

# WASHINGTON BIRDS



**VOLUME 3**  
**December 1994**

## WASHINGTON BIRDS

*Journal of the Washington Ornithological Society*

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The purpose of *Washington Birds* is to publish information on birds of Washington state and the Pacific Northwest. Papers of general interest independent of geographic region will also be considered. Subject matter may include but is not limited to geographic and ecological distribution, seasonal status and migration, breeding biology and general natural history, conservation, identification, faunal lists, site guides, field techniques, and reports on current research. Conciseness is encouraged.

Contributors should send typed double-spaced manuscripts (preferably two copies) to the Editor at the address below. Submissions in computer-readable form are deeply appreciated. Consult issues of the journal for all matters of style. English and scientific names of birds should follow the 1983 AOU Check-list of North American birds and its supplements. Scientific names will be included for species featured in papers but not for those mentioned incidentally or in long species lists. English and scientific names of other animals and plants will be from the latest checklists. Measurements should be in the metric system. Artwork should be camera-ready and of high quality. For photographic material, original negatives and transparencies are preferable to duplicates or color prints and will be returned to the author upon publication.

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## CHECK-LIST OF WASHINGTON BIRDS (SECOND EDITION)

### Washington Bird Records Committee

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The following lists present the first revision of the Washington Bird Records Committee's (WBRC) Check-list and Supplementary List originally published in 1989. Except as noted below, all changes are accounted for by actions recorded in the WBRC First Report, published elsewhere in the present issue. The Check-list consists of species the occurrence of which the Committee considers to be adequately documented by specimens, photographs, sound recordings, and written reports. The Supplementary List consists of species documented only by single-person sight records that the Committee considers to be valid. Species in italics have been recorded no more than fifteen times in Washington. These constitute the Review List for which written descriptions, accompanied where possible by photographs and sound recordings, are required for all reports submitted for the Committee's consideration.

Taxonomy and nomenclature are those of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 1983 and supplements). The four-letter codes employed by the WBRC for reporting and record-keeping are given following each species name.

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The 1989 edition of the Check-list included 421 species with an additional 13 on the Supplementary List. This second edition has 430 species plus ten on the Supplementary List, a net increase of six species in both categories combined.

A. Species *added*, *deleted*, or *renamed* to conform to AOU actions

Green-backed Heron [*deleted*] split into Green Heron [*added*] and Striated Heron, the latter extralimital

Black-shouldered Kite [*deleted*] split into White-tailed Kite [*added*] and Black-shouldered Kite, the latter extralimital

Lesser Golden-Plover [*deleted*] split into American Golden-Plover [*added*] and Pacific Golden-Plover [*added*], both of which occur regularly in Washington

Northern Hawk-Owl *renamed* Northern Hawk Owl

Rosy Finch [*deleted*] split into Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch [*added*], Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Black Rosy-Finch, and Siberian Rosy-Finch, only the first of which occurs in Washington

B. Species *added* by action of WBRC

Murphy's Petrel  
 Manx Shearwater  
 Piping Plover  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
 Eastern Phoebe  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush  
 Yellow Wagtail  
 Philadelphia Vireo (Supplementary List)  
 Blue-winged Warbler  
 Prairie Warbler (Supplementary List)  
 Kentucky Warbler (Supplementary List)  
 Orchard Oriole  
 Hooded Oriole

C. Species *deleted* by action of WBRC

Wood Sandpiper (Supplementary List)  
 Temminck's Stint (Supplementary List)  
 Iceland Gull (Supplementary List)  
 Brown Thrasher (Supplementary List)  
 Mourning Warbler (Supplementary List)

D. Species whose occurrence in Washington is judged sufficiently uncertain that they have been provisionally *withdrawn* from Check-list pending further review by WBRC

Solander's Petrel  
 Cordilleran Flycatcher  
 Hoary Redpoll

E. Species *promoted* from Supplementary List to Check-list by action of WBRC

Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
 Smew

F. Species *demoted* from Check-list to Supplementary List by action of WBRC

Black-throated Green Warbler

G. Species *reclassified* from Review to Non-Review status (recorded more than fifteen times)

Mute Swan  
 Elegant Tern  
 Acorn Woodpecker

H. Species *reclassified* from Non-Review to Review status (fifteen or fewer valid records)

King Eider  
 Horned Puffin  
 Great Gray Owl  
 Boreal Owl  
 White Wagtail  
 Black-and-white Warbler  
 Le Conte's Sparrow  
 Rusty Blackbird

## CHECK-LIST

## GAVIIDAE

Red-throated Loon RTLO  
 Pacific Loon PALO  
 Common Loon COLO  
 Yellow-billed Loon YBLO

## PODICIPEDIDAE

Pied-billed Grebe PBGR  
 Horned Grebe HOGH  
 Red-necked Grebe RNGR  
 Eared Grebe EAGR  
 Western Grebe WEGR  
 Clark's Grebe CLGR

## DIOMEDEIDAE

*Short-tailed Albatross* STAL  
 Black-footed Albatross BFAL  
 Laysan Albatross LAAL  
*Shy Albatross* SHAL

## PROCELLARIIDAE

Northern Fulmar NOFU  
*Mottled Petrel* MOPE  
*Murphy's Petrel* MUPE  
 Pink-footed Shearwater PFSH  
 Flesh-footed Shearwater FFSH  
 Buller's Shearwater BLSH  
 Sooty Shearwater SOSH  
 Short-tailed Shearwater STSH  
*Manx Shearwater* MASH

## HYDROBATIDAE

*Wilson's Storm-Petrel* WISP  
 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel FTSP  
 Leach's Storm-Petrel LESP

## PHAETHONTIDAE

*Red-billed Tropicbird* RBTR

## SULIDAE

*Blue-footed Booby* BFBO

## PELECANIDAE

American White Pelican AWPE  
 Brown Pelican BRPE

## PHALACROCORACIDAE

Double-crested Cormorant DCCO  
 Brandt's Cormorant BRCO  
 Pelagic Cormorant PECCO

## FREGATIDAE

*Magnificent Frigatebird* MAFR

## ARDEIDAE

American Bittern AMBI  
 Great Blue Heron GBHE  
 Great Egret GREG  
*Snowy Egret* SNEG  
*Little Blue Heron* LBHE  
 Cattle Egret CAEG  
 Green Heron GRHE  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron BCNH

## THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White-faced Ibis WFIB

## ANATIDAE

*Fulvous Whistling-Duck* FUWD  
 Tundra Swan TUSW  
 Trumpeter Swan TMSW  
 Mute Swan MUSW  
 Greater White-fronted Goose GWGO  
 Snow Goose SNGO  
*Ross' Goose* ROGO  
 Emperor Goose EMGO  
 Brant BRAN  
 Canada Goose CAGO

Wood Duck WODU

Green-winged Teal GWTE

*Falcated Teal* FATE

American Black Duck ABDU

Mallard MALL

Northern Pintail NOPI

*Garganey* GARG

Blue-winged Teal BWTE

Cinnamon Teal CITE

Northern Shoveler NOSH

Gadwall GADW

Eurasian Wigeon EUWI

American Wigeon AMWI

Canvasback CANV

Redhead REDH

Ring-necked Duck RNDU

Tufted Duck TUDU

Greater Scaup GRSC

Lesser Scaup LESC

*King Eider* KIEI

*Steller's Eider* STEI

Harlequin Duck HADU

Oldsquaw OLDS

Black Scoter BLSC

Surf Scoter SUSC

White-winged Scoter WWSC

Common Goldeneye COGO

Barrow's Goldeneye BAGO

Bufflehead BUFF

*Smew* SMEW

Hooded Merganser HOME

Common Merganser COME

Red-breasted Merganser RBME

Ruddy Duck RUDU

## CATHARTIDAE

Turkey Vulture TUVU

## ACCIPITRIDAE

Osprey OSPR

White-tailed Kite WTKI

Bald Eagle BAEA

Northern Harrier NOHA

Sharp-shinned Hawk SSHA

Cooper's Hawk COHA

Northern Goshawk NOGO

*Red-shouldered Hawk* RSHA

*Broad-winged Hawk* BWAH

Swainson's Hawk SWHA

Red-tailed Hawk RTHA

Ferruginous Hawk FEHA

Rough-legged Hawk RLHA

Golden Eagle GOEA

## FALCONIDAE

American Kestrel AMKE

Merlin MERL

Peregrine Falcon PEFA

Gyr Falcon GYRF

Prairie Falcon PRFA

## PHASIANIDAE

Gray Partridge GRPA

Chukar CHUK

Ring-necked Pheasant RGPH

Spruce Grouse SPGR

Blue Grouse BUGR

White-tailed Ptarmigan WTPT

Ruffed Grouse RUGR

Sage Grouse SAGR

Sharp-tailed Grouse STGR

Wild Turkey WITU

Northern Bobwhite NOBO

Scaled Quail SCQU

California Quail CAQU

Mountain Quail MOQU

## RALLIDAE

*Yellow Rail* YERA

Virginia Rail VIRA

Sora SORA

American Coot AMCO

## GRUIDAE

Sandhill Crane SACR

## CHARADRIIDAE

Black-bellied Plover BBPL

American Golden-Plover AMGP

Pacific Golden-Plover PAGP

Snowy Plover SNPL

Semipalmated Plover SEPL

*Piping Plover* PIPL

Killdeer KILL

*Mountain Plover* MOPL*Eurasian Dotterel* EUDO

## HAEMATOPODIDAE

Black Oystercatcher BLOY

## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt BNST

American Avocet AMAV

## SCOLOPACIDAE

Greater Yellowlegs GRYE

Lesser Yellowlegs LEYE

Solitary Sandpiper SOSA

Willet WILL

Wandering Tattler WATA

*Gray-tailed Tattler* GTTA

Spotted Sandpiper SPSA

Upland Sandpiper UPSA

Whimbrel WHIM

Long-billed Curlew LBCU

*Hudsonian Godwit* HUGO

Bar-tailed Godwit BTGO

Marbled Godwit MAGO

Ruddy Turnstone RUTU

Black Turnstone BLTU

Surfbird SURF

Red Knot REKN

Sanderling SAND

Semipalmated Sandpiper SESA

Western Sandpiper WESA

Least Sandpiper LESA

*White-rumped Sandpiper* WRSA

Baird's Sandpiper BASA

Pectoral Sandpiper PESA

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper SHSA

Rock Sandpiper ROSA

Dunlin DUNL

*Curlew Sandpiper* CUSA

Stilt Sandpiper STSA

Buff-breasted Sandpiper BBSA

Ruff RUFF

Short-billed Dowitcher SBDO

Long-billed Dowitcher LBDO

Common Snipe COSN

Wilson's Phalarope WIPH

Red-necked Phalarope RNPH

Red Phalarope REPH

## LARIDAE

Pomarine Jaeger POJA

Parasitic Jaeger PAJA

Long-tailed Jaeger LTJA

South Polar Skua SPSK

*Laughing Gull* LAGU

Franklin's Gull FRGU

Little Gull LIGU

*Common Black-headed Gull* CBGU

Bonaparte's Gull BOGU

Heermann's Gull HMGU

Mew Gull MEGU

Ring-billed Gull RBGU

California Gull CAGU

Herring Gull HEGU

Thayer's Gull THGU

*Slaty-backed Gull* SBGU

Western Gull WEGU

Glaucous-winged Gull GWGU

Glaucous Gull GLGU

Black-legged Kittiwake BLKI

*Red-legged Kittiwake* RLKI

Sabine's Gull SAGU

Caspian Tern CATE

Elegant Tern ELTE

Common Tern COTE

Arctic Tern ARTE

Forster's Tern FOTE

*Least Tern* LETE

Black Tern BLTE

## ALCIDAE

Common Murre COMU

*Thick-billed Murre* TBMU

Pigeon Guillemot PIGU

Marbled Murrelet MAMU

*Kittlitz's Murrelet* KIMU

Xantus' Murrelet XAMU

Ancient Murrelet ANMU

Cassin's Auklet CAAU

*Parakeet Auklet* PAAU

Rhinoceros Auklet RHAU

Tufted Puffin TUPU

*Horned Puffin* HOPU

## COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove RODO

Band-tailed Pigeon BTPI

*White-winged Dove* WWDO

Mourning Dove MODO

## CUCULIDAE

*Black-billed Cuckoo* BBCU*Yellow-billed Cuckoo* YBCU

## TYTONIDAE

Barn Owl BNOW

## STRIGIDAE

Flammulated Owl FLOW

Western Screech-Owl WESO

Great Horned Owl GHOW

Snowy Owl SNOW

*Northern Hawk Owl* NHOW

Northern Pygmy-Owl NOPO

Burrowing Owl BUOW

Spotted Owl SPOW

Barred Owl BAOW

*Great Gray Owl* GGOW

Long-eared Owl LEOW

Short-eared Owl SEOW

*Boreal Owl* BOOW

Northern Saw-whet Owl NSOW

## CAPRIMULGIDAE

Common Nighthawk CONI

Common Poorwill COPO

## APODIDAE

Black Swift BLSW

Vaux's Swift VASW

White-throated Swift WTSW

## TROCHILIDAE

Black-chinned Hummingbird BCHU

Anna's Hummingbird ANHU

Calliope Hummingbird CAHU

Rufous Hummingbird RUHU

*Allen's Hummingbird* ALHU

## ALCEDINIDAE

Belted Kingfisher BEKI

## PICIDAE

Lewis' Woodpecker LEWO

Acorn Woodpecker ACWO

*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker* YBSA

Red-naped Sapsucker RNSA

Red-breasted Sapsucker RBSA

Williamson's Sapsucker WISA

Downy Woodpecker DOWO

Hairy Woodpecker HAWO

White-headed Woodpecker WHWO

Three-toed Woodpecker TTWO

Black-backed Woodpecker BBWO

Northern Flicker NOFL

Pileated Woodpecker PIWO

## TYRANNIDAE

Olive-sided Flycatcher OSFL  
 Western Wood-Pewee WEWP  
 Willow Flycatcher WIFL  
 Least Flycatcher LEFL  
 Hammond's Flycatcher HAFL  
 Dusky Flycatcher DUFL  
 Gray Flycatcher GRFL  
 Pacific-slope Flycatcher PSFL  
*Black Phoebe* BLPH  
*Eastern Phoebe* EAPH  
 Say's Phoebe SAPH  
*Vermilion Flycatcher* VEFL  
 Ash-throated Flycatcher ATFL  
*Tropical Kingbird* TRKI  
 Western Kingbird WEKI  
 Eastern Kingbird EAKI  
*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* STFL

## ALAUDIDAE

Eurasian Skylark EUSK  
 Horned Lark HOLA

## HIRUNDINIDAE

Purple Martin PUMA  
 Tree Swallow TRSW  
 Violet-green Swallow VGSW  
 N. Rough-winged Swallow NRSW  
 Bank Swallow BKSW  
 Cliff Swallow CLSW  
 Barn Swallow BASW

## CORVIDAE

Gray Jay GRJA  
 Steller's Jay STJA  
 Blue Jay BLJA  
 Scrub Jay SCJA  
*Pinyon Jay* PIJA  
 Clark's Nutcracker CLNU  
 Black-billed Magpie BBMA  
 American Crow AMCR  
 Northwestern Crow NOCR

Common Raven CORA

## PARIDAE

Black-capped Chickadee BCCH  
 Mountain Chickadee MOCH  
 Boreal Chickadee BOCH  
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee CBCH

## AEGITHALIDAE

Bushtit BUSH

## SITTIDAE

Red-breasted Nuthatch RBNU  
 White-breasted Nuthatch WBNU  
 Pygmy Nuthatch PYNU

## CERTHIIDAE

Brown Creeper BRCR

## TROGLODYTIDAE

Rock Wren ROWR  
 Canyon Wren CNWR  
 Bewick's Wren BEWR  
 House Wren HOWR  
 Winter Wren WIWR  
 Marsh Wren MAWR

## CINCLIDAE

American Dipper AMDI

## MUSCICAPIDAE

Golden-crowned Kinglet GCKI  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet RCKI  
*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* BGGN  
 Western Bluebird WEBL  
 Mountain Bluebird MOBL  
 Townsend's Solitaire TOSO  
 Veery VEER  
*Gray-cheeked Thrush* GCTH  
 Swainson's Thrush SWTH  
 Hermit Thrush HETH  
 American Robin AMRO

Varied Thrush VATH

## MIMIDAE

Gray Catbird GRCA  
 Northern Mockingbird NOMO  
 Sage Thrasher SATH

## PRUNELLIDAE

*Siberian Accentor* SIAC

## MOTACILLIDAE

*Yellow Wagtail* YLWA  
*White Wagtail* WHWA  
*Red-throated Pipit* RTPI  
 American Pipit AMPI

## BOMBYCILLIDAE

Bohemian Waxwing BOWA  
 Cedar Waxwing CEWA

## LANIIDAE

Northern Shrike NRSH  
 Loggerhead Shrike LOSH

## STURNIDAE

European Starling EUST

## VIREONIDAE

Solitary Vireo SOVI  
 Hutton's Vireo HUVI  
 Warbling Vireo WAVI  
 Red-eyed Vireo REVI

## EMBERIZIDAE

*Blue-winged Warbler* BWWA  
*Tennessee Warbler* TEWA  
 Orange-crowned Warbler OCWA  
 Nashville Warbler NAWA  
 Northern Parula NOPA  
 Yellow Warbler YEWA  
*Chestnut-sided Warbler* CSWA  
*Magnolia Warbler* MAWA

*Cape May Warbler* CMWA  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler YRWA  
 Black-throated Gray Warbler BTWA  
 Townsend's Warbler TOWA  
 Hermit Warbler HEWA  
*Blackburnian Warbler* BLWA  
 Palm Warbler PAWA  
*Blackpoll Warbler* BPWA  
*Black-and-white Warbler* BAWA  
 American Redstart AMRE  
*Prothonotary Warbler* POWA  
 Ovenbird OVEN  
 Northern Waterthrush NOWA  
 MacGillivray's Warbler MGWA  
 Common Yellowthroat COYE  
*Hooded Warbler* HOWA  
 Wilson's Warbler WIWA  
 Yellow-breasted Chat YBCH  
 Western Tanager WETA  
*Rose-breasted Grosbeak* RBGR  
 Black-headed Grosbeak BHGR  
 Lazuli Bunting LABU  
*Indigo Bunting* INBU  
*Dickcissel* DICK  
 Green-tailed Towhee GTTO  
 Rufous-sided Towhee RSTO  
 American Tree Sparrow ATSP  
 Chipping Sparrow CHSP  
*Clay-colored Sparrow* CCSP  
 Brewer's Sparrow BRSP  
 Vesper Sparrow VESP  
 Lark Sparrow LASP  
 Black-throated Sparrow BTSP  
 Sage Sparrow SGSP  
*Lark Bunting* LKBU  
 Savannah Sparrow SASP  
 Grasshopper Sparrow GRSP  
*Le Conte's Sparrow* LCSP  
*Sharp-tailed Sparrow* STSP  
 Fox Sparrow FOSP  
 Song Sparrow SOSP  
 Lincoln's Sparrow LISP

Swamp Sparrow SWSP  
 White-throated Sparrow WTSP  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow GCSP  
 White-crowned Sparrow WCSP  
 Harris' Sparrow HASP  
 Dark-eyed Junco DEJU  
 Lapland Longspur LALO  
*Chestnut-collared Longspur* CCLO  
*Rustic Bunting* RUBU  
 Snow Bunting SNBU  
*McKay's Bunting* MKBU  
 Bobolink BOBO  
 Red-winged Blackbird RWBL  
 Western Meadowlark WEME  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird YHBL  
*Rusty Blackbird* RUBL  
 Brewer's Blackbird BRBL  
*Great-tailed Grackle* GTGR  
*Common Grackle* COGR  
 Brown-headed Cowbird BHCO  
*Orchard Oriole* OROR

*Hooded Oriole* HOOR  
*Northern Oriole* NOOR  
*Scott's Oriole* SCOR

FRINGILLIDAE  
*Brambling* BRAM  
 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch GCRF  
 Pine Grosbeak PIGR  
 Purple Finch PUF1  
 Cassin's Finch CAFI  
 House Finch HOFI  
 Red Crossbill RECR  
 White-winged Crossbill WWCR  
 Common Redpoll CORE  
 Pine Siskin PISI  
 Lesser Goldfinch LEGO  
 American Goldfinch AMGO  
 Evening Grosbeak EVGR

PASSERIDAE  
 House Sparrow HOSP

## SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

*Bristle-thighed Curlew* BTCU  
*Great Knot* GRKN  
*Ivory Gull* IVGU  
*Black-backed Wagtail* BKWA  
*White-eyed Vireo* WEVI

*Philadelphia Vireo* PHVI  
*Black-throated Blue Warbler* BUWA  
*Black-throated Green Warbler* BGWA  
*Prairie Warbler* PRWA  
*Kentucky Warbler* KEWA

## LITERATURE CITED

- AOU. 1983. Check-list of North American birds, 6th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Lawrence, Kansas. Supplements in *Auk* 1985 (102: 680-686), 1987 (104: 591-596), 1989 (106: 532-538), 1991 (108: 750-754), 1993 (110: 675-682).
- WBRC. 1989. Check-list of Washington birds. *Wash. Birds* 1: 1-5.

*Manuscript received 25 August 1994*

## FIRST REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) is a standing committee of the Washington Ornithological Society, formed to establish and maintain a state check-list for the birds of Washington. At present, the main WBRC activity is validating records of bird species that are of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence in Washington. The Committee intends to collect, organize, and archive all written and photographic evidence for those records. Initially, the WBRC will review all reports for species that had been recorded fifteen times or fewer in Washington prior to 1989, when the WBRC began work. The Review List for the WBRC currently includes the following species, as well as all species not yet recorded from the state:

Short-tailed Albatross, Shy Albatross, Mottled Petrel, Murphy's Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Ross' Goose, Falcated Teal, Garganey, King Eider, Steller's Eider, Smew, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, Mountain Plover, Eurasian Dotterel, Gray-tailed Tattler, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Great Knot, White-rumped Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, Red-legged Kittiwake, Ivory Gull, Least Tern, Thick-billed Murre, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Parakeet Auklet, Horned Puffin, White-winged Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Allen's Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black Phoebe, Eastern Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Siberian Accentor, Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Black-backed Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit,

White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Le Conte's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Rustic Bunting, McKay's Bunting, Rusty Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Orchard Oriole, Hooded Oriole, Scott's Oriole, Brambling.

We present here the results of the WBRC's review of 193 reports of 83 species considered of unusual occurrence in Washington. Approximately two fifths of the reports spanning the years 1962-1993 were examined; all reports of some species were reviewed, only recently submitted reports of other species. Of these, 125 reports of 60 species were accepted as valid records and 68 reports of 44 species rejected, for an acceptance rate of 65%. (For semantic reasons, we consider that observers submit *reports*, which become *records* when accepted.)

The Committee hopes to carry out its retrospective review of the remaining old reports over the next three years. This will complete the process of revision of the last pre-WBRC Washington list compiled and annotated by Mattocks, Hunn, and Wahl (1976). These authors accepted the occurrence of 377 species in the state, the evidence for some of which the WBRC has yet to examine. By way of comparison the WBRC's original published Check-list (1989) included 421 species with an additional 13 species on the Supplementary List. The second edition of the WBRC Check-list, published elsewhere in this issue, stands at 430 species and ten on the Supplementary List.

We have been much assisted in our thinking about procedures by the published work of other state bird record committees, in particular the exemplary reports from California. Excellent information about the processing of bird reports can be found in Schmidt (1989).

Some reports have been published, particularly in *American Birds*, that were later rejected by the Committee, and these reports are particularly troublesome because they remain a part of the published record and may be cited by subsequent workers who have not seen the Committee's deliberations. References to these "records" are included in the species accounts below.

## EVALUATION PROCEDURES

In evaluating a submitted report, members of the Committee assess the adequacy of the evidence supplied—written, photographic, and otherwise. The Committee can neither verify nor invalidate a report, in the sense of absolute truths, but it can provide a judgment on the acceptability of the report for the permanent record. Subsequent Committees or, for that matter, anyone interested in bird distribution can reassess any given report if additional information becomes available or even on the basis of existing evidence.

If a report is not accepted, this does not imply that the Committee is sure the bird was misidentified or that the observer's abilities are questioned. Cases in which the Committee is convinced of an error (where it is clear the observer saw species A rather than species B, as reported) constitute a small minority. The great majority of unaccepted reports involve inadequate documentation. It is the accuracy and completeness of the written evidence submitted, the existence of corroborating photographs, audio tapes, or specimens, and the objectivity of the review procedure that distinguish an accepted record from a rejected report.

One of the major aims underlying the establishment of the Committee was to foster an awareness in Washington's observers of the importance of providing corroboration for reports of rarities. Careful field notes, sketches, and above all photographs and/or sound recordings are essential to establishing a record of lasting ornithological value.

In most cases the best evidence for the occurrence of a bird species in the state is a specimen, but current constraints against collecting—both regulations and attitudes—preclude this method of documentation for the most part, beached pelagic birds and serendipitous cat or window kills notwithstanding. Thus in the great majority of cases there will be no museum specimen that can be checked and rechecked if there is any doubt about identification.

Although somewhat less objective as evidence, photographs filed for posterity are comparable to specimens, as they can be examined by anyone and, like specimens, can serve as evidence to reject a previously accepted record or vice versa. The primary caveat is that photographs can at times be misleading, for example under odd lighting conditions. Written descriptions should always accompany photographs, as many attributes of the bird in question may not be evident in the photos (the most obvious of which are behavior and vocalizations). In fact, a photo by itself may be quite insufficient, and a written description may be needed to clarify the photograph (for example, "mantle in most lights actually appeared paler than indicated by photograph"). Sound recordings are com-



parable to photographs, as they can be subsequently reassessed, and they may be the best evidence for certain species.

Finally, written descriptions represent the only form of evidence submitted for reports of many rare birds. Identification skills have developed far beyond what they were even a few decades ago, and it has become possible to distinguish most very similar species from one another. Over the same time period, however, the competitive quest for rarities has increased dramatically. This zeal causes bird record committees to have to contend with, in the worst cases, the unspoken attitudes of "If I don't know what it is, it must be a rarity," and "If I hadn't believed it, I wouldn't have seen it."

The Committee has rejected some detailed reports because the viewing conditions (distance, lighting) appeared to preclude the view claimed. In other cases it has been all too evident that a description has been enhanced by reference to the literature. For example, when a description includes measurements ("length 8-9 inches, wingspread 12-14 inches") the same as those given in a popular field guide, some Committee members express skepticism. Similarly, we have been dismayed when a description includes characteristics listed in one or more field guides that are entirely inappropriate for the bird under consideration (for example, characterizing a different plumage). In other cases, differences were listed between similar species that were virtual quotes from field guides, except the observer got them reversed! For these and other reasons, Committee members maintain a healthy degree of conservatism in evaluating some reports that at first sight seem well documented.

The Committee, try as it may to be objective, is also influenced by the quality of the written descriptions submitted to it. Those that are so poorly written that we have difficulty understanding what is intended by a phrase or sentence are, almost by default, not given the credence that a well-written description is.

Irrespective of any unconscious influences, birds can present difficulties in identification, and to accept the occurrence of a real rarity, the Committee must feel that the report is adequate beyond any reasonable doubt. Thus careful attention must be paid to acquiring all the necessary details for identification at the time of the observation, and a cautious approach must be used for evaluating the evidence.

When reviewing the documentation of a rarity, the Committee attempts to eliminate all other possible species from consideration. Therefore, it is important for the observer to document the presence of characters that exclude other similar species. In fact, a thorough description would include critical field marks that distinguish the species from others not even considered at the time of the observation (for example, for a

report of a Little Curlew to be acceptable anywhere in this hemisphere, it would have to be distinguished not only from the common Whimbrel, but also from the perhaps extinct Eskimo Curlew). By relying only on characters that support an identification and that fail to reject other species, one runs the risk of misidentification.

#### EVALUATION OF EXPERTISE

Reports of unusual birds are submitted by observers of every degree of expertise. Although judgments about the validity of reports are intended to be objective—based on evidence presented—the Committee is subconsciously if not consciously swayed by expertise or what might be called "inexpertise." Expertise has two attributes relevant to these matters: (1) overall experience in observing and identifying birds, and (2) familiarity with the species in question. Typically if an observer has long experience watching birds, he or she will be more aware of the information needed to identify them: not only the kinds of differences that characterize species but also the effects of molt and wear on their appearance; the possibility of aberrant plumages; the behavior, habitat choice, and vocalizations of species; and their likelihood of occurrence in space and time. Many of the mistakes made in identification by beginners (*and* by experts) stem from inadequate knowledge of these factors.

#### THE ORIGIN OF RARITIES

No matter the validity of the identification, the origin of birds cannot usually be established without question. Birds that are commonly kept in captivity, for example waterfowl and birds of prey, present special difficulty. Birds often escape from zoos, and not all of them are banded. Furthermore, many birds are kept illegally and are thus not banded. Captive birds may or may not show the feather wear that often signals captivity (and bona fide wild birds may show similar wear!). For rarities the Committee attempts to assess their status in captivity in the region, but we appreciate similar attempts on the part of observers who submit reports of species that may be kept in captivity.

Ship-assisted vagrants are possibilities in any coastal area, and the number of migrant birds that have landed on ships in the North Pacific is a good indication of the potential. It seems highly unlikely that a Siberian passerine could fly across the entire Pacific Ocean but much more likely that it could hitchhike on a ship. The crews of such ships are often willing to put out food and water for birds that appear on them. Clearly we will never know just how a given bird reached our state, but—and this

is most important—as documented records of rare species accrue, we will be able to have much better ideas about how and from where these species arrive.

### RECORD ACCEPTANCE

The rules of the Committee provide that for a record to be accepted as valid it must receive an affirmative vote of no less than all save one of the full Committee membership. That is, at least seven of the eight members of the WBRC as it is presently constituted must vote "yes." The Committee has established two categories of acceptance: (1) unconditionally accepted, and (2) accepted as a special category of presumed valid single-person sight records. The latter category reflects the Committee's belief that single-person sight records have value but are inherently less reliable than multiple-observer records, or records documented by specimens, photographs, or recordings. The relatively high rejection rate noted above is, we believe, largely a reflection of the Committee's cautious attitude toward sight reports. A very high percentage (76%) of the reports detailed herein were sight reports without further documentation.

### THE RECORDS

The taxonomy and nomenclature employed in this report are those of the AOU (1983 and supplements). The reports are listed by species in taxonomic order, and then in chronological order. The information given for each report typically includes, in order, the number of individuals reported, the location and date span for the report, the reporting individuals, and (in parentheses) the file number for each report. The initials of all observers who submitted a report are listed in alphabetical order, with no attempt to denote the initial observer, as it was often difficult to determine which individual or individuals should be credited. (Observers' initials are not listed for rejected reports.) Observers who submitted photographs or videotapes are indicated by a (+) sign following their initials, whether they submitted a written description or not. Specimens are indicated by a (#) sign followed by a standard museum acronym and catalogue number. The documents, photographs, and videotapes forming the basis for reports published in this summary, as well as any written comments provided by Committee members, are housed at the Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington.

Both the identification of age and sex and the comments following some of the records are those of the authors and do not reflect decisions of

the Committee. The WBRC does not specifically review the age, sex, or subspecies of rarities.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members of the Committee who voted on reports included herein were: Kevin Aanerud (1992-), T. Ben Feltner (Chairman), Eugene S. Hunn, Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. (Secretary), Dennis R. Paulson, Jeff Skriletz, Robert A. Sundstrom, Bill Tweit, and Terence R. Wahl (1989-1992).

### ABBREVIATIONS

# specimen ; + photograph or videotape submitted

Museums: PSM (Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound); TESC (The Evergreen State College); UWBM (Burke Museum, University of Washington).

Counties: Adams (AD), Asotin (AS), Benton (BE), Chelan (CH), Clallam (CL), Douglas (DO), Ferry (FE), Franklin (FR), Grant (GT), Grays Harbor (GH), Island (IS), Jefferson (JE), King (KG), Kitsap (KP), Kittitas (KT), Lewis (LE), Lincoln (LI), Mason (MA), Okanogan (OK), Pacific (PA), Pend Oreille (PO), Pierce (PI), San Juan (SJ), Skagit (SG), Skamania (SM), Snohomish (SN), Spokane (SP), Stevens (ST), Thurston (TH), Wahkiakum (WK), Walla Walla (WW), Whatcom (WC), Whitman (WN), Yakima (YA).

Murphy's Petrel,  
25 Apr 1992 (T. Wahl)

Observations cited from *American Birds* are listed as AB, with the appropriate volume and page.

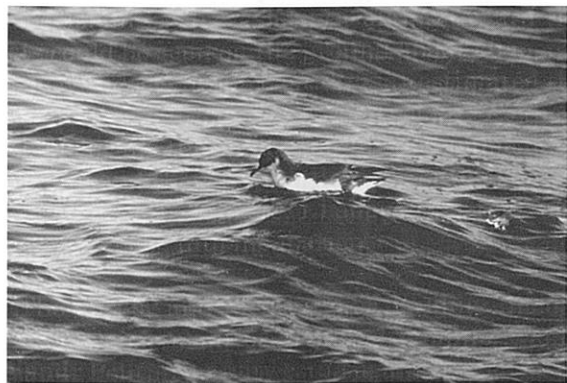
### ACCEPTED RECORDS

**MURPHY'S PETREL.** This first state record, photographically documented, involved at least 24 seen on a long-distance pelagic trip off Westport, GH, on 25 Apr 1992, WCa, EHu, BTw, TWa+ (MUPE-92-1). Details of the sightings were published by Wahl (1992). Earlier, one had been reported from 56 km west of the Columbia River mouth on 9 Apr 1986 (Bailey et al. 1989),



just south of the Washington border. The species has proven to be regular in deep water far off California, particularly from April through June (Patten and Erickson 1994).

**MANX SHEARWATER.** One off Westport, GH, on 14-15 Sep 1990 and 6 Oct 1990 (conservatively assumed to be the same individual), WCa, CEc, BFe, DHr, BLa, NLe, LMc, RMu, TSc, RSu, BTw, TWa (MASH-90-1); one off Ocean Shores, GH, 17 Sep 1992, RWo (MASH-92-1); one off Westport, GH, 10 Oct 1992, LCa, BLa, TWa+ (MASH-92-2). The 10 October bird was well photographed, and these photos provide the first un-



Manx Shearwater, 10 Oct 1992 (T. Wahl)

American waters, where they regularly occur, the great majority have been considered unidentifiable to species, as there are several possible species and descriptions were not sufficiently detailed to distinguish them. The California Bird Records Committee (Dunn 1988) has yet to accept a record of Manx from that state and, similarly,

Manx Shearwater, 10 Oct 1992 (T. Wahl)



equivocally documented Manx Shearwater in the North Pacific Ocean. There are numerous sight reports of small "black-and-white" shearwaters in the Northeast Pacific, and, although Roberson (1980) suggested that Manx Shearwaters from the Atlantic Ocean may wander north in the Pacific if they round Cape Horn from southern South American waters, the great majority have been considered unidentifiable to species, as there are several possible species and descriptions were not sufficiently detailed to distinguish them. The California Bird Records Committee (Dunn 1988) has yet to accept a record of Manx from that state and, similarly, rejected a sight report of the rather similar Townsend's (Langham 1991). There are four reports of such birds from Oregon between 10 September and 3 November (Schmidt 1989) and two earlier reports from Washington yet to be reviewed by the Committee. Although Manx and Black-vented Shearwaters were at one time

combined by the AOU (1957), they are really quite different-looking birds, and the most similar species to Manx in their blackish upperparts and pure white underparts are Townsend's (*Puffinus auricularis auricularis*) and Newell's (*P. a. newelli*) shearwaters. The bird photographed in 1992 was clearly distinguished from Townsend's by its almost entirely white undertail coverts. Manx and Newell's are more similar, but Manx can be differentiated from both Newell's and Townsend's by the color of the under surface of the primaries, silvery gray in Manx and black in the other two species.

**WILSON'S STORM-PETREL.** One off Westport, GH, on 23 Jul 1984, RNa, BTw (WISP-84-1) is the first and only Washington record.

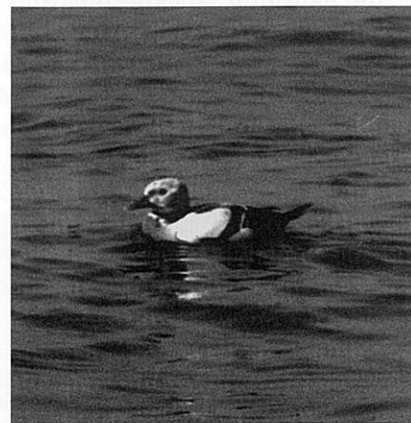
**FALCATED TEAL.** An adult male at Naselle River, PA, on 3 Jan 1979, KGr+ (FATE-79-1), shot by Ken Greenfield while duck hunting, was mounted and is in his possession. The bird showed no evidence of having been in captivity. This is the first state record.

**GARGANEY.** An adult male at Satsop, GH, from 12 Apr-15 May 1991, GHo, WHo+, BMo, JSk+, BTw (GARG-91-1) appears to be the second record for the state. The first reported for the state was a specimen (Spear et al. 1988) that the Committee has not yet examined. The great majority of records of this species along the American Pacific coast fall in spring, perhaps as much as anything because it does not assume alternate plumage until late in the winter (Cramp and Simmons 1977).

**STELLER'S EIDER.** An adult male at Port Townsend, JE, from 18 Oct 1986-8 Feb 1987, AFe+, DJo+, DPa+, BTw (STEI-86-1) remains the only record for the state. This individual associated with Harlequin Ducks during its stay just off Fort Worden State Park.



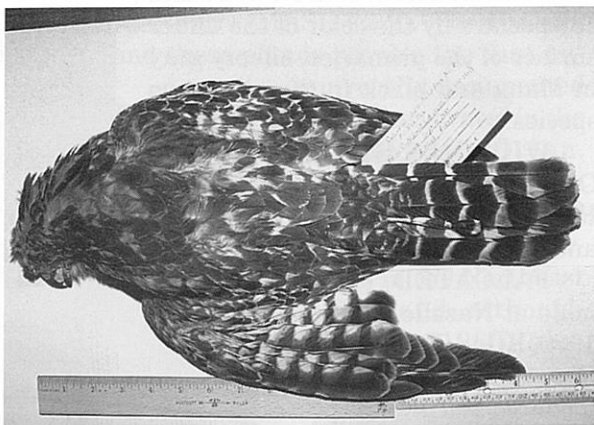
Falcated Teal, 3 Jan 1979  
(K. Greenfield)



Steller's Eider, 18 Oct 1986  
(A. Ferkovich)

**SMEW.** Adult male, Willard, SM, on 28 Dec 1989, CDu (SMEW-89-2); adult male at Stevenson, SM, 26 Jan-13 Feb 1991, WCa+, MDe, ARi (SMEW-91-1). Although the Committee originally thought insufficient details attended the 1989 record, the occurrence of a male in approximately the same area the following winter added sufficient support to make the earlier record acceptable as the first from the state.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.** Adult at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, TH, from 20 Dec 1979-23 Feb 1980, MDo, DHa, EHu, BTw (RSHA-79-1); immature at Cathlamet, WK, on 9 Sep 1988, #UWBM 42969 (RSHA-88-1); immature at Everett, SN, 24-25 Apr 1992, FBi, DSm, LSm (RSHA-92-1). The 1988 specimen is of the *elegans* race from California, as would be expected, and the description of the 1992 bird indicated the same subspecies.



Red-shouldered Hawk, 9 Sep 1988 (P. Mattocks)

**PIPING PLOVER.** An adult at Reardan, LI, 13-16 Jul 1990, JAc+, RMu, DPa+ (PIPL-90-1), is the only record from the state. Some of the circumstantial details of its brief stay were published (Anon. 1990). Known



Piping Plover,  
15 Jul 1990 (J. Acton)

along the Pacific coast from one September record in Oregon (Schmidt 1989) and three wintering birds in California (Binford 1985), this species would have been expected in Washington as a rare visitor. It breeds very sparingly in eastern Montana (Carlson and Skaar 1976).

**EURASIAN DOTTEREL.** Juvenile at Ocean Shores, GH, on 8 Sep 1979, DPa+ (EUDO-79-1). This record, discussed by Paulson (1979), was the second for the state. The first was a specimen (Brown 1934) that has not been examined by the Committee yet. The six records of this species on the American Pacific coast have fallen in a narrow window of time, from 3-20 September (Paulson 1993).

**GRAY-TAILED TATTLER.** Juvenile at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 13 Oct 1975, PEv, REv+ (GTTA-75-1). This record, published by Paulson (1986), is one of two for the Pacific coast south of Alaska; the other was photographed in California (McCaskie 1981).

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT.** Juvenile at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 8 Sep 1990, NLe (HUGO-90-1); one at Ocean Shores, GH, on 8 Sep 1990, RSu (HUGO-90-2); juvenile at Othello, AD, from 25-29 Aug 1992, RHi+ (HUGO-92-2); juvenile at Ocean Shores, GH, from 12 Sep-4 Oct 1992, TSc (HUGO-92-3). Approximately 12 earlier records await review.

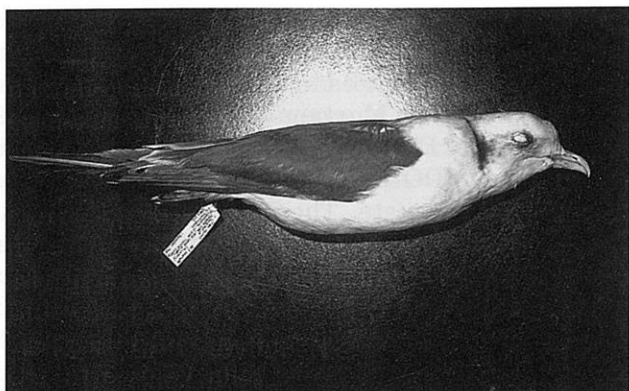
**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.** Adult at Reardan, LI, from 20-21 May 1962, LLa (WRSA-62-1); adult at Reardan, LI, on 23 May 1964, JAc+ (WRSA-64-1); adult at Dungeness, CL, on 7 Jul 1992, DBI, SKA, CKe, PLe, PWo (WRSA-92-1). The two Reardan records match the late-spring migration of this species through North America, and the Dungeness bird was apparently a returning fall migrant.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER.** Adult at Potholes Reservoir, GT, on 10 May 1972, DMe+ (CUSA-72-1); adult at Ocean Shores, GH, on 5 Oct 1979, GHo (CUSA-79-1); adult at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 17 May 1983, RKn (CUSA-83-1); adult at Dungeness, CL, on 29 Jul 1984, MMo (CUSA-84-1); adult at Ocean Shores, GH, on 19 Sep 1990, EHu, GRa, RRa+, JSk+ (CUSA-90-1). Note that all five of these birds were adults, while the great majority of shorebirds of presumably Siberian origin that are seen along the Pacific coast are juveniles. The Curlew Sandpiper clearly does not follow that pattern, as about half of 19 fall records of Curlew Sandpipers from the Pacific Northwest involve adults (Paulson 1993).

**COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL.** First-winter at Ocean Shores, GH, on 4 Nov 1972, JMo (CBGU-72-1); adult at Dungeness, CL, on 27 Aug 1986, JVo (CBGU-86-1); adult at Orcas Island, SJ, on 17 Sep 1987, RRy (CBGU-87-1); adult at Seattle, KG, on 5 Oct 1987, EHu, NHu (CBGU-87-2); adult at Crockett Lake, IS, on 20 Dec 1987, JZo (CBGU-87-3); adult at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, TH, from 17-31 Jan 1993, DPa, BTw (CBGU-93-1).

**RED-LEGGED  
KITTIWAKE.**

Adult found dead at Lake Ozette, CL, on 1 Dec 1978, MLa, #TESC 207 (RLKI-78-1); adult off Westport, GH, on 19 Jan 1991, EHu, DPa (RLKI-91-1). At least one other report has not been reviewed yet.



Red-legged Kittiwake, 1 Dec 1978 (Evergreen St. Coll.)

**THICK-BILLED MURRE.** One off Westport, GH, on 22 Sep 1976, TWa (TBMU-76-2); one at San Juan Island, SJ, on 6 Dec 1979, TWa (TBMU-79-1); two at Ocean Shores, GH, on 15 Dec 1979, DPa (TBMU-79-2); one at Drayton Harbor, WC, on 31 Dec 1986, EHu (TBMU-86-1); one off Westport, GH, on 20 Jan 1990, GTo+, BTw, TWa+ (TBMU-90-1). The only other records for the state are beached specimens that the Committee has not examined yet, an adult male from Westport, GH (#UWBM 11633), found on 19 Feb 1933 by D. E. Brown, and another from Anderson Point, CL (#UWBM 42970), killed by an oil spill off the outer coast in Dec 1988.

Thick-billed Murre, 20 Jan 1990 (T. Wahl)



**KITTLITZ'S MURRELET.** One at Friday Harbor, SJ, on 4 Jan 1974, DHe+ (KIMU-74-1) is the only state record.

**PARAKEET AUKLET.** One off Westport, GH, on 20 Apr 1991, WCa, CEc, THa, BLa, HVa, SRo+ (PAAU-91-1); one off Westport, GH, on 25 Apr 1992, EHu, BTw (PAAU-92-1). Other published records, primarily based on beached dead birds, have not been reviewed by the Committee.

**HORNED PUFFIN.** An adult flew past in a small flock of Common Murres off Kingston, KP, on 15 Dec 1991, DPa (HOPU-91-1). There are numerous specimens from the state—birds that washed up on ocean beaches—still to be reviewed by the Committee, but few live birds have been seen (Thoresen 1981), and this is the only record for Puget Sound.

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.** One was near Walla Walla, WW, on 5 Jun 1990, MLDe (YBCU-90-1). The Committee has not yet reviewed the additional reports of this species, most of them early in the century.

**NORTHERN HAWK OWL.** One at Sherman Pass, FE, from 14-24 Nov 1992, GGe+, ASt (NHOW-92-1), and one at Pearygin Lake, OK, from 24 Jan-17 Feb 1993, DSt+ (NHOW-93-1) were two of the four reports from the winter of 1992-93; the others have not been reviewed yet. These were the first records for Washington since the winter of 1981-82.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.** One adult at Ellensburg, KT, from 16 Dec 1989-18 Feb 1990, EHu, PMa+, BTw (YBSA-89-1) was the first state record. Although sapsucker identification can be tricky, all of this bird's field marks pointed toward Yellow-bellied, including the red crown, entirely red throat, lack of red on the nape, and generally more pale markings than is typical of Red-naped. The Yellow-bellied, many individuals of which breed far to the north of Washington, may be more likely to be found in the state in winter than the Red-naped, and any winter sapsucker not clearly a Red-breasted should be carefully scrutinized to distinguish between Red-naped and Yellow-bellied.

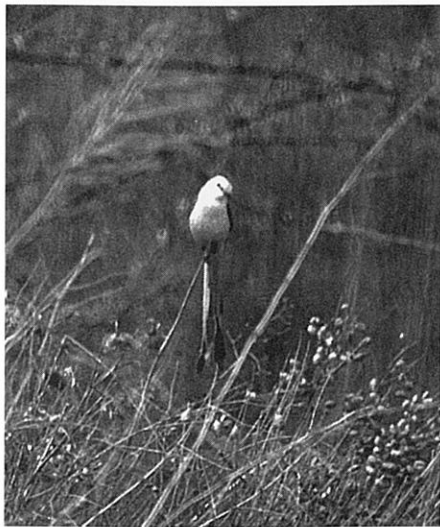


Northern Hawk Owl, 17 Nov 1992  
(G. Gerdtts)

**BLACK PHOEBE.** One at Moclips, GH, on 27 Feb 1980, ROw (BLPH-80-1) was the first accepted sight record for the state. The second bird was photographed at Clear Lake, YA, where it was present from 21-26 May 1989, GGe, EHu+ (BLPH-89-1). It is difficult to speculate on the source of either individual, as Black Phoebes are residents in much of their U. S. range. In Utah, where it is an uncommon summer visitor, the earliest record is 20 March (Behle and Perry 1975). The population in southwestern Oregon is resident (Evanich 1990), and the only records from British Columbia involve birds on 26-27 April and 11 November (Weber et al. 1981).

**EASTERN PHOEBE.** A calling male (tape-recorded and photographed) near Malott, OK, from 22 Jun-3 Jul 1991, TBo, WCa+ (EAPH-91-1) was the second state record. This and an earlier record, not yet reviewed by the Committee, were discussed by Paulson and Mattocks (1992).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER.** One adult photographed near the intersection of Dodson Road and Frenchman Hills Road, GT, on 4 Sep 1983, EHu, JPe+, DWo (STFL-83-1) was the first state record. The second record, occurring nearby two years later, was photographed at Desert Wildlife Recreation Area, GT, on 5 May 1985, TSc+ (STFL-85-1).



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher,  
5 May 1985 (T. Schooley)

**GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.** One at McNary National Wildlife Refuge, WW, on 6 Oct 1990, JEv, KKn (GCTH-90-1) was the first state record. The date is within the range of records for Oregon (22 September, Schmidt 1989) and California (12 September-31 October, Roberson 1980).

**SIBERIAN ACCENTOR.** One found along the beach at Indian Island, JE, on 30 Oct 1983, DPa+, JSk (SIAC-83-1) was a first Wash-

ington record, as well as the first accentor reported south of Alaska in this hemisphere.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL.** An adult at Ocean Shores, GH, on 29 Jul 1992, GAd, RSu+ (YLWA-92-1) showed duskiness on the breast that probably indicates the Alaska-breeding *M. f. tschutschensis*. This is the first state

record and surprisingly early; there are now seven records from California, extending from 4-19 September (Morlan 1985, Pyle and McCaskie 1992).

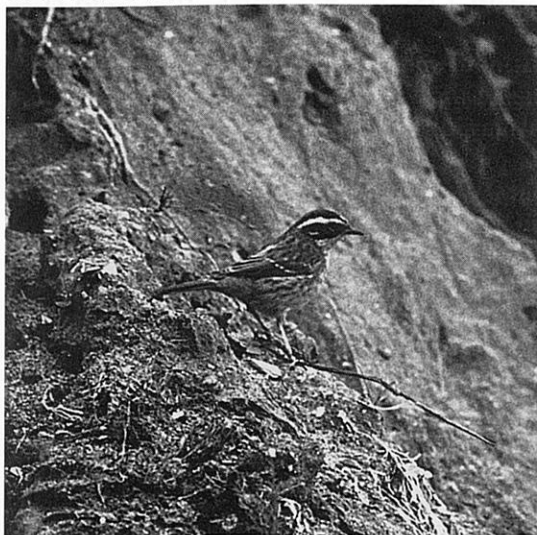
**RED-THROATED PIPIT.** One with American Pipits on San Juan Island, SJ, from 14-16 Sep 1979, EHu, ARi, DWo (RTPI-79-1) is the only state record to date. The original report (AB 34: 194) cited two birds, but evidence for a second individual is not compelling. The species is known only as a fall migrant on the American Pacific coast, with 66 records from California (Patten and Erickson 1994) but only this record and one from British Columbia (Hunn and Mattocks 1986) north of there.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.** A fall vagrant at Anacortes, SG, on 17 Sep 1990, JGo, EHu (BWWA-90-1) is the only accepted state record.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER.** One near Spokane, SP, on 30 Aug 1970, JAc (TEWA-70-1) is the first state record. Other accepted records include a male at Ruby Beach, JE, on 20 May 1974, RRn (TEWA-74-1); one at Jumbo Mountain, ST, on 26 Aug 1981, ARi (TEWA-81-2); one on San Juan Island, SJ, on 11 Sep 1982, EHu, DWo (TEWA-82-1); a singing male at Washtucna, AD, on 28 May 1990, BLa, BTw (TEWA-90-1); and one at Seattle, KG, on 17 Sep 1991, KAa (TEWA-91-1). All of these are sight records. The records include two spring and four fall migrants.

**NORTHERN PARULA.** The first state record was one that wintered at Richland, BE, from 10 Jan-3 Feb 1975, EMo, RWo (NOPA-75-1). Additional records include adult males at Clallam Bay, CL, BFe, JHw (NOPA-

Siberian Accentor,  
30 Oct 1983 (D. Paulson)



79-1) and Humptulips, GH, GHo (NOPA-79-2), both on 13 Jul 1979; a male at Tokeland, PA, on 18 Aug 1991, GGe, HWi (NOPA-91-1); and singing males at Seattle, KG, on 30 May 1992, JEl (NOPA-92-1) and at Lake Quinalt, GH, on 4 Jul 1992, FSh (NOPA-92-2). All of these are sight records. The two records from 1992 were part of an unusual abundance of Northern Parulas on the west coast that spring and summer (AB 46: 1162, 1176, 1179).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER.** One at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 17 Sep 1974, IBu (MAWA-74-1) was the first state record. The other five accepted records are also from the fall period, primarily during September and on both sides of the Cascades. They include one at North Head, PA, on 21 Oct 1978, RWi (MAWA-78-1); an immature photographed near Olympia, TH, from 7-8 Sep 1984, GHo+, WHo (MAWA-84-1); an immature at Sullivan Lake, PO, on 13 Sep 1986, IPa, CVV (MAWA-86-1); an immature at Vantage, KT, from 6-7 Sep 1987, EHu, BTw (MAWA-87-1); and an immature at Protection Island, JE, on 4 Oct 1988, SSSt (MAWA-88-1).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER.** An immature at Bellingham, WC, on 21 Sep 1974, DHe, TWa (CMWA-74-1) is the only accepted state record.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.** The first state record was an immature male at Ocean Shores, GH, on 10 Sep 1979, EHu (BLWA-79-1). Others include a singing male at Richland, BE, on 31 May 1980, RWo (BLWA-80-1) and an immature at Seattle, KG, on 4 Dec 1987, KAa, THa (BLWA-87-1). All of these are sight records.

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER.** An immature male at Vantage, KT, from 6-7 Sep 1987, PMA, BTw, #UWBM 42477 (BPWA-87-1); an adult male at Spokane, SP, on the early date of 17 May 1991, JAc (BPWA-91-1); one at Davenport, LI, on 7 Sep 1991, JAc (BPWA-91-2); and one at Burbank, WW, from 29 Aug-1 Sep 1992, CCo, TGr, JSt (BPWA-92-1) are the only reports the Committee has accepted to date. Three earlier reports have not been evaluated yet.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER.** One at Tokeland, PA, on 21 Mar 1975, HFr (BAWA-75-1); one at Fort Canby State Park, PA, on 12 Oct 1975, PEv (BAWA-75-2); a specimen (#PSM 10192) from ten km east of Ephrata, GT, on 17 May 1979, DHo (BAWA-79-1); an adult male at Beckler River, KG, on 5 Jun 1983, D&LMc (BAWA-83-1); an immature at Asotin, AS, on 25 Oct 1986, DPl, JPa (BAWA-86-1); an adult male at Asotin, AS, on 2 Jun 1987, MPo, PSl (BAWA-87-1); a singing male at Cusick, PO, on 25 Jun 1988, ASSt (BAWA-88-1); and a singing male at Davenport, LI, on 4 Jun 1992, JAc (BAWA-92-1) are the only reports the Committee has evaluated to date.

**OVENBIRD.** A singing male on the west side of Ross Lake, WC, on 8 Jun 1992, SJo (OVEN-92-1) and a fall migrant at Davenport, LI, on 18 Sep 1992, JAc, JWl (OVEN-92-2) are the only reports the Committee has evaluated to date.

**HOODED WARBLER.** A male that wintered in Seattle, KG, from 31 Dec 1975-4 Apr 1976, ESP+, BTw (HOWA-76-1) was the first state record.

**ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK.** An immature male in Spokane, SP, from 2-13 Oct 1992, JAc+ (RBGR-92-1) is the only report the Committee

has reviewed to date.

**INDIGO BUNTING.** An adult male that hit a window on San Juan Island, SJ, on 19 May 1992, SVE+ (INBU-92-2) was photographed in the hand; about six other reports from the state have yet to be reviewed.

**LARK BUNTING.** A fall migrant at Cape Flattery, CL, on 2 Sep 1973, KTa (LKBU-73-1) is apparently the second state record; the first report is yet to be reviewed. Subsequent records include an adult male photographed at Sequim, CL, on 5 Jun 1981, DOL+ (LKBU-81-1); a basic-plumaged bird near Ewan, WN, on 20 Aug 1988, DPl, JPa (LKBU-88-1); a basic-plumaged bird photographed at Westport, GH, on 10 Sep 1991, GBo+ (LKBU-91-1); and an adult male near Clarkston Heights, AS, on 12 Jun 1992, MKo (LKBU-92-1).



Hooded Warbler, 12 Feb 1976  
(E. Spragg)



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 6 Oct 1992  
(J. Acton)

Indigo Bunting,  
19 May 1992 (S. Vernon)



Lark Bunting,  
10 Sep 1991 (G. Bowman)



**LE CONTE'S SPARROW.** One at the Lewis Unit, Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, PA, on 15 Nov 1982, RWi (LCSP-82-1) was probably the second state record, the first being a specimen yet to be reviewed. The third record was a territorial male tape-recorded at Deep Lake, ST, that was present from 18-30 Jun 1993, JAc, EHu (LCSP-93-1).

**SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.** The first and only state record was a fall migrant well seen by multiple observers at Sullivan Lake, PO, on 14 Sep 1986, WHe, MKo, DPl, JPa, CVV (STSP-86-1). Although regular in winter in coastal California, the species is very rarely reported away from the coast in the Pacific states (Patten and Rademaker 1991).

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.** An adult male at Tokeland, PA, on 7 Jul 1974, BTw (CCLO-74-1) was the first state record. The second, also an adult male, was photographed a year later at Point Grenville, GH, on 26 Jun 1975, DHc+ (CCLO-75-1). These records were published by Harrison-Tweit (1979).



Chestnut-collared Longspur, 26 Jun 1975  
(D. Hoechlin)

A male at Dungeness, CL, on 13 Mar 1992, JEm (RUBL-92-2) and a female at Walla Walla, WW, on 9 Nov 1992, ASst (RUBL-92-1) are the only records the Committee has evaluated so far.

**GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE.** Photographs of an adult male present in Union Gap, YA, from 25-26 May 1987, WCa+, JWh+ (GTGR-87-1) document the first state record for this species. Even though the species is becoming almost annual in Oregon, there have been no additional Washington records.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE.** One that appeared on Samish Island, SG, from 15-27 Dec 1991, KAa+, FBi+, PEv, EHu, DNu+, RYo (OROR-91-1) was photographed by several observers for the first documented Washington record.

**HOODED ORIOLE.** An adult male photographed near the outer coast at Tokeland, PA, on 25 Apr 1992, HRe+ (HOOR-92-1) was the first state record.

## R U S T Y BLACKBIRD. A

**SCOTT'S ORIOLE.** A well-photographed adult male that spent 11 Feb-13 Apr 1980 at a Chehalis, LE, feeder, MCa+, CDn+, NDU, PMa, BTw, PVa+ (SCOR-80-1) was the first state record.



Great-tailed Grackle, 25 May 1987  
(W. Cady)

Hooded Oriole,  
25 Apr 1992 (H. Reisbick)



Orchard Oriole, 15 Dec 1991  
(K. Aanerud)

Scott's Oriole,  
Mar 1980 (C. Dunn)





## RECORDS ACCEPTED FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

These records consist of single-person sight reports that the Committee has accepted based on evidence presented by the observers. These species will remain on a Supplementary List, without full accreditation as occurring in Washington, until such time as a record based upon more conclusive evidence has been accepted by the Committee. At this time the species will be promoted to the Check-list proper, and records formerly accepted for the Supplementary List will be considered as fully valid records.

**BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW.** One at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 1 May 1982, RWi (BTCU-82-1). This record was published by Widrig (1983).

**GREAT KNOT.** One adult at La Push, CL, on 6 Sep 1979, KBr (GRKN-79-1).

**IVORY GULL.** One immature at Ocean Shores, GH, on 20 Dec 1975, DDe (IVGU-75-1).

**BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL.** One adult male at the Wells Fish Hatchery, CH, on 19 May 1985, VMa (BKWA-85-1) and an adult female at Ocean Shores, GH, on 11 May 1986, JWi (BKWA-86-1) were both well-described single-person observations, the first and second records for the state. See Morlan (1981) and Howell (1990) for distinction between this species and the similar White Wagtail.

**WHITE-EYED VIREO.** A singing male was on Vashon Island, KG, on 11 Jul 1981, PMa (WEVI-81-1).

**PHILADELPHIA VIREO.** One at Summer Falls State Park, GT, on 25 Sep 1991, KBr (PHVI-91-1). This fits with the great predominance of fall records, from 14 September to 9 November, of this species in California (Patten and Erickson 1994).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.** An immature male at Ruby Beach, JE, on 3 Nov 1988, MRo (BUWA-88-1).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.** A singing adult male at Dishman, SP, on 2 Jul 1975, TRo (BGWA-75-1).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER.** One at Wallula, WW, on 20 Dec 1989, LMc (PRWA-89-1).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER.** A singing male near Darrington, SN, on 14 Jun 1992, DVe (KEWA-92-1) occurred in a summer when record numbers of this species were found in California (AB 46: 1180).

## REJECTED REPORTS

**FALCATED TEAL.** One at Nahcotta, PA, on 27 Oct 1992 (FATE-92-1). The description did not contain enough detail, for example to eliminate a hybrid of some sort. The report was published (AB 47: 140).

**COMMON POCHARD.** One at San Juan Island, SJ, on 26 Sep 1983 (CMPO-83-1). The description specifies dark eyes, but adult male Common Pochards have red eyes; perhaps red would have shown up as "dark" at a distance, but this single-person sight report was considered by the Committee as not quite sufficient for acceptance. Almost all Alaska records are in spring, and the only fall record mentioned by Kessel and Gibson (1978) occurred in mid-October. A Common Pochard that spent at least four winters in California was first seen 11 February, 18 January, 14 January and 26 November in succeeding years (Patten 1993).

**SMEW.** Two at Friday Harbor, SJ, on 22 Feb 1981 (SMEW-81-1); one at Edmonds, SN 21 Jan 1989 (SMEW-89-1). The 1981 report was rejected because, although the description sounded reasonable for this species, the report was treated rather casually by the observer, the birds were on deep salt water (Smews typically but not always occur on fresh water), and two males were reported together (seemingly very unlikely for a vagrant species). The 1989 report was rejected because of discrepancies in the description (seen by two people, described by one), and the Committee felt there was a possibility that the observers, new to the Northwest, might have seen a very white basic-plumaged Pigeon Guillemot.

**ZONE-TAILED HAWK.** One near Omak, OK, on 6 Oct 1990 (ZTHA-90-1). The description of this bird matched quite well that of a subadult Golden Eagle.

**MONGOLIAN PLOVER.** One near North Cove, PA, on 17 Sep 1991 (MGPL-91-1); one at Grayland State Park, PA, on 28 Sep 1991 (MGPL-91-2). Neither description entirely convinced the majority of the Committee. Both lacked some important details or included minor points that did not gibe with expected field marks, including the flight pattern of the 17 September bird. The size and call note of the 28 September bird were wrong for Mongolian. Both were described as in full breeding plumage, unlikely for this late in the fall.

**EURASIAN DOTTEREL.** One at Ocean Shores, GH, on 2 Sep 1989 (EUDO-89-1). The description was quite incomplete for a bird seen as close as "15-20 feet," and the Committee thought there was a good chance it was a golden-plover molting from alternate to basic plumage.

**WOOD SANDPIPER.** One at Tokeland, PA, on 9 Oct 1988 (WOSA-88-1); one at Ocean Shores, GH, 13 Oct 1989 (WOSA-89-1); one at Dry Falls Dam, GT, from 4-5 Jul 1991 (WOSA-91-1). Photographs of the 1988

bird were sent to Claudia Wilds, and she and the Committee felt they were not sufficiently clear to allow unequivocal identification. This report was published (AB 43: 159). None of the descriptions was detailed enough to justify acceptance of a bird that must be considered a very unlikely vagrant. However, the description from 4-5 Jul 1991 was very close to sufficient, considering the observer's extensive experience; unfortunately, he had never seen a Wood Sandpiper. Details of the wing and primary projections would be very important in distinguishing this species from the Lesser Yellowlegs (Paulson 1993). Although there are many Wood Sandpiper records from Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), it still has not been surely recorded south of that state on the Pacific coast. The calls of this species are very distinctive and would allow sure differentiation from the Northwest species with which it is most easily confused, the Lesser Yellowlegs.

**GREEN SANDPIPER.** One at Dry Falls Dam, GT, on 8 Jul 1991 (GRSA-91-1). The details of this description were inadequate for the Committee to accept a record of an extremely unlikely vagrant (only a few records for Alaska).

**TEREK SANDPIPER.** One at Dungeness, CL, on 27 Oct 1972 (TESA-72-1). The description sounds appropriate for this species but included relatively little detail, and the late date makes the occurrence of this tropical and southern-hemisphere winterer unlikely.

**BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW.** One at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 28 May 1981 (BTCU-81-1). The Committee decided that the observer did not give this report full credence, as it was not cited in a note he published about a 1982 Bristle-thighed Curlew sighting.

**TEMMINCK'S STINT.** One adult at Dodson Road, GT, from 1-2 Sep 1981 (TEST-81-1); one at Ocean Shores, GH, on 7 Oct 1983 (TEST-83-1). Some Committee members felt the description of the 1981 bird did not rule out a dull basic-plumaged adult Least Sandpiper, in contrast with bright-plumaged juveniles of the same species. The description specified wing tips reaching tail tip, and Temminck's Stints typically have tails clearly extending beyond the wing tips. This report was published (AB 39: 191). The 1983 report was rejected in part for the same reason: a telephone call from the observers specified "tail and wing tips even."

**LONG-TOED STINT.** One at Wallula, WW, from 26-27 Sep 1990 (LTST-90-1); one at Highway 174 & Barker Canyon Road, DO, on 19 May 1991 (LTST-91-1). The description of the 1990 bird was inadequate to differentiate this species from the quite similar Least Sandpiper, and some aspects of the description seem to point to Least (mantle mottled rust-brown) rather than Long-toed. Actually, the description also matched a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (dark rust-brown cap, unconnected wash

of buffy brown across upper chest). Photographs submitted for the 1991 sighting appeared to be clearly of a Least Sandpiper in bright alternate plumage. So far there are three records of this species in North America south of Alaska, two from Oregon and one from California (Patten and Daniels 1991).

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.** One at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 4 Oct 1975 (WRSA-75-1); one at March Point, SG, on 11 Feb 1978 (WRSA-78-1); one at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 12 Sep 1989 (WRSA-89-1). None of these descriptions was quite detailed enough to convince the Committee of the occurrence of this rare vagrant to the Northwest, and the 1978 bird would have been wintering in North America, extremely unlikely for this long-distance migrant.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER.** One at Hanford, BE, on 6 Sep 1991 (CUSA-91-1). This bird, reported as an adult in basic plumage, showed no trace of rufous, which is unlikely. Curlew Sandpipers characteristically retain some rufous well into the fall (Paulson 1993).

**COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL.** One at Dungeness, CL, on 18 Oct 1986 (CBGU-86-2). Details of the sighting were sufficiently incomplete that even the observer questioned the identification.

**ICELAND GULL.** One at Banks Lake, GT, on 7 Dec 1991 (ICGU-91-1). The plumage description was good for an immature of this species, but the size description ("size of California Gull") was inappropriate. After much controversy about gull identification in this region, the Committee has decided on a course of conservatism and considers photographic evidence essential for records of this species. This report was published (AB 46: 474).

**ROSS' GULL.** One at Diablo Lake, WC, 6 Oct 1990 (ROGU-90-1). Although some Committee members felt this was a reasonably good description, enough doubt remained in the minds of others to reject it.

**BROWN NODDY.** One at Diamond Point, CL, on 26 Aug 1987 (BRNO-87-1). Although the single observer was very familiar with this species, the brief look and the lack of some details in the description, as well as the extreme unlikeliness of the occurrence, caused the Committee to remain conservative and reject it.

**THICK-BILLED MURRE.** One at Ediz Hook, CL, on 21 Sep 1976 (TBMU-76-1). Not enough details accompanied this report, and the observer was neither familiar with murrelets nor realized the significance of the report.

**KITTLITZ'S MURRELET.** Four at Fay Bainbridge State Park, KP, on 31 Oct 1981 (KIMU-81-1); one at Thatcher Pass, SJ, on 20 Feb 1989 (KIMU-89-1). The second report is intriguing; the description is appropriate for a basic-plumaged individual. The Committee rejected the re-

port primarily because it was a very brief observation, as the bird flew past the observer (presumably at the high speed typical of small alcids), not quite satisfactory for a species so rare in the state.

**CRESTED AUKLET.** Six near Orcas Island, SJ, on 17 Sep 1990 (CRAU-90-1). This report gave the Committee food for thought, as the description was good although brief, and the observer is experienced although at the time did not realize the extreme rarity of the species south of Alaska. Ultimately the occurrence of six of these birds so far from their normal range seemed too unlikely to accept with neither photographs nor descriptions from additional observers.

**COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD.** One at Shelton, MA, on 14 Apr 1989 (COHU-89-1). This report, of a male that appeared for a few hours at a feeder, may well have been correct and matches the occurrence of previous Costa's in Oregon and British Columbia (Baltosser 1989), but it did not have enough detail for most Committee members to accept it. This report was published (AB 43: 529).

**BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD.** One at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 17 Jun 1977 (BTHU-77-1) and one at Spokane, SP, on 11 May 1992 (BTHU-92-1). The first report did not provide enough detail to eliminate Anna's Hummingbird, and the observer's claim that the bird was "obviously larger" than a Rufous indicates Anna's rather than Broad-tailed. Dunning (1984) listed mean weights for females as follows: Anna's 4.1 g, Broad-tailed 3.6 g, and Rufous 3.4 g. The second report was only a brief view and did not give enough detail. There are no accepted state records to date.

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.** One at Yakima, YA, presumably the same individual on 26 Nov 1987 and 25 Feb 1988 (YBSA-87-1); one at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, SP, on 28 Jun 1990 (YBSA-90-1). The details of the Yakima report are highly indicative of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but they were judged not quite sufficient for acceptance. The 1990 report does not eliminate a female Red-naped Sapsucker with no visible red on the nape. Also, the bird was said to be breeding, and this is too unlikely in Washington to be accepted without excellent documentation.

**BLACK PHOEBE.** One at Leavenworth, CH, on 12 Jul 1969 (BLPH-69-1); one at Federal Way, KG, on 13 Apr 1985 (BLPH-85-1). The 1969 bird may have been a Western Wood-Pewee, as its call was described as nighthawk-like, not anything like the soft chip of a Black Phoebe. Not enough detail was included to support the 1985 report, and the bird's choice of a perch thirty-five feet up in a hemlock seems unlike typical Black Phoebe behavior.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR.** The description of the behavior of three on Mount Townsend, CL, on 12 Oct 1986 (NOWH-86-1) did not fit wheatear, and the plumage details were ambiguous.

**BROWN THRASHER.** One at the Skagit Wildlife-Recreation Area, SG, on 14 Oct 1972 (BRTH-72-1); one at Orcas Island, SJ, on 13 Oct 1988 (BRTH-88-1); and one at Vantage, KT, on 19 May 1991 (BRTH-91-1). The 1972 report, although it has been published (Manuwal 1973), is a single-person sight report with no accompanying details. The 1988 report, also a single-person sight report and also published (AB 43: 160), had incomplete plumage description, and no mention of the length or conditions of the observation. The 1991 report was by multiple observers, but the combination of the early date and the fleeting glimpses made the Committee disinclined to accept it. There are nine Oregon records in all seasons (Roberson 1980, Schmidt 1989), although none between 20 August and 27 December; however, many California records fall in October and November (Roberson 1980).

**SIBERIAN ACCENTOR.** One at Orcas Island, SJ, on 10 Jan 1991 (SIAC-91-1) was rejected as it was a brief, single-person sighting on a mid-winter date at a feeder. However, a 1994 winter record at a feeder in the interior of British Columbia makes the above report less implausible than the Committee initially thought.

**PHAINOPEPLA.** One at Seattle, KG, on 27 Oct 1990 (PHAI-90-1). Although the Committee cannot imagine what other bird would look like a male of this species, some aspects of the description left us unconvinced, including the statement that the bird appeared in the same exact place three years earlier. There is no valid record from Washington.

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.** One at Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, PA, on 19 Sep 1981 (BWWA-81-1). The photographs accompanying this sighting are of an oriole, apparently a Northern Oriole.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER.** One at Seattle, KG, on 25 Sep 1973 (TEWA-73-1); one at Edmonds, SN, on 25 Jun 1981 (TEWA-81-1); one at north jetty of Columbia River, PA, on 7 Oct 1982 (TEWA-82-2); one at Sedro Woolley, SG, on 27 Aug 1984 (TEWA-84-1); one at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, TH, on 4 May 1986 (TEWA-86-1). The 1981 bird was singing but was only partially seen, and the observer was unfamiliar with the song of the species before hearing it. The details of the 1973 and the 1982 reports were judged too sketchy. The 1984 report appeared to be an Orange-crowned Warbler. The 1986 report was rejected on the basis of the very early date, the inexperience of the observers, and the poor viewing conditions; this report was published (AB 40: 517).

**MAGNOLIA WARBLER.** The sketchy details accompanying single-person sight reports of one at the north jetty of the Columbia River, PA, on 22 Sep 1983 (MAWA-83-1), and another at Ocean City State Park, GH, on 11 Sep 1987 (MAWA-87-2), would both indicate adult birds. The Committee was reluctant to accept either, as adults are far less expected on

the outer coast in fall than immatures, and so the details should be more convincing. If they were immature Magnolias, then the observers exaggerated the intensity of the field marks, a worrisome sign. The 1983 report was published (AB 38: 239).

**CAPE MAY WARBLER.** The report of one at Windust Park, FR, from 10-11 Oct 1992 (CMWA-92-1) was rejected, as the bird was said to lack a yellow rump and there was no description of a dull superciliary. This report was published (AB 47: 143).

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.** One at Spokane, SP, on 19 Feb 1992 (BUWA-92-1) was recovered after it hit a window. Unfortunately it was neither photographed nor described very well, although it was published (AB 46: 474).

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.** One at Seattle, KG, on 12 Sep 1982 (BGWA-82-1) could have been an immature Townsend's x Hermit warbler hybrid from its description (P. Lehman, consultant). This report was published (AB 37: 217).

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.** The description of one at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 4 Oct 1981 (BLWA-81-1) was brief and did not clearly rule out Townsend's. This report was published (AB 36: 211).

**BLACKPOLL WARBLER.** Reports of singles at Richland, BE, on 7 Sep 1991 (BPWA-91-3) and at Columbia Park, BE, on 5 Sep 1992 (BPWA-92-2) had too few details to be conclusive. The 1992 report was published (AB 47: 143).

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER.** A single-person sight report of one at Buck Meadows, South Fork Manastash Creek, KT, on 1 Aug 1992 (COWA-92-1) was rejected as the observer had no *Oporornis* experience and the date was very early.

**MOURNING WARBLER.** One singing in Tumwater Canyon, CH, on 15 May 1983 (MOWA-83-1); one in Yakima, YA, on 9 Oct 1986 (MOWA-86-1); one at Friday Harbor, SJ, on 17 Sep 1988 (MOWA-88-1); one at Wallula, WW, on 3 Aug 1990 (MOWA-90-1). The 1983 male was well seen by a single observer; it showed no trace of white eye arcs. However, the Committee felt that the date was very early for a Mourning Warbler on the west coast and since it was a single-person sight report, the details were insufficient. The description of the song sounded a bit more like Mourning than MacGillivray's, but a tape-recording would have been necessary to distinguish to the Committee's satisfaction between these two species with rather similar songs. Publication of the report (AB 37: 894) was thus premature. According to Paul Lehman, consultant on the report, several details of the 1986 bird seem wrong for fall Mourning Warbler: the call note, the olive tint on the sides, dark gray hood, and blackish on the chest. The details of the 1988 bird, another single-person sight

report, also seemed ambiguous (Paul Lehman). The Wallula bird, reported as an "adult female," was an incompletely described single-person sighting.

**DICKCISSEL.** One at Chelan Butte, CH, on 19 Sep 1989 (DICK-89-1) was very likely a Western Meadowlark from the description of both its plumage and its vocalizations.

**FIELD SPARROW.** One at Hoquiam, GH, on 2 Sep 1991 (FISP-91-1). The details reported on the documentation form were strongly supportive of Field Sparrow, but when the Committee examined the original field notes, they were less conclusive and did not rule out White-crowned Sparrow.

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR.** One at Seattle, KG, on 7 Oct 1990 (SMLO-90-1) was a single-person sight report, unfortunately a brief encounter with few details noted. The observer is quite experienced, adding credibility, but the Committee felt more details were needed.

**CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.** The photographs accompanying the report of one at Sunrise, Mount Rainier National Park, PI, on 30 Aug 1972 (CCLO-72-1) show a juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird, even though the written details mention white tail feathers with dark tips. Juvenile cowbirds may be among the more-often misidentified passerines, as they are never with their parents, are seen singly in mid- to late summer in virtually every habitat, and are inadequately illustrated in most field guides. Those in Washington (and presumably elsewhere) are also surprisingly variable in overall darkness of plumage and vividness of ventral streaking.

**TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD.** One at Long Beach, PA, 30 Apr 1984 (TRBL-84-1); three at Wallula, WW, 13 Apr 1990 (TRBL-90-1). Both of these reports are single-person sight reports of males. The 1984 bird was well described, but the observer did not know Tricolored well, and the Committee believes that it is possible to see the pale yellow or buff edgings on a male Red-winged Blackbird as white in some lights, especially a one-year-old and especially when faded, as in spring or summer. The 1990 birds were described as being less glossy than Red-wings, although Tricolors are glossier. This and other aspects of the description, in fact, would have been appropriate for a comparison between an adult and a first-basic Red-winged Blackbird. Finally, the observer reported details of vocalizations, habitat, and behavior that do not support the observation. The Committee believes this is a very difficult out-of-range identification, and would prefer photographic, specimen, or tape-recorded evidence prior to accepting the species on the state list. This may be only a matter of time, as the Tricolored Blackbird is clearly increasing in its Oregon range (Tweit and Johnson 1990).

ORCHARD ORIOLE. Reports from the early 1980s from eastern Washington (AB 28: 831, AB 28: 28, AB 29: 92) are either undocumented or clearly refer to first-year male Northern Orioles.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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(DWo), Prudence Wood (PWo), Robert Woodley (RWO), Richard Youel (RYo), Jim Zook (JZo).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee appreciates the help it received from Paul Lehman, Don Roberson, and Claudia Wilds in reviewing some of the reports.

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*Manuscript received 20 June 1994*

#### **FOUR-LETTER CODES FOR BIRD SPECIES CONSIDERED BY THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

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The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) assigns a unique identifier, or file number, to each individual bird (or, rarely, several individuals of the same species sighted as a group) for which it receives one or more reports. This is composed of three elements separated by hyphens: the four-letter code for the species, the last two digits of the year of the observation, and a number representing the sequential order of submission. Thus the first Hudsonian Godwit reported in 1990 is identified as HUGO-90-1, the second as HUGO-90-2, etc. Since the inception of the four-letter code concept by Klimkiewicz and Robbins (1978), several variations have been developed by bird banders, state committees, and other organizations, all of them differing from one another to a greater or lesser degree. The WBRC, not wishing to contribute to such nomenclatural proliferation, has adopted the system proposed by Jones (1992) for the birds

of North America. The current Washington check-list, published elsewhere in this issue, includes the correct four-letter codes. The rules by which they were derived, and which will be followed for future additions to the state list, are as follows.

#### DERIVATION RULES

1) Determine the number of words in a name. Hyphenated words, with a single exception, are considered as one word:

Bristle-thighed Curlew = two words, not three.

The exception: if the entire name consists of a single hyphenated word, then the name is treated as if it is unhyphenated:

Chuck-will's-widow = three words, not one.

Unhyphenated words that have a capital letter included within them are considered as two words:

MacGillivray's Warbler = three words, not two.

2) If the name is one word, the code is the first four letters of the name:

WHIM = Whimbrel

3) If the name is two unhyphenated words, the code is the first two letters of the first word and the first two letters of the last word:

RUTU = Ruddy Turnstone

4) If the name is two words, and one word is hyphenated, the code is the first letter of the first two hyphenated parts and the first two letters of the unhyphenated word:

BBPL = Black-bellied Plover

PAGP = Pacific Golden-Plover

BAWA = Black-and-white Warbler

5) If the name is two words, and both words are hyphenated, the first letter of each hyphenated part is the code:

BCNH = Black-crowned Night-Heron

6) If the name is three words, whether hyphenated or unhyphenated, the code is the first letter of the first two words and the first two letters of the last word:

GGOW = Great Gray Owl

CBGU = Common Black-headed Gull

MKBU = McKay's Bunting

WPWI = Whip-poor-will

7) If the name is four words, the code is the first letter of each word. No North American species is in this category (only the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, a subspecies).

#### NON-STANDARD CODES

A few arbitrary code combinations must be devised to eliminate duplicate codes. For these we also follow Jones (1992). Codes for the current Washington check-list are given below.

Buller's Shearwater = BLSH [BUSH = Bushtit]

Trumpeter Swan = TMSW [TRSW = Tree Swallow]

Ring-necked Pheasant = RGPH [RNPH = Red-necked Phalarope]

Blue Grouse = BUGR [BLGR = Blue Grosbeak]

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper = SHSA [STSA = Stilt Sandpiper]

Heermann's Gull = HMGU [HEGU = Herring Gull]

Barn Owl = BNOW [BAOW = Barred Owl]

Bank Swallow = BKSU [BASW = Barn Swallow]

Canyon Wren = CNWR [CAWR = Carolina Wren]

Yellow Wagtail = YLWA [YEWA = Yellow Warbler]

Black-backed Wagtail = BKWA [BBWA = Bay-breasted Warbler]

Northern Shrike = NRSH [NOSH = Northern Shoveler]

Black-throated Blue Warbler = BUWA [BBWA = Bay-breasted Warbler]

Black-throated Gray Warbler = BTWA [BGWA = Black-throated Green Warbler]

Blackpoll Warbler = BPWA [BLWA = Blackburnian Warbler]

Prothonotary Warbler = POWA [PRWA = Prairie Warbler]

Sage Sparrow = SGSP [SASP = Savannah Sparrow]

Lark Bunting = LKBU [LABU = Lazuli Bunting]

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*Manuscript received 28 June 1994*

## AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS NEST SUCCESSFULLY AT CRESCENT ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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Two American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) colonies were observed on Crescent Island, Walla Walla County, in the Columbia River near Burbank, Washington, this year. The first colony was abandoned while the second colony produced about 50 birds. This is the first nesting colony of this species documented in Washington for 30 or more years.

Motschenbacher (1984) surveyed the evidence for nesting history of American White Pelicans in Washington. Although the species was known to occur, and presumed to breed, in eastern Washington in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Dawson and Bowles 1909), the first confirmed, published nesting—and perhaps the only one—appears to have been at Moses Lake, Grant County, in 1926 (Brown 1926). Kitchin (1930), Buechner (1953), Hudson and Yocum (1954), Johnsgard (1955), Lies and Behle (1966), Larrison and Sonnenberg (1968), Eaton (1975), and Evans and Knopf (1993) stated or implied that pelicans no longer nested in Washington at the time of their respective publications. However, Jewett et al. (1953), Palmer (1962), and Bull (1965) all suggest that pelicans continued to nest in Washington more recently than 1926. Further review of the literature will be required in order to establish the last known successful or attempted nesting of the American White Pelican in Washington prior to 1994.

Numbers of pelicans have been increasing over the past 15 years in the Columbia Basin. The author saw several hundred individuals in the lower Basin along the Columbia River during a spring aerial survey in 1990. Some stay year round. The reason for their increased numbers in Washington is suspected to be poor water quality at refuge areas in Nevada, California, and southern Oregon (Lisa Fitzner and John Annear, pers. comm.). The American White Pelican has been monitored for some time by both State and Federal wildlife biologists. It has been generally believed that conditions were right for the species to attempt to nest again in Washington, but no clear indications were apparent as to when and where nesting might first occur. This pelican, which nests mainly on islands in freshwater lakes, does not tolerate human disturbance well, so nesting would have to take place where human intrusion was minimal.

Washington Birds 3: 44-49, 1994

Crescent Island is a man-made dredge spoil island that was designed specifically for waterfowl nesting. It was built in 1985 from a nearby dredging operation and covered with a mantle of topsoil. The island is comma-shaped with the inlet facing east. The seven-acre (2.8-hectare) island was rip-rapped along the outside of the comma. Gravels were used along the shoreline of the inlet. Initially the island was planted to grass. About a dozen trees including Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), willow (*Salix* sp.), and cottonwood (*Populus* sp.) were also planted (Boe 1985).



General view of Crescent Island, 12 May 1994 (S. Ackerman)

From the moment it was created, Crescent Island exhibited an explosion of colonial nesting birds. The island was initially invaded by Caspian Terns. California and Ring-billed Gulls nested soon after. A small group of Forster's Terns also nested on the island early on (J. Annear and A. Sutlick, pers. comm.). The gulls have dominated the nesting on the island, in the exposed soils along the ridge of the comma. Caspian Terns still cling to an area on the northeast side. It is unknown whether Forster's Terns still nest on the island. None was seen in the summer of 1994. As the trees and vegetation matured (primarily invasive willows), Black-crowned Night-Herons began nesting on the island. As of 1993, the island supported approximately 1000 gull, 100 Caspian Tern, 50 Black-crowned Night-Heron, seven Canada Goose, and several Mallard nests. The island is very attractive to waterfowl and colonial nesting birds because it is predator-free and is not used by the public outside the waterfowl hunting season.



The pelicans' choice to nest on Crescent Island, while ignoring several adjacent islands, is probably due to a combination of factors. The island is several kilometers from the nearest boat ramp and the area is very windy. These factors keep fishermen and other boaters away during the summer. Other factors include a bare soil substrate adjacent to shrubby vegetation, which studies have shown to be attractive to this species (USFWS 1983), and possibly the presence of other colonial nesting birds on the island.

The following is a chronology of the author's observations documenting American White Pelican nesting on Crescent Island during 1994.

31 March - First Canada Goose nest check of Crescent Island. No sign of pelican activity noted.

12 May - Approaching Crescent Island from the east, the author and others flushed about 40 American White Pelicans from the shore of the east-facing inlet. On closer inspection we found about 20 nests with eggs on the mat of weeds laid down by the water on the back side of the cove (see photograph). The nests showed they had been flooded at least once by high water. We also found scattered eggs and a couple of nests on the west side of the shrubby vegetation band behind the inlet. These nests were observed by John Annear, Wildlife Biologist with USFWS-Umatilla Refuges; Al Sutlick, Wildlife Biologist, Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers; and Carl Christianson, Biologist, Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers; as well as by myself.

23 May - I went back to Crescent Island alone to check on the current status of the nests. There was no pelican activity around the shoreline of the inlet. Four pelicans were seen on shore above the rip-rap north of the inlet and two others on the north shore of the island. Eleven pelicans circled the island but landed in the river. Many of the pelicans had horny plates on the upper mandible, indicating they were breeding adults. An additional 14 pelicans were found farther along the north shoreline and nine more on the shoreline of Badger Island to the north of Crescent Island. These observations were made well away from the island with no attempt to go ashore, for fear of disturbing the pelicans further. It appeared to me that the first colony had been abandoned by this time, but a second visit would be necessary to confirm this.

22 June - I revisited Crescent Island alone. No activity was observed in the inlet, but there was once again a large grouping of pelicans on the north shore. After surveying from the boat for a while, I determined that by landing along the north shore it would be possible to walk to a point from which the inlet could be viewed from the north side. I landed the boat on the northeast corner of the island. Young gulls were everywhere. Young Caspian Terns could be seen near the colony at the east end of the island. From a point about 50 meters southwest of where the boat had been beached, I observed pelicans to the northwest at the edge of some willow brush, holding still or slowly walking toward the shore. Several nests could be seen on the ground about 40 meters away. I immediately withdrew to the boat. It was estimated that there were 30 to 40 nesting pairs in this second colony. As the boat left the shore, the pelicans that had been flushed immediately went back to the shore and their nests. Because of the strong attachment they showed to their nests, I believe that they must have been at least two weeks into incubation.

1 August - The author and Lisa Fitzner, Wildlife Biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, went back to Crescent Island. Pelican activity could again be seen on the north shore. The boat was docked in the inlet so that the first colony site could be checked. There was no evidence at all of this colony. The area was heavily overgrown with tall weeds and showed signs of having been inundated at various times during the summer. We then took the boat to the north shore and landed. Immediately upon landing a group of about ten young pelicans was seen in the second colony area. We left in the boat at once and no further penetration onto the island was attempted.

26 August - The author returned a final time to Crescent Island with Susan Shampine, Resource Manager for Corps of Engineers, Ice Harbor-Lower Monumental Project. Little pelican activity could be seen on the island. The nesting area was checked by landing on the north shore. Four unhatched eggs were found but no signs of dead pelican young. I photographed the nesting area. About 50 immature American White Pelicans were counted from the boat in the area between the north shore of Crescent Island and the south shore of Badger Island, most of them grouped together on the shore of Badger Island. Only four adults were seen in the area at this time.



American White Pelican nests and eggs, 12 May 1994 (S. Ackerman)

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*Manuscript received 21 October 1994*

## MERLIN HUNTING ON GROUND IN DENSE COVER

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The Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) hunts primarily in open habitat or areas of open airspace throughout its North American range (Cade 1982). Sodhi et al. (1991) recently described an instance of hunting in dense cover by a Merlin (*F. c. richardsonii*) in Saskatchewan, Canada. Such hunting behavior has not been described elsewhere. Here I describe an instance of hunting in dense cover by a Merlin in western Washington during winter.

At 13:18 on 27 January 1981, a subadult Merlin of the *columbarius* subspecies was observed atop a utility pole near a house on the agricultural flats south of Samish Bay, Skagit County, Washington. After a short flight to a fence post at 13:21, the Merlin dropped from its perch and entered a blackberry thicket along the fence. A Golden-crowned Sparrow immediately flew from the thicket, but another sparrow remained and

quickly moved farther into the thicket and out of view. The Merlin emerged from the thicket less than one minute later and flew to a nearby fence post. The second sparrow was not observed again, but the Merlin appeared not to have captured anything while in the thicket. The Merlin flew to a utility pole, vocalized a few times, and left the area at 13:22.

Winter-resident Merlins appear to prey heavily on shorebirds in western Washington (Buchanan et al. 1988). A wide variety of other small birds are common prey here and throughout the Merlin's range (Cade 1982). It is generally believed that subadult raptors are less efficient than adults at capturing prey. Although this particular Merlin was later seen chasing a flock of shorebirds, it is possible that the behavior described above represented nothing more than opportunism, perhaps driven by inexperience or hunting inefficiency.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the company of A. M. Cahall and C. T. Schick on the day of this observation.

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*Manuscript received 21 January 1993*

## SIGHTING OF A POSSIBLE HYBRID RUFOUS X ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD IN KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Eugene S. Hunn

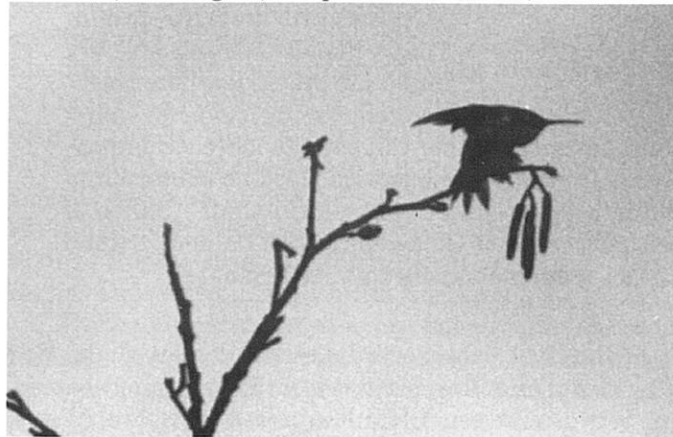
Department of Anthropology DH-05, University of Washington,  
Seattle, Washington 98195

George Gerdts

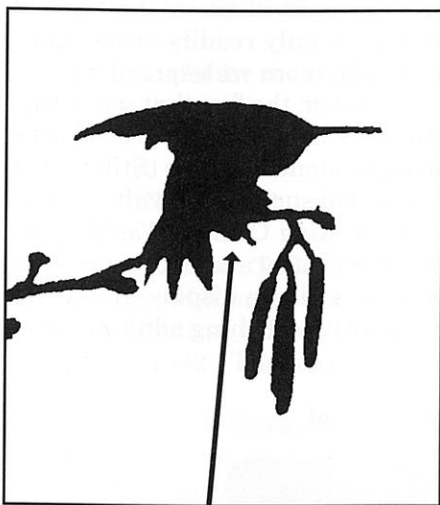
14175 Henderson Road NE, Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

Allen's Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus sasin*) are occasionally reported far from their normal range. These reports are most often on the basis of sightings of adult males with green backs, the only readily visible morphological distinction between Allen's and the more widespread rufous-backed Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*). However, the fact that some fraction of adult male Rufous Hummingbirds may have entirely green backs complicates the problem of extralimital sight identifications (Stiles 1972 and Phillips 1975). We report here a sighting of such an individual along Evans Creek, 4.5 km southeast of Redmond, King County, Washington, on 23-24 April 1983. We were able to observe clearly and photograph the spread tail of this individual and to observe a single display flight, two additional phenotypic characters useful for distinguishing adult males of these two species.

Possible Rufous X Allen's Hummingbird, southeast of Redmond, Washington, 24 Apr 1983 (G. Gerdts)



We observed this individual at distances of less than ten meters for a total of four and a half hours over two days. Four other males, all typical Rufous Hummingbirds, were on territories nearby. The habitat was a wooded wetland dominated by red alder (*Alnus rubra*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and willows of several species, with reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and common rush (*Juncus effusus*) dominant in somewhat wetter areas. Several tall snags provided lookout perches for the territorial males. The individual in question remained perched prominently on one of several preferred snags for 80-90% of the time it was observed, frequently stretching its wings and tail while perched, holding the tail feathers widely spread for one or two seconds on such occasions. Gerdt was able to photograph the spread tail at close range (see figures).



Enlargement showing cut-out inner web of left second rectrix (arrow)

flight feathers dull blackish; upper tail coverts more cinnamon-rufous than belly....Tail reddish/rufous with blackish subterminal blotches...extending a bit up and down central shaft. Shape of tail feathers seen well on many occasions as tail fanned; second rectrix deeply cut on inner web, more than emarginate....

On the morning of the 24th we observed a single display flight, described as J-shaped by Hunn and illustrated below. This display seemed intermediate in shape between the pendulum-like arcs of the typical Allen's

The bird in question was described by Hunn in field notes written 24 April 1983 as follows:

...a fully developed brilliant, metallic orange gorget, bordered below by a white semi-collar, with bright orange-buff flanks separated by a paler central belly. Undertail coverts...whitish. Auricular region also bright orange-buff, eye black with a tiny white spot immediately behind. Bill black...very slightly decurved. Crown dull metallic green, nape likewise; back entirely metallic green, feathers fresh-edged; wing coverts same;

display (as described by Pough 1957: 153) and the L-shaped flight of the Rufous Hummingbird, while the apparent lack of a "stutter" to the whine at the bottom of the dive is more typical of Allen's than Rufous.

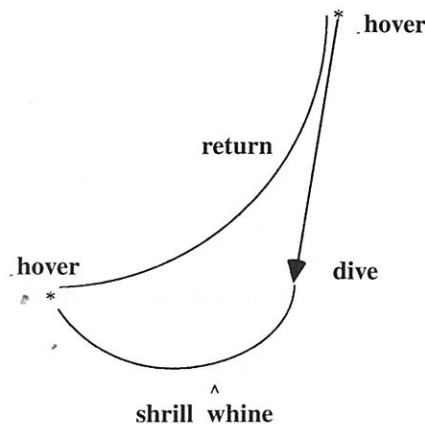


Diagram of possible Rufous X Allen's Hummingbird display flight

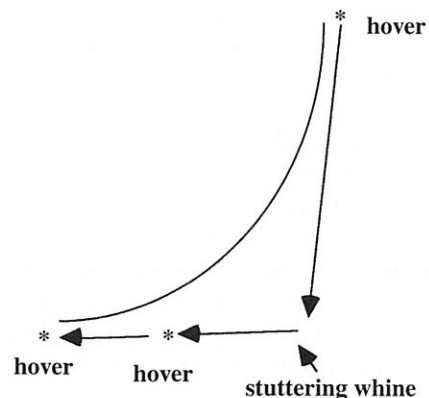


Diagram of Rufous Hummingbird display flight

It should be noted that the Rufous Hummingbird flight is not a smooth ellipse, as incorrectly illustrated in Robbins et al. (1983) and Farrand (1983). Rather, the characteristic Rufous display in our experience begins with a hover seven to ten meters above the ground, followed by a nearly vertical dive to within two or three meters of the ground, braking into a sharp turn with a characteristic stuttering whine produced presumably by the wings. (The stuttering quality of the Rufous display is quite unlike the smooth "zing" noise produced by the Allen's in its display.) The bottom of the dive is followed by a short horizontal run of two to three meters, then a brief hover, then a second horizontal run in the established direction. At this point the male either goes on about its business, returns to a lookout perch, or climbs back to the high point to begin another display. We cannot say if this display flight pattern is characteristic of all populations of Rufous Hummingbirds, but it accurately describes every display we have observed in the Pacific Northwest.

The combination of sharply emarginate second rectrix (typical of Rufous), green back (typical of Allen's), and intermediate display flight strongly suggests that this individual was of hybrid origin. The frequency of natural hybrids among hummingbirds and the fact that Allen's and

Rufous breeding ranges closely approach or overlap on the southern Oregon coast, suggest that Allen's X Rufous hybrids may be relatively frequent, perhaps accounting for many reports of extralimital Allen's Hummingbirds.

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*Manuscript received 25 March 1993*

### DARK-EYED JUNCO MIGRATORY SITE FIDELITY

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The Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) is present in Washington as both a resident and transient. According to Wahl and Paulson (1987), birds in the mountainous areas are migratory while those in the lowlands are present year round. Some of the birds in the lowlands, especially in spring and fall, are likely transients from areas outside the state.

Normally, banding studies are necessary to document whether particular individuals or populations are resident or migratory. In the Puget Sound lowlands it is possible to observe juncos throughout the year, but it is difficult to determine whether a particular bird is a transient or a resident.

Washington Birds 3: 54-55, 1994

Winker et al. (1991), in a description of the behavior of a particular Tennessee Warbler, summarized the recent literature on stopover site fidelity for migratory passerines. They accounted for about 20 records in the literature. The banding records considered only those birds found a minimum of about 160 km from the regular breeding or wintering ranges of the species.

On 16 March 1989, at a feeder located in rural Thurston County, Washington (T17N, R1E, section 7), I observed a Dark-eyed Junco that had a substantial amount of white feathering around its face. This distinctively-marked individual was observed again on 22 and 29 March at the same feeder. One year later, on 19 March 1990, the same individual was observed again at the same feeder. This was the only day the bird was seen in 1990.

I believe that this junco was, in fact, a migrant that displayed both temporal and spatial site fidelity. The bird was observed in the area of the feeder on only the four occasions reported. Food was available in the feeder over a substantially longer period of time. If the bird had wintered or summered in the area it is probable that it would have been observed at the feeder on other occasions. Observing the bird a second year adds further credence to the idea that it was migrating through the area and simply stopped to feed.

Although this record does not meet the criteria discussed by Winker et al., in that the bird was not banded and the site of "recapture" was not 160 km or greater from the regular breeding range of the species, nonetheless I believe that it demonstrates an instance of migratory site fidelity for Dark-eyed Junco.

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*Manuscript received 6 January 1992*

## BOOK REVIEWS

Poole, A., and F. Gill, eds. 1992- (in progress). *The Birds of North America*. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D. C.

With the explosion of data from both amateur and professional ornithology in the past 30 years, the need for comprehensive reviews of the status of bird species has become acute. The American Ornithologists' Union and the Academy of Natural Sciences are trying the latest venture to fill this gap by jointly sponsoring the continuous publication of a series of species profiles, or accounts, under the title of *The Birds of North America* (BNA). Each profile is like a slender eight-and-a-half-by-11-inch magazine, varying from eight to 28 pages in length (20 or more for most), and focuses on the biology of a single species of North American breeding bird (exception: Clark's and Western Grebes share one account, #26). Each is written by different author(s) solicited or accepted for their expertise in a particular species. The number of profiles published has reached 112 as this review goes to press; they have been released in no particular order, taxonomic or otherwise, but instead have been published as soon as their authors have finished, in sets of eight every five to six weeks. When completed, in another seven years, a total of about 720 species will be included.

Although there is a fixed format for all of the accounts, different authors bring different interests to the work. This scheme of production leads to unevenness, which makes it tricky to review the series. I'll break up this review into several parts, beginning with generalities and ending by examining the utility of the series for Northwest birders.

Each profile has an attractive front page with a color photograph of the species, a synoptic summary of its biology, and a large map of its range in North and Central America. In many ways this is the most appealing part. The summaries are very meaty, and the maps are quite detailed. Inside each profile are sections on Distinguishing Characters (not very useful, particularly since it lacks drawings or pictures), Distribution, Systematics, Migration (illustrated with a further map in the case of species that winter in South America), Habitat, Food Habits, Sounds, Behavior, Breeding Biology, Demography, Conservation, and Appearance. To understand the pattern of this organization, we need to step back and look at how earlier overviews have been constructed.

Most turn-of-the-century handbooks emphasized what more than one author has called "shotgun ornithology." Most species accounts were accounts of specimens: where they were collected, their plumage variation, their nests, and occasionally a bit about their observed behavior before they were collected. As field observation became more acceptable, this was superseded by the detailed observations on field biology that grace A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, a series started in 1919. Bent's 23-volume opus—completed only in 1968, 14 years after his death—contains a huge number of field observations and anecdotal stories about bird behavior, and was a major inspiration for legions of early birders. The stupendous increase in amateur field ornithology in the 1960s and '70s quickly rendered Bent's volumes dated, and their ostensible heir was the now-defunct *Handbook of North American Birds*, edited by Ralph Palmer. The *Handbook* has wonderful information but suffers on several accounts, the principal of which are that it has few illustrations and that its pace of publication was agonizingly slow. Published in taxonomic order, volume one (loons through flamingos) came out in 1962; the fourth and fifth—and final—volumes (raptors) appeared together in 1988.

The editors of BNA were no doubt aware of these problems when they started, so they modeled their effort on a different source: the exemplary *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa*, compiled under the general editorship of the late Stanley Cramp. This projected eight-volume set started in 1977 and reached volume seven in 1993, covering through shrikes. Species accounts in this work bear a striking similarity to those of BNA, with a detailed map, strong sections on plumage, distribution, migration, diet, behavior, and breeding. One feature that BNA has failed to emulate, however, is good color plates; the *Handbook* volumes have paintings showing a variety of different plumages of each species. They also have lavish accounts of plumage variation. Given all of the American bird artists, as well as the voluminous amount of bird photos available (for example from VIREO, conveniently housed in the Academy of Natural Sciences), it seems penurious not to supply more illustrations. To give an account of a gull (Ring-billed Gull, #33) without pictures or diagrams of the different age plumages is almost criminal.

How do the species accounts in BNA rate so far? Rather unevenly, due to the predilections of the authors and the state of scientific research for each species. Certain species accounts such as those of the Violet-green Swallow (#14), Common Poorwill (#32), and American Bittern (#18), where many sections or subsections are allowed to pass with the mention "No information," should perhaps have been put off until later in the publication program, allowing time for further research. Despite the lacunae these accounts do contain interesting information in other areas, how-

ever. Perhaps they're supposed to serve as a stimulus for us to get out and fill in those gaps in our knowledge!

A more subtle problem is the authors' biases. Most of the authors have expertise in one feature of a species' biology, and this often skews the account toward that aspect. Many of the gamebird profiles are written by wildlife biologists and have sizeable sections on populations and demography, a section usually tiny in most of the other profiles. Some profiles are detailed in one aspect of a bird's biology, such as Common Poorwill torpor or Western Grebe mating behavior, while other parts of the account are comparatively skimpy.

Most biology today has a narrow focus on studying in detail only one aspect of an animal's biology to show how it has evolved. Few are the field workers who have a comprehensive knowledge of single species or genera. In this sense, the BNA profiles may be doing us a favor. The different authors may become enshrined as experts in a particular species and start to receive new and unpublished information about their species. We can hope that this will lead to updates. One justification given for publishing the BNA accounts in individual fascicules, in random order, is to facilitate such revisions. An account published separately may easily be revised and replaced whenever this seems appropriate, which would not be the case if it were printed and bound in proper order in a book.

Now the real question is, "will these booklets help me understand birds in the Pacific Northwest?" Like most other things about this series, the answer depends on the profile. For example, those that cover birds not found in Washington will perhaps be of lesser interest to many readers from our part of the world. The final call will depend upon individual needs and taste. To help focus your thinking let me comment on several profiles that are pertinent to Northwest birders. I have chosen these to exemplify both the variety of flavors from one account to another as well as some of the interesting facts that can be gleaned from this series.

The profile for the Snowy Owl (#10, author D. F. Parmelee), even though it focuses on normal breeding and wintering areas (which we are not), has lots to interest anyone who's wondered about Snowy invasions. Despite our perceptions of them as irruptive, Snowy Owls are regular migrants to the Great Plains; they just happen to cluster at different rodent-infested sites each winter. Only in the Northeast and Northwest are they irruptive, and the reason is unclear. Most of the irrupting birds are first-year birds, which may tell us something about Snowy Owl social behavior. All of the above statements were gleaned from one section of this account, and there are several noteworthy sections, including big ones on food habits (they're opportunistic sit-and-wait hunters) and behavior

(hooting and visual displays figure prominently in their territoriality and courtship). Many of the sections are graced by nice drawings, including some lovely ones of courtship. For birds that seem so mysterious, we know a surprising amount about them.

The profile for the Tree Swallow (#11, authors R. J. Robertson, B. Stutchbury, and R. R. Cohen) has even more information. The sections on behavior, breeding, migration, and demography are stellar, but we know a lot about this species. Not surprisingly we learn that they favor tree cavities for nests, but we are surprised to learn that they like snags over water or out in open prairies so that they won't be evicted by more aggressive House Wrens or European Starlings. They will even commute long distances to maintain a good nest site (sound familiar to all of you suburbanites?): in Colorado, they nest along mountain lakes and streams, but commute out to the Plains to feed. Not surprisingly, in the Northwest they have been found to be more abundant where snags have been left standing. As in the prior account, one can hardly turn a page without learning something new.

The House Sparrow profile (#12, authors P. E. Lowther and C. L. Cink) is not as immense as you might suspect for so urban a bird. There are nice sections on diet, history, and behavior. With such a cosmopolitan species, though, there is little Northwest flavor to this account (although the authors do mention that House Sparrows reached the Northwest in 1900-1910). Originally they prospered in the United States because of a diet of livestock feed and cereal grains gleaned from cities, towns, and farms. But as automobiles replaced horses, they were pushed either to accept new foods (urban sparrows have shifted to less nutritious birdseed and weed seeds) or become more rural. Since the 1960s even the rural ones have been squeezed as farming has shifted to larger, more mechanized operations. So House Sparrow numbers have declined almost everywhere (with the possible exception of dairy areas). The rest of the account doesn't have as much information. There are surprisingly thin sections on breeding and demography. We don't know as much about their breeding and reproduction as you might expect. There is nothing about the "evening riots" of sparrows, where a roost bush or tree shakes from the commotion and chatter.

The Rock Dove account (#13, author R. F. Johnston) suffers from much the same problem as the House Sparrow account. The bird is apparently so ubiquitous and plebeian that little remarkable new material is presented. We do discover that fledging success is 20-45% and that Rock Doves live an average of 2.4 years. More interesting is that the species has been able to invade many remote areas of the West by roosting in cliffs and feeding with cattle (for their waste feed and feces). On the

whole, the information is presented very tersely with lots of references. There is not much here that will interest most casual readers.

The Violet-green Swallow account (#14, authors C. R. Brown, A. M. Knott, and E. J. Damrose) illustrates a different type of problem. We just don't know enough about the biology of this species yet to warrant a full profile. No sections are very big or well documented, and the bibliography is remarkably short. This may seem disappointing to a western Washingtonian, but ours is an unusual and privileged situation. Only here, in the coastal Northwest, has the Violet-green Swallow adapted to human habitations. Elsewhere in its extensive range across the American West, this bird breeds largely in snags in low-elevation forests. So one of the most common summer birds around Puget Sound is not nearly so easy to study elsewhere. This is clearly a species that needs research, and the Pacific Northwest is clearly the place to undertake it. Do we have any aspiring experts out there?

These five accounts give some ideas about the plusses and minuses of the BNA series. Of the profiles that have been issued so far, 70% pertain to species included on the Washington check-list. If you are a professional ornithologist, or a deeply devoted amateur, you will probably find it worthwhile to subscribe to this series. BNA definitely presents some information that would otherwise be very difficult to locate and synthesize. But it is not cheap. If you did not bite the bullet and buy in as a charter subscriber with a one-time upfront payment of \$1875—an introductory offer that expired at the end of 1993—then today you are facing either an advance payment of \$2995 for the whole thing or a per-volume price of \$195 (each volume contains 40 species profiles and 18 volumes are projected). If you opt for the one-volume-at-a-time mode the price is not locked in and may go up as the series progresses: it already has done once. Another formula is to purchase only those profiles that are of the greatest personal interest. American Birding Association Sales in Colorado Springs is currently offering separates at \$7.50 each (\$7.00 for ABA members). Before deciding, most birders may want to examine copies first, say in a library, to weigh cost and quality against the perceived pleasure, utility, and convenience of having one's own set. For Northwest-specific information, BNA has plenty of holes. Buy it or not, here's an opportunity for all of us to become participants rather than just spectators.

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*Manuscript received 20 April 1994*

Paulson, D. 1993. *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle and London.

Shorebirds are a group that you either love or hate. To some, the thought of scanning through the teeming masses of small dun-colored birds on a distant mudflat is a daunting experience, to be endured once and never again. For others, among them Dennis Paulson, it is their reason for existing. This book is very well produced and clearly written by someone whose infectious love of his subject comes over throughout the text. Although primarily aimed at shorebird enthusiasts, it should appeal to anyone interested in the birds of the Pacific Northwest. It is not intended to be just a shorebird identification guide. In addition to giving detailed treatment to field identification it is also a definitive reference to the status of shorebirds in a fascinating part of the world, providing a wealth of data and information from the region as well as those useful facts and interesting statistics that one always wants but can rarely find, whether in a general field guide or a specialist shorebird book.

Coverage is restricted to southern British Columbia and the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and western Montana. A total of 62 shorebird species are recorded from this region including several Asian species reported only occasionally or as vagrants, and all are given equally detailed treatment. A further 16 species considered to be potential vagrants to the region include Wilson's Plover, Purple Sandpiper, and Eskimo Curlew, the only North American breeders not reported within the region, as well as numerous Asian species that are given cursory reviews.

The introductory chapters take up the first 77 pages of the book. This unexpectedly generous treatment details various aspects of a shorebird, its environment, and how it has evolved to optimize its chances of survival. These opening chapters deal with shorebird anatomy, plumage, molt, coloration and patterning, size and structure, and vocalizations. Although some of what is said could be considered common sense—for example, don't expect to see juveniles in April—it is surprising that so few books, even field guides, make the effort to explain in detail what to look for and what to expect. Detailed treatment is also given to the shorebird year including migration, distribution, breeding and winter habitats as well as the pressures that shorebirds and their habitats undergo.

Although centered around shorebirds these introductory chapters can be applied to many other families. I strongly recommend that all birders, no matter what their level of proficiency, experience, or specialization, read the introduction to this book. Even experienced birders and rarity-finders will benefit from the cautionary advice given. After all, how many



of us have never misidentified a common and familiar species as a rarity, only to be proved wrong when a field mark of a much commoner species miraculously appears?

The remainder of the text presents the individual species accounts. In addition to summarizing the identification and voice, the species accounts also detail the distribution and Northwest status, habitat, behavior, and where appropriate, separation of subspecies that occur or may be expected to occur in the region in the future.

The book is illustrated throughout with color photographs and informative black-and-white drawings by Jim Erckmann. It is unfortunate that each species has not been illustrated with one or more color photographs. Some species, including most of the potential vagrants to the region, lack even a drawing. The author has tended to use photographs to illustrate the rarer and more difficult-to-identify species including many of the Siberian vagrants. However, three photographs of the unmistakable Surfbird, albeit illustrating interesting plumages, seems to be overgenerous treatment of a familiar species. This limited use of photographs is presumably due to financial restraints imposed by the publisher, but by reference to photographs published in popular and readily available guides the author has overcome this omission. Furthermore, by correcting the captions in these reference works where appropriate, an attempt has been made to prevent inaccuracies from creeping into future works.

Author and artist have drawn on the latest field identification criteria to separate the difficult species groups such as stints, dowitchers, tattlers, and golden-plovers, and it is these groups where the photographs have been used more profusely. Each significant plumage, i. e. breeding, nonbreeding, juvenal, and first-winter is discussed in detail. In particular the section relating to stint identification is detailed and thorough. It includes comments based on the author's first-hand experience, supplemented by the works of Jonsson and Grant (1984), Veit and Jonsson (1984), and Colston and Burton (1988). However, I was surprised that the diagnostic scapular and covert patterns of juvenile stints were not individually illustrated. If a vagrant stint is suspected these feathers can be essential to the identification process, particularly in late fall when it has largely molted into first-winter plumage and retained only one or two juvenal feathers.

Based upon his knowledge of variation in Western and Least Sandpiper plumages, Paulson asks who may have noted a similar degree of variation in the plumages of the east Asian Rufous-necked and Long-toed Stints. In fact, several of the excellent photographic guides produced in Japan show Rufous-necked variation well—but perhaps these are not readily available in the States? Closer to home, variation in Long-toed is

well illustrated by Reid (*Birding* 23: 335). The juvenile Little Stint shown on page 258 appears to be unusually sullied around the breast and head but illustrates nicely the effect which dried mud can have upon perceived leg color. A more typical juvenile would appear darker at the sides of the breast and crown and paler around the throat, and would show a slightly more conspicuous split supercilium, producing a slightly crisper head pattern—and would of course generally show black legs.

While the identification criteria are up-to-the-minute for North American species, some of the latest discoveries for Asian vagrants published outside the States appear to have been overlooked—for example, differentiation of juvenile Semipalmated and ringed Plovers on the position of the loreal line relative to the bill (Mullarney, *Birding World* 4: 254-257).

I also came across a few potentially misleading comments relating to Asian vagrants. In the case of juvenile Great Knot, the close-spotting on the breast and flanks does not form a well-defined pectoral band and appears to me very different from the finely streaked and sharply demarcated breast pattern of Pectoral Sandpiper. Similarly adult Great Knot in nonbreeding plumage retains dense breast spotting throughout the year; in my experience it does not develop an irregularly brown-streaked breast as described. I also found the questioning of a record of Great Knot at Boundary Bay, B. C., based on its lack of breeding plumage in mid-May, unjustified as it is quite rightly stated that many first-summer shorebirds migrate in nonbreeding plumage to summering grounds south of the breeding range. Experience of first-summer Great Knot indicates that they are regular migrants through Hong Kong at this time of year.

A novelty of this book are the questions posed by the author at the end of each species account, questions that are pertinent and answers to some of which probably lie unseen in the notebooks of shorebirders throughout the world. While much has been learned about shorebirds in recent years there remains much to discover and it is refreshing to come across a book that asks these questions and provides guidance to observers who may otherwise consider their observations of little importance.

*Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest* belongs in the libraries of experts and beginners alike. The attractive design and editorial organization ensure that one will return to it time and time again. Hopefully its clear, factual presentation will give renewed enthusiasm to old hands and encourage those who fear this supposedly difficult-to-identify group to pick up their scopes and set out once again for their local ponds and mudflats.

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Manuscript received 18 March 1994

## ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

All of the sightings of the Eastern Phoebe at Bay Center occurred in December of 1989. Reference to a sighting on 17 January should read 17 December (Washington Birds 2: 20, 1992). *Ed.*

Dwayne Paige was misquoted as having stated that the Bushtit does not occur in the city of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed (Washington Birds 2: 28, 1992). Earlier surveys have in fact noted its presence there as has subsequent field work in 1994 by Eugene Hunn, JoLynn Edwards, and Hal Opperman. However, the 1994 surveys found the species only along the western edge of the Watershed and at Cedar Falls. These localities lie below 500 m elevation and  $\geq 27$  km west of the Cascade crest. *Ed.*

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WOS meets monthly, except during July and August, on the first Monday of the month (or the second Monday if the first falls on a holiday) at the Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle. WOS holds an annual meeting, alternately east and west of the Cascades, with workshops, speakers, and field trips.

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## CONTENTS

CHECK-LIST OF WASHINGTON BIRDS (SECOND EDITION).....	1
.....Washington Bird Records Committee	
FIRST REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE.....	11
.....Bill Tweit and Dennis R. Paulson	
FOUR-LETTER CODES FOR BIRD SPECIES CONSIDERED BY THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE.....	41
.....Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.	
AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS NEST SUCCESSFULLY AT CRESCENT ISLAND, WASHINGTON.....	44
.....Scott M. Ackerman	
MERLIN HUNTING ON GROUND IN DENSE COVER.....	49
.....Joseph B. Buchanan	
SIGHTING OF A POSSIBLE RUFOUS X ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD IN KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON.....	51
.....Eugene S. Hunn and George Gerdts	
DARK-EYED JUNCO MIGRATORY SITE FIDELITY.....	54
.....John H. Michael Jr.	
BOOK REVIEW: THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA (Poole and Gill, eds.).....	56
.....Robert S. Thorn	
BOOK REVIEW: SHOREBIRDS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST (Paulson).....	61
.....Peter R. Kennerley	
ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA.....	64

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