

# WESTERN BIRDS



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## TWELFTH REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (2016–2018)

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**ABSTRACT:** Since its eleventh report (Merrill et al. 2019) the Washington Bird Records Committee has reviewed 219 new reports of 80 species and 9 subspecies. Of these, 163 were accepted, an acceptance rate of 74%. Seven species and two subspecies/subspecies-groups were added to the Washington state checklist: the Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*), Swallow-tailed Gull (*Creagrus furcatus*), Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*), Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*), and Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*), plus an eastern subspecies of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia melodia/atlantica* group) and the White-winged Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis aikeni*). In addition to the regular review of reports, the committee reconsidered species on the state list supported only by sight reports. After reviewing 25 reports of 17 species, it removed six species from the state list: the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Little Curlew (*Numenius minimus*), Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), Whiskered Auklet (*Aethia pygmaea*), Red-faced Cormorant (*Urile urile*), and Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*). The Washington state list now stands at 515 species.

This 12th report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) is the result of the deliberations of the WBRC from February 2017 through October 2018, during which it evaluated 246 reports. These include 219 new reports of 80 species and 9 subspecies. Most reports were from late 2016 into 2018, though 26 of the new reports were from earlier years, as far back as 1978. An additional two previously accepted reports were augmented with accepted details of sightings on later dates. Of the 219 new reports, 163 were accepted, resulting in an acceptance rate of 74%. One report, of the Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), was not accepted because of concerns regarding the bird's origin. The remaining 55 reports were not accepted because of insufficient documentation. Among the accepted records were those of seven species, one subspecies, and one subspecies-group new for Washington.

Six species were removed from the review list in 2018: the Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (29 records, 19 since 2009), Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (27 records, 20 since 2009), Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (25 records, 21 since 2009), Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) (51 records, 23 since 2009), Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) (44 records, 25 since 2009), and Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) (43 records, 22 since 2009). In addition, one subspecies group, the Red Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca* group) (28 records, 20 since 2008) was removed from the review list.

## PROCEDURES

The committee's procedures are consistent with those detailed in the introduction to the first WBRC report (Tweit and Paulson 1994), expanded on in the introduction to the sixth report (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006) and repeated most recently in the eleventh report (Merrill et al. 2019).

Species accounts begin with English and scientific names, followed by the total number of records for Washington and the number of records accepted in this report in parentheses. An asterisk following the total number of records indicates that the species has been reviewed for a restricted period of time, so the number does not represent the total number of reports for the state. Each entry includes the following information: location and county of observation, date span, and (for accepted records) initials of the observer(s). To aid with record-keeping and future reference, each report includes a unique file number consisting of the species' four-letter code, year of the sighting, and entry number, determined by the order received by the committee. For the sake of brevity, in the species accounts below, the four-letter code is omitted from file numbers after the first mentioned report. The initials of the observers who submitted only written descriptions are by convention listed first, followed by those who submitted photographic, video, or audio documentation. The discoverer of the bird is listed only if that person contributed evidence for committee review. When possible, we include additional details such as the number of birds present and notes on their sex, age, and/or plumage; these do not reflect a formal decision made by the committee. For reports not accepted, observers are not listed but the committee's vote is included (votes to accept–votes not to accept–abstentions).

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The WBRC is a committee of the Washington Ornithological Society. Committee members during the period covered by this report were Shawneen Finnegan, Ryan Merrill, Ryan Shaw, Bill Shelmerdine (from 2017), Dave Slager, Bill Tweit, Brad Waggoner (chair), and Charlie Wright (until 2017). Bill Shelmerdine joined the committee in 2016, replacing Ryan Merrill. Ryan Merrill rejoined the committee in 2017, replacing Charlie Wright. Matt Bartels (nonvoting) was the secretary throughout the period.

## RE-REVIEW OF SIGHT RECORDS

After years of debate, in 2018 the committee decided to revisit those species on the state list supported only by sight reports. In recent years, much research has been published concerning the reliability of eyewitness accounts (see Mlodinow 2012), leading several bird records committees to re-evaluate their criteria for accepting sightings (e.g., Garvey et al. 2015), particularly single-observer sightings. After reviewing relevant literature, and debating the appropriate criteria for accepting sight reports over the course of several meetings, the committee adopted revised criteria that reflect the current state of scientific knowledge concerning human observers. Some of the ongoing debate was rooted in committee members' concerns about revisiting past WBRC decisions, but the committee reached consensus that new evidence concerning the reliability of eyewitnesses, and consideration of the evidence by other rarities committees, justified re-evaluation.

Broadly stated, the committee adopted the principle “exceptional records require exceptional documentation” as the fundamental criterion for evaluating whether or not a species has been documented well enough to be included on the Washington list. In the committee’s judgment, this approach balances the known biases and errors that can influence human observers with the relative degree of rarity or the improbability of occurrence. Since the state list is intended to be a conservative baseline of status and distribution for future reference, both human fallibility and avian distributional probability must be taken into account. In general, the committee will be less inclined to accept sight reports of species with little history of vagrancy to the Pacific Northwest, even if the reports themselves have a high degree of credibility, than sightings of species with an established pattern of vagrancy extending to our region. The committee will apply the highest standards of proof to the former example, and might not require similar exceptional levels of proof for species in the latter category. The committee recognizes that some of these reconsiderations might result in the invalidation of accurate reports; the goal is to compile and maintain a list that confidently and accurately comprises the birds known from Washington State.

The WBRC re-examined all reports of all species on the Washington list supported only by written descriptions, which consisted of 27 reports of 18 species. We reversed the earlier decision in eight of these cases, resulting in the removal of six species from the Washington state list.

## Removed from State List

The original decisions to accept these sightings were overturned on reconsideration at the February 2018 meeting. For all but the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), for which other records were reaffirmed, this resulted in the removal of these species from the state list.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (*Archilochus colubris*) (0, 0). One reported in Liberty, Kittitas Co., 28 Jun 1992 [RTHU-1992-1, Tweet and Skirletz (1996), revote: 0-7-0]. On review the committee concluded that Anna’s Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) had not been conclusively eliminated. At the time of the sighting, Anna’s Hummingbirds were still beginning their rapid expansion into the state and were especially rare on the east side of the Cascades where there were fewer than 10 previ-

ous reports. A forked tail, considered diagnostic at the time for the Ruby-throated but now also known for male Anna's, was noted, as was red on the gorget but not on the crown. Since the only mark considered diagnostic was the absence of red on the crown, the committee determined that the record did not meet sufficiently stringent criteria, as the Ruby-throated Hummingbird remains an exceptional rarity in the Pacific Northwest. A recent record, supported by photographs (RTHU-2017-1), has been accepted by the WBRC but has yet to be published.

**Little Curlew** (*Numenius minutus*) (0, 0). One reported at Leadbetter Point, Pacific Co., 6 May 2001 [LICU-2001-1, Aanerud (2002), revote: 0-7-0]. Although the bird was possibly this species, the details observed and reported were not conclusive. In particular, the WBRC discussed at length the question of whether the report convincingly eliminated the Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). The lack of barring on the underwings was used as one field mark, but this can be affected by lighting conditions, and the barring on an Upland Sandpiper can be subtle. The bill length as described was ambiguous. The description of the call, while not wrong for a Little Curlew, also did not eliminate some of the variations possible in Upland Sandpiper vocalizations. For such an extraordinary sighting of a species that remains exceptionally rare in the New World, the committee discontinued endorsing the report.

**Great Knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) (0, 0). One reported at La Push, Clallam Co., 6 Sep 1979 [GRKN-1979-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 0-7-0]. The possibility of a Great Knot × Surfbird (*C. virgata*) was a concern because in 2009 and 2012 one was documented in California (*N. Am. Birds* 64:154, 2010; 66:733, 2013). When the WBRC initially reviewed the Washington report, it was not aware of this “Surfknot” hybrid as a possibility. The details provided for the Washington bird were not sufficient to make this distinction. One in Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003) remains the only Great Knot recorded on the west coast of North America south of Alaska.

**Whiskered Auklet** (*Aethia pygmaea*) (0, 0). One reported at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., Island Co., 16–17 May 1999 [WHAU-1999-1, Aanerud (2002), revote: 0-7-0]. The committee focused on whether a juvenile Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) was convincingly eliminated. Three factors influenced the re-evaluation: long-distance dispersal by the Whiskered Auklet is unknown (Gaston and Jones 1998); young Cassin's Auklets can appear in May (Ainley et al. 2011), something not appreciated at the time of the initial review of this record; and the difficulty of distinguishing juvenile Cassin's from juvenile Whiskered (Gaston and Jones 1998). These three factors combined with the great distance at which this bird was observed left the identification uncertain.

**Red-faced Cormorant** (*Urile urile*) (0, 0). One reported off the mouth of the Elwha River, Clallam Co., 8 May 1999 [RFCO-1999-1, Aanerud (2002), revote: 0-7-0]. A record from Haida Gwaii, British Columbia (BCBRC 2019) is the only one east of south-central Alaska and, in the western Pacific, there are few records south of Hokkaido (Brazil 1991). With no precedent for dispersal of this distance by a Red-faced Cormorant, the committee concluded the description did not eliminate a Pelagic Cormorant (*U. pelagicus*) with a pale gray bill, which can appear yellowish in some lights (see <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/178341591>, <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/173694011>, <https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/164029311>).

**Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) (4, 1). One reported at Washtucna, Adams Co., 20 Aug 2005 [PHVI-2005-1, Merrill and Bartels (2015), revote: 1-6-0]. On review, the WBRC concluded the details did not eliminate a Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*). Another, reported at Hooper, Whitman Co., 3 Jun 2007 [PHVI-2007-1, Merrill and Bartels (2015), revote: 0-7-0] was observed briefly, and the description did not eliminate the possibility of a bright Warbling Vireo.



**Gray-cheeked Thrush** (*Catharus minimus*) (0, 0). One reported at McNary National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Walla Walla Co., 6 Oct 1990 [GCTH-1990-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 2-5-0]. Since this species is an exceptional rarity on the west coast south of Alaska (Clement 2000), the committee was concerned that this report, of a silent bird in the shade, did not adequately distinguish this species from other *Catharus* species. Without more detailed evidence, this report was not sufficient to add the Gray-cheeked Thrush to the state list.

### Reaffirmed Sight Records

The following sightings were reaffirmed in this process, and their standing on the state list remains.

**Common Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*) (1, 0). An immature at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish Co., 23 Sep 2006 [CRPL-2006-1, Aanerud (2011), revote: 7-0-0] was identified by both field marks and call. There are now five documented records for California (Tietz and McCaskie 2021).

**Jack Snipe** (*Lymanocryptes minimus*) (1, 0). One reported at the Skagit Wildlife Area, Skagit Co., 9 Sep 1993 [JASN-1993-1, Tweit and Skritetz (1996), revote: 7-0-0]. This species has also been recorded in Alaska, Oregon, and California (Paulson 2005, Howell et al. 2014), and being so cryptic it is considered more likely to occur than current records imply. The committee was also persuaded by details about the bird's "bobbing" behavior, a characteristic of the Jack Snipe not widely known at the time of the sighting.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanites oceanicus*) (4, 0). One observed off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 23 Jul 1984 [WISP-1984-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 7-0-0]. Another found 48 km off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 6 Sep 2001 [2001-1, Aanerud (2002), revote: 7-0-0]. One was 50 km W of Cape Shoalwater, Pacific Co. (46.733° N, 124.733° W), 12 Jul 2003 [2003-1, Mlodinow and Aanerud (2008), revote: 7-0-0]. One more off was found Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 7 Aug 2005 [2005-1, Aanerud (2011), revote: 7-0-0]. Wilson's Storm-Petrel is a rare to locally uncommon visitor to the northeast Pacific (Howell 2012). A recent record, supported by photographs (WISP-2020-1), has been accepted by the WBRC but has yet to be published; it removes this species from the sight-record-only category.

**California Condor** (*Gymnogyps californianus*) (1, 0). One reported near Wind River, Skamania Co., 30 Oct 1805 [CACO-1805-1, Aanerud and Mattocks (1997), revote: 7-0-0]. This record, and another more recently accepted sight record (CACO-1805-2), are both documented in the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition, which reference diagnostic measurements from specimens that apparently are no longer extant. Additional reports, and field sketches, from the Oregon side of the river can be found in the journals of the expedition, giving the committee confidence that the observers were familiar with the species and that it was of regular occurrence in the area.

**White-eyed Vireo** (*Vireo griseus*) (1, 0). A singing bird was found on Vashon I., King Co., 11 Jul 1981 [WEVI-1981-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 6-1-0]. Details of the song as well as field marks were well described.

**Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) (4, 1). One was at Summer Falls, Grant Co., 25 Sep 1991 [PHVI-1991-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 7-0-0]. One was at Upper Crab Creek near Ritzville, Lincoln Co., 7 Jun 2002 [2002-1, Mlodinow and Aanerud (2006), revote: 7-0-0]. Another was at Vantage, Kittitas Co., 29 May 2004 [2004-1, Mlodinow and Aanerud (2008), revote: 7-0-0]. A recent record, supported by photographs (PHVI-2021-1), has been accepted by the WBRC but has yet to be published; it removes this species from the sight-record-only category.

**Phainopepla** (*Phainopepla nitens*) (1, 0). One was in West Seattle, King Co., 24 Sep 1994 [PHAI-1994-1, Tweit and Skriletz (1996), revote: 7-0-0]. A recent record, supported by photographs (PHAI-2018-1), has been accepted by the WBRC but has yet to be published; it removes this species from the sight-record-only category.

**Dusky Thrush** (*Turdus eunomus*) (1, 0). One was at Mount Vernon, Skagit Co., 27 Jun 2002 [DUTH-2002-1, Mlodinow and Aanerud (2006), revote: 7-0-0]. Although the date is exceptional, there is a pattern of vagrancy of this species to both the western Palearctic and the New World, particularly Alaska (Clement 2000). Three late-spring and summer records of this distinctive species from areas other than western Alaska might represent birds that wintered in North America (Howell et al. 2014).

**Red-throated Pipit** (*Anthus cervinus*) (2, 0). One was at American Camp, San Juan I., San Juan Co., 14 and 16 Sep 1979 [RTPI-1979-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 7-0-0]. One was found on Bainbridge I., Kitsap Co., 7 May 2004 [2004-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 7-0-0].

**Nelson's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza nelsoni*) (1, 0). One was seen at Sullivan Lake, Pend Oreille Co., 14 Sep 1986 [NESP-1986-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 7-0-0].

**Kentucky Warbler** (*Geothlypis formosa*) (1, 0). One was found at Darrington, Snohomish Co., 14 Jun 1992 [KEWA-1992-1, Tweit and Paulson (1994), revote: 7-0-0]. Although this species is typically rare as a vagrant to the west coast, 1992 was exceptional with at least 38 recorded that spring and summer in California (Hamilton et al. 2007). The Washington report included descriptions of both field marks and song.

In addition to the above, four additional species supported only by sight reports remain on the state checklist. In the case of the Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*), the committee deferred review of MOUW-2001-1 (Aanerud 2002) and MOUW-2007-1 (Merrill and Bartels 2015) until it can reconsider the reports in the light of more information about hybridization with MacGillivray's Warbler (*G. tolmiei*). The other cases involve more recent sightings to which the WBRC's current standards were already applied: a Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) in 2014 (SPRE-2014-1, Merrill et al. 2019), a Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*) in 2008 (GRPE-2014-1, Merrill and Bartels 2015), and a Thick-billed Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) in 2013 (TBLO-2013-1, Mlodinow and Bartels 2016).

## NEW REPORTS ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

**Emperor Goose** (*Anser canagicus*) (14\*, 1). An adult at Dungeness Bay, Dungeness, Clallam Co., 11–27 Dec 2016 (EMGO-2016-1; photos: BBo, JoG, AP, BPe, JVa) fits the primarily coastal distribution of prior records.

**Falcated Duck** (*Mareca falcata*) (5, 1). A male was found in Padilla Bay, Skagit Co., 15–17 Jan 2017 (FADU-2017-1; photos: GBl, MCh, JGl, EHe, Rkl, ToM, RJM, GO, OO, JRo, DSc, GTh; Figure 1). Three of Washington's five Falcated Ducks have been found at Padilla Bay, a location for large flocks of wintering American Wigeons (*M. americana*) that often contain a high percentage of Eurasian Wigeons (*M. penelope*). All of the state's sightings of the Falcated Duck have been in western Washington, and all but one in the winter. Reports to <https://eBird.org> show a clear pattern linking occurrences of the Falcated Duck to years of high abundance of the Eurasian Wigeon: the Falcated Duck records since 2000 are from three of the five years of highest peaks of Eurasian Wigeon abundance from 2000 to 2019. The timing of the Falcated Ducks' appearance also generally coincided with the Eurasian Wigeon's peak in each year (Table 1). Likewise, Oregon's first record, Feb–Mar



FIGURE 1. This Falcated Duck (FADU-2017-1) was in Padilla Bay, Skagit Co., 15–17 Jan 2017 (photo: 16 Jan 2017).

Photo by Doug Schurman

2004, coincided with a year of unusually high Eurasian Wigeon counts in that state (Mlodinow et al. 2004).

**Common Eider** (*Somateria mollissima*) (4, 1). A female was off Purdy Spit, Pierce Co., 6 Jan–9 May 2017 (COEI-2017-1; photos: JGL, EHe, LHu, JMi, GO, OO, MPe, CRi, CRu, DSc, RSh, RiM, JVā; video: WB). The photos were inadequate for the subspecies to be identified conclusively (Able et al. 2014). Oregon has one record of the Common Eider (Oregon Bird Records Committee [OBRC] 2021), California has three (Tietz and McCaskie 2021), and British Columbia has two (BCBRC 2019).

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) (15, 2). One was in Selah, Yakima Co., 10–13 Jul 2017 (WWDO-2017-2; photos: KLu, LML, EP). One was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 15 Dec 2017–5 Mar 2018 (2017-3; BT, photos: ToM, RJM, GO, OO, SPe, DPo). The latter is the first White-winged Dove known to have overwintered in Washington, while the former is the 11<sup>th</sup> for the period of April to July.

**TABLE 1** Correlation of Washington Records of the Falcated Duck with Peak Counts of the Eurasian Wigeon, Skagit Co., Washington, 2000–2019

	Eurasian Wigeon		Falcated Duck	
	Peak abundance	Timing of peak	Present?	Dates
2000–19 average	0.6	Early Mar		
Five years of greatest Eurasian Wigeon abundance				
2002	26.4	Early Mar	Yes	21 Feb–26 Mar
2003	4.0	Jan	No	
2005	1.6	Early Mar	Yes	27 Feb
2014	2.3	Early Mar	No	
2017	1.4	Mid-Jan	Yes	15–17 Jan

<sup>a</sup>As expressed by reports to <https://eBird.org>; <https://eBird.org/barchart?byr=2000&eyr=2019&bmo=1&emo=12&r=US-WA-057&spp=eurwig> (25 Jul 2021).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*) (13\*, 1). One was found on the Little Pend Oreille NWR, Stevens Co., 2 Sep 2017 (YBCU-2017-1; Sch, PR). It is one of only three Yellow-billed Cuckoos found in Washington since 1979 in months other than June or July.

**Purple Gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinicus*) (1, 1). The first state record of this species is based on the wing of an adult found on Hobuck Beach, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 14 Dec 2017 by surveyors with the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST; PUGA-2017-1; photos: JL, NM, fide CWR, Univ. of Wash. Burke Mus. 107348; Figure 2). This species, like many other rallids, is well-known as a long-distance vagrant (see Farnsworth et al. 2014), but there are few records from western North America (Hamilton et al. 2007). The six California records are all in fall (Tietz and McCaskie 2021). As an adult, on a very late date, and at a coastal location, Washington's Purple Gallinule is especially noteworthy.

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) (12, 1). A molting adult was at Point Roberts Lighthouse, Whatcom Co., 16 Sep 2017 (CUSA-2017-1; photos: MLa). This bird was also seen nearby in British Columbia before and after this sighting, on 10 and 17 Sep (BCBRC 2019).

**Red-necked Stint** (*Calidris ruficollis*) (8, 1). One in alternate plumage was at Crockett Lake, Whidbey I., Island Co., 8–12 Jul 2017 (RNST-2017-1; photos: BK, AL, ToM, RJM, AP, CRI, JSt, GTh, AMW). All Red-necked Stints seen in Washington have been adults, from late June to early August.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** (*Calidris fuscicollis*) (9, 1). One in alternate plumage was at the Hoquiam sewage-treatment plant, Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., 27 May 2018 (WRSA-2018-1; photos: PO). Although all eastern Washington records are from late May to late June, this is the first western Washington record in May, the others extending from 7 Jul to 1 Aug.

**Scripps's Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus scrippsii*) (20\*, 1). Two birds were about 30 km W of Westport, Grays Harbor Co. (46.9° N, 124.5° W), 13 Sep 1998 (SCMU-1998-2; BT). The WBRC removed Scripps's Murrelet from its review list in 2014 but continues reviewing earlier reports.

**Guadalupe Murrelet** (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) (3, 1). Two birds were 60 km WSW of Westport, Grays Harbor Co. (46.75° N, 124.90° W), 22 Jul 2017 (GUMU-2017-1; BSh, photos: MM). This species' occurrence in Washington's waters seems to correlate with anomalous ocean conditions, as the three records were in 2003 (a strong El Niño year), 2015 (a very strong marine heat wave), and 2017 (see the following discussion of the Swallow-tailed Gull).

**Swallow-tailed Gull** (*Creagrurus furcatus*) (1, 1). Washington's first Swallow-tailed Gull appeared at Carkeek Park, Seattle, King Co., and then was found 8 and 34 km farther north, respectively, at Point Wells, Edmonds, and Everett Marina, Everett, Snohomish Co., 31 Aug–10 Sep 2017 (STGU-2017-1; MtB, photos: MBr, DGu, ToM, RJM, GO, OO, CRI, JSt, BWa, AMW; Figure 3). This is the northernmost record of this species. A subsequent record from Bodega Head, California, on 5 Oct 2017, might have represented the Puget Sound bird returning south (Singer et al. 2020).

Two prior California records were associated with significant warm-water anomalies in the eastern Pacific: the major El Niño of 1982/83 preceded the 1985 record, and the 1996 record followed a lengthy period of above-average sea-surface temperatures from 1991 to 1995. These factors led the California Bird Records Committee to accept both records as representing natural occurrences (Hamilton et al. 2007). The year 2017 was highly unusual in the eastern North Pacific: it followed both the very strong El Niño of 2015/16, which was comparable in intensity to that





FIGURE 2. This Purple Gallinule wing (PUGA-2017-1) was found by COASST volunteers on Hobuck Beach, Clallam Co., on 14 Dec 2017.

*Photo by Nancy Messmer and Janet Lamont*



FIGURE 3. Washington's first Swallow-tailed Gull (STGU-2017-1) was in King and Snohomish counties, 31 Aug–10 Sep 2017 (photo: 31 Aug 2017).

*Photo by Grace and Ollie Oliver*

of 1982/83 (Jacox et al. 2016), and the marine heat wave of 2014/15, the largest ever recorded (Di Lorenzo and Mantua 2016). These oceanographic events were almost certainly the cause of numerous anomalous distributions of pelagic organisms; examples included unprecedented dispersals of pyrosomes (Brodeur et al. 2018) and Nazca Boobies (*Sula granti*) into the North Pacific, with both reaching as far north as the Gulf of Alaska (Gibson et al. 2018).

**Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (22, 1). One in alternate plumage was observed over the Nisqually River mudflats, Nisqually, Pierce Co., 28–29 Apr 2018 (BHGU-2018-1; BLB, MRo, photos: WB).

**Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) (4\*, 2). A nonbreeding bird, apparently in second-year plumage, was found at Hobuck Beach, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 17 May 2017 (LIGU-2017-1; photos: MiB). One was off Point No Point, Kitsap Co., 13 Oct 2017 (2017-2; KB, photos: BWa). The Little Gull was added to the review list in 2011, following a decline in reports from a high of about six per year in the 1990s (Wahl et al. 2005) to only 13 records in the 2000s.

**Laughing Gull** (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) (9, 1). A breeding-plumaged adult was in Washington's interior at Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., 3 May 2017 (LAGU-2017-1; photos: MA). Only two of the nine records are from the interior. It is intriguing that this same location also hosted the only Elegant Tern recorded in interior Washington, on 26 Jun 2016 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S30404849>). Both species breed in the Sea of Cortez and are regular post-breeding dispersants to the north as well as the west.

**Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*) (25, 4). One in its third plumage cycle was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 12–19 Jan 2017 (SBGU-2017-1; BT; photos: MiB, JoG). An adult was at Westhaven State Park (SP), Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 4 Feb 2017 (2017-2; BSh, photos: WB, RH). Another third-cycle bird was at Hobuck Beach, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 16 Oct 2017 (2017-3; photos: WB). A subadult was along the Puyallup River, Tacoma, Pierce Co., 9–12 Mar 2018 (2018-1; photos: MCh). Finally, an adult at Bateman Island Marina, Kennewick, Benton Co., 12 Nov 2016–21 Jan 2017 and then again 25 Nov 2017–11 Feb 2018 was likely the same individual seen in the same area 8 Jan–27 Feb 2016 (Merrill et al. 2019) (SBGU-2016-1; observers for winter 2016–17: PB, photos: JCL, LHi, video: JCL; for winter 2017–18: photos: JAB, JCL, EHe; video: JCL).

**Arctic Loon** (*Gavia arctica*) (5, 1). A molting adult was in Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 17–18 Dec 2017 (ARLO-2017-1; BWa, photos: BBn, JGI, SPe). The committee maintains a conservative approach to evaluating reports of this species because of its difficulty in identification.

**Short-tailed Albatross** (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (28, 9). The WBRC received data from a study tracking birds by GPS transmitters that included the following nine records (one of them previously reviewed), helping to illustrate how regular the Short-tailed Albatross has become off Washington's coast (R. Orben pers. comm.). Because the birds were tracked over long distances, locations listed are limited here to the counties where they were confirmed: A male in its first flight year, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor and Pacific counties, 25–26 Sep and 15–16 Oct 2009. This individual had been previously reported on the basis of more limited data by Merrill and Bartels (2015; STAL-2009-1; fide RO). A female in its first and second flight years, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties, 27–29 Oct, 31 Oct–1 Nov, 6–11 Dec 2009; 5–7 and 10 Mar 2010; 19–22 Feb 2011 (STAL-2009-2; fide RO). A female in its first and second flight years, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties, 16–18 Mar and 31 May–1 Jun 2010 (STAL-2010-3; fide RO). A male in its first and second flight years, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties, 3–9 Mar, 2–5 and 8 Apr 2010; 14 Feb 2011 (STAL-2010-5; fide RO).

A male in its first and second flight years, Grays Harbor Co., 1–2 Mar 2011; 22 Jan 2012 (STAL-2011-2; fide RO). A female in its first and second flight years, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties, 21–22 Feb, 1 Mar 2011; 15–18 Jan, 18–19, 29 Feb, 2 Mar 2012 (STAL-2011-3; fide RO). A male in its first, second, and third flight years, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties, 21 Jan, 11 Mar 2012; 30–31 Jan, 23–25 Feb, 19 Dec 2013 (STAL-2012-3; fide RO). A female in its first flight year, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties, 25–26 Nov, 23–25 Dec 2012, 7 and 16–18 Feb 2013 (STAL-2012-4; fide RO). A female in its first flight year, Clallam and Grays Harbor counties, 12 Dec 2012; 22–23 Mar 2013 (STAL-2012-5; fide RO). In addition, another immature was 124 km off Cape Johnson, Clallam Co. (47.964° N, 126.360° W), 3 May 2017 (2017-1; photos: KLa). With now 28 records in the state, 20 of them since 2008, and especially given the compelling data provided by the GPS tracking study, the committee was satisfied that Short-tailed Albatross is currently a regular annual visitor to Washington waters, with records in every month of the year. The decision to remove this species from the review list is a recognition that its dramatic global population recovery has been reflected in Washington waters. It went unrecorded for almost a century, then after a sighting in 1993 (Wahl et al. 2005) it took another two decades to accrue 10 records. The global population was estimated at 4200 individuals in 2014 (BirdLife International 2021); recently, NOAA Fisheries (2020) characterized it as fewer than 9000 birds.

**Murphy's Petrel** (*Pterodroma ultima*) (12, 3). One was 93 km WSW of Cape Disappointment, Pacific Co. (46.158° N, 125.265° W), 4 May 2016 (MUPE-2016-3; RTh). Two were seen on 4 May 2017, the first 100 km W of Seaside, Oregon, in Washington waters, Pacific Co. (45.990° N, 125.228° W; 2017-1; PL), and another was seen 3 km farther north on the same day, Pacific Co. (46.011° N, 125.229° W; 2017-2; PL; photos: AAb).

**Mottled Petrel** (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (27, 2). Two were seen on 1 Dec 2017, the first 94 km W of Seaside, Oregon, in Washington waters, Pacific Co. (46.078° N, 125.142° W; MOPE-2017-1; LHa, RSh, DWa), and another farther north 37 km WSW of La Push, Clallam Co. (47.789° N, 125.098° W; 2017-2; OB). With 20 accepted records since 2009 and more unreviewed reports, the committee was satisfied that this species should be removed from the review list. All but four of Washington's 27 records fall between late November and late March, a pattern noted by Lehman (2016) and Howell (2012), who suggested these Mottled Petrels are immatures migrating later than adults, as this interval broadly overlaps the species' breeding season.

**Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*) (44\*, 2). Though the WBRC removed the Manx Shearwater from its review list in 2008, it continues to review earlier sightings. One was reported from off Grays Harbor Co., 6 May 2001 (MASH-2001-3; Jbj, BLB). Another, found dead along the Palix River, Bay Center, Pacific Co. (46.632° N, 123.954° W), 14 May 2003 (2003-4; Univ. of Wash. Burke Mus. 80168, fide DSL), is one of few specimens preserved from the eastern North Pacific (see DeCicco et al. 2017).

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) (25, 7). An adult female was found dead on the beach by COASST observers in Aleck Bay, Lopez I., San Juan Co., 19 Aug 2017 (BRBO-2017-1; photos: DMo; specimen not preserved). One subadult male was in Kanaka Bay, San Juan I., San Juan Co., 22–23 Sep 2017 (2017-2; photos: MPi). An adult female was off Point Defiance, Tacoma, Pierce Co., 2 Oct 2017 (2017-3; EP; photos: WB, BLB). An adult female was off Cape Flattery, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 4 Nov 2017 (2017-4; photos: AHi). One subadult male was resting on the beach at Three Crabs, Dungeness, Clallam Co., 15 Nov 2017 (2017-5; photos: SL). An adult



female was found on the jetty at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 3 Feb 2018 (2018-1; BT, photos: JAn, ME, JRo). An adult was at the Hoh River mouth, Jefferson Co., 20 May 2018 (2018-3; DWa). All that could be identified to subspecies were the expected *brewsteri*, but considering the dramatic extent of the Brown Booby's global range expansion, the WBRC continues to be interested in its identification to subspecies. After the state's first Brown Booby was found in 1997, this species' presence in Washington has increased dramatically, with 21 records in the last decade. This matches a pattern of increased abundance and expanded distribution along the California coast (Hamilton et al. 2007). Therefore the WBRC removed this species from its review list in 2018. Eighteen of the 25 records fall between August and November.

**Snowy Egret** (*Egretta thula*) (44, 4). One old report of one at the Whitman Mission, Walla Walla Co., 21–23 Apr 1987 (SNEG-1987-2; MLD, MDe, DGm, KKn, TWh, fide LMc). Another old report was from Tokeland, Pacific Co., 13 May 2000 (2000-4; BLB). An immature was at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 30 Sep 2016 (2016-2; photos: LS). Two birds were in Vancouver, Clark Co., from 8 Sep through Dec 2017, then one continued to 4 Mar 2018, mostly at the end of Lower River Rd., but it was also seen briefly at nearby Ridgefield NWR (2017-1; photos: Lower River Rd.: MtB, JiD, GGe, RH; Ridgefield NWR: RH).

**Zone-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo albonotatus*) (1, 1). Washington's first was an immature at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 5–7 Nov 2017 (ZTHA-2017-1; RJM, photos: BBn, AHi, CRi, video: MD; Figure 4), last recorded moving east along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This remarkable record is farther north than any other of the Zone-tailed Hawk in North America, including the two from Nova Scotia. Farther south along the west coast, the Zone-tailed Hawk occurs rarely, but regularly, in fall south of Point Conception, and more sporadically north to the San Francisco Bay area. Prior to the sighting at Neah Bay, the northernmost record along the west coast was from southern Humboldt County, California, in May 2016 (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S33315992>). More recently, one was photographed in Jackson County, Oregon, in October 2018 (OBRC 2021).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) (15, 1). A female at least one year old was at Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland, King Co., 22–26 Sep 2017 (YBSA-2017-1; photos: BBn, AL, JRo). It was just the second Yellow-bellied Sapsucker recorded in Washington in the fall. All but three records are for the period from December to April, the others being for October and June.

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) (1, 1). Washington's first recorded Dusky-capped Flycatcher appeared at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 16–21 Nov 2016 (DCFL-2016-1; MtB, RH, photos: BBn, KBy, WB, RFL, CWR, audio: CWR; Figure 5, this issue's inside front cover), consistent with the species' clear pattern of northward dispersal in late fall along the west coast (Hamilton et al. 2007). The mid-November date fits the California pattern, where there are no fall records prior to 1 November, and also parallels the coastal pattern of vagrancy of the Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (Wahl et al. 2005). Since the Arizona population disappears from breeding areas in August (Tweit and Twit 2002), the origin of these vagrants that appear over two months later is unclear, leading to speculation that they could originate from populations farther south.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (18, 3). An adult was found 10 km SW of Ellensburg at Umtanum and Overlook roads, Kittitas Co., 3 Jun 2017 (STFL-2017-1; photos: LiM). An adult was seen at two locations, first Cape Avala, Clallam Co., 1 May 2018, and then Sand Point, Clallam Co., 11 Jun 2018 (2018-1; Cape Alava: DC; Sand Point: photos: CH). Another adult was at Sekiu, Clallam Co., 12–13 Jun 2018 (2018-3; video: ME). Like these three, 16 of Washington's 18 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have occurred between May and August.



FIGURE 4. Washington's first Zone-tailed Hawk (ZTHA-2017-1) appeared at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 5–7 Nov 2017 (photo: 6 Nov 2017).

*Photo by Adrian Hinkle*



FIGURE 5. This Dusky-capped Flycatcher (DCFL-2016-1), the first found in Washington, was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 16–21 Nov 2016 (photo: 21 Nov 2016).

*Photo by Charlie Wright*

**Alder Flycatcher** (*Empidonax alnorum*) (5, 1). One was along Dike Road on the Kalispell Reservation, Pend Oreille Co., 18–24 Jun 2018 (ALFL-2018-1; video: JI, audio: JI, RKO, TL). All of Washington's five recorded Alder Flycatchers have been singing birds in June, with four to the east of the Cascade Range and one to the west.

**Eastern Phoebe** (*Sayornis phoebe*) (13, 1). A juvenile was at Julia Butler Hanson NWR, Cathlamet, Wahkiakum Co., 24 Jun 2018 (EAPH-2018-1; photos, video, audio: MtB). Ten of Washington's 13 records are from May or June, but this is the first on the west side of the state in these months.

**Philadelphia Vireo** (*Vireo philadelphicus*) (4, 1). One singing Philadelphia Vireo was well described from Lyons Ferry State Park (SP), Franklin Co., 28 May 2018 (PHVI-2018-1: SHi). All four records of this species in Washington have been sight records, of which three fall between 28 May and 7 Jun.

**Eurasian Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*) (3\*, 3). Three reports, all treated as separate records, of birds unidentified to subspecies but suspected to be *pekinensis* at Hobuck Beach, Clallam Co.: one on 13 May 2017 (EUSK-2017-1; BWa, photos: RJM), one 6–10 Nov 2017 (2017-4; photos: JGu, ToM, RJM, BWa; Figure 6), and one 19–24 Mar 2018 (2018-1; photos: BWa). These are the first skylarks recorded in Washington since the species was added to the review list in 2000 following the extirpation of the small non-native breeding population on San Juan I. (subspecies *arvensis*) that had spread from nearby Vancouver I. (Wahl et al. 2005).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (*Poliioptila caerulea*) (31, 13). Seven from Neah Bay, Clallam Co., including one (eastern subspecies *P. c. caerulea*) on 7 Oct 2016 (BGGN-2016-1; photos: BWa); one (eastern subspecies) 16–29 Oct 2016 (2016-2; photos: AdA, HA, MiB, JoG, JGu, EHe, ToM, AP, DPn, DSc, BWa); one (eastern subspecies) 31 Oct–1 Dec 2016 (2016-3; photos: BBn, JoG, RJM, audio: CWrr); one (eastern subspecies) 3 Nov–5 Dec 2016 (2016-4; photos: MiB, BBn, JoG, EHe, RJM, CRI, DSc); one 29–30 Sep 2017 (2017-3; photos: LMa, BWa); one (eastern subspecies) 24–26 Oct 2017 (2017-5; MiB, photos: AP); and one (eastern subspecies) 7 Nov 2017 (2017-7; photos, audio: DPo). Away from Neah Bay, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were recorded as follows: one at Bethel Ridge, Yakima Co., 7 May 2017 (2017-1; DPo); one (western subspecies *P. c. obscura*) at Horn Rapids Park, Richland, Benton Co., 22 May 2017 (2017-2; LHI, photos: JAb); one (western subspecies) at Central Ferry SP, Whitman Co., 8 Oct 2017 (2017-4; photos, audio: RJB); one at Crow Butte SP, Benton Co., 27 Oct–14 Nov 2017 (2017-6; LN, photos: CLi); one in Kennewick, Benton Co., 22 Apr 2018 (2018-1; DH); and one (western subspecies) along the Klickitat trail near Centerville, Klickitat Co., 5–6 May 2018 (2018-2; photos: MiH, JH, video: MiH, audio: MtB, MiH, SaH).

**Brown Thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*) (20, 1). A decade-old report resurfaced of one found at Sprague Lake, Lincoln Co., 21 Aug 2008 (BRTH-2008-3; JAc).

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (4, 1). An immature was at Sunrise, Mt. Rainier National Park, Pierce Co., 27 Aug 2018 (NOWH-2018-1; photos: TD). All of Washington's wheatears have been recorded in the fall, three in the last week of August or first week of September. This is the first Washington record away from the coast or the Salish Sea. Although most wheatears noted in the western contiguous states have been along the coast, both Oregon and California also have inland records.

**White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*) (11, 1). One female, of subspecies *ocularis*, was at Neal Rd. and SE 19<sup>th</sup> Way, Fall City, King Co., 24–28 Jan 2018 (WHWA-2018-1; photos: BBn, JGl, JGu, ToM, GO, OO). This is only the second White Wagtail recorded in Washington in January, most of the prior sightings being in April and May.

**Hoary Redpoll** (*Acanthis hornemanni*) (24, 3). A male was at the Reardan Ponds,



FIGURE 6. This Eurasian Skylark (EUST-2017-4), present 6–10 Nov 2017 (photo: 7 Nov 2017), was one of three found in this period at Hobuck Beach, Clallam Co.

Photo by Ryan J. Merrill

Reardan, Lincoln Co., 29 Oct 2017 (HORE-2017-1; photos: JI). Another male was at Lamoine, Douglas Co., 19 Feb 2018 (2018-1; photos: JVe). One more male was at Morrison and Omans roads, Davenport, Lincoln Co., 21–22 Feb 2018 (2018-2; photos: RMo).

**Rustic Bunting** (*Emberiza rustica*) (6, 2). An old report resurfaced of a male that returned two winters to the same location along Loop Road, near the Grays River, Wahkiakum Co., 7 Jan–3 Apr 2001 and 31 Dec 2001–early spring 2002 (RUBU-2001-1; RKo, RP, ARi). One adult male was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 6–12 Dec 2016 (2016-2; MtB, MiH, photos: AdA, MCh, JoG, EHe, RJM, video: CB). All but one of Washington's Rustic Buntings have been recorded in winter west of the Cascades.

**Field Sparrow** (*Spizella pusilla*) (1, 1). Washington's first Field Sparrow appeared at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 29 Oct 2016 (FISP-2016-1; ScD, photos: JGu, EHe, ToM, TeM, DPn, DSc; Figure 7). A short-distance migrant with a southerly distribution in eastern North America, the Field Sparrow was not thought to be a likely addition to the Washington list. Until 2015, the nearest coastal record was one in mid-summer 2005 at Blue Lake, Humboldt Co., California (Iliff et al. 2007). Two recent British Columbia records add some context to the one for Washington: one Field Sparrow on 30 Oct 2015 near Squamish was the first recorded along the coast north of California, and one at Esquimalt, Vancouver I., on 20 Nov 2016 occurred less than a month after the one at Neah Bay and about 86 km away across the Strait of Juan de Fuca (BCBRC 2019).

**Thick-billed Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* group) (4\*, 2). One was at Snowden Rd., Klickitat Co., 30 Apr–27 May 2017 (TBFS-2017-1; SJ, photos, audio: MtB). Another was at Meta Lake, Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Skamania Co., 22–29 Jul 2018 (2018-1; photos: SF, DI, audio: MtB, SF, DI). The committee is beginning to assess the status of this subspecies in Washington, primarily on the basis of vocal differences.





FIGURE 7. Washington's first Field Sparrow (FISP-2016-1), found on 29 Oct 2016, at Neah Bay, Clallam Co.

*Photos by Eric Helsey (A) and Jordan Gunn (B).*

**Red Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca iliaca* group) (28\*, 5). One was at the Yakima Arboretum, Yakima, Yakima Co., 21 Oct 2016 (RFSP-2016-1; photos: DGr). One was in Gig Harbor, Pierce Co., 19–23 Dec 2016 (2016-2; photos: MSh). One was on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW, Seattle, King Co., 25 Jan–7 Feb 2017 (2017-1; photos: JGu, RJM, SPe, DSc). One was at Bingen School Inn, Bingen, Klickitat Co., 3–12 Feb 2017 (2017-2; SJ). One lingered in Bellingham, Whatcom Co., 13–27 Mar 2017 (2017-3; photos: JMa). The WBRC reviewed reports of these Fox Sparrows from 2004 to 2017, taking care to distinguish them from *P. i. altivagans* and from Red × Sooty Fox Sparrow intergrades. With 20 records since 2018, this subspecies group is now regarded as a regular winter visitor to Washington.

**White-winged Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis aikenii*) (1, 1). Washington's first record of this subspecies was of one at Washougal, Skamania Co., 13–17 Apr 2018 (WWJU-2018-1; photos: WC; Figure 8). The White-winged Junco is very rare in western North America, consistent with the short distance between its limited breeding and winter ranges in central North America. The mid-April date is consistent with the typical movement of juncos in Washington.

**Gray-headed Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*) (2, 1). Even though this taxon is almost as unlikely in Washington as the White-winged subspecies, the second state record was of one at Trout Lake, Klickitat Co., from 2 Jan to about 12 Feb 2017 (GHJU-2017-1; photos: LS, JWh, KWh).

**LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza leconteii*) (6, 1). An immature was at Discovery Park, Seattle, King Co., 31 Aug 2018 (LCSP-2-18-1; MD, photos: BBn, JPu, GTh, JVa, audio: JVa). Washington's six records are evenly split between east and west of the Cascades. Four are from May and June, one is from November, and this latest occurrence is the first from late-summer/fall. By the end of August, the species has mostly departed the northern portion of its breeding range, in Canada (<https://ebird.org/science/status-and-trends/lecsa/abundance-map-weekly>; 11 Apr 2021).

**Eastern Song Sparrow** (*Melospiza melodia melodia/atlantica* group) (3, 3). Paulson (1992) reported a specimen from the Union Bay Natural Area (Montlake Fill), Seattle, King Co., 27 Feb 1978 (SOSP-1978-1; UWBM 32610, fide DPN, DSL). One was at Potlatch SP, Mason Co., 9 Jan 2016 (2016-1; photos: JAn). One was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 28–29 Oct and 5 Dec 2016 (2016-2; photos: JCo, JGu, RSh, BWa). The committee began evaluating reports of this subspecies-group following two reports in 2016. Washington observers' awareness of eastern Song Sparrows is increasing, and as a result almost all of the Pacific Northwest reports are from 2016 or later.

**Orchard Oriole** (*Icterus spurius*) (14, 4). One was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 28 Oct–5 Nov 2016 (OROR-2016-1; MRe, photos: JoG, JGu, EHe, RJM, DSc, BWa), and another was there 28 Oct–22 Nov 2016 (2016-2; MRe, photos: BBn, JoG). One was at Johnson Point, Olympia, Thurston Co., 18–24 Dec 2016 (2016-3; BT, photos: LHu). One was at Tsoo-Yess Beach, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 24 Sep 2017 (2017-1; photos: AP). All but one of Washington's Orchard Orioles have been in fall or winter, two birds persisting into spring. The one in Thurston County was the third recorded in the Salish Sea region, whereas 10 of the 14 have been from the outer coast. Of those, seven have been from the Neah Bay area.

**Hooded Oriole** (*Icterus cucullatus*) (11, 1). A second-year male was in Renton, King Co., 30 May–3 Jun 2017 (HOOR-2017-1; JRu, photos: ND, audio: DSL). In contrast to the Orchard Oriole's pattern in Washington, Hooded Oriole records are more geographically dispersed and all but one are from April to July rather than fall or winter.

**Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) (28, 6). A male was at Latah Valley, Spokane, Spokane Co., 23 Apr 2017 (COGR-2017-1; photos: HC). One was in Mansfield,



FIGURE 8. A White-winged Dark-eyed Junco (WWJU-2018-1) was an unexpected new subspecies for Washington when it appeared in Washougal, Skamania Co., 13–17 Apr 2018 (photo: 13 Apr 2018).

*Photo by Wilson Cady*



FIGURE 9. This male Bay-breasted Warbler (BBWA-2018-1) was found singing in Ephrata, Grant Co., on 24 May 2018.

*Photo by Matt Yawney*



Douglas Co., 5 May 2017 (2017-2; photos: SCL). Another male was in Huntsville, Columbia Co., 11 May 2017 (2017-3; photos: GGA). A male was in Newhalem, Whatcom Co., 20 May 2018 (2018-1; photos: EHe). Another male was at Waatch Beach Rd. and Butler's Motel, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 7–8 Jun 2018 (2018-2; photos: Ada, CH). One more male was on Healy Rd., near Cockreham I., Skagit Co., 8 Jun 2018 (2018-3; photos: GBL). Like Washington's previous Common Grackles, these all appeared to be of the subspecies *versicolor*.

**Great-tailed Grackle** (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) (15, 5). Adult males were at Konnowac Pass, Moxee, Yakima Co., 3 Jul 2010 (GTGR-2010-2; photos: DGr), in Pullman, Whitman Co., 11 May 2017 (2017-1; photos: MHk), and at Potholes SP, Grant Co., 31 May and 16 Jul 2017 (2017-2; ARo, photos: SMu, CRI, audio: CRI). Females were found at the Sprague rest area along I-90, Sprague, Lincoln Co., 29 May 2018 (2018-1; photos: LG, DPo) and at Point Roberts, Whatcom Co., 1 Sep 2018 (2018-2; KKI). The latter may have been the same female recorded from May through Aug 2018 at several locations around Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Ovenbird** (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) (29, 1). One singing male was at Snow Mountain Ranch, Yakima Co., 1 Jun 2018 (OVEN-2018-1; ASst, audio: ESst). Eighteen of Washington's 29 records are for June or July, a period when this species is often detected because of its singing.

**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*) (51, 6). One male was found in Mansfield, Douglas Co., 6 May 2017 (BAWW-2017-1; photos, video: SCL). One was at the Montlake Fill, Seattle, King Co., 23 Sep 2017 (2017-2; BH, AL). One was along the Dungeness River, Clallam Co., 18 Dec 2017 (2017-3; photos: SG, FL, fide BBo). A male was at Lind Coulee, Grant Co., 30 May 2018 (2018-1; photos: MY). Another male was at Discovery Park, Seattle, King Co., 19 Aug 2018 (2018-2; AG, photos: SHi). One was near Hooper, Adams Co., 5 Sep 2018 (2018-3; RFL). Over half Washington's Black-and-white Warblers (28 of 51) have been found in May or June, but there are sightings in every month. Of the 51, 29 are from eastern Washington, 22 from western Washington. With 23 records in the past decade and a long history of regular occurrence in the state, the committee removed this species from the review list in 2018.

**Prothonotary Warbler** (*Protonotaria citrea*) (4, 1). One was found at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 5 Nov 2016 (PROW-2016-1; MtB, MRc, photos: BWa). This is the first record in western Washington.

**Tennessee Warbler** (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) (44, 5). Three records from Neah Bay, Clallam Co.: one on 25 Sep 2017 (TEWA-2017-2; photos: AP), one 29–30 Aug 2018 (2018-2; KBn, BLB, RJM, EP), and one recorded singing on 8 Sep 2018 (2018-4; CWr, audio: RJM). An adult male was found at Chelan Ridge, Okanogan Co., 30 Aug 2018 (2018-3; AM). One was at Lind Coulee, Grant Co., 14 Sep 2018 (2018-5; photos: MY). Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Washington's records (32 of 44) are from August and September during fall migration. They are split evenly between east and west of the Cascades. With 25 records since 2009, the committee removed the Tennessee Warbler from the review list in 2018.

**Hooded Warbler** (*Setophaga citrina*) (8, 1). A male was in Vancouver, Clark Co., 9 Jun 2017 (HOWA-2017-1; RFL, RHi, photos: RAB, audio: JID).

**Northern Parula** (*Setophaga americana*) (19, 1). One was at Orondo School, Orondo, Douglas Co., 12 Sep 2017 (NOPA-2017-1; photos: BWa).

**Magnolia Warbler** (*Setophaga magnolia*) (30, 4). A singing male was at East Wenatchee, Douglas Co., 7 Jun 2017 (MAWA-2017-1; audio: JT). A second-year male was at Discovery Park, Seattle, King Co., 22 Jun 2017 (2017-2; photos: DO). One was at W. E. Johnson Park, Richland, Benton Co., 4 Sep 2018 (2018-1; photos: BLF, NLF). One more was at Potholes SP, Grant Co., 6 Sep 2018 (2018-2; photos: MY).



FIGURE 10. A hatch-year female Blackburnian Warbler (BLBW-2016-3) visited a yard in Blaine, Whatcom Co., 19 Oct 2016.

*Photo by Robert and Virginia Small*

**Bay-breasted Warbler** (*Setophaga castanea*) (4, 1). A singing male in alternate plumage was at Lions Park, Ephrata, Grant Co., 24 May 2018 (BBWA-2018-1; photos, audio: MY; Figure 9).

**Blackburnian Warbler** (*Setophaga fusca*) (8, 1). One hatch-year female was at Birch Bay Village, Blaine, Whatcom Co., 19 Oct 2016 (BLBW-2016-3; photos: RoS, VS; Figure 10).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler** (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) (43, 11). One male was at Tatoosh I., Clallam Co., 17 Aug 2016 (CSWA-2016-3; TWo). A singing male was at Lion's Park and Ephrata Cemetery, Ephrata, Grant Co., 9 Jun 2017 (2017-1; audio: MY). Another male was at Umtanum Creek, Yakima Co., 10 Jun 2017 (2017-2; photos: MCh). One was at Nisqually NWR, Thurston Co., 16 Aug 2017 (2017-3; photos: JAn, DLC). One immature was at Washougal, Skamania Co., 6 Sep 2017 (2017-4; photos: WC). One immature was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 23 Sep 2017 (2017-5; photos, audio: RJM). One immature was at Rocky Coulee Recreation Area, Vantage, Kittitas Co., 3 Sep 2018 (2018-1; photos: DLP). One was on Jetty Rd., Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 5 Sep 2018 (2018-2; photos: JGu). One immature was at Potholes SP, Grant Co., 5 Sep 2018 (2018-3; photos: MY). One was at Lyons Ferry SP, Franklin Co., 8 Sep 2018 (2018-4; MtB, KBn, MiH, photos: ED, EP). One, likely an adult, was at Wa'tch Valley, Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 14 Sep 2018 (2018-5; photos: BBo). Washington's 43 records of the Chestnut-sided Warbler are divided almost equally between spring and fall migration, with 19 from June, 20 from mid-August through September, and none from November through May. Two-thirds are from the eastern part of the state (28 of 43), one-third from the west (15 of 43). With 22 records since 2009, the committee removed this species from the review list in 2018.

**Blackpoll Warbler** (*Setophaga striata*) (40, 5). A male was at Tatoosh I., Clallam Co., 30 Jun 2015 (BLPW-2015-4; TWo). Another male was at Patrick Park, Ephrata,



FIGURE 11. Washington's first Painted Redstart (PARE-2018-1), a singing male, lingered at Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., 25 Aug–16 Sep 2018 (photo: 1 Sep 2018).

*Photo by Michael Charest*



FIGURE 12. Of the three Blue Grosbeaks addressed in this report, two were at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., including this hatch-year bird (BLGR-2017-1) on 23 Oct 2017.

*Photo by Ryan Shaw*

Grant Co., 30 May 2017 (2017-1; photos: MY). One was at Point Whitehorn Marine Park, Whatcom Co., 23–24 Sep 2017 (2017-3; BrB, JiD, photos: CS). One was found at Beacon Hill, Seattle, King Co., 24 Sep 2017 (2017-4; AL, photos: EN). One was at Potholes SP, Grant Co., 5 Sep 2018 (2018-1; photos: MY).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Setophaga caerulescens*) (17, 2). A male was along Diablo Dam Rd., Whatcom Co., 17 Oct 2016 (BTBW-2016-2; DaD). Another male was found at Pumice Plain, Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Skamania Co., 29 Jun 2017 (2017-2; EW).

**Painted Redstart** (*Myioborus pictus*) (1, 1). Washington's first Painted Redstart was a singing male at Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., 25 Aug–16 Sep 2018 (PARE-2018-1; EP, CWi, photos: MCh, JGu, RJM, AT, GV, audio: RJM, BT; Figure 11). Though the Painted Redstart is known sparingly as a vagrant across much of eastern North America, in the West its vagrancy has been confined primarily to southern California (Dunn and Garrett 1997). Records for northern California are considerably fewer (Hamilton et al. 2007), and there are only two farther north: one in West Vancouver, British Columbia, in November 1973 (Campbell et al. 2001) and one in Salem, Oregon, in October 1991 (OBRC 2021).

A singing male in early fall on Washington's outer coast was certainly unexpected, as most of the California records are from October to early Mar (<https://ebird.org/pnw/barchart?r=US-CA&bmo=1&emo=12&byr=1900&eyr=2021&spp=paired>; 26 Sep 2021).

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) (10, 1). One west of Mount Vernon, Skagit Flats, Skagit Co., 29 Nov–4 Dec 2016 (SUTA-2016-1; BT, photos: GBl, WhJ, RJM). Seven of Washington's ten records are from November or December, the remainder from May and June.

**Blue Grosbeak** (*Passerina caerulea*) (3, 3). The first Washington record was of an adult male at Chinook Bend Natural Area, Carnation, King Co., 24 Aug 2015 (BLGR-2015-1; photos: WF), followed in short order by two immatures, both at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., one on 16 Nov 2016 (2016-1; RHi, photos: RFl) and one on 23 Oct 2017 (2017-1; BT, photos: JI, DPo, RSh, BWa, video: DPo, audio: DSL; Figure 12). Given the frequency of the Blue Grosbeak's appearances in fall on the Atlantic coast north of its breeding range (Lowther and Ingold 2020) and the number of records from Oregon (13) (OBRC 2021), Idaho (at least 30) (IBRC 2021), and British Columbia (1 accepted) (BRBRC 2019), the appearance of this species in Washington was not unexpected.

**Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*) (39, 1). A singing male was along Audubon Rd., Wenas, Yakima Co., 10 Jun–23 Jul 2017 (INBU-2017-1; MiH, photos: JF, IH, ToM, GO, OO, video: JF, audio: MtB, GO, OO).

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (5, 2). A male was in La Conner, Skagit Co., 18–23 Nov 2017 (PABU-2017-1; photos: BrB, BBn, JGu, ToM, RJM, WR). Another, also a male, was in Bellingham, Whatcom Co., 3–6 Dec 2017 (2017-2; photos: JaG). The two sightings were separated by only about 40 km and 10 days. Nevertheless, the photographs were not useful for detailed plumage comparison and consequently the committee conservatively treated these as two separate birds. Neither bird showed feather wear, and the timing is consistent with the timing of northern California records, from late September to November (Mlodinow and Hamilton 2005).

**Dickcissel** (*Spiza americana*) (16, 4). Three records from Neah Bay, Clallam Co.: one male, likely immature, at the Butler Motel, 17–18 Oct 2016 (DICK-2016-2; photos: HA, MiB, JoG), one immature male along Waatch Beach Rd., 20–23 Oct 2016 (2016-3; photos: AdA, JI, RJM, AP, BPe, ST, BWa), and one the following year at Hobuck Beach from 11 to 12 Nov 2017 (2017-1; photos: ToM, RJM, BWa). One



additional record was of an adult male in alternate plumage along Pleasant Hill Rd., Kelso, Cowlitz Co., 1 Jun 2018 (2018-1; BC, photos: RC). The birds at Neah Bay in 2016 differed in plumage and were treated as separate individuals. Eight of Washington's 16 records are from coastal counties in the fall or winter.

## REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE— IDENTIFICATION UNCERTAIN

**Bewick's Tundra Swan** (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) (18\*, 0). The report of one on the Samish Flats, Skagit Co., 15 Jan 2018 (BESW-2018-1, vote: 0-6-1) included a written description that left the extent of the yellow on the bill unclear.

**Baikal Teal** (*Sibirionetta formosa*) (4, 0). The report of one along Little Cove Rd., Whitman Co., 20 Jul 2017 (BATE-2017-1, vote: 0-7-0), combined photos showing a swimming Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) and a Northern Pintail (*A. acuta*) in flight.

**Common Eider** (*Somateria mollissima*) (4, 1). A report of two at Clallam Bay, Clallam Co., 15 May 2017 (COEI-2017-2, vote: 0-7-0) included detail insufficient to confirm the identification.

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) (15, 2). A report of two birds along Mud Mountain Rd., Enumclaw, King Co., 12 Apr 2017 (WWDO-2017-1, vote: 0-6-1) was based on an observation of birds in flight too brief to convince the committee of their identity.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (*Coccyzus americanus*) (13\*, 1). One older report from Struthers Farm, Walla Walla Co., 25 Jun 2007 (YBCU-2007-1, vote: 4-3-0) included details insufficient to confirm the identification.

**Rivoli's Hummingbird/Blue-throated Mountain-gem** (*Eugenes fulgens/Lampornis clemenciae*) (0, 0). A large hummingbird was reported from the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle, King Co., 16 Jul 2018 (BLUH/RIHU-2018-1, vote: 0-7-0). While tantalizing, the details obtained by the observer were insufficient to even allow endorsing as this species pair.

**Costa's Hummingbird** (*Calypte costae*) (14, 0). The report of one at Coupeville, Whidbey I., Island Co., 13–15 Dec 2017 (COHU-2017-1, vote: 0-6-1) included photos more consistent with an Anna's Hummingbird (*C. anna*).

**Allen's Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus sasin*) (1, 0). The report of one at Trout Lake, Klickitat Co., 19 Aug 2017 (ALHU-2017-1, vote: 0-6-1) included excellent photographs of the tail feathers that confirmed the bird was a Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*).

**Xantus's Hummingbird** (*Basilinna xantusii*) (0, 0). One reported in Port Angeles, Clallam Co., 24 Jul 2018 (XAHU-2018-1, vote: 0-7-0) was not described in enough detail to rule out most other species.

**Whooping Crane** (*Grus americana*) (0, 0). A report of two in flight with other cranes over Cassimer Bar, Okanogan Co., 8 Apr 2016 (WHCR-2016-1, vote: 0-7-0) was intriguing but not written until well after the sighting and lacked enough detail for the WBRC to endorse a first state record.

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) (12, 1). A bird photographed at Shell Creek Spit, Edmonds, Snohomish Co., 13 Aug 2010 (CUSA-2010-1, vote: 1-4-2) looked superficially like this species, but the attenuated bill and likely pale legs led most of the committee to favor the Stilt Sandpiper (*C. himantopus*) as its likely identity. Another reported Curlew Sandpiper, at Cattle Point, San Juan I., San Juan Co.,

28 Sep 2017 (2017-2, vote: 0-6-1) looked more like a Dunlin (*C. alpina*) in the photos obtained. One reported at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor Co., 27 Oct 2017 (2017-3, 0-7-0) included details insufficient for the WBRC to confidently eliminate the Dunlin.

**Red-necked Stint** (*Calidris ruficollis*) (8, 1). One reported at Deer Lagoon, Whidbey I., Island Co., 13–14 Jul 2017 (RNST-2017-2, vote: 0-7-0), concurrent with RNST-2017-1 (see above), appeared to be a Sanderling (*C. alba*) in the photos obtained.

**Long-billed Murrelet** (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (11, 0). The report of one off Point Wilson, Port Townsend, Jefferson Co., 15 Aug 2016 (LBMU-2016-1, vote: 0-7-0), was of a bird seen at a long distance, and the details provided were insufficient to establish the identity.

**Red-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa brevirostris*) (12, 0). A report of one at Madame Dorian Park at the Walla Walla River delta, Walla Walla Co., 27 Dec 2016 (RLKI-2016-1, vote: 0-7-0) did not include details sufficient to eliminate other small gulls such as Bonaparte's (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*).

**Ivory Gull** (*Pagophila eburnea*) (2, 0). The report of one along the Columbia River near Prosser, Benton Co. (45.924° N, 119.558° W), 26 May 2017 (IVGU-2017-1, vote: 0-7-0) failed to eliminate the more likely possibility of more common gulls in worn or possibly leucistic plumage.

**Black-tailed Gull** (*Larus crassirostris*) (7, 0). One reported at San Juan County Park, San Juan I., San Juan Co., 16 Mar 2017 (BTGU-2017-1, vote: 0-7-0) appeared in photos to be a California Gull (*L. californicus*).

**Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistisagus*) (25, 4). One old report from Fir I., Skagit Co., 18 Jan 1997 (SBGU-1997-1, vote: 0-7-0) did not include details sufficient to confirm this species. One reported at Redondo, King Co., 2–3 Dec 2017 (2017-4, vote: 0-7-0) appeared to be a Glaucous-winged × Western hybrid (*L. glaucescens* × *L. occidentalis*).

**Short-tailed Albatross** (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (28, 9). One of the GPS-tracked individuals mentioned above, although its identity is not in doubt, did not travel into Washington waters during the period tracked on 21 Feb 2013 (STAL-2013-2, location vote: 0-7-0).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanites oceanicus*) (4, 0). The report of one seen and photographed 30 km W of Ocean City, Grays Harbor Co. (47.03° N, 124.57° W), 2 Sep 2017 (WISP-2017-1, vote: 1-6-0) left the committee unconvinced that the identity had been established. The wing shape in photos varied enough to leave several committee members unsure that Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates leucorhous*) was eliminated and others unsure that the Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*H. tethys*) could be eliminated.

**Murphy's Petrel** (*Pterodroma ultima*) (12, 3). The report of one 115 km W of Long Beach, Pacific Co. (46.407° N, 125.563° W), 12 May 2017 (MUPE-2017-3, vote: 2-5-0) did not include detail sufficient to confirm the identification.

**Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) (25, 7). The report of one at Diamond Point, Clallam Co., 3 Mar 2018 (BRBO-2018-2, vote: 0-7-0) did not include details sufficient to eliminate the Red-footed Booby (*S. sula*).

**Steller's Sea-Eagle** (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*) (0, 0). An old report from between the Hoh and Quinalt river mouths, Jefferson Co., in late Feb and early Mar 1989 (STSE-1989-1, vote: 0-7-0) possibly represented this species, but details were reported only years after the initial sighting.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) (0, 0). Reports of one

at Lake Forest Park, King Co., 31 Oct 2016 (RHWO-2016-1, vote: 0-7-0) and in Bellingham, Whatcom Co., 24 May 2018 (2018-1, vote: 1-4-2) failed to convincingly eliminate the much more likely Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus varius*) (15, 1). Two immature birds reported at Horn Rapids Park, Benton Co., 5 Oct 2016 (YBSA-2016-3, vote: 2-4-1) appeared more likely to be Red-naped Sapsuckers (*S. nuchalis*) despite the somewhat late date for being in juvenile plumage.

**Alder Flycatcher** (*Empidonax alnorum*) (5, 1). One reported at the Saltese Wetlands, Spokane Co., 13–19 Jun 2017 (ALFL-2017-1, vote: 0-7-0) was giving an unusual call but not singing, leaving the committee unwilling to endorse it as an Alder Flycatcher. One at Bacon Creek, Skagit Co., 24 Jun–11 Jul 2018 (2018-2, vote: 1-5-1), initially identified as an Alder, proved perhaps more interesting as it was possibly a hybrid Willow × Alder Flycatcher (*E. traillii* × *E. alnorum*). Because the song was ambiguous, the committee solicited outside experts. After reviewing recordings they agreed that the song and calls were not consistent with a pure Alder and suggested the potential of a hybrid (T. Brooks and A. McCallum pers. comm.). Stewart (1975) reported intermediate songs from North Dakota.

**Blue-headed Vireo** (*Vireo solitarius*) (7, 0). The report of one from Frenchman's Bar Park, Vancouver, Clark Co., 15 Apr 2018 (BHVI-2018-1, vote: 0-4-3) did not include detail sufficient to eliminate the much more likely Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*).

**Eurasian Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*) (3\*, 3). The description of a supposed skylark at the Anacortes Airport, Skagit Co., 18 Jul 2017 (EUSK-2017-2, vote: 0-7-0) was insufficient to establish the identity and mentioned behavior unlikely for this species. The report of another at Grandma's Cove, American Camp, San Juan I., San Juan Co., 2 Oct 2017 (2017-3, vote: 1-5-1) also included details insufficient to establish the identification.

**Phainopepla** (*Phainopepla nitens*) (1, 0). The report of one in Puyallup, Pierce Co., 4 May 2017 (PHAI-2017-1, vote: 0-6-1) provided details insufficient to establish the identity.

**Eastern Hermit Thrush** (*Catharus guttatus faxoni*) (0, 0). A specimen from Anacortes, Skagit Co., 5 Nov 2012 (Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 204312, HETH-2012-1, vote: 0-7-0) was forwarded from a researcher as a possible Eastern Hermit Thrush. Although the specimen appeared different from the Hermit Thrushes expected in western Washington, the criteria for distinguishing between the many subspecies were not clear enough to the WBRC for it to identify this individual confidently.

**Hoary Redpoll** (*Acanthis hornemanni*) (24, 3). One photographed at Sunnyside Park, Pullman, Whitman Co., 15 Dec 2017 (HORE-2017-2, vote: 0-7-0) was not clearly marked enough to eliminate a pale Common Redpoll (*A. flammea*).

**McKay's Bunting** (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) (4, 0). One photographed on the Timentwa Flats, Okanogan Co., 20 Feb 2017 (MKBU-2017-1, vote: 0-5-2) was intriguing in that it showed four white rectrices. Nevertheless, other field marks including the amount of black on the wing coverts and in the wingtips eliminated a pure McKay's. The committee speculated that the bird could have been a hybrid Snow × McKay's (*P. nivalis* × *P. hyperboreus*) without affirming that identification.

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (11, 0). The report of one in breeding plumage at the Millet Pond, McNary NWR, Walla Walla Co., 25 Aug 2018 (LARB-2018-2, vote: 3-4-0) was ultimately not accepted because of the brevity of the sighting.

**Thick-billed Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* group) (4\*, 2). One reported from Laurel Rd., near Conboy NWR, Klickitat Co., 26 May 2013 (TBFS-2013-2, vote: 1-6-0), was well described, but the committee remained hesitant to



accept reports of this subspecies without definitive audio recordings, given the difficulty of distinguishing between the local Thick-billed subspecies and Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (*P. i. schistacea* group) or possible intergrades.

**Red Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca iliaca* group) (28\*, 5). One reported at Mansfield, Douglas Co., 2 May 2017 (RFSP-2017-4, vote: 1-5-1) appeared more likely to be an intergrade of *P. i. zaboria* with some other subspecies.

**Pink-sided Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*) (0, 0). The report of one from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Pierce Co., 20 Oct 2016 (PSJU-2016-1, vote: 1-6-0) was intriguing, but adequate documentation of field marks necessary to distinguish *J. h. mearnsi* from similar subspecies was not obtained.

**Hooded Oriole** (*Icterus cucullatus*) (11, 1). One reported near Warwick, Klickitat Co., 9 Jun 2018 (HOOR-2018-1, vote: 1-4-2) was observed only briefly in flight. The short view did not allow elimination of other species such as a young Orchard Oriole (*I. spurius*).

**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*) (51, 6). One reported at Nisqually NWR, Thurston Co., 12 Jun 2017 (BAWW-2017-4, vote: 3-4-0) was possibly this species, but the description did not adequately eliminate other species such as the Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*).

**Tennessee Warbler** (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) (44, 5). Reports of one at the Beaver Ponds trail, Winthrop, Okanogan Co., 25 May 2015 (TEWA-2015-6, vote: 2-5-0), of one at Bridgeport, Douglas Co., 6–7 May 2017 (2017-1, vote: 2-4-1), and of one along the Methow River between Twisp and Winthrop, Okanogan Co., 4 May 2018 (2018-1, vote: 0-6-1) included detail insufficient to establish the birds' identity. One reported at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 4 Dec 2016 (2016-1, vote: 2-5-0) was seen too briefly for confident identification. One in flight, observed from a moving car at Sekiu, Clallam Co., 7 Dec 2016 (2016-2, vote: 0-7-0), was seen too briefly to instill confidence in the identification. The description of a supposed Tennessee Warbler at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 4 Oct 2017 (2017-3, vote: 1-4-2) included details unlikely for this season.

**Eastern Nashville Warbler** (*Leiothlypis ruficapilla ruficapilla*) (1, 0). The report of one heard but not seen at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 16 Oct 2016 (NAWA-2016-1, vote: 0-7-0) was not sufficient to allow acceptance of this subspecies.

**Blackpoll Warbler** (*Setophaga striata*) (40, 5). The report of one offshore close to the 12-Mile Bank, Clallam Co. (48.243° N, 124.995° W), 30 Jun 2017 (BLPW-2017-2, vote: 3-4-0) mentioned field marks inconsistent with this species.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Setophaga caerulescens*) (17, 2). The report of one from Battle Ground, Clark Co., 3 Apr 2017 (BTBW-2017-1, vote: 1-6-0) provided detail insufficient to establish the identification.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Setophaga dominica*) (3, 0). The report of one from Ritzville, Adams Co., 21 and 28 Oct 2017 (YTWA-2017-1, vote: 2-4-1) provided detail insufficient to establish the identification.

**Indigo Bunting** (*Passerina cyanea*) (39, 1). One reported at Steptoe Canyon, Whitman Co., 8 Aug 2017 (INBU-2017-2, vote: 2-4-1) was seen too briefly for the possibility of a hybrid Indigo × Lazuli Bunting (*P. cyanea* × *P. amoena*) to be eliminated.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (5, 2). The report of one at Orting, Pierce Co., 6–7 Jun 2018 (PABU-2018-1, vote: 2-5-0) provided detail insufficient to establish the identification.

# REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE— IDENTIFICATION CERTAIN, ORIGIN UNKNOWN

**Whooper Swan** (*Cygnus cygnus*) (1, 0). The report of one 8 km S of Elma, Grays Harbor Co., 1–3 Apr 2018 (WHOS-2018-1, origin vote: 0-7-0) left no doubt as to the identification, but later investigation revealed a local aviculturist who occasionally lost track of his Whooper Swans.

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