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BREEDING ORIGINS AND POPULATIONS OF WINTERING AND SPRING MIGRANT BRANT (*Branta bernicla*) IN HOOD CANAL AND LOWER PUGET SOUND

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Brant (*Branta bernicla*) migrate and winter along the west coast of North America (Reed et al. 1989). These geese originate from breeding colonies in Alaska, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and northeastern Russia (Einarsen 1965, Palmer 1976, Bellrose 1980, Reed et al. 1989). The population was recently estimated at approximately 130,000 birds (Trost 1998, Wahl et al. 2005). Mexico has been recognized as a major wintering area for

Brant (Smith and Jensen 1970) and Washington, especially Puget Sound, supports the largest concentration of Brant north of Mexico in winter and >90% of the Brant during northward migration (Pacific Flyway Council 2002). The Washington winter population has averaged 12,827 from 1995 to 2005 with the majority in Padilla Bay (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 2004). Wintering Brant also reside in Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor and Dungeness Bay.

The population of Brant originating in the Canadian Western High Arctic has been identified as Grey-bellied Brant (intermediate between *B. bernicla hrota* and *B. bernicla nigricans*). The Parry Island breeding population of this Canadian Western High Arctic population has been isolated for about 400,000 years (Shields 1990). This intermediate race is comprised of less than 10,000 birds (Pacific Flyway Council 2002). These birds spend the winter in Padilla, Samish and Fidalgo bays in Washington (Reed et al. 1989) and Boundary Bay in British Columbia (Hagmeier 2002). This Brant has received different management and focus in the Pacific Flyway (including restricted hunting seasons) due to the small population size and the likelihood of breeding failures in the Canadian Western High Arctic.

In 1987 and 1988 Reed et al. (1989) examined the breeding origins of Brant in Puget Sound and found that the Grey-bellied Brant were the predominant birds wintering in northern Puget Sound. At that time there were only a small number of band returns (n = 31) for all Brant in lower Puget Sound and Hood Canal. The small number of returns made it difficult to determine the specific breeding origins of these wintering birds.

Knowledge of the breeding origins of this wintering population will allow wildlife resource managers to incorporate appropriate management strategies for conserving the Brant population in these areas. The Brant hunting season in lower Puget Sound, Dungeness Bay and Hood Canal has been closed since 1983, resulting in few band returns that could help clarify the breeding origin of these birds. In this study, we further examine the breeding origins as well as population status of migrating and wintering Brant of Hood Canal and the lower Puget Sound by observing Brant marked with color tarsal bands applied on the breeding and molting grounds.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Brant and band observations were made at 18 sites in Hood Canal and Puget Sound where Brant had been consistently found through the winter and spring periods (Figure 1). These sites are typified by exposed tidal flats and are important foraging areas because of the presence of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*). Brant had been banded with individually coded plastic tarsus bands at ten breeding or molting locations in Alaska, Russia, and the Northwest Territories since 1985 (Sedinger and Derksen 1992, Sedinger et al. 1993, Ward et al. 1993, Bollinger and Derksen 1996, Reed et al. 1989) (Figure 2). Each band was color-coded specifically for each breeding or molting location.

Bands were read from shore based observation points. Surveys were conducted from November through March (winter). In most years birds did not arrive on winter grounds until January and observations of bands and bird numbers indicated stable numbers through March. Migration

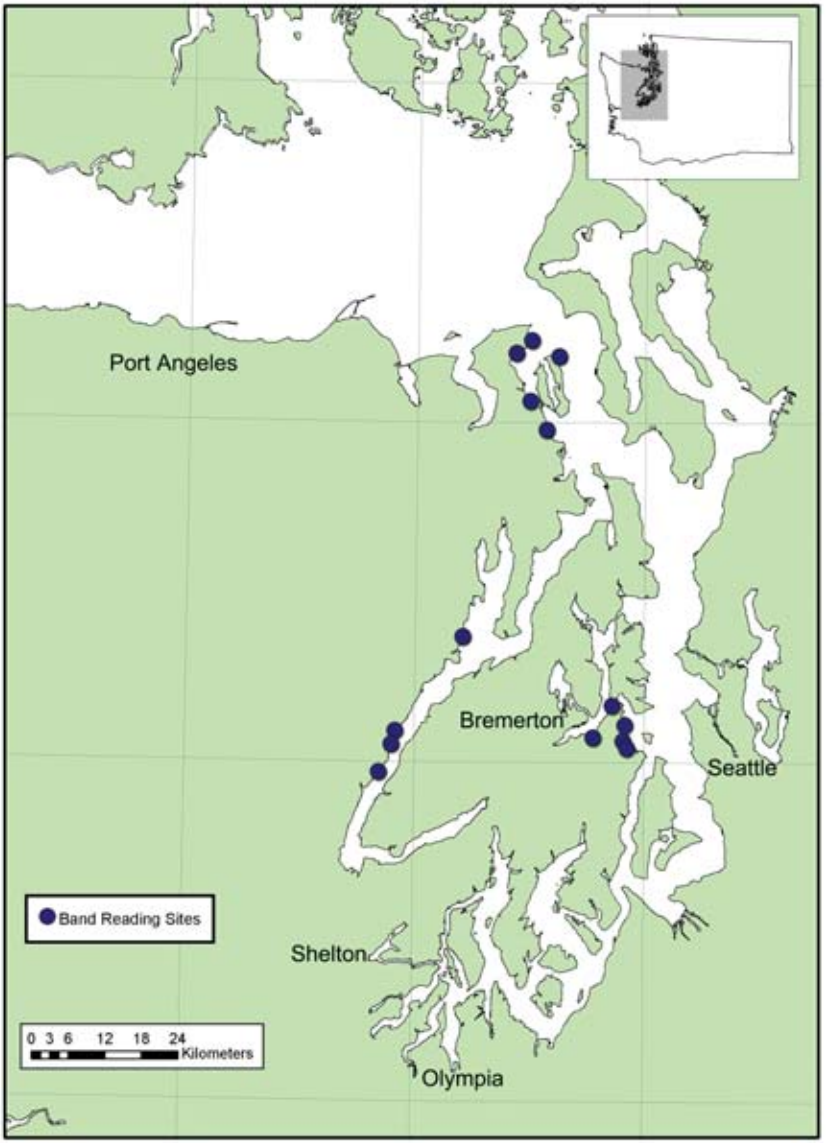

Figure 1: Sites in Puget Sound and Hood Canal, Washington, where observations of banded Brant were made between 1992 and 2003.

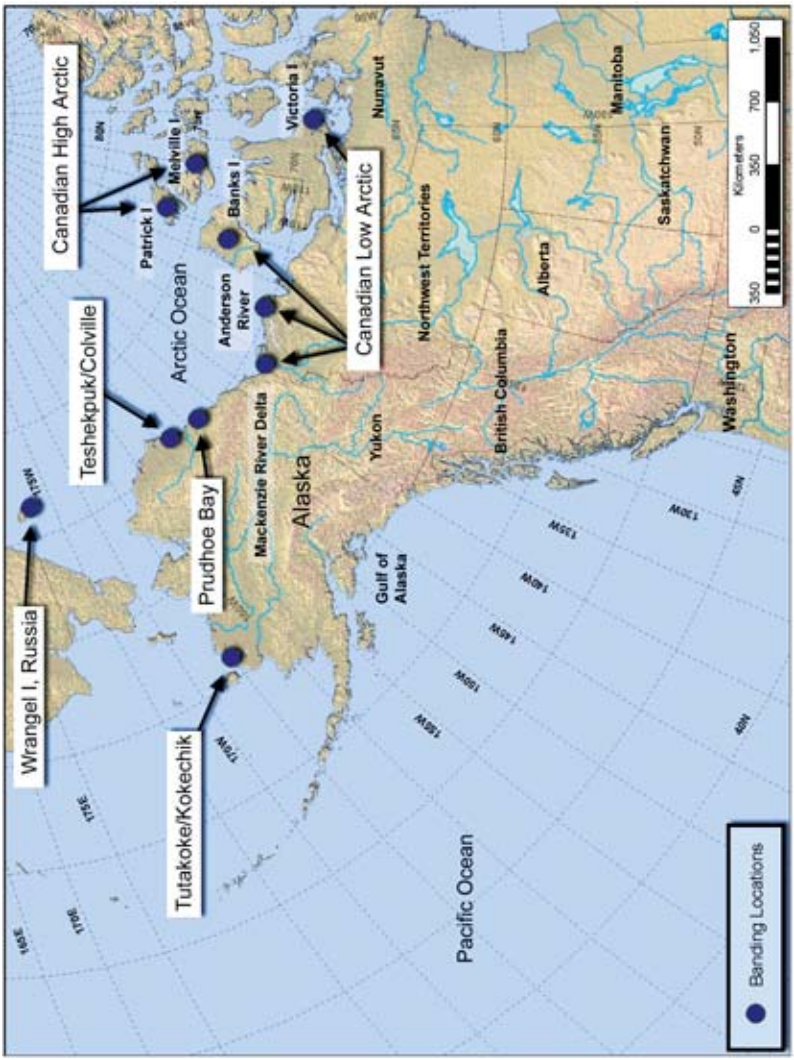

Figure 2. Ten major breeding/molting sites of Brant where birds have been banded since 1985.

surveys were done in April and May (spring staging). Surveys in both winter and spring time frames were conducted from 1992 through 2001. Sites were visited during low tide periods while Brant were walking or standing on shore. Binoculars and spotting scopes were used to determine band number and color. If multiple observations of the same individual were recorded, each individual was counted only once per year.

To estimate total number of wintering birds in the study area, ground based counts were made in mid-January, early February and mid-February between 1989 and 2003. In April 1992 and 1993, shoreline surveys were conducted by air and from the ground to determine migration staging areas and total number of birds. The survey flight was flown in a Cessna 185, at about 68 meters above ground level along the entire shoreline of Puget Sound excluding the Padilla and Samish bay areas.

Observations of bands from all 18 sites were combined and the relative proportion by breeding area, and band color, were summed for all years combined. Chi-square tests were used to test for deviations from the expected occurrence proportion (Zar 1984). The expected occurrence proportion was calculated by dividing the cumulative number banded in each colony by the total number banded in all colonies.

RESULTS

A total of 1,271 band observations was made from 1992 to 2001 (except 1996), resulting in observations of 749 individual birds. The earliest recorded observation in any given year was 4 December, and the latest recorded observation was 7 May.

Winter (December – March)

We observed 265 banded Brant during the winter period for all years combined. Of these, 212 (80.0%) were banded in Alaska, 44 (16.6%) in Canada, and 9 (3.4%) in Russia. Reed et al. (1989) suggested that equal contributions from the Canadian Low Arctic and Alaska were present in lower Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Based on this, we expected bands from each banding location to be observed at a rate proportional to the banding effort.

Observations of banded birds from Alaska can be separated into three banding locations. Of the 212 banded birds from Alaska, 134 (63.2%) came from the Tutakoke River / Kokechik Bay area, followed by 53 (25%) birds from the Teshekpuk / Colville area, and 25 (11.8%) from Prudhoe Bay. The number of band returns between the Alaskan areas, Canada and Russia was significantly different than expected based on banding effort at banding locations ($x^2 = 13.6$, $P < 0.01$, df = 4). The Teshekpuk banded birds occurred in numbers greater than expected and represent molting birds rather than breeding birds. The Tutakoke banded birds were observed less frequently than expected. Only one band reading of 44 records of birds from Canada involved a bird from the Canadian High Arctic.

Spring (April – May)

We observed 484 banded birds during the spring period for all years combined. Of these, 398 (82.2%) were banded in Alaska, 56 (11.6%) in Canada, and 30 (6.2%) in Russia. The distribution of band origin observed during migration was significantly different than banding efforts at banding locations ($x^2 = 40.3$, $P < 0.01$, df = 4). Further, observations of banded birds from Alaska can be separated into three banding locations. Of the 398 banded birds from Alaska, 257 (64.6%) came from the Tutakoke / Kokechik area, 104 (26.1%) came from the Teshekpuk / Colville area, and 37 (9.3%) came from Prudhoe Bay. Teshekpuk and Russian banded birds occurred more than expected. Canadian and Tutakoke banded birds occurred less than expected.

Counts

Spring migration surveys identified 32 staging areas compared to only five wintering use areas. The known migration use areas are displayed in Figure 3. Total migrating Brant counted ranged from 214 in 1992 to 4,967 in 1993. Survey effort was greater in 1993, which likely accounts for the higher number of sites identified and the higher number of total birds counted. A summary of counts conducted on the wintering sites in mid-January is shown in Figure 4.

DISCUSSION

Based on our results, most Brant present during winter in Hood Canal were from Alaskan breeding areas. In particular, there were more birds than expected from the Teshekpuk Lake / Colville River wintering in Hood Canal. During spring there again were more birds observed from Teshekpuk Lake, Alaska, than expected. Only one banded bird from the Canadian Western High Arctic was observed during this study.

Although there has been a northward shift in use from areas near Belfair at the south end of Hood Canal towards Oak Bay and the Dosewallips estuary, the winter surveys in Hood Canal show no discernable trend in Brant numbers from 1989 to 1997. Populations have been relatively stable in Hood Canal for the past four decades (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 1999). However, during the 1950's over 2,000 birds had been documented in the same area (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 1999) suggesting there may have historically been greater winter habitat availability and perhaps a longer-term decline in numbers. The preference and dependence of Brant on eelgrass as a major food source has been well documented (Cottam et al 1944, Einarsen 1965, Charman 1977, Wilson and Atkinson 1995). Changes in Brant use may be related to the loss of eelgrass beds associated with oyster aquaculture (Wilson and Atkinson 1995). The spring staging observations indicate more Brant use and wider distribution than in winter. This may be due to birds during

spring utilizing *Ulva* spp. beds in addition to eelgrass areas, thereby increasing foraging areas.

Effective management of the Brant population requires an understanding of the migratory dynamics of this species. The Pacific Flyway

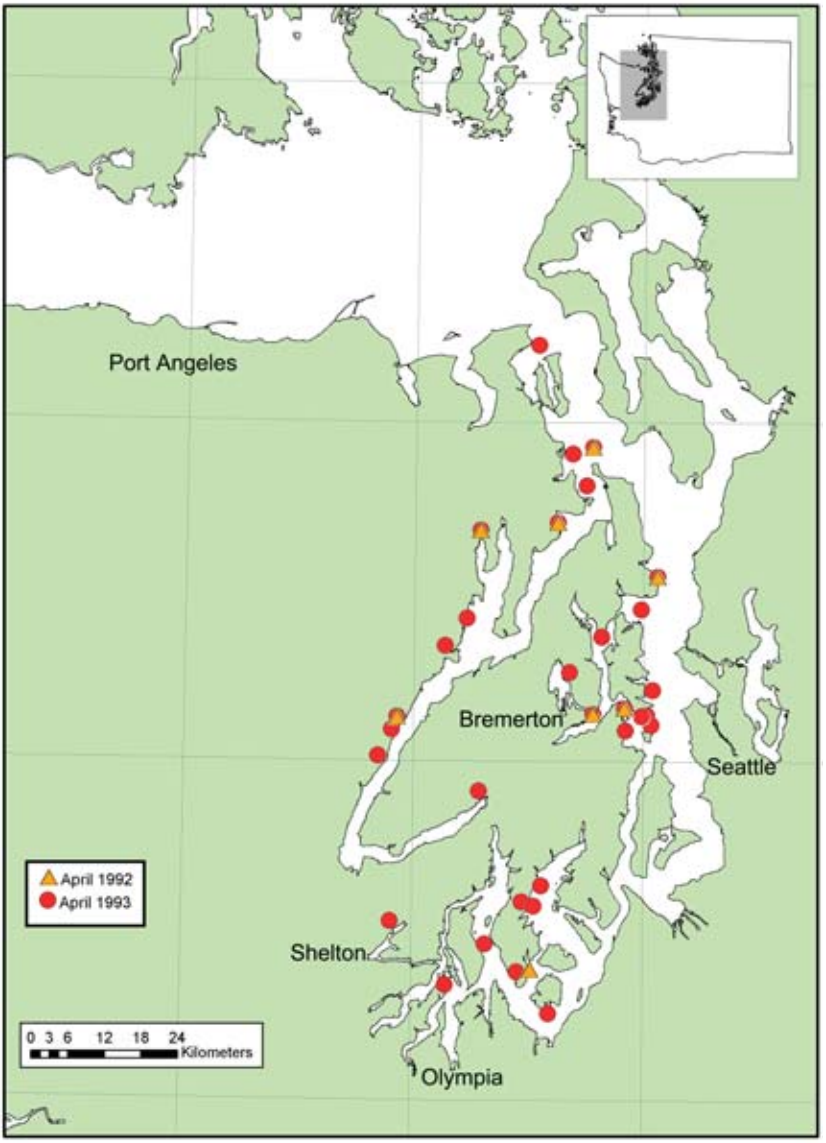

Figure 3: Brant spring staging areas in southern Puget Sound and Hood Canal, April 1992 and 1993.

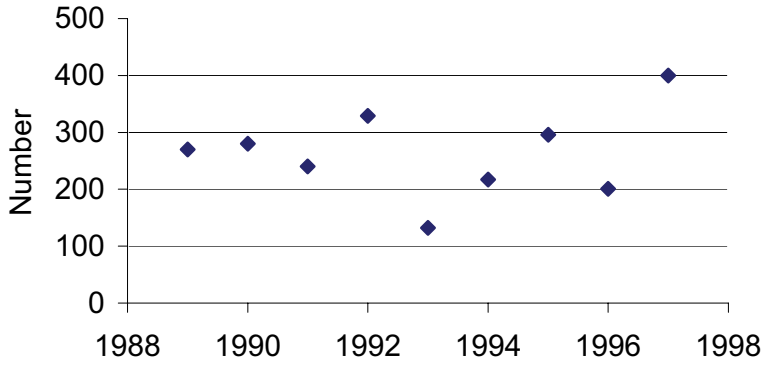

Figure 4. The number of Brant counted in mid-January in Hood Canal.

population of Brant (both Black and Western High Arctic) congregates in the Izembek Lagoon (Alaska) area during the fall staging period prior to en masse departures to wintering areas (Dau 1992). Wintering areas can be found from southern Alaska to coastal mainland Mexico. The Puget Sound region provides both wintering and spring staging areas for the Pacific Flyway Brant population. Management of this migratory species is often difficult due to the large extent of their winter range and the potential intermixing of the different breeding populations and differential productivity of these colonies. Because declines in abundance could be attributed to changes in migratory patterns rather than an actual population decline, understanding migratory behavior of Brant is critical in determining actual population trends. By monitoring selected sites within lower Puget Sound and Hood Canal, we examined the natal origins of wintering and spring migrating Brant based on color tarsal band observations. Reed et al. (1989) reported that band recovery data suggested equal contributions of Brant from the Canadian Low Arctic and Alaska; however, they observed only 31 banded birds in Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Our more extensive sampling effort modifies this conclusion, with a greater percentage of Alaskan breeding birds than expected in the wintering/spring population. In addition, we found no occurrences of interchange between the Grey-bellied Brant wintering in northern Puget Sound and our study area. The results of this study suggest that lower Puget Sound and Hood Canal can be managed as part of the larger Pacific population rather than with the special emphasis and restrictions imposed upon the Northern Puget Sound Grey-bellied (Canadian High Arctic) Brant population.

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OBSERVATIONS OF PEREGRINE FALCON HUNTING FLIGHTS AND INCIDENTS OF PREDATION ON LANDBIRDS DURING AUTUMN MIGRATION IN COASTAL WASHINGTON

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Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) prey on a wide range of bird species throughout their nearly global distribution (Ratcliffe 1993, White et al. 2002), including very small to moderately large species (Ratcliffe 1993, White et al. 2002). Although passerines and other landbirds are taken as prey, the manner and location of capture are seldom reported (White et al. 2002, Ward and Laybourne 1985). We describe successful and unsuccessful hunting flights directed at landbirds in coastal Washington during autumn migration.

OBSERVATIONS

Our observations were made during autumn migration at Long Beach on the coast of Washington during a Peregrine Falcon banding project. All observations occurred along the outer sand beach and were made with the aid of binoculars or spotting scopes. Four of five observations occurred on 18 October 2005. All Peregrine Falcons observed were of the *pealei* subspecies and all were in immature plumage unless indicated otherwise.

Observation No. 1

At 08:17 (all times are PST) on 24 September 2003, we observed a male Peregrine Falcon about 10.5 kilometers from the south end of Long Beach. We watched it there until 08:42 when it flew directly west over the ocean in rapid flight. At about 600 meters offshore, it circled to a height at which we could no longer maintain visual contact. At about 08:45, we saw what we believed was the same bird at 300 – 400 meters above the ocean and approaching the beach chasing a Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). The falcon stooped twice at the flicker, then on the third stoop the flicker folded its wings and dived vertically to cover on the dunes. The falcon broke off the attack at that point.

Observation No. 2

At 07:42 on 18 October 2005, we observed a male Peregrine Falcon perched on a tall driftwood post at the edge of dunes about 3.2 kilometers from the south end of the beach. Within a few seconds the falcon flew, heading north above the dunes. We followed the bird by vehicle and at 07:56 found it on the beach about 4.1 kilometers farther north (we believed this was the same bird observed at 07:42 based on its size and plumage features). Within less than one minute the falcon flew, circled our position, and again headed north and west over the ocean. It almost immediately began pursuit of unidentified prey, making several stoops at a bird so small we had trouble seeing it from 200 – 300 meters away with a 25x spotting scope. On about the fourth stoop, the falcon caught its prey and landed on the beach about 150 meters to the north. The falcon then flew north and was lost from view. We quickly moved to where it had been on the beach and found a dead Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) on the sand. The wren was still warm and we saw no outward signs of wounds or feather loss.

Observation No. 3

We continued north on the beach and at 08:10 stopped 0.5 kilometers farther to inspect the carcass of a Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*) that was being scavenged by a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*). The pigeon had been mostly consumed. On inspection of the fresh carcass, we noted prominent notches in its sternum, indicating that a falcon had probably fed on the pigeon. The falcon that captured the wren was observed well enough to note it did not have a full crop, so it seems unlikely that it had killed or partly consumed the pigeon.

Observation No. 4

At 08:17 and about 2.4 kilometers north of where the Peregrine Falcon had landed with the Winter Wren, we observed a different (based on plumage) male Peregrine Falcon on the beach eating a small bird. The falcon flew a moment later and we inspected the site of its meal and found the remains of a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*).

Observation No. 5

At 09:23, we were about 1.6 kilometers north of the Oysterville beach access on Long Beach when we saw a Peregrine Falcon soaring above the beach. A second Peregrine Falcon, the fifth out of eight different birds (based on age, sex and plumage characteristics) we saw that day, flew in from the north and these two birds – both females – were joined by two adult Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The falcons chased the eagles from the area and then one falcon flew east out of view. The remaining

falcon flew west over the ocean where it made 10 stoops at a small bird. The first four stoops were from about 50 meters and subsequent stoops were from lower heights as the target bird flew lower with each attack. At this point we were able to identify the target bird as a Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). The final two stoops terminated in troughs between incoming waves where we were briefly unable to see the falcon or the junco. About ten seconds after losing sight of the junco, we relocated it over the breakers. It flew directly east away from the surf and quickly covered 50 meters of open sand and flew under our vehicle, landing on the chassis. It remained there for about 3 minutes then flew farther east, never more than 0.5 meters above sand, and disappeared from view in the cover of vegetated dunes about 30 meters away.

Meanwhile, after landing on the beach the falcon flew directly west over the breaker zone and attacked another small passerine over the ocean. The falcon captured the small bird on the fourth stoop but the bird escaped or was dropped, after which the falcon resumed attacks on its lost prey. The falcon caught the bird again on the seventh additional stoop. As during the other 18 October flights, most of the capture attempts were made on the upward swoop after the stoop. The falcon landed briefly on the beach then flew east over the dunes and out of view. We were unable to identify the small bird captured by this falcon.

DISCUSSION

Our observations of landbirds being attacked, captured or consumed by Peregrine Falcons on the Washington coast occurred during autumn migration. Northern Flickers often engage in conspicuous high flights far from cover (Moore 1995) and are commonly taken by Peregrine Falcons (Ward and Laybourne 1985, White et al. 2002). Dark-eyed Juncos and Fox Sparrows are taken as prey by falcons in arctic or near-arctic breeding areas (Cade 1960, Cade et al. 1968, White and Cade 1971) but we found no records of them as prey in migration or wintering areas. We found only one previous record of a Winter Wren taken by a Peregrine Falcon, this occurring during migration along the Maryland/Virginia coast (Ward and Laybourne 1985). It is generally only during migration that Winter Wrens, Fox Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos are available to Peregrine Falcons because at other times the species occupy habitats not used by hunting Peregrine Falcons (Hejl et al. 2002, Nolan et al. 2002, Weckstein et al. 2002).

Most of our observations were recorded on 18 October 2005. A dense fog occurred on the night of 17 October and we suspect the landbirds, which probably were migrants (Moore 1995, Hejl et al. 2002, Nolan et al. 2002, Weckstein et al. 2002), became disoriented at night and veered offshore where they were intercepted by the falcons after daybreak. Such disorientation by autumn migrant landbirds has been documented at Southeast Farallon Island, off the central coast of California, where all species we observed, including Peregrine Falcons, have been documented as autumn

migrants (DeSante and Ainley 1980, Earnheart-Gold and Pyle 2001). We have no explanation for the number of hunting flights observed on 18 October 2005, given that several of 22 other visits to coastal beaches in September or October since 2000 occurred on foggy days and we have seen no other hunting flights directed at landbirds there.

As is true for certain other falcon species (e.g. Rosen et al. 1999), Peregrine Falcons are known to fly offshore to intercept prey (White et al. 2002). On 18 October, in addition to the hunting flights described above, we saw an adult female Peregrine Falcon fly over the breakers at 08:35 and eventually out of view to the west; we suspect this falcon was also hunting wayward migrants but failed to confirm this. Our observations were similar to those reported by Ward and Laybourne (1985) who found that most hunting flights along the Atlantic coast during autumn migration occurred before mid-morning and involved immature falcons. Although not commonly observed, migrant landbirds in coastal Washington, as elsewhere (White et al. 2002), probably are regularly taken by Peregrine Falcons, particularly when they fly offshore and are far from protective cover.

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COMMON POORWILL NEST IN EASTERN KITTITAS COUNTY: DESCRIPTION AND NESTING PHENOLOGY

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The core of the Common Poorwill's (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) range in Washington State is the east slope of the Cascade Mountains, primarily along the lower treeline, in the Oak, Ponderosa Pine and Three-tip Sage zones (Smith et al. 1997). The range extends out into the arid steppe zones of the Columbia Basin where poorwills are fairly common, usually occurring in canyons and areas with rocky outcroppings (Smith et al. 1997). While poorwills are regularly encountered, nests are not commonly found. The lack of nest records, combined with the opportunity to monitor a poorwill nest through incubation and chick development provides an opportunity to learn about Common Poorwill nesting and development in Washington. To my knowledge, this record represents the only published description of nesting chronology at a Common Poorwill nest in Washington.

I located a male poorwill incubating a single egg on 28 May 2003 (Figure 1) off the Vantage Highway in eastern Kittitas County, Washington. The nest was located when the incubating male flushed from the nest when I was about one meter away. Others have noted that incubating birds are reluctant to flush and usually allowed approach to within three meters (Swisher 1978, Orr 1948). This behavior is likely due to the bird's highly cryptic plumage. Despite knowing the location of the nest scrape its exact location was often difficult to determine, and when I closed to less than two meters before seeing the nest the incubating bird would fly from the nest scrape. The bird appeared wary and was slow to return to the nest, and I never witnessed the bird flying back to the nest area, despite backing off and viewing the nest location at a distance for over 30 minutes on two occasions.

The nest area was in shrub-steppe habitat with a draw containing *Artemisia tridentata* (big sage) and ridgelines in the lithosol zone. Lithosol areas are rocky in nature and contain sparse vegetation and the main shrub is *Artemisia rigida* (stiff sage). The nest was located towards the top of the draw in the edge of the lithosol area. There were no rocky outcroppings (Figure 1) and nest elevation was 910 meters. The nest was a dirt scrape under a 29 cm *A. rigidia* (Figure 2) situated on a 10° slope and oriented at 60° relative to the stiff sage. This was also the direction the slope of the ridge faced so nest orientation may have been influenced by local landscape conditions. The nest received early morning solar radiation, but was sheltered from the afternoon sun by sagebrush shrub. Sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) nests in the same area (n = 37) were also oriented in an easterly direction (Downes 2004). The poorwill nest was near a small clump of *Agropyron spicatum* (bluebunch wheatgrass)

Figure 1. Incubating male on the nest. Photograph by Scott Downes.

and some rocks (Figure 3). Aldrich (1935) found that a nest site with cover protected the eggs.

I made a number of observations of behavior at the nest and development of the young. Only the male was positively identified incubating eggs or brooding the young, although it was not always possible to identify the sex of the attending adult. I visited the nest mostly in the morning, but on 20 June at 16:50 also observed the male brooding the young. Sex of the adult was determined by plumage differences as described by Pyle (1997). Rectrice corners are white and broad in males, while these feathers have more buff color and are not as broad in females (Pyle 1997). Both sexes are known to incubate and brood (Csada and Brigham 1994), although only the male was observed at a nest in California (Aldrich 1935). The amount of time spent brooding usually varies among individual pairs and exchanges of incubation often start at dusk and dawn (Csada and Brigham 1994). I checked the nest every three or four days until the young had moved far enough away that I could no longer find the nest. The first egg had been laid prior

Figure 2. Nest scrape containing two eggs. Photograph by Scott Downes.

Figure 3. Vicinity of Common Poorwill nest in Kittitas County, Washington. The arrow shows the location of the nest scrape under the stiff sage. Photograph by Scott Downes.

to finding the nest on 28 May, a second egg was laid on 1 June, and both eggs hatched between 14 and 16 June (eggs were present at 07:15 on 14 June, and young were present at 08:20 on 16 June). Young appeared newly hatched (within a day) when observed on the morning of 16 June. Incubation usually lasts 20 to 21 days (Csada and Brigham 1994) and eggs are usually laid on consecutive days (Woods et al. 2005), but at this nest there was at least a four-day gap between eggs. For the second egg, incubation time was between 14 and 16 days, much shorter than the documented incubation period.

At birth the young were precocial. Both were alert (and had open eyes), were covered in yellow down and were capable of moving short distances. Young are capable of short distance movement (up to one meter), which they presumably do for concealment or thermoregulatory reasons (Swisher 1978). The young left the nest scrape at two or three days of age but remained within five meters of the scrape. At six to eight days of age the young had pinfeathers on the body (Figure 4), and at nine to 11 days broken pinfeathers were on 10% of the feather tracts on the body. At 10 to 12 days neither the parents nor nestlings could be located within a 15-meter search radius of the nest scrape. In British Columbia, young typically make their first flight at 20 to 23 days of age (Woods et al. 2005).

Observations at this Common Poorwill nest demonstrate both similarities and differences to published accounts of poorwill nests and behavior. For example, the location of the nest scrape below vegetation cover is

Figure 4. Common Poorwill nestlings at 6 to 8 days of age. Photograph by Scott Downes.

consistent with other reports (Woods et al. 2005). I observed only the male poorwill during daylight hours, suggesting that this pair of poorwills used an incubation schedule with changes at dawn and dusk, as previously documented (Csada and Brigham 1994).

My observations differed from published accounts in at least two ways. First, I noted a delay of several days before the laying of the second egg in the clutch rather than the standard practice of laying on consecutive days (Woods et al. 2005). Second, the resulting short incubation period of the second egg was much shorter than previously documented (Woods et al. 2005). The delayed laying of a second egg and its subsequent short incubation period is notable but should be viewed as an anomaly until other studies find similar results.

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SEVENTH REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The contents of this report are based on deliberations of the Washington Bird Records Committee (hereafter, Committee) that occurred between November 2004 and October 2005. The Committee examined 215 reports involving 82 species. A total of 175 reports was accepted as valid records, an acceptance rate of 82%. An impressive total of ten new species was added to the check-list of Washington birds: Baikal Teal, Common Eider, Glossy Ibis, Crested Caracara, Little Stint, Black-tailed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Alder Flycatcher, Northern Wheatear, and Redwing. The species qualifying for review by the Committee can be found in the check-list of Washington birds (see http://www.wos.org/WAList01.htm).

The Committee recently decided to review subspecies and morphs that are sufficiently rare to meet the same standards as full species and are reliably identifiable in the field. The list of review subspecies/forms includes Blue Goose, Bewick's Swan, Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis kriderii*), Prairie Merlin (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*), Eurasian Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*), nominate Rock Sandpiper (*Calidris p. ptilocnemis*), Kamchatka Gull (*Larus canus kamchatkensis*), Vega Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*), Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica woodhouseii* group), Eurasian Barn Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica* group), Interior Bushtit (*Parus minimus plumbeous* group), *Japonicus* American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*), Timberline Sparrow (*Spizella breweri taverni*), Red Fox Sparrow, and Pink-sided Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*). It is likely that in time other subspecies will be added to this list.

For purposes of the Committee's work, and for use in this document, information submitted to the Committee to support an observation is considered a "report." A "record" is a report that has been accepted by the Committee. The taxonomy and nomenclature used in this text are those of the American Ornithologists' Union (1998) checklist and subsequent updates. The records are presented in taxonomic order and generally include the following information: the number of individuals sighted, location and date span for the report, names of the observers who submitted documenting evidence, and additional supporting comments from the authors of this article. Records supported by photographs, videotape, or recorded vocalizations are indicated in the text next to the initials of the relevant contributor. Committee members who voted on these reports were Kevin

Aanerud, Tom Aversa, Jessie Barry (since 2005), Bob Boekelheide (November 2004 only), Phil Mattocks, Steven Mlodinow, Dennis Paulson, Bob Sundstrom, and Bill Tweit.

THE RECORDS

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*). The Committee reviewed and accepted a Bean Goose report from Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, that was present between 7 and 17 December 2002 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006). An earlier report had not been accepted because the details provided were insufficient for adding this species to the state list (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). Initially, the Committee voted conservatively, wanting more evidence than what was provided in a single-person sight record without the support of a photograph or reports from additional observers. The Committee decided that the earlier report was worthy of reassessment. This bird was at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, on 26 April 1993, and upon further review, the Committee decided that the documentation was indeed adequate to establish it as Washington's first record, though insufficient to establish the subspecies likely involved. For a review of this species' occurrence in North America, see Mlodinow (2004a).

Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). Two adults were seen in the Stillaguamish River Delta, near Stanwood, Snohomish County, on 27 February 2005 (S. Mlodinow), and a different adult was there on 5 March 2005 (J. Barry). Prior to 2003, Washington had about 20 records (Wahl et al. 2005). Many of the records during the last five years have been from the Stillaguamish River Delta and nearby Fir Island, Skagit County, in flocks of wintering Snow Geese that originate largely from Wrangel Island, Siberia.

The Blue Goose breeding range is centered around northern Hudson Bay and southwestern Baffin Island, with a maximum proportion of 85-90% on the southwest coast of Baffin Island (Quinn 1992, Cooke et al. 1995). The blue morph constitutes a steadily decreasing percentage of Snow Geese in nesting colonies as one moves west from Hudson Bay, making up only 12% of the geese at the Perry River, Northwest Territories, and 1% at Banks Island, Northwest Territories (Johnsgard 1975). Nonetheless, Blue Goose numbers appear to be increasing in the western portion of their range (Mowbray et al. 2000), and several have been recently found at the western edge of the Snow Goose's range on Wrangel Island (K. Litvin, in litt). Thus, the birds recently found in Snohomish and Skagit counties may well be birds from Wrangel Island. This morph's "regular" migration route approaches Washington as closely as southeastern Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003).

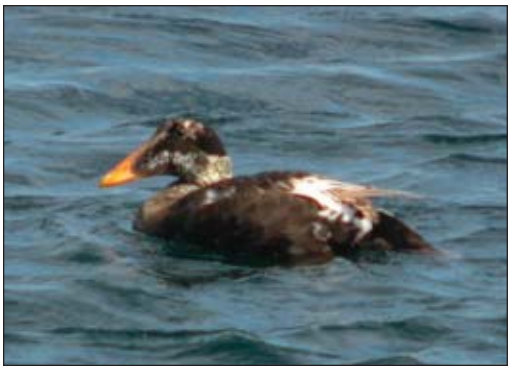
Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*). Washington's second Bewick's Swan inhabited Fir Island, Skagit County, from 10 January to 10 March 2004 (photos: J. Barry, S. Mlodinow), and what was likely the same bird was again there from 13 to 16 January 2005 (S. Mlodinow). Although a Bewick's Swan found near Allen, Skagit County, on 5 February 2005 (photos: J. Barry, S. Mlodinow), may have been the Fir Island bird, subtle

differences in size and bill suggested it was not, and the Committee decided to accept this as Washington's third record. For a review of this species' status and distribution in the Pacific Northwest, see Mlodinow and Aanerud (2006). For a discussion of Bewick's Swan identification, see Evans and Sladen (1980).

Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*). A Baikal Teal was seen intermittently in Kent, King County, from 12 December 2004 to 19 April 2005 (C. Wright; photo: K. Brady). The identification of this bird was obvious, but there was a dissenting vote based on provenance. Though not rare in captivity, this teal is not common and is fairly expensive (M. Axelson, in litt). More importantly, this species' world population is rapidly rebounding (Delaney and Scott 2002), and there has been a surge in Alaskan records starting in 2002 (D. Gibson, in litt). Notably, there are two antecedent Washington reports, neither of which has been reviewed by the Committee: one at Dungeness, Clallam County, in January 1920 (Jewett et al 1953), and one at Anacortes, Skagit County, in June 1979 (Mlodinow et al. 2005).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). Three new records included an adult male at Perch Point, Potholes Reservoir, Grant County, on 13 February 2005 (photo: D. Schonewald), an adult male near Vantage, Kittitas County, from 20 February to 7 March 2005 (photos: D. Granstrand, B. Tweit), and an adult male at Phantom Lake, King County, between 5 and 15 January 2005 (G. McWethy; photo: H. Jennings). There are now eight Tufted Duck records since the committee started reviewing this species in 1999. Prior to 1999, there were about forty published reports, with approximately 75% from the westside, and all between 10 October and 14 May (Wahl et al. 2005).

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). A male Common Eider, molting into eclipse, graced Port Angeles, Clallam County, from 3 to 13 August 2004 (K. Brady; photo: M. Shephard), furnishing Washington's first record. A Common Eider had visited Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, during July 2004 (Rogers et al. 2004), and it is possible that both records involved the same bird. A second sighting of a male Common Eider came from Tatoosh Island, Clallam County, from 26 to 28 April 2005 (B. Paine; photo: T. Wootton). The Committee endorsed this bird as a second record, though it conceivably could have been the same bird seen at Port Angeles. Though Washington lacked antecedent documented records, Bowles (1906) and Dawson (1906) reported Common Eiders from the Nisqually area during



Common Eider, August 2004. Photograph by Keith Brady.

January and February 1906. Apparently at least ten birds were involved, including both males and females. However, no specimens were secured, and no written details exist. Common Eider has also been recorded from Vancouver, British Columbia (Toochin 1997). For a review of Common Eider vagrancy in western North America, see Mlodinow (1999).

Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*). Washington's seventh accepted Short-tailed Albatross was off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 26 June 2004 (photo: M. Donahue). The last summer report from Washington was in 1889 (not yet reviewed by the Committee); before its population was decimated by feather-hunters in the early 1900s, this species was likely a normal part of the state's avifauna, occurring even in inland marine waters (Jewett et al. 1953, McDermond and Morgan 1993). Also worthy of note, though not reviewed by the Committee, a Short-tailed Albatross was banded in Japan during spring 2003, radio-tagged in the Aleutians that August, and apparently flew south past Washington and Oregon during late November 2003, ranging from 20 to 100 km offshore (R. Suryan, in litt).

Short-tailed Albatross, June 2004. Photograph by Michael Donahue.

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*). Seven Manx Shearwater records added to the 22 for the state. These include an individual off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 19 July 2003 (B. Tweit), 2 seen from Leadbetter Point, Pacific County, on 10 August 2003 (C. Wright), 2 near Matia Island, San Juan County, on 11 June 2004 (M. Donahue), one at Fort Canby State Park, Pacific County, on 28 July 2004 (T. Guy), one from Fort Canby State Park, Pacific County, on 1 September 2004 (T. Guy), and single Manx Shearwaters approximately 18 and 40 miles off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 19 February 2005 (S. Mlodinow). Antecedent records were from 22 March to 10 October, ten of which were during June and July, and the recent February observations thus provided the state's first winter records. The Matia Island birds were at a locale where breeding is conceivable. For details on this species apparent colonization of the northeast Pacific Ocean, see Mlodinow (2004b).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*). Washington's third Wilson's Storm-Petrel was at 46°44N and 124°44W off Cape Shoalwater, Pacific County, on 12 July 2003 (B. Tweit, B. Labar, R. Shaw). Prior records were off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 23 July 1984 and 6

September 2001. In California, where this species is regular in small numbers, peak occurrence is in September and October (Small 1994).

Frigatebird, unidentified (*Fregata* species). An adult male frigatebird of unknown species was over the Pacific approximately 80 km southwest of Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 7 September 2004 (H. Beecher). Washington has two records of Magnificent Frigatebird. One was well inland along the Columbia River at Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge, Benton County, on 1 July 1975 (McCabe 1976). The other record apparently involved a single bird that was first detected over Commencement Bay, King County, on 7 and 8 October 1988, then noted at three other locations before finally seen leaving Washington at the Astoria Bridge, Pacific County, on 31 October (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). The 2004 frigatebird fits the pattern of Magnificent Frigatebird vagrancy along the United States Pacific coast (Mlodinow 1998), but the possibility of other frigatebirds is evidenced by the occurrence of Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) in California and Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*) in Oklahoma (Snyder 1961, Howell 1994, American Ornithologists' Union 1998, McCaskie and San Miguel 1999).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). There was but one Snowy Egret record in Washington from 2003 through 2005 after 13 between 1999 and 2002: two at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, between 6 August and 5 September 2004 (B. Clemons; photo: T. Aversa). The state currently has 30 records, mostly from late April through early June.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Washington's first Glossy Ibis was detected on 30 May 2005, among a flock of 7 *Plegadis* ibis that had been present at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Thurston County, since 27 May (J. Paulios, B. Shelmerdine; photo: K. Brady). This species' range has been expanding recently. As of the mid-1980s, it was known to breed no closer than Arkansas and, perhaps, Texas (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). By 2005, Glossy Ibis were found breeding in Wyoming, including a bird mated with a White-faced Ibis, *P. chihi* (Faulkner 2005). As of spring 2005, there were six records from California, including two from northern California during late May (G. McCaskie, in litt).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Four reports of Red-shouldered Hawk were accepted from fall 2003, including one at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, on 13 to 16 August (T. Aversa), a presumably different bird there on 2 November (B. Tweit), two at Conboy National Wildlife Refuge, Klickitat County, on 4 September (J. Engler), and one at Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge, Wahkiakum County, on 21 September (D. Rockwell). During 2004, two more reports were accepted, with singles at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, between 26 November 2004 and 26 January 2005 (T. Aversa; photo: Robert Lockett), and at Monroe, Snohomish County, on 10 October (S. Mlodinow). Two other reports, likely correct, have not been submitted. Only one Red-shouldered Hawk report was accepted from 2005: a bird on Puget Island, Wahkiakum County, on 5 February 2005 (M. Bartels). The state now has 32 records, and as this species' occurrence has increased in frequency, the

number of likely correct reports that are not submitted to the Committee has regrettably increased as well. Most records have been from September through November in southwestern Washington, especially in Clark County. The Monroe bird was among the northernmost ever recorded and the Conboy National Wildlife Refuge reports furnished only the second accepted from eastern Washington, the first record coming from the same location on 17 September 2001 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006). There are two additional generally accepted reports from eastern Washington (Wahl et al. 2005).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*). Crested Caracaras have been reported three times from Washington, but none had been accepted due to questions regarding origin (Tweit and Skriletz 1996, Aanerud and Mattocks 2000): Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 21 June 1936 (Jewett et al 1953), Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 13 August 1983 (Hoge and Hoge 1991), and an adult at Neah Bay, Clallam County, from 4 January to 26 February 1998 (WOSNews 53). Presumably the same bird was subsequently recorded near Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island from 4 May to 3 June 1998 (Campbell et al. 2001). The committee was concerned that, even though the species is reported to be very rare in captivity, there were too few records to the south to demonstrate a pattern of natural vagrancy.

Subsequently, however, there have been increasing numbers of records from California, many of them in coastal areas, and two records from coastal Oregon. In Oregon, one appeared in Curry County during late April 2005 not far from the site of Oregon's first, which lingered from February into April 1990 (Mlodinow and Irons 2005). The rapidly increasing number of reports from California recently prompted the California Committee to elevate this species from their supplemental list to the main list (San Miguel and McGrath 2005). The California Committee noted that the species is little known in captivity and has shown an increasing pattern of vagrancy continent-wide. Greg Toffic (personal communication) noted that the International Species Information System Bird Abstract as of 30 June 1997 listed 30 caracaras in 16 institutions, the closest in Palm Desert, California, fairly near the species current regular range. Thus, an escapee from a known collection would have traveled almost as far as a natural vagrant to reach coastal Washington. The Committee discussed the probability of an escapee from an unregistered collection or from illegal sources, and concluded that the only source of escapees consistent with the coastal pattern of occurrence in all three states would be shipboard assisted, and this seemed an unlikely explanation for the reports in Washington. With this new evidence in hand, the Committee voted to accept the latter two reports as the first and second Washington records: Ocean Shores in 1983 and Neah Bay in 1998.

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*). Washington's fourth Mountain Plover was near Oysterville, Pacific County, between 24 and 27 February 2005 (J. Buchanan; photos: K. Brennan, A. Martin). Washington's previous records include two from Pacific County during November and

December, and one from Spokane County in May (Tweit and Skriletz 1996, Aanerud and Mattocks 1997, Aanerud 2002).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). Eight well-documented Hudsonian Godwits brought the number of records in Washington to 25: an adult at Texas Lake, Whitman County, on 11 May 2002 (photo: M. Denny), a juvenile at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor County, on 20 September 2003 (J. Bryant), a juvenile at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, on 23 September 2003 (photo: K. and J. Wiggers), a juvenile at Tokeland, Pacific County, between 26 October and 16 November 2003 (R. Lawson, R. Robinson, B. Tweit; photo: R. Sullivan), a juvenile at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, on 29 August 2004 (photo: S. Mlodinow), and a juvenile at Tokeland, Pacific County, from 29 August to 5 September 2004 (H. Flores; photo: R. Sullivan). The Tokeland bird from fall 2003, which lingered to 16 November, set a record late date for Washington, and the Texas Lake record is one of only six involving northbound birds (Wahl et al. 2005). Most records have been from late August to mid-October. There are at least eight additional published reports that are likely correct.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). The following Bar-tailed Godwit records added to the 29 extant for the state: a single juvenile at Tokeland, Pacific County, on 26 August 2000 (photo: R. Sullivan), 24 September 2000 (photo: R. Sullivan), and 1 September 2001 (photo: R. Sullivan); single adults at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, between 14 and 16 July 2002 (P. Sullivan; photo: R. Sullivan), and from 21 to 23 July 2002 (photo: R. Sullivan), an adult at Tokeland, Pacific County, from 18 to 26 August 2002 (photo: R. Sullivan), two juveniles at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 29 August 2002 (photo: R. Sullivan), an adult at Dungeness, Clallam County, between 6 and 8 August 2004 (P. Sullivan; photo: D. Granstrand), a juvenile at Blaine, Whatcom County, on 6 September 2004 (B. Kuntz, B. Ulman), an adult at Tokeland, Pacific County, between 11 and 16 August 2004 (photo: S. Mlodinow), and two juveniles there on 25 September 2004 (photo: R. Sullivan).

Prior to 1980, the state had only three records of Bar-tailed Godwits. The rate of occurrence seems to be still increasing. Part of the precipitous rise in records appears due to accessibility of the Tokeland godwit roost site and increased observer effort. However, these factors seem insufficient to explain the magnitude of the increase. Most adults have been observed from early July to mid-August and most juveniles from mid-August onwards.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). Washington's first Little Stint, an alternate-plumaged adult, adorned the Yakima River delta, Benton County, from 5 until 13 August 2004 (N. LaFramboise; photos: T. Munson, D. Schonewald, R. Hill). As of August 2004, North America had approximately 91 records of Little Stint, including 34 from Alaska and about 20 along the Pacific Coast south of Alaska, and the Benton County bird was only the fifth from North America's interior (Iliff and Sullivan 2004).

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). Washington's fourth White-rumped Sandpiper was at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla County, on 18 and 19 June 2005 (S. Mlodinow, P. Sullivan). Previous records, the most recent of which was in 1992, include two from Reardan, Lincoln County, in May, and one from Clallam County in July.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). An adult Curlew Sandpiper in alternate plumage near Oysterville, Pacific County, between 5 and 11 August 2000 (photo: R. Sullivan) brought the state total to eight records. All but one of Washington's records have been of adults, probably secondary to the ease of identification, and implying that a number of juveniles may be passing through unnoticed. For discussions of Curlew Sandpiper vagrancy in North America, see Mlodinow and O'Brien (1994) and Wilson (2001).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Buff-breasted Sandpiper was added to the review list in 1999, despite there being 185 total recorded prior to that year. The reason for its addition was that many of these birds were in flocks, and for 1988 through 1998 this species averaged fewer than two records per year. Subsequently, its abundance seems to have increased dramatically, though this is no doubt in part due to greater field effort. New records, all of juveniles, are as follows: 4 at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 31 August 2000 (photo: R. Sullivan), Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 26 August 2003 (P. Sullivan), Port Townsend, Jefferson County, on 1 September 2003 (photos: G. Gerdts, R. Sullivan), 6 at Crockett Lake, Island County, on 28 August 2004 (photo: S. Mlodinow), 2 at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 29 August 2004 (photo: P. Sullivan), and one at Leadbetter Point, Pacific County, on 30 August 2004 (R. Merrill). Worthy of note, a maximum of 10 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was credibly reported, but not documented (and not evaluated by the Committee), from Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, between 4 and 11 September 2004 (Mlodinow et al. 2004a). Interestingly, 90% of published accounts prior to 1999 were from the outer coast (Wahl et al. 2005), whereas only nine of the 22 Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports accepted subsequently have been from the outer coast, the remaining coming from the Puget Trough.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). The Committee accepted 12 Ruff reports, the most notable records including: a juvenile first detected at Elma, Grays Harbor County, on 17 November 2002, that remained in the vicinity (including nearby Satsop) until 12 April 2003 (photo: R. Sullivan), furnishing the State's first winter record; an adult along Brady Loop Road, Grays Harbor County, on 4 and 5 April 2005 (photo: R. Sullivan), furnishing only the State's second spring record (Wahl et al. 2005); two adults at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, on 5 September 2004 (T. Aversa), one of but a few fall adult records and the first after August (Paulson 1993, Wahl et al. 2005); and one at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla County, on 11 September 2003 (T. Aversa), about the twelfth record for eastern Washington (Wahl et al. 2005). Other new records include: a juvenile at Sequim, Clallam County, from 30 August to 7 September

2003 (G. Gerdts), single juveniles at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 25 September 2003 (P. Sullivan) and 29 November 2003 (photo: R. Sullivan), a juvenile at Johns River, Grays Harbor County, on 5 September 2004 (photo: R. Sullivan), a juvenile at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County, on 12 September 2004 (S. Mlodinow), a juvenile at the Lewis Unit, Willapa Bay, Pacific County, on 5 September 2004 (J. Gilligan), two juveniles at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 29 August 2004, with one remaining on 30 August 2004 (photo: R. Sullivan); four juveniles at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 17 and 18 September 2004 (photo: R. Sullivan), and one there on 29 September 2004 (photo: T. Aversa). This species was added back to the review list in 1999. Prior to that, there were about forty records, mostly from late August to late September (Wahl et al. 2005), but the flurry of records since has spanned a greater time period.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). An adult Laughing Gull in alternate plumage at Kalaloch, Jefferson County, on 17 July 2004 (B. Norton), was Washington's fourth record. Two of Washington's three antecedent records were from the outer coast on 1 September 1975 and 14 August 1982 (Tweit and Skriletz 1996).

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*). Washington's first Black-tailed Gull, an adult, graced North Cove, Pacific County, from 3 August to 20 October 2004 (photos: C. Wright, K. Brady, S. Mlodinow, D. Granstrand, R. Sullivan), mostly associating with Heermann's Gulls (*Larus heermanni*). This northeast Asian species has been recorded over thirty times in North America at widely scattered localities ranging from Newfoundland to Belize to Sonora; oddly, there have been relatively few Alaskan records and only one from British Columbia and one from California (Lethaby and Bangma 1998, American Birding Association 2002).

Black-tailed Gull, September 2004. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). An adult Iceland Gull was photographed at Renton, King County, on 8 Dec 2004 (D. Duffy, J. Flynn; photo: S. Pink), and a first-cycle bird was photographed near Wallula, Walla Walla County, on 31 December 2004 (photo: S. Mlodinow). Two additional reports from the winter of 2004-05 are still under review. The winter of 2004-05 brought more Iceland Gulls than normal to the Pacific Northwest, with five in British Columbia (Cecile 2005), and one in northern California (Cole et al. 2005).

Washington's eight previous records span the period from 25 November to 16 April.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Sun Lakes, Grant County, from 8 to 14 October 2005 (photos: D. Schonewald, T. Munson), and a third- (or fourth-) year bird inhabited Clarkston, Asotin County, from 16 to 24 March 2002 (D. Beaudette; photo: B. Flores). This brings the state total to four records, all of which have been since 1999. This species continues to increase in numbers across North America.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, October 2004. Photograph by Tom Munson.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). An adult Slaty-backed Gull inhabited Renton, King County, between 20 January and 4 February 2004 (photos: M. Denny, S. Mlodinow), a first-winter Slaty-backed Gull was at Renton, King County, on 11 December 2004 (J. Barry, K. Aanerud; photo: S. Mlodinow), and an adult was in Port Gardner Bay, Snohomish County, on 18 December 2004 (D. Duffy). Washington has six previous records, all of adults, between 7 November and 11 March. The winter of 2004-05 was remarkable for this species; for instance, California had its first three records that winter, all from the northern half of the state (Cole et al. 2005).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). Washington's first Great Black-backed Gull, apparently a second-year bird, graced Renton, King County, from 12 January until 16 February 2004 (E. Hunn; photos: C. Wright, D. Granstrand, S. Mlodinow). The only other Pacific Coast records come from Kamloops, British Columbia, in December 1988 (Campbell et al. 1990), and Kodiak Island, Alaska, from February to April 1995 (Gibson and Kessel 1997).

Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*). An adult Red-legged Kittiwake was off Westport, Pacific County, on the unseasonable date of 19 August 2000 (C. Wright; photo: R. Shaw), and another flew past Fort Canby State Park, Pacific County, on 10 January 2005 (T. Guy). There are 6 previous Washington records, all between 1 December and 21 March, excepting a bird at Neah Bay, Clallam County, during summer 1999 (Aanerud 2002).

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Washington's second Least Tern made an appearance at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 8 May 2004 (J. Wingfield). The state's first record was also at Ocean Shores, from 26 to

31 August 1978 (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). The Committee notes that Washington's Least Tern records have not eliminated the highly unlikely, but not totally impossible, Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). Most of Oregon's 12 records have been from late May to mid-August, and all but one have been from west of the Cascade Mountains.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*). Washington's tenth Thick-billed Murre was swimming off Lime Kiln State Park, San Juan County, on 19 October 2004 (W.B. Tyler), followed shortly by one at Point Wilson, Jefferson County, on 23 December 2004 (S. Mills). Previous records have been almost entirely from mid-December to mid-February, but one was recorded off Grays Harbor, Grays Harbor County, on 22 September 1976 (Tweit and Paulson 1994).

Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*). Two *hypoleucus* Xantus's Murrelets were off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 19 July 2003 (B. LaBar), providing the first report of this taxon accepted by the Committee. There are at least three other reports off the Washington coast that are likely valid; information from research cruises far offshore suggest that nominate Xantus's Murrelets may be more regular off our state than previously believed (Mlodinow et al. 2002a, Wahl et al. 2005). Single *Synthliboramphus* murrelets off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 9 August 2003 (S. Mills) and 28 Aug 2004 (S. Mills), were accepted as a Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelets; another *Synthliboramphus* murrelet was reported from a Westport pelagic trip on 21 August 2004 (Mlodinow et al. 2005a). *Synthliboramphus* murrelets, the vast majority of which are likely Xantus's, are now seen annually off Washington.

Parakeet Auklet (*Aethia psittacula*). Washington's twelfth Parakeet Auklet appeared off La Push, Clallam County, on 25 May 2003 (B. Tweit). Most sightings from the contiguous United States have been between late November and late April, but there are a few mid-summer records (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996).

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*). An adult Horned Puffin in basic plumage was found dead on the beach on the Long Beach Peninsula, Pacific County, on 24 January 2005 (photos: L. Bierma, S. Clark). This brings the number of records to 18; a number of older reports are undocumented and have not been reviewed. Notably, during January and February 2005, dozens of Horned Puffins were found dead – of unknown cause – along the Oregon coast (Mlodinow et al. 2005b).

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Washington added four more Eurasian Collared-Dove records, bringing the total to six. Singles were at Stanwood, Snohomish County, on 9 October 2003 (D. Duffy), Diamond Point, Jefferson County on 3 and 4 August 2004 (photo: G. Richardson), Long Beach, Pacific County, from 3 to 7 May 2005 (photo: R. Schuver), and Washtucna, Adams County, from 29 May into fall 2005 (photo: S. Mlodinow). Many reports occurred later in 2005 and will soon be reviewed by the Committee. This species' sudden appearance in Washington is part of a continent-wide colonization that started in the Bahamas in the 1970s (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999), and observations have be-

come regular in the Pacific Northwest. Through spring of 2005, Oregon had about 26 records, roughly 75% of which were after December 2003 (Mlodinow and Irons 2005).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*). A Northern Hawk Owl at Mount Salmo, Pend Oreille County, between 1 and 17 October 2004 furnished the fifteenth state record (M. Houston; photo: Tom Munson). Notably, there are a number of reports not yet reviewed, with a total of 31 considered valid by Wahl et al. (2005) through 2001; most of these were from eastern Washington, between mid-October and mid-March.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*). A male Costa's Hummingbird reported from Shelton, Mason County, on 14 April 1989 (S. and A. Beelik) was initially not accepted by the Committee (Tweit and Paulson 1994). Given the pattern of occurrence that has become established in the Pacific Northwest (Marshall et al. 2003, Wahl et al. 2005), the Committee decided to revisit this record, and it was unanimously accepted as the first state record. Washington's sixth Costa's Hummingbird intermittently graced a feeder in Lyle, Klickitat County, between 2 and 15 May 2005 (K. Kagarise). Four of Washington's six Costa's Hummingbirds have been observed between 14 April and 19 May. A report from Richmond Beach, King County, in April 2000 has yet to be reviewed by the Committee.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*). Washington's third Broad-tailed Hummingbird made a one-day appearance at College Place, Walla Walla County, on 25 May 2005 (M. Denny). Shortly thereafter, a female in residence at Dixie, Walla Walla County, from 28 May to 9 July (S. Mlodinow, C. Wright, B. Flores; photo: P. Murray) raised the question of breeding nearby. All four Washington records have been from Walla Walla or Asotin counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Washington's fourth Yellow-bellied Sapsucker lingered at Hood Park, Walla Walla County, from 19 February to 21 March 2004 (photos: M. Denny, D. Granstrand). Two other reports from 2004 have yet to be reviewed. The vast majority of Pacific coast records south of British Columbia are from October through March, with a

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, February 2004. Photograph by Denny Granstrand.

peak in November and December (Mlodinow 2003).

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*). Washington's first Alder Flycatcher was a cooperative singing male near Muskrat Lake, Okanogan County, between 14 and 22 June 2002 (D. Beaudette; photo: P. Sullivan; audio: P. Sullivan). Equally cooperative was an Alder Flycatcher at Marblemount, Skagit County, between 20 and 27 June 2004 (photo: R. Sullivan; video: S. Mlodinow). There are a number of summer records from southern British Columbia (Campbell et al. 1997), and this species' occurrence in Washington had been considered long overdue.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). Black Phoebe reports were accepted from Washougal, Skamania County, from 20 November into December 1997 (W. Cady; photo: R. Sullivan), Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, between 13 and 22 August 2003 (T. Aversa), Ridgefield, Clark County, on 18 December 2003 (S. Van Leuven), Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge, Wahkiakum County, between 17 August 2003 and 14 February 2004 (videos: B. Tweit, S. Mlodinow), Vancouver Lake, Clark County, between 12 and 21 February 2004 (E. Bjorkman), and at Auburn, King County, between 26 April and 16 May 2004 (photos: R. Sullivan, J. Higbee). The Committee felt that the Julia Butler Hansen and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge birds were returning individuals. There were two pre-existing records, so the state now has eight records; the Auburn sighting provided a first Puget Trough record.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). Washington's fifth Vermilion Flycatcher was an immature male at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Thurston County, on 30 November 2003 (photo: C. Standridge). The four antecedent Vermilion Flycatchers were all first detected between late October and late January.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). Only one Tropical Kingbird report was accepted to specific species during this evaluation period: a calling bird at Tokeland, Pacific County, on 5 November 2003 (B. Tweit). This brings the state total of birds definitively identified to this species, to nine.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*). The following non-vocalizing birds were accepted as Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds: Port Williams, Clallam County, on 22 October 1997 (T. Aversa), Bay Center, Pacific County, on 12 October 2002 (photo: R. Sullivan), Tokeland, Pacific County, on 17 October 2002 (photo: R. Sullivan), and Oysterville, Pacific County, on 20 and 21 September 2003 (C. Wright). A bird at Neah Bay, Clallam County, on 27 November 2003 (B. Norton), was described as giving a "Couch's Kingbird-like call," but the Committee felt that the description of this vocalization was insufficient to establish the bird's identification as a Couch's Kingbird, but the description of plumage did establish it as a member of this species pair. The state total of Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds is now 14. A number of likely valid reports have not been submitted to the Committee. There are no records of Couch's Kingbird from Washington.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). A spate of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher sightings included singles near George, Grant County, on 15 May 2003 (R. Conway), Montlake Fill, King County, on 2 August 2003 (photo: S. MacKay), and Moses Lake, Grant County, from 10 September to 10 October 2004 (photo: K. Brady; video: S. Mlodinow). Additionally, an older report came to light from Fort Canby State Park, Pacific County, during June 1994 (photo: R. Waggoner). The state now has seven records.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, August 2003. Photograph by Keith Brady.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). A male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher established a territory and built a nest in Hardy Canyon, near Wenas, Yakima County, and was observed between 26 May and 30 June 2002 (photos: R. Sullivan, D. Granstrand). Apparently, no mate ever appeared. A male was present at the same site from 10 June to 3 July 2003 (photo: D. Granstrand). The Committee felt that the summer 2002 and summer 2003 reports most likely involved the same bird, providing Washington's 7th state record and the first not from fall or winter.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). Washington's first Northern Wheatear appeared at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Thurston County, on 4 September 2004 (J. McCoy, P. Koyama, D. Flood). Through 2001, California had 11 records, six from September and two from October (California Bird Record Committee files) and Oregon has three records, two of which are from October (Marshall et al. 2003).

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). Western North America's first Redwing appeared in Olympia, Thurston County, from 21 December 2004 to 14 March 2005 (G. Revelas, N. Ball, M. Denny; photos: K. Brady, S. Mlodinow). Through 2000, North America had ten records, mostly from Newfoundland (American Birding Association 2002). Redwings breed

east in Siberia almost to the Kamchatka Peninsula, with fall migration directed west-southwest (Clement 2000), making this species a prime candidate for occurrence in western North America via mirror-image misorientation (see DeSante 1973).

Redwing, January 2005. Photograph by Keith Brady.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Three Brown Thrasher reports were reviewed and accepted: Lyons Ferry, Franklin County, on 2 June 2003 (B. Tweit, B. Labar), Spokane, Spokane County, on 1 October 2003 (J. Acton), and near Midway Beach, Pacific County, on 23 April 2005 (D. Froehlich). The state now has eight records, all since 1994; prior to the three newest records, all records, except one from winter, were from 1 May to 10 September.

Siberian Accentor (*Prunella montanella*). A Siberian Accentor was reported from Orcas Island, San Juan County, on 10 January 1991 (W. Harm). The Committee had not accepted the report because, at the time, its mid-winter appearance at a feeder was unprecedented in North America, and the report was relatively brief and from a single observer (Tweit and Paulson 1994). Subsequently, there have been several similar records, including birds in south-coastal Alaska, eastern British Columbia, and Idaho (American Birding Association 2002). The 1991 report was reviewed again and found to be acceptable by a unanimous vote. Washington has one other record, a bird on Indian Island, Jefferson County, on 30 October 1983 (Tweit and Paulson 1994).

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*). Washington's second Red-throated Pipit visited Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, on 7 May 2004 (B. Waggoner). The preceding fall had seen the largest influx of Red-throated Pipits along North America's Pacific Coast since at least 1991, yielding Oregon's first record (Mlodinow et al. 2004a), 32 in northern California (Rogers et al. 2004a), 44 in southern California (McCaskie and Garrett 2004), and 29 along the Baja California Peninsula (Hamilton et al. 2004). Even after such invasions, however, spring migrants are exceptionally unusual, and the Bainbridge Island bird was one of only two such records south of Alaska during the spring of 2004. The other record involved two in Curry County, Oregon, between 28 and 30 April (Mlodinow et al. 2004b).

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Washington's second Golden-winged Warbler enlivened Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, on 12 and 13 September 2003 (B. Waggoner; photo: G. Gerdts). Washington's prior record was from Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Spokane County, on 20 August 1998 (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000). Oregon has two records, both from June (Marshall et al. 2003). Through 2001, 55% of California's 67 records were from fall, mostly between 10 September and 2 November (California Bird Records Committee files).

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*). Single Tennessee Warblers visited the Little Spokane River, Spokane County, on 24 August 2002 (photo: M. Frobe) and Washtucna, Adams County, on 5 and 6 September 2004 (M. Denny, S. Mlodinow). Washington has 14 antecedent records, mostly between 26 August and 17 September.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). Northern Parulas were found at North Beach, Pacific County, on 7 September 2003 (video: B. Tweit) and Ocosta, Grays Harbor County, between 11 and 21 August 2004 (T. Aversa, H. Opperman). The state now has 11 records, four of which are from fall. Previous fall records were also relatively early: 18 August and 1 September. Most Oregon fall records have occurred from late August into early October (Marshall et al. 2003). About two-thirds of vagrant Northern Parula records in western North America occur during spring (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Washington's tenth Magnolia Warbler inhabited the Davenport Cemetery, Lincoln County, on 28 September 2004 (J. Acton; video: C. Wright). Eight of Washington's previous records were between 6 September and 21 October, fitting with the pattern seen in Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003).

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). Wash-ington's second Cape May Warbler frequented a Spokane, Spokane County, feeder from early January to 8 April 2005 (C. McCormack; photos: T. Munson, G. MacDonald), thirty years after the first was recorded in Belling-ham, Whatcom County.

Cape May Warbler, February 2005. Photograph by Tom Munson.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler adorned Vancouver, Clark County, from 7 to 14 December 2001 (photo: J. Weideman) and a female visited Davenport Cemetery, Lincoln County, on 26 September 2004 (J. Acton). Washington has five antecedent records, all from fall

or winter, with fall birds first detected between 8 October and 8 November. This species is usually a relatively late-season vagrant in western North America (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). A singing Black-throated Green Warbler was at Wanapum Dam State Park, Kittitas County, on 14 June 2003 (A. Davis) and another stopped at Washtucna, Adams County, on 13 and 14 November 2004 (M. Denny; photos: P. Sullivan, R. Sullivan). Washington's sole prior record was from Spokane, Spokane County, on 2 July 1975 (Tweit and Paulson 1994). Most vagrant Black-throated Green Warblers in western North America have been from the Pacific Coast during fall (Dunn and Garrett 1997), and Oregon has one wintering record (Marshall et al. 2003).

Black-throated Green Warbler, November 2004. Photograph by Patrick Sullivan.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). Washington's second Yellow-throated Warbler appeared at Asotin Creek, Asotin County, on 19 October 2003 (C. Vande Voorde, L. LaVoie). Oregon has five records, and that state's first autumn record also occurring during 2003 (Marshall et al. 2003, Mlodinow et al. 2004a). Washington's first record was of a bird during winter in Twisp, Okanogan County, during 2002 (Wahl et al. 2005).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). The fall of 2003 brought three Blackpoll Warblers to Washington: one at Lyons Ferry, Franklin County, on 6 September (C. Wright), another there on 15 September (C. Wright), and one at Sprague Lake, Lincoln County, on 9 September (T. Aversa). All but two of Washington's 15 records have occurred between 25 August and 20 September. There are two reports, not yet reviewed, from late August and early September (Wahl et al. 2005).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Black-and-white Warblers at Daroga State Park, Douglas County, from 6 to 30 December 2003 (P. Mattocks), Washtucna, Adams County, from 4 to 8 September 2004 (B. Flores), and Richland, Benton County, on 1 January 2005 (A. Johnson), added to 24 state records, which are scattered throughout the year. There are about 15 additional reports that have not been reviewed (Wahl et al. 2005).

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). A Hooded Warbler graced Sun Lakes State Park, Grant County, on 6 June 2004 (S. Mlodinow), furnish-

ing Washington's fourth record. Prior records were from December (two) and June (one). California's records come mainly from May, September, and October (Dunn and Garrett 1997) and Oregon's mostly from September and October (Marshall et al. 2003).

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). Washington's second Summer Tanager inhabited Chimacum, Jefferson County, from 21 to 24 June 2004 (photo: B. Kinchen). Washington's first record involved a winter bird in Skagit County during 1998 (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000). An additional report has yet to be reviewed by the Committee. Oregon has about 17 records scattered throughout the year, but with a peak from mid-May through mid-June (Marshall et al. 2003).

Red Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca ilaca* group). Prior to 2002, when this identifiable subspecies was added to the review list, there were approximately 12 generally accepted Red Fox Sparrow reports (Wahl et al. 2005). For the purposes of the Washington Bird Records Committee, Red Fox Sparrow does not include *P.i. altivagans*, a subspecies of uncertain taxonomic affinity. Accepted reports include singles at Battle Ground, Clark County, on 7 and 8 January 2004 (photo: J.W. Williams), near Monroe, Snohomish County, between 2 and 16 February 2004 (C. Wright), on Ebey Island, Snohomish County, on 2 October 2004 (video: S. Mlodinow), and at Tenino, Thurston County, from 13 to 19 November 2004 (P. Hicks). Half of the pre-review reports were from 11 October to 13 November, and only three were from spring, the latest of which was found on 8 May (Wahl et al. 2005).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Seven more Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports were accepted, bringing the state total to 31 records. All were adult males, excepting the bird at Everett, which was an immature: Sammamish, King County, on 8 and 9 June 2001 (photo: M. Dossett), Everett, Snohomish County, on 14 September 2003 (S. Mlodinow), Anacortes, Skagit County, on 3 July 2004 (photo: Mary Rowland), Stanwood, Snohomish County, on 18 July 2004 (D. Logen), Port Angeles, Clallam County, on 11 June 2005 (photo: B. Davies), Lake Stevens, Snohomish County, on 8 June 2005 (G. Kriehn), and Long Beach, Pacific County, between 21 and 23 May 2005 (photo: C. Whittey). Most of Washington's records are of adult males from late May through late June.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). A male Indigo Bunting visited Yakima, Yakima County, on 18 May 2002 (photo: D. Granstrand). The state now has 15 records, ten of which are between mid-May and early June.

Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*). Adding to five records from 2002 was a record of 30+ near Wilson Creek, Grant County, on 12 April (J. Acton). During 2003, only one sighting was documented: Bingen, Klickitat County, on 21 April (S. Johnston), though they were reported from a number of eastern Washington locations. In 2004, documented and accepted reports include 13 at Othello, Adams County, on 14 February (video: S. Mlodinow), 5 at Sylvan Lake, Lincoln County, on 30 April (photo: M. Denny), one near Texas Lake, Whitman County, on 31 May 2004 (video: S.

Mlodinow), one at Othello, Adams County, on 4 July (photo: B. Flores), one at Othello, Adams County, on 19 September (video: S. Mlodinow), two at Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark County, on 30 Oct (S. Mlodinow), and three at Othello, Adams County, on 16 November (C. Wright).

On 29 May 2005, a breeding colony of 318 birds, including 100+ pairs was found near Texas Lake, Whitman County (photo: S. Mlodinow). Tricolored Blackbirds had been reported here during late spring/early summer since 2002, but these were the first to be found breeding, and represent only the second known breeding colony in Washington. Washington's first Tricolored Blackbirds were found as recently as July 1998 at a breeding colony near Wilson Creek, Grant County (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000). Subsequently, numbers at that location have tailed off and that colony may no longer be active. Up to 100 birds are now being reported annually during winter in Othello, Adams County, and scattered reports from all seasons are occurring throughout much of southeastern Washington. Additionally, this species is being found annually during fall and winter in small numbers in Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark County. Since this species has become so numerous and widespread, many reporters have stopped documenting them and, appropriately, this species will likely soon come off the review list.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). Washington's twelfth Common Grackle visited Auburn, King County, on 15 August 2003 (A. Roedell); this was only the third record for western Washington and the first since 1975. About half of Washington's records have been from mid-May into early July, with the remainder scattered throughout the year.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). A female Orchard Oriole visited Ocosta, Grays Harbor County, on 20 September 2004 (K. Aanerud), and an immature male briefly appeared at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant County, on 18 June 2005 (S. Mlodinow). Washington's only antecedent record was from Skagit County in December. Oregon's few records are also scattered somewhat throughout the year (Marshall et al. 2003).

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*). Washington's fifth Hooded Oriole, an adult male, visited a Seattle, King County, feeder on 12 June 2005 (C. Conolly, R. Brown). Washington's prior records were from late April to late July; in Oregon, where Hooded Orioles occur annually, peak occurrence is from mid-April to early June (Marshall et al. 2003).

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). Washington's fourteenth Brambling visited a feeder in Burlington, Skagit County, on 18 December 2002 (video: K. Wiggers). Though records span the period from 20 November to 12 April, peak occurrence seems to be between mid-December and late January.

NEW RECORDS – SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). A Philadelphia Vireo was observed at Vantage, Kittitas County, on 29 May 2004 (S. Mlodinow); though two observers submitted details, only one description, standing alone, was sufficient to identify the bird seen. Consequently, this species

remains on the supplementary list. There are two prior records, one from Summer Falls, Grant County, on 25 September 1991, and the other of a singing bird along Crab Creek in Lincoln County on 7 June 2002 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006).

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE – IDENTIFICATION UNCERTAIN

Red-shouldered Hawk. A Red-shouldered Hawk reported from Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Thurston County, on 14 September 2004, was not accepted as the description did not fully eliminate Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*). A Spotted Redshank in basic plumage reported at Blyn, Clallam County, on 10 July 2004, was not endorsed by the Committee. Reported marks were not totally congruent with the stated plumage, the bird was reported with a flock of Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) in an area where Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) predominate, and this was used for size estimation. In addition, the description's wording was worrisomely similar to that in certain field guides. Most Committee members felt the bird may have been correctly identified but were, ultimately, uncomfortable accepting the report for the reasons stated above.

White-rumped Sandpiper. A report of two White-rumped Sandpipers at Lummi Bay, Whatcom County, on 25 July 2001, was not accepted by the Committee. The description was brief and failed to note several characters, including streaking or chevrons on the underparts.

Curlew Sandpiper. Three Curlew Sandpiper sightings were not endorsed by the Committee. The report of a bird in basic plumage from Anacortes, Skagit County, on 29 November 2004, was extremely suggestive of Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), and was not accepted by the Committee. The description of another purported Curlew Sandpiper in basic plumage near Corfu, Grant County, on 3 March 2005, also failed to fully exclude Dunlin, and the early date also raised concerns about the bird's identification. Finally, the submitted description of an individual in alternate plumage reported from Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 17 May 2003, lacked certain key marks.

Laughing Gull. A group of four Laughing Gulls was reported from Port Townsend, Jefferson County, on 18 July 2004, supported by written documentation and sound recording. The Committee chose not to endorse this record for several reasons. One was that the observation took place 45 minutes before sunrise. Furthermore, the recording consisted of courtship vocalizations, an unlikely occurrence in Washington and unlikely in mid-July, long after that species' usual breeding season.

Iceland Gull. An Iceland Gull reported from the Elwha River mouth, Clallam County, on 11 February 2005, was described as having a small amount of blackish on the wingtips. Although many Iceland Gulls exhibit this trait, so do some Thayer's Gulls (*Larus thayeri*). This, plus the possi-

bility of hybridization between Iceland and Thayer's Gulls, led the Committee not to endorse this report, though most members felt the bird was quite likely an Iceland Gull.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from College Place, Walla Walla County, on 14 February 2004. Though the written description was extremely suggestive of this species, the photographs were incongruous, leading the Committee to not endorse this report.

Xantus's Murrelet. A bird seen from the Victoria Clipper near Dungeness Spit, Clallam County, on 21 April 2005, was suggestive of this species but failed to find full endorsement by the Committee. Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus craveri*) was not eliminated as the observer was unsure of the underwing color and the view was somewhat distant.

Eurasian Collared-Dove. The description of a *Streptopelia* dove seen only in flight on 25 May 2005 did not eliminate the possibility of a Eurasian Collared-Dove x Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) hybrid. This cross has been recorded at least twice previously in the state: Adams County in May 2002 (Mlodinow et al. 2002), and Snohomish County between July and August 2004 (Mlodinow et al. 2004).

Northern Hawk Owl. A Northern Hawk Owl reported from Chuckanut, Whatcom County, on 3 January 2004, was suggestive of this species, but the description was not deemed detailed enough to solidly establish this bird's identification.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). Two Eastern Phoebes were reported from locations near Havillah, Okanogan County, 10 June 2000. Both birds were photographed; one was likely a Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), while the photos of the second bird were more phoebe-like. The long primary projection led most Committee members to not accept this report, feeling it, too, was probably a Western Wood-Pewee.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*). A "Solitary Vireo" described as giving a "Red-eyed Vireo like song" was photographed and described from Dry Canyon, Pend Oreille County, on 15 June 2005, and reported intermittently until 18 July. Unfortunately the photographs were not conclusive, observers were unable to see the bird's dorsum, and the song was not thoroughly described. These factors led to a split vote among the Committee and lack of endorsement for this report. It is unfortunate that those observing the bird after 15 June did not provide notes.

Bridled Titmouse (*Baeolophus wollweberi*). A tailless passerine at Point No Point, Kitsap County, on 7 May 2003 was most likely this species, but its identification did not receive full endorsement of the Committee. Among those who did agree with the bird's identification as a Bridled Titmouse, it was unanimously considered an escapee from captivity.

Red-throated Pipit. The description of a Red-throated Pipit reported from Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 3 October 2003, failed to eliminate Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) among other species and was not accepted by the Committee.

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*). The description of a Phainopepla from Seattle, King County, on 12 July 2004, better fit that of a Steller's Jay and was not accepted by the Committee.

Magnolia Warbler. A Magnolia Warbler was reported from Tennant Lake, Whatcom County, on 27 September 2003. Although the description is suggestive of Magnolia Warbler, the bird was described as having a plain gray back and lacking an eye-ring, both features incongruent with its identification as a Magnolia Warbler.

Blackpoll Warbler. A Blackpoll Warbler reported from Washtucna, Adams County, on 12 September 2004, did not fully exclude other species and certain described characters were atypical for this species.

Red Fox Sparrow. A videotaped Fox Sparrow near Monroe, Snohomish County, between 14 February and 4 March 2004, showed several characteristics of Red Fox Sparrow but was most likely either a Red Fox Sparrow x Sooty Fox Sparrow *(P. i. unalaschensis* group) intergrade or a hybrid between *P. i. altivagans* and another race.

McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*). A bird photographed and described from Grayland Beach, Pacific County, on 5 November 2003, had a number of field marks that seem to exclude other longspur species, but several key marks were lacking and the photographs appeared to contradict the description in places. Thus, the committee chose not to endorse this report, which would have provided a first Washington record.

Indigo Bunting. An Indigo Bunting was reported from Soos Creek, King County, on 25 May 2004. Though the majority of the Committee supported this record, two members felt the details were too scanty for acceptance.

Common Grackle. A bird photographed and described at Naches, Yakima County, from 5 August to 5 September 2003, appeared to be a young Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) to most Committee members.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). Reports of Great-tailed Grackles were received from Longview, Cowlitz County, on 2 May 2004, and Woodland, Cowlitz County, on 16 May 2004. In both cases, the views and descriptions were very brief and insufficient to allow acceptance by the Committee.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE – IDENTIFICATION CERTAIN, ORIGIN UNKNOWN

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). Two Pink-footed Geese were found with Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) and Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) in Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, from 5 November 2003 to 10 January 2004, when one bird disappeared (P. Sullivan; photo: R. Sullivan). The second bird was last seen there on 11 January 2004. A Pink-footed Goose, presumably one of the Hoquiam birds, was then found about 30 km away in Elma, Grays Harbor County, on 21 February 2005, where it remained until 10 April 2005.

The Pink-footed Goose was critically endangered, with Svalbard populations plummeting to less than 5000 in the 1950s and Greenland/Iceland populations reaching a nadir of 20,000-30,000 in the 1930s; by the mid-1990s, the Svalbard population exceeded 38,000 and the Greenland/Iceland population had reached about 250,000 (Boyd 2005). This increase was paralleled by an increase in reports from North America (American Birding Association 2002), and though there are no North American records west of Pennsylvania (American Birding Association 2002), Washington lies directly on a 180° misorientation path for this species (i.e., a Greenland or Iceland bred Pink-footed Goose oriented in the exact opposite direction of its usual fall migratory path would eventually encounter Washington).

This species is rare but not unheard of in captivity (G. Toffic, in litt). Consequently, the possibility the birds were escapees, coupled with the lack of records west of Pennsylvania for this species or Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose (*A.a. flavirostris*) led the Committee to reject this record based on questions of origin.

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). An American Black Duck was at Kirkland, King County, between 31 October and 19 November 2004 (photos: A. Martin, G. Oliver, S. Pink, M. St. Clair, R. Sullivan). Though the Kirkland bird was correctly identified, its origin was found questionable by seven of eight Committee members.

An introduced population of American Black Ducks appeared in Everett, Snohomish County, around 1970 and persisted well into the 1980s before suffering a steep decline in the 1990s (Wahl et al. 2005). Though many Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) x American Black Ducks remain in the Everett vicinity, the last apparently "pure" American Black Duck was seen there during the winter of 1999–2000. The brevity of that population's survival suggests it was never truly established. Dissenting votes were based on the possibility of an escape from an aviculturalist's collection, among which this species is not rare (M. Axelson, in litt) or a surviving bird from the seemingly extirpated Everett population. Washington has five previous reports of American Black Ducks that were unlikely related to the Everett introduction. Three preceded it: Port Ludlow, Kitsap County, in October 1946 (Jewett et al. 1953), Texas Lake, Whitman County, in August 1949 (Weber and Larrison 1977), and Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Spokane County, in September 1968 (Rogers 1969). Two other reports were well away from Everett: Battle Ground, Clark County, in March 1985, and Nisqually, Thurston County, in October 1994 (Wahl et al. 2005), and have not been reviewed by the Committee.

Crested Caracara. The Committee did not accept a 1936 report from Westport, as there is reasonable evidence that it was an escapee, and its occurrence predates the recent pattern of northward dispersal. See account of records, above.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). A female Northern Cardinal showing no abnormal wear briefly adorned Gig Harbor, Pierce County, on 7 and 8 May 2005 (photo: F. Desler). Although this seems an unlikely vagrant to Washington, Alberta has about 25 records, with five from May

and three each from October, November, and December (B. Ritchie, in litt). Similarly, Saskatchewan has about thirty records split nearly evenly between late spring/summer and late fall/winter (Bob Luterbach, in litt.). This pattern is fairly typical of feeder visiting Cardinalidae (see Mlodinow and Hamilton 2005). Interestingly, Montana and Idaho have but one record each, one from May and the other from winter (C. Carlson and D. Trochlell, in litt).

The Committee's decision on this report was simplified when a male Northern Cardinal with worn plumage was found nearby from 23 July through November 2005 (B. Morse, K. Brady), raising the likelihood that there was a captive population in the vicinity.

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TUNDRA PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*) OCCURRENCE IN WASHINGTON

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Three subspecies of Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) occur in North America (White and Boyce 1988, White et al. 2002). Both the Tundra Peregrine Falcon (*F. p. tundrius*) and the American Peregrine Falcon (*F. p. anatum*) are distinguished from Peale's Peregrine Falcon (*F. p. pealei*) by the very large size and dark, heavily pigmented plumage of the Peale's subspecies. The tundra falcon is distinguished from the *anatum* by its generally smaller size, and in all plumages, pale brown (juvenile) or pale blue (adult) coloration, lighter-colored head (often with a wide white band of feathers on the forehead), extensive white auricular, thinner malar-stripe and less patterned underparts, especially in the center of the belly (White 1968a, 1968b; White et al. 2002). In the field, tundra peregrines appear long-winged and slender in build (Earnheart-Gold and Pyle 2001). This subspecies nests in western and northern Alaska, northern Canada, and parts of Greenland (White and Boyce 1988), and is highly migratory (White et al. 2002), wintering south from Baja, Mexico and the U.S. gulf and southern Atlantic coasts, to central Chile, Argentina and Uruguay (Palmer 1988, Wheeler 2003).

Central (taiga habitat) and northern (tundra habitat) Alaska are sources of some migrant peregrines encountered in Washington (Anderson et al. 1988, Hayes and Buchanan 2002), and these areas were long considered the breeding grounds of *anatum* and *tundrius* falcons, respectively (White and Boyce 1988). There is uncertainty whether present-day Alaskan *tundrius* and *anatum* falcons can be distinguished in the hand (T. Swem, personal communication). Brown et al. (2007) concluded, based on an analysis of certain genetic loci, that *F. p. tundrius* is genetically indistinguishable from *F. p. anatum*; however, proof of this assertion requires an analysis of much of the respective genomes. Where the two subspecies occur in close proximity in parts of Alaska, in all likelihood intergrades occur. Because of the difficulty in clearly defining these two subspecies, for the purposes of this paper, we focus on the occurrence of "*tundrius*-type

falcons" (hereafter, tundra falcons) as suggested by plumage characteristics and, in some cases, measurements.

There are few published records of tundra falcons in Washington (e.g., Hayes and Buchanan 2002). Based on band returns (n = 19) of migrant Peregrine Falcons along the Pacific coast from 1958 to 1985, Anderson et al. (1988) concluded that few tundra falcons migrated along the Pacific coast of North America. Only 10 of 201 (5%) peregrines observed during fall migration at Southeast Farallon Island, California, in the 1990s were tundra falcons (Earnheart-Gold and Pyle 2001). Similarly, we are aware of only two published winter records of tundra falcons north of the regular winter range anywhere in North America: one from Kentucky (Wheeler 2003) and the one we describe below for Washington (referenced by Wheeler 2003). Here we provide information on the occurrence of tundra falcons observed or captured in western Washington, including one that over-wintered in multiple years, to our knowledge the first such documented occurrence at that latitude.

In two separate projects, one beginning in 1979 and the other in 1995, through May 2007 we have conducted extensive surveys of the outer coastal beaches of Washington (Figure 1). We conducted surveys at Ocean Shores (471; 63.6%), Grayland (86; 11.6%) and Long Beach (184; 24.8%) for a total of 741 surveys. Most surveys covered the entire beach. These surveys were conducted in all seasons: 30.9% (n = 229) in fall (September-November), 30.5% (n = 226) in winter (December–February), 27.6% (n = 204) in spring (March-May) and 11.1% (n = 82) in summer (June-August).

RECORDS OF TUNDRA FALCONS

Tundra falcons were rarely encountered in any season during our study. Using plumage characteristics and body measurements, only 2.7% (3 of 109) of the Peregrine Falcons we captured and banded along the outer coast between 1995 and May 2007 were identified as tundra falcons: a female (black/blue color band embossed with the alphanumeric code "7/Y"), originally banded on 23 September 2000 in its first year (Figure 2), an adult female ("9/6") on 27 April 1999 (Figure 3), and a hatch-year male ("D/3") on 17 November 2005 (Figure 3), all at Long Beach. We believe the latter bird almost certainly was the same individual observed at that site on 18 October and 16 November 2005. Although the body measurements of these falcons were indicative of *F. p. tundrius* (i.e., they were all small falcons), there is substantial overlap in the values of *F. p. tundrius* and *F. p. anatum* (e.g., White et al. 2002), making it difficult to use the measurements we recorded to identify the birds to subspecies. In addition to these records there are five Washington recoveries of Alaska-banded tundra falcons, plus five other observations of falcons seen but not captured during our surveys, two museum specimens, and two other sighting reports that were not part of our coastal surveys that we classified as tundra falcons (Table 1).

There is limited information on the timing of migration of tundra falcons in western North America. Autumn migrants arrive on the southern coast of Texas in late September in some years, but more typically in the first two weeks in October (Hunt 1966). The occasional arrival of falcons in very early September was believed to involve nonbreeders or

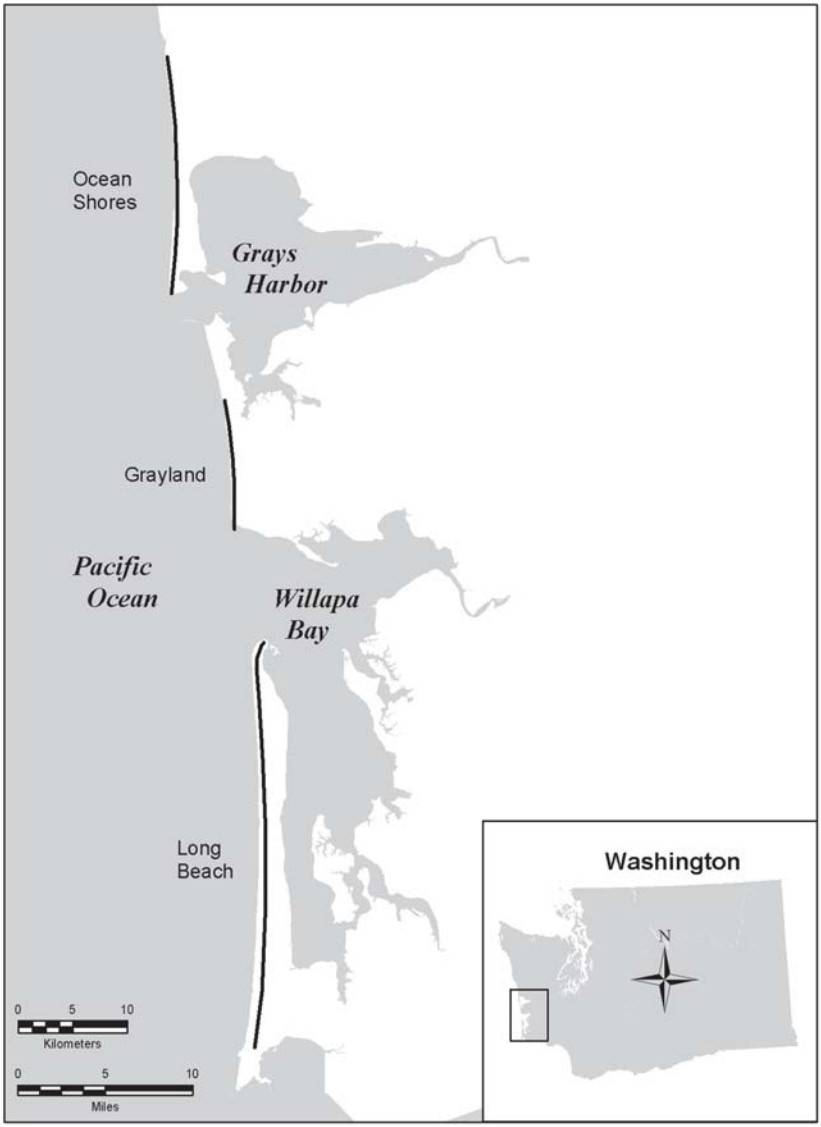

Figure 1. Raptor survey transects on three coastal beaches—Ocean Shores, Grayland and Long Beach—in western Washington.

Figure 2. Tundra Peregrine Falcon, banded with black/blue color band 7/Y, at Long Beach, Pacific County, Washington. The photographs on the left side of each pair were taken on 9 November 2000 (T. Fleming) when the falcon was in juvenile plumage; those on the right were taken on 24 February 2002 (D. Varland) when the falcon was in adult plumage. This falcon was first captured on 23 September 2000.

Figure 3. Tundra Peregrine Falcons captured and color banded at Long Beach, Pacific County, Washington. The top photo shows a female in adult plumage (27 April 1999, color band 9/6; photograph by D. Varland). The bottom photo shows a male in juvenile plumage (17 November 2005, color band D/3; photograph by T. Fleming).

Table 1. Tundra peregrines encountered in Washington, 1913-2007. The data include museum specimens (records 1-2), falcons banded as nestlings in tundra habitat in Alaska (records 3-7), falcons trapped and banded in Washington (records 8-10), and visual observations (records 11-17). Records 8 through 17 were from this study.

Record No.	Type	Age	Sex	Date	Location	County
1	specimen	1st yr	F	8 Nov 1913	Nisqually Flats	Thurston
2	specimen	1st yr	F	9 Oct 1995	Whidbey Island	Island
3	nestling	1st yr	F	15 Oct 1959	near Humptulips	Grays Harbor
4	nestling	1st yr	M	28 Oct 1982	near Rochester	Thurston
5	nestling	1st yr	U	19 Nov 1999	near Bremerton	Kitsap
6	nestling	1st yr	U	4 Jun 1990	near Hansville	Kitsap
7	nestling	1st yr	U	8 Oct 1995	near Oak Harbor	Island
8	trapped	adult	F	27 Apr 1999	Long Beach	Pacific
9	trapped	1st yr	F	23 Sep 2000	Long Beach	Pacific
10	trapped	1st yr	M	17 Nov 2005	Long Beach	Pacific
11	visual	adult	U	26 Apr 1982	Totten Inlet	Mason
12	visual	adult	U	18 Apr 2000	Long Beach	Pacific
13	visual	adult	U	10 Sep 2002	Ocean Shores	Grays Harbor
14	visual	adult	U	14 May 2003	Grayland	Grays Harbor
15	visual	1st yr	F	28 Sep 2003	Long Beach	Pacific
16	visual	adult	U	11 Oct 2003	Long Beach	Pacific
17	visual	1st yr	M	2 Dec 2005	Ocean Shores	Grays Harbor

Record 1: Specimen no. UCLA 7906; from Hayes and Buchanan (2002). **2**: Specimen no. UWMB 62063; from Hayes and Buchanan (2002). **3**: Banded (527-99606) on 1 August 1959 on the Colville River (northern Alaska) by Tom Cade; from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab and Anderson et al. (1988). **4**: Banded (987-30584) on 28 July 1982 on the Colville River by Ted Swem; from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab and Anderson et al. (1988). **5**: Banded (987-70561) on 21 July 1986 on the Colville River by Ted Swem; from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab and Hayes and Buchanan (2002). **6**: Banded (1807-02205) on 24 July 1989 near Teller, Alaska, by Ted Swem; from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab and Hayes and Buchanan (2002). **7**: Banded (1807-43428) on 18 July 1995 on the Colville River by Ted Swem; from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bird Banding Lab and Hayes and Buchanan (2002). **8**: Banded (816-52702; black/blue 9/6) on 27 April 1999; no re-sightings. **9**: Banded (1807-63275; black/blue 7/Y) on 23 September 2000; re-sighted on numerous occasions (see Table 2). **10**: Banded (2206-05108; black/blue D/3) on 17 November 2005; no re-sightings. **11**: Non-survey observation by JBB. **12-17**: Survey observations.

those with failed nests (Hunt 1966). Observations of tundra falcons at Southeast Farallon Island, California, were made from 26 September to 17 November between 1981 and 1999; the mean arrival date in the years 1990 to 1999 (n = 10 falcons) was 19 October (Earnheart-Gold and Pyle 2001). The occurrence dates of tundra falcon autumn migrants in Washington ranged from 10 September to 22 November, with a median date of 13 October (Figure 4), matching closely with these other studies, both of which occurred substantially farther south than ours. We suggest that the adult falcon we observed on 10 September was a non-breeder or had failed its nest attempt and made an early departure from the breeding area.

Our records from spring support the position of Herman and Bulger (1981) that small numbers of tundra falcons migrate along the Washington coast in spring. The dates of our spring migrant records (Table 1, Figure 4) appear typical of Peregrine Falcons that breed in higher-latitudes (White et al. 2002). Although the records from May and early June may seem late, some Peregrine Falcons that breed in higher latitudes are still migrating at the latitude of Washington during mid- to late-May (White et al. 2002; information from Falcon Research Group website). The June falcon was found dead and we do not know how long it had been dead when recovered.

WINTER OCCURRENCE OF TUNDRA FALCONS IN WASHINGTON

On 23 September 2000, D. Varland, S. Tomlinson, T. McBride and J. Herman captured and banded a hatch-year female tundra falcon (Figure 2) on the Long Beach Peninsula. This bird, color banded "7/Y", was subsequently observed in nine of 51 surveys, all at Long Beach, until she was

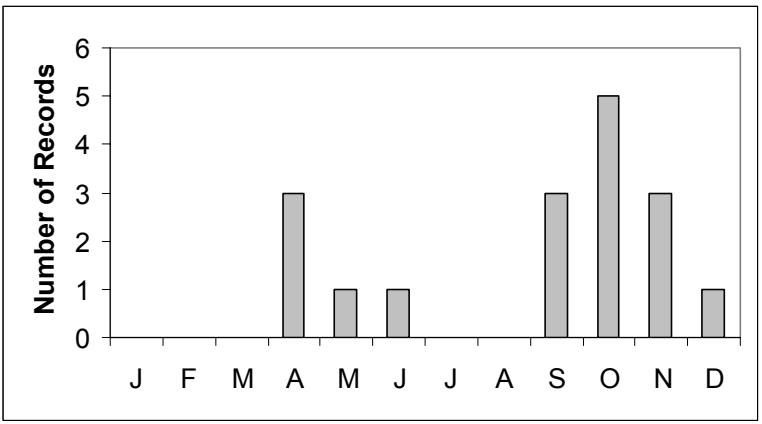

Figure 4. Initial occurrence by month of individual tundra falcons in Washington based on 17 records derived from personal observation, capture and banding, and information presented in Hayes and Buchanan (2002).

Table 2. Details of observations of "7/Y", a tundra falcon that was captured and banded on 23 September 2000, and subsequently spent at least portions of two winters on the Long Beach Peninsula, Washington.

Year	Season[a]			Age	Mean distance (km) between capture and re-sighting locations (N; range)
	Fall	Winter	Spring		
2000-01	23 Sep, 9 Nov	10 Feb	11, 12 Mar	< 1	0.8 (4; 0.0 – 1.8)
2001-02		2, 24 Feb	11, 17 Mar	1	1.9 (4; 0.8 – 3.2)
2002-03			3 Mar	2	1.4 (1; NA)

[a] Fall = Sep – Nov; Winter = Dec – Feb; Spring = Mar – May.

last observed in 2003 (Table 2). We saw her on three winter/early spring surveys during 2000-2001 and on four winter/early spring surveys during 2001-2002. After 17 March 2002, she was not seen again until early March of 2003, indicating undetected presence or use of a different area that winter. All nine re-sightings of 7/Y were within 3.2 km of her initial capture and banding location (Table 2).

The outer coastal beaches of Washington support high densities of shorebirds (Buchanan 1992) and other falcon prey during winter. Peregrine 7/Y was engaged in feeding behavior on five of the 10 surveys in which she was encountered: hunting shorebirds (n = 2), feeding on unidentified small birds (n = 2) and flying with prey (n = 1). Although the mere presence of abundant prey does not explain the winter distribution of this subspecies, it may help to explain the choice made by 7/Y to discontinue her migration so far north of the normal winter range for tundra falcons. It is noteworthy that 7/Y returned in the winter of 2001-2002 as a yearling. Other Peregrine Falcons banded on the study area have exhibited interyear site fidelity (D. Varland, unpublished data). We suspect 7/Y spent the winter of 2002-2003 somewhere in the vicinity because the observation on 3 March was too early for the return of migrant tundra falcons at this latitude (Palmer 1988). To our knowledge, this is one of a few, if not the only, winter record of a tundra falcon from this far north on the Pacific coast and is the first documented, multi-year, over-wintering occurrence of a tundra falcon in Washington State. The presence of other tundra falcons in coastal Washington in late autumn and early winter (e.g., an observation, possibly of D/3, was made on 2 December 2005 at Ocean Shores) suggests the possibility of additional tundra falcons spending the winter in this area.

SUMMARY

Our observations and banding data, in addition to previous information, indicate that tundra falcons migrate through western Washington,

although in numbers far lower than *F. p. pealei* or *F. p. anatum*. We assembled 17 records of tundra falcons from fall, winter and spring between 1913 and 2007, nine of which were from our coastal study area from 1995 to May 2007. Only three of 109 Peregrine Falcons that we banded in this period were tundra falcons. The period of autumn occurrence (migration) that we recorded – generally late September through mid-November – is similar to that reported from Texas (Hunt 1966) and California (Earnheart-Gold and Pyle 2001). Spring migrants of this subspecies occur substantially less frequently in the region than autumn migrants. A single falcon spent two, and probably three winters in coastal Washington, far north of the documented winter range of the subspecies. These winter records are the first for tundra falcons from Washington and perhaps are the northernmost winter records for such falcons in continental North America.

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ERRATUM

Two errors were noted in the recent paper on Green-tailed Towhees (M. Denny and W. Dowdy, Washington Birds 9:20-23). The genus for both the Green-tailed Towhee and Spotted Towhee was incorrectly spelled *Papilo*. The correct spelling is *Pipilo*.