

**THIRD REPORT OF THE
WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

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The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) has met three times—on 30 September 1995, 6 April 1996, and 9 November 1996—since the deliberations reflected in its Second Report (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). During these meetings the Committee examined 128 reports of 61 review species. Ninety-seven records of 49 species were accepted, and 31 reports of 21 species were rejected, for an acceptance rate of 76 percent. A preliminary, unofficial summary of these deliberations, published earlier (Mattocks and Aanerud 1997), is superseded by the present definitive report, which corrects it. Notably, the summary itemizes numerous reports that refer to species not on the Review List. These were discussed “off the record” and should be ignored, as we have done here.

Several changes to the state Check-list result from Committee decisions reported here, and several others arise from decisions by the Committee on Taxonomy and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union (see the revised Check-list of Washington Birds elsewhere in this issue).

The Committee is nearing completion of the review process for all old (pre-1989) reports. Part of that process has included the examination of the specimen record of Washington's rare birds. As these specimens are stored in various museums, including the United States National Museum in Washington, D.C., it has been impracticable for the Committee to view all of them directly. Instead, the Committee has chosen to rely on photographs. As often as possible, tagging labels with pertinent information were made visible in the photographs, and specimens were arranged for optimum views of identifying features. These photographs are on file at the Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, along with all other Committee archival materials. This report documents 20 specimens that were reviewed by the Committee in this manner.

The Committee remains unable to evaluate a large number of sightings of review species due to the near-total absence of written reports or other evidence. A list of those from the period 1960-1996 and an appeal for information about them were published recently in *WOSNews* 50:6, 1997.

The Review List for Washington includes those species whose names are italicized on the Check-list, as well as all species not yet recorded

from the state, and is very little changed from the previous edition. Xantus's Murrelet has been added, as relatively few documented reports of this species are known to the Committee. Acorn Woodpecker has also been added. Even though this species has nested erratically in Washington in the last decade, it is not certain that a stable population is present from year to year. The criterion for inclusion on the Review List remains that of 15 or fewer state records prior to 1989 (Tweit and Paulson 1994). However, it is expected that a new set of criteria will be developed in forthcoming Committee meetings and published in the near future.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Procedures have remained consistent with those detailed in the introduction of the first report of the WBRC (Tweit and Paulson 1994). Although photographs are considered among the most persuasive forms of documenting evidence, the Committee strongly prefers a written report in companionship with any submitted photographs. There have been cases in which a photo was not sufficient documentation, resulting in a rejected report. Submitted evidence is considered a "report." A "record" is a report that has been accepted by the Committee.

THE RECORDS

The taxonomy and nomenclature employed in this report are those of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 1983 and supplements). The species reports are listed in taxonomic order, and multiple reports of a single species are listed chronologically. Information provided for each report generally includes the number of individuals (in many cases, with a description of age, sex, or plumage), location and date span for the report, initials of observers who have submitted documenting evidence, and the file number (in parentheses) for the report. Observers' initials are not listed for rejected reports. If any observers submitted photographic or video evidence, their initials are preceded by a (+) sign. All documenting materials as well as any written comments provided by Committee members or consultants are conserved at the Slater Museum. Any commentary following this sequence of information is the opinion of the authors of this report, not of the Committee. In particular, the Committee does not make determinations of sex, age, or subspecies.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members of the Committee who voted on reports included herein were: Kevin Aanerud, T. Ben Feltner (Chairman), Eugene S. Hunn (through the April 1996 meeting), Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. (Secretary), Dennis R. Paulson, Jeff Skriletz, Andy Stepniewski (November 1996 meeting), Robert A. Sundstrom, and Bill Tweit.

ABBREVIATIONS

specimen; + photograph or videotape submitted

Museums: PSM (Slater Museum, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma); USNM (United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.); WSU (Conner Museum, Washington State University, Pullman)

Counties: Asotin (AS), Benton (BE), Chelan (CH), Clallam (CL), Clark (CK), Columbia (CB), Cowlitz (CO), Douglas (DO), Franklin (FR), Grant (GT), Grays Harbor (GH), Island (IS), King (KG), Kitsap (KP), Kittitas (KT), Klickitat (KL), Lincoln (LI), Okanogan (OK), Pacific (PA), Pend Oreille (PO), Pierce (PI), Skagit (SG), Skamania (SM), Snohomish (SN), Spokane (SP), Thurston (TH), Walla Walla (WW), Whatcom (WC), Whitman (WN), Yakima (YA)

Journals: AB=*American Birds*; AFN=*Audubon Field Notes*; C=*Condor*; M=*Murrelet*; NASFN=*National Audubon Society Field Notes*; WN=*WOSNEWS*, *WOSNews* (Washington Ornithological Society Newsletter)

ACCEPTED RECORDS

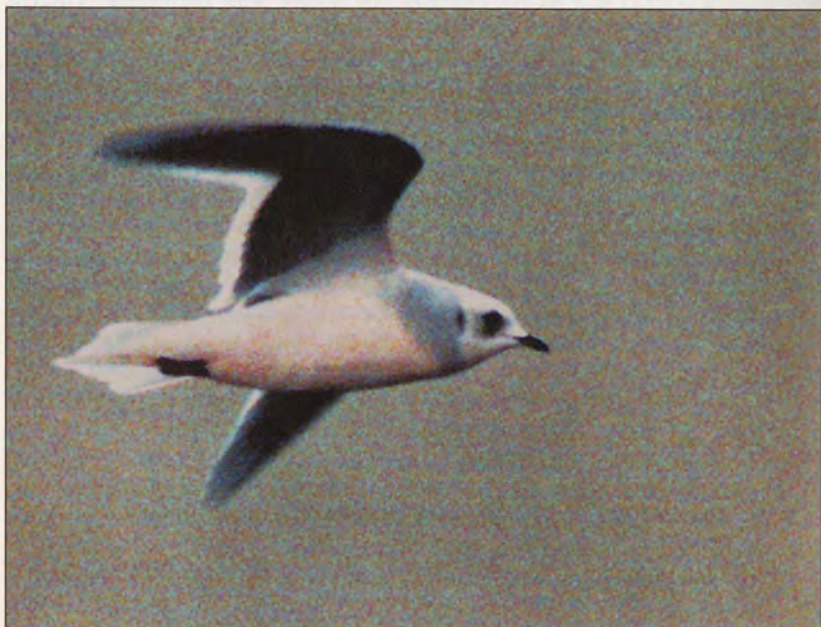
SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS. An adult was collected (USNM #234889) off Fort Canby, PA on 14 Apr 1883 (STAL-1883-1). An immature bird was collected (USNM #117696) 80 miles off Cape Flattery, CL in June 1889 (STAL-1889-1). Another immature, an old specimen (USNM #40066) from Neah Bay, CL (STAL-000-1), was collected without a date indicated. The Committee reviewed photographs of these specimens because it was interested in documenting the physical evidence supporting the occurrence of this species in Washington before its serious decline.

SHY ALBATROSS. An adult female was photographed and collected (USNM #420017) 39 miles west of Quillayute, CL on 1 Sep 1951 (SHAL-51-1). This was the only record in North Pacific waters until a bird was recently discovered 30 miles off Lane County, Oregon, in the fall of 1996 (NASFN 51:108).

MURPHY'S PETREL. Two were photographed on a pelagic trip off Westport, GH on 31 Aug 1995, TWa, +JMc, +JBU (MUPE-95-1). This is the first Washington record for this species in the fall. The vast majority of nearshore eastern Pacific records are in the spring (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996). The California Bird Records Committee no longer reviews reports of Murphy's Petrel as it is being found in offshore waters with increasing regularity (Howell and Pyle 1997).



Steller's Eider - Walla Walla River delta (WW), 10 Sep 1995 (Photo MerryLynn Denny)



Ross's Gull - McNary Dam (BE), 30 Nov 1994 (Photo Bob Brawdy/*Tri-Cities Herald*)



Acorn Woodpecker - Lyle (KL), 3 May 1990 (Photo Wilson Cady)



Vermilion Flycatcher - Ridgefield NWR (CK), 6 Jan 1996 (Photo Ruth Sullivan)



Murphy's Petrel - off Westport (GH), 31 Aug 1995 (Photo Jim McGinity)



Long-billed Murrelet - Edmonds (SN), 16 Nov 1995 (Photo Robert Howson)



Little Blue Heron - Crockett's Lake (IS), 23 Oct 1989 (Photo Scott Ray)



Little Blue Heron - Crockett's Lake (IS), 23 Oct 1989 (Photo Scott Ray)



Yellow-throated Vireo - Spencer Island (SN), 27 Oct 1995 (Photo Patrick Sullivan)



Black-throated Blue Warbler - Olympia (TH), 7 Mar 1995 (Photo Lola Smith)



Indigo Bunting - Spokane (SP), 30 Sep 1994 (Photo David Mann)



Brambling - Naselle (PA), 24 Dec 1995 (Photo Skip Russell)



Garganey - Richland (BE), 28 Dec 1994 (Photo Scott Ray)



Acorn Woodpecker - Lyle (KL), 29 Oct 1989 (Photo Scott Ray)



Fork-tailed Flycatcher - Ilwaco (PA), 13 Sep 1995 (Photo Paul Cozens)



White Wagtail - Ocean Park (PA), 26 Apr 1984 (Photo Greg Lippert)



Chestnut-collared Longspur - Seattle (KG), 7 Dec 1995 (Photo Bob Sundstrom)



Chestnut-collared Longspur - Seattle (KG), 3 Dec 1995 (Photo Paul Munno)



McKay's Bunting - Ocean Shores (GH), 1978-1979 (Photo Robert M. Evans)



McKay's Bunting with Snow Buntings - Ocean Shores (GH), 20 Feb 1988
(Photo Bob O'Brien)



McKay's Bunting and Snow Bunting - Ocean Shores (GH), Jan 1988
(Photo Robert Ashbaugh)



Rusty Blackbird - Whidbey Island (IS), 17 Dec 1994 (Photo Dick McNeely)



Rusty Blackbird - Seattle (KG), 31 Oct 1995 (Photo Kevin Aanerud)

COOK'S PETREL. A bird found dead (UPS #21486) on the beach at Grayland, GH on 15 Dec 1995 is the first record for the state (COPE-95-1).

SNOWY EGRET. The second-oldest record for the state was at Badger Lake, SP on 22-27 May 1977, FOH, SSt (SNEG-77-1). Other records include a bird at Wahluke Wildlife-Recreation Area, GT on 21 Oct 1980, ARi (SNEG-80-1); one at Bowerman Basin, GH on 22 Apr 1984, MHa (SNEG-84-1); another also at Bowerman Basin, GH on 9 Jun 1984, BMo (SNEG-84-2) which the Committee accepted as a separate record; and one at Olympia, TH on 8-16 May 1996, MCa, JSk, +TWr (SNEG-96-1). A photograph of the latter bird was published in WN 45:8, 1996. There are now 12 accepted records for the state with several other reports remaining to be examined.

LITTLE BLUE HERON. The first state record was an immature at Judson Lake, WC from 15 Oct 1974 to 5 Jan 1975, WWe, EHu, +KBr (LBHE-74-1). This record was published by Weber and Hunn (1978). Another immature was seen by many observers at Crockett's Lake, IS on 23-26 Oct 1989, +SRa, +RSm (LBHE-89-1).

ROSS'S GOOSE. One was at Leadbetter Point, PA on 8 May 1971, HNe (ROGO-71-1). Other records include a bird at Bayview, SG on 13 Apr 1976, WSl (ROGO-76-1); one at Ocean Shores, GH on 4 May 1980, G&RR, KBn (ROGO-80-1); one at Seattle, KG on 24 Apr 1990, +RSm (ROGO-1990-1); an immature at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, CK on 3 Dec 1995-1 Jan 1996, JEn (ROGO-95-1); and an individual at Samish Flats, SG on 28 Jan-22 Feb 1996, +RSm (ROGO-96-1). The Committee has now accepted seven records of Ross's Goose, all of them from western Washington. There are at least seventeen other such reports in recent years (1974 to the present) that have not yet been examined. For many years, several reports have been received annually from eastern Washington, where the species has not been reviewed. It is likely that Ross's Goose will be reclassified to "non-review" status at the next opportunity for Committee action.

GARGANEY. One was seen and photographed at Richland, BE on 15-22 Dec 1994, +RWo, EHu, +SRa (GARG-94-1). An account of this sighting was published by Stepniewski in WN 35:1, 1995.

STELLER'S EIDER. The second record for the state was a male photographed at the Walla Walla River delta, WW on 9-13 Sep 1995, +MLDe, MDe (STEI-95-1). The location for this record, east of the Cascades, is surprising as is the early fall date, but the Committee felt it reasonable to assume that this individual was of wild origin. An account and photographs by Mike and MerryLynn Denny were published in WN 39:3, 1995.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. One was reported from Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, CK on 28 Feb 1995, KAa (RSHA-95-1). An injured adult was found in Rainier, TH on 28 Mar 1995 (RSHA-95-2). The bird was sent to the Olympic Wildlife Rescue Center in McCleary and, there, was identified and photographed, +Jsk. An immature was described from Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, CK on 3 Jan 1996, JEn (RSHA-96-1). There are now six accepted records, and an additional four reports have yet to be reviewed. This species has been reported regularly from Ridgefield

National Wildlife Refuge each winter season since 1993. It is still unclear if these sightings refer to more than one or two individual birds.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. A bird from Spokane, SP on 11 Sep 1970, JAc (BWA-70-1) precedes all previous records to become the first state record. The Committee has accepted five records.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER. An adult in alternate plumage at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, SP on 6 May 1968, DPa (MOPL-68-1) is the second of two records. Since this species is declining due to loss of nesting habitat, it is not likely to occur again in the state (Paulson 1993).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT. An immature male was collected (WSU #59-547) from O'Sullivan Dam, GT on 12 Sep 1959, LLF (HUGO-59-1). The report was published (M 41:16). This becomes the first accepted record for the state. Another east-side report, from 1961, awaits review pending receipt of additional information.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. An adult male in alternate plumage was at Ocean Shores, GH on 5 Aug 1995, DWr, MAh (BTGO-95-1). This is the fifteenth accepted record. There are at least seven recent reports that have not been reviewed by the Committee.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. A wintering adult (BHGU-94-1) at Point No Point, KP was first reported on 22 Dec 1994 and last seen on 19 Mar 1995, VNe. It is the eighth state record to be accepted. Two other sightings, from Alki Point, KG on 27 Oct 1994 (WN 35:5, 1995) and Edmonds, SN on 27 Dec 1994 (WN 37:5, 1995), may refer to this same individual, but no details of these sightings have been reported to the Committee.

ICELAND GULL. A first-winter bird was at Banks Lake, GT on 7 Dec 1991, ASt (ICGU-91-1). Another was reported from Clarkston, AS on 8 Jan 1995, KDu, J&MH, DSv (ICGU-95-1). The Banks Lake record was a previously rejected report (Tweit and Paulson, 1994). Careful deliberation has brought the Committee to reconsider and accept this record. Although it was a single-person report, this bird was well described in all details with thorough comparisons to similar gull species. The Clarkston bird is the sixth accepted record for the state. All records pertain to first-year birds.

ROSS'S GULL. An adult at McNary Dam, BE on 27 Nov 1994 was seen by many observers until its last appearance on 1 Dec 1994, +BBR, +RSu, PSu (ROGU-1994-1). A detailed account was written by Phil Bartley in *Washington Birder* 3(1):1,5-6. Photographs and short accounts by Andy Stepniewski and Patrick Sullivan were published in WN 35:1,16, 1995, and by Scott Ray in *Washington Birder* 2(4):1. This is the first record of Ross's Gull in the state and also represents the second record for Oregon, as this bird visited both sides of the state boundary.

LONG-BILLED MURRELET. The first accepted record of this species was of one photographed at Edmonds, SN on 16 Nov 1995, +KAa, +RHo (LBMU-95-1). This northwestern Pacific resident was only recently split from its relative, the Marbled Murrelet, and given full species status

by the AOU (1997). Another, earlier sighting—well-documented and described (Skirletz 1996)—has yet to be reviewed by the Committee.

XANTUS'S MURRELET. The first state record is a specimen (USNM #365372) collected from Copalis Beach, GH on 6 Dec 1941 (XAMU-41-1). The published description (*Auk* 75:90-91) refers to the subspecies *scrippsi*.

XANTUS'S/CRAVERI'S MURRELET. These two very similar species are not always separable based on field observations, particularly as these small alcids are often only glimpsed flying quickly past on pelagic boat trips. Washington observers have long assumed that their sightings properly referred to Xantus's. However, the Committee believes that the possibility of the occurrence of Craveri's should also be considered. Therefore, all otherwise acceptable reports of either species, but with insufficient detail to distinguish between them, will be considered as Xantus's/Craveri's. Two were off Westport, GH on 11 Oct 1970, TWa (XCMU-70-1). "Several" were thirty miles off Westport, GH on 8 Sep 1974, EHu (XCMU-74-1). A sighting of two off Westport, GH on 16 May 1976, DPa (XCMU-76-1) was an unusual spring record.

HORNED PUFFIN. One was seen near Smith Island, IS on 30 May 1981, S&JvN (HOPU-81-1). Another was seen from Point Partridge, Whidbey Island, IS on 3 Sep 1981, CPe (HOPU-81-2). In addition to eight accepted specimen records of birds washed up on beaches, there are now four accepted records of live bird sightings and about eight other unreviewed sightings.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. The first state record was a specimen (WSU #52-241) collected from Kamiak, WN on 1 Jul 1952 (BBCU-52-1). The Committee has now accepted three records.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. A bird seen and heard at Tonasket, OK on 20 Jul 1991, DSw (YBCU-91-1) was reportedly calling in the area for two weeks.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL. A specimen (USNM #415882) collected from Whidbey Island, IS on 22 Oct 1924 represents the first state record (NHOW-24-1). An individual seen at Bridgeport, OK from 20 Jan-14 Feb 1982 (NHOW-82-1) was one of only a few live birds reported up to that time. A photograph appeared in AB 36:314. More recent sightings are from near Spokane, SP from 11-29 Dec 1992 (NHOW-92-3), and from Winthrop, OK from 28 Dec 1995-4 Jan 1996, +RLe (NHOW-95-1). There are now eight records for the state.

BOREAL OWL. One was collected (WSU #74-160) from Pullman, WN on 10 Jan 1974 (BOOW-74-1). The Committee has also accepted a record from Mt. Rainier, PI on 11 Sep 1992, DPa (BOOW-92-1). There have been numerous sightings of this species reported in the last decade, but often without any supporting details or documentation. An interesting account of Boreal Owl nesting in Washington was published by Stepniewski (1996).

ACORN WOODPECKER. An isolated individual was recorded from Washougal, CK on 29 Sep 1978, RHa (ACWO-78-1). Another single bird was seen at Fort Simcoe, YA from 25-28 Mar 1979, ARi, CBo (ACWO-79-1). A small colony of Acorn Woodpeckers was present in Lyle, KL from autumn 1989, documented by photographs on 24 Oct 1989, +SRa (ACWO-89-1) and 3 May 1990, +WCa (ACWO-90-1). While details are unclear, this colony had apparently disappeared by the summer of 1992 (AB 46:471). A fifth accepted record comes from a feeder in Camas, CK on 11 Jun 1995, RWa (ACWO-95-1).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER. The second record for the state was a female seen at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, CK from 31 Dec 1995-25 Jan 1996, +JEn, HNe (VEFL-95-1). A photograph was published in WN 43:9, 1996.

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD. Two records without evidence of vocalizations are a specimen (USNM #421781) from Hoquiam, GH on 1 Nov 1953 (TCKI-53-1) and an individual observed at Ocean Shores, GH on 14 Oct and 2 Nov 1995, RWo, LVa (TCKI-95-1).

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER. This surprising first state record comes from Ilwaco, PA from 12-13 Sep 1995, +G&RR, EHu, +PCo (FTFL-95-1). A photograph and account of this sighting were published by Robert Ramsey in WN 39:1,3, 1995. Fork-tailed Flycatchers have been recorded only two other times west of Texas: once in Idaho, 25 Aug-7 Sep 1991, and once in California, 4-8 Sep 1992 (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. The first record for all of Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia is from Spencer Island, SN on 26-28 Oct 1995, +KAa, BFe, EHu, +PSu (YTVI-95-1). An account and photograph were published in WN 40:1,3, 1995.

BROWN THRASHER. The second record for the state was a bird seen at American Camp, San Juan Island, IS on 26 Jun 1995, JDu (BRTH-95-1). The first record to be documented with a photograph was at Coulee Creek, SP from 15 Jan-19 Feb 1996, JAc, +JPo (BRTH-96-1), moving the species from the Supplementary List to full Check-list status. The only previously accepted record was a single-person sighting from 1994.

WHITE WAGTAIL. An adult in breeding plumage was photographed at Ocean Park, PA on 26 Apr 1984, +GLi (WHWA-84-2).

WHITE/BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL. An individual of one or the other species was at West Point, Seattle, KG on 8-9 Nov 1981, J&RMc, DHu (WBWA-81-1). This represents the oldest record for any species of wagtail in the state.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. One was seen at Montlake Fill, Seattle, KG from 6-9 Sep 1995, KAa (TEWA-95-1). There are seven other accepted records for this species.

NORTHERN PARULA. A singing bird was seen at "Big Four," SN on 22 Jun 1995, RVe (NOPA-95-1). Five of the seven accepted records have occurred in the late spring to early summer.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. A male was at Wapato, YA on 23 Jun 1995, BBo, ASt (CSWA-95-1). Seven of the eight accepted records have occurred between the dates of 11 and 26 June.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. A male in Olympia, TH from 5 Mar-13 Apr 1995 was photographed, +LSm (BUWA-95-1) for the fourth state record and the second record for this species in the winter of 1994-1995.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. A breeding-plumaged male was reported from Almira, LI on 25 Jun 1996, CBu (BLWA-96-1). All four records for this species in the state have been sight records.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER. One was seen at Vantage, KT on 8 Sep 1994, KAa (BPWA-94-1). There are now seven records for the state.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Four records accepted in this round include a winter bird at Pasco, FR on 21 Feb 1961, LNu (BAWA-61-1); a specimen (WSU #66-64) from Pullman, WN on 10 Jun 1965 (BAWA-65-1); another (WSU #73-215) from Pullman, WN on 30 May 1973 (BAWA-73-1); and a sight record from Wenas Campground, YA on 3 May 1976, ZBu (BAWA-76-1). Fourteen records of this species have now been accepted by the Committee.

OVENBIRD. An individual collected (WSU #56-439) from Spokane, SP on 14 Nov 1956 was the first record for the state (OVEN-56-1). Another was collected (WSU #77-399) from Pullman, WN on 12 May 1977 (OVEN-77-1). Robert Woodley reported one from his yard in Richland, BE on 31 May 1990, RWo (OVEN-90-1). Ten records have been accepted.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW. The first state record was a specimen (WSU #62-18) collected from Spokane, SP on 6 Jun 1960 (CCSP-60-1). One on the Skagit Flats, SG on 6 Apr 1975, EHu, BTw (CCSP-75-1); one at Metaline, PO on 29 May 1983, MEg (CCSP-83-1); a wintering bird on the Samish Flats, SG from 3 Dec 1988-19 Jan 1989, RSm (CCSP-88-1); and a singing male at Olympia, TH from 14 Jun-2 Jul 1995, MCa, EKr (CCSP-95-1) are the only records yet examined by the Committee. There are 15 other reports prior to 1989. Breeding has occurred near Spokane, SP, and many recent summer reports have come from Okanogan County where breeding might be confirmed in the future (Smith et al. 1997).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW. An individual struck a window and was collected (WSU #65-57) in Kennewick, BE on 29 May 1964 (LCSP-64-1) for the first state record (M 46:26). The fourth accepted record was a sight record from Lake Wenatchee, CH on 2 Jun 1996, DSt (LCSP-96-1).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. A record from Sullivan Lake, PO on 14 Sep 1986 (NSSP-86-1), originally accepted (Tweit and Paulson 1994) prior to the AOU decision to elevate two forms of Sharp-tailed Sparrow to full species status, was revisited by the Committee and determined to be of the brighter interior species *nelsoni*.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR. A male in breeding plumage was seen along Soap Lake Road between Brewster and Okanogan, OK on 27 May 1995, GRe (CCLO-95-1). A more celebrated record was a winter-plumaged adult male found at the Montlake Fill in Seattle, KG from 3-12 Dec 1995, CMc, EHu, +MSm, +PMu, +KAa, +RSu, +PSu, +RSm (CCLO-95-2). A full discussion of this bird and several photographs were published by Scott Richardson in WN 42:1,3,6-7, 1996. There are four accepted state records to date.

MCKAY'S BUNTING. Two were seen at Ocean Shores, GH from 16 Dec 1978-5 Mar 1979, DFi, MMo, VGo, +REv, +PMa (MKBU-78-1) representing the first record for the state. Another record from Ocean Shores, GH occurred from Jan-Feb 1988, +BOB, +LWe (MKBU-88-1). One other bird was observed in a flock of Snow Buntings on the Lummi Flats, WC from 27-28 Nov 1993, JDu, DDr (MKBU-93-1). Two individuals with a flock of Snow Buntings, just across from Washington at the south jetty of the Columbia River from 23 Feb to mid-Mar 1980, are the only records from farther south (Gilligan et al. 1994).

INDIGO BUNTING. An adult male in partial molt was seen and photographed at Spokane, SP from 23 Sep-2 Oct 1994, +DMa (INBU-94-1). A male in full breeding plumage was seen at Redmond, KG on 1 Jun 1996, +JAl (INBU-96-1). The latter represents the sixth accepted record. There are at least five unexamined reports.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Accepted records include one from Seattle, KG from 5-7 Oct 1993, KAa (RUBL-93-1); a bird that spent several weeks at John Flavin's feeder in Lynnwood, SN, 12 Jan 1994, KAa (RUBL-94-1); a bird photographed on Whidbey Island, IS on 17 Dec 1994, +DMc (RUBL-94-2); one from Dungeness, CL on 24 Sep 1995, BBo (RUBL-95-1); and another at Seattle, KG on 31 Oct 1995, +KAa (RUBL-95-2). There are now 17 records for the state. All but two occurred between 24 September and 20 January; the exceptions were singles in February and March.

COMMON GRACKLE. A specimen record (WSU #81-257) from Touchet, WW on 3 Jul 1980 (COGR-80-1) was accepted by the Committee. There are now four records for the state.

BRAMBLING. A bird wintered at a feeder in Naselle, PA from 6 Dec 1995-10 Apr 1996, +SRu (BRAM-95-1); a photo appeared in WN 43:9, 1996. This is the eleventh record accepted by the Committee.

HOARY REDPOLL. Three records have been accepted: an adult female from Twisp, OK on 30 Jan 1982, MEg, EHu (HORE-82-1); an adult male from Tonasket, OK on 31 Jan 1982, EHu (HORE-82-2); and another adult near Twisp, OK on 9 Jan 1985, ARi (HORE-85-1). These individual birds were found in each case among large numbers of Common Redpolls. Review and acceptance of these records reinstate Hoary Redpoll to the Check-list.

RECORD ACCEPTED FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

CALIFORNIA CONDOR. This species was added to the Supplementary List, on the basis of a few individuals encountered by the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, near the Wind River, SM on 30 Oct 1805 (CACO-1805-1) and described in their journals (Moulton 1988). The Committee examined Clark's brief accounting and accepted it as a reliable, single-person sight record with an historical interest. There are numerous other nineteenth-century sight reports which the Committee has not reviewed. A specimen in the USNM, collected by J. K. Townsend near the mouth of the Columbia in what is now Washington (1834-1836), is expected to provide the evidence necessary to raise the species to full Check-list status, once the Committee has obtained and reviewed a photograph.

REJECTED REPORTS

SNOWY EGRET. A bird reported at Tucannon, CB on 4 May 1975 (SNEG-75-1) was rejected as there was no description submitted. This report was published by Roberson (1980).

LITTLE BLUE HERON. There were few substantive details in support of a report from the Grand Ronde River, AS on 13-15 Oct 1987 (LBHE-87-1).

COMMON EIDER. A very perplexing and incomplete account of seven males and three females was published in C 8:57 by J. H. Bowles. This small flock, he says, was reported "off and on" from the vicinity of Tacoma, PI during the winter of 1905-1906. Bowles himself saw it at the Nisqually Flats, TH/PI on 6 Jan 1906 (COEI-06-1). In the absence of descriptive detail, the Committee decided not to accept the report. There are no state records for this species.

SMEW. A male was described from Seabeck, KP on 18 Dec 1995 (SMEW-95-1). The bird in the accompanying photograph is not identifiable to species, but the Committee is certain that it is not a Smew.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Most of the described details suggested an adult of this species, but the underparts were not accurately or sufficiently described to corroborate a sight report from Richmond Beach, KG on 30 Mar 1995 (BWAH-95-1).

LITTLE STINT. A report of a juvenile from the Skagit Flats, SG on 28 Aug 1994 (LIST-94-1) was a single-person description with considerable details. While several aspects of the description suggest the possibility of this species, the Committee concluded that other, common species could not be discounted. Describing the legs as "grayish-brown" does not rule out Least Sandpiper, and neither does "split supercilium." The Committee remains conservative in regard to juvenile stints, particularly owing to the great range of individual diversity within each species. No records of Little Stint have been accepted to date.

CURLEW SANDPIPER. A juvenile was reported at Quincy, GT on 18 Aug 1996 (CUSA-96-1). The Committee could not accept this report as many important and useful fieldmarks were not mentioned in the description or were not observed: leg color, leg length (proportionately), wing pattern, and rump pattern, for example. The report suggested that Stilt Sandpiper was not a possibility because of the strong whitish supercilium and the "buffy brown" upper breast; however, freshly plumaged juvenile Stilt Sandpipers have both of these characteristics.

ICELAND GULL. A bird reported to be in second-summer plumage at Long Beach, PA on 20 Aug 1983 (ICGU-83-1) was rejected because of insufficient details. The time of year suggests the possibility of a very faded and sun-bleached bird of a more common species, in late-summer plumage.

SLATY-BACKED GULL. An adult in alternate plumage was photographed and described from a boat trip off Westport, GH on 8 Feb 1992 (SBGU-92-1). Most of the Committee members found that the details did not rule out Western Gull. Winter-plumaged Slaty-Backed Gulls are more easily separated from the similar Westerns and can be identified with greater confidence.

RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. Two reports from Ocean Shores, GH were rejected. One was on 2 Apr 1987 (RLKI-87-1) and the other on 26 Apr 1987 (RLKI-87-2). Both descriptions were insufficient in detail.

PARAKEET AUKLET. A report from a ferry off Port Angeles, CL on 15 Apr 1973 (PAAU-73-1) and a description of 12-15 birds between Edmonds, SN and Kingston, KP on 12 May 1978 (PAAU-78-1) most likely refer to misidentified Rhinoceros Auklets. It is a common error to underestimate size of small ocean birds from the high vantage position of a large ferry.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. The Committee rejected a very brief report of an unseen calling bird from Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, SP on 4 Jun 1983 (YBCU-83-1).

NORTHERN HAWK OWL. A wintering bird near Dungeness, CL from 31 Dec 1976-26 Jan 1977 (NHOW-76-1) was almost certainly a Short-eared Owl, as all details fit this species more appropriately.

BOREAL OWL. A pair feeding young was reported from Pullman, WN from 4 May-16 Jun 1979 (BOOW-79-1). This report was published (M 61:80) as the state's first breeding record. The Committee rejected the report, because it gives no identifying description and the habitat was completely inappropriate for a nesting Boreal Owl (see Stepniewski 1996).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD. A male was described from Spokane, SP on 11 May 1994 (BTHU-94-1). A very brief look and no mention of the trilling sound of the wings characteristic of this species led to the rejection of this report. There is still no record of this species for the state.

BLACK PHOEBE. A published report (C 66:162) of two seen near Hanford, BE on 4 Sep 1962 (BLPH-62-1) was rejected for lack of descriptive details. The observer wrote, in response to inquiry, that the field notebooks for that trip had been lost in a fire. Another bird observed for five minutes at Kennewick, BE on 8 Nov 1992 (BLPH-92-1) was rejected for insufficient details. Some members of the Committee were perplexed that the report did not include tail wagging or a call note, given that the bird was observed for a relatively long period of time.

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD. A bird reported by an experienced observer at White Swan, YA on 27 Oct 1962 (TCKI-62-1) was from an unlikely location and had no details. There are no accepted records for Tropical Kingbird in eastern Washington (and none for Couch's anywhere in the state).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. A reported male from Lake Joy, KG on 21 May 1995 (BUWA-95-2) was seen by a skilled observer. However, the "half-second look" was thought too brief to assure certainty with such a rarity in Washington.

MOURNING WARBLER. A bird seen near Panhandle Lake, PO on 2 May 1986 (MOWA-86-2) was rejected by the Committee for lack of details. This report was published (AB 40:501). No records of Mourning Warbler have been accepted.

LARK BUNTING. A winter-plumaged bird from Ocean Shores, GH on 7 Sep 1995 (LKBU-95-1) was reported with insufficient detail. Even though the observers believed the bird was not a Brown-headed Cowbird, most Committee members were still of the opinion that it could well have been that species.

HOARY REDPOLL. Four reports were rejected for insufficient detail: one at Marietta, WC on 28 Dec 1969 (HORE-69-1); a flock of 16 near Panhandle Lake, PO on 28 Nov 1976 (HORE-76-1); one from Bridgeport, DO on 11 Feb 1982 (HORE-82-1); and an immature near Winthrop, OK on 28 Dec 1984 (HORE-84-1). Common Redpolls can be very pale in color, and circumstances of lighting in snow conditions can make it difficult to distinguish between these two similar species. The Committee has taken a cautious attitude toward accepting records of Hoary Redpolls. The Marietta, Bridgeport, and Winthrop reports were published (AFN 24:532, AB 36:315, and AB 39:191, respectively).

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH. A single-person sight record of a pair at a feeder in Tacoma, PI on 30 Mar 1994 (LAGO-94-1) was rejected for insufficient details. There are no state records to date. The Committee encourages photographic documentation for any such species with no established pattern of vagrancy for the Northwest region.

CONTRIBUTORS

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