WASHINGTON BIRDS

VOLUME 1
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WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1988

"...to increase our knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance communication among all persons interested in those birds."

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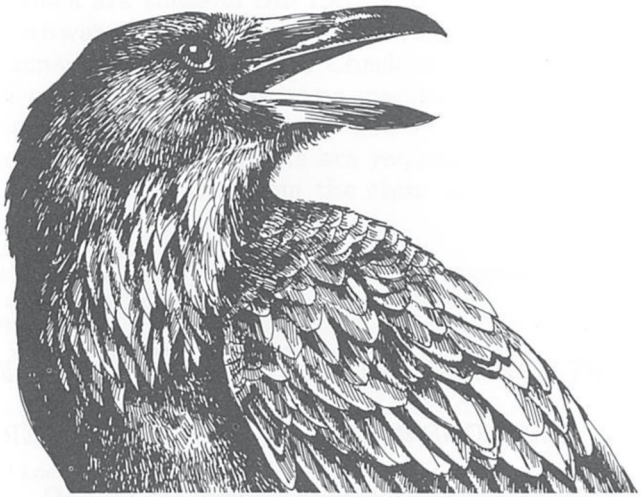
WASHINGTON BIRDS



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COVER PHOTO OF BOHEMIAN WAXWING
AT BRIDGEPORT, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 1988,
BY ROBERT ASHBAUGH

CHECK-LIST OF WASHINGTON BIRDS

Washington Bird Records Committee

T. Ben Feltner, Chairman
Eugene S. Hunn
Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.
Dennis R. Paulson
Jeff Skriletz
Robert A. Sundstrom
Terence R. Wahl

This list of Washington birds includes those species that have been documented by specimens, photographs or generally accepted sight records. The supplementary list includes species that have been reported but have not yet been accepted by the committee, primarily single-person sight records but also multiple-person sight records of species difficult to identify.

Bird names are those of the 1983 AOU Check-list and its supplements. Northwestern Crow and Hoary Redpoll are maintained as separate to be consistent with the AOU Check-list, even though they are not considered as valid species by some members of this committee.

Species in italics have been recorded no more than fifteen times in Washington; written descriptions are required for all reports of these species. Species extirpated from the state are not listed.

I - introduced into state
I+ - spread into state from populations introduced elsewhere
B - known or assumed to breed
BE - formerly bred
(IB) - only introduced population breeds
* - sight record only

GAVIIDAE
Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Common Loon B
Yellow-billed Loon

PODICIPEDIDAE
Pied-billed Grebe B
Horned Grebe B
Red-necked Grebe B
Eared Grebe B
Western Grebe B
Clark's Grebe B

DIOMEDEIDAE
Short-tailed Albatross
Black-footed Albatross
Laysan Albatross
Shy Albatross

PROCELLARIIDAE
Northern Fulmar
Mottled Petrel
Solander's Petrel
Pink-footed Shearwater
Flesh-footed Shearwater
Buller's Shearwater

Sooty Shearwater
Short-tailed Shearwater

HYDROBATIDAE
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel B
Leach's Storm-Petrel B

PHAETHONTIDAE
Red-billed Tropicbird

SULIDAE
Blue-footed Booby

PELECANIDAE
American White Pelican BE
Brown Pelican

PHALACROCORACIDAE
Double-crested Cormorant B
Brandt's Cormorant B
Pelagic Cormorant B

FREGATIDAE
Magnificent Frigatebird

ARDEIDAE
American Bittern B
Great Blue Heron B
Great Egret B
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Green-backed Heron B
Black-crowned Night-Heron B

THRESKIORNITHIDAE
White-faced Ibis

ANATIDAE
Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Tundra Swan
Trumpeter Swan (IB)
Mute Swan I+
Greater White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
*Ross' Goose**
Emperor Goose
Brant
Canada Goose B
Wood Duck B
Green-winged Teal B
Falcated Teal
American Black Duck (IB)
Mallard B
Northern Pintail B
Garganey
Blue-winged Teal B
Cinnamon Teal B
Northern Shoveler B
Gadwall B
Eurasian Wigeon
American Wigeon B
Canvasback B
Redhead B
Ring-necked Duck B
Tufted Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup B
King Eider
Steller's Eider
Harlequin Duck B
Oldsquaw
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Common Goldeneye
Barrow's Goldeneye B
Bufflehead B
Hooded Merganser B
Common Merganser B
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck B

CATHARTIDAE
Turkey Vulture B

ACCIPITRIDAE
Osprey B
Black-shouldered Kite B
Bald Eagle B
Northern Harrier B
Sharp-shinned Hawk B
Cooper's Hawk B
Northern Goshawk B
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Swainson's Hawk B
Red-tailed Hawk B
Ferruginous Hawk B
Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle B

FALCONIDAE
American Kestrel B
Merlin B
Peregrine Falcon B
Gyrfalcon
Prairie Falcon B

PHASIANIDAE
Gray Partridge IB
Chukar IB
Ring-necked Pheasant IB
Spruce Grouse B
Blue Grouse B
White-tailed Ptarmigan B
Ruffed Grouse B
Sage Grouse B
Sharp-tailed Grouse B
Wild Turkey IB
Northern Bobwhite IB
Scaled Quail IB
California Quail IB
Mountain Quail B

RALLIDAE
Yellow Rail
Virginia Rail B
Sora B
American Coot B

GRUIDAE
Sandhill Crane B

CHARADRIIDAE
Black-bellied Plover
Lesser Golden-Plover
Snowy Plover B
Semipalmated Plover B
Killdeer B
Mountain Plover
Eurasian Dotterel

HAEMATOPODIDAE
Black Oystercatcher B

RECURVIROSTRIDAE
Black-necked Stilt B
American Avocet B

SCOLOPACIDAE
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Willet
Wandering Tattler
Gray-tailed Tattler
Spotted Sandpiper B
Upland Sandpiper B
Whimbrel
Long-billed Curlew B
Hudsonian Godwit
Bar-tailed Godwit

Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Black Turnstone
Surfbird
Red Knot
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Rock Sandpiper
Dunlin
Curlew Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ruff
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Common Snipe B
Wilson's Phalarope B
Red-necked Phalarope
Red Phalarope

LARIDAE
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
South Polar Skua
Laughing Gull
Franklin's Gull
Little Gull
*Common Black-headed Gull**
Bonaparte's Gull
Heermann's Gull
Mew Gull
Ring-billed Gull B
California Gull B
Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull
Slaty-backed Gull
Western Gull B
Glaucous-winged Gull B
Glaucous Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Red-legged Kittiwake
Sabine's Gull
Caspian Tern B
Elegant Tern
Common Tern
Arctic Tern B
Forster's Tern B
Least Tern
Black Tern B

ALCIDAE
Common Murre B
Thick-billed Murre
Pigeon Guillemot B
Marbled Murrelet B
Kittlitz's Murrelet
Xantus' Murrelet
Ancient Murrelet B
Cassin's Auklet B
Parakeet Auklet
Rhinoceros Auklet B
Tufted Puffin B
Horned Puffin

COLUMBIDAE
Rock Dove IB
Band-tailed Pigeon B
White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove B

CUCULIDAE
Black-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo BE

TYTONIDAE
Barn Owl B

STRIGIDAE
Flammulated Owl B
Western Screech-Owl B
Great Horned Owl B
Snowy Owl
Northern Hawk Owl
Northern Pygmy-Owl B
Burrowing Owl B
Spotted Owl B
Barred Owl B
Great Gray Owl
Long-eared Owl B
Short-eared Owl B
Boreal Owl B
Northern Saw-whet Owl B

CAPRIMULGIDAE
Common Nighthawk B
Common Poorwill B

APODIDAE
Black Swift B
Vaux's Swift B
White-throated Swift B

TROCHILIDAE
Black-chinned Hummingbird B
Anna's Hummingbird B
Calliope Hummingbird B
Rufous Hummingbird B
Allen's Hummingbird

ALCEDINIDAE
Belted Kingfisher B

PICIDAE
Lewis' Woodpecker B
Acorn Woodpecker
Red-naped Sapsucker B
Red-breasted Sapsucker B
Williamson's Sapsucker B
Downy Woodpecker B
Hairy Woodpecker B
White-headed Woodpecker B
Three-toed Woodpecker B
Black-backed Woodpecker B
Northern Flicker B
Pileated Woodpecker B

TYRANNIDAE
Olive-sided Flycatcher B
Western Wood-Pewee B
Willow Flycatcher B
Least Flycatcher B?
Hammond's Flycatcher B
Dusky Flycatcher B
Gray Flycatcher B
Pacific-slope Flycatcher B
Cordilleran Flycatcher B
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe B
Vermilion Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher B
Tropical Kingbird
Western Kingbird B
Eastern Kingbird B
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

ALAUDIDAE
Eurasian Skylark I+B
Horned Lark B

HIRUNDINIDAE
Purple Martin B
Tree Swallow B
Violet-green Swallow B
N. Rough-winged Swallow B
Bank Swallow B
Cliff Swallow B

Barn Swallow B

CORVIDAE
Gray Jay B
Steller's Jay B
Blue Jay
Scrub Jay B
Pinyon Jay
Clark's Nutcracker B
Black-billed Magpie B
American Crow B
Northwestern Crow B
Common Raven B

PARIDAE
Black-capped Chickadee B
Mountain Chickadee B
Boreal Chickadee B
Chestnut-backed Chickadee B

AEGITHALIDAE
Bushtit B

SITTIDAE
Red-breasted Nuthatch B
White-breasted Nuthatch B
Pygmy Nuthatch B

CERTHIIDAE
Brown Creeper B

TROGLODYTIDAE
Rock Wren B
Canyon Wren B
Bewick's Wren B
House Wren B
Winter Wren B
Marsh Wren B

CINCLIDAE
American Dipper B

MUSCICAPIDAE
Golden-crowned Kinglet B
Ruby-crowned Kinglet B
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Western Bluebird B
Mountain Bluebird B
Townsend's Solitaire B
Veery B
Swainson's Thrush B
Hermit Thrush B
American Robin B
Varied Thrush B

MIMIDAE
Gray Catbird B
Northern Mockingbird
Sage Thrasher B

PRUNELLIDAE
Siberian Accentor

MOTACILLIDAE
White Wagtail
*Red-throated Pipit**
American Pipit B

BOMBYCILLIDAE
Bohemian Waxwing B
Cedar Waxwing B

LANIIDAE
Northern Shrike
Loggerhead Shrike B

STURNIDAE
European Starling I+B

VIREONIDAE
Solitary Vireo B
Hutton's Vireo B
Warbling Vireo B
Red-eyed Vireo B

EMBERIZIDAE
*Tennessee Warbler**
Orange-crowned Warbler B
Nashville Warbler B
*Northern Parula**
Yellow Warbler B
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
*Cape May Warbler**
Yellow-rumped Warbler B
Black-throated Gray Warbler B
Townsend's Warbler B
Hermit Warbler B
*Black-throated Green Warbler**
*Blackburnian Warbler**
Palm Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart B
Prothonotary Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush B
MacGillivray's Warbler B
Common Yellowthroat B
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler B
Yellow-breasted Chat B
Western Tanager B
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-headed Grosbeak B
Lazuli Bunting B
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Green-tailed Towhee B
Rufous-sided Towhee B
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow B
Clay-colored Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow B
Vesper Sparrow B
Lark Sparrow B
Black-throated Sparrow B
Sage Sparrow B
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow B
Grasshopper Sparrow B
Le Conte's Sparrow
*Sharp-tailed Sparrow**
Fox Sparrow B
Song Sparrow B
Lincoln's Sparrow B
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow B
White-crowned Sparrow B
Harris' Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco B
Lapland Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Rustic Bunting
Snow Bunting
McKay's Bunting
Bobolink B
Red-winged Blackbird B
Western Meadowlark B
Yellow-headed Blackbird B
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird B
Great-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird B
Northern Oriole B
Scott's Oriole

FRINGILLIDAE
Brambling
Rosy Finch B
Pine Grosbeak B

Purple Finch B
Cassin's Finch B
House Finch B
Red Crossbill B
White-winged Crossbill B
Common Redpoll
*Hoary Redpoll**
Pine Siskin B
Lesser Goldfinch B
American Goldfinch B
Evening Grosbeak B

PASSERIDAE
House Sparrow I+B

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Smew
Wood Sandpiper
Bristle-thighed Curlew
Great Knot
Temminck's Stint
Iceland Gull
Ivory Gull
Brown Thrasher
Black-backed Wagtail
White-eyed Vireo
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Mourning Warbler

Manuscript received 5 January 1989

BIRDS OBSERVED AT MONTLAKE FILL, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CAMPUS, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, FROM 1972 TO 1989

Kevin Aanerud
9415 15th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Montlake Fill may claim the honor of being the most popular site for birding in the state. Its proximity to the University of Washington and easy access to hundreds of birdwatchers in Seattle are part of the reason. As important is the diversity of habitat that offers sanctuary to an impressive variety of bird species.

Although the area is part of the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, most birders call it Montlake Fill or merely "the fill," and this name will be used herein for the entire site.

A brief history of this site is necessary to understand its character today. The opening of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks at Ballard in 1916 lowered the surface of Lake Washington by nine feet. In subsequent years a large cattail marsh was formed at the edges of Union Bay. Urban demands created a refuse dump on this marsh from 1926 to 1965. Diking and dredging in these years continued to alter the appearance of the site. The University further changed it with the construction of parking lots and playfields. In 1971 the dumpsite was covered and graded with up to twelve feet of glacial till and seeded with grasses. From 1971 to the present relatively little of the area was altered by human endeavors, but much has changed by natural forces.

The predominating aspect of Montlake Fill is a gently contoured meadow of perennial grasses. Over 150 species of flowering plants have found niches in the variety of soil conditions available. Blackberry tangles encircle much of the fill where formerly existed dikes. They, too, are scattered about the fill, forming "thicket islands" with Scots broom. Gas-vent zones, where methane gas escapes from the un-

View from Montlake Fill, 4 July 1983 (Dennis Paulson)

derlying decomposing rubbish, are rather barren areas, too harsh for most plant species. Some remnant cattail marsh can be found on the eastern edge of the fill, and the southwestern section is also a network of cattail islands and narrow waterways.

Most of the riparian habitat is found along University Slough (the former channel of Ravenna Creek) and adjacent to the cattail marshes at the east edge of the fill. Alder, willow, and cottonwood are the dominant tree species. There are four more or less permanent ponds on the fill. These ponds were seasonal in the early 1970s, but continued subsidence has expanded their borders. Recently purple loosestrife has invaded the edges of these ponds in company with cattails, reeds, and willows. These changes have probably encouraged duck breeding, but the question arises if the fill will continue to provide suitable habitat for migrating shorebirds and other open-pond or open-grassland species.

My birding the fill began in 1972. I averaged two visits per week until 1980 and again from 1984 to the present. The annotated bird list is a compilation of personal records kept over this period. Many other birders have actively enjoyed the fill, and many of the sightings on this list have been shared. A rare discovery often has visited for only a day or less, and it can be difficult to get the news relayed quickly enough to other birders.

Birding at one site regularly over a period of years has always interested me. The Montlake fill had peculiarities which make birding it challenging. Migrant passerines and shorebirds are particularly susceptible to weather systems. Their movements are so transitory on the fill that on one day the whole area can be teeming with birds and the next day nothing but resident species can be found. Finding rarities is largely dependent upon happening onto one of these good days or being able to predict such an event. My experiences on Montlake have been a little of both. The following list includes the 186 species and one hybrid that I have seen on the fill.

Main pond on the fill, 23 August 1981 (Dennis Paulson)

Common Loon. A few records of flyovers in late fall.

Pied-billed Grebe. Common breeding resident. Frequents channels and cattail marsh edges.

Horned Grebe. Uncommon but occurs regularly from October through April.

Eared Grebe. Casual visitor, two on 28 October 1986 and one on 18 September 1989. This species is uncommon in western Washington and favors specific sites in its winter distribution.

Pied-billed Grebe, 7 June 1987 (Dennis Paulson)

Western Grebe. Earliest fall arrival on 17 September 1987. Small numbers winter, but never in sizable rafts.

Clark's Grebe. A pair of birds calling regularly to each other on 21 July 1989. Very rare in western Washington, usually seen on salt water.

Double-crested Cormorant. Usually arrives in late September; two summer records, 24 June 1986 and 17 August 1989. Most numerous on nearshore waters in spring, probably due to fish spawning activities. Latest spring birds during the third week of May.

American Bittern. In 1970s fairly common and possibly bred, as often heard in late spring and summer. Recent records of individuals on 20 March 1987 and 29 October - 18 December of the same year.

Great Blue Heron. Resident in small numbers. Successful nesting in 1989 in dense riparian woodland at the northeast corner of the fill.

Great Egret. One from 16 June - 2 July 1987.

Green-backed Heron. Most commonly seen mid August through early October, with occasional lingering into winter months; also seen each spring. In 1986 a pair attempted nesting 30 feet up in an alder, and in 1987 a pair nested successfully in cattail marsh.

Black-crowned Night-Heron. An immature from 15 August - 3 September 1987. The species is only occasionally seen in the Puget Sound lowlands away from its traditional wintering sites in the Skagit valley.

Trumpeter Swan. An adult and dusky immature flew low over the fill,

called twice, and moved on northward on 15 December 1984.

Greater White-fronted Goose. Single birds present briefly during migration in September and early October of 1976 and 1986. Single immatures wintered twice (1978-79 and 1985-86), departing in early May.

Snow Goose. Individuals wintered during 1978-79 and from 10 December 1984 - 6 March 1985. Another bird present 23 November - 9 December 1987, and a spring migrant remained for most of April and the first half of May 1989.

Emperor Goose. Undoubtedly the same individual that first appeared at a local park in January 1987 remained for a short while at the fill in August 1988. The large numbers of resident Canada Geese act as a magnet to other species of geese, some of which are seen at other localities in the city but then show up at the fill.

Brant. One shared company with Canada Geese for half a day in late March 1986.

Canada Goose. The introduced subspecies *moffitti* (Great Basin Canada Goose) is a very numerous resident. Nesting has increased rapidly from a few pairs in the early 1970s to about 20 pairs in 1986. At least 160 young survived to maturity in the latter year. In 1987 and 1988 nesting success dropped off considerably, perhaps due to prolonged spring and summer drought conditions or because populations on the fill were already too large to be sustainable, but in 1989 nesting success rose again. The dramatic increase of this species has been observed throughout the Puget Sound lowlands. Lesser (*parvipes*), Dusky (*occidentalis*), and Cackling (*minima*) Canadas are seen almost each year in small numbers from late fall to early spring.

Dusky and Great Basin Canada Geese, 30 April 1986 (Dennis Paulson)

Wood Duck. Birds show up each year during fall, often in a small flock; maximum count nine on 28 August 1987. All sightings have been

between 24 August (1989) and 1 October (1986), other than one male on 14 April 1988 and another on 25 May 1988.

Green-winged Teal. A common winter resident, seen well into spring (latest date 22 May 1986). Fall arrivals appear in mid August and numbers build quickly.

American Black Duck. Two records in the late 1970s, each time a bird in late summer that remained for a few months, until fully molted. They were probably drifters from the small resident population in Everett.

Mallard. Resident and common breeder.

Northern Pintail. A spring migrant in very small numbers, more common August through September.

Blue-winged Teal. A common spring migrant from late April to early June. Numbers vary greatly from year to year, with 18 on 25 May 1985 the high count. Pairs have lingered well into June, but nesting has been neither observed nor suspected.

Cinnamon Teal. Like the Blue-winged, a common spring migrant, but arrives earlier (e.g., 1 April 1986). A few pairs nest each year (at least since 1985), and some remain until late September.

Northern Shoveler. One or two pairs have nested each year since 1985. Although numbers reside year-round, they are most numerous during spring and fall migration, when 30-40 can usually be found. Fall

Northern Shovelers, 9 March 1985 (Dennis Paulson)

migration begins early, shortly after the first week of August.

Gadwall. The most common resident and breeding duck species, nesting usually in tall grasses. A covering of matted down and plant fiber is placed over the nest whenever the female leaves it. In late spring and early summer, wild courtship flights accompanied by much loud quacking can be witnessed. These flights usually consist of one female with two males giving chase. This species has increased in numbers

in western Washington since breeding was first documented in 1967. A few pairs were suspected of breeding at the fill as early as 1973, and currently 12-15 pairs breed there annually.

Eurasian Wigeon. Almost each year, one or two can be found in the company of large numbers of American Wigeons.

American Wigeon. A large flock of 80-200 birds occurs each winter from October through March. They spend much of their time feeding on the playfields or resting on channels and sloughs. Single birds often appear in late July, and one individual summered in 1987. This species seems to remain well offshore on Lake Washington in early fall, perhaps until numbers have grown sufficiently large to provide security. Only then does it venture onto the fill.

Canvasback. A few are seen each year from November to late April.

Redhead. Five records: a male on 11 December 1985, a female on 8 April 1987 joined two weeks later by a male, a male on 28 February 1988, and a female on 25 May 1988. Redheads are scarce anywhere in western Washington.

Ring-necked Duck. Common from October through the winter, sometimes present into the first week of June. The highest number was 60 on 29 November 1987. Immatures have been seen in recent years in August.

Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid. A male, presumably the bird wintering on Green Lake, was seen on 8 April 1989 in the company of scaups.

Greater Scaup. A few most years in winter and spring. A male seen 3 June 1987 was very late.

Lesser Scaup. More common than the previous species, small groups move in and out of Montlake from September through mid May.

Common Goldeneye. A few individuals can usually be found from late October through April.

Barrow's Goldeneye. Two immature males on 25 April 1988.

Bufflehead. A common winter resident from mid October to mid May. A female seen on 3 June 1987 was late and another on 7 August 1987 was very early.

Hooded Merganser. A year-round resident, most common in late fall and winter. April birds are usually females and immature males. A female has remained to breed each year since 1985, and two females nested in 1986. Broods vary from 8-13, but attrition is very high with only one or two surviving to fledging. The growth rate of these chicks seems remarkably slow.

Common Merganser. Occasionally seen from late October to mid April, the highest count 10 on 29 October 1984.

Red-breasted Merganser. Seen only a few times in late April and early May.

Ruddy Duck. Groups totalling 15-20 birds usually present from mid

September through April. A few remain throughout the summer, with successful nesting observed each year since 1987.

Turkey Vulture. One spring record, 1 April 1986, and two fall records, 3 October 1985 and 4 November 1987.

Osprey. Averaged three sightings per year from 25 April - 29 August.

Bald Eagle. In the 1970s, eagles were almost never seen at the fill, but they have occurred regularly since the early 1980s. They can be seen at any time of year, although more likely in winter and spring.

Northern Harrier. An uncommon visitor throughout the year, but the majority of records are immatures in July and August.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Most common as a fall migrant, but on most visits from September through March one or two have been found.

Cooper's Hawk. Status similar to previous species but summered in 1985 and 1987.

Red-tailed Hawk. One to three generally winter in the area. Seldom seen during June and July.

Rough-legged Hawk. Two birds flew over the fill on a cold, windy day in late October 1974. This was a flight year for the species in western Washington, with much higher than normal numbers reported throughout the region. In usual years, only a few are observed south of the Skagit valley.

American Kestrel. Single birds seen in most years between mid August and November, often remaining in the area for two weeks or more. More rarely a bird noted in winter or spring.

Merlin. Visits the fill each year, far more regularly sighted than the kestrel. Although most common as a fall migrant, records extend from 2 October - 10 March. On 2 October 1986 a Merlin caught an immature Barn Swallow as a flock of swallows gave chase to it.

Peregrine Falcon. On the surprising date of 11 July 1987, a white-breasted adult circled over the fill, gaining more and more altitude, before leaving on a straight eastward course. An adult on 29 November 1987 was a Peale's (*pealei*) Peregrine.

Ring-necked Pheasant. Permanent resident in small numbers.

California Quail. Always present, although numbers declined in the 1980s. Difficult to find during the colder winter months.

Virginia Rail. Fairly common in cattail marshes, but not often seen. Always heard on the first warm, sunny day of late winter, but five seen on 1 December 1984 was an unusual number for winter. Freezing temperatures had occurred in the days before, and this secretive species was more easily observed along the open margins of its habitat. Probably breeds regularly; an adult with chicks in May 1987.

Sora. One or two seen most years in May or August-September. Possibly bred in 1987, as adults were observed throughout the summer and a

juvenile was seen on 26 July. Most often found along the margins of the inner ponds or on the edges of the various channels.

American Coot. A common resident. Numbers greatest in the fall, when hundreds may gather offshore in the shallow waters of Lake Washington.

American Coot feeding young, 7 June 1987 (Dennis Paulson)

Black-bellied Plover. One on 12 September 1985.

Semipalmated Plover. Rarely seen in spring. Five on 13 May 1986 is an unusually large number and the latest recorded.

Killdeer. Almost always present, with greatest numbers in the fall presumably indicating migration. Nesting occurs as early as March, but later attempts are more successful.

Black-necked Stilt. One on 12 May 1988 was continually harassed by crows. Off-course spring migrants of this eastern Washington species occur almost annually west of the Cascades.

American Avocet. Two spring records, 28 May 1980 and 31 March 1988. The latter is an unusually early occurrence of this species, rare in western Washington.

Greater Yellowlegs. A fairly common migrant, particularly in fall between early July and mid September. Earliest and latest fall dates 24 June 1985 and 4 October 1985.

Lesser Yellowlegs. Regular in fall and occasional in spring. Six individuals—the maximum count—seen on two dates, 16 August 1985 and 1 September 1987.

Solitary Sandpiper. Annual visitor; two or three usually seen in fall and

occasional single birds in spring. Fall records extend from 9 July to 8 September.

Spotted Sandpiper. A regular migrant. Although this species bred annually in the 1970s, the only recent nesting was in 1987.

Whimbrel. Seen once on a rainy day in late September 1975. Rarely reported in southern Puget Sound.

Sanderling. Two juveniles on 25 September 1986.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. First discovered at Montlake on 29 June 1975, this species has proven to be a regular fall migrant in small numbers. Adults first appear around the beginning of July. Juveniles predominate in late July and well into August. 5 September 1985 is the latest record and four on 14 August 1989 the highest one-day count.

Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper, 31 July 1983 (Jim Erckmann)

Western Sandpiper. A common spring and fall migrant, with 40 on 10 September 1986 the high count. Eight on 10 December 1984 was an unusual winter record.

Least Sandpiper. Another common spring and fall migrant, with a high count of 14 on 30 April 1987. Earliest fall date 24 June 1985.

Baird's Sandpiper. Averaged one each autumn, the extreme dates 17 August and 25 September; highest count three on 10 September 1989. A bird on 9 May 1985 was a rare spring event.

Pectoral Sandpiper. Can be quite common in fall, with 12 on 25 September 1987 the high count. Occasional in spring, but five in one day on 20 May 1987.

Dunlin. Seen at almost any time between mid October and the third week of May; high count 20 on 4 December 1986.

Stilt Sandpiper. One juvenile on 29 August 1989.

Short-billed Dowitcher. An uncommon migrant, with records about equally divided between spring and fall. Most sightings are of single birds, but occasionally two noted. Spring extreme dates 21 April 1987 and 6 June 1985 (unusually late for this species), fall 9 July 1986 and 17 September 1987. This species has a preference for saltwater habitats in Washington.

Long-billed Dowitcher. A much more common visitor than Short-billed,

particularly in fall. Flocks of 10-15 not unusual, highest count 25 on 13 May 1986.

Common Snipe. With the earliest fall arrival 3 July 1985, and the latest spring departure 5 May 1987, this species is present through most of the year. Two or three birds winter on average.

Wilson's Phalarope. At least one each spring, the extreme dates 9 May and 5 June; six on 16 May 1985 the most present. A bird on 1 August 1987 constitutes the only fall record.

Red-necked Phalarope. Almost each year a bird was seen in the latter half of May in the 1970s, but only two records in the 1980s: 23 May 1985 and 23 August 1989. The fall bird was a juvenile, and its appearance coincided with an incursion of many hundreds offshore in Puget Sound and on Whidbey Island.

Bonaparte's Gull. An occasional visitor in small numbers in spring and fall.

Mew Gull. A common fall and winter species, with highest numbers seen on the playfield during rainy periods. Oddly, immatures usually arrive first in mid August, a week to ten days before adults.

Ring-billed Gull. Resident species, most common in early fall. Other than Glaucous-winged, it is the only gull regularly seen in June.

California Gull. Most common in July and August when flocks are in passage between eastern Washington and the coast.

Herring Gull. Only one record, during the last week of September in 1987. This adult individual was sick and died a week later. Herring and Thayer's gulls are often found elsewhere on Lake Washington but are for the most part absent from the fill, perhaps because the shallow waters of Union Bay are unsuitable for feeding.

Western Gull. An adult on 11 March 1988.

Glaucous-winged Gull. Always present, although it can be scarce in June and July.

Caspian Tern. One or two each year between mid May and July. The species has become increasingly common on Puget Sound in recent years.

Common Tern. Seen occasionally in the fall, usually single birds. A tight formation of 37 flying over the fill on 2 September 1985 was remarkable, as was another flock of 26 on 3 September 1989.

Black Tern. Two on 28 May 1975, one in late May of 1976, and another in early June of 1977. None has been observed since then. Only a few are reported each year in western Washington during migration.

Rock Dove. Seen regularly as a flyover, also small flocks forage for seeds on the fill in late summer.

Band-tailed Pigeon. Seen on nearly every trip as a flyover.

Mourning Dove. An uncommon spring and fall migrant. A juvenile on 16

July 1987 did not conform to the usual pattern of occurrence.

Barn Owl. Three fall records: October 1972, 29 October 1984, and 4 August 1988.

Great Horned Owl. One record of a fall visitor roosting in an alder thicket.

Snowy Owl. Two wintered on the fill in 1973-74, a flight year for this species in the Northwest. Single birds also noted during the winters of 1975-76 and 1977-78. Extreme dates 20 November 1975 and 13 March 1978.

Short-eared Owl. Most often seen in fall. Many birds have remained in the area for one to several weeks. Sightings were more numerous in the 1970s, frequently two or three individuals at a time.

Common Nighthawk. A common sight over the fill during warm summer evenings in the early 1970s. Seen once since 1980, a migrant on 3 June 1988. The species is becoming ever more scarce in King County.

Black Swift. Each year, usually in late June or early July, a brief but strong summer storm or frontal system heralds the spectacle of hundreds foraging overhead at the fill. Their stay may be brief or prolonged for a day or two.

Vaux's Swift. Numbers vary from one to 100 or more on a given day, but they occur regularly throughout the summer from May through September. Earliest arrival date 11 April 1989.

Anna's Hummingbird. Seen only in recent years, on 13 October 1987 and 20 August 1988. The species is continuing its population growth in this region and is being found in more and more of Seattle's parks and gardens.

Rufous Hummingbird. An occasional migrant in spring and fall, especially in August.

Belted Kingfisher. Usually single birds are seen at any time of year.

Lewis' Woodpecker. One flying over the fill on 25 August 1987 and another on 1 September 1989, presumably fall migrants. Only occasionally seen in King County since its decline in the 1950s.

Red-breasted Sapsucker. One on 17 September 1987 in a small stand of cottonwoods.

Downy Woodpecker. Almost always one or two present in riparian woodland or even in clumps of Scots broom.

Northern Flicker. Common as a winter resident, occasional in summer.

Western Wood-Pewee. A regular migrant in small numbers. Seven on 15 May 1985 was as unusually high number.

Willow Flycatcher. First appears in early June, and one or two pairs usually nest. Latest departure date 11 September 1988.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher. One seen on average each fall, in the period late August to early October. All recorded as Western Flycatchers but presumably this species.

Say's Phoebe. Two early spring records, late February 1977 and 1 April 1987, and one in fall, 18 September 1986. One or two are found in most years in the Seattle area.

Western Kingbird. Seen twice in late August in 1970s and another on 10 July 1987. A rare migrant in King County.

Horned Lark. A scarce fall migrant, usually seen on only one or two dates each year, with a high count of six on 8 September 1989. Twelve on 30 December 1984, a cold, snowy day, were unseasonal.

Purple Martin. This species was a regular fall migrant in the 1970s, with flocks of 15-20 each year in late August or early September. Two on 6 September 1985 and two on 30 August 1986 are the only recent sightings.

Tree Swallow. A common breeder, the earliest arrival on 28 January 1980; difficult to find after July.

Violet-green Swallow. Common migrant and summer resident but not known to breed at the fill.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Regular visitor in small numbers. Most seen in April, May, and August.

Cliff Swallow. Common summer resident. Nests on stadium and Intramural Activities Building.

Juvenile Tree Swallows, 3 July 1983 (Dennis Paulson)

Barn Swallow. Common from mid April at least through September; extreme dates 1 April 1986 and 26 October 1984. Often seen in migrating swarms on fall days. Hundreds have been observed to roost in the evening in tall grasses.

Steller's Jay. Single birds often noted in denser riparian sections. A flock of six on 19 September 1986 were the only obvious migrants.

Northwestern Crow. Common resident and nuisance to raptors visiting the fill. Hundreds sometimes invade the area in late afternoon before settling into their nearby winter roost. They frequently prey on young ducklings.

Black-capped Chickadee. Resident in riparian zones, foraging throughout the fill.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Three fall records: 30 August 1984, 4 No-

vember 1984, and 26 September 1986. Not usually seen with Black-capped Chickadees, which predominate in riparian habitat, but presumably wander from nearby coniferous forests, where Chestnut-backeds are more common.

Bushtit. Common resident; numbers greatest in late summer and fall.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. One in October 1987.

Bewick's Wren. Common resident.

Winter Wren. Apparently only a winter visitor, seen rarely from late September to mid April.

Marsh Wren. Resident and breeds.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Rarely seen, usually as a migrant.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Small numbers noted during migration, less often in winter.

Swainson's Thrush. Recorded in most years, usually in late August and more rarely in late May.

Hermit Thrush. One spring and two fall records: 10 September 1986, 25 April 1988, and 20 September 1988. The species migrates through the Seattle area rather quickly and winters only in small numbers.

American Robin. Always present, but greatest numbers during migration. Nests fairly commonly in cottonwoods, alders, and Scots broom.

Varied Thrush. Seldom recorded, although sometimes seen in April and in late fall.

American Pipit. Most commonly seen from early September through October and in April-May, often in small flocks of 5-15. Sometimes seen in winter months.

Cedar Waxwing. Usually arrives around mid May and common throughout the summer. Large numbers often pass through in fall, as on 25 September 1986 when 100 were seen.

Northern Shrike. Occurs regularly in October, with single birds usually lingering into winter. Two individuals on 1 April 1986 were the latest in spring.

Loggerhead Shrike. A rare visitor west of the Cascades, one was seen on 10 April 1989.

European Starling. A resident species with numbers augmented by the addition of hordes of

Juvenile European Starlings mobbing crow, 4 July 1983 (Dennis Paulson)

juveniles in late summer. On warm summer days this species can be seen flycatching over the fill.

Solitary Vireo. One in riparian willows on 18 June 1987, a surprisingly late spring date.

Warbling Vireo. Recorded annually in small numbers, particularly mid August through early September. Most seen five on 28 August 1989.

Red-eyed Vireo. Twice seen in late spring in the mid 1970s, both times singing in what might be considered appropriate breeding habitat.

Orange-crowned Warbler. Especially common as a migrant in August and September. Fifty on 10 September 1985 was an unusually high number for anywhere in the area. A late individual on 20 November 1984.

Nashville Warbler. One on 10 September 1985.

Yellow Warbler. Usually arrives in mid May, and one or two pairs breed each year. A very common fall migrant, particularly in late August and early September. The highest count was 25 on 25 September 1986.

Yellow-rumped Warbler. Common as a migrant and regularly winters. Both Audubon's (*auduboni*) and Myrtle (*coronata*) arrive in spring at about the same time and in similar numbers. Audubon's precede Myrtles in the fall by two or three weeks, with first arrivals in early September; Myrtles are predominant in October. Only Myrtles are found wintering in most years, but an unusually large flock of 30 wintering in 1987 contained equal numbers of both subspecies.

Black-throated Gray Warbler. A few, mostly immatures, are found each fall in riparian habitat; extreme dates 24 August and 20 September. The most seen in one day was six on 20 September 1988.

Townsend's Warbler. Uncommon visitor in fall.

American Redstart. An adult male in dense riparian woods on 26 August 1988.

Northern Waterthrush. This species, a rare visitor, made a brief appearance on 17 August 1989.

MacGillivray's Warbler. Three fall records: 10 September 1985, 16 August 1989, and 24 August 1989.

Common Yellowthroat. A summer resident and common breeder, with the earliest arrival 29 March 1986.

Wilson's Warbler. Fairly common spring and early fall migrant. One seen 3 November 1986 was very late.

Western Tanager. Uncommon migrant, most regularly seen around mid May.

Black-headed Grosbeak. Two records, 17 August 1985 and 31 August 1988. Although a fairly common migrant and local breeder in Seattle, this woodland species is surprisingly seldom seen on the fill.

Lazuli Bunting. One female or immature on 19 August 1988.

Indigo Bunting. An immature on 14 September 1988.

Rufous-sided Towhee. Small numbers throughout the year, most commonly in winter.

American Tree Sparrow. Averages one or two annually, most often in late October or November but sometimes in winter.

Chipping Sparrow. Three records of immatures in September and one adult singing in Scots broom on 3 June 1988.

Vesper Sparrow. Three records: 8 May 1976, 5-12 September 1985, and 11 September 1986.

Black-throated Sparrow. A single bird on 19 May 1989 in dense Scots broom.

Savannah Sparrow. A common summer resident and breeding species. Arrives in mid March and has been found as late as 26 November. By late August most nesting birds have dispersed, but migrants occur, often in large numbers, through mid September; 200 on 26 September 1986 was the high count.

Savannah Sparrow, June 1986
(Dennis Paulson)

Fox Sparrow. Usually a few present from late September through April.

Song Sparrow. Common resident and breeding species.

Lincoln's Sparrow. Small numbers migrate through each fall from late August through November, fewer in spring. Occasionally winters, at least six birds in 1984-85.

Swamp Sparrow. Seen once, 20 November 1987.

White-throated Sparrow. An immature on 26 October 1984 in the company of Golden-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos.

White-crowned Sparrow. Most common as a spring and fall migrant, winters irregularly, and a few pairs usually nest.

Golden-crowned Sparrow. A common spring and fall migrant; often winters in small numbers. Extreme dates 4 September 1989 and 26 May 1989.

Dark-eyed Junco. This species visits the fill irregularly fall through spring, usually in small flocks.

Lapland Longspur. A regular fall migrant in the 1980s. Extreme dates 10 September and 7 November, a flock of twelve on 3 October 1986 the largest number recorded. In the 1970s this species was often found in late April and early May as well, sometimes in full breeding plumage.

An adult male on 1 July 1975 was a very unseasonable occurrence.

Snow Bunting. Two winter records, in November 1975 and February 1976.

Red-winged Blackbird. A year-round resident and common breeder. Flocks of hundreds often seen in late September and October.

Western Meadowlark. A few birds appear annually in spring (extreme dates 27 March 1986 and 9 May 1985) and fall (extreme dates 17 September 1987 and 23 November 1987). Eight on 26 September 1986 the most seen on one day.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. Uncommon but some noted each year, arriving as early as 1 April and sometimes lingering through the summer months. Latest fall date 4 September 1989. Females and first-year males most often seen.

Brewer's Blackbird. Four records, all in fall: 31 August 1986, 19 September 1986, 27 September 1987 (3), and 11 October 1989. The species is locally common in King County.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Adults most commonly found from mid April through early June. Late summer and fall birds are usually locally fledged juveniles. Common Yellowthroats and House Finches have been observed feeding juvenile cowbirds on the fill.

Northern Oriole. Uncommonly recorded in spring. Nested in a large willow in 1986.

Purple Finch. Occasional visitor, most regularly in spring and fall and less often in winter.

House Finch. Common resident and nesting species. Numbers greatly augmented when thistles are available in mid August and September.

Red Crossbill. Rarely seen, usually as a flyover. A flock of 15 foraged on birch trees on 2 May 1985, a spring during which this species was especially common in the University district.

Pine Siskin. Noted only occasionally in small flocks during fall, winter, and spring.

American Goldfinch. Common year-round and breeds in small numbers. Can be abundant on thistles in late August and September.

Evening Grosbeak. Occurs from September through May, most often as flyovers. A sighting of several immatures in late June 1980 was surprising.

House Sparrow. Fairly common resident. Large flocks sometimes recorded in fall.

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PLUMAGES OF WASHINGTON'S RAIL CHICKS

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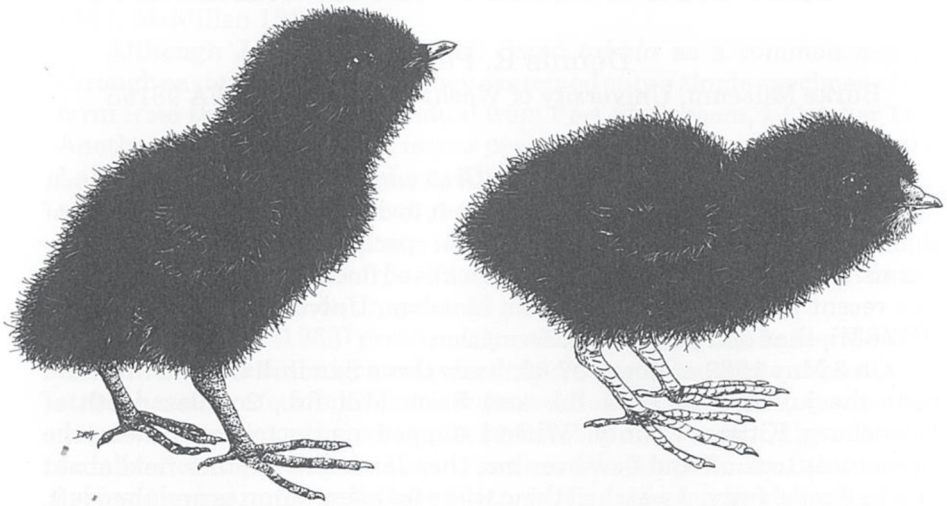
Plumages of Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) and Sora (*Porzana carolina*) chicks were until recently poorly described. This has hampered their identification because of inaccurate portrayals in the few standard North American field guides that attempt to illustrate them. Even in Ripley (1977), the plumage descriptions are inaccurate and generally follow Bent (1926).

In a recent book describing the chicks of all North American birds, Harrison (1978: 25) stated: "In illustrating downy young and nestlings the artist has, where direct information was not available, deduced probable colors from preserved material or from juvenile birds." Unfortunately, the plumages of Virginia Rail and Sora chicks at that time were still not correctly described, thus explaining the inaccuracies in his illustrations (Harrison 1978: Pl. 9).

Kaufmann (1987) determined the plumage sequences after a six-year study of these two species in the field and in captivity, and I reiterate his findings herein, supplemented by my own encounters with chicks of both species. I observed Virginia Rail chicks on 25 June 1986, near Fay Bainbridge State Park, and Sora chicks on 30 May 1989 at Battle Point Park, both on Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Washington. An adult bird with the chicks provided positive identification on each occasion. Using Kaufmann's aging criteria, the chicks on both occasions were slightly less than one week old.

Both species' chicks are mostly covered with black down as illustrated in many field guides, although there are bare areas on the crown and around the eyes. These areas are not very noticeable in the field due to the dark pigmentation of the skin. The Sora chick has a tuft of orangeish down at the base of the lower mandible during the first week after hatching, but it disappears by the second.

The most distinctive difference between chicks of the two species is in the bill color. The bill of a Virginia Rail chick is pale pink with a narrow band of black about midway down it; the entire bill turns black by the end of the first month. The Sora chick's bill is whitish with a blood-red cere. Because of this and the orangeish tuft, the overall appearance of the Sora chick is of a bird with a gaudy head, somewhat similar to an American Coot (*Fulica americana*) chick. In the second week of life the tip of the bill darkens and the cere shrinks and becomes duller in color. The base of the lower mandible turns a pale orange-yellow, the base of the upper mandible



Virginia Rail (left) and Sora (right) chicks (drawing by Dale R. Herter)

nearly white. In the third week the cere is nearly gone, and the base of the upper mandible is a rosy color.

Foot and leg color also differs between the two chicks. In the Virginia Rail the color is dark brownish black, remaining that way for about a month and then changing to dusky-brown. In the Sora the feet and legs are light pink during the first week and change through dull gray and gray-green to yellow-green by the end of four weeks. Thus the legs of Sora chicks are always paler than those of Virginia Rails. The molt into juvenile plumage (illustrated in field guides) begins at two and one-half weeks and continues for three to four weeks.

Thanks to Kaufmann's research, the downy plumages of at least these two rail species have been well described. There is, however, much more work needed on downy plumages of many groups with precocial young, including rails.

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SANDHILL CRANE SUBSPECIES IN WASHINGTON

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Few records of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) from Washington have been specified to subspecies, difficult to distinguish when only one of them is present, and very few Washington specimens are preserved in museums. I report here an observation of a mixed flock of both subspecies and two recent specimens in the Burke Museum, University of Washington (UWBM), that add pertinent information.

On 3 May 1989 at about 07:00, I saw three Sandhill Cranes in a field near the junction of Look Rd. and Brick Mill Rd., 2 miles north of Ellensburg, Kittitas County. When I stopped my car to watch them, the three birds took off and flew over me, then landed in another field about one-half mile away. I watched them there for a few minutes and then left.

Figure 1. Greater and Lesser Sandhill Cranes, 2 mi. N Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington, 3 May 1989 (Dennis Paulson).

Sandhill Cranes are only occasionally seen around Ellensburg (P. Mattocks, pers. comm.), but the more unusual aspect of this observation was the presence of birds of two subspecies in this small flock, apparent by direct comparison. Two of the birds were presumably the small subspecies *G. c. canadensis* (Lesser Sandhill Crane), which breeds in the Arctic and winters in southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The third bird was much larger (Fig. 1) and must have been an individual of *G. c. tabida* (Greater Sandhill Crane), which breeds locally across southern Canada and northern United States and has a winter distribution in part

overlapping with that of *canadensis* (American Ornithologists' Union 1957, McMillen 1988).

Although Jewett et al. (1953) listed *tabida* as a common migrant through eastern Washington, they examined only a single specimen of that form from the state, an individual from Fort Steilacoom, 1 October 1853. Another specimen of *tabida* is now preserved from the state, from Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Klickitat County, where the species has attempted to breed in recent years. This specimen, UWBM 42977, is a powerline-killed female from 13 August 1984. Other than these birds, there are no definite records of *tabida* from the state, although it is very likely an uncommon but regular migrant.

Jewett et al. (1953) erroneously concluded that the Lesser Sandhill Crane (*canadensis*) migrated primarily through the western part of the state, based on four specimens from west of the Cascades, two without dates and two from the period 10-20 October. At present, the only large numbers of migrating cranes in western Washington are those seen in spring moving north past Cape Flattery (C. Anderson in Mattocks 1985), presumably mostly if not all *canadensis* on their way to Alaska.

From the numbers involved, certainly thousands of birds, and from the relative scarcity of the larger subspecies to the north of the area, it seems likely that most of the migrant Sandhill Cranes east of the Cascades are also *canadensis*. UWBM 34509, from Riverside, Okanogan County, an adult female found dead in September 1981, is an individual of the small race. Cannings et al. (1987) concluded that most of the cranes that passed through the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia were of that race, although without reference to specimens.

Thus the Sandhill Crane is an occasional breeder (*tabida*) and locally common migrant (primarily *canadensis*) in Washington. In addition, many are present throughout the winter around Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, and across the Columbia River in Oregon (Force and Mattocks 1986). Neither the AOU Check-list (American Ornithologists' Union 1983) nor recent field guides (National Geographic Society 1987) acknowledge this population, although McMillen (1988) shows the lower Columbia River as a staging area for migrants. Subspecific identification would be of considerable interest, justifying the capture of birds for measurements. If both subspecies are present, as implied by McMillen (1988), their relative abundance might be estimated.

Gabrielson and Jewett (1940) listed several specimens of *G. c. canadensis* from eastern Oregon, perhaps none of them preserved in museums. The specimen record for Oregon is no better than that for Washington, but presumably *tabida* is the breeding form and *canadensis* the more common migrant. Birds breeding in the Fraser River Valley in southwestern British Columbia (Tweit and Mattocks 1987) are also presumably *tabida*.

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EARLY ARRIVAL DATES FOR JUVENILE SHOREBIRDS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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Table 1 indicates the earliest dates known to me on which juveniles of regularly (annually) occurring shorebirds have been recorded in the Pacific Northwest. Very rare species are not included. My compilation covered the entire area of southern British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and western Montana, so it does not specify the earliest dates from Washington in many cases. "Coast" and "interior" regions are those west and east of the Cascade Crest respectively.

Many of the records came from specimens examined in the following museums: Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle (UWBM); Slater Museum, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma (UPS); Conner Museum, Washington State University, Pullman (WSU); Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria (RBCM); and National Museum of Natural History, Washington (NMNH). Others came from my unpublished field notes, especially from several years of censuses at Ocean Shores. Surprisingly few of the records could be derived from the literature, because the age class is not listed for most shorebird records. Only a few recent records of rare species in American Birds were listed specifically as juveniles.

Where "assumed" is used, the individual was not identified as a juvenile, but the date makes it highly likely. A question mark indicates that records extend from the adult into the juvenile migration period, with no specific record of the earliest juvenile.

These dates serve as a guide to the earliest date when juveniles of each species might first be expected in the region. They are also presented as a challenge to observers to watch for juveniles even earlier and to determine early dates for those species for which they are not available. I would appreciate knowing about any earlier dates, whether published or not, from the region.

This information is of interest in documenting migration strategies of different shorebird species, although these extreme dates are of less value than the *average* dates of arrival that ultimately should be determined for both adults and juveniles of each species.

I thank Eugene Hunn and Phil Mattocks for their constructive reviews of the manuscript and Ian Paulsen for checking shorebird specimens in the Conner Museum.

TABLE 1. Earliest arrival dates for juvenile shorebirds in the Pacific Northwest.

SPECIES	REGION	DATE	LOCATION	REFERENCE
Black-bellied Plover	COAST	26 August 1979	Ocean Shores, WA	Paulson 1983
		26 August 1982	Ocean Shores, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	?		
American Golden-Plover	COAST	20 August 1987	Ocean Shores, WA	UWBM
	INTERIOR	31 August 1933	Vernon, BC (assumed)	Cannings et al. 1987
Pacific Golden-Plover	COAST	20 August 1987	Ocean Shores, WA	UWBM
Semipalmated Plover	COAST	8 August 1981	Ocean Shores, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	?		
Greater Yellowlegs	COAST	22 July 1961	King County, WA	UPS
	INTERIOR	16 July 1915	Okanagan Landing, BC	RBCM
Lesser Yellowlegs	COAST	18 July 1931	Comox, BC	RBCM
		18 July 1983	Iona Island, BC	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	28 July 1915	Okanagan Landing, BC	RBCM
Solitary Sandpiper	COAST	?		
	INTERIOR	21 July 1915	Okanagan Landing, BC	RBCM

Wandering Tattler	COAST	24 July 1963	Destruction I., WA	WSU
Upland Sandpiper	COAST	20 August 1895	Comox, BC	RBCM
Whimbrel	COAST	28 August 1982	Ocean Shores, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
Long-billed Curlew	COAST	15 August 1966	Sea Island, BC	RBCM
Hudsonian Godwit	COAST	4 August 1970	Iona Island, BC	Crowell and Nehls 1970
Bar-tailed Godwit	COAST	21 August 1987	Delta, BC	Mattocks 1988
Marbled Godwit	COAST INTERIOR	12 September 1922 27 August 1956	Tillamook, OR Turnbull Refuge, WA	NMNH WSU
Ruddy Turnstone	COAST INTERIOR	4 August 1979 5 September 1959	Ocean Shores, WA Reardan, WA	Paulson 1983 WSU
Black Turnstone	COAST	6 August 1982	Ocean Shores, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
Surfbird	COAST	26 July 1979	Ocean Shores, WA	Paulson 1983
Red Knot	COAST	25 August 1985	Whidbey Island, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.

Sanderling	COAST	17 August 1931	Comox, BC	RBCM
		17 August 1985	Whidbey Island, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	26 August 1955	Turnbull Refuge, WA	WSU
Semipalmated Sandpiper	COAST	12 July 1980	Ocean Shores, WA	Paulson 1983; UWBM
	INTERIOR	28 July 1915	Okanagan Landing, BC	RBCM
		28 July 1951	Potlatch, ID	NMNH
Western Sandpiper	COAST	18 July 1983	Iona Island, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	28 July	ID	NMNH
Least Sandpiper	COAST	30 July 1981	Iona Island, BC	B. Kautesk unpubl.
	INTERIOR	25 July 1916	Okanagan, BC	RBCM
Baird's Sandpiper	COAST	8 August 1981	Ocean Shores, WA	Paulson 1983
	INTERIOR	19 July 1915	Okanagan Landing, BC	RBCM
Pectoral Sandpiper	COAST	18 August 1982	Aberdeen, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	6 September 1916	Okanagan, BC	RBCM
		6 September 1949	Pullman, WA	WSU
Stilt Sandpiper	COAST	17 August 1985	Whidbey Island, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	9 August 1960	Reardan, WA	WSU

Buff-breasted Sandpiper	COAST	30 July 1984	Ocean Shores, WA	Harrington-Tweit & Mattocks 1984
	INTERIOR	22 August 1932	Okanagan, BC	Cannings et al. 1987
Ruff	COAST	18 August 1982	Aberdeen, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
Short-billed Dowitcher	COAST	4 August 1979	Ocean Shores, WA	Paulson 1983
	INTERIOR	19 August 1953	Lewiston, ID	NMNH
Long-billed Dowitcher	COAST	8 August 1983	Ocean Shores, WA	D. R. Paulson unpubl.
	INTERIOR	18 September 1978	Mann's Lake, ID	WSU
Red-necked Phalarope	COAST	11 August 1917	Mason County, WA	UPS
	INTERIOR	28 July 1915	Okanagan Landing, BC	RBCM
Red Phalarope	COAST	24 August 1960	Tokeland, WA	WSU
	INTERIOR	22 September 1957	Lewiston, ID	NMNH

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Manuscript received 5 January 1989

Juvenile Greater Yellowlegs, Ocean Shores, Washington, 8 August 1983 (Jim Erckmann)

UNUSUAL BATHING BEHAVIOR BY GREATER YELLOWLEGS

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On several occasions during fall migration I have observed Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) engaged in behavior that has not been documented for this species. The observations that I report here were made at Totten Inlet and Eld Inlet in south Puget Sound.

At 10:43 on 27 August 1982 I was watching a small group of Greater Yellowlegs standing in water during a rising tide at Eld Inlet. Two of the birds stood 1.5 m apart and bobbed their heads for over two minutes. At that point, one of the two birds assumed a prone position, with its neck outstretched and head just above water. From that position it wildly flapped its wings six or seven times such that each wing stroke moved down through the water and apparently propelled the bird forward. Following this the bird stood upright, shook itself, paused for a few seconds, and then moved off into another bout of 6-7 wing strokes. This was followed by a third bout that took the bird into deep water. There the bird's flapping wings clearly propelled it through the water. After this bout the yellowlegs swam back to shallow water where it bathed and preened. At 11:04 this bird engaged in a series of four bouts of this behavior. The bouts occurred in shallow water and were similar to the earlier series except that each bout began with the yellowlegs jumping nearly out of the water and then diving forward.

A second yellowlegs engaged in two bouts at 11:12. This behavior was observed again at this site on 7 September 1982 when two birds conducted single bouts. The behavior was also observed at nearby Totten Inlet, once on 23 July 1986 and twice by a single bird on 30 August 1986. The only observation of this behavior during any other season was of a single bout at Totten Inlet on 3 April 1988. The behavior was never associated with foraging, always occurred during a rising tide, and involved birds in heavy molt.

I can find no account of this behavior by Greater Yellowlegs; however, similar behavior has been reported for the Common Greenshank (*T. nebularia*). The greenshanks observed by Dodd et al. (1989) began each bout by flying 5-10 m before plunging into the water. The behavior I observed was similar to their observations with the exception of the short flights. Nethersole-Thompson and Nethersole-Thompson (1986: 175) reported a greenshank that engaged in "exaggerated forms of washing and

bathing." Neither of these reports involved actively foraging birds, so it seems unlikely they used this behavior to enhance foraging efficiency in any way, for example by disturbing prey.

Nethersole-Thompson and Nethersole-Thompson (1986) suggested the behavior was an attempt to counter irritation related to molt. This seems a likely explanation for the yellowlegs as well, as all I observed were molting at the time.

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Manuscript received 16 October 1989

Surfbird regurgitating pellet, Ocean Shores, Washington, 3 October 1981 (Dennis Paulson)

SURFBIRDS EATING LARGE EDIBLE MUSSELS

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On 29 October 1989 Rick Droker, Jan Wiggers, Keith Wiggers, and I observed a mixed flock of shorebirds foraging on a cobble beach at Penn Cove, Whidbey Island, Island County, Washington. The flock included about 30 Surfbirds (*Aphriza virgata*), 10 Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*), 100 Dunlins (*C. alpina*), and 100 Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*). While watching the birds forage, I noted that the Surfbirds were capturing small edible mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), which they swallowed whole after some manipulation. I watched 3-4 different birds capture and eat a total of 8 mussels, until I was sure that they were the primary, if not the only, prey being taken by the Surfbirds. I watched individuals of the other three species present for about the same length of time but saw none of them capture a mussel.

I then searched their foraging substrate, about 2 m in width and consisting of a bed of stones 2-5 cm in diameter with larger rocks scattered among them. Small mussels up to 3 cm in length were common among the cobbles, projecting only slightly above them but easily detected by their shiny black coloration against the gray background. The smallest mussels I found in several minutes of searching appeared to be about the size of those being taken by the Surfbirds, estimated by later comparison of one with a Surfbird specimen. The mussel measured 20 mm long by 11 mm wide by 6 mm thick and weighed 0.65 g a day after it was collected, having doubtless lost weight by desiccation. Apparently few if any smaller mussels were available at this time, and each one that I saw taken seemed about at the upper limit of the bird's ability to swallow it.

Surfbirds are common at Penn Cove each winter, and I assume these mussels play an important part in their diet there, although smaller individuals may be more important at other times. Weisberg (1983) found *Mytilus edulis* to be the most common prey of Surfbirds wintering in Chuckanut Bay, Whatcom County, Washington, but he stated that most prey items were less than 1 cm in length. Similarly, Marsh (1986) stated that Surfbirds at two sites on the Oregon coast ate only small (2-10 mm) mussels (both *M. edulis* and *M. californianus*). Finally, Navarro et al. (1989) found two species of mussels to predominate in the diet in Chile, but only those 6-12 mm in shell length were commonly eaten. Those from 12-20 mm were rarely taken, and none over 20 mm was found to be eaten, although individuals of all sizes were common in the environment.

Thus the Penn Cove Surfbirds were eating unusually large mussels,

surely at the upper limit of their handling abilities and presumably because no smaller ones were available. Surfbirds are by no means mussel specialists, as they take large numbers of other shelled invertebrates, especially barnacles but also limpets and snails (Weisberg, 1983; D. R. Paulson, unpubl. data). None of these other taxa was common at the Penn Cove location.

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Manuscript received 4 November 1989

Short-billed Dowitchers, Dunlins, Western Sandpipers, and Red Knots, Bottle Beach, Washington, late April 1986 (Rick Droker)

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER MIGRATION AT BOTTLE BEACH, GRAYS HARBOR, WASHINGTON, DURING SPRING 1989

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In a landmark study, Herman and Bulger (1981) documented the migration of shorebirds throughout Grays Harbor, Grays Harbor County, Washington, in the spring of 1981. The data gathered were instrumental in demonstrating that Grays Harbor is a major staging area (Myers et al. 1987) for shorebirds during spring migration. The authors showed dowitchers are one of the more common migrants through Grays Harbor. However, they made no attempt to distinguish between Short-billed (*Limnodromus griseus*) and Long-billed (*L. scolopaceus*) dowitchers, reporting them in their tables as "dowitcher spp." During the spring migration in 1989, I gathered data to determine the relative abundance of these two species in Grays Harbor.

The field identification of dowitchers has been aided greatly by two recent publications (Wild and Newlon 1983, Hayman et al. 1986). For breeding-plumaged birds (as virtually all of the spring dowitchers in Grays Harbor were), I distinguished the two species by noting the base color of the posterior underparts (typically white in Short-billed, salmon red in Long-billed), the degree of spotting on the belly (typically present in Short-billed, absent in Long-billed), and the call (a mellow "tu-tu-tu" for Short-billed, a shrill "keek," sometimes given multiply, for Long-billed).

Between 18 April and 11 May 1989 I scanned the flocks of shorebirds at Bottle Beach at their high-tide roosts. Bottle Beach is on the south side of Grays Harbor, between the Johns and Elk rivers. Using a 15-45x spotting scope, I carefully scrutinized 541 dowitchers. All were identified as Short-billed. I examined 130 more dowitchers at Bowerman Basin, on the north side of the harbor, on 22 April; all of them were Short-billeds. Finally, I noted the call notes of dowitchers at Bottle Beach. Of 722 vocalizations, all but four were the familiar "tu-tu-tu" of the Short-billed. Two of the Long-billed vocalizations came from a flock of 18 birds that flew east over the exposed intertidal flats on 29 April. The remaining two Long-billed calls were heard on 3 May.

These data clearly demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of dowitchers at Bottle Beach were Short-billed Dowitchers. If Bottle Beach is typical of Grays Harbor at large, then most of the dowitchers reported by Herman and Bulger (1981) were likely to have been Short-billeds. My observations suggest that Long-billed Dowitchers are uncommon birds in

Grays Harbor during the spring migration. This generalization accords with previous authors who have shown that Short-billed Dowitchers tend to migrate along the coast (with one subspecies using the Great Plains), while Long-billed Dowitchers generally frequent freshwater rather than marine habitats (Wilds and Newlon 1983).

Counts of shorebirds along 1 km of the shoreline at Bottle Beach were made at high tide during the spring of 1989. The data for Short-billed Dowitchers and Western Sandpipers (*Calidris mauri*) are shown in Figure 1. These data show that the peak of Short-billed Dowitcher abundance occurs before that of Western Sandpipers. The data of Herman and Bulger (1981) show a similar pattern for the 1981 migration. Birders who make the trek to Grays Harbor for the Western Sandpiper spectacle may miss the peak of the Short-billed Dowitcher migration.

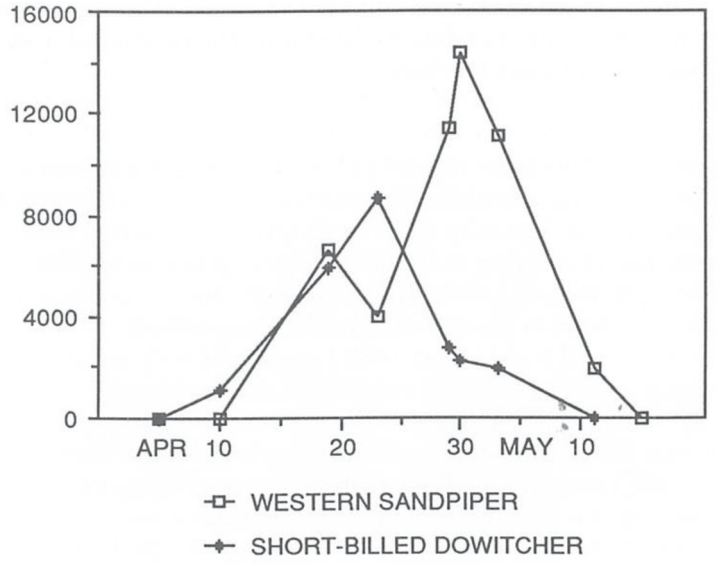

Figure 1. Sandpiper censuses at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor, Washington, during spring 1989.

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Manuscript received 16 July 1989

SHORT-EARED OWL SUBJECTED TO PIRACY BY ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

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At 17:30 on 20 February 1989, I stopped beside a snow-covered weedy field in abandoned farmland about 12 km west of Wapato, Yakima County, Washington. I noticed several Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) coursing the field with a half-dozen Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) perched in trees or on poles nearby. A Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) barked in the distance. I looked up and saw a Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) in direct flight headed straight for the owl. The owl twisted once and dropped its catch, presumably a rodent. The roughleg snatched it in midair and flew off to a fence post.

Ten minutes later, in the now-fading light, I noticed the owl again circling very high—perhaps 150 m up, with a male harrier flapping and sailing to gain altitude. Training my binoculars on the owl, I made out a lump in its talons, another catch! The owl was barking "keow" but not dropping its catch to the harrier. A moment later, with both owl and harrier still very high, the roughleg again made its way toward the owl with very quick flaps. When it was still a hundred meters from the owl, the latter dropped its catch once again. The harrier twisted and cart-wheeled once in an attempt to get the rodent, then sailed off. The rodent hit the snow, and the roughleg carried it away to another fencepost. I did not see it feeding. After its second loss, the owl perched on a fence post within 50 m of the roughleg.

I can find no mention of piracy by Rough-legged Hawks on Short-eared Owls, although roughlegs have taken prey from Northern Harriers (Brockmann and Barnard 1979). Similarly, Northern Harriers are known kleptoparasites on Short-eared Owls (Brockmann and Barnard 1979). Short-eared Owls and harriers are known to attack one another (Bent 1938), and there is much interaction between these two species during the late-afternoon overlap of their foraging periods. Raptors of open country are especially likely to engage in kleptoparasitism (Paulson 1985).

I wonder if the Short-eared Owl suffers significantly from this piracy by hawks and whether after its second loss, the owl perched waiting for darkness to forage for itself?

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Manuscript received 3 May 1989

HORNED LARKS "BOTTLED UP" NEAR TOPPENISH

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On 19 February 1989 at the south end of Tecumseh Road 20 km west of Toppenish, Yakima County, Washington, Susan Stepniewski and I discovered a huge mass of Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). In the wheat stubble and adjacent weedy fields grown to Russian thistle was the largest concentration of larks I had ever seen. An unusual late winter storm from 16-19 February had deposited 15-25 cm of wet snow throughout eastern Washington. While not deep enough to make foraging difficult for the larks, I believe it was a signal to these probable migrants to stay put and resume their northward movements as the snow melted.

I assume many of these birds were migrants based on my experience of "normal" winter concentrations in south-central Washington. Upwards of 500-1,000 are not at all unusual, particularly at winter's onset, but never by Christmas Count time. At that time, flocks of 75-150 are the norm. But here I estimate we saw 5,000-6,000 on the 19th and 7,000-10,000 on the 20th! While impossible for me to count accurately, there was at one time on the 20th a continuous "cloud" of birds flying over the road ahead of me for about 45 seconds. I estimated well over 150 birds a second passing over the road, and there were several other large flocks about.

Many birds were singing, and some chasing by presumably paired birds was taking place. Spring was on its way!

A movement of larks could be expected in late February in south-central Washington. First, in southern California I observed that larks noticeably declined in wintering strongholds such as the Carrizo Plains and near the Salton Sea by mid-February. And Cannings et al. (1987) note a pronounced spring movement in southern British Columbia by early March. Perhaps this spring movement takes an unseasonal snow to make it conspicuous.

With the multitude of fat, grain-fed morsels about, I expected serious predation by Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) likely. Amazingly, in my 2 hours of observation, I saw only a male Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) make a dash through the flocks, unsuccessfully. Why the larks were constantly on the wing was a mystery to me. They would settle for a few moments, then explode with a whir House-Sparrow style only to realight and nervously feed.

With such a concentration of birds, of course, the lister's mind wanders to rarities. And, though I searched through hundreds of these little devils,

I couldn't find the several Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) rattling from within!

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Manuscript received 3 May 1989

BROWN CREEPER NESTING IN NEST BOX

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On 23 May 1989 I noticed a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) carrying a food item to a bluebird nest box at my residence in Stanwood, Snohomish County, Washington. I inspected the nest box by lifting off the removable roof and found five mostly feathered but flightless young inside. Some nest material was apparent, including conifer needles, dried grass, and very small twigs. I examined the nest only briefly to diminish the risk of nest abandonment. Nevertheless, when I reinspected the box on 3 June all five young were dead; they appeared not much further developed than on 23 May.

The nest box itself is of "standard" bluebird design, constructed of 1x6 western redcedar and having about a 12x12-cm floor and a 3.8-cm diameter hole approximately 20 cm above the floor. The box is nailed to a 25-30-cm diameter wooden utility pole at a height of approximately 2 m. The box was installed in January 1989, so this was the first nesting season that it was available to cavity nesters.

Of three other bluebird-style nest boxes I installed in my yard in January 1989, one was used by Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*) and the other two remained unoccupied. The surrounding habitat consists of mature second-growth Douglas-fir/western hemlock/western redcedar forest, lawns, and pastures in a rural and residential setting.

Brown Creepers appear rarely to use human-made structures for nesting. Seven of 183 (3.8%) Brown Creeper nests recorded on nest-record cards at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology were associated with human-made structures, two of them in nest boxes (Jim Lowe, in litt. 15 June 1989).

Manuscript received 25 May 1989

FIRST VERIFIED NESTING OF THE BOBOLINK IN WASHINGTON

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The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) has been known as a summer resident of Washington east of the Cascade Mountains since at least 1907. Jewett et al. (1953) summarized this first report (at Valley, near Chewelah, Stevens County) and other early records from Stevens, Spokane, Pend Oreille and Yakima counties. However, neither nest nor dependent young had been reported for Washington up to that time.

The Yakima County population, located along Lateral C just north of Toppenish Creek on the Yakima Indian Reservation within the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge (Section 26, T10N, R18E), was first reported by Bowles and Decker (1932) and has been noted there annually since at least 1971. This population appears to be increasing from the six males noted in 1971 (Rogers 1971) to an estimated 15-20 there in 1988 (B. Boekelheide in Rogers 1988).

In 1977 Bobolinks returned to this general area by the record early date of 19 May (E. Hunn in Rogers 1977). On that date at least six singing males were present in an alfalfa field ca. 20 km west of Toppenish (3.5 km northwest of the Lateral C colony). These birds vanished in early June with the first mowing. Bobolinks were located subsequently at the usual location, in a wet meadow just north of Toppenish Creek along Lateral C.

On 16 June, J. Nisbet and I located a nest with five eggs here (Figure 1). By 25 June the nest had five young under the female's care. In mid July the vacant nest was collected by B. Meilleur for deposit at the Burke Museum, University of Washington. It was a cup loosely woven of grasses with an outside diameter of ca. 10 cm and an inside diameter of ca. 7 cm. It had been placed on the ground in dense knee-high reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Maximum numbers of Bobolinks noted in the vicinity of this nest were four territorial males and three females. Three basic-plumaged individuals noted here 28 July were the last seen.

Breeding in the Toppenish area appears to be limited to uncultivated areas of water-saturated soil immediately adjacent to Toppenish Creek. Though alfalfa fields farther from the creek may attract Bobolinks on their arrival, nesting attempts in such habitat are probably rarely successful due to the schedule of repeated mowings beginning in early June. A nest under construction found in such an alfalfa field near Chewelah in early June 1977 was destroyed by mowing before eggs could be laid (J. Nisbet, pers. comm.).

Figure 1. Bobolink nest, just N Toppenish Creek on Lateral C, Yakima County, Washington, 16 June 1977 (Eugene Hunn)

The presence of Bobolinks west of the Rocky Mountains has been attributed to the westward progress of irrigated agriculture during the past century (Bent 1958). However, their continued presence here may depend upon the preservation of some uncultivated wet meadowland habitat adjacent to agricultural fields to insure protected nesting sites.

Other current sites in Washington where Bobolinks presumably nest are located 250 km or more north and east of the Toppenish Creek colony. They include:

Okanogan County: near Loomis (6 males, D. Paulson and C. Wentworth in Rogers 1980), along the Okanogan River south of Oroville (E. Hunn, fide Rogers 1973), in the Aeneas Valley east of Tonasket (est. 25 pairs, Rogers 1975), and at Moses Meadow, Colville Indian Reservation (one pair, E. Hunn, June 1989);

Ferry County: Curlew Lake (P. Cheney, pers. comm.);

Stevens County: near Deep Lake, southeast of Northport (Rogers 1973), at Chewelah (1-2 pairs, J. Nisbet, pers. comm., Rogers 1981, 1983), at Valley (3-4 pairs, J. Nisbet, pers. comm.), and in Camas Valley, 12 km west of Springdale (J. Acton, pers. comm., Rogers 1975, 1980, 1981, 1983);

Pend Oreille County: a large colony or colonies between Calispell Lake and Cusick (Rogers 1970, 30 at Cusick, D. Paulson in Rogers 1974, 28 at Calispell Lake, J. Nisbet in Rogers 1981).

No summer-resident populations are known from Spokane County (J. Acton, pers. comm.).

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