fall, including 6 in Washington and 5 in Oregon; sightings from the eastside, where barely annual, included singles at Vantage, *Kittitas* 16 Oct (TA), Tumalo S.P. 7 Oct (SS), Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 9 Nov (DH), and McNary Dam, *Umatilla* 13 Nov (MD, MLD). Six Harris's Sparrows this fall, 2 in Washington and 4 in Oregon, was subpar. A Slate-colored Junco at Palouse Falls, *Franklin* 15 Sep was record early for Washington (CW). A McCown's Longspur was described from Grayland Beach, *Pacific* 5 Nov (†MD, MLD); if accepted, this would furnish Washington's first record. Oregon's 2nd Smith's Longspur was in n. Portland 17–18 Oct (ph. S. Jagers); the first was near Florence, *Lane* 24 Sep 2000. Oregon had another exceptional fall for Chestnut-collared Longspurs, with a stunning 14 at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 4–10 Oct (DH), plus singles near Seaside, *Clatsop* 5 Oct (MP) and at Clatsop Spit 4–13 Oct (B. O'Brien, MP); there are about 18 prior records, mostly from early Oct–early Nov, including about six last fall. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Everett 14 Sep was only Washington's 4th from fall (†SM), while singles at Grants Pass, *Josephine* 12 Aug (DV) and Portland 12 Sep (MMi) provided a fairly typical fall total for Oregon. An Indigo Bunting at Fields, *Harney* 16–18 Oct was only the 7th for fall in Oregon, most of which have been during Nov (T. Janzen).

A Bobolink, rare on the Oregon coast, was near Florence, *Lane* 28 Sep (J. Fontane). A gathering of 5000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Corfu, *Grant* 8 Sep set a Washington record (RH). A Rusty Blackbird at McNary Dam, *Umatilla* 9 Nov added to about 13 previous Oregon records (MD, MLD, J. Gatchett); in Washington, singles near Kent, *King* 24–28 Oct (MB), near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 5 Nov (T. Peterson), and at Sedro-Woolley, *Skagit* 23 Nov (†G. Bletsch) represented an average fall. Washington's 13th **Common Grackle** visited a race track in Auburn, *King* 15 Aug (†A. Roedell); this was w. Washington's 3rd and the first since 1975. In Oregon, which averages about 2 Common Grackles annually, one was at Frenchglen, *Harney* 23 Oct (M. Beretta). A flock of 430 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Skagit City 13 Sep set a Washington record (SM, DD); this species has been increasing, especially as a winterer in the Region. Up to 200 Black Rosy-Finches frequented Steens Mt. 10 Aug–4 Oct, likely setting a Regional record (HN, NS, TR). A Pine Grosbeak, unusual on the westside away from the Cascades/Olympics, was near Elbow L., *Thurston* 2 Aug (Paul Hicks). A White-winged

Crossbill near Baldy Pass, *Okanogan* 26 Aug was the only report (B. Sundstrom). A small influx of Common Redpolls was noted in late Nov, with groups of up to 4 found in *Spokane*, *Grant*, and *Douglas* (MM, DSc, DB). *Skamania*'s first Lesser Goldfinch appeared at Underwood 27 Nov (SJ, C. Flick); Washington's breeding population is still restricted to *Klickitat*, but numbers there have been increasing, and so has the frequency of strays. Oregon's 6th Lawrence's Goldfinch visited Roseburg, *Douglas* 28 Aug–8 Sep (ph. L. Balaban); interestingly, previous records were all from winter and spring.

Corrigenda & addenda: The following records came to light at the most recent meeting of the Washington Bird Records Committee: a photograph of a Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Port Orchard, *Kitsap* 11 Jul 1997, a potential first state record. Specimens of the following, not previously noted in these pages, now reside at the University of Puget Sound: Mottled Petrel, O.S. 8 Feb 2003 and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lind, *Adams*, date unknown.

The following sightings published in this column were not endorsed by the Washington Bird Records Committee owing to uncertainties about identification: Yellow-billed Magpie near Pasco 15–16 Jun 2002; Bay-breasted Warbler near Granite Falls 27 Jun 2002; and Common Grackle at Othello 3 Jul 2002.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Jim Acton, Gail Aslanian, Tom Aversa (WA), David Bailey (DBy), David Beaudette, Diane Bednarz (Skagit), Trent Bray, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Lee Cain, Rebecca Cheek, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), John Fitchen (JFi), Jeff Fleischer, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates, George Gerds (GGe), Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Dean Hale, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, Mark Houston, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Gerard Lillie, David Mandell (DMA), Judy Meredith, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig and Marilyn Miller (C&MM), Mark Miller (MMi), Jim Moodie, Matt Moskwik, Don Munson, Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Tracy Norris, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Hal Opperman, Michael Patterson, Jason Paulios, Phil Pickering, Tim Rodenkirk, Doug Schonewald (DSc), Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Paul Sherrell (PSh), Steve Shunk, Dan Stephens (Chelan), Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, John Sullivan, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Paul Sullivan (PaS), Ruth Sullivan, Jim Tabor, David Tracy, Dennis Vroman, Jan Wiggers, Keith Wiggers, Don Waggoner, Brad Waggoner (BWa), Steve Warner, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. 🐦