

Oregon & Washington



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This spring produced a potpourri of interesting events, with something for everyone. Range expansions and irruptions dominated, but there was also a reasonable assortment of rarities, strange hybrids, record shorebird numbers, numerous lingering waterfowl, and a plethora of eastside passerines gone west. Unlike the birding, the weather was unremarkable in both temperature and precipitation.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR); Lower Klamath (Lower Klamath N.W.R., Klamath, 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. (Pt. No Point, Kitsap, WA); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, Snohomish, WA); P.T. (Puget Trough, WA); S.R.M. (Sandy River mouth, Multnomah, OR); W.V. (Willamette Valley, OR); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). *Eastside* and *westside* indicate east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

A lingering Emperor Goose at Astoria through 19 Mar yielded the spring's lone sighting (L. Cain). Following recent trends, 3 Blue Geese were on Fir I., Skagit 2 Mar–10 Apr; 2 were also at more traditional locations in se. Oregon during early Mar. Peculiar hybrid geese again appeared in e. Washington. Two Snow Goose × Canada/Cackling Goose hybrids near Sprague, Lincoln 3 Apr were likely the same birds seen during Feb in Walla Walla (GS); size and plumage seem to indicate Blue Goose × Canada Goose, though several backcrosses are also possible. Another similar hybrid stopped near Corfu, Grant 19 Mar (SM, DSc, BSc, BF). Fewer-than-normal stray Ross's Geese were detected, with 4 in e. Washington and one in w. Oregon, including

late singles at Philleo L., Spokane 18 May (MW, GS) and River Bend, Pend Oreille 20–21 May (T. Little); quite late, but within range, was a Ross's at Burns 28 May (DP). Two blue-morph Ross's Geese were near Burns 9 Apr, providing the Region's 3rd record (JW, ph. K. Rollins). Ten Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*), rare in the P.T., visited Nisqually 4 Mar (SM). Two apparent Richardson's Geese (*B. h. hutchinsii*) were at McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla 19 Mar (†SM, DSc); unlike other recent pale-breasted Cackling Geese, these birds bore the structure typical of *hutchinsii* rather than *taverneri*. Rare in e. Washington, 2 *B. h. minima* were near Corfu 19 Mar (BF, DSc, BSc, SM), and one was at Waukon L., Lincoln 19 Mar (GS). Eight Aleutian Cackling Geese (*B. h. leucoparidea*), rare to very rare in the P.T., were at Nisqually 8 Apr (SM, S. Terry). Single Black Brant, rare away from salt water, were seen at Brownsville, Linn 11 Mar (R. Hoyer) and Baskett Slough, Polk 27 Mar (JW).

A number of Trumpeter Swans lingered, the latest of which were singles at Kent, King through 21 May (G. McWethy, CW) and P.S.B. 14 May+ (SM); the last usually depart in early Apr. Additionally, the long-staying Trumpeter at Turnbull N.W.R., Spokane, the sole

wick's Swan appeared near La Conner, Skagit 23 Mar and may have been one of the individuals present in Skagit this winter (†TA).

The Falcated Duck remained near Eugene through 20 Mar (AC). A record 210 Eurasian Wigeons gathered on the Samish Flats, Skagit 2 Mar (TA), while a cumulative 34 in e. Washington was nearly double the norm, and an exceptional 11 were in se. Oregon near Klamath Falls 5 Mar (M. Rudolph). A number tarried well into May, the latest of which enlivened St. Andrews, Douglas 26 May (SM). Single Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrids at Richland 24 Mar (ph. DG) and Clarkston, Asotin 26 Mar (ph. L. Hamrin) were apparently the first for e. Washington. Six Eurasian Teal were detected, 2 of which were at Lower Klamath 14 Apr (KS); they have been found annually of late on the eastside. Five Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades were noted. Both totals are exceptionally low. By season's end, several dozen pairs of Redhead were at F.R.R., where this species has bred since 2003 (DI); elsewhere on the westside, this species is an uncommon migrant and exceptionally rare breeder. A Ring-necked Duck × scaup hybrid courted a female Lesser Scaup at Edison, Skagit 30 Mar (SM, TA), while others inhabited Eugene 2



In spring 2006, Eurasian Collared-Doves escalated their movement into the Pacific Northwest dramatically, with no fewer than 48 found in Oregon and Washington, mostly east of the Cascade Mountains. A year ago, Oregon and Washington had about 30 records combined. These particular collared-doves were the only ones found in western Washington, inhabiting Point No Point, Kitsap County, 12–15 (here 15) May 2006. Photograph by George Gerdtz.

remnant from a prior introduction attempt, returned this year with a mate 15 Mar+, and nest-building ensued (GS, JA, MW). Tundra Swans also dawdled, the latest of which were 5 at Ridgefield 18 May (J. Sullivan) and singles at Keechelus L., Kittitas 17–18 May (TA) and Ellensburg 20 May (S. Gerstle). A Be-

Mar–7 Apr (DI) and Meares L., Tillamook 28 Mar (JW). Five Tufted Ducks, all on the westside 11 Mar–27 Apr, trebled the spring average. A Tufted Duck × scaup hybrid was studied at Desert Aire, Grant 11 Mar (SM, BT, BLB); its size, structure, and companions (2000 Greater Scaup) strongly suggest that

one parent was Greater Scaup. Now virtually annual on the eastside in spring, 2 Long-tailed Ducks were near Vantage 26 Mar (J. Danzenbaker). Wild Turkeys seem to be expanding their range. At Lyons Ferry, Franklin, where first noted last fall, a hen plus brood was found 7 May (DR), 2 were seen at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla 7 May (DR), and up to 8 were in Washtucna, where they apparently initially arrived last fall, providing Adams's first record (BF).

The 1500 Red-throated Loons passing Boiler Bay 24 Apr (PP) yielded the Region's best spring tally since 2002. Not annual during spring on the eastside, a Pacific Loon appeared at E. Wenatchee, Douglas 5 Mar (CW). A Washington-record 50,000 Pacific Loons passed O.S. on the somewhat late date of 20 May (KA), while peak passage at Boiler Bay was 15,000 on the more typical date of 1 May (PP). Three Yellow-billed Loons 26 Mar–11 Apr was near normal. Six Clark's Grebes inhabited Vancouver L., Clark 13 May (SM); otherwise, only 2 were found in w. Washington through 22 Apr. There were five organized pelagic trips off Oregon and Washington this spring, plus a NOAA research cruise that was off Washington's coast 14–31 Mar. Laysan Albatrosses are nearly annual during spring, but this year's 7 was the most since 2000: 2 were off Washington during Mar (SMi), 4 were off Newport 18 Mar (GG), and one was off Charleston, Coos 21 May (GG). An astonishing spring tally of 500 Black-footed Albatrosses was garnered off Charleston, Coos 21 May (GG). A first-year Short-tailed Albatross over Perpetua Bank 18 Mar provided Oregon's 10th modern-day record (GG); most Regional records are Sep–Jan. A dark gadfly petrel (*Pterodroma* species) was about 60 km off O.S. 30 Apr (TG); Washington has about seven records of such, all late Apr–late Sep, with only Murphy's Petrel having been definitively identified. Fulmar and shearwater numbers were low. Northern Fulmar averaged fewer than 30 per pelagic trip, the Pink-footed Shearwater total was below 40, and Sooty Shearwater numbers averaged only about 2000 per trip. For the 6th consecutive spring, a Flesh-footed Shearwater was detected, this time off Newport 18 Mar, about six weeks early (GG). Most remarkable was a Buller's Shearwater near Kydaka Pt., Clallam 19 Mar (SMi, A. Richards, J. Plissner); there are fewer than 10 Washington records outside Aug–Nov and only two prior records from Washington's inland marine waters. A record 11 Manx Shearwaters were reported this spring, with 2 off Westport 22 Apr (†BT), 3 at Ft. Canby, Pacific 14 May (TG), 4 off Westport 20 May (†BT), and singles at Boiler Bay 2 Apr and 2 May (PP).



Populations of Wild Turkey in southeastern Washington and northeastern Oregon seem to be exploding. On 30 November 2002, a record-high 310 were found along Upper Dry Creek, Umatilla County, Oregon, and as of September 2005, the species had established itself in Franklin County, Washington at Lyons Ferry. These two males, in company of six females (here 28 May 2006), apparently first arrived at Washtucna last fall, furnishing a first record for Washington's Adams County. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

American White Pelicans are now expected in the W.V., with 76 reported from seven locations from Eugene to Steigerwald L., Clark. Farther n. on the westside, where still rare, 6 were along Hood Canal, Mason 27 May (fide B. Shelmerdine), and 3 visited Sequim Bay,

where in the P.T. 25 May+. Only 4 White-faced Ibis were noted in Washington, including an early bird near Cheney, Spokane 7–8 May (CC, JC).

The Region's first spring Broad-winged Hawks since 2000 were seen at Malheur 27 Apr (M. Marsh) and Baskett Slough 28 Apr (B. Tice). Now annual on the westside, single Swainson's Hawks were observed along the New R., Coos 3 May (TR) and S Prairie, Pierce 11 May (CW). Four Ferruginous Hawks were detected on the westside during Mar; a decade ago, this species was a megaregularity w. of the Cascades. Washington's 3rd Crested Caracara feasted on a dead racoon near Porter, Grays Harbor 28–29 May (ph. B. Moody, S. Holloway), while Oregon's 3rd appeared near Blodgett, Benton 7 Mar and then reappeared near Corvallis 11 Mar (M. Monroe, J. Jabousek), only to be followed by that state's 4th caracara at Floras L., Curry 28 Mar (DL, KC); this Regional incursion is coincidental with a similar phenomenon in coastal California. A Prairie Merlin (subspecies *richardsoni*) adorned Yakima



Washington's fourth Great-tailed Grackle returned to Liberty Lake, Spokane County 30 March 2006 (here 14 April); it has appeared intermittently there since approximately 1 January 2004. Photograph by Ron Dexter.

Clallam 31 May (B. Boekelheide). Brown Pelicans are exceptionally rare in the P.T. prior to Jul; this year, one appeared at Sandy Pt., Whatcom 15 Apr, an early date anywhere in Washington (H. Flores), to be followed by a shocking 14 at P.N.P. 24 May (VN) and 8 else-



Washington's sixth Lesser Black-backed Gull, photographed here at Moses Lake, Grant County on 12 March 2006, remained until 18 March. The state's first record was documented only in January 2000. Photograph by Doug Schonewald.

19 Mar (ph. DG); this subspecies is likely more numerous in the Region than the few reports would suggest. An unremarkable 6 Gyrfalcons this spring included a late bird at Coulee City, *Grant* 16 Apr (DSc). Single Prairie Falcons, rare during spring on the westside, were found at Finley N.W.R. 3 Mar (S. Seibel) and Coburg, *Lane* 7 Mar (B. Combs). If accepted by the Washington B.R.C., a Common Moorhen, seen briefly but well along Dodson Rd., *Grant* 16 May, would furnish Washington's first record (†BF); the timing is consistent with the species' occurrence in Oregon. A Common Moorhen at Black Butte Ranch, *Deschutes* 10 Apr was about Oregon's 14th and only the 2nd not from May–Jun (†D. & G. Marshall).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

For the first spring since 1995, no golden-plovers were found in Washington, and only one, a Pacific at N.S.C.B. 13 Apr (TR), appeared in Oregon. A gathering of 1800 Semipalmated Plovers at Bandon, *Coos* 3 May likely set an Oregon record and fell just short of the Regional spring record of 2000 set on 3 May 1986 at O.S. The only westside Black-necked Stilts were birds returning to F.R.R. 7 Apr+, where a maximum of 10 was recorded (S. Gordon, DI). Throughout the Region, yellowlegs of both species were estimated at only 20–40% of their usual numbers. Solitary Sandpiper numbers were near normal, with 29 on the westside and 7 on the east, mostly 23 Apr–8 May; the maximum was 6 near Kent, *King* 1 May (MB). For the 6th consecutive spring, Willets appeared in e. Washington: 2 near Corfu, *Grant* 7 May (R. Sanders), with one remaining through 10 May (BF). Two Upland Sandpipers at Bear Valley, *Grant* 28 May were at a traditional breeding site,

providing hope that this species persists as a breeder species in the Region (J. Carlson); another near Hines, *Harney* 29 May was a vagrant, the first such bird in several years (DP). Oregon's 10th Bristle-thighed Curlew adorned Clatsop Beach 22 May (ph. DB); the weather pattern in the third week of May was similar to the one that produced the unprecedented incursion during May 1998 and might have produced similar results had it occurred earlier in the season. A Whimbrel near Kittitas 23 Apr furnished the first eastside spring record since 2003 (D. Essman), and 2500 at Starr Ranch, *Curry* 3 May set a Regional spring record

(R. McKenzie). Three Long-billed Curlews, rare on the interior westside, visited the W.V. 9 Apr–7 May (*fide* HN). A Hudsonian Godwit at Duley L., *Okanogan* 9 May (†M. Spencer) and 2 at Ocosta, *Grays Harbor* 21 May (†M. Bartels) furnished the Region's first spring records since 2002. A gathering of 180 Marbled Godwits at Lower Klamath 14 Apr was unprecedented for the eastside (KS); Marbleds are not annual on the interior westside, so 4 in the W.V. and P.T. 8 Apr–12 May were noteworthy.

Tallies of 55 Red Knots at Tillamook 7 May (WG) and 40 in *Lane/Lincoln* 30 Apr (DI) su-



This American Three-toed Woodpecker at Wauconda, Okanogan County, on 23 May 2006 appears to be, at least in part, of the subspecies *dorsalis*. Only *P. d. fasciatus* had been known to occur in Washington/Oregon, and Washington's birds were assumed to be among the darkest members of that subspecies. Note, however, the unmarked center of this bird's back and its resemblance to the bird on the front cover of *North American Birds* 49 (4). Photograph by Tom Munson.

perceded any recent Oregon counts. It was a boon spring for Semipalmated Sandpipers, with 8 in Washington and 4 in Oregon 22 Apr–28 May; highlights included maxima of 3 each at Brady, *Grays Harbor* 28 Apr (J. Skriletz) and P.S.B. 11 May (SM, DD), plus

very rare eastside spring records of one at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 8 May (MB) and 2 at Wasco, *Sherman* 13 May (DB). A stunning 400,000 Western Sandpipers passed Bandon, *Coos* 2 May (DL, KC); this exceptional number of Westerns, and the influx of Semipalmated Plovers noted above, seemed tied to strong nw. winds prevalent 2–3 May (KC). Ten Baird's Sandpipers 28 Apr–28 May was about twice the norm. A total of 34 Pectoral Sandpipers 5–18 May represented the 3rd "irruption" out of the past four springs. Maxima included 11 near Cheney, *Spokane* 17 May (*fide* CC) and 10 at P.S.B. 18 May (DD, SM); oddly, all but one were in Washington. A Dunlin at Sprague, *Lincoln* 27 May was about three weeks late for the eastside (DSc). Very rare in spring, a Ruff appeared at P.S.B. 18 May (†SM, †DD). Short-billed Dowitchers, very rare during spring on the eastside, included one at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 3 May (C. & M. Miller), one at Iowa Beef 10 May (BW), and 6 near Burns 18 May (O. Schmidt).

A Parasitic Jaeger, very rare during spring in the P.T., was at Everett 20 May (SM); singles off the Washington coast 20 & 21 Mar were about six weeks early (†SMi). Not annual during spring, a Long-tailed Jaeger was off Westport 20 May (BT), and 3 were off Charleston, *Coos* 21 May (GG). Four Franklin's Gulls in e. Washington 2–29 May was not atypical; one was also on the westside, where not annual in spring, at Jeff's Head, *Kitsap* 30 May (BSW).

No longer annual during spring, a Little Gull was at Bainbridge L., *Kitsap* 16 Apr (BSW). An estimated 8500 Bonaparte's Gulls passed the New R. mouth, *Coos* 4 May (TR). Washington's 14th Iceland Gull stopped at Wallula, *Walla Walla* 19 Mar (†DSc, †SM); the state's 6th Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Moses L., *Grant* 12–18 Mar (ph. DSc), while the Coulee Lakes bird, first found in Oct 2004, reappeared at L. Lenore, *Grant* 26 Mar–23 Apr (DSc, †BT, ph. DP); all but one of Washington's records have been from the eastside. Washington's 10th Slaty-backed Gull was at Tukwila, *King* 1 Mar (ph. C. Cox), and one at

Portland 22 Mar was about the 11th for Oregon (†IT); almost all Regional records are Dec–Mar. A goodly 11+ Glaucous Gulls were noted, the latest of which was at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 14 May (B. Boekelheide). An apparent Glaucous-winged Gull × Herring Gull hybrid

SA This season saw unprecedented numbers of live Parakeet Auklets concurrent with unprecedented mortality in Rhinoceros Auklets. The NOAA cruise, 14–31 Mar, encountered 48 live and one dead Parakeet Auklet, with 34 off *Clallam*, 5 off *Jefferson*, 6 off *Pacific*, and 3 off *Tillamook* (SMi). Most were near the shelf edge, but several were within 15 km of shore. Eleven more were off Westport 22 Apr (†BT), and 2 were about 30 km off La Push 28 Apr (TG); the previous Regional record was 5! Simultaneously, a large-scale die-off of Rhinoceros Auklets occurred from the Columbia R. mouth s. to *Curry*. The 100+ found dead near Ona Beach, *Lincoln* during Mar was nearly ten-fold greater than the prior monthly record for this transect, which has been run weekly for nearly 30 years (B. Loeffel). One bird found dead in *Coos* had been banded in Alaska Jul 2005 (R. Namitz), and most were emaciated first- or second-year birds (MP).

was at Coulee Playland, *Grant* 1 Apr (†GS); this is only the 2nd record for e. Washington, though this hybrid is likely overlooked there. Offshore, good numbers of Sabine's Gulls were encountered during May, with a maximum of 250 off La Push, *Clallam* 13 May (SH). In the P.T., where extremely rare during spring, 3 Sabine's were off Kingston, *Kitsap* 28 May (M. Dufort), and 12 were there 30 May (BSW). Few Arctic Terns were seen offshore, with a peak of 20 off La Push 13 May (SH). Five Forster's Tern at Ankeny N.W.R. 15 May (M. Kleinbaum) and 3 in Portland 25 May (KT) represented an above-average spring for the westside. A Black Tern, rare during spring in w. Washington, was near Snohomish 14 May (C. Riddell), and 2 were at Fir I., *Skagit* 24 May (M. Axelson).

Washington's 13th and 14th **Thick-billed Murres** were off Westport 15 Mar (†SMi) and about 12 km off Ft. Canby, *Pacific* 1 May (TG), respectively; most antecedent Regional records are Dec–Feb. A **Long-billed Murrelet** near Slip Pt., *Clallam* 23 Mar would be about the 9th for Washington (†SMi). Two ad. Ancient Murrelets with a chick off Westport 20 May provided further evidence that this species has become a regular breeder in Washington (BT); additionally, 15 were off La Push 13 May, a month after migrants have typically departed (SH).

Not annual in Washington, a Horned Puffin was near Cape Flattery, *Clallam* 19 Mar (J. Plissner, SMi). Somewhat more regular in Oregon, single Horned Puffins were about 40 km off Clatsop Spit 1 May (TG) and at Seaside, *Clatsop* 7 Apr (ph. DB). Perhaps related to the Rhinoceros Auklet die-off, a dead Horned Puffin was near Yaquina Bay 7 Mar (B. Loeffel), and 4 were at Clatsop Beach in early Mar (MP).

Several reports of Band-tailed Pigeons from w. *Klickitat*, *Yakima*, and *Kittitas* during May added to an increasing number of records from these areas, implying that small numbers nest e. of the Cascade crest; more unusual was a Band-tailed farther e. near Goldendale, *Klickitat* 27 May (KK, MB, MH) and one near Redmond, *Deschutes* 23 Apr (G. Concannon). In w. Washington, a stunning 1300 gathered near L. Whatcom 6 May (J. Meche).

At least 39 Snowy Owls were found this spring, split nearly evenly east/west, including an amazing 7 lingering into May, about two months later than normal. The latest eastside Snowies were near Waterville, *Douglas* 23–30



Snowy Owls lingered after this winter's irruption as never before, with seven in Washington lasting into May and this bird, Oregon's latest ever by more than a month, near Umapine, Umatilla County on 24 May 2006. Photograph by Merrylynn Denny.

May (M. Spencer) and Umapine, *Umatilla* 24 May (MLD). On the westside, the last appeared near Edison, *Skagit* 12 May (T. Breckenridge). A Great Gray Owl near Jasper, *Lane* 6 Apr was utterly unexpected at about 350 m in the W.V. foothills (L. Colburn). A Common Poorwill at Seattle 20–25 May provided only about the 10th record for w. Washington, most

of which have come from Sep–Oct (ph. L. Kittleson, †A. Sedgley, †S. Hoskin, †A. Thurber). A gathering of 440 Black Swifts at St. Andrews, *Douglas* 26 May was e. of that species normal range and the 2nd highest count ever for the eastside (SM). Not annual on the coast, single White-throated Swifts were at the New R., *Coos* 13 May (TR) and Gearhart, *Clatsop* 15 May (MP). The Anna's Hummingbird at Clarkston, *Asotin* remained until 13 Mar (C. VandeVorde), while one at Powell Butte 18 May was only *Crook's* 3rd (CG). A **Costa's Hummingbird**, seen 2–4 May, frequented the same Lyle, *Klickitat* feeder that produced the state's 6th record in May 2005 (†K. Kagarise) none were reported from Oregon for the first spring since 1995. Approximately 75 Calliope and 50 Rufous Hummingbirds crowded feeders in Dixie, *Walla Walla* 13 May (M&MD), both tallies likely Washington records. A pitiful 2 Calliope Hummingbirds were found on the westside, with singles at Portland 7 May (S. Leaptrott) and Cascade Head, *Lincoln* 24 May (PP). Single Broad-tailed Hummingbirds visited Frenchglen, *Harney* 27 May (HN) and Malheur 28 May (CG); their pattern of occurrence in Oregon remains somewhat enigmatic.

A Lewis's Woodpecker, not annual in w. Washington during spring, inhabited Everett 12–14 May (L. Hart). Rare w. of the Cascades, 3 Red-naped Sapsuckers were found in the W.V. and P.T. 7–20 Apr. Two American Three-toed Woodpeckers near Big Meadow L., *Pend Oreille* 15 May showed characteristics of subspecies *dorsalis*, not known to occur in Washington (†GS). A similar bird was found at Wauconda, *Okanogan* 23 May (ph. T. Munson); these could well be intergrades between *fasciatus* and *dorsalis* or even "pure" *dorsalis*. A Yellow-shafted Flicker at Davenport, *Lincoln* 14 May was rather late (†JA).

PASSERINES

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Brookings, *Curry* 14 Apr was about three weeks early (D. Munson). Willow Flycatchers arrived about 10 days early, with many mid-May sightings, the earliest was at Hanford Site, *Benton* 6 May (BL, NL). Eight Least Flycatchers 21 May+ was probably a Regional spring record; the maximum was 3 at Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane* 27 May (M. Frobe). A Dusky Flycatcher, not annual in the P.T., was near S. Prairie, *Pierce* 7 May (CW), while 2 total in the W.V. was subpar (DI). Washington's 8th **Black Phoebe** returned to Auburn, *King* 31 Mar+ (M. Bartels)

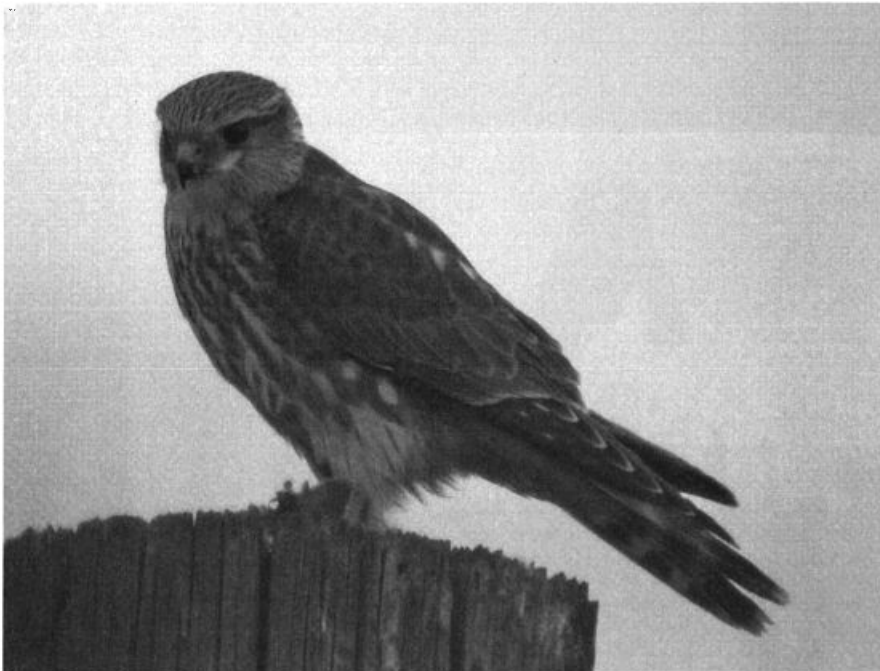
SA As of 1 Jun 2006, Washington had but six records of Eurasian Collared-Doves and Oregon about 24. No fewer than 48 were found this spring, almost equally divided between the two states. This exponential increase included breeding in *Harney* (R. Vetter), *Klamath* (N. Schankar), *Adams* (fide DSc), and *Klickitat* 3 May (D. Lichtenwald), all locations on the eastside. Only 14 of the spring's collared-doves were on the westside, with 8 on the Oregon coast, 2 in w. Oregon's interior, and 4 at P.N.P. (BSW, ph. G. Gerds). We can only speculate about this species' ultimate abundance in the Region, but given recent events, it appears that Eurasian Collared-Doves will soon be commonplace.

Washington's 7th Eastern Phoebe was at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 29 May (†CW), while Oregon's 8th and 9th, respectively, were at Sutherlin, *Douglas* 10 Mar (†M. Hamm) and Fields 27–29 May (ph. KT); most records are from May–Jun. Say's Phoebes showed well one the westside, with 8 in Washington and 15+ in Oregon, including one over a month late at Tulalip Bay, *Snohomish* 17 May (M. Reed), plus groups of 4 each at Eugene 27 Mar (V. Arnold) and Portland 28 Apr (IT). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Mt. Pisgah, *Lane* 25 May was n. of its usual haunts (P. Sherrell, D. Shrouder); most such records are from May–Jun. A Western Kingbird at Potholes S.P., *Grant* 18 Mar was a month early (DP). On the westside, both Eastern and Western Kingbirds appeared in above-normal numbers. Over 30 Westerns passed through Cape Blanco, *Curry* during the spring (TJW), while 2 at Tokeland, *Pacific* 21 May were on Wash-

a pair feeding a cowbird at White Salmon in Jun 2003 (PM); these furnish the first eastside breeding records. Single Hutton's were also found this Mar–Apr at two other w. *Klickitat* locations (C. Flick, SJ). Prior to 2001, this species was considered accidental in e. Washington, but it has been found annually since then in w. *Klickitat* (PM) and now seems somewhat established. Four Steller's Jays at Crow Butte, *Benton* 11 Mar were well away from their normal wooded haunts (MB, KK). Blue Jays showed well, with 7 scattered across the Region, mostly Mar–early Apr, with one remaining through May at Brookings, *Curry* (L. & P. Steele). Single Western Scrub-Jays near Tampico, *Yakima* 19 May (*fide* DG) and near Cle Elum, *Kittitas* 2 Apr (M. Bartels) evidenced continued range expansion. After a 25-year hiatus, Black-billed Magpies are virtually invading w. Washington, with one at Hoodspport, *Mason* 30 Apr providing the 3rd

escapee, then from whom, or from what? A Rock Wren at Shine S.P., *Jefferson* 20 May yielded the first Washington spring record w. of the Cascades in approximately 10 years (D. Watkins). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet apparently gathering nesting material on Skinner Butte (elev. 190 m), *Lane* on the late date of 28 May was most intriguing (DI); breeding at such low elevation would be unprecedented. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to push northward in e. Oregon, with one near Bend 14 May (H. Garrett) and a pair at Tumalo S.P., *Deschutes* 25 May (V. Threlstein). Ten Mountain Bluebirds in w. Washington, 19 Mar–30 Apr, was approximately thrice the norm and included a rare outer-coast bird at Westport 30 Apr (P&RS); the only w. Oregon lowland sighting was *Curry's* 5th at Cape Blanco 12 Mar (L. Miller). A Townsend's Solitaire, rare on the outer coast, visited Seaside, *Clatsop* 20 Mar (DB). A Veery at Nisqually 29 May furnished about the 8th spring record from w. Washington, all but one of which have been 20 May+ (†B. Shelmerdine); equally rare was a Veery at Fields 27–28 May (TR). Five Washington and 12 Oregon Northern Mockingbirds was about twice the norm. Now annual on the westside during spring, 4 Sage Thrashers appeared in w. Oregon 5–19 May.

A White Wagtail, subspecies undetermined, was a one-day bird at P.N.P. 15 May (†VN); Washington has nine antecedent records, three of nominate *alba*, three of *lugens*, and three not identified to subspecies. A tally of 5000+ American Pipits in *Grant* and *Lincoln* 23 Apr was unprecedented for Washington (RH). A Tennessee Warbler visited Astoria 5 May (MP); though annual during northbound migration, most records are from se. Oregon 20 May–15 Jun. Unprecedented was an apparently northbound Northern Parula in Portland 9–10 Apr (G. Lillie); most records are from late May–Jun in se. Oregon. More typical was one at Malheur 21 May (O. Schmidt). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found at Fields 28 May (CG); though now annual in Oregon, Black-throated Blues are still largely found in fall. Single Black-throated Gray Warblers, not annual during spring e. of the Washington Cascades, visited Moxee, *Yakima* 8 May (D. Brown) and Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 29 May (CW, BT, BLB). Hermit Warbler × Townsend's Warbler hybrids, rare away from the range of Hermit Warbler, were at Hyak, *Kittitas* 17 May (TA), Coupeville, *Island* 21 May (†S. Ellis), and Washtucna, *Adams* 27 May (SM). Rare northbound Palm Warblers visited Coupeville, *Island* (C. Johnson) and Nisqually (J. Ellis), both 8 May. The only Black-and-white Warbler was at Portland 21 Apr (M. Marsh); the Region averages about 5



Prairie Merlins (subspecies *richardsoni*) are likely rare-but-annual visitors east of the Cascades in the Pacific Northwest, but identification challenges make discerning its status difficult. This one was at Yakima 19 March 2006. Note the lack of a malar stripe, the spotted primaries, and the spotting on the scapulars. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

ington's outer coast, where not annual (M. Bartels); the westside maximum was 19 at Portland 13 May (C. Hallett). An Eastern Kingbird, very rare on the outer coast, appeared at Cape Blanco 21 May (TJW).

Single Loggerhead Shrikes near Lebanon, *Linn* 12 Mar (J. Harding) and FR.R. 22 Apr (A. McCallum) represented a typical spring. This year, a pair of Hutton's Vireos was found with a fledgling at White Salmon, *Klickitat* 12 May (PM), and we belatedly learned of an ad. feeding young at Trout L. May 2005 (SJ), plus

record within the last year (D. Phinney). An early Purple Martin near Vantage, *Kittitas* 26 Mar provided e. Washington's 8th record away from the Bingen area (S. Downes), while 4 more visited Wapato, *Yakima* 18 Apr (*fide* AS); six of the nine e. Washington records away from Bingen have been made over the past year, likely reflecting the burgeoning Washington population.

Perhaps one of the most improbable birds ever to occur in Washington was a Verdin at Tillicum, *Pierce* 25 May+ (ph. C. Eagan); if an

per spring, mostly mid-May+. The Skagit W.M.A. Northern Waterthrush remained until 1 May (B. McGarry, R. Cash), while 2 each reappeared at Trout L., *Klickitat* 14 May+ (SJ) and near Gilchrist, *Klamath* 12 May+ (R. Armstrong), both isolated locations where this species likely bred last year. Oregon's 7th **Canada Warbler** overall, and 2nd for spring, tarried at Malheur 25–28 May (CG, ph. AC). The Kent, King Yellow-breasted Chat returned 13 May+ (M. Bartels); though increasing in w. Washington, this species is still rare there.

An American Tree Sparrow at Spring Creek Fish Hatchery, *Skamania* 10 Apr was the latest ever for w. Washington (G. Bletsch). A Chipping Sparrow at Edwall, *Lincoln* 21 Mar was the earliest ever for Washington (T. Mathis). A territorial Clay-colored Sparrow near Tenino, *Thurston* 29 May+ was the first such westside bird since 1999 (P. Hicks), while one at Gold Beach, *Curry* 19 May provided an extremely rare record of a westside spring migrant (TR). The season's only other Clay-colored was one that remained at Millicoma Marsh, *Coos* through 10 Mar (TR). Brewer's Sparrows at S.R.M. 16 May (IT) and Ecola S.P., *Clatsop* 25 May (†DB) were, respectively, in the W.V. (where barely annual) and on the outer coast (where not annual). Vesper Sparrows are rare, local, and declining in w. Washington and are not known as coastal breeders n. of *Coos*, Oregon. On 19 Apr, however, 11 were found in suitable breeding habitat on three islands in the Columbia R. mouth, *Pacific* (S. Pearson). A rare w. Washington migrant Vesper was at P.N.P. 14 Apr (BSW). W. Washington's 10th spring Lark Sparrow appeared near Renton, *King* 28 May (B. & B. Meyer), while w. Oregon singles at Tillamook 29 Mar–12 Apr (A. Frank, WG) and Cape Blanco, *Curry* 20 May (TJW) were away from their limited sw. Oregon range. It was a good spring for Black-throated Sparrow in e. Washington. One near Vantage, *Kittitas* 31 May was at one of Washington's few traditional nesting locations (DG, AS); unexpected were 4 at Corral L., *Grant* 24 May+ (RH), one at Step-toe Butte, *Whitman* 27 May+ (T. & C. Gray), and 3 at Juniper Dunes, *Franklin* 29 May (D. Froehlich); as is often the case, concurrent with an irruption into e. Washington there were westside sightings: at Salem 6 May (J. Rodecap) and Ecola S.P. 14 May (MP). Equally rare was a westside Sage Sparrow at Portland 5 Mar (D. Helzer). A tally of 300 Savannah Sparrows at Columbia N.W.R., *Adams* 2 May set a Washington spring record (RH). A Grasshopper Sparrow at S.R.M. 6 May+ was a first for heavily birded *Multnomah* (IT). As observer effort has increased, so has the number of e. Oregon Sooty Fox Sparrow records;

this spring, one visited Redmond, *Deschutes* 10 Apr (K. Owen). The spring's only Swamp Sparrow was a winter holdover at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 4 Mar (BSW). There were but 3 Harris's Sparrows this spring, including a tardy bird at Dixie, *Walla Walla* 13 May (M&MD, DG). A Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrid at Monroe, *Snohomish* 11 Mar may have been the same bird as the one seen there last Nov (J. Barry, C. Cox). Golden-crowned Sparrows were unusually common and late in e. Washington, with the latest visiting Vantage 25 May (P&RS) and Wenatchee, *Chelan* 26 May (SM). The 2 wintering Chestnut-collared Longspurs near Corvallis remained through 10 Mar (R. P. Moore). A Snow Bunting at Port Angeles 26 Apr was three weeks late (BN).

Oregon's 8 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 21 May+, were split evenly between eastside and westside, while in Washington, singles were at Seattle 29 May (†N. Bogue) and Granite Falls, *Snohomish* 31 May–5 Jun (ph. M. Bell); the Region averages 8 per May. Oregon's 5th **Blue Grosbeak** was at Portland 17 Apr (ph. KT). An Indigo Bunting at Mukilteo, *Snohomish* late Feb–24 Apr was about the 18th for Washington but the first to have wintered, having not been detected until blue feathering appeared (ph. E. Beegle); another Indigo at Port Townsend was seen on the more typical dates of 19–26 May (†B. & E. Kannenberg). An Indigo Bunting was also in Oregon, where annual during May–Jun, at Denman S.W.A., *Jackson* 19 May (R. Ketchum). Tricolored Blackbird is another species seemingly on the increase. *Spokane*'s first Tricolored inhabited Edwall 14–18 Mar (T. Mathis), while others were found at "traditional" Washington locations such as Texas L., *Whitman* (GS), Othello, *Adams*, and Wilson Creek, *Grant* (G. Bletsch), with a maximum of 76 at Othello 16 Apr (M. Dufort). In Oregon, 100 Tricoloreds near Redmond 1 Apr provided a rare *Deschutes* record (K. Owen). A Common Grackle was at Page Springs, *Harney* 26 May (S. Wright); Oregon averages one or 2 per year. Washington's 4th **Great-tailed Grackle** returned to Liberty L., *Spokane* 30 Mar+ (R. Dexter); Oregon had a goodly 9 Great-taileds—6 on the eastside, where regular, and 2 on the outer coast, where very rare, at N.S.C.B. 17–19 May (TR). Adding to five prior Washington records were **Hooded Orioles** at Seattle 2 May+ (R. Brown, †M. Hobbs), Enumclaw, *King* 20–29 May (ph. M. Rosenberger), and Port Angeles 23–24 May (ph. A. & K. Watson); all Washington records have been late Apr–late Jul. A Hooded at Eugene 26 May was in Oregon, where not quite annual (ph. B. Carlin). Washington's 4th **Balti-**

more Oriole visited Vantage, *Kittitas* 28 May (†P&RS). Oregon had 4 Baltimore Orioles, bringing the state total to about 35: Creswell, *Lane* 23 Apr (H. Lown), Milwaukie, *Clackamas* 15 May (W. Kiest), Malheur 21 May (E. Scatteregia), and Fields 28 May (B. Archer), most Oregon records are from the eastside mid-May–mid-Jun.

Two apparent spring migrant **Bramblings** graced Oregon, adding to nine previous records: Monmouth 26 Mar–16 Apr (R. Buse) and Eugene 1–13 Apr (ph. Maitreya, M. Rudolph); virtually all Regional records are of birds that first appeared during fall or winter. A Purple Finch at Richland 15 Apr was in far e. Washington, where rare (BW), while a Cassin's Finch in the W.V. at Portland 9 Apr was equally unusual (WG). Lesser Goldfinches seem to be recolonizing *Clark*, as evidenced by a pair with fledglings at Vancouver 21 May (C. Peterson); Lessers also seem to be spreading eastward, with one at Walla Walla 29 Apr–1 May (G. Shoemaker). Evening Grosbeaks were more numerous than normal, as exemplified by 220 at Roslyn, *Kittitas* 17 May (TA).

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