

December 2000

A black and white photograph of two birds, likely terns, flying over a body of water. The birds are captured in mid-flight, with their wings spread wide. The water below shows some splashing, suggesting the birds have just landed or are about to. The background is a calm, slightly rippled surface of water.

**WASHINGTON
BIRDS 7**

WASHINGTON BIRDS

Journal of the Washington Ornithological Society

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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 North American birds should follow the most recent edition of the AOU *Check-list* and its supplements. Scientific names of vertebrates 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 current check-lists. 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 prints and will be returned to the author upon publication.

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CHECK-LIST OF WASHINGTON BIRDS (FIFTH EDITION)

Washington Bird Records Committee
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915 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, Washington 98926

The following lists supersede the fourth edition of the Washington Bird Records Committee's Check-list and Supplementary List (WBRC 1997). All changes are accounted for by actions recorded in the WBRC Fourth Report, published elsewhere in the present issue. The Check-list consists of species the occurrence of which the Committee considers documented adequately 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 valid. Species in italics have been recorded no more than 20 times in Washington in the period 1990-1999. 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 1998).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The 1997 edition of the Check-list included 442 species with an additional 12 on the Supplementary List. This fifth edition has 447 species plus 12 on the Supplementary List, a net increase of five species in both categories combined.

A. Species *added* by action of WBRC:

Brown Booby
Costa's Hummingbird
Blue-headed Vireo (Supplementary List)
Golden-winged Warbler
Summer Tanager
Tricolored Blackbird

B. Species *deleted* by action of WBRC:

Scaled Quail

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

Bristle-thighed Curlew

D. Species *reclassified* from Review to Non-Review status (more than 20 valid records 1990-1999):

Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Acorn Woodpecker
Clay-colored Sparrow
Rusty Blackbird

E. Species *reclassified* from Non-Review to Review status (20 or fewer valid records 1990-1999):

White-faced Ibis
Emperor Goose
Tufted Duck
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ruff

CHECK-LIST OF WASHINGTON BIRDS

GAVIIDAE	Short-tailed Shearwater	Great Blue Heron
Red-throated Loon	<i>Manx Shearwater</i>	Great Egret
Pacific Loon		<i>Snowy Egret</i>
Common Loon	HYDROBATIDAE	<i>Little Blue Heron</i>
Yellow-billed Loon	<i>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</i>	Cattle Egret
	Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	Green Heron
	Leach's Storm-Petrel	Black-crowned Night-Heron
PODICIPEDIDAE		<i>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</i>
Pied-billed Grebe	PHAETHONTIDAE	
Horned Grebe	<i>Red-billed Tropicbird</i>	THRESKIORNITHIDAE
Red-necked Grebe		<i>White-faced Ibis</i>
Eared Grebe	SULIDAE	
Western Grebe	<i>Blue-footed Booby</i>	CATHARTIDAE
Clark's Grebe	<i>Brown Booby</i>	Turkey Vulture
DIOMEDEIDAE		ANATIDAE
<i>Shy Albatross</i>	PELECANIDAE	<i>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</i>
Laysan Albatross	American White Pelican	Greater White-fronted Goose
Black-footed Albatross	Brown Pelican	<i>Emperor Goose</i>
<i>Short-tailed Albatross</i>		Snow Goose
PROCELLARIIDAE	PHALACROCORACIDAE	Ross's Goose
Northern Fulmar	Brandt's Cormorant	Canada Goose
<i>Murphy's Petrel</i>	Double-crested Cormorant	Brant
<i>Mottled Petrel</i>	Pelagic Cormorant	Mute Swan
<i>Cook's Petrel</i>		Trumpeter Swan
Pink-footed Shearwater	FREGATIDAE	Tundra Swan
Flesh-footed Shearwater	<i>Magnificent Frigatebird</i>	Wood Duck
Buller's Shearwater		Gadwall
Sooty Shearwater	ARDEIDAE	<i>Falcatid Duck</i>
	American Bittern	

Eurasian Wigeon	Merlin	SCOLOPACIDAE
American Wigeon	Gyr Falcon	Greater Yellowlegs
American Black Duck	Peregrine Falcon	Lesser Yellowlegs
Mallard	Prairie Falcon	Solitary Sandpiper
Blue-winged Teal		Willet
Cinnamon Teal	PHASIANIDAE	Wandering Tattler
Northern Shoveler	Chukar	<i>Gray-tailed Tattler</i>
Northern Pintail	Gray Partridge	Spotted Sandpiper
<i>Garganey</i>	Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Upland Sandpiper</i>
Green-winged Teal	Ruffed Grouse	Whimbrel
Canvasback	Sage Grouse	<i>Bristle-thighed Curlew</i>
Redhead	Spruce Grouse	Long-billed Curlew
Ring-necked Duck	White-tailed Ptarmigan	<i>Hudsonian Godwit</i>
<i>Tufted Duck</i>	Blue Grouse	<i>Bar-tailed Godwit</i>
Greater Scaup	Sharp-tailed Grouse	Marbled Godwit
Lesser Scaup	Wild Turkey	Ruddy Turnstone
<i>Steller's Eider</i>		Black Turnstone
<i>King Eider</i>	ODONTOPHORIDAE	Surfbird
Harlequin Duck	Mountain Quail	Red Knot
Surf Scoter	California Quail	Sanderling
White-winged Scoter	Northern Bobwhite	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Black Scoter		Western Sandpiper
Oldsquaw	RALLIDAE	Least Sandpiper
Bufflehead	<i>Yellow Rail</i>	<i>White-rumped Sandpiper</i>
Common Goldeneye	Virginia Rail	Baird's Sandpiper
Barrow's Goldeneye	Sora	Pectoral Sandpiper
<i>Smew</i>	American Coot	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Hooded Merganser		Rock Sandpiper
Common Merganser	GRUIDAE	Dunlin
Red-breasted Merganser	Sandhill Crane	<i>Curlew Sandpiper</i>
Ruddy Duck		Stilt Sandpiper
	CHARADRIIDAE	<i>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</i>
ACCIPITRIDAE	Black-bellied Plover	<i>Ruff</i>
Osprey	American Golden-Plover	Short-billed Dowitcher
White-tailed Kite	Pacific Golden-Plover	Long-billed Dowitcher
Bald Eagle	Snowy Plover	Common Snipe
Northern Harrier	Semipalmated Plover	Wilson's Phalarope
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Piping Plover</i>	Red-necked Phalarope
Cooper's Hawk	Killdeer	Red Phalarope
Northern Goshawk	<i>Mountain Plover</i>	
<i>Red-shouldered Hawk</i>	<i>Eurasian Dotterel</i>	LARIDAE
<i>Broad-winged Hawk</i>		South Polar Skua
Swainson's Hawk	HAEMATOPODIDAE	Pomarine Jaeger
Red-tailed Hawk	Black Oystercatcher	Parasitic Jaeger
Ferruginous Hawk		Long-tailed Jaeger
Rough-legged Hawk	RECURVIROSTRIDAE	<i>Laughing Gull</i>
Golden Eagle	Black-necked Stilt	Franklin's Gull
	American Avocet	Little Gull
FALCONIDAE		<i>Black-headed Gull</i>
American Kestrel		Bonaparte's Gull

Heermann's Gull	STRIGIDAE	TYRANNIDAE
Mew Gull	Flammulated Owl	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Ring-billed Gull	Western Screech-Owl	Western Wood-Pewee
California Gull	Great Horned Owl	Willow Flycatcher
Herring Gull	Snowy Owl	Least Flycatcher
Thayer's Gull	<i>Northern Hawk Owl</i>	Hammond's Flycatcher
<i>Iceland Gull</i>	Northern Pygmy-Owl	Gray Flycatcher
<i>Slaty-backed Gull</i>	Burrowing Owl	Dusky Flycatcher
Western Gull	Spotted Owl	Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Glaucous-winged Gull	Barred Owl	<i>Black Phoebe</i>
Glaucous Gull	Great Gray Owl	<i>Eastern Phoebe</i>
Sabine's Gull	Long-eared Owl	Say's Phoebe
Black-legged Kittiwake	Short-eared Owl	<i>Vermilion Flycatcher</i>
<i>Red-legged Kittiwake</i>	Boreal Owl	Ash-throated Flycatcher
<i>Ross's Gull</i>	Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Tropical Kingbird</i>
Caspian Tern		Western Kingbird
Elegant Tern	CAPRIMULGIDAE	Eastern Kingbird
Common Tern	Common Nighthawk	<i>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher</i>
Arctic Tern	Common Poorwill	<i>Fork-tailed Flycatcher</i>
Forster's Tern		
<i>Least Tern</i>	APODIDAE	LANIIDAE
Black Tern	Black Swift	Loggerhead Shrike
	Vaux's Swift	Northern Shrike
ALCIDAE	White-throated Swift	
Common Murre		VIREONIDAE
<i>Thick-billed Murre</i>	TROCHILIDAE	<i>Yellow-throated Vireo</i>
Pigeon Guillemot	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Cassin's Vireo
<i>Long-billed Murrelet</i>	Anna's Hummingbird	Hutton's Vireo
Marbled Murrelet	<i>Costa's Hummingbird</i>	Warbling Vireo
<i>Kitlitz's Murrelet</i>	Calliope Hummingbird	Red-eyed Vireo
Xantus's Murrelet	Rufous Hummingbird	
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Allen's Hummingbird</i>	CORVIDAE
Cassin's Auklet		Gray Jay
<i>Parakeet Auklet</i>	ALCEDINIDAE	Steller's Jay
Rhinoceros Auklet	Belted Kingfisher	Blue Jay
<i>Horned Puffin</i>		Western Scrub-Jay
Tufted Puffin	PICIDAE	<i>Pinyon Jay</i>
	Lewis's Woodpecker	Clark's Nutcracker
COLUMBIDAE	Acorn Woodpecker	Black-billed Magpie
Rock Dove	Williamson's Sapsucker	American Crow
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</i>	Northwestern Crow
<i>White-winged Dove</i>	Red-naped Sapsucker	Common Raven
Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Sapsucker	
	Downy Woodpecker	ALAUDIDAE
CUCULIDAE	Hairy Woodpecker	Sky Lark
<i>Black-billed Cuckoo</i>	White-headed Woodpecker	Horned Lark
<i>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i>	Three-toed Woodpecker	
	Black-backed Woodpecker	HIRUNDINIDAE
TYTONIDAE	Northern Flicker	Purple Martin
Barn Owl	Pileated Woodpecker	Tree Swallow

Violet-green Swallow	MIMIDAE	Wilson's Warbler
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Gray Catbird	Yellow-breasted Chat
Bank Swallow	Northern Mockingbird	
Cliff Swallow	Sage Thrasher	THRAUPIDAE
Barn Swallow	<i>Brown Thrasher</i>	<i>Summer Tanager</i>
		Western Tanager
PARIDAE	STURNIDAE	
Black-capped Chickadee	European Starling	EMBERIZIDAE
Mountain Chickadee		Green-tailed Towhee
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	PRUNELLIDAE	Spotted Towhee
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Siberian Accentor</i>	American Tree Sparrow
		Chipping Sparrow
AEGITHALIDAE	MOTACILLIDAE	Clay-colored Sparrow
Bushtit	<i>Yellow Wagtail</i>	Brewer's Sparrow
	<i>White Wagtail</i>	Vesper Sparrow
SITTIDAE	<i>Black-backed Wagtail</i>	Lark Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Red-throated Pipit</i>	Black-throated Sparrow
White-breasted Nuthatch	American Pipit	Sage Sparrow
Pygmy Nuthatch		<i>Lark Bunting</i>
	BOMBYCILLIDAE	Savannah Sparrow
CERTHIIDAE	Bohemian Waxwing	Grasshopper Sparrow
Brown Creeper	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Le Conte's Sparrow</i>
		<i>Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow</i>
TROGLODYTIDAE	PARULIDAE	Fox Sparrow
Rock Wren	<i>Blue-winged Warbler</i>	Song Sparrow
Canyon Wren	<i>Golden-winged Warbler</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow
Bewick's Wren	<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>	Swamp Sparrow
House Wren	Orange-crowned Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Winter Wren	Nashville Warbler	Harris's Sparrow
Marsh Wren	<i>Northern Parula</i>	White-crowned Sparrow
	Yellow Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
CINCLIDAE	<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>	Dark-eyed Junco
American Dipper	<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>	Lapland Longspur
	<i>Cape May Warbler</i>	<i>Chestnut-collared Longspur</i>
REGULIDAE	<i>Black-throated Blue Warbler</i>	<i>Rustic Bunting</i>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Snow Bunting
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>McKay's Bunting</i>
	Townsend's Warbler	
SYLVIIDAE	Hermit Warbler	CARDINALIDAE
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>	<i>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</i>
	Palm Warbler	Black-headed Grosbeak
TURDIDAE	<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>	Lazuli Bunting
Western Bluebird	<i>Black-and-white Warbler</i>	<i>Indigo Bunting</i>
Mountain Bluebird	American Redstart	<i>Dickcissel</i>
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Prothonotary Warbler</i>	
Veery	<i>Ovenbird</i>	ICTERIDAE
<i>Gray-cheeked Thrush</i>	Northern Waterthrush	Bobolink
Swainson's Thrush	MacGillivray's Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Hermit Thrush	Common Yellowthroat	<i>Tricolored Blackbird</i>
American Robin	<i>Hooded Warbler</i>	Western Meadowlark
Varied Thrush		

Yellow-headed Blackbird	FRINGILLIDAE	Pine Siskin
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Brambling</i>	Lesser Goldfinch
Brewer's Blackbird	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	American Goldfinch
<i>Common Grackle</i>	Pine Grosbeak	Evening Grosbeak
<i>Great-tailed Grackle</i>	Purple Finch	
Brown-headed Cowbird	Cassin's Finch	PASSERIDAE
<i>Orchard Oriole</i>	House Finch	House Sparrow
<i>Hooded Oriole</i>	Red Crossbill	
<i>Baltimore Oriole</i>	White-winged Crossbill	
Bullock's Oriole	Common Redpoll	
<i>Scott's Oriole</i>	<i>Hoary Redpoll</i>	

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

<i>California Condor</i>	<i>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</i>	<i>Phainopepla</i>
<i>Great Knot</i>	<i>White-eyed Vireo</i>	<i>Black-throated Green Warbler</i>
<i>Jack Snipe</i>	<i>Blue-headed Vireo</i>	<i>Prairie Warbler</i>
<i>Ivory Gull</i>	<i>Philadelphia Vireo</i>	<i>Kentucky Warbler</i>

LITERATURE CITED

- AOU. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union. Washington, D.C..
- WBRC. 1997. Check-list of Washington birds (4th ed.). *Washington Birds* 6:1-6.

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FOURTH REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) has met three times—on 22 November 1997, 11 April 1998, and 11 April 1999—since the deliberations reflected in its Third Report (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997). During these meetings the Committee examined 118 reports of 52 review species. 106 records of 47 species were accepted, and 12 reports of 11 species were not accepted. The exceptionally high acceptance rate of 90 percent is more than likely the result of the higher-than-usual quality of the written reports and of more ample photographic documentation. A preliminary, unofficial summary of these deliberations, published earlier (Mattocks 1999), is superseded by the present definitive report.

Several changes to the state Check-list result from Committee actions reported here. The revised Check-list of Washington Birds, which appears elsewhere in this issue, itemizes and incorporates these changes along with some minor resequencing of species within families (AOU 1998). Scaled Quail has been deleted from the Check-list. There have been no credible reports of this introduced species for 20 or more years, and there is no evidence to suggest that it ever maintained a viable population in the state without the benefit of regular releases by the Washington Department of Wildlife (Smith et al. 1997, Stepniowski 1999). In the next series of meetings, the Committee will consider and evaluate a collection of reports and other evidence regarding the occurrence of Cordilleran Flycatcher in Washington. It is expected that the results of these deliberations will be published in the Fifth Report of the WBRC.

NEW REVIEW CRITERION

A primary objective of recent meetings has been to establish a new criterion for determining the WBRC list of reviewable species. The original criterion (15 or fewer records) has been in place since the Committee opened for business in 1989. While this criterion was an appropriate one during the Committee's extensive retrospective review of pre-1989 records, it has outlived its usefulness now that nearly all of the documented earlier reports have been examined. The absolute number of 15 records is a crude measure, insensitive to the passage of time. If it were to remain the criterion for determining review status, then several species rare enough that their status calls for continuing surveillance would soon have too many records to qualify.

Nonetheless, the Review List published at the outset (WBRC 1989) is still largely valid. Adjustments and corrections made as the Committee's work progressed (WBRC 1994, WBRC 1996, WBRC 1997) have resulted in 11 species moving from non-review to review status (King Eider, Upland Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Xantus's Murrelet, Horned Puffin, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, White Wagtail, Black-and-white Warbler, Le Conte's Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird), two moving from review to non-review status (Mute Swan, Elegant Tern), and one being taken off the Review List then added back again (Acorn Woodpecker). Ten years of new records have accumulated—for example, of the 95 total records for all warblers on the Review List, 49 were reported during the 1990s—and more reports are coming in all the time. As a result, it has become clear that certain species not presently on the Review List occur less frequently than had been supposed, and warrant review status (White-faced Ibis, Emperor Goose, Tufted Duck, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruff). We have also learned that a number of species are more regular in their occurrence than had been presumed, sufficiently so for them to be removed from the Review List (Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Acorn Woodpecker, Clay-colored Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird).

The Committee has therefore established a new criterion with the intent of providing stability and flexibility for the Review List, and ease of administration and interpretation for the Committee and field observers alike. *The Review List will consist of all species for which there are no more than 20 reliable, documented records for the ten-year period 1990-1999.* The new Review List resulting from the application of this criterion consists of those species whose names are italicized on the Check-list published elsewhere in this issue. The Committee will not consider possible changes to the Review List until 2009, except for the automatic addition of species newly recorded for the first time in the state. This policy is intended to prevent species from bouncing on and off the Review List from one year to the next. The Committee will make efforts to monitor and archive reports of other species that might be candidates for the Review List, including reports from prior years, and in ten years will determine which of these species, if any, should be added to the Review List. It is anticipated that the new criterion will be responsive to the transitory aspect of some of Washington's avifauna, as species over time are reported with greater or lesser frequency in the state.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Procedures have remained consistent with those detailed in the introduction of the first report of the WBRC (Tweit and Paulson 1994). Although photographs are considered among the most persuasive forms of documenting evidence, the Committee strongly prefers that a written report accompany any submitted photographs. Submitted evidence is considered a "report." A "record" is a report that has been accepted by the Committee.

THE RECORDS

The taxonomy and nomenclature employed in this report are those of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 1998). The species reports are listed in taxonomic order, and multiple reports of a single species are listed chronologically. Information provided for each report generally includes the number of individuals (in many cases, with a description of age, sex, or plumage), location and date span for the report, initials of reporters who have submitted documenting evidence, and the file number (in parentheses) for the report. Observers' initials are not listed for reports not accepted. If any observers submitted photographic or video evidence, their initials are preceded by a "+" sign. All documenting evidence as well as any written comments provided by Committee members or consultants are conserved at the Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma. Any commentary following this sequence of information is the opinion of the authors of this report, not of the Committee. In particular, determinations of sex, age, or subspecies are not part of the Committee's mandate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members of the Committee who voted on reports included herein were: Kevin R. Aanerud (Chairman), Bob Boekelheide, Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. (Secretary), Steven G. Mlodinow, Dennis R. Paulson, Andy Stepniewski, Robert A. Sundstrom, and Bill Tweit.

ABBREVIATIONS

specimen; + photograph or videotape submitted

Museum: PSM (Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma)

Counties: Asotin (AS); Benton (BE); Clallam (CL); Clark (CK); 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); Snohomish (SN); Spokane (SP); Thurston (TH); Walla Walla (WW); Whatcom (WC); Whitman (WN)

ACCEPTED RECORDS

SOLANDER'S/MURPHY'S PETREL. One was seen off Westport, GH on 21 Sep 1996, TWa (SMPE-96-1) and another off Westport on 2 May 1998, TWa (SMPE-98-1). These two species are very close in appearance, and the Committee has decided to place any records that do not fully establish the identity as one or the other into this indeterminate category. Although there is as yet no accepted North American record for Solander's

Petrel, it is expected that before long a fully documented record will occur off the West Coast. In Washington, the occurrence of Murphy's Petrel has been established from several well-documented records. Solander's Petrel was included on the Committee's initial Check-list (WBRC 1989) on the basis of a single written report from 1983. However, the Committee subsequently decided to remove this species provisionally from the Check-list, pending further review (WBRC 1994). Seabird experts have been asked to review the report and make recommendations.

MOTTLED PETREL. One was found dead (PSM #9952) on the beach at Westport, GH on 2 Mar 1976 (MOPE-76-1). Another specimen (PSM #12531) also from Westport, GH was found on 25 Feb 1991 (MOPE-91-1). Four birds were seen during a pelagic trip off Westport, GH on 2 Feb 1997, WCa, BLa, ARi, BTw, TWa (MOPE-97-1). There are now four accepted state records.

MANX SHEARWATER. One was seen off Westport, GH on 2 Apr 1994, +TWa (MASH-94-1). Another was photographed off Westport, GH on 20 Jul 1996, +BSh (MASH-96-1). The first Manx Shearwater recorded from inland waters was seen from the Port Townsend-Keystone Ferry, IS on 9 Jul 1997, GGe, HWi (MASH-97-1). One was recorded 29 miles west of Toleak Point, JE on 30 Jun 1998, BTw (MASH-98-1); one also was seen off Westport, GH on 22 Aug 1998, +KMi, BTw (MASH-98-2). There are now eight accepted records.



Manx Shearwater - off Westport (GH), 22 Aug 1998 (Photo Kip Miller)

BROWN BOOBY. The first state record was an adult that was observed for several days on Protection Island, JE or feeding offshore nearby on 18-23 Oct 1997, GGe, NLa, VNe, MKe (BRBO-1-97). Perhaps the strong El Niño system of 1997 was responsible for the occurrence in Washington's waters of this far-flung wanderer.

SNOWY EGRET. One was seen at Clarkston, AS on 1-3 May 1977, +CMu (SNEG-77-2), and one at McNary National Wildlife Refuge, WW on 13 Sep 1980, BWo (SNEG-80-2). Three records come from Ocean Shores, GH on 12 Aug 1984, ARi (SNEG-84-4); on 6-7 May 1987, GWa (SNEG-87-1); and on 26 Apr 1994, G&RRa (SNEG-94-2). The 12 Aug 1984 sighting is very likely the same as the bird from 29 Jul 1984 at the same location (Tweit and Skriletz 1996), even though the Committee accepted it as a separate record. One was at Olympia, TH on 8-16 May 1996, +SRi; photographs were published in *WOSNews* 45:8, 1996. Another was present at Crow Butte State Park, BE on 1-4 May 1997, ASt (SNEG-97-1). There are now nineteen records.

GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS. One was at the mouth of the Humpulips River, GH on 20-23 Nov 1981, +RCa (WGIB-81-1). An immature was observed on Willapa Bay, PA on 24 Jan 1982, CWi (WGIB-82-1). There are no records of Glossy Ibis for Washington, but the possibility of its occurring in the state requires that any dark ibis not identifiable to species be placed in this category.

WHITE-FACED IBIS. The Committee has accepted six records to date. Two were at Ephrata, GT on 3-15 Jun 1981, +EMi (WFIB-81-1). A flock of 19 was seen at Goose Lake, GT on 11 May 1985, DBE, ERa (WFIB-85-1), and an impressive 40 individuals were at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, CK on 6 May 1992, +WCa (WFIB-91-1). One was reported from Reardan, LI on 11 Apr 1994, BMi (WFIB-94-1) and another from Palouse, WN on 7 May 1997, +AMe (WFIB-97-1). A west-side record was reported from Monroe, SN on 6 Jun 1998, SMI (WFIB-98-1). This species was not placed on the review list until now, despite the paucity of records. There have been fewer than 20 published reports in the last ten years and for that reason White-faced Ibis qualifies for review status.

FALCATED DUCK. A male in partial eclipse plumage was seen on one day only near Sequim, CL on 3 Jul 1993, NBa (FADU-93-1) and represents the second record for the state.

KING EIDER. An immature male was seen by many observers at Whidbey Island, IS on 24 Dec 1995-10 Feb 1996, VNe, GGe, EDe (KIEI-95-1). There are eleven records in all.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. An immature was recorded at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, CK where the species is most frequently noted, on 16 Oct 1993, RRo (RSHA-93-1). An adult was seen at Ilwaco, PA on 18 Sep 1994, RRo (RSHA-04-1). Unexpected was a more northerly record from Dungeness, CL on 2 Jan-7 Feb 1997, TAv (RSHA-97-1) for the ninth state record.

UPLAND SANDPIPER. Two records from Ocean Shores, GH occurred on 27-30 Aug 1994, CCh, NCh (UPSA-94-1), and 6 Sep 1997, SMI (UPSA-97-1). These sightings are the second and third records accepted by the Committee; the first was from Leadbetter Point, PA in 1991 (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). The last report of Upland Sandpipers from their traditional breeding ground just east of Spokane was from 1993 (Smith et al. 1997).

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW. Multiple sightings of this rare species occurred in Washington (and Oregon and California as well) during May of 1998 as the likely result of strong anomalous northerly winds over their oceanic migratory route during the last week of April (Bowling 1998, Mlodinow et al. 1999). The Committee has thus far accepted four records from this period, removing the species from the Supplementary List. Two birds were reported near the base of the Point Brown jetty at Ocean Shores, GH on 8 May 1998, HOp, BSu (BTCU-98-1). Another was photographed on the outer beach of Ocean Shores, GH on 13 May 1998, +PSu (BTCU-98-2). One was seen near Westport, GH on 18 May 1998, BTw (BTCU-98-3). The last Bristle-thighed Curlew to be found was recorded at Ocean Shores, GH on the Oyhut Wildlife Recreation Area on 23 May 1998, DGd, KAa (BTCU-98-4). There are now five records of Bristled-thighed Curlews including the previously accepted single-person sight record of 1 May 1982 (Tweit and Paulson 1994).



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Ocean City State Park (GH), 13 May 1998 (Photo Patrick Sullivan)



Bristle-thighed Curlew - Ocean City State Park (GH), 13 May 1998 (Photo Patrick Sullivan)

HUDSONIAN GODWIT. One was at Crockett Lake, Whidbey Island, IS on 20 Jul 1996, SMI (HUGO-96-1). A juvenile was at Blaine, WC on 6-7 Oct 1996, SMI (HUGO-96-2). Another juvenile was at the Walla Walla River delta, WW on 1 Sep 1997, B&Nlf (HUGO-97-1). There are twelve accepted records.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. One was at Tokeland, PA on 26 Aug 1989, EHu (BTGO-89-1). More unusual was a bird in the lower basin of Puget Sound at Totten Inlet, MA on 1 Oct 1994, CCh (BTGO-94-1). Two birds remained briefly at Tokeland, PA in the fall of 1998: an adult female on 11 Jul-4 Sep, PLe, SMI, EDe (BTGO-98-1), and a juvenile on 7 Oct-1 Nov, BTw, SMI (BTGO-98-2). Nineteen records have been accepted.



Bar-tailed Godwit - Tokeland (PA), 13 Sep 1998 (Photo Ruth Sullivan)

CURLEW SANDPIPER. A juvenile was on the beach at Ocean City, GH on 7 Sep 1997, BSm (CUSA-97-1). This is the sixth state record and the first of a juvenile.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. One was seen from Alki Point, Seattle, KG on 27 Oct 1994, RRo (BHGU-94-2). A spring record was at Point No Point, KP on 6 Apr 1996, VNe (BHGU-96-1). An adult in an early stage of prebasic molt was at Everett, SN on 30 Sep 1996, +KAa (BHGU-96-1); a photograph was published in *WOSNews* 47:9, 1997. Another adult was also at Everett, SN on 28 Sep-10 Oct 1997, BBe (BHGU-97-1); a photograph was published in *WOSNews* 54:8, 1998. A Black-headed Gull from Point No

Point, KP was reported on 8–17 Mar 1998, +VNe (BHGU-98-1). All records since 1993 are from Puget Sound, and it is possible that they pertain to a single bird that remained faithful in its migratory habits over a three-year period. The Committee has accepted them as separate records. There are now thirteen records for the state.

ICELAND GULL. The seventh state record was a bird seen on the Samish Flats, SG on 6 Apr 1997, SMI, SPi (ICGU-97-1).

SLATY-BACKED GULL. An adult was at Hawk's Prairie, TH on 30 Dec 1995, TSc, BTw (SBGU-95-1). The second record from Gog-Le-Hi-Te Preserve, Tacoma, PI was on 2–3 Jan 1998, SHa (photo in *WOSNews* 55:8, 1998). The Committee has been conservative when considering reports of this species, relying on a multiplicity of field marks in separating it from its congeners. There are four state records in all.

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. The fourth state record was seen 30 miles off Westport, GH on 21 Mar 1998, BLa, PAn (RLKI-98-1).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET. A bird was photographed near Lopez Island, SJ on 12 Aug 1993, +JSk (LBMU-93-1). This record, published by Skriletz (1996), predates the only other accepted record for the state on 16 Nov 1995 (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997). This species also has been reported in California, Oregon, and southeast Alaska (Mlodinow 1997).

XANTUS'S MURRELET. A bird seen 25 miles off Westport, GH on 4 Oct 1987, GGe (XAMU-87-1) represents the second accepted record. This species has only recently been reclassified from non-review to review status (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997).

PARAKEET AUKLET. Two were seen on a pelagic boat trip off Westport, GH on 2 Feb 1997, TWa, BTw, BLb, ARi (PAAU-97-1). The tenth state record was also off Westport, GH on 14 Mar 1999, BTw (PAAU-99-1).

HORNED PUFFIN. One was seen from shore at Point Grenville, GH on 11 Jun 1994, LCa (HOPU-94-1). That same year the fourteenth state record was observed from the Point Brown jetty, Ocean Shores, GH on 7 Aug 1994, SMI (HOPU-94-2).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. The fourth state record was seen and heard at Davis Lake, PO on 19 Jun 1988, JAc (BBCU-88-1).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. One was seen briefly near Elma, GH on 3 Aug 1996, SGi, BMo (YBCU-96-1). The remains of another were discovered from a photograph of the nesting site of Peregrine Falcons in downtown Seattle, KG in mid-Jun 1997, +BRu (YBCU-97-1). These are the sixth and seventh records of this species since 1940, by which date it had been extirpated as a breeder in Washington.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL. One was enjoyed by many observers during an extended stay on the Eastern Washington University Campus at Cheney, SP from 15 Jan to 17 Mar 1997, +DRo (NHOW-97-1). Several photos were published (*WOSNews* 48:3, 1997, with an account by Ruth Sullivan; *WOSNews* 49:7, 1997; *WOSNews* 50:7, 1997). There are nine state records.



Black-headed Gull - Everett (SN), 2 Oct 1997 (Photo Ruth Sullivan)



Costa's Hummingbird - Frederickson (PI), 14 Sep 1998 (Photo Bob Ramsey)

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD. The first definitive record for the state was a male visiting a feeder near Frederickson, PI during Aug–Oct 1998 +G&RRa (COHU-98-1). Details of this bird's visit are given by Ramsey (1998).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. An adult male was seen working sapwells on red alders and bigleaf maples near Pe Ell, LE on 24-28 Feb 1997 IMc, KAa (YBSA-97-1) for only the second state record.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. A record from McNary National Wildlife Refuge, WW on 6 Oct 1990 (GCTH-90-1) was previously accepted (Tweit and Paulson 1994), prior to the splitting off of Bicknell's Thrush as a separate species by the American Ornithologists' Union. Upon second review, the Committee has affirmed that the written report sufficiently describes a Gray-cheeked Thrush, the more likely of the two species to occur in Washington.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. An immature female was captured, photographed, banded, and released at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, SP on 20 Aug 1998, +MFr (GWWA-98-1) thereby resulting in an unequivocal first state record. Photos and an account were published by Frobe (1999).

TENNESSEE WARBLER. One made a brief appearance at a West Seattle feeder, KG on 25 Nov 1998, BFe (TEWA-98-1). There are now nine accepted records.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. A male was at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, CK on 10 Jul 1996, IMc (CSWA-96-1). Another male was seen and heard at Rockport, SG on 12 Jun 1998, SJo (CSWA-98-1). The first individual recorded in the state as a fall migrant was a basic-plumaged adult male at Bateman Island, BE on 20–25 Aug 1998, +PBa (CSWA-98-2). Eleven records have now been accepted.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. The eighth accepted record was a singing male seen by many observers during a period of nearly three weeks at Twisp, OK on 15 Jun–4 Jul 1996, JAc, G&RRa (MAWA-96-1). A photograph was published in *WOSNews* 46:9, 1996.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER. A male in breeding plumage was on Tatoosh Island, CL on 20 Jun 1997, +TWo (BPWA-97-1). A fall-plumaged bird was at Bateman Island, BE on 25 Aug 1998, +PBa (BPWA-98-1). Two other fall records were seen on the same field trip, one at Vantage, KT on 1 Sep 1998, SMI, JF1, KAa (BPWA-98-2), and one at Wahluke Slope Wildlife Recreation Area, FR on 1 Sep 1998, KAa, SMI, JF1 (BPWA-98-3). There are now 11 accepted records for the state.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Six records were accepted: one (an adult female) at Tacoma, PI on 4 Jun 1995, RRa (BAWA-95-1); one on Foster's Island, Seattle, KG on 21 Nov–21 Dec 1996, +KAa (BAWA-96-1); another from Foster's Island on 31 Aug 1997, +KAa (BAWA-97-1); an adult at Heart Lake, SG on 19 Sep 1997, SGe (BAWA-97-2); an adult male from Rockport, SG on 22 Jun 1998, SJo (BAWA-98-1); and a late-fall record at Sequim, CL on 17 Dec 1998, RNo (BAWA-98-2). A photograph of the 1996 Seattle bird was published (*WOSNews* 48:10,



Blackpoll Warbler - Richland (BE), 25 Aug 1998 (Photo Phil Bartley)



Black-and-white Warbler - Seattle (KG), 24 Nov 1996 (Photo Ruth Sullivan)

1997). There are now 20 records for the state. Eleven of them have occurred in either May or June, and the others are scattered between August and March.

OVENBIRD. One was at Government Springs, KT on 24 May 1997, BSe (OVEN-97-1). Another was at the Davenport Cemetery, LI on 24-27 May 1998, JAc (OVEN-98-1). There are now 12 state records: four in May, five in June, and one each in July, September, and October.

HOODED WARBLER. The third state record was a male in Pullman, WN on 1-11 Dec 1989, G&RRa (HOWA-89-1).

SUMMER TANAGER. The first state record visited a feeder in Skagit County from 11 Dec 1997 through 6 Jan 1998, +PGr, +DMc (SUTA-97-1). There are no records of this species for British Columbia and only seven records for Oregon. Five of these are from southeast Oregon and all seven are during the period of late May to early June (Gilligan et al. 1994).

LARK BUNTING. One was at Tokeland, PA on 31 Oct - 1 Nov 1996, Ari, BTw (LKBU-96-1). Photographs of this record were published in *Washington Birder* 4(4):3, 1996, and *WOSNews* 48:10, 1997. Another was at Fort Lewis, PI on 18 Jul 1998, RRo (LKBU-98-1) representing the tenth state record.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. An adult male was on Shaw Island, SJ on 3 Sep 1994, EDr (RBGR-94-2). Another adult male visited a feeder in Seattle, KG on 31 May 1998 +GEt (RBGR-98-1). A third male was observed for a few days at Northrup Canyon, GT on 7-11 Jun 1998, JAc (RBGR-98-2). There are now 13 accepted records.

DICKCISSEL. The fourth and fifth records for the state were accepted by recent Committee actions. One visited a feeder in Ocean Shores, GH on 18-28 Feb 1996, +RSu, BTw (DICK-96-1). The first accepted record from the east side was along Dodson Road near Frenchman Hills Road, GT on 11 Jun 1997, BFe (DICK-97-1).

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD. The first state record was an entire breeding colony of an estimated 50 individuals discovered by Dave Beaudette at Wilson Creek, GT on 6 Jul 1998 and subsequently reported and photographed by other observers until 25 Jul 1998, +KAa, DBe, +CHa, SMI (TRBL-98-1). Many juveniles were successfully fledged and the birds gradually left the cattail marsh and dispersed throughout the surrounding agricultural land in mixed flocks with Yellow-headed, Red-winged, and Brewer's Blackbirds.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Two males and a female were at Monroe, SN on 26 Dec 1987-7 Jan 1988, GGe (RUBL-87-2). One was seen in a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds near Bayview, SG on 8 Jan 1996, BTw (RUBL-96-1). Another was reported from Spencer Island, SN on 3 Nov 1996, SMI (RUBL-96-2). A third record for 1996 was at Kennewick, BE on 21 Dec, DRo (RUBL-96-3). Another record from Monroe, SN was on 1 Feb 1998, +GGe (RUBL-98-1). There are now 22 accepted records. The Com-



Summer Tanager - Skagit County, Winter 1997-1998 (Photo Dick McNeely)



Rusty Blackbird - Monroe (SN), 1 Feb 1998 (Photo George Gerdts)

mittee has decided that reports of this species will no longer be reviewed, as more than 20 birds have been reported in the state in the last ten years with no apparent decline.

COMMON GRACKLE. A late-spring record occurred on Tatoosh Island, CL on 21 Jun 1997, +TWO (COGR-97-1). The sixth state record was at Grand Coulee, GT on 21 May 1998, +JCo. A photograph and account were published (Converse 1999).

HOODED ORIOLE. A male was at a feeder in Bellingham, WC on 20–23 May 1996, +JMe (HOOR-96-1) and represents the second state record.

BRAMBLING. The twelfth record accepted by the Committee was a bird that frequented a feeder at Walla Walla, WH from 20 Feb through 25 Mar 1992, +MDe (BRAM-92-2).

HOARY REDPOLL. One was well described from Curlew, FE on 29 Jan 1998, RRw (HORE-98-1). There are four state records.

RECORD ACCEPTED FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

BLUE-HEADED VIREO. The first state record was a single-person sight record from the Montlake Fill, Seattle, KG on 6 Sep 1995, KAa (BHVI-95-1). Formerly considered a subspecies of Solitary Vireo, this eastern form was recently raised to full species status by the American Ornithologists' Union.

UNACCEPTED REPORTS

WHITE-FACED IBIS. A flock of 14, seen in flight, was reported at Port Angeles, CL on 16 Oct 1991 (WFIB-91-1). The identity of these birds was questionable, particularly as the manner of flight was described as "slow with a deep, slow wingbeat." The characteristic flight of White-faced Ibis is more aptly described as a set of rapid wingbeats alternating with brief glides.

GREATER FLAMINGO. The Committee has determined that the two birds reported and photographed from Grays Harbor, GH on 8 May–1 Jun 1975 should more than likely be considered as escaped birds of unknown origin (GRFL-75-1). An account and photograph were published by Mudd and Smith (1975).

CRESTED CARACARA. Two reports of this species were not accepted by the Committee because of the concerns expressed that these birds were not of wild origin. The California records committee has yet to accept any of that state's several reports for the same reason, including a published report from as long ago as 1837 (Grinnell and Miller 1944). The two Washington reports were from Ocean Shores, GH on 13 Aug 1983 (CRCA-83-1), and Neah Bay, CL on 4–25 Jan 1998 (CRCA-98-1). Both birds were well photographed and the specific identity was never in question (Anderson and Shifflett 1998). A Crested Caracara reported from Caviar Cove log-



Common Grackle - Grand Coulee (GR), 21 May 1998 (Photo Jerry Converse)



Hooded Oriole - Bellingham (WC), 22 May 1996 (Photo Joseph Meche)

ging camp east of Port Hardy, British Columbia, after 4 May 1998, is certainly the same individual as the Neah Bay bird. These reports could well be revisited by the Committee if a pattern of vagrancy for this species should become evident.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. The details of this report of two birds seen together near Ocosta, GH on 9 Sep 1994 (WRS-94-1) were considered insufficient to be accepted as a record.

CURLEW SANDPIPER. At least four were reported on 27 Oct 1996 (CUSA-96-1) at Dungeness, CL. The report was unanimously considered to refer to Dunlin.

THICK-BILLED MURRE. One was reported from the ferry off Port Townsend, JE on 11 Jan 1987 (TBMU-87-1). The Committee was reluctant to accept this report because the detailed description was reliant upon ten years of memory by the observer, rather than notes written at or near the time of observation.

XANTUS'S MURRELET. Two birds were reported from the Point Brown jetty, Ocean Shores, GH on 16 Aug 1997 (XAMU-97-1). The Committee requires exacting details for acceptance of any nearshore reports of this species. The present report of two birds seen flying northward past the jetty was judged insufficient in detail. Also, the back of the birds was described as a solid rich brown, but Stallcup (1990) points out that Xantus's are "slaty-black above, lacking brownish tones."

HORNED PUFFIN. A bird off Westport, GH on 2 Feb 1997 (HOPU-97-1) was seen briefly by several observers. Based on their reports, the Committee believes that none of them saw the bird well enough to be certain of identification.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. A bird was reported from the Skagit Wildlife-Recreation Area, SG on 13 Sep 1997 (TEWA-97-1). The description did not rule out immature Warbling Vireo or immature Orange-crowned Warbler, and did not mention useful fieldmarks, particularly the white undertail coverts and a relatively short tail.

LARK BUNTING. A report of an alternate-plumaged adult male seen near McNary National Wildlife Refuge, WW on 26 Apr 1998 (LKBU-98-2) was considered insufficient in descriptive detail.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR. A basic-plumaged male was reported from Everett, SN on 7 Sep 1997 (CCLO-97-1). Many details of this report were convincing. However, the Committee voted not to accept it because the bird was seen only in flight, and very briefly.

CONTRIBUTORS

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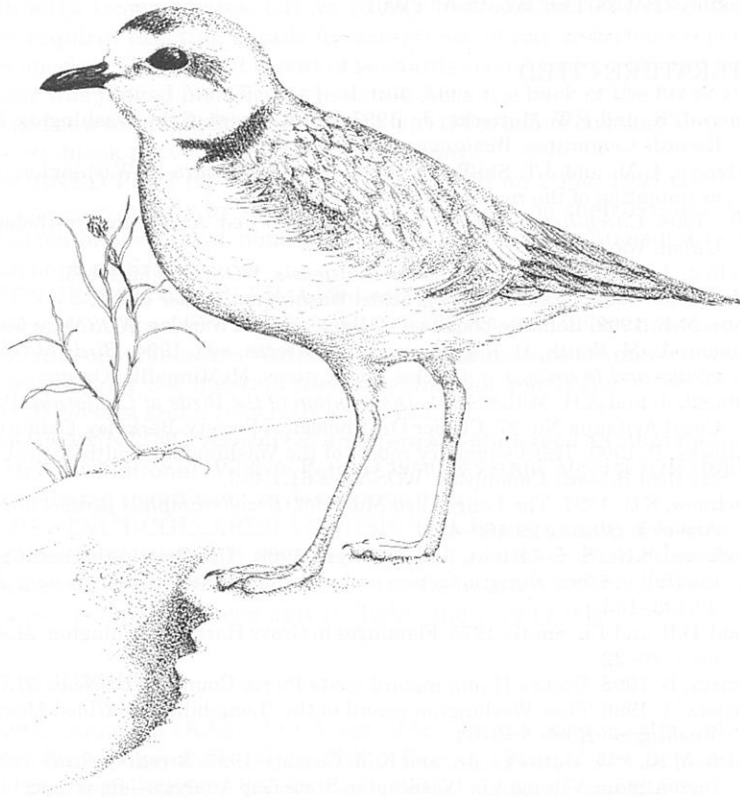
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A NEW SNOWY PLOVER NESTING AREA IN WASHINGTON: MIDWAY BEACH, PACIFIC COUNTY

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The Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) is an uncommon and vulnerable breeder along the south coast of Washington (Paulson 1993). For many years, only two plover nesting areas have been active in the state: Damon Point/Oyhut Wildlife Area in Grays Harbor County and Leadbetter Point/Gunpowder Sands¹ in Pacific County (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 1995; Williamson 1997). During most recent breeding seasons, fewer than 25 plovers and 12 nests have been found during regular, standardized surveys in Washington (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, unpublished data).

In 1998, six Snowy Plover nests were documented at Midway Beach, Pacific County, where nesting had not previously been confirmed. In this paper, we provide a description of Midway Beach, report results from Snowy Plover surveys at the site, and describe conditions under which we believe plovers could nest at Midway Beach regularly.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Midway Beach is a 2.4-km portion of "South Beach" in Pacific County (Figure 1). The southern end is at Cape Shoalwater (popularly known as Washaway Beach) just south of Warrenton Cannery Road (Figure 2). The north end is defined by a small creek just north of Midway Beach Road. Three other creeks terminate along the beach and their mouths wander sufficiently to keep invasive vegetation at bay.

A stable foredune, variably one to three m high and covered almost exclusively with American beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), extends most of the beach's length (Seabloom and Wiedemann 1994). Landward of the foredune is a broad, gently-rolling dune system covered thickly with beachgrass (*Ammophila* spp.). A few residences, set well away from the beach, are located on these dunes. Seaward of the foredune

¹In this report, Gunpowder Sands refers to a small sand islet immediately northeast of the Leadbetter Point tip. An island nearer the center of the Willapa Bay mouth bears a longer history as Gunpowder Spit or Spit 6.

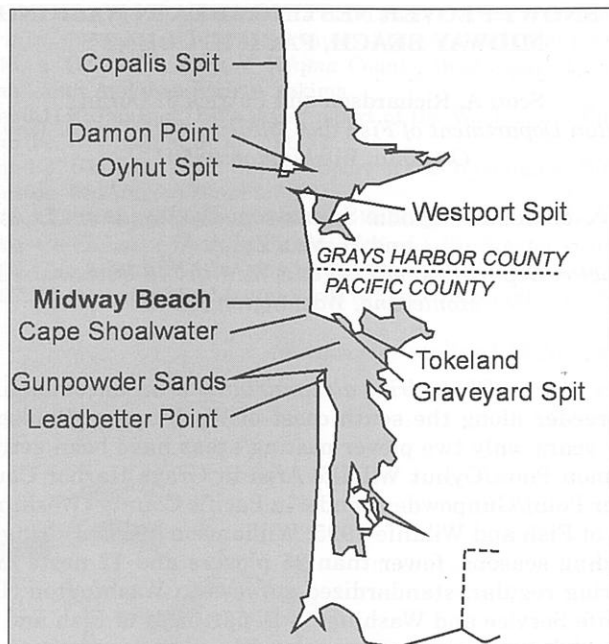


Figure 1. Location map showing Midway Beach study area.

is a fairly narrow strand of dry sand, partially formed into hummocks, with sparse vegetation such as beachgrass, silver bursage (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), American searocket (*Cakile edentula*), and yellow sand-verbena (*Abronia latifolia*) (Seabloom and Wiedemann 1994, personal observations). Driftwood is scattered throughout this area. Further seaward is a flat bench of dry sand that eventually merges with the intertidal zone. In winter 1997/1998 this bench was largely nonexistent, but during summer 1998 it was a few hundred meters wide.

Cape Shoalwater is the most active erosion site on the U.S. Pacific coast. Between 1890 and 1965, the cape retreated 3750 m at an average rate of 37.8 m per year (Terich and Levenseller 1986) and erosion continues (Figure 3). Midway Beach recently has extended westward through accretion.

HISTORICAL PLOVER USE

Snowy Plovers may have nested historically in the Midway Beach vicinity. D.E. Brown visited Tokeland from 14 to 16 May 1914 and collected at least two specimens, one of which "contained a large-sized egg" (unpublished notes archived at the James A. Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma). Brown wrote that

Snowy Plovers were "quite common" with "several seen each day." Subsequently, L.D. LaFave collected two Snowy Plovers at Tokeland in 1960 (Table 1).

Snowy Plovers have occurred at North Cove, which is adjacent to Midway Beach. D.E. Brown collected two plovers at North Cove in 1934 and G.E. Hudson collected one there in 1948. Hudson observed three more plovers five days after collecting his specimen (unpublished notes archived at the Charles R. Conner Museum, Washington State University, Pullman). While both Brown and Hudson referred their specimens to Grays Harbor County, review of Hudson's field notes (R.E. Johnson, Washington State University, pers. comm., 1999) and the fact that there is just one North Cove in Washington (U.S. Geological Survey 1990) indicate these specimens can confidently be assigned to Pacific County.

SURVEY METHOD

Midway Beach was typically surveyed by a single observer, but a second observer was often present in July and August 1998. Routinely, the observer(s) began walking at the Midway Beach Road access, continued south beyond Warrenton Cannery Road to the Cape Shoalwater strand of sparsely-vegetated dry sand between the foredune and the



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Midway Beach, showing the four creeks that maintain Snowy Plover habitat.

Shoreline Position Map, 1870 - 1998 North Cove, Washington

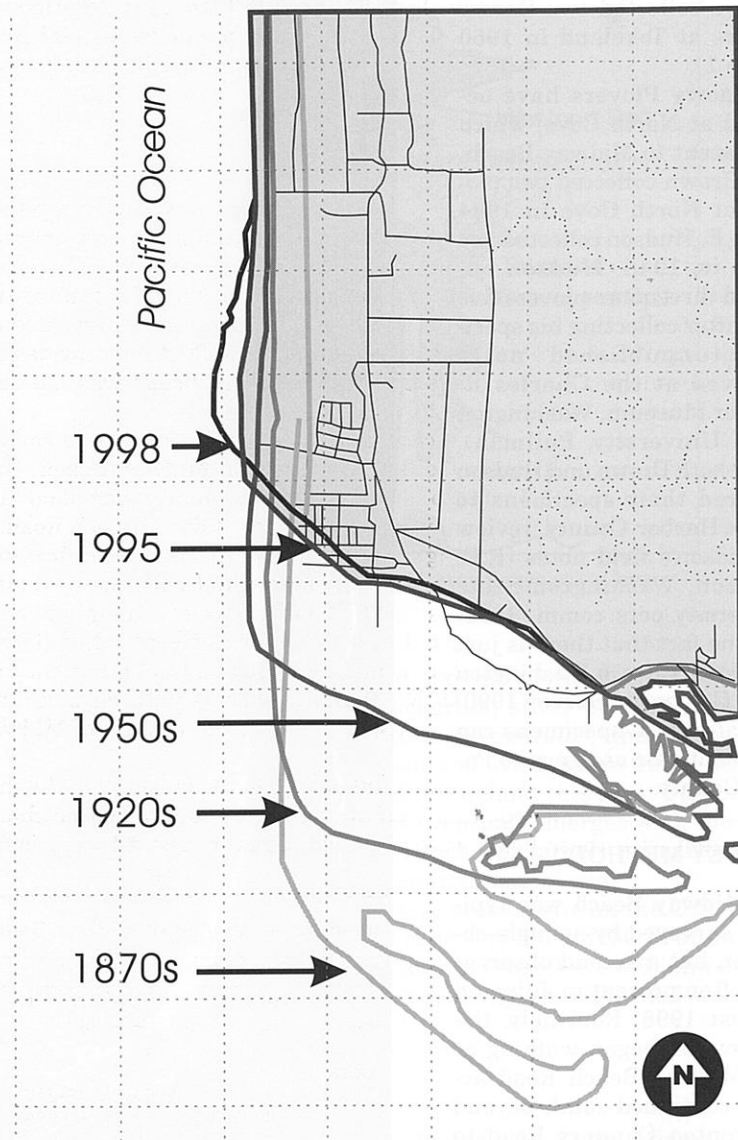


Figure 3. Erosion map of Cape Shoalwater, depicting shoreline changes between the 1870s and 1995. Prepared by Brian Voigt for the Southwest Washington Coastal Erosion Study.

broad, featureless bench. Observers walked slowly, frequently stopping to scan ahead with binoculars. Surveys required 1 to 4 hours, depending on conditions, thoroughness, and number of plovers encountered. They usually took place between 09:00 and 15:00, with little consideration for tidal stage, and were suspended in intense heat, strong winds, or heavy rain. In 1998, surveys were abbreviated when they were intended solely as nest checks.

RESULTS

On 8 June 1994, SAR observed an unbanded pair of plovers together in the vicinity of Midway Beach Road. The male was making a nest scrape—crouching to force its breast into the sand while turning its body—then tossing bits of broken shell and dried algae over its shoulder toward the depression. Followup surveys on 14 July and 14 August 1994 revealed no plovers. In 1995, eight surveys between 4 April and 30 June provided no plover sightings (SAR, unpublished data). Midway Beach was not surveyed for breeding plovers in 1996 or 1997.

On 12 June 1998, during a coordinated coastwide survey for Snowy Plovers, SAR and PJD observed 3 plover pairs on Midway Beach. One pair was at the end of Warrenton Cannery Road, another was about 1.6 km farther north, and the third was just north of Midway Beach Road. A nest with one egg (Figure 4, Figure 5) was found between the first and second pairs, but no plovers were closely associated with the nest site. Between 15 June and 19 August 1998, we made 24 additional visits to Midway Beach. The beach hosted at least eight different adult Snowy Plovers during this period, based on unique color-band combinations and high counts of unbanded birds. We found five nests with eggs and inferred a sixth nest based on presence of chicks in the vicinity of Midway Beach Road (Table 2).

At least three nests failed due to unknown causes. Incomplete clutches in nests #1 and #2 disappeared soon after their discovery and no chicks associated with these nests were observed. Eggs in nest #3 were found

Table 1. Snowy Plover specimens collected in the vicinity of Midway Beach.

Collection date	Collector	Locality	Comment	Catalog no. ¹
15 May 1914	D.E. Brown	Tokeland	female	FMNH 157656
15 May 1914	D.E. Brown	Tokeland	male	BM 7733
4 April 1934	D.E. Brown	North Cove	—	—
4 April 1934	D.E. Brown	North Cove	—	—
25 June 1948	G.E. Hudson	North Cove	—	CRCM 48-217
23 August 1960	L.D. LaFave	Tokeland	adult male	CRCM 60-233
23 August 1960	L.D. LaFave	Tokeland	adult male	CRCM 60-234

¹ Specimens are housed at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (FMNH); the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle (BM); and the Charles R. Conner Museum, Pullman (CRCM).

shortly after being laid, so we could project their probable hatching date based on incubation requirements. Using the average incubation period of 27 days determined at Monterey Bay, California (Warriner et al. 1986), we would have expected eggs to hatch around 20 July. The incubation period at Oregon nests in 1998, however, averaged 31 days (M. Stern, Oregon Natural Heritage Program, pers. comm., 1998), so later hatching might have been expected. Because the full clutch was gone by 15 July, we believe nest #3 also failed.

Nest #4 was found on 9 July with a female incubating a complete clutch, which still held three eggs on 13 July. The eggs were gone by 15 July, but eggshell fragments were found in the scrape. Fragments (size one–four mm), created when chicks are pipping, are a good predictor of nest success in Snowy Plovers (Mabee 1997), so we suspected that the eggs hatched. The clutch was probably laid between 15 and 20 June and went undetected for at least three weeks. Nest #5 was found on 26 July with a female incubating a complete clutch in an area not searched during earlier visits. This nest was not relocated during subsequent visits and its fate was unknown. Nest #6 was inferred from observations of a furtive male plover and subsequent observations of a brood in the same vicinity.

At least five chicks hatched from two nests. The first brood seen (two chicks) was discovered in the vicinity of Midway Beach Road on 23 July. We believe these chicks came from nest #6. One or two chicks were seen in this area regularly thereafter, with two still present on 19 August. The second brood (three chicks) was first seen near Warrenton Cannery Road on 26 July. We believe these chicks came from nest #4. One or two chicks were seen in this area through 12 August and a single chick was nearby on 19 August.

Based on these observations, we estimate four Snowy Plover chicks fledged from Midway Beach in 1998. Chicks make their first flight (i.e., fledge) when they reach the (average) age of 31 days, but in a six-year study at Monterey Bay at least 92.7 percent of 124 chicks reaching age 16 days eventually fledged (Warriner et al. 1986). Twenty-eight days has become the “fledging” standard for measuring reproductive success (G. Page, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, pers. comm., 1999). The approximate minimum ages of Midway Beach chicks when last observed were 11 days (one chick), 28 days, (three chicks), and 35 days (one chick).

Six Snowy Plovers were observed about 3.2 km north of Grayland, or about eight km north of our study site, on 22 September 1998 (T. Hass,

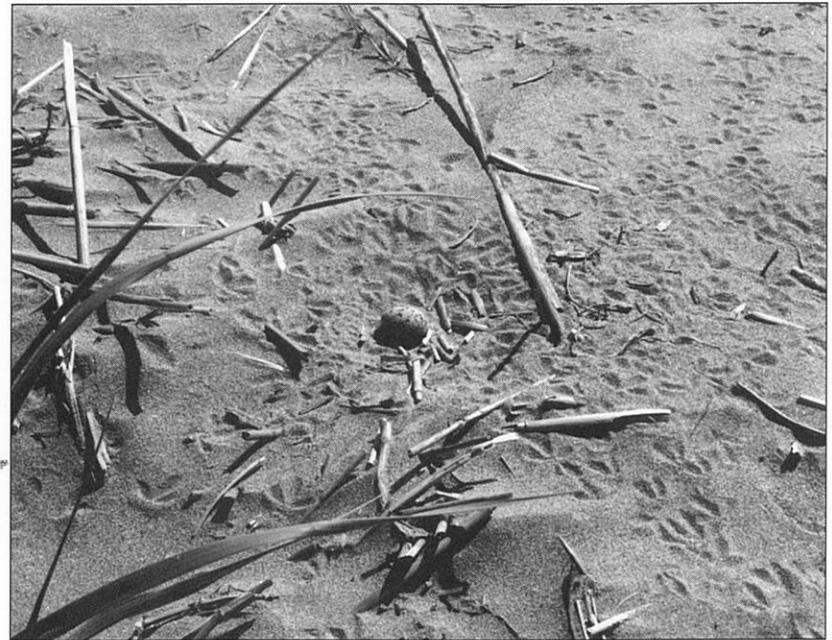


Figure 4. Snowy Plover nest scrape surrounded by plover footprints and containing one egg. Photograph by Patrick Doran.



Figure 5. Snowy Plover nesting habitat on Midway Beach. The nest shown in Figure 4 is near the center of the image. Photograph by Patrick Doran.

Table 2. Snowy Plover breeding documented on Midway Beach in 1998.

Nest #	Discovered	No. eggs	Hatch date	Failure date	Comments
1	12 June	1	—	before 12 June	—
2	17 June	2	—	before 18 June	—
3	24 June	1(3 on 29 June)	—	13-15 July	—
4	9 July	3	13-15 July	—	2 fledged
5	26 July	3	—	fate unknown	—
6	not found	≥2	before 23 July	—	2 fledged

pers. comm., 1999). These plovers may have been from Midway Beach, but they also could have been from elsewhere along the coast or from an undocumented breeding location close to the observation site. By late September, juvenile and adult Snowy Plovers are practically indistinguishable in the field.

DISCUSSION

Our discovery of nesting Snowy Plovers on Midway Beach increases the number of active breeding sites known in Washington. Few additional locations in the state are likely to support breeding plovers (Richardson 1996, Sundstrom-Bagley et al. 2000). The estimated eight plovers and six nests helped to make 1998 a banner year for plover abundance in Washington. The four fledglings accounted for most plover productivity in the state in 1998.

During the 12 June coastwide survey, 26 plovers were seen at Leadbetter Point, five at Gunpowder Sands, six at Midway Beach, and two at Damon Point/Oyhut Spit. The total of 39 plovers is a reasonable assessment of 1998 breeding-season abundance for Washington. Season-long surveys at Damon Point, however, revealed no more than four plovers and two clutches, just one of which hatched (Michaelis et al. 1999). At Leadbetter Point up to 44 plovers and 13 nests were found in 1998, but all known nests were believed to have failed (Williamson 1998).

ADDENDA

Snowy Plovers returned to nest at Midway Beach in 1999 (Sundstrom-Bagley et al. 2000). At least 13 different adults were recorded on 59 surveys between 19 April and 30 September. Thirteen nests were documented, six of which were successful. Fifteen chicks hatched; 10 of these reached age ≥ 16 days and five reached age ≥ 28 days.

Midway Beach has also supported Snowy Plovers during several recent winters. Five plovers were observed on 16 January 1988 (Buchanan 1992), three on 4 January 1992 (R. Canniff, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, pers. comm., 1994), eight on 19 January 1995 (HMZ, personal observation), two on 23 January 1996 (HMZ, personal observation), and 11 on 6 January 1999 (WAM, personal observation).

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The unprecedented breeding activity along Midway Beach is a ray of hope for this beleaguered population, but how likely is the beach to support continued nesting by Snowy Plovers? If provided sufficient suitable habitat free of excessive human disturbance and predatory species, Midway Beach could support a breeding and wintering plover population indefinitely. For plovers along this stretch of coastline to be suc-

cessful, however, they will require assistance from resource managers and beach users.

Midway Beach is on a portion of the South Beach Management Area open to vehicle driving (City of Westport, Grays Harbor County, and Pacific County 1989). While vehicles are prohibited from dry sand areas (Washington Administrative Code 352-37-030), this restriction is frequently ignored and difficult to enforce. Fortunately, most drivers are law-abiding and, with the hard-sand area (i.e., drivable beach) a few hundred meters away from plover nesting habitat, we believe vehicles had little effect on plovers in 1998. Nonetheless, we found fresh tire tracks within 25 cm of nest #3 on 6 July, following the Independence Day weekend (Figure 6), and observed vehicles in dry-sand areas on other occasions. In this context, we stress that the vehicular threat to plovers is not limited to nests. After eggs hatch, chicks may move onto or across hard-sand areas to forage, placing them in the direct path of legal automotive traffic. From Midway Beach, the nearest beach-driving closure to the north is several kilometers distant. The nearest closure to the south is 100 m south of Warrenton Cannery Road, but that section of beach offers little foraging habitat and less protective cover.

Midway Beach is an important area for the recreational harvest of razor clams, routinely attracting several hundred people per km (D. Simons, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, pers. comm., 1999). When spring clam seasons extend into the Snowy Plover prospecting and nesting period, disturbance to plovers can be expected. Coordination among fishery and wildlife managers, as well as informational contacts with



Figure 6. Tire tracks (running vertically up right side) beside Snowy Plover nest #3 (center) on 6 July 1998. Photograph by Warren Michaelis.

clammers, may help to minimize impacts of this popular fishery on plovers.

Other potential limiting factors at Midway Beach include pedestrians, pets, and predators, each of which can detrimentally affect plover behavior or survival. None of these were apparent problems during 1998, but all should be addressed if Midway Beach is to continue supporting plovers. Numerous other activities, from kite-flying to sand-sailing, should be monitored, and limited if necessary, in the vicinity of this plover nesting area.

CONCLUSION

The Snowy Plover is a state endangered species (Washington Administrative Code 232-12-014) and the Pacific coast population is a federal threatened species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1993). Habitat losses to stabilization and development have caused these birds to become rare, and human activities continue to threaten their existence. Recovering the Snowy Plover population will require a concerted effort to protect every known breeding area.

Protective measures that might benefit Snowy Plovers nesting on Midway Beach include informational signs, symbolic fencing, nest exclosures, driving restrictions, and plover wardens. Users of Midway Beach, including birders searching for this rare species, can contribute by avoiding plovers and their nesting habitats, leaving pets at home, and packing out trash.

Ultimately, this species thrives in an ecosystem that has been all but eliminated from Washington. The limited open-dune habitat found at Midway Beach, Leadbetter Point, and Damon Point has been created through a dynamic system of accretion and erosion. These processes are frequently interrupted, however, by stabilization plantings, dredging, and construction. Allowing and encouraging dune systems to remain transitory would likely enhance Snowy Plover habitat and improve the long-term prospects for persistence of this "pale ghost-bird of the beaches."

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NESTING SUCCESS OF THE ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER IN WASHINGTON

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The Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) nests throughout much of the western United States and Mexico (Figure 1). The breeding range of the Ash-throated Flycatcher in the United States includes south-central Washington, southern Idaho, southwestern Wyoming, and Oregon south to Baja California, and east into central Texas; the species also breeds in southwest Oklahoma (American Ornithologists' Union 1989). In Washington, this species is a locally common breeder in oak woodlands and riparian habitat of south-central Washington from May through July, while it is considered a vagrant on the western side of the Cascade range (Smith et al. 1997; Figure 2). In Klickitat County, Washington, breeding most commonly occurs in pure, mature stands of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), stands with mature oak mixed with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and riparian zones, in preference to other available habitat types (Seavey 1997). Flycatchers are frequent in habitats that include large oaks with many available cavities (Seavey 1997).

The population status of North American Ash-throated Flycatchers is uncertain. Breeding Bird Survey data show that the North American population is increasing (Sauer et al. 1996). Further, in an analysis of western states (Peterjohn et al. 1995), Ash-throated Flycatchers were estimated to be increasing by 2.6 percent per year. However, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program has indicated that there is a "moderate" threat to breeding populations, due to very few factors affecting population size and distribution having been identified (Carter and Barker 1992). No quantitative population studies have been performed in Washington State. Thus, the trends in Washington State population are unknown (Sharp 1992, Washington Natural Heritage Program 1994). The Washington Department of Wildlife (1994) has listed the Ash-throated Flycatcher as a "monitored" species, due to concern about its restricted distribution and population size. South-central Washington represents the northernmost extent of the range of this species. Here the species relies primarily on Oregon white oak woodlands (Seavey 1997). Washington State has declared Oregon white oak woodlands to be a Priority Habitat, due to its rare and declining nature in Washington (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 1998). The geographically limited distribution of the flycatcher in combination with limited available habitat could potentially lead to a decline for this avian species in Washington.

In order to understand the current status of Ash-throated Flycatchers in Washington, population biology studies need to be carried out. Life

history parameters such as breeding success, brood size, and number of broods per season are critical to reliable estimates of population trends. Solid data regarding the life history parameters of a species are often lacking (Caughley and Gunn 1996). The purpose of this paper is to provide the first detailed account of Ash-throated Flycatchers nesting success for Washington State.

METHODS

Study Area—Research was conducted in Klickitat County, Washington (approximately 45°45'N, 121°20'W). Study sites were located in the Columbia River Basin, along the border of Oregon and Washington. Steep river canyons and plateaus characterize the region. The study area is composed of a mosaic of woodlands, riparian zones, and agricultural fields. Woodlands consist of Oregon white oak, Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and ponderosa pine. The understory species include poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversiloba*), deerbrush (*Ceanothus intergerrimus*), Oregon white oak, Ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir saplings. The riparian zones are densely vegetated with black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* var. *trichocarpa*), alder (*Alnus* spp.), maple (*Acer* spp.), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* var. *sericea*), willow (*Salix* spp.), and Oregon white oak.

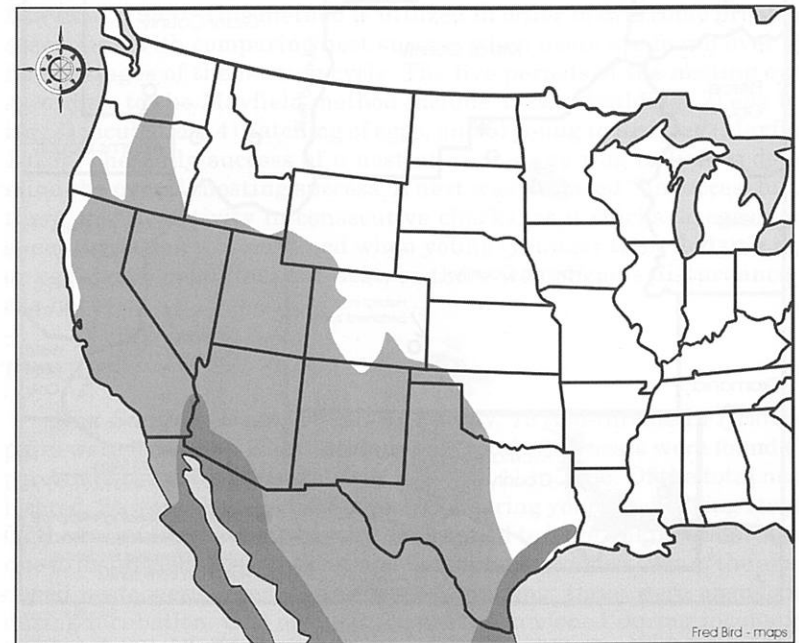


Figure 1. Distribution map of the Ash-throated Flycatcher. Darker shading indicates winter range.

The area has a variable climate with hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters. Strong, steady winds are characteristic of the Columbia River Gorge (Franklin and Dyrness 1973).

Nest search and monitoring—Nest searches were conducted from 1 May 1995 through 1 August 1995, and 1 May 1996 through 15 July 1996. Daily point count efforts were made to record the presence of flycatchers (for a full description of the point count method utilized see Seavey 1997). When birds were located, efforts were made to locate the nest by following and watching for nesting behavior. Behavior notes were taken during this nest-finding period. Adults repeatedly entering a cavity or the presence of young or eggs in the nest confirmed nest locations.

Nests were observed every four days. Date, status, and behavior of adults and young were recorded for each nest. A nest was considered

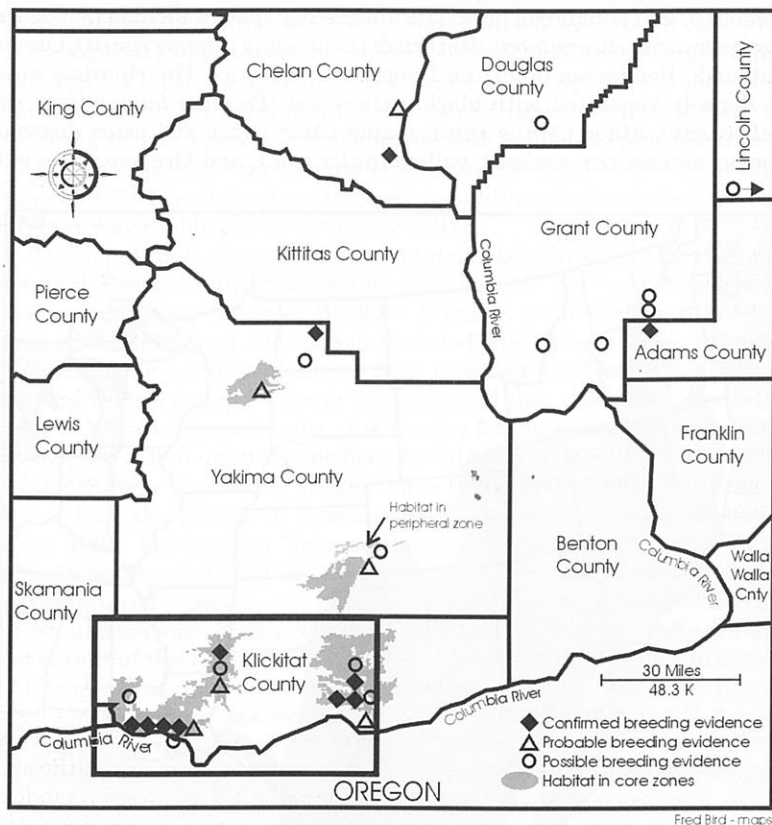


Figure 2. Breeding Bird Atlas observations in south-central Washington. Location of study area identified on map above with heavy black box. Map from Smith et al. 1997.

active if an adult was seen entering the cavity to incubate or feed young. "Nesting success" was confirmed by the observation of nearby fledglings or adults feeding fledglings. A few nests were classified as "unknown" due to the paucity of observations. During nest checks, observers approached and departed from different directions to avoid attracting predators. Fake nests were also "checked" along the way to mislead predators that might follow observers (methods adapted from Ralph et al. 1993). Ladders and tree climbing equipment were combined with hand-held mirrors and flashlights to check nest contents.

Adult and nestling flycatchers were individually color banded during the 1995 season to determine return rates for 1996. Adults were captured using mist nets and tape-recorded playbacks of their song. Aggressive adults were easily caught early in the season using this method. After incubation began, adult aggression was focused at the nest site and capture rates declined. Nestlings were banded after pin feathers along the primary feathers had broken out of the sheaths. Each flycatcher captured was given a unique color combination for identification, as well as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band.

Nest Success Statistical Analyses—The nesting success data from both years were pooled, after a *t*-test failed to show significant differences between years. The Mayfield nest success method was utilized to determine the daily success of each stage of nesting (Mayfield 1975, Nur et al. 1995). This method is utilized in order to overcome problems associated with comparing nest success when nests are found over different stages of the nesting cycle. The five periods of the nesting cycle according to the Mayfield method include 1) nest building, 2) egg laying, 3) incubation, 4) hatching of eggs, and 5) young to fledging (Mayfield 1975). The daily success of a nest at each stage was tallied to determine the overall nesting success. A nest was declared "unsuccessful" if there was no activity in consecutive checks, or if chicks or eggs were gone. Predation was assumed when young (younger than fledging age) or eggs were gone from the nest, or there was obvious disturbance to the nest.

RESULTS

Nest Success—Over the two-year study, 79 Ash-throated Flycatcher pairs were located in Klickitat County. A total of 31 nests were found (39 percent of the pairs located): 20 in 1995 and 11 in 1996. Of the total nests located, 24 were classified as successful (rearing young to fledging stage). Of the remaining seven, two were determined to have unknown outcomes due to insufficient observations, and five were abandoned. Two of the abandoned nests were deserted during nest building; three were abandoned during incubation. One of the three nests abandoned during incubation had a full clutch of five eggs. Egg infertility appears to be the reason for this abandonment, because the pair had been incubating for 30 days, two weeks over the documented incubation period. Other abandonments may

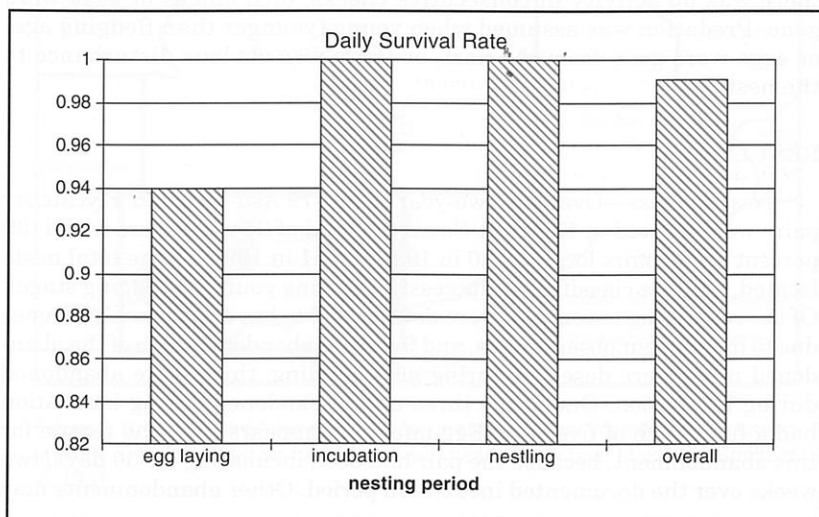
have been observer-induced, as clutches or nests were not complete at the time of abandonment. There were no eggs or nestlings lost to directly observed predation. In determining the final nesting success during the study, nests with unknown outcomes as well as those with probable observer-induced abandonment were omitted, leaving 25 nests. The overall nesting success of the species over two years of study was 24 nests out of 25; that is, 96 percent.

In determining daily nest survival rates, the nests that were abandoned due to observer influence were dropped from the nest total, and nests with unknown outcomes were only used in calculating known successful survivorship from one period of the nesting to the next. The overall daily nest survival rate was 0.99 (SE = 1.99). The daily survival rates for each stage of nesting was: egg laying = 0.94, incubation = 1, and nestling = 1 (Figure 3).

No re-nesting attempts were observed for those pairs that lost nests. No double broods were observed during the two field seasons.

Breeding Chronology—Arrival time during the first week of May was consistent between the two years of the study. Nesting seasons lasted from the third week of May until the third week of July. Territories were delineated and defended during the first two weeks in May, though nest area defense decreased after the nest has been built. Generally, egg laying occurred between 14 June and 25 June, feeding of nestlings occurred from 25 June to 1 July, and fledging occurred between 1 July and 14 July. Over the 1995 and 1996 breeding seasons, incubation lasted on average nine days; feeding of nestlings lasted fourteen days.

Figure 3. Daily nest survival rates for each nesting period and overall nesting periods for the Ash-throated Flycatcher in Klickitat County, Washington.



Other Nesting Parameters—The average known clutch size was four eggs, ranging from three to five ($n = 19$). Over the two-year study more than 100 young were fledged.

Ash-throated Flycatchers are strong nest defenders. During the two years of observations in Klickitat County, no nests were usurped by European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), though starlings were frequently observed expelling Lewis's Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes lewis*) from nests in the area. No Brown-headed Cowbird nest parasitism on flycatchers was observed during the study.

DISCUSSION

Nesting Success—Ash-throated Flycatchers in Klickitat County showed very high nesting success (96 percent) in this study¹. This is a higher success rate than the 79 percent found by Dunning and Bowers (1990) in Arizona. A literature review by Johnson and Kermott (1994) found the average nesting success rate for non-excavating cavity nesters to be between 54 percent and 62 percent, well below the rate in this study. The low success rate of non-excavating cavity nesters has been blamed on their small size and lack of ability to defend their nest from predators (Li and Martin 1991). The high nesting success rate of the Ash-throated Flycatcher may be due to its large size in comparison to other secondary cavity nesters, aggressive nest defense, and maintenance of quality nest sites (personal observation; Austin and Russell 1972).

The difference between nest success rates found by Dunning and Bowers (1990) in Arizona and this Washington study may be due to the discrepancy in possible nest predators and their associated abundance in each area. Arizona has a larger possible predator list than the Washington study area (Ingles 1965, Stebbins 1966, Burt and Grossenheider 1976, Hall 1981). The fact that no predation was directly observed suggests that the selected cavities were safe from nest predators in this study area.

However, predator species abundance data are not available for either study region. Future research should include an assessment of possible predators in the Klickitat County, Washington, nesting areas.

The high nesting success statistics found in this study suggest that the Ash-throated Flycatcher population in Klickitat County, Washington, is stable or increasing. This would agree with the national assessment of this species by Peterjohn et al. (1995), which has shown an annual increase. A population increase may be the result of range expansion into southern Washington; further research is needed to clarify this theory. Considering that Washington State has classified this species as deserving of special monitoring, as well as one that occupies the declining

¹ This nesting success statistic is misleading as no information is provided about daily nesting success over each nesting cycle stage, which is a more accurate success measure (Nur et al. 1995). A better comparison between studies would be daily success rates, which were not available from other studies.

habitat of Oregon white oak woodlands, long-term monitoring should be undertaken to determine if these two years are indicative of the long-term population trend.

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Ash-throated Flycatcher at Lyle, Klickitat County (Photo by Ruth Sullivan).

PIED-BILLED GREBE SCAVENGING A DEAD BIRD

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Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) are opportunistic feeders, taking what is most readily available including fishes, crustaceans (especially crayfish [*Cambarus* spp.]), aquatic insects, and their larvae (Muller and Storer 1999).

On 22 and 23 May 1998, I observed nesting Pied-billed Grebes on Green Lake, Seattle, King County, Washington (described in Muller 1995). On 22 May I noticed a newly fledged Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) land on a leaf of a fragrant white water-lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), about 10 m from shore. When the bird walked to the edge of the leaf, the foliage gave way and the bird fell into the water. Apparently unable to get airborne from the water, the young bird struggled for about five minutes before dropping its head in the water and drowning.

About 10 minutes later a male Pied-billed Grebe (sex based on body and bill size), whose territory encompassed part of this patch of water-lilies, swam by. He veered toward the floating blackbird carcass and started pecking at it; initially cautiously, but by the fourth peck he was attacking it as vigorously as any freshly caught prey item too large to swallow whole. The grebe repeatedly picked up the blackbird by the neck and shook it vigorously. Eventually the grebe managed to tear part of the blackbird and swallowed a large chunk, feathers and all. After three chunks were torn off, all in the breast and upper neck region, the neck of the blackbird was severed and the head fell in the water. The grebe continued to tear pieces off the body until it appeared that most of the breast meat was gone. At this point the grebe dropped the remainder of the carcass in the water and swam off.

On 23 May the same male grebe found another intact fledgling Red-winged Blackbird carcass floating among the water-lilies. He proceeded to eat from it, but after only five minutes was disturbed when a person with a dog stopped along the shoreline 15 m away. The grebe dropped the carcass and swam away.

The manner in which the grebe tore off pieces of meat appeared identical to the way in which claws of crustaceans are removed or large fishes are torn up (Muller and Storer 1999; Muller unpubl. data).

To my knowledge this is the first report of a Pied-billed Grebe either scavenging prey other than insects or eating bird prey. The only other report of a grebe eating bird prey known to me is by Reed (1925). He reports on a Great Grebe (*Podiceps major*) from Chile which had a coot (*Fulica* sp.) chick in its stomach, but no further details about the circumstances are known.

Grebes are known to consume large quantities of their own feathers, and occasionally molted feathers of other birds found floating on the wa-

ter surface. The presence of these feathers in the stomach does not indicate consumption of avian prey; they are associated with digestive processes and pellet formation (Muller and Storer 1999).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Dr. Robert Storer for bringing the 1925 article by C.S. Reed to my attention, and Eugene Hunn for his thoughtful comments on an earlier version of this article.

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**RED-FACED CORMORANT IN CLALLAM COUNTY:
A FIRST RECORD FOR THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES**

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Saturday, 8 May 1999, had been a good day. The sun shone gladly upon the Sequim area, and we had time to catch up on each other's lives. The birds had been plentiful, with a couple of "good" ones wandering our way: a Eurasian Wigeon, a Parasitic Jaeger, and a Red Knot. As we explored around the mouth of the Elwha River, the time to head off to Ocean Shores for sleep and the next day's birding was rapidly approaching. We drove to the end of a road that overlooked the open water near the river mouth where signs proclaimed "No Trespassing" on the beach but not the parking lot. Since the view from the lot was quite good, we stayed there and scanned the waters in front of us. There were a few birds scattered about, including a couple of Common Loons and a few Surf Scoters. SM was looking back toward the east, partly because the light was superb.

As SM panned right, a cormorant stopped him dead in his tracks. It had a big red face, a yellow bill, and a white flank patch. This cormorant was unlike any he had ever seen. Views at higher power confirmed the initial impression. Sure enough, the face had a lot of color—almost as much as a Double-crested (but not in the same distribution)—and this color wasn't orange, it was fire-truck red. And that bill was distinctly yellow. SM quickly thought of Red-faced Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax urile*) but could not remember in detail how to identify this ultra-rarity.

SM called to SP, who was only a few feet away, "Here, take a look at this cormorant." SP put his eye to the glass and replied, "Bloody hell." "What color is that bill," SM asked in a tremulous voice. "It's yellow!" was SP's reply. It was then that SM ventured forth with the Red-faced Cormorant theory.

We looked more. The bird spent the next 15 minutes sitting in the water, mostly facing us. The sun was to our back making the colors vivid. Fortunately, there were no heat waves. The distance was about 300 to 500 meters, but the Swarovskis performed nicely at 60X. The gloss at that time looked mostly purple. The red face was bright and obvious. The bill looked yellow, at times almost banana yellow, at other times straw yellow. Overall, the bird looked a bit stouter necked and thicker billed than a Pelagic. The white flank patch was obvious. About ten minutes into our viewing, SM fetched a notebook, drew a quick sketch, scribbled a few notes, and then grabbed the *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (2nd ed.). We looked at the plates, with one of us keeping an eye on the bird.

Then, the bird flew—fortunately it flew at us and then had the discernment to land directly offshore from us. Now the distance was about 100 to 150 meters, but the lighting wasn't as good, and when we faced the bird, the sun was almost straight to our left. In flight, the wing coverts did seem brownish compared with the body color, which seemed glossy. Now the bird was feeding avidly. It would surface for about 10 to 15 seconds and then dive for maybe 15 to 30 seconds. This went on for the next hour. The bird basically held its position directly out from us. The body rarely received sunlight that allowed us to assess its color. The face pattern seen earlier held up under close scrutiny. The eye at times seemed to flare red, but at other times it appeared dull colored. The eye was clearly completely encircled by the red face. A couple of Pelagic Cormorants flew by. The relatively small amount of red and the different shade of red was easily noticeable. The red on the Pelagics was more crimson (darker).

Now the cormorant started to drift eastward back toward its original position. As it did so, the gloss on the back and the neck looked more greenish, and the wings appeared contrasting bronzy brown. After drifting for a few minutes, it got up and flew toward us again. The bird continued past us toward the river mouth and landed well down the beach (maybe 800 meters) in very poor light. We called it a day. In all, we viewed the bird for about 90 minutes.

DESCRIPTION

This was a clearly different cormorant. Overall, the bird was most similar to Pelagic, but the neck was stouter and the bill larger. The head, neck, and back showed purple gloss at times, green at others. The wing color was only visible on a couple of occasions, but appeared bronzy brown, contrasting with the purplish green of the back and neck. On the rear flank, a white oval, similar to that of Pelagic Cormorant, was visible.

The face was extensively "cherry red" or "fire-engine red"—brighter and paler than the crimson of Pelagic Cormorant. The top edge of this red came at least to the topmost edge of the bill. This top border passed over the eye by about an eye-width (i.e., the red over the eye was about equal to the diameter of the eye). The red passed behind the eye by about one to two eye-widths. It then curved down and passed down under the throat. The overall amount of red was about three times that of a Pelagic Cormorant. The bill was yellow with a dusky tip (hook area only). The shade of yellow varied from straw to banana yellow depending on light conditions. The very base of the bill was very pale, though the exact color was difficult to pin down. No blue was seen. The eye appeared dark, or on occasion when the light hit it just right, red. There was one triangular crest above and behind the eye and a second wispy crest from the rear of the head/nape.

IDENTIFICATION

The main identification quandry is between Pelagic and Red-faced Cormorants. After returning home, we consulted a number of texts; about 10 days later, SM also visited the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (FMNH), which houses about 50 Pelagic Cormorants and 3 Red-faced Cormorants. In June, SM reviewed a dozen or so Pelagic Cormorant specimens and two Red-faced specimens at the University of Washington Burke Museum (UWBM). Published photos were also reviewed, with those in Enticott and Tipling (1997) being particularly helpful. Discussions with Jon Dunn and Paul Lehman were also quite useful. Our identification of Red-faced Cormorant is based on several marks:

1) *The extent of red on the face was within the range of Red-faced Cormorant but well outside the range of Pelagic Cormorant.* This difference was readily apparent in the field and was supported by a review of published photos and the FMNH specimens. In Pelagic Cormorants, the red does not pass so far over the eye nor does it reach the top of the bill. The facial patch on an alternate plumaged Pelagic has a pinched-in appearance toward the front that our bird did not show. On the three alternate plumaged specimens of Red-faced Cormorant (two at FMNH and one at UWBM), the red barely passed over the top of the bill (one or two mm). This difference would probably not have been visible in the field at the distances we viewed the bird.

2) *The hue of red on the face was correct for Red-faced Cormorant but incorrect for Pelagic.* This difference also was very obvious in the field. The bright fire-truck or cherry red face fits well with photos and written descriptions of Red-faced Cormorant but does not fit those of Pelagic, nor does it fit with our experience of Pelagic.

The lack of a small area of blue on the face is not typical for adult alternate Red-faced Cormorant. Blue is, however, lacking in the alternate sub-adult birds shown in Enticott and Tipling (1997). Also, this mark may not always be visible in field conditions (Jon Dunn, pers. comm.).

3) *Yellow bill.* This was a startling feature of our bird that is typical for Red-faced Cormorant and should eliminate Pelagic Cormorant.

4) *Proportionately larger bill and neck.* This was noted by both of us independently, though we were unaware of the difference at the time. This difference favors the identification as Red-faced Cormorant.

5) *Bronzy wings.* The bronzy gloss that we caught off the wings is remarked upon in some texts. For instance, Enticott and Tipling (1997) say, "Upperwing and tail blackish brown without dark margin and lacking greenish or violet gloss, thus contrasting with iridescent body." The alternate plumaged Red-faced Cormorant at the FMNH (the one in good condition), showed a bronzy purple gloss to the wing that differed from the purple-green gloss on the body and head/neck. This difference was not readily apparent in dull light, but was noticeable in good light. At the UWBM, there was one full alternate plumaged and one partially alternate plumaged Red-faced Cormorant. These two birds also showed

this contrast between wings and body, though it was less pronounced. Pelagic Cormorant specimens all lacked such contrast.

VAGRANCY IN RED-FACED CORMORANT

The Red-faced Cormorant breeds in southern Alaska, the Commander Islands (Russia), and Hokkaido (Japan). In Alaska, the breeding range extends from Prince William Sound west to the Alaskan Peninsula and through the Aleutian Islands as well as on the Pribilof Islands, Nunivak Island, and Bristol Bay (Kessel and Gibson 1976, Enticott and Tipling 1997). Notably, Red-faced Cormorant numbers have exploded in the Prince William Sound area since first being recorded there in 1959, and by 1976, it was the dominant breeding cormorant in the sound (Isleib and Kessel 1973, Kessel and Gibson 1976). In Japan, the breeding range is limited to a small population on the Nemuro Peninsula of southeast Hokkaido (Brazil 1991), and in Russia, this species is a relatively scarce breeder on the Commander Islands (Flint et al. 1984). Red-faced Cormorants are generally believed to winter at sea near the breeding grounds. However, the difficulty of identifying this species in basic and immature plumage may obscure some degree of dispersal.

Red-faced Cormorants are not known for widespread vagrancy, and there are no previous accepted records from the contiguous United States. There is, however, some history of vagrancy to southeastern Alaska, British Columbia, and Japan. British Columbia has a record from Masset Sound, Queen Charlotte Is., on 10-11 April 1988 (Campbell et al. 1990) plus a very recent record from Dixon Entrance, 20 June 1999 (*Birders Journal* 8:160). Another report from British Columbia, given as hypothetical by Campbell et al. (1990), comes from "off" Campbell River, Vancouver I., 14 April 1988. Southeast Alaska has at least one record, a bird seen at Sitka during late February 1980 (*American Birds* 34:298). In Japan, there is a record from Wakayama-ken on Honshu in late April 1980 (Martins 1988). This bird was approximately 1100 km from its normal range.

CONCLUSION

On 8 May 1999, a Red-faced Cormorant was off the mouth of the Elwha River in Clallam County, Washington. This sighting was accepted by the Washington Bird Records Committee in April 2000 and represents the first record of this species from the contiguous United States. Though there are relatively few records of vagrant Red-faced Cormorants, wandering members of this species may be underreported due to identification problems when in basic and immature plumage. Given the apparently increasing population in south coastal Alaska, future records from Washington and British Columbia may be increasingly likely.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman, and Bill Tweit for their help with this bird's identification. We also owe a great debt of thanks to the Field Museum of Natural History and the University of Washington Burke Museum for access to their excellent collections.

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**WHISKERED AUKLET ON WHIDBEY ISLAND:
A FIRST RECORD FOR THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES**

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On the afternoon of 16 May 1999, we were enjoying a relatively dry afternoon on Whidbey Island after having been significantly moistened in Skagit County. We arrived at Penn Cove around 2:30 p.m. and stopped at the Kennedy Lagoon side to look over a gathering of waterfowl. SM found a female Black Scoter (our 122nd species for the day) and said, "Hey Dennis, come take a look through my scope. I have a Black Scoter here."

DD replied, "One sec, I've got something odd. Here take a look. I think it is a Cassin's Auklet." SM, looking through DD's scope, saw a very small grayish alcid facing away in a flock of shovelers. It was clearly not a rhino, and being a small auklet, the immediate assumption was Cassin's. But when the bird turned around, it was clearly something neither of us had ever seen before. This alcid had a gentle rounded head, a stubby small triangular bill, and slaty coloration. There were no eye arcs. The bill looked reddish or orangish. After a minute or two of utter confusion, we realized that we had one of two birds—a Crested (*Aethia cristatella*) or a Whiskered (*A. pygmaea*) Auklet.

After five to ten minutes, SM left DD on the bird and went to another access point. From this new vantage, the lighting was better, and the wholly dull orange-red bill was easily visible and face markings could be seen. After a couple of minutes, the bird jumped off the water and flew at DD, passing directly over his head. It continued away from the water, flying into the tops of several tall (~30m) Douglas-firs. Astonishingly, this little alcid bounced off several trees apparently attempting to land near the tops. We were stumped as to what to do next. Halfheartedly, we drove off to look for rocky shorebirds. After ten minutes of no success, we headed back toward Kennedy Lagoon. If the bird was not on the water, we were going to ask the landowner to check the trees for auklet corpses.

Fortunately, it was back with the shovelers. After about five to 10 minutes, it left the shovelers and joined a small group of Surf Scoters. It remained with the Surf Scoters for another five to 10 minutes and then started to swim away. We watched it for about 20 more minutes as it steadfastly swam away. We then drove up near the San De Fuca pier and relocated the bird directly offshore. The bird flew again and landed in the middle of the cove. We headed home.

Upon reaching SM's house, a number of people were called, none of whom were able to make it out before the evening's light failed. The next morning found twenty or so birders scouring the shores of Penn Cove. In

mid-afternoon, perseverance paid off, and the bird was refound by Rick Toochin, Greg Toffic, and Ken Knittle. Their views were not as good as ours but confirmed several key marks including underpart pattern, bill shape and color, and overall size. The bird was not definitively seen thereafter.

DESCRIPTION

This was a very small alcid, with its total length being equal or no more than 10 percent greater than the head/bill of a male Surf Scoter. It was gray overall, but not evenly so. The head, neck, and chest were dark slaty, much darker than Rhinoceros Auklet (briefly in view at same time). The back/wings were a bit paler, and the flanks a bit paler yet. Even so, the flanks were far from pale, being more of a medium-dark slaty gray. The undertail coverts were whitish, and easily visible as the tail was typically held aloft. When the bird flew overhead, the same pattern was seen: mostly dark underparts, with whitish undertail coverts/vent. The all-pale area was entirely behind the rear edge of the wings. Furthermore, the flanks were dark, so that the pale anterior to the undertail coverts was centrally placed. When the bird flew into the trees, the slaty gray body showed some bluish hues.

The eye was bright white. The bill was small and triangular. The length of the bill was a bit less than the distance between the bill base and the forward edge of the eye. The head was gently rounded, somewhat dovelike, with a bit of a peak just behind the eye. The bill color was entirely dull orange-red with some paling toward the tip. The bird mostly swam with the neck pulled in, but it still did not look as stout in the head/neck as a Cassin's or a rhino. Occasionally it would hold its neck erect, assuming a posture reminiscent of Parakeet Auklet. There was a faint slash of pale across the face from behind the bill down below the eye and another coming back from the eye. There were no white eye arcs.

The bird swam almost continuously. For a while, it seemed to make an attempt to keep up with the shovelers. As it swam, the right leg kicked up out of the water behind, making a bit of a splash. The left leg was not seen. This would seem to imply the bird was injured, but which leg? When the bird flew, it got off the water quickly. The flight was low and direct with very rapid wingbeats—consistent with a small alcid. The apparent attempt to land in trees goes to show a very disoriented bird.

We viewed the bird under high overcast conditions with the sun roughly behind us much of the time. We had the bird relatively close for about 15 minutes the first time and 20 minutes the second time. There were few or no heat waves. There was no wind and the water was mirror like. We used Swarovski ST-80, 20-60x scopes. We were damned lucky.

IDENTIFICATION

There are only three small alcids that look mostly gray sitting on the water: Cassin's, Crested, and Whiskered. Cassin's would be the automatic

assumption in Washington, but the bill shape, bill color, underpart pattern, and darkness of upperparts all clearly eliminate Cassin's. The bird also was too small and had the wrong head shape.

Thus, Crested vs. Whiskered Auklet is the main dilemma. To aid in identification, we consulted Harrison (1983), Harrison (1987), Enticott and Tipling (1997), and Gaston and Jones (1998). Furthermore, SM visited the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) in Chicago and the University of Washington Burke Museum (UWBM). FMNH had 23 Crested Auklet specimens in a variety of plumages and one alternate plumage Whiskered Auklet. UWBM had 33 Crested Auklets and two Whiskered (one adult breeding, one young immature). Finally, Daniel D. Gibson, Ian Jones, Jon Dunn, and Paul A. Buckley contributed further identification information.

Several marks clearly eliminated Crested Auklet, and these differences were pronounced when looking at museum skins.

1) *Overall Size*. The sizes were remarkably different. The FMNH Whiskered Auklet (on the tray) measured 16.5 cm while Cresteds varied from 23 to 25 cm. Male Surf Scoter head and bill measurements were 13 to 14 cm. A bird swimming on the water, however, is not laid flat out like a specimen on the museum tray. The length reduction necessary to account for this difference was estimated to be about .6 to 1.2 cm for Whiskered Auklet and about 2.5 cm for Crested Auklet. This would give a resultant length of 15 to 16 cm for Whiskered Auklet and 20 to 23 cm for Crested. This matches well with the literature and should in its own right eliminate Crested Auklet.

2) *White Undertail Coverts and Vent*. The white undertail coverts/vent is an oft stated field mark for separation of Whiskered from Crested Auklet. The specimens bore this out. All Cresteds had uniformly gray underparts. The Whiskered specimens showed dark flanks contrasting with the centrally pale vent and all-pale undertail coverts—consistent with what we noted in the field. Furthermore, I. Jones and D.D. Gibson (pers. comm.) stated that this mark is extremely reliable.

3) *Overall Color*. The overall color of this bird was dark, approaching the color of a Parakeet Auklet. Crested Auklets are somewhat paler. This difference can be seen in some photos but was quite evident when looking at skins. Cresteds had more the color of Rhinoceros Auklets. Also, Gaston and Jones (1998) mention the bluish tone seen by DD as a point for separation. This was a difference we were not aware of when looking at the bird or taking notes.

WHISKERED AUKLET RANGE AND VAGRANCY

The Whiskered Auklet is locally common, occurring for the most part in the Kuril and Aleutian islands, with a total Alaskan population of up to 200,000 or 300,000 (Gaston and Jones 1998). Byrd and Williams (1993) state that the marine and winter range are "poorly known" and under

"Migration" they say, "No information. Probably most remain near breeding areas throughout the year."

Some history of vagrancy does exist. Vagrant records from Japan include 1, Miyagi-ken, 8 February 1957; 1-3, Cape Nosappu, 28 February 1984; and Cape Ociishi, March 1968 (Brazil 1991). The Miyagi-ken record is approximately 1100 km from the nearest known breeding colony. From summer, there are two records from St. Lawrence Island (Friedmann 1932, Johnson 1974), which is more than 960 km from the nearest nesting colonies.

The May date of the Whidbey Island bird may initially seem odd. However, the closely related Least and Crested Auklets have wandered south almost exclusively during warm-weather months. North American Crested Auklets south of Alaska have been recorded as follows: near Isla Cedros, Baja California, July 1980 (Pitman et al. 1983); near Bolinas, Marin County, California, 16-17 July 1979 (Weyman 1980); near Bodega Head, Sonoma County, California, 24 June 1995 (*Field Notes* 49:976); off NW Vancouver Island, winter 1892-3 (Pitman et al. 1983). The only North American Least Auklet record south of Alaska was from Thornton State Beach, San Mateo County, California, 15 June 1981 (Bailey 1989). The Least Auklet and the Bolinas Crested Auklet were both found from shore and the Bodega Head bird was found on a boat within sight of shore.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Whiskered Auklets have the shape and size of the bird we saw. The underpart pattern and bill were typical as well. Crested Auklet is eliminated by size, underpart pattern, and facial pattern. Cassin's Auklet is eliminated by size, facial pattern, and bill shape/color. Our bird, however, was not in a typical Whiskered Auklet plumage. By mid-May, Whiskered Auklets should be in alternate plumage (even first-year birds), showing bold facial stripes, a quail-like tuft at the base of the bill, a white eye, and a brilliant red bill. First winter birds, however, lack the tuft at the bill's base, have duller bills, dark eyes, and can have quite dull (almost absent) facial stripes. Our bird mostly fits the description of a first winter bird, except for the white eye. D.D. Gibson (pers. comm.) felt that this bird seemed to be in an arrested molt, a feature that he has seen in other wayward Aleutian alcids during May and June. Indeed, a Whiskered Auklet found near Attu (where it is a vagrant) a number of years ago was also felt to be a first year bird, and its plumage resembled that of our bird (P.A. Buckley, pers. comm.). These birds are probably not healthy, and therefore have not proceeded with the energy-intensive pre-alternate molt.

The Whiskered Auklet was not on anybody's list of likely vagrants to Washington. However, this species is not totally sedentary, and at least a few have managed to wander several hundred miles previously. Indeed, the Whidbey Island bird was only about twice as far from home as the Miyagi-ken and St. Lawrence Island records. The May 1999 Whiskered Auklet from Whidbey Island was accepted by the Washington Bird

Records Committee in April 2000 and constitutes the first record from North America outside of Alaska.

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**BIRDS BANDED NEAR SEQUIM, CLALLAM COUNTY,
WASHINGTON, 1991 THROUGH 1998, WITH REFLECTIONS ON
A LIFETIME OF BIRD BANDING**

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I banded a total of 1,365 birds of 73 species and three additional subspecies in the Sequim area from 1991 through 1998. A report of 5,425 individuals I banded in the period 1986 through 1990 was previously published in this journal (Kridler 1992). Four banding sites were used in the more recent period. Baited Figure-8 ground traps were used in a large, weedy field behind a shopping area on the eastern outskirts of Sequim. Ground traps were also used in a grassy area interspersed with a few fir and fruit trees near a small pond about three km east of Sequim. In this same location, mist nets were set in the open around the perimeter of the pond after young swallows had fledged, resulting in the capture of Belted Kingfishers, a few warblers and swifts, and various species of sparrows. Ground traps and occasionally mist nets were used in the Three Crabs area about 10 km north of Sequim on the flat shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This site consisted of grassy fields interspersed with cattail marshes and scattered residences among scattered fir and deciduous trees. Finally, in 1998, two days were spent using mist nets in a cutover area near the 350-meter elevation on Lost Mountain several km southwest of Sequim. The author was assisted in most banding efforts by Dr. and Mrs. Jack Fletcher.

Birds were aged and sexed, where possible, using keys furnished by the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey located at Laurel, Maryland (USFWS 1994), and those found in Pyle et al. (1987). They were weighed, measured, examined for ectoparasites, brood patches, swollen cloacas, and their bodies felt for the possibility of eggs within. Photographs were taken of birds not common in this area, among them Western Scrub-Jay, American Tree Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Bobolink, and Yellow-headed Blackbird (see below). The results of these banding efforts are summarized in Table 1.

As sites, dates, and other conditions varied greatly from year to year, the numbers captured do not represent yearly population trends of the species, but in any given year they do reflect relative abundances of species with similar susceptibilities to trapping and netting. The total number of birds banded would have been hundreds more if efforts had been directed to capturing the many Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds, but I felt that a large enough sample had been taken. Eurasian Starling and House Finch numbers would also have swelled if I had set traps in areas favored by those species.

SIGNIFICANT BIRDS BANDED

Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

A hatching-year (HY) of unknown sex was banded on 23 October 1998.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*)

A second-year (SY) of unknown sex was banded on 23 February 1997.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)

A HY was banded on 23 July 1991.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)

A HY of unknown sex was banded on 17 November 1998.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)

An after hatching-year (AHY) male was banded on 31 October 1993.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

A HY of unknown sex was banded on 22 October 1993.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx orizivorus*).

An AHY male was banded on 12 September 1995.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Three were banded in 1994: A SY male on 25 May and another SY male on 5 June. An after second-year (ASY) male was also banded on 5 June. A fourth male was banded on 1 September 1998, and was aged as an AHY.

SIGNIFICANT RECOVERIES SINCE 1990

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

A SY bird banded on 11 February 1993 was found dead on 15 February 1993 near Sol Duc Hot Springs, Washington, about 65 km west of Sequim.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

An AHY bird banded on 2 September 1994 was found dead in Happy Valley south of Sequim on 2 July 1995.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

A HY bird banded on 15 June 1990 was found dead on 11 May 1992 at Cordova Bay near Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, about 50 km across the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)

An AHY female banded on 27 February 1997 was killed by a cat at Mills Bay, Vancouver Island, British Columbia on 14 March 1997.

"Puget Sound" White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys pugetensis*).

A HY bird was killed by a cat near Sequim one day after banding.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

A HY female banded on 26 June 1994 was caught by hand and released on 31 October 1994 near Hansville, Washington, about 50 km southeast of Sequim.

Table 1. Birds banded 1991-1998

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	TOTAL
Northern Harrier	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	0	8
Cooper's Hawk	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	9
American Kestrel	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Merlin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Killdeer	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	5
Common Snipe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mourning Dove	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	7	13
Barn Owl	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	9
Western Screech-Owl	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	7
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Common Nighthawk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vaux's Swift	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Belted Kingfisher	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	6
"Red-shafted" Northern Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Western Wood-Pewee	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Willow Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
Hammond's Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	7
Northern Shrike	1	4	2	3	4	9	2	10	35
Steller's Jay	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	5
Western Scrub-Jay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tree Swallow	0	3	7	10	1	2	0	5	28
Violet-green Swallow	1	9	77	75	43	44	4	5	258
N. Rough-winged Swallow	0	0	5	1	1	2	0	0	9
Cliff Swallow	22	10	47	0	1	1	0	0	81
Barn Swallow	0	0	32	48	70	59	0	0	209
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2	5	5	11	13	0	7	43
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Bushtit	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7
Bewick's Wren	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
House Wren	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Marsh Wren	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Western Bluebird	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	2	11
Swainson's Thrush	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	8
American Robin	12	3	10	11	22	57	4	18	137
Varied Thrush	1	0	1	2	1	6	7	0	18
European Starling	9	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	17
Cedar Waxwing	0	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	12
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	5
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
"Myrtle" Y.-rumped Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
"Audubon's" Y.-rumped Warbler	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Common Yellowthroat	0	0	1	0	4	9	0	1	15
Wilson's Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Spotted Towhee	0	3	10	52	29	32	31	59	216
American Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Chipping Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	3	44	234	151	183	151	2	56	824
Fox Sparrow	0	0	6	2	2	2	2	8	22
Song Sparrow	1	33	93	62	81	61	39	144	514
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	2	8	5	11	10	3	3	42
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Harris's Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
"Puget Sound" W.-crowned Sparrow	7	87	140	162	171	222	4	145	938
"Gambel's" W.-crowned Sparrow	0	12	24	18	16	15	1	14	100

Table 1. Continued

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	TOTAL
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1	48	122	57	88	101	28	151	596
"Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	6
Dark-eyed Junco ("Oregon")	22	114	81	140	86	260	219	315	1237
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
Black-headed Grosbeak	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	5
Bobolink	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-winged Blackbird	14	367	115	160	160	42	10	47	915
Yellow-headed Blackbird	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Brewer's Blackbird	5	126	9	29	20	6	1	23	219
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	20	5	0	4	1	0	10	46
Purple Finch	0	1	2	0	10	5	0	1	19
House Finch	12	261	459	678	480	553	41	328	2812
Pine Siskin	2	617	121	377	14	160	69	63	1423
American Goldfinch	2	28	78	116	40	74	5	41	384
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
TOTALS	131	1809	1713	2191	1614	1940	477	1490	11365

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)

A HY bird banded on 8 August 1991 was trapped and released at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Washington, about 160 km south of the point of capture, on 4 May 1993. It likely was returning from its wintering grounds in California.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)

A HY male banded on 29 April 1994 was found dead near Gardiner, about 15 km east of Sequim in February 1997. A number of House Finches were recovered less than eight km away or soon after banding.

Banding turns up unusual things. The remains of a HY Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) banded on 16 June 1992 wound up in an owl pellet at a high school biology lab in Charleston, Illinois, three years later. Inquiry of the Illinois Department of Conservation revealed that the biological supply firm which had sold the pellets to the school did not keep records of when and where they had been obtained. So, all that is known is that an owl of uncertain species dined on the blackbird at an undetermined time and place.

An AHY female Spotted Towhee enjoyed free lunches of seed in a ground trap so much that it repeated 19 straight times, sometimes twice a day. The last time was its undoing because it was killed in the trap by a Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). I banded the shrike.

A different HY Northern Shrike was taken in a ground trap, banded, and released about 1.5 km from the banding site. That afternoon it was retrapped and released about 3 km away. It was retrapped two days later and released 8 km away. Three days later it was retrapped. This time it was taken 15 km away and released. It was not retrapped after that.

I cooperated with banders in Oregon to study sex-ratio differences in Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) populations at various times of the year at a number of sites in Oregon and Washington (Altman et al. 1996; males were relatively more abundant in Washington). I also

cooperated with a bander in California to study differences in weights, measurements, and crown coloration between populations of Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) wintering in Washington and California.

Other techniques can be used to mark birds in conjunction with banding. While stationed at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge at Burns, Oregon, during the early 1960s, I trapped, banded, and dyed yellow 190 Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*). State and provincial wildlife departments were notified and requested to report sightings of these birds. Several hundred reports resulted. We were able to determine that swans passing through Malheur split into two different populations that nested at two sites 2,000 km apart—the Mackenzie Lake area in northwestern Canada and the Kuskokwim River delta in western Alaska. We also were able to trace their routes from Malheur to the Klamath Basin in California and Oregon and down to wintering grounds of the Sacramento Valley (Paullin and Kridler 1988).

This same technique was also used to disclose movements of the endemic and endangered Aeo or Hawaiian Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*) among the various islands of the state (Kridler 1967). Previous to these studies it was assumed that there was no inter-island movement.

Among the other interesting results obtained in banding not associated with the Sequim operations is the Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*) found dead near Yachats, Oregon, on 17 August 1990—26 years after I banded it as an adult bird on Midway Atoll on 8 February 1964. Banding on various islands of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge revealed that Laysan (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) and Black-footed Albatrosses live more than 37 years, roaming vast areas of the North Pacific Ocean (Clapp and Kridler 1987). But well over half of them nest within a meter or two of where they nested the previous year.

Banding in the Western states, Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada during a long career as a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been rewarding and fruitful, albeit "fun and games" when compared to dealing with politicians, developers, military agencies, poachers, etc. I enjoyed handling a great variety of species, large and small, including endangered species, as well as breaking in new banders and using live birds in demonstrations for schools and other groups. Not counting the thousands of waterfowl and other birds banded on various station permits, my records show a total of over 66,000 birds of 296 species banded, of which the ones from Sequim are only the most recent.

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BOOK REVIEW

Klaus Malling Olsen and Hans Larsson. 1997. Skuas and Jaegers: A Guide to the Skuas and Jaegers of the World. Yale University Press, New Haven. 180 pp., 13 color plates, 156 black-and-white and color figures, 7 maps. ISBN 0-300-07269-4. Cloth, \$35.00.

This duo who originally brought us the *Terns of Europe and North America* in 1995 have written and illustrated a comprehensive guide to another difficult group. Only seven species and ten total forms are covered in the guide. However, the range of variation between and within species and age classes is enough to justify the extensive treatment of this group.

Introductory chapters provide synopses of skua taxonomy, ecology, breeding biology, age development, relationship with man, and observation tips. Several more specific topics covered within these chapters and pertinent to the understanding of skua biology and identification are polymorphism, kleptoparasitism, molt, bleaching and wear, and topography.

The color plates following these introductory chapters admirably depict each species, subspecies, and frequent hybrid combination, highlighting differences in age, structure, and coloration both when standing and in flight. The illustrations not only effectively capture the subtle coloration and the degree of variation of each species, but also the details of jizz and structure, not always easy to depict. I was grateful for the inclusion of the taxonomically puzzling and interesting Brown Skua *Catharacta antarctica* group and the hybrid combination, Falkland Skua *C. (a.) antarctica* x Chilean Skua *C. chilensis*. Hybrids between South Polar Skua *C. maccormicki* and the Subantarctic Skua *C. (a.) lonnbergi* are described in the Brown Skua text account, but not illustrated. Unfortunately the authors neglected to include page numbers in the plate section referring to the appropriate text accounts. Nor do they cross-reference plates within the text accounts.

The species accounts follow a standard pattern: field identification, voice, molt, detailed description, geographical variation, variants, hybridization, measurements, weight, food, breeding, and migration and wintering. Species accounts range from seven to twenty-one pages. The Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* receives the most coverage, Chilean Skua the least, reflecting the variation within these two species. The authors facilitate identification by summarizing diagnostic structural and plumage characteristics in the field identification section, leaving the full descriptions of plumage, age, and molt for later sections in each account. I found this to be effective for identification purposes without getting lost in unnecessary detail. The sections on food and breeding ecology are concise and well detailed with current research findings well reflected in the text. Generally, the information provided on the jaegers and Great Skua *C. skua* concerning distribution and migration is most detailed and complete for western Eurasia. Some gaps in knowledge apparent in the text include the extent of hybridization

between the various southern skua species and subspecies; detailed migration timing and distribution patterns in the Pacific; winter distribution of jaegers in the Indian Ocean; and non-breeding movements of the southern skuas. Two further details lacking which would have been of particular interest to North American readers are: size reference comparisons to American non-skua species (i.e. Ring-billed Gull similar in size to Parasitic Jaeger), and the similarity of distant jaegers and immature or partially leucistic Heermann's Gull *Larus heermanni*.

The abundant black-and-white figures scattered throughout the text and the color photos following the text accounts are well captioned, with text highlighting field marks and apparent molt and age characteristics. The date and location of photographs are noted. The photos are generally clear and of very good quality. These figures provide crucial supporting information and visuals for variation, structure, jizz, size (several photos of skuas with non-skua species), molt, and wear. Maps are provided in grayscale, and are large with wintering and breeding ranges easily discernable. Arrows show best-known or most heavily used migration routes. Dates are included with the arrows as rough guides to the timing of migration. Lastly, the authors include 12 pages of references, which appear to be very complete up to the publication of the book.

Why should a bird enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest consider this book for his/her personal library? Guides, such as the National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, provide brief overviews of jaeger and skua identification, but I find the information incomplete and largely inadequate for identifying birds other than adults in the field. Pelagic birders and ornithologists will want to brush up on *Catharacta* identification, especially since both Brown and Chilean Skuas have been described from (all reports are unsubstantiated or erroneous thus far: AOU 1998) and are predicted to occur in North American waters (Shearwater 1999). Also, those interested in taxonomic matters may want to know that the distinctive and geographically isolated breeding populations of the Brown Skua (*C. antarctica*, *lonnbergi*, and *hamiltoni*) may warrant separate species status. *Skuas and Jaegers* addresses these issues and many others in one up-to-date, fully illustrated volume.

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Cover photo of Manx Shearwater following a Sooty Shearwater, off Westport,
Grays Harbor County,
22 August 1998, Kip Miller