

## FIRST REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## EVALUATION PROCEDURES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## EVALUATION OF EXPERTISE

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

## THE ORIGIN OF RARITIES

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

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

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

#### RECORD ACCEPTANCE

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

#### THE RECORDS

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

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

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

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

#### ABBREVIATIONS

# specimen ; + photograph or videotape submitted

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

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

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

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

#### ACCEPTED RECORDS

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



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

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



Manx Shearwater, 10 Oct 1992 (T. Wahl)

equivocally documented Manx Shearwater in the North Pacific Ocean. There are numerous sight reports of small "black-and-white" shearwaters in the Northeast Pacific, and, although Roberson (1980) suggested that Manx Shearwaters from the Atlantic Ocean may wander north in the Pacific if they round Cape Horn from southern South

American waters, where they regularly occur, the great majority have been considered unidentifiable to species, as there are several possible species and descriptions were not sufficiently detailed to distinguish them. The California Bird Records Committee (Dunn 1988) has yet to accept a record of Manx from that state and, similarly, rejected a sight report of the rather similar Townsend's (Langham 1991). There are four reports of such birds from Oregon between 10 September and 3 November (Schmidt 1989) and two earlier reports from Washington yet to be reviewed by the Committee. Although Manx and Black-vented Shearwaters were at one time

Manx Shearwater, 10 Oct 1992 (T. Wahl)



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

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

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

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

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



Falcated Teal, 3 Jan 1979  
(K. Greenfield)

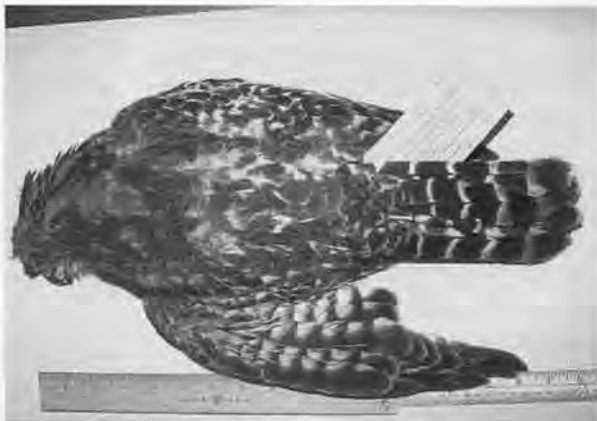


Steller's Eider, 18 Oct 1986  
(A. Ferkovich)

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

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

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



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



Piping Plover,  
15 Jul 1990 (J. Acton)

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

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

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

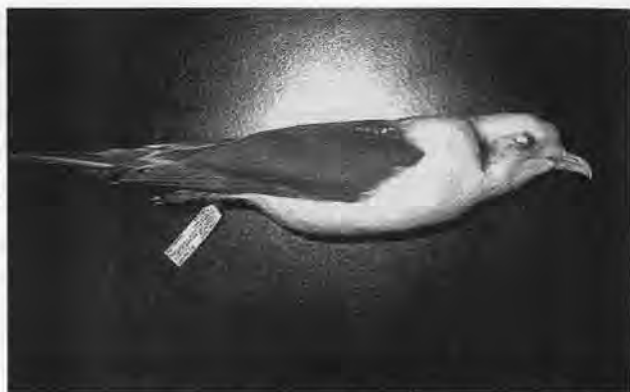
HUDSONIAN GODWIT. Juvenile at Leadbetter Point, PA, on 8 Sep 1990, NLe (HUGO-90-1); one at Ocean Shores, GH, on 8 Sep 1990, RSu (HUGO-90-2); juvenile at Othello, AD, from 25-29 Aug 1992, RHi+ (HUGO-92-2); juvenile at Ocean Shores, GH, from 12 Sep-4 Oct 1992, TSc (HUGO-92-3). Approximately 12 earlier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

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

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

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

**RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE.** Adult found dead at Lake Ozette, CL, on 1 Dec 1978, MLa, #TESC 207 (RLKI-78-1); adult off Westport, GH, on 19 Jan 1991, EH<sub>u</sub>, DP<sub>a</sub> (RLKI-91-1). At least one other report has not been reviewed yet.



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

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

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



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

**PARAKEET AUKLET.** One off Westport, GH, on 20 Apr 1991, WC<sub>a</sub>, CE<sub>c</sub>, TH<sub>a</sub>, BL<sub>a</sub>, HV<sub>a</sub>, SR<sub>o</sub>+ (PAAU-91-1); one off Westport, GH, on 25 Apr 1992, EH<sub>u</sub>, BT<sub>w</sub> (PAAU-92-1). Other published records, primarily based on beached dead birds, have not been reviewed by the Committee.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Siberian Accentor,  
30 Oct 1983 (D. Paulson)



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

has reviewed to date.

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

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



Hooded Warbler, 12 Feb 1976  
(E. Spragg)



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

Indigo Bunting,  
19 May 1992 (S. Vernon)



Lark Bunting,  
10 Sep 1991 (G. Bowman)



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

#### R U S T Y BLACKBIRD.

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



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



Orchard Oriole, 15 Dec 1991  
(K. Aanerud)

Hooded Oriole,  
25 Apr 1992 (H. Reisbick)



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



## RECORDS ACCEPTED FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## REJECTED REPORTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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*Manuscript received 20 June 1994*