



Very rare in winter in British Columbia, this Bullock's Oriole visited a feeder in the Parksville–Qualicum area regularly until 10 (here 1) December 2006. Photographs by Guy L. Monty.

Nov–10 Dec; it reappeared 10 Jan after a coastal snowstorm (C&DB, ph. GLM). There

are few winter records for the Region. Redpolls were not found in large numbers this winter; thus it was surprising that a **Hoary Redpoll** was discovered on the w. coast in Sooke 27 Dec (RTo et al.), along with 15 Common Redpolls (RTo et al.). A single American Goldfinch was a rare winter visitor to the outer coast in Tofino 17 Dec (AD), and Prince George birders had their first confirmed winter record, with 3 present 17 Dec (PS, BS).

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Oregon & Washington



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From early December 2006 into mid-January 2007, the Region was buffeted by a series of storms featuring high winds as much as precipitation, but storm-related avian events seemed minimal. Overall, temperatures were average, except February, which was about 2° C above normal. Precipitation was also unremarkable, except during January, which witnessed about two-thirds the normal rainfall and snow.

This winter was notable for an influx of Asian/Alaskan waterbirds and an irruption of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls juxtaposed with the continuing trends of northward range expansion (e.g., Red-shouldered Hawk,

Black Phoebe) and wintering by species considered accidental as recently as 1990 (e.g., Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager).

Abbreviations: Finley (Finley N.W.R., Benton), F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane), N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos), P.T. (Puget Trough), W.V. (Willamette Valley), W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla). “East-side” and “westside” indicate locations e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Sightings of hybrid waterfowl continue to increase rapidly, along with increased observer scrutiny. Greater White-fronted Geese paired with “white-checked” geese were accompanied by their progeny, including 2 Greater White-fronted Geese × *minima* Cackling Geese at Shillapoo Bottoms, **Clark** 17 Feb (ph. SM) and 2 Greater White-fronted Geese × Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) at Baskett Slough, **Polk** through the season (M. Monroe); interestingly, this latter hybrid has occurred “occasionally” at Baskett Slough and Finley in the past (*vide* R. Jarvis). Emperor Geese showed well again this winter, with 3 in w. Washington and 4 in w. Oregon. Now annual among wintering Snow Geese in **Skagit/Snohomish**, an imm. Blue Goose brightened **Fir I.**, **Skagit** through 24 Jan (CCx, SM), and an ad. was there 24 Feb+ (M. Axelson). A Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid hid among hordes of Snows on **Fir I.** 20 Jan (ph. SM).

Only 3 stray Ross's Geese were noted: 2 in w. Washington and one in w. Oregon. Two dark Canada Geese near **Sylvana**, **Snohomish** 3 Dec (CCx) were probably remnants of the flock of *B. c. fulva* that has wintered annually nearby for more than three decades, once numbering over 100 (R. Caniff). Five **Black Brant** on the westside away from salt water represented an above-average winter; per usual, 4 were among wintering flocks of Cackling Geese, but one was at **Hyatt L.** 16 Feb, furnishing **Jackson's** 5th record (R. Ketchum). A **Bewick's Swan** near **Brady**, **Grays Harbor** 26–31 Dec was about Washington's 8th (ph. P&RS). Most previous Bewick's records were from **Skagit**, and thus it is not shocking that 3 ad. and one imm. Tundra Swan near **Conway** 20 Jan appeared intermediate between Whistling and Bewick's Swans (SM, B. Carlson). Somewhat overdue, Washington's first **Whooper Swan** visited **Snohomish** 25 Dec–1 Jan (SM) before moving to **Conway** 4 Jan–17 Feb (IA) and then **Ferndale**, **Whatcom** 24 Feb–2 Mar (M. Jordan).

A gathering of 500 Wood Ducks at **Boardman**, **Gilliam** 24 Feb was likely an eastside record (B. Taylor). The **Eugene Falcated Duck** remained throughout the winter. An unremarkable 10 Eurasian Wigeons were noted on the eastside; single Eurasian Wigeon × American Wigeon hybrids, first reported from the eastside in spring 2006, were identified at **Vantage** 3 Dec (M&MD) and **Richland** 11 Feb (BW). Not annual during winter, a Blue-



The bills of these adult Tundra Swans near Conway, Skagit County, Washington 20 January 2007 range from 10% to 22% yellow when measured in profile. According to Evans and Sladen (1980; *Auk* 97: 697-703), this places two of the birds as intermediate between Bewick's (22.9% or more yellow on bill) and Whistling Swan (15.8% or less yellow on bill). The immature in this photograph also appeared intermediate between these subspecies. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

winged Teal was near Coquille, Coos 7 Jan (M. Wihler). A Washington-record 60,000 Northern Pintails gathered at Lummi Bay, *Whatcom* 10 Dec (SM, CW, JB). A subpar 7 Eurasian Teal and 6 Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades were detected this winter. A Ring-necked Duck × scaup hybrid graced Vancouver 17 Feb (SM). Following an excellent fall, Ring-necked Ducks continued in good numbers through the winter, exemplified by counts of 1342 at Rocky Reach Pool and 1142 at Wells Pool in the n. Columbia Basin 8-9 Jan (RH) and 1100 at Post Office L., *Clark* 1 Feb (TA). Two Tufted Ducks, about par, included one at N.S.C.B. 14 Dec (TR) and a returning bird at Mearns L., *Tillamook* 18 Feb+ (J. & B. Woodhouse). A female Steller's Eider reported from Bray's Pt., *Lane* 3 Feb would be Oregon's 2nd, if accepted by the Oregon B.R.C. (C. Wild, AC). A King Eider at Drayton Harbor, *Whatcom* 7 Dec-31 Jan was Washington's 18th but the first in more than a decade (P. Woodcock, S. Frank). Single White-winged Scoters brightened Desert Aire, *Grant* 3 Dec (DG) and Colville Flats, *Pend Oreille* 26 Jan (GS, TL), and a Surf Scoter enlivened *Vantage* 13 Dec (DS, RH); neither species is annual during winter on the eastside. A Black Scoter, extremely rare away from salt water, was at Finley 13 Jan (WDR). Six Long-tailed Ducks on the interior westside included *Jackson's* first, at Lost Creek Res. 2 Dec (J. Hostick), which was joined by a 2nd bird 12 Dec (N. Barrett), and both remained into Feb. On the eastside, only 3 Long-tailed Ducks were found. Surprisingly, this species is not annual on the interior west-

side, but e. of the Cascades, about 5 per winter has been the recent norm. A tally of 65 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Foster Res., *Linn* 2 Jan was about triple the norm for this site (M. Nikas); excepting the small flock at Foster Res., this species is not annual in the W.V. Three Common Goldeneye × Barrow's Goldeneye hybrids



This Barrow's Goldeneye × Common Goldeneye hybrid associated with a nearly pure flock of Barrow's Goldeneyes at Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington (here 1 March 2007). The bird's head gloss varied from bronzy maroon to bright green. Note the intermediate head shape and facial spot, the Barrow's-like wing coverts and scapulars, and the lack of dark shoulder bar. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

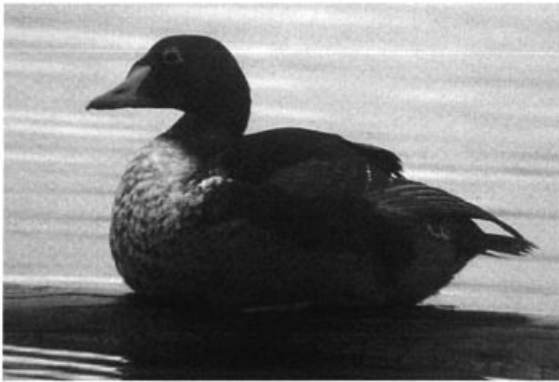
were detected, with singles at Seattle 30 Dec (H. Opperman, S. Gerstle), Mukilteo, *Snohomish* 17 Feb-1 Mar (JB, CCx), and near

Clarkston, *Asotin* 3 Feb (ph. R. Shoemake, MMD). A congregation of 1360 Ruddy Ducks in Drayton Harbor 10 Dec likely set a w. Washington record (SM, JB, CW).

A goodly 5 Pacific Loons were noted on the eastside, where rare during winter, 1 Dec-3 Jan. An Arctic Loon near Pateros, *Douglas* 16-20 Jan is about the 5th for Washington (†GS, ph. P. Lott, †R. Taylor). This winter produced a stunning 15 Yellow-billed Loons, the most in 16+ years; the maximum was a Regional record 7 in Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 17 Dec (BLB, CW). A w. Washington record 203 Eared Grebes were between Fox and McNeal Is. in the P.T. 16 Dec (BLB). Seven Clark's Grebes in w. Washington was a fair total, but 2 at Richland 14 Jan (NL) and singles at Port Kelley, *Walla Walla* 17 Feb (M&MD) and *Vantage* 17 Feb (S. Downes) provided extremely rare eastside winter records. Single apparent Clark's Grebe × Western Grebe hybrids were near Clarkston, *Asotin* in late Dec (C. Swift) and Vancouver L., *Clark* throughout the winter (SM); this cross is not reported annually in the Region but should be expected given the apparent frequency of hybridization.

Two Black-footed Albatrosses were seen from Cape Arago, Coos 18 Dec (T. Shelmerdine, D. Smith); there are only about 10 from-shore records for the Region. A Northern Fulmar, extremely rare in the P.T., passed P.N.P. 3 Jan (VN). Single dead Mottled Petrels were on

the beach at Seaside 20 Feb (D. Bailey) and Cannon Beach, *Clatsop* 25 Feb (T. Guy, L. Sheffield); these were part of a general seabird



This King Eider at Drayton Harbor, Whatcom County was present 7 (here 10) December 2006 through 31 January 2007; it was Washington's first since 1996. Of Washington's 18 records, only three have been since 1989, possibly related to the 56% decline noted in numbers of this species in the Beaufort Sea between 1976 and 1996 (Condor 102: 219-222). Photograph by Charlie Wright.

wreck, mostly along the Oregon coast, that stretched well into Mar and will be discussed further in the spring 2007 column. Single Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwaters, barely annual in the P.T., visited P.N.P. 13 Dec (VN), Edmonds, *Snohomish* 27 Dec (T. Peterson), and Bainbridge I. 6 Jan (BSW). A decade ago, Brown Pelicans in late Nov elicited comment; now they are annual well into winter. This year, 9 lingered at Brookings, *Curry* until 26 Dec (D. Cavaness), and singles were near Florence, *Lane* 15 Jan (DI), at Tahkenitch Beach, *Douglas* 15 Jan (TR), and Depoe Bay, *Lincoln* 7 Feb (K. Madison). For the 2nd consecutive winter, a Pelagic Cormorant was nearly 160 km up the Columbia R. near Corbett, *Multnomah* through 7 Jan (A. Frank); Pelagics are exceptionally rare away from salt/brackish water.

For the 2nd consecutive winter, an American Bittern was found on the eastside, with one at Yakima 28 Jan (J. Hebert); this appears to be only the 4th or 5th e. Washington winter record. Perhaps American Bitterns will follow in the footsteps of Great Egret. The first e. Washington winter record of Great Egret was 18 years ago. Now they are annual, with sightings at five e. Washington locations this winter. Additionally, 52 Great Egrets in the Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark* 17 Feb was a remarkable late-winter tally (SM); consider that only 50 Great Egrets were tallied on all Washington C.B.C.s between 1973-1998! Following a poor fall showing, no Cattle Egrets were located this winter. A count of 111 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Moses L., *Grant* 16 Dec bested last winter's Washington record winter-tally of 90 there (DS, B, Schonewald). A Turkey Vulture near E. Wenatchee, *Douglas* 20 Jan was only the 4th for e. Washington during Dec/Jan (T. Taylor, R. Taylor), while 3 at Klamath Falls 10 Feb were about five weeks early for e. Oregon (KS). Turkey Vultures also

appeared early in w. Oregon, with a flurry of sightings 23 Jan+. Overwintering Turkey Vultures are also on the increase, with up to 16 at Eugene. Three Ospreys were in w. Washington, where increasingly regular during winter, but one in Richland, *Benton* 30 Dec furnished an extremely rare eastside winter record. Washington has accumulated 17 winter Osprey records since 2000, compared to only 18 records prior to 1990. This species is also on the increase in Oregon, where 5 were found. A White-tailed Kite at P.N.P. 18 Jan was unusually far n. (TA, KB, R. Lawson). Even more

unusual were 2 White-taileds near Klamath Falls early Jan+ (J. VanMoorhem); this species is not annual in e. Oregon, with peak occurrence during Aug. Red-shouldered Hawks continued to push northward. Twenty were recorded on the Eugene C.B.C., where virtually unknown as recently as 1970, and in Washington, 5 were in the Ridgefield/Vancouver area (JE, TA, SM), one was at Bay Center, *Pacific* 1 Dec (K. Knittle), and another inhabited Kent, *King* 7 Dec+ (K. Aanerud). An excellent eastside winter for Rough-legged Hawks was highlighted by a stunning 73 in n. *Lake* 19 Dec (K. Boddie). Approximately 10 Gyrfalcons in Washington and 3 in Oregon represented a fairly typical winter, but a white-morph bird near Edison, *Skagit* 21 Feb was most unusual (TA); almost all of the Region's records are of gray morphs. Five w. Oregon and 2 w. Washington Prairie Falcons represented a typical winter. Single Soras, now annual during winter in Washington, appeared at Skagit W.M.A. 24 Dec (CCx, SM) and Nisqually 2 Feb (SMi).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Groups of 88 Black-bellied Plovers near Harrisburg 28 Dec (R. Armstrong) and 75 near Corvallis 30 Dec (WDR) were unusual for the W.V. away from favored F.R.R. and likely set records for *Linn* and *Benton*. A Pacific Golden-Plover near Edison, *Skagit* 1 Jan (CCx) may have been the same bird that resided there last winter, furnishing Washington's 7th winter

record. A Greater Yellowlegs was at Prineville, *Crook* 14 Dec (CG); though annual in Washington's Columbia Basin; they are not annual during winter in e. Oregon. Both yellowlegs have become more numerous during winter on the westside. This year, 100 wintered around F.R.R. (DI), up from a norm of about 50 a decade ago. A flock of 58 Greater Yellowlegs (with one Lesser Yellowlegs) at Shillapoo Bottoms, *Clark* 17 Feb exceeded any previous Washington winter count away from the outer coast and may have been very early migrants (SM). Ten years ago, Lesser Yellowlegs were barely annual in Oregon and essentially unrecorded during winter in Washington. This winter, there were 4 in Oregon, including a maximum of 3 at F.R.R. 5 Jan (DI); singles in Washington appeared at Olympia 17 Dec (KB) and near Centralia, *Lewis* 18 Dec (B. Shelmerdine). A Willet at the Kennedy Creek Estuary, *Mason* 1 Dec added to only about eight Washington winter records away from the outer coast (J. Buchanan). A Spotted Sandpiper enlivened Union Gap, *Yakima* 16 Dec (J. Hebert); now almost annual in e. Washington, this species was recorded only once there prior to 1996. Rare away from the outer coast, 7



This Mottled Petrel carcass was found on Arcadia Beach, Clatsop County, Oregon 25 February 2007. Most records of this species in the Pacific Northwest involve either live birds far offshore or dead birds on beaches between October and March. Photograph by Troy Guy.

Marbled Godwits were on Dungeness Bay, *Clallam* 16 Dec (J. Acker, EH, G. Gerdtis, BSW). A Red Knot near Oysterville, *Pacific* 17 Dec furnished Washington's first winter record since Dec 2000 (J. Ellis). Now regular on the eastside, 12 Least Sandpipers were noted at four locations. Two Long-billed Dowitchers, still not annual on the eastside, were at Moses L. 1-16 Dec (DS). There were no wrecks of Red Phalaropes this winter, but a small impulse was noted during mid-Dec, with a coastal maximum of 42 at Coos Bay 15 Dec (TR) and 5 between Dungeness Bay and *Thurston* 16-17 Dec.

A Franklin's Gull at Eugene 13 Dec was



This apparent Vega Herring Gull at Renton, King County 28 December 2006 is the first to be well documented in Washington. In flight, a typical Vega tail and rump pattern were noted. Photograph by Charlie Wright.

about the Region's 16th during winter (J. Sullivan). Washington's first Black-headed Gull since 1998 (and 16th overall) inhabited Bainbridge I. 19-31 Dec (BSW) and then reappeared at nearby P.N.P. 21 Feb-5 Mar (VN); most antecedent records were from mid-Aug into early Nov. Two Heermann's Gulls visited Sequim Bay, *Clallam* 18 Dec (G. Kridler), and singles stopped at Bainbridge I. 1 Dec (BSW) and Port Angeles 24 Feb+ (A. Wheelan); Heermann's are not annual during winter in Washington. A gathering of 19 Mew Gulls at Hood R. 15 Dec eclipsed the eastside record high count (SJ). Washington's first Vega Herring Gull graced Renton, King 28 Dec (CW, CCx). Washington's 11th Slaty-backed Gull turned up at Renton 25 Dec+ (CCx); all records but one have been since 1994. This winter's 54 Glaucous Gulls exceeded any total during the last decade by more than 50%, but only 5 were found on the eastside, distinctly subpar for that subregion. Most were first detected after 1 Jan, with a peak of 7 at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln* 12 Jan+ (C. Ash, W. Hoffman). Finally, a Glaucous Gull at L. Billy Chinook 12 Jan was only e. Oregon's 3rd away from the Columbia R. and *Jefferson's* first (CM). There was an inland push of Black-legged Kittiwakes in mid-Dec, coinciding with the small pulse of Red Phalaropes. A Black-legged Kittiwake at Hood R. 15 Dec was only about the 5th for e. Oregon (SJ), while one at White City 16 Dec was *Jackson's* first (J. Harleman); singles at P.N.P. 13 Dec (VN), Seattle 15 Dec (M. Bartels), and Budd Inlet, *Thurston* 17 Dec (BT) provided the first winter records for the P.T. since 2001. A Caspian Tern at the Necanicum R. mouth, *Clatsop* 25 Feb was two or more weeks early and provided Oregon's first winter record (S. Warner).

Enormous numbers of alcids occupied the "interior" marine waters between Port Angeles and P.N.P. throughout the winter. Admiralty Inlet provided the following exceptional tallies: 2800 Common Murres 4 Feb (SM, JB, CCx, BSW), 750 Pigeon Guillemots 23 Dec (SM, BSW, D. Watkins), and 650 Marbled Murrelets 4 Feb (SM, JB, CCx, BSW); additionally, 1000 Ancient Murrelets were at Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson* 27 Jan-4 Feb (SMi). Adding to 14 previous Washington records was an al-



Washington's eleventh Slaty-backed Gull resided at Renton, King County from 25 (here 30) December 2006 through February 2007. Photograph by Steven G. Modinow.

ternate-plumaged Thick-billed Murre at P.N.P. 15-17 Dec (BT, †SM, †SMi), a basic-plumaged Thick-billed there 31 Dec-31 Jan (GS, R. Schneider, ph. M. Gustafson), and another in Dungeness Bay 18 Dec (†BLB, CW). Oregon's 5th Thick-billed Murre was found moribund on Clatsop Beach 27 Feb (ph. L. Sheffield). A Long-billed Murrelet played hide-and-seek at P.N.P. 9-14 Dec (†VN); the presence of several Marbled Murrelets in apparent partial alternate plumage confused matters, and these birds' resemblance to

Long-billed Murrelets will likely lead to a re-evaluation of all Washington reports. Four Cassin's Auklets, very rare in the P.T., passed Marrowstone Pt., *Jefferson* 23 Dec (SM). A dead Horned Puffin was noted at Seaside 6 Jan (D. Bailey).

Single Band-tailed Pigeons graced Walla Walla 10-11 Dec (B. Davie, ph. M&MD) and Union Gap, *Yakima* 29 Jan (J. Hebert, AS); there are fewer than five antecedent winter records for e. Washington, and the Walla Walla bird was only that county's 2nd ever. The Eurasian Collared-Dove explosion continued, with over 80 in e. Washington, including maxima of 18 at Goldendale, *Klickitat* 8 Dec (DP) and 17 in Mansfield, *Douglas* 3 Dec (K. Kemper). The only w. Washington sighting was of 4 at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 18-25 Feb (P&RS). Oregon suffered a similar surge, with a maximum of 25 at Hines, *Harney* 26 Jan (S. Dowlan) and first records for *Josephine* (DV) and *Polk* (RG). Last winter there were but 18 collared-doves found in the Region, and during the winter of 2004-2005 there were only 4!

Snowy Owls staged an "echo-invasion" involving 35+ birds this winter, following last winter's tally of 88; both eastside and westside were well represented, but only 4 made it s. to Oregon. Five Burrowing Owls in w. Oregon was better than average, as was 7 in e. Washington. A Burrowing Owl on Whidbey I. was banded, having been reared in captivity near Vancouver, British Columbia and later released in e. British Columbia. This is the 2nd such bird to appear in w. Washington in the past several years. A Great Gray Owl, very rare w. of the Cascades, spent most of Jan near Mulino, *Clackamas*, elev. 180 m (C. Ledford). Amazingly, Anna's Hummingbirds are now regular during winter e. of the Cascades, where the winters can be quite harsh. In Bend, where annual, 3 wintered (DT, T. Crabtree, D. Hale), while singles appeared in e. Washington at Selah, *Yakima* 15-16 Dec (DG) and Richland 1-30 Dec (D. Gilmour, NL). This winter's Costa's Hummingbirds visited Bend 13 Jan (DT) and Salem 16 Jan (RG). An unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbird wintered in Eugene (P. Johnson); any *Selasphorus* during Dec/Jan is quite rare. The W.V. had 3 Lewis's Woodpeckers this winter, about average; as recently as 1975 they were still locally fairly common in w. Oregon. Acorn Woodpeckers continue to maintain their Washington foothold near Lyle, *Klickitat*, with 2 there 17 Dec (SJ). Leading this winter's sapsucker extravaganza



This Thick-billed Murre at Point No Point, Kitsap County, Washington 31 December 2006 through 31 (here 20) January 2007 was one of at least four found in the Oregon & Washington Region this winter. Over 50% of Washington's Thick-billeds have been found in the past five years, perhaps due to increased observer scrutiny. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

was w. Washington's 4th Williamson's Sapsucker at Spring Creek Fish Hatchery, Skamania 3 Dec (R. Koppendrayer); this species is rare anywhere in Washington during winter. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Vancouver, Clark 19 Dec was about Washington's 6th (ph. K. Lowrie). A goodly 4 Red-naped Sapsuckers were found this winter; all were w. of the Cascades, where they are rare at any season. On the flip-side, 3 Red-breasted Sapsuckers were found e. of the Cascades, where rare. Equally rare, a Red-breasted Sapsucker × Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid stopped in Yakima 31 Dec (DG). A Hairy Woodpecker along Telford Rd., Lincoln 24 Feb was well away from known breeding areas (TL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Washington's 10th Black Phoebe visited Elma, Grays Harbor 26-27 Dec (ph. P&RS); all but 2 of Washington's Black Phoebes were documented within the past decade. Black Phoebes also continued to consolidate their foothold in the W.V., where 19 were reported. Four were also found on the Klamath Falls C.B.C. (KS); this species has been annual in the Klamath Basin since 2000, but during the 1990s there were only one or two winter records for all of e. Oregon. A Say's Phoebe, rare in e. Washington during midwinter, enlivened Spangle, Spokane 4 Jan (M. Woodruff), whereas a supranormal 9 were located in w. Oregon. Five Loggerhead Shrikes in e. Washington was about par for recent winters. Surprisingly, none were detected on the westside. Oregon's 2nd winter Cassin's Vireo visited a Corvallis feeder 23 Feb (B. Dugger). This winter's 10 Blue Jays made an unremarkable total; the maximum was 5 at Fossil, Wheeler, where they wintered for the 4th consecutive year (L. Bouchard). Western Scrub-Jays continue to wander widely on the eastside, the most remarkable of which was one (*A. c. californica*) in the Spokane Valley during late Jan, likely the northeasternmost record for Washington

(R. Bohn). Elsewhere on the eastside, stray scrub-jays ventured to Grant, OR, Jefferson, and Yakima. On the westside, one journeyed n. to Concrete, Skagit, where now nearly annual (GB). Virtually annual of late in the W.V., a Black-billed Magpie visited Milwaukie, Clackamas 10 Dec (S. Hazeem).

Eighteen Horned Larks at N.S.C.B. 17 Dec was exceptional for the s. Oregon coast, where not annual (*vide* TR). Small flocks of Tree Swallows were observed sporadically around ER.R. and Finley, Dec-Jan (S. Maulding, D. & A. Heyerly, WDR), and Washington's first northbound Tree Swallows were at Lewis Flats, Cowlitz 18 Jan (BT) and Ridgefield 20 Jan (SMi); this species is not annual during winter prior to the arrival of northbound migrants, typically during mid- to late Jan in Oregon and early Feb in Washington. A Cliff Swallow at Scappoose Bottoms 4 Dec was about two months late and yielded the Region's first winter record since 2001 (H. Horvat). For the first time since 2001, however, there was no early wave of Barn Swallows. A few more than usual lingered into Dec, with 7 in w. Washington and 4 in w. Oregon. After that, only 4 were found in w. Oregon, and one was on the eastside at Tygh Valley, Wasco 10 Jan (J. & D. Stentz). What prompted, and then terminated, the peculiar phenomenon of northbound Barn Swallows arriving *en masse* during Jan remains mysterious.

This fall's Rock Wren on Indian I., Jefferson lingered through the winter, providing the westside's first winter record in three years (D. Johnson). Oregon's 2nd Sedge Wren appeared Luckiamute Landing, Polk 4 Jan and remained at least two weeks (WDR); there are fewer than 10 antecedent records from Pacific Coast states/provinces, only two of which were from winter. A number of American Dippers strayed short distances from their usual haunts, the most notable of which was one at Moses L., Grant 16-17 Dec (R. Finger, D. Graham); dippers are extremely rare in the lower/cen. Columbia Basin. For the 6th consecutive winter, Western Bluebirds appeared in w. Washington, with 15 birds at four locations; prior to the late 1990s, this species was virtually unknown during winter in w. Washington, excepting occasional records from breeding areas in Thurston and Pierce. In e. Washington, 2 near Spokane 17 Dec (M. Woodruff) and 8 near Maryhill, Klickitat (SJ) provided a rare Dec/Jan records. A Mountain Bluebird was near Brady, Grays Harbor 14 Jan-25 Feb (SMi, K. Stewart), 2 were in Spokane 15 Jan (M. Frobe), and one was at Richland, Benton 30-31 Dec (BW); this species is not annual during winter in Washington and is rare any time w. of the Cascades. Twelve Northern

Mockingbirds, 9 in Oregon and 3 in Washington, furnished the best winter in five years. Sage Thrashers, very rare during winter, were near Bridgeport, Douglas 16 Dec (R. Hendrick) and Hines, Harney 22 Jan (W. Bowers). Oregon's 12th winter Brown Thrasher was near Eugene 18 Dec+ (D. Turner, J. Houle).

Formerly casual, but now annual during winter, single Nashville Warblers brightened Coos Bay 17 Dec (DL, R. Hoyer) and Corvallis 2 Jan-21 Feb (D. Boucher). Not yet annual during winter, 3 Hermit Warblers were in the W.V., and one was on the outer coast at S. Beach, Lincoln (R. Cheek). A Hermit Warbler × Townsend's Warbler hybrid was in Beaverton, Washington 23 Jan (P. Christenson); these hybrids have only been recorded a handful of times during winter. Three Palm Warblers, rare away from the outer coast, were noted in the W.V. and P.T. Oregon's first winter Ovenbird graced Medford, Jackson 16-19 Jan (ph. J. & B. Eliason). Very rare during winter, a Northern Waterthrush inhabited Skagit W.M.A. 25 Dec-4 Jan (K. Andrich); this may well have been the same bird found there this fall. A Wilson's Warbler visited Portland 3 Feb (S. Cleary). Prior to 1990, the Region had about seven winter records; now about two per winter is typical. Oregon's 2nd winter Summer Tanager was found at Alvadore, Lane 5 Jan+ (M. Decker, J. & G. Jacobson); the Region's two prior winter records were also of birds attending feeders. Oregon's 11th winter Western Tanager was discovered at Portland 10 Jan (B. Stites); this is the 9th consecutive winter during which this species has appeared in the Region, yet there were only about three winter records prior to 1990.



This Ovenbird was present at Medford, Jackson County 16-19 (here 17) January 2007, furnishing Oregon's first and the Oregon & Washington Region's second winter record. Photograph by Bruce Eliason.

Oregon's 4th winter Green-tailed Towhee visited Bend 22 Jan (A. Auger). American Tree Sparrows were relatively scarce on the westside but appeared in above-average numbers on the eastside, exemplified by 52 along Lyons

Ferry Rd., Walla Walla 11 Feb (M&MD, DP). A stunning 28 Chipping Sparrows were found in w. Oregon, mostly in W.V. filbert orchards, with maxima of 12 near Albany, Linn 31 Dec (R. P. Moore) and 9 at Turner, Marion 29 Dec (RG); the Region has only one or two most winters. Have more been present, unnoticed among the hazelnut trees? Five Clay-colored Sparrows, all in w. Oregon, was above average. A Lark Sparrow near Eugene 31 Dec provided the Region's first winter record away from the Rogue R. valley in five years (DI). Sage Sparrows arrived about two weeks early, with 2 at Toppenish, Yakima 11 Feb (AS) and singles at Prineville 11 Feb (CG) and Hood R. 10 Feb (J. Gilligan, O. Schmidt); the latter bird was also extralimital, providing Hood River's 2nd record. Single Red Fox Sparrows adorned L. Terrill, Whatcom 10 Dec (ph. SM, CW, JB) and Luckiamute Landing, Polk 31 Dec (JG); this taxon group is now detected annually in the Region. An apparent *altivagans* Fox Sparrow was along Mounts Rd., Pierce 6 Jan (ph. CW); the mysterious *altivagans* is thought to winter s of our Region. Sixty Lincoln's Sparrows near Kent, King 25 Dec matched the Washington winter record (CW). This winter's 25 Swamp Sparrows was Washington's best total in four years and about thrice the norm. The maximum was 7 in the Ridgefield/Vancouver lowlands 2 Dec (SM, JB, CW), and eastside records included singles at Toppenish, Yakima 17 Dec–7 Jan (S. Downes) and Crow Butte, Benton 17 Feb (DR). Oregon had a more typical 22 Swamps, including up to 7 at Millacoma Marsh, Coos (TR). White-throated Sparrows had another good year in Oregon, evidenced by 20 wintering at Wilson W.M.A., Benton (JG). Harris's Sparrow numbers remained depressed, with 18 reported. A tally of 320 Golden-crowned Sparrows in the Vancouver/Ridgefield lowlands 2 Dec was unprecedented for Washington in winter (SM, CW, JB). A Golden-crowned Sparrow × White-crowned Sparrow hybrid was along Mounts Rd., Pierce 6 Jan (ph. CW); this cross is now noted nearly annually. Washington's first **Gray-headed Junco** was near Enumclaw, King 17 Dec–11 Jan (ph. S. Daniels, K. Steiner). The closest breeding population is in se. Oregon's *Harney*, and there seems to be but one other record nw. of *Harney*: Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I., 8–10 Nov 1975.

A **Black-headed** or **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** near Spokane 2 Dec was most unusual (*vide* CC); Washington has but three winter records of Black-headed and two of Rose-breasted. A Rose-breasted at Corvallis 10 Dec added to about 10 prior Oregon winter records (*vide* K. Fairchild). Tricolored Blackbirds continue to solidify their range in our

Region despite declines in California. The largest wintering flock in the Columbia Basin was 50 at Othello 12 Jan (BF), and the Prineville, Crook flock peaked at 75 on 10 Dec (S. Dougill); strays included 2 at Grants Pass, Josephine 16 Dec (DV) and 2 at Milton–Freewater, Umatilla 6 Jan (M&MD). Unprecedented for w. Washington was a count of 225 Western Meadowlarks on the Samish Flats, Skagit 30 Dec (G. Walker, P. DeBryun). A Yellow-headed Blackbird, rare during winter in w. Washington, adorned Issaquah, King 18 Jan (D. Weinstein). A **Rusty Blackbird** at Milton–Freewater 6 Jan was about the 14th for Oregon (M&MD), while an excellent 5 were detected in Washington, including 3 at Carnation, King 24 Jan (MB); despite apparent dramatic declines across the continent, this species' occurrence in our Region seems stable. This fall's **Hooded Oriole** at Reedsport, Douglas returned sporadically throughout the winter, furnishing the Region's first winter record in 13 years (T. Gannon). A **Bullock's Oriole** near John Day Dam, Klickitat 30 Dec provided e. Washington's 3rd winter record (J. Hadley, R. Robinson), while another near Florence 1 Dec was in w. Oregon, where this species has become nearly annual during winter (*vide* D. Pettey).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were unusually numerous on the eastside, while w. of the Cascades, a mini-irruption included 27 on Mary's Peak, Benton, 2 at Seaside, Clatsop 3 Dec (S. Warner), and singles at Lewis Flats, Cowlitz 18 Jan (BT) and Yachats, Lincoln 3 Dec (A. Walker). Pine Grosbeaks continued to irrupt into the Region, with no fewer than 69 in w. Washington and 12 in w. Oregon. The peak westside tally was 24 at Skagit W.M.A. 8 Jan (R. Merrill), and the southernmost were in Portland (W. Gross, K. Scott, G. Lillie). On the eastside, maxima included a stunning 100 at Ft. Spokane, Lincoln 19 Jan (TL) and 60 along the Little Spokane R., Spokane 30 Dec (C. McCormack). Extremely rare outer-coast records included 9 near Nemah, Pacific 16–17 Dec (G. Exum, J. & M. Green) and 7 on Nicolai Mt., Clatsop 12 Dec (MP). Interestingly, most seemed to have departed the lowlands by late Jan, and it seems almost certain that these birds did not originate from the Region's relatively small breeding population. Two Cassin's Finches were near Banks, Washington 15 Jan (L. Norgren), and singles visited Eugene 18 Jan (DI) and Mulino, Clackamas 5 Feb (C. Karlen, Paul Sullivan); Cassin's are not annual w. of the Cascades. A Red Crossbill, rare in the Columbia Basin, visited Moses L., Grant 16 Dec (GS, G. Harer). Starting in mid-Dec, Common Redpolls joined Pine Grosbeaks in our Re-

gion, but their irruption was unusually weighted towards the westside, including a staggering 215 near Nehalem, Whatcom 17 Dec, part of 525 counted on the N. Cascades C.B.C. that day (B. Kuntz, GB); these represent the highest westside tallies since 1917! Two Common Redpolls at Coos Bay 25 Dec (J. Randolph), plus singletons at N. Bend, Coos 17 Dec (L. Norgren) and Brookings, Curry 17 Feb (B. Stewart), provided extremely rare sw. Oregon records. As with the Pine Grosbeaks, most redpolls had departed by late Jan. Five Lesser Goldfinches at Starbuck 11 Feb furnished Columbia's first record (M&MD, DP), while singles at Underwood, Skamania 3 Dec (SJ) and Kennewick, Benton 16 Dec (NL) were also quite unusual. As of 1993, there were but two Washington records away from Clark and Klickitat, but subsequently, there have been approximately 15 such sightings. Oregon's 5th **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was near Grants Pass, Josephine 1 Dec (M. Browning); prior records were split between spring and winter.

Corrigendum: Last winter's Red Phalarope in Umatilla was actually the 2nd, not the first, eastside winter record.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Tom Aversa (Washington), Jessie Barry, Range Bayer (Lincoln), Gary Bletsch, Keith Brady, Marv Breece, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder (Spokane), Cameron Cox (CCx), Mike & MerryLynn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (Crook), Roy Gerig (Polk, Marion), Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston (Klickitat), Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Terry Little, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig & Marilyn Miller (Deschutes, Jefferson), Scott Mills (SMi), Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Clarence & Marilyn O'Leary (Grant), Michael Patterson (Clatsop), Dennis Paulson, W. Doug Robinson (Benton, Linn, Marion), Tim Rodenkirk (Coos, Curry), Doug Schonewald, Gina Sheridan, Kevin Spencer (Klamath), Andy Stepniewski, Patrick & Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), David Tracey, Dennis Vroman (Josephine), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright. ☺

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