



American White Pelican at Downs Lake in Spokane County. *Gordon Starkebaum*

Shrub-Steppe, to Meadows, to Peaks

Report on the 2022 Annual Conference, June 10-12, 2022, Spokane Valley, WA

DAVE KREFT, Kettle Falls
WOS Director and Conference Planning Committee

What a relief to have the annual WOS conference finally back after a two-year Covid-19 hiatus. The northeastern region of Washington was the focus of attention for three days of spring breeding season birding. Our 5:00 a.m. parking lot morning gatherings at the CenterPlace Regional Event Center were a bit wet with spring showers, but the days proceeded well as the weather cleared. Participants had the choice of over 40 field trips, including five on-the-way trips and a couple of owling trips that were able to come off despite the wet weather.

Birding was our mission but seeing each other face to face was our reward. Many acquaintances were renewed, and new friends were made. After two years of no in-person monthly meetings and two cancelled annual conferences everyone was more than willing to meet the Covid protocols for attendance.

Our conference registrar, Tracy Mitchell, reports the following breakdown. We had 124 attendees, 34 of which were field trip leaders. As for the evening events, the Friday evening social hour, dinner buffet, and Stump the Experts festivities had 93 people thoroughly entertained. Dennis Paulson

and Shep Thorp did a masterful job of testing the mettle of birders from around the state with obscure photos and cryptic descriptions, daring us to correctly identify the species presented.

The Saturday evening banquet had 101 registered attendees. Key items included a brief business meeting session from our President, Jennifer Kauffman, and a wonderful presentation on the Great Gray Owl, *Strix nebulosa*, by the keynote speaker, Mike Munts, USFWS Refuge Biologist at the Little Pend Oreille NWR.

Field trip attendees (not including leaders) were as follows:

- Thursday on-the-way trips - 21
- Friday - 95
- Saturday (incl. owling) - 104
- Sunday - 75

Funds donated to the Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund (PSYBF) were in excess of \$700.

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Annual Conference Report

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The **Washington Ornithological Society** (WOS) was chartered in 1988 to increase knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance communication among all persons interested in those birds. It provides a forum to meet and share information on bird identification, biology, population status, and birding sites.

WOS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

www.wos.org
information@wos.org

Membership is open to all persons interested in birds and birding. Individual plans are \$25 / year. Student, family, and lifetime plans are available. For details, visit <https://wos.org/membership/> or contact membership chair Sarah Safranek at membership@wos.org.

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WOS News has been published bimonthly since 1988. This is Issue #198: August / September 2022. Submissions, photos, letters are welcome. The new editor wants to hear from you!

Editor
Chris Rurik
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Raven artwork © 1989 Linda M. Feltner

WOS Treasurer Bob Schmidt reports that sales of T-shirts, hats, and conference posters brought in about \$1,600 to bolster the bottom line. Thank you to Bob and Elaine Chuang for staffing the sales table!

WOS conducted a post-conference evaluation, which indicates that participants especially appreciated the knowledge and generosity of the field trip leaders and presenters. The WOS Board will be reviewing the survey results to determine how to improve our next conference.

A summary of the field trip results was graciously compiled by Michael Hobbs (thank you!). His breakdown is provided on page 3. See also Ed Pullen's account of being a trip leader on page 14.

Special recognition was given to Jennifer Kauffman for her extended service as WOS President during the Covid era. Trying to create a successful in-person conference following two cancelled WOS conferences in Astoria was a mammoth task. Well done, Jennifer! Of course, Jennifer would want to give credit to key players that made it all happen. So, many thanks to Cindy McCormack, Kim Thorburn, and Jon Houghton [editor's note: and Dave Kreft] for pulling together the field trip itineraries and field trip leaders. Thanks also to Jane Hadley for website updates, Tracy Mitchell for handling the PlanetReg conference registration, Bob Schmidt for paying the bills, and the entire Board for their support in approving the go-ahead for the conference. And a special thank you to the field trip leaders, including those from the Spokane area, whose knowledge of birds – and local birding areas – made the weekend truly memorable.

We (the Board) are currently working on plans for the 2023 WOS annual conference. Stay tuned for updates and announcements. See you there, wherever it may be!

Good Birding, Dave Kreft



A WOS Conference field trip, led by Mark Selle, visits a new birding hotspot, the recently restored Saltese Flats. *Jane Hadley*



Birding at Sprague Lake, led by Randy Hill. *Robin Melvin*



Gray Catbird at Turnbull NWR on a field trip led by Bruce LaBar. *Gordon Starkebaum*

Bird List for the 2022 WOS Conference

MICHAEL HOBBS, West Seattle

The 2022 WOS Conference was held in Spokane, June 9–12, a repeat of the 2012 conference exactly ten years later. For both conferences, the weather was cooler and wetter than expected for mid-June. Many of the same field trips were run, with trips covering very similar areas. For both conferences, Mt. Spokane was still almost wintery, though there was a touch less snow this year than in 2012.

Despite the somewhat bad weather, the field trips were quite successful, with many of the target species seen. It was actually a bit strange, for pretty much all the expected birds were found but there were no rarities sighted at all, and very few surprises of any kind.

That said, Least Flycatchers were present at four sites in three counties. Bobolinks were at Newman Lake in Spokane County, as well as their more usual locations in Stevens County. And, of course, rare and unusual birds are nice but getting some really good looks at more common species can be very enjoyable too.



Grasshopper Sparrow on a Lincoln County Public Lands field trip led by Ed Pullen. *Gordon Starkebaum*

The best bird of the conference wasn't even part of the conference. A Black-and-White Warbler was found Thursday morning at The Cove (aka Getty's Cove) south of Vantage in Kittitas County. Many birders were able to see this bird en route to or from the conference.

The conference total was 180 species (plus a few more seen far to the west on the on-the-way trips), much lower than the 2012 total of 201 species. Sometimes the rare birds just aren't present to be seen. The complete bird list is as follows.



The conference's only Red-necked Phalarope, flanked by Wilson's Phalaropes, on a field trip led by Tim O'Brien. *Gordon Starkebaum*



Western Bluebird at Turnbull NWR on a field trip led by Bruce LaBar. *Gordon Starkebaum*



Chewelah Valley. *Jane Hadley*

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Canada Goose | American Coot | Pileated Woodpecker |
| Trumpeter Swan | Black-necked Stilt | Northern Flicker |
| Wood Duck | American Avocet | American Kestrel |
| Blue-winged Teal | Killdeer | Merlin |
| Cinnamon Teal | Wilson's Snipe | Peregrine Falcon |
| Northern Shoveler | Wilson's Phalarope | Olive-sided Flycatcher |
| Gadwall | Red-necked Phalarope | Western Wood-Pewee |
| American Wigeon | Spotted Sandpiper | Willow Flycatcher |
| Mallard | Greater Yellowlegs | Least Flycatcher |
| Northern Pintail | Bonaparte's Gull | Hammond's Flycatcher |
| Green-winged Teal | Franklin's Gull | Gray Flycatcher |
| Canvasback | Ring-billed Gull | Dusky Flycatcher |
| Redhead | California Gull | Pacific-slope Flycatcher |
| Ring-necked Duck | Caspian Tern | Say's Phoebe |
| Lesser Scaup | Black Tern | Western Kingbird |
| Bufflehead | Forster's Tern | Eastern Kingbird |
| Common Goldeneye | Common Loon | Cassin's Vireo |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | Double-crested Cormorant | Warbling Vireo |
| Hooded Merganser | American White Pelican | Red-eyed Vireo |
| Common Merganser | American Bittern | Steller's Jay |
| Ruddy Duck | Great Blue Heron | Black-billed Magpie |
| California Quail | Black-crowned Night-Heron | Clark's Nutcracker |
| Wild Turkey | Turkey Vulture | American Crow |
| Ruffed Grouse | Osprey | Common Raven |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | Golden Eagle | Black-capped Chickadee |
| Chukar | Northern Harrier | Mountain Chickadee |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Cooper's Hawk | Chestnut-backed Chickadee |
| Red-necked Grebe | Bald Eagle | Horned Lark |
| Eared Grebe | Red-shouldered Hawk | Northern Rough-winged Swallow |
| Western Grebe | Swainson's Hawk | Tree Swallow |
| Rock Pigeon | Flammulated Owl | Violet-green Swallow |
| Eurasian Collared-Dove | Western Screech-Owl | Bank Swallow |
| Mourning Dove | Great Horned Owl | Barn Swallow |
| Common Nighthawk | Northern Pygmy-Owl | Cliff Swallow |
| Vaux's Swift | Belted Kingfisher | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| White-throated Swift | Red-naped Sapsucker | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Black-chinned Hummingbird | Lewis's Woodpecker | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| Calliope Hummingbird | Downy Woodpecker | |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Hairy Woodpecker | |
| Virginia Rail | White-headed Woodpecker | |
| Sora | | |



Birding at Indian Painted Rocks, Little Spokane River Natural Area, led by Lindell Haggin. *Robin Melvin*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Cassin's Finch | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | Red Crossbill | Tricolored Blackbird |
| Brown Creeper | White-winged Crossbill | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Rock Wren | Pine Siskin | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Canyon Wren | Lesser Goldfinch | Northern Waterthrush |
| House Wren | American Goldfinch | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Pacific Wren | Grasshopper Sparrow | Nashville Warbler |
| Marsh Wren | Chipping Sparrow | MacGillivray's Warbler |
| Bewick's Wren | Clay-colored Sparrow | Common Yellowthroat |
| European Starling | Brewer's Sparrow | American Redstart |
| Gray Catbird | Lark Sparrow | Yellow Warbler |
| Sage Thrasher | Dark-eyed Junco | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Western Bluebird | Vesper Sparrow | Townsend's Warbler |
| Mountain Bluebird | Savannah Sparrow | Wilson's Warbler |
| Townsend's Solitaire | Song Sparrow | Western Tanager |
| Varied Thrush | Spotted Towhee | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| Veery | Yellow-breasted Chat | Lazuli Bunting |
| Swainson's Thrush | Yellow-headed Blackbird | |
| Hermit Thrush | Bobolink | |
| American Robin | Western Meadowlark | |
| Cedar Waxwing | Bullock's Oriole | |
| House Sparrow | | |
| Evening Grosbeak | | |
| House Finch | | |

Slate Set for 2022 WOS Board Election

Meet the nominees for WOS Officer and Board Positions. Voting runs September 4 - 27. Terms begin October 1, 2022.

WOS BOARD

Please see the pictures and birding biographies of our new slate of WOS Officers and Board members below. Cast your vote during the voting period September 4 – 27, 2022. More details about voting will be posted on the election page (<https://wos.org/2022-wos-election/>) just before the voting period, and WOS members will be emailed a ballot. Elected board members and officers begin their terms October 1, 2022.

President Jennifer Kauffman, after serving two one-year terms as vice president and two one-year terms as president, is leaving the board. Vice President David Armstrong, after serving two one-year terms, also departs. No one has volunteered to replace Jennifer, so the president position is open. (Please email the board at board@wos.org if you wish to serve as president.) David Kreft, who has served one year of a two-year term as board member, is running for a one-year term as vice president. Secretary Jon Houghton is running for his third one-year term. Treasurer Bob Schmidt is running for his second one-year term.

Running to replace Board Member Kim Thorburn, who has served two two-year terms and is leaving the board, is new candidate Maureen Traxler. Jason Fidorra has served one two-year term and also will leave. New candidate Laurie Ness has volunteered to run for Jason's position. Jody Hess is a new candidate running for the remaining year in Dave Kreft's board position.

Board Members Matt Yawney and Ed Pullen each have one year remaining on their terms and are not part of this election.

President — OPEN

Vice President — Dave Kreft

Greetings from beautiful northeast Washington. My name is Dave Kreft, and I am a nominee for WOS Vice President. I have been a member of WOS for only a few years and greatly respect those members who have been around far longer, some since the beginning of the organization. I commend their foresight and resolve to form and sustain this organization through the years.

I am recently retired from a 39-year career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. I worked with farmers, ranchers, small forestland owners, American Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and various local, state, and federal agencies to promote and implement sound



conservation practices on private and tribal lands. I worked primarily in eastern Washington but spent the last seven and a half years coordinating the agency's conservation easement programs across the entire state. Though originally an Iowa farm boy I did my growing up years in the Puget Sound area. The Edmonds marsh was my first introduction to birding when I attended high school at the then Woodway Senior High School. I went on to attend Washington State University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management ('80). Go Cougs!

Because of my location in the far flung reaches of the state I became one of the early adopters of the remote viewing options for the monthly meeting, initially via GoToMeeting and now Zoom (kudos to Elaine!). I see the growth and future viability of the organization in our ability to adapt to the changing times, to effectively recruit new members from across the state, and to bring on the next two generations of birders, conservationists, and aspiring ornithologists. I was on the planning team for the 2022 WOS annual meeting in Spokane and enjoyed showing many of you my corner of the state. It would be my great honor to serve as Vice President.

Treasurer — Bob Schmidt

I have been a WOS member off and on since about 2005. I was not always active due to family and work commitments. However, I have never stopped enjoying birds since my Ornithology class at Ohio University in 1976 and even earlier, casually birding with my sister when there were no snakes, lizards, turtles, or frogs around. I have also been active in various Audubon organizations dating back to a memorable CBC in Stuart, Florida around 1977 when I spotted some Smooth-billed Anis.

My first term as WOS Treasurer has been an interesting and fulfilling learning experience. It is great to be more active and contributing to WOS, especially at the Spokane Conference this year. I believe I have started to make some of our financial systems more accurate, reliable, and auditable. In the future, I am hoping these systems can also become more integrated and streamlined, with the goal that trustworthy and timely financials will help our officers and board make the best decisions to serve the WOS community.



Secretary — Jon Houghton

I retired after over 45 years as a consulting marine biologist in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. During this time, I had the great privilege of studying aquatic and marine life (including birds) in some of the most gorgeous places on the



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WOS Board Election

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planet. I began birding at the age of about 3 when my mother took me on Audubon bird trips in Vermont and began my introduction to amazing naturalists and birds. (I still have my 1956 checklist of 97 birds in the state of Vermont.)

Since the kids went off on their own, my wife and I have spent a lot of our leisure time birding in the US and around the world. I was fortunate to be accepted to and complete the Master Birder program with the 2013 class and transitioned from being a bird watcher to becoming a birder. Over the last 10 years I've enjoyed leading field trips for Seattle Audubon and serving as the WOS Secretary for the entire COVID era. After a successful convention in Spokane Valley, I look forward to a resumption of in-person meetings!

New Board Member — Maureen Traxler

Greetings WOS members. Thanks for considering me for a seat on the WOS Board! I moved to Washington in 1980 to attend UW and immediately felt at home.

Birds, especially seabirds, caught my interest when I started sea kayaking in the 1990s. I took a detour from birding into butterflies for several years, helping the brand-new Washington Butterfly Association by serving as president, VP, newsletter editor, silent auction organizer, and field trip leader.

In 2016, I retired from a long career with the city of Seattle and became a more serious birder. I'm currently supporting Seattle Audubon by serving on the classes committee, participating in Puget Sound Seabird Survey and the Seattle Bird Collision Monitoring study. I'm also an enthusiastic supporter of Puget Sound Bird Observatory, and enjoy its Secretive Wetland Bird Survey and Edmonds Marsh Monitoring projects.

I look forward to working with WOS's impressive Board and supporting its important programs. It's gratifying to have a chance to participate where I hope my experience and aptitude can make a contribution.



New Board Member — Laurie Ness

Laurie Ness is an eastern Washington native. She is an outdoor enthusiast who currently enjoys county birding, backpacking and recording bird sounds for the Macaulay Library/eBird. Laurie's deep regard for nature led her to a wildlife degree and many years of paid and volunteer field work focused on birds.

As a field biologist, Laurie conducted surveys for threatened and endangered species, including Mexican Spotted Owl telemetry in Zion National Park and for Northern Spotted Owls, Peregrine Falcons and



Northern Goshawks on the Klamath and Wenatchee National Forests.

Laurie later specialized in seabirds, spending two summers on the remote Pribilof Islands, first as a natural history and birding guide, then as a Seabird Biologist for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, where she recorded chick growth rates of both Kittiwake species and nesting success for Murre and Auk species.

Laurie then transitioned from paid wildlife biologist to business owner, establishing her own successful pet care business in the Tri-Cities. Before and after retiring, Laurie has worked tirelessly with and for wildlife. Her sense of adventure and her compassion for birds shines through.

New Board Member — Jody Hess

I live in Fircrest, Washington. My first birding memory is of a Blue Jay nesting in the maple tree outside my bedroom window when I was 7 years old. Years later I took my students to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge after one serious young man asked, "Ms. Hess, what do you do with the birds after you catch them?" Birding is for anyone, anywhere, anytime and continues to hold my interest and challenge me.



An Overfull Chestnut-backed Chickadee Nest

STEVE HAMPTON, Port Townsend

On June 2, I discovered that the Chestnut-backed Chickadee in my backyard nest box in Port Townsend had a remarkable 14 eggs. Since I know they were all laid within the previous eight days, they had to be from at least two birds. The average clutch size is around six eggs, and birds typically lay one egg per day. By June 22, there were four chicks in the nest. Unfortunately, a few days later the nest was abandoned, with two chicks dead and two missing, for unknown reasons.



The nest and its surroundings. Steve Hampton

1947-2022

In Memory of *Wayne Weber*



Wayne Weber, far R, with a group of Washington birders at the 2014 WOS Conference in Yakima. *Jane Hadley*

Longtime BC birder and naturalist impacted many in the Pacific Northwest birding scene. These are some of the remembrances offered on Tweeters following his passing.

He impacted the birding scene here in BC and WA for so many years and he will be greatly missed by many.

— Melissa Hafting

I first met Wayne at a WOS conference many moons ago and I was surprised at his wealth of knowledge. I came to realize that he showed up at all WOS Conferences and was a regular pelagic enthusiast on Washington Seabirds tours. His distinctive voice always announced his presence. He was definitely willing to share his birding knowledge with all levels of birders and wildlife watchers.

— Jim Danzenbaker

I've known Wayne since maybe 1973 and ran into him from time to time across the region, always chasing after some intriguing bird. He was a bit odd, but passionate about birds. I recall when we more or less independently tracked down a first for the state and province Little Blue Heron at Judson Lake on the BC border with Whatcom, County, late in 1974. Our team was lined up on the Washington side of the lake and I spotted Wayne and his crew on the far shore as he spotted me in our scopes on opposite sides of the international boundary. We subsequently co-authored a note on the sighting (Weber & Hunn 1978, "First record of the Little Blue Heron for British Columbia and Washington." *Western Birds* 9:33-34). I trust Wayne is soaring somewhere above with swifts.

— Gene Hunn

I am saddened by news of the passing of Wayne Weber. In the winter of 1972, I met Wayne on a Vancouver Natural History Society survey of raptors of the area. Our route was Boundary Bay, a low-lying region of fertile farmlands, estuaries, and salt bay just north of the Washington/British Columbia border.

Fifty years ago that area hosted a wide diversity and impressive numbers of raptors, now reduced. Towards the end of our day together, Wayne said to me, "with your interest and enthusiasm for birds and natural history, you ought to apply for a park naturalist position with BC Parks." I followed Wayne's advice, applied and spent two summers in glorious Garibaldi Provincial Park, and another summer as a park planner investigating park potential in the Chilcotin region of the province. In 1976, I changed bosses and went to work for the feds in Jasper National Park.

Wayne and I have kept in touch since those days in the 1970s. On his visits, I helped swell his Washington and Yakima County lists (for Wayne was the consummate lister). Ferruginous Hawk was one, which he and I saw from the Selah Rest Area in the 1980s, a species long gone from that area. Our last conversation was this winter while Ellen and I were in south Texas. Ever enthusiastic, Wayne shared his very considerable knowledge of Texas birds during a lengthy (these always seemed to be so) phone call.

Wayne remains the most important person in determining how my life played out, including my accident in 1976. I'm reminded of Stephen Jay Gould's *Wonderful Life*. In this book, Gould (famed Harvard evolutionary biologist) sets out to reinterpret the incredible Burgess Shale fossil bed in Yoho National Park, BC. Gould's central thesis boils down to the notion that "any replay of the tape of life would lead evolution down a pathway radically different than the road actually taken." He was first to coin this "contingency theory."

Thus, paramount in how my life played out was hugely contingent on meeting Wayne Weber one winter day in 1972. Wayne and I mused this thought over a number of times.

I will miss Wayne.

— Andy Stepniewski

I was saddened to hear the news of Wayne's passing. Wayne participated in many Columbia Basin Audubon Society field trips when that group was active. As the field trip leader I was always happy to have Wayne along. It was like having another field trip leader to help with the load. I have seldom met a more gracious and giving person in all the years I led field trips for CBAS, WOS, Seattle Audubon, the Sandhill Crane Festival. Wayne was always trying to add to his extensive lists for eastern Washington counties. When Wayne would chase a bird in eastern Washington we would often meet up and chase together. I enjoyed that Wayne was never disheartened if a chase was unsuccessful because he appreciated the local birds as much as he did the rarity (but he DID enjoy finding that rarity LOL). I will sincerely miss Wayne and his reports.

— Doug Schonewald



A hummingbird at the Little Pend Oreille NWR feeding station has sparked discussion of hybrid origins. *Jane Hadley*

Identification Challenge: Hybrid Hummingbird

SCOTT HOSKIN, Seattle

After the 2022 Spokane Valley WOS Conference, Jane Hadley posted a set of photos on Facebook taken on field trips around the area. One of the photos showed a hummingbird at a feeder at Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. It was labeled as a male Black-chinned Hummingbird. My first impression of the bird in the photo was perhaps it was not a BCHU. The color of the gorget looked very red, not purple or black. It also seemed to have scalloping on the bottom part of the gorget.

My wife, Penny Rose, and I have been doing a Breeding Bird Survey and camping in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area for the last 15 years and have set up a hummingbird feeder which we watch on a daily basis. The overwhelming majority of the hummingbirds visiting our feeder are male Black-chinned. The bird in Jane's photo looked very different from the many we've seen over the years. My first thought was perhaps it was a Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Checking field guides and on-line photos of BTHU, the red on the gorget and the scalloping looked similar to Jane's photo but the red didn't seem bright enough and the gorget itself not large enough for BTHU. I also noticed the photograph showed some slight rufous coloring in the flanks and tail which I've never observed in Black-chinned Hummingbirds.

Jane had run the photo through Merlin with the location set at Little Pend Oreille NWR. Merlin identified it as a Black-chinned Hummingbird. I ran the photo through Merlin with the location set as UNKNOWN and received a Broad-tailed Hummingbird ID.

Could it be a hybrid of the two? I checked my available field guides and could not find any mention of BCHU x BTHU hybrids. An internet search was more helpful and provided these two articles:

- http://www.azfo.org/gallery/2015/html07/Black-chinned_X_Broad-tailed_Hummingbird_BCHUxBTHU_Wilder_03_September_2015_635770485975724514.html
- <https://academic.oup.com/condor/article/114/2/329/5152779>

Both articles contain photos and descriptions of hybrids which closely matched Jane's photo.

I then reached out to members of WOS with more familiarity with Eastern Washington birds and/or hummingbirds and asked for their opinions on Jane's original photo and

three more she provided. Scott Downes then weighed in with his opinion and said that he would agree that the bird "looks off" for a Black-chinned. He thought a Black-chinned would normally be grayer below. Also he thought the gorget color seemed like a mix between Black-chinned and Broad-tailed, while admitting gorget color is dicey. He thought he saw a bit of a white eye-line in the bird, not present on a Black-chinned. He pronounced it an "odd bird" and requested more photos if possible.

Next I contacted Dan Harville who bands hummingbirds. Dan responded, "I would also tend to think hybrid BCHU x BTHU. The general look is like Black-chinned but I've never seen the base of the gorget look red — it's always seemed purple or black depending on the light. Be nice to see the tail and bill." He also said, "Banded a BCHU x ANHU outside Winthrop and a BCHU x CAHU near Spokane. Seems like a lot of mixing going on over there!"

Jane contacted Dave Kreft, who was the field trip leader, and he consulted a hummingbird guide and said there are several key field marks that indicate Broad-tailed.

- color of gorget (lighting can really mess with that) is much more red than purple
- clean white beneath gorget
- no clear view of the tail, but no white tips that I can see, can't see if inner edges of R2-R5 have a touch of rufous, a BTHU mark
- does appear to have a "vest" appearance on chest, but white collar extending around neck is more like BCHU
- scalloped lower edge of gorget could be either; I see several images where BCHU can have this too

Dave concluded that, yes, this could be a hybrid.

In conclusion, based on experience, observation, research and in consultation with deeply knowledgeable birders, I believe this bird to be a male hybrid Broad-tailed x Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus* x *Archilochus alexandri*).



The Willettes in 2020. The masks may be gone but the pandemic's impact on birding may remain. *Diane Yorgasin-Quinn*

Has the Pandemic Changed Birding — Forever?

DIANE YORGASIN-QUINN, Gig Harbor

First, the State said to stay home, but they didn't nail our doors shut, so we birded. But only in our yards or on our street and never with other people. Gradually we learned the rules and got a feel for the recommended six feet of social distancing being the wingspan of a Bald Eagle. We wore masks, many with crafty images of birds on them. We adapted.

eBird ramped up its Birder-of-the-Month challenge, instructing us a little more loudly than previously to do an eBird list every single day at the minimum. By eBirding our "patches," many of us found out what great habitats our houses are in. Faye (full name withheld to protect the guilty) said it was "the eBird challenge that started it, but the pandemic helped make it easier to do!"

Then Christmas Bird Count time came. Some count circles canceled their CBCs, and many changed to Feeder Watches only. My personal CBCs (Tahoma and Vashon) allowed us to go birding in the usual way, except ALONE in our cars, which led to some very long caravans. National Audubon dictated, "...carpooling may only occur within existing familiar or social pod groups." Thus arose the concept of birding pods. A pod could be members of your own household or very close associates. No count dinners were held for the last two years, and I wouldn't bet on this year, either, with Son of Omicron still raging as I write this.

Birdathon fundraisers were affected. Instead of signing up to see lots of species with a big shot birder, you now had to sponsor someone who was birding alone without witnesses. For two years I counted Vaux's Swifts at JBLM and only had one species on my list, so my sponsors stepped up and pledged per individual bird. Even this year, no big groups are going out for my local Audubon, and the usual blockbuster trip, "Tideflats to Moses Lake," was changed to "solo" with in-

itation to go with them vicariously.

Hey, we all learned to Zoom and found favorite webcams, something we never had time for before because we would have gone birding! Rachel Hudson has perfected birding by ear from her window in Chehalis (<https://blackhills-audubon.org/a-different-kind-of-summer-birding/>). We birders don't get bored easily!

So has the pandemic left many birds out there without humans to show up and count them? No, birders are counting them, just not hordes of birders. In looking at the numbers of eBird checklists submitted in 2019, 2020, 2021, and the first half of 2022, there has been a huge jump in checklists submitted each year. The first half of this year has had more checklists submitted than pre-pandemic years' annual totals. Many of these are from the same big eBirders, who seem to be covering their patches and heading out by themselves more than ever before, but a good portion are also from new users who took the pandemic as an opportunity to discover the Greatest Hobby on Earth.

I just had a fascinating conversation with Art Wang, who described a road trip he'd just returned from, where he added a couple of new states and new birds to his lists, with many interesting observations on the Dakotas landscape. Naively, I asked him who he'd gone with, and he said, "Just myself." Many birders did solo Big Years during the pandemic, an activity with great personal satisfaction as the prize. Several have come with well-read blogs, such as Tim Brennan methodically covering under-birded counties (<https://klickitat-countybirding.blogspot.com/>), Blair Bernson's statewide adventures (blairbirding.com), as well as those who have stayed closer to home such as Larry Hubbell with his popular Union Bay Watch blog (<https://unionbaywatch.blogspot.com/>). Not to mention Will Brooks, who just broke the state big year record! You can hear him talk about it with Jason Vassallo,

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Pandemic Birding

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who did a solo ABA Area big year, on Ed Pullen's podcast, Bird Banter (<http://abcbirding.com/our-own-big-year-birders-on-the-bird-banter-podcast-this-episode/>) — which has kept Ed very busy during this pandemic, profiling the birders of Washington and beyond. If he hasn't interviewed you yet, just you wait!

The other aspect of pandemic birding is target walks, by which I mean regularly scheduled walks in birdy places. Billy Frank, Jr., Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is one such place. There are walks there every Wednesday, plus additional walks sponsored by Tahoma Audubon and the NWR on weekends. You can just show up. Nothing to pay (except parking), nothing to sign up for. The Eagle's Pride golf course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord is another of these. Out here on the peninsula where I live, there are target walks at Theler Wetlands in Belfair, Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor, and Gateway Park on the Key Peninsula (led by our WOS newsletter editor). These are great because no one rides

with anyone else. When we show up, everyone's already out of doors, so less danger virus-wise. Such walks are available throughout the state, whether "official" or not. Walking through your own neighborhood might gain you some followers, too.

The dark side of all this pandemic-style solo birding is fossil fuel. I know that Art drives a partially electric car, but one still needs fossil fuels when birding far from civilization, as we all like to do. And when there's only one or maybe two people sharing a car, that's a far cry from the old methodology of cramming as many birders into a car as possible, which not only saved fuel, but made new friends, which is how my own "pod," the Willettes was born.

Solo birding may become the new norm, thus losing some of us that chance of adding more birding buddies. And fossil fuels will still stay because of the lack of charging stations in remote birding areas (not to mention the lack of cell signal!). Most of us will not adopt unicycles as John Patten Moss did (see Bird Banter for his report) to save fuel. Even hiking requires fuel to get to the trailhead.

Alas, the pandemic changes will be hard to shake.



Birding Maccabee and Lakeview Cemeteries in the town of Sprague during the 2022 WOS Conference. *Robin Melvin*

June – July 2020

Washington Field Notes

RYAN MERRILL, Seattle

Bird listings in bold or capital letters represent birds on the state review list which requires documentation to be submitted to the Washington Bird Records Committee. This column strives to present the most unusual and interesting bird records of this reporting period along with a sampling of the more regular but still unusual species. For those looking for the most complete picture of birds reported during this season, one should check the online database eBird (www.eBird.org) in addition to this column.

Unusual waterfowl included two Gadwall x American Wigeon in Skagit in mid-June. A tally of 440 Black Swifts in northwest Seattle one evening in mid-June was an impressive concentration. An American Golden-Plover in Skagit in early June was a surprise for the season. Not far out of range but very surprising nonetheless was a Pigeon Guillemot on Lake Washington in late June. A similar sighting of two birds on Lake Washington was also in late June back in 2014. A Horned Puffin was again present around Smith Island this season. A Least Tern in Seattle in early June was the state's 7th. Tubenoses are rarely found in Puget Sound during summer so a Sooty Shearwater in King and Manx Shearwater in Island were surprising. Several Black-crowned Night-Herons wandered to King and Pierce in late July.

Least Flycatchers had a great season in western Washington with nine found in eight locations including Clallam's first record. The Spokane Eastern Phoebe lingered from late May into July. A Loggerhead Shrike in Skagit through late June was a very rare summer record for the westside. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at both known breeding locations in the state this season, in Klickitat and Yakima. The state's 22nd Brown Thrasher was seen in Klickitat in late June.

A Pine Grosbeak in Kitsap in early June was a rare sighting for the area at any season. "Type 2" Red Crossbills were scattered around western Washington in July where they are usually absent. Black-throated Sparrows included three westside birds in King and Skagit where they are not annual. Singing Grasshopper Sparrows were present in potential breeding habitat in Thurston and Pierce. The species is not known to have bred in western Washington. "Thick-billed" Fox Sparrows were again present at Meta Lake in Skamania with five birds reported in mid-July. They have only recently been known to occur in the state. A "Cassiar" Dark-eyed Junco present in Seattle for a couple weeks in June may be the first summer record for the state.

A female Great-tailed Grackle in Adams in early July was the 16th documented in the state. The state's 9th Baltimore Oriole was found in Asotin in mid-July. It was a good season for eastern warblers. Two Northern Parulas, both in King in June, brought the state total to 22. Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in Adams, Kittitas, and twice in Skagit. Debatably the warbler highlight of the season was a Black-throated Gray x Townsend's Warbler in Kitsap. A Hermit Warbler in Grant in early June provided a rare record for the Columbia Basin. Black-and-white Warblers showed up in Yakima and Okanogan. The state's first Scarlet Tanager was a male in Island in



Washington's 7th record of Least Tern was a one-day wonder at the Montlake Fill in Seattle. *Ryan Merrill*

early June. Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was a hefty seasonal tally. Indigo Buntings were present in King and Okanogan in mid-June, and a Lazuli x Indigo Bunting was in King in early July.

- Snow Goose** Uncommon in summer: 1 at Kenmore *King* 7/23+ (eBird)
- Greater White-fronted Goose** Rare in summer: 1 at Ellensburg *Kittitas* 7/5 (eBird), 1 at Bowerman Basin *Grays Harbor* 7/8 (eBird), 1 at Ellensburg *Kittitas* 7/9 (eBird)
- Cackling Goose** Uncommon in summer: 1 at Hoquiam STP *Grays Harbor* 7/3 to 7/8 (eBird)
- Trumpeter Swan** Uncommon in summer: 1 at Cultus Bay Island 7/4+ (eBird), 1 at Monroe *Snohomish* 7/11+ (eBird)
- Tundra Swan** Uncommon in summer: 1 at Kennewick *Benton* 6/21 to 7/4 (eBird)
- Eurasian Wigeon** Rare in summer: 1 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 6/3 (eBird), 1 at Atkins Lake *Douglas* 6/23 to 6/30 (eBird), 1 at Juanita Bay *King* 6/29 to 7/3 (eBird)
- Gadwall x American Wigeon** Rarely reported: 2 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 6/16 (Kendall Van Zanten)
- Canvasback** Reports included: 12 at Calispell Lake *Pend Oreille* 6/17 (eBird), 1 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 7/18 (eBird)
- Redhead** Reports from w WA included: 12 at Shillapoo WMA *Clark* 6/27 (eBird), 1 at Deer Lagoon *Island* 7/10 (eBird)
- Surf Scoter** Rare in summer in e WA: 1 at Clarkston *Asotin* 7/6 (eBird), 1 at Sprague Lake *Lincoln* 7/10 (eBird)
- White-winged Scoter** Rare in summer in e WA: 1 at Wenatchee *Chelan* 7/28 (Joe Veverka)
- Black Scoter** Uncommon in summer: 1 north of Kalaloch *Jefferson* 6/6 (eBird), 1 at Hastie Lake *Island* 7/17 (eBird)
- Clark's Grebe** Reports included: 6 at Vancouver Lake *Clark* 6/17 (eBird)
- Black Swift** High count: 440 at Seattle *King* 6/15 (RyM)
- Black-chinned Hummingbird** Rare in w WA: 1 at Lyman *Skagit* through 6/5 (GB)
- American Golden-Plover** Reports included: 1 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 6/10 (GB)
- Snowy Plover** Uncommon locally: 1 at Dungeness *Clallam* 6/15 (eBird)
- Black Oystercatcher** Uncommon locally: 1 at Discovery Park *King* 6/1 (eBird)
- Black-necked Stilt** Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Leque Island *Snohomish* 7/2 (eBird)
- Willet** Uncommon in e WA: 1 at Atkins Lake *Douglas* 6/13 (eBird)
- Long-billed Curlew** Uncommon locally: 1 at Stanwood *Snohomish* 6/19 (eBird), 1 at Nisqually NWR *Thurston* 6/28 (eBird), 1 at Dungeness *Clallam* 6/29 (eBird), 1 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 7/6

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Field Notes

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(GB)
Ruddy Turnstone Uncommon locally: 1 at Blakely Rocks *Kitsap* 7/14 (BWg), 3 at Camano Island *Island* 7/23 (eBird)
Red Knot Uncommon locally: 6 at Dungeness *Clallam* 6/2 (eBird), 4 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 6/3 (eBird)
Sanderling Late report: 1 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 6/10 (eBird)
Semipalmated Sandpiper Reports included: 7 at Dungeness *Clallam* 7/5 (eBird), 9 at Theler Wetland *Mason* 7/12 (eBird), 8 at Skagit WMA *Skagit* 7/19 (eBird)
Parasitic Jaeger Reports included: 2 at Point No Point *Kitsap* 6/8 (BWg), 2 at Discovery Park *King* 6/28 (eBird)
Pigeon Guillemot Rare locally: 1 at Lake Washington *King* 6/23 (eBird)
Horned Puffin Uncommon in WA: 1 at Smith Island *Island* 6/10 (eBird)
Franklin's Gull High count: 38 at Walla Walla RD *Walla Walla* 6/3 (eBird)
LEAST TERN Rare in WA: 1 at Montlake Fill *King* 6/1 (SFa,LKr)
Common Tern Reports included: 1 at Iverson Spit *Island* 6/13 (eBird), 1 at Grayland *Grays Harbor* 6/29 (eBird), 1 at Nisqually NWR *Thurston* 7/6 (eBird)
Sooty Shearwater Rare in Puget Sound: 1 at Carkeek Park *King/Kitsap* 7/21 (RyM)
Short-tailed Shearwater Early report: 3 at Westport Pelagic *Grays Harbor* 7/11 (eBird)
Manx Shearwater Rare in Puget Sound: 1 south of Deer Lagoon *Island* 6/12 (BWg)
American White Pelican High count: 590 at John Day Dam *Klickitat* 7/22 (eBird). Reports from w WA included: 17 at Saint Edward SP *King* 6/3 (eBird), 98 at Deer Lagoon *Island* 6/8 (eBird), 240 at Bottle Beach *Grays Harbor* 7/12 (eBird), 150 at March Point *Skagit* 7/18 (eBird), 3 at Dungeness *Clallam* 7/19 (eBird), 400 at Willapa Bay *Pacific* 7/20 (eBird)
Brown Pelican Reports included: 7 at Discovery Park *King* 7/5 (MtD), 1 at Olympia *Thurston* 7/21 (eBird), 2 at Union *Mason* 7/24 (eBird), 2 at Cattle Point *San Juan* 7/31 (eBird)
Green Heron Rare in e WA: 1 at Lyle *Klickitat* 7/8 (AMW)
Black-crowned Night-Heron Uncommon in w WA: 3 at Montlake Fill *King* 7/27 (eBird), 1 at Point Defiance *Pierce* 7/29 (CWr)
White-faced Ibis Reports included: 20 at Columbia NWR *Grant* 6/2 (WiB), 4 west of Irby *Lincoln* 6/5 (MY), 1 at Rock Lake *Whitman* 6/7 (eBird), 1 at Dodd Road *Walla Walla* 7/24 (eBird)
Red-shouldered Hawk Uncommon in summer: 1 at Gardiner *Jefferson* 7/1 (JGc), 1 at Vancouver Lowlands *Clark* 7/14 (eBird)
Swainson's Hawk Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Newhalem Ponds *Whatcom* 6/13 (eBird)
Acorn Woodpecker Rare locally: 1 north of Kelso *Cowlitz* 6/11 (Royce Craig), 1 at Oak Creek Game Range *Yakima* 7/8 (eBird)
Williamson's Sapsucker Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Sawmill Creek *King* 7/10 (RHb)
Black-backed Woodpecker Reports included: 1 at Ross Lake *Whatcom* 6/22 (FL), 5 at Sawmill Creek *King* 7/6 (MiH)
American Kestrel High count: 23 at Skokomish Valley *Mason* 7/30 (JcM)
Least Flycatcher Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Stillwater *King* 6/1 (AdL) to 6/9 (eBird), 1 at Three Forks Natural Area *King* 6/1 (AdL) to 6/17 with 2 there 6/5 (eBird), 1 at Barnaby Slough *Skagit* 6/11 (WiB), 1 at Ross Lake *Whatcom* 6/15 (MY), 1 at Diablo *Whatcom* 6/16 (AdL), 1 at Sequim *Clallam* 6/19 (SA) to 7/2 (eBird), 1 at Lo-



A Black-throated Sparrow found by Ken Grant in North Bend, King County. *Ryan Merrill*

pez Island *San Juan* 6/20+ (RyM), 1 at Hamilton *Skagit* 7/16 (GB)
Gray Flycatcher Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Rockport *Skagit* 6/4 (JWL)
Dusky Flycatcher Late report: 1 at Sauk Prairie *Skagit* 6/7 to 6/11 (eBird). Reports from w WA included: 4 at Mount St Helens *Cowlitz* 7/4 (eBird), 2 at Sawmill Creek *King* 7/19 (RyM)
Pacific-slope Flycatcher High count: 72 at Point Defiance *Pierce* 6/19 (WiB)
Black Phoebe Reports from expanding range included: 2 adults with 3 juveniles at Skagit WMA *Skagit* 6/3 to 7/19 (eBird), 1 at Discovery Park *King* 6/26 (eBird), 1 at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* 7/13 (eBird), 1 at Westport *Grays Harbor* 7/14 (eBird)
EASTERN PHOEBE Rare in WA: 1 at Elk *Spokane* through 7/11 (eBird)
Say's Phoebe Rare in summer in w WA: 1 at Veazie *King* 7/3 (ST)
Ash-throated Flycatcher Rare locally: 1 at Nine Mile Canyon *Walla Walla* 6/18 (eBird). Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Montlake Fill *King* 6/10 (eBird), 1 at Steigerwald Lake NWR *Clark* 6/12 (eBird)
Eastern Kingbird Uncommon locally: 1 at Dungeness *Clallam* 6/12 (eBird)
Red-eyed Vireo Reports included: 1 at Iverson Spit *Island* 6/13 (eBird), 1 at Sequim *Clallam* 6/24 (BoB)
Loggerhead Shrike Rare in summer in w WA: 1 at Hayton Preserve *Skagit* 6/10 (RoK) to 6/26 (eBird)
Blue Jay Late report: 1 at Point No Point *Kitsap* 6/14 (AK)
Clark's Nutcracker Rare locally: 1 at Vernita Bridge *Benton* 7/26 with 4 there 7/27 (eBird)
Black-billed Magpie Rare in w WA: 1 at San Juan Island *San Juan* 6/2 (eBird), 1 at Washington Park *Skagit* 6/5 (fide PPr) and then at Deception Pass SP *Island* 7/9 (eBird), 1 at Seattle *King* 6/18 (ALG)
Horned Lark High count: 49 at Olympia Airport *Thurston* 7/8 (eBird)
Bank Swallow Reports included: 650 at Hollebeke HMU *Walla Walla* 6/1 (eBird)
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER Uncommon in WA: 1 at Klickitat WMA *Klickitat* 6/1 (eBird), 1 at Fort Simcoe SP *Yakima* 7/24 (AS)
Rock Wren Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Yacolt *Clark* through 7/6 (eBird), 2 at Sawmill Creek *King* 6/14+ (MtD), 1 at Dungeness NWR *Clallam* 6/16 (BoB), 1 at Buckhorn Wilderness *Jefferson* 6/29 (AxP)
Canyon Wren Rare in w WA: 1 east of Newhalem *Whatcom* 7/8 (WiB) to 7/17 with 2 there 7/9 (eBird)
Pacific Wren Late report: 1 at Lind Coulee *Grant* 6/8 (MY)
Gray Catbird Uncommon in w WA: 2 at Newhalem *Whatcom* 6/5 to 7/16 (eBird) with 3 there 6/6 (RyM), 1 at Wickersham *Whatcom* 6/5 (eBird), 1 at Sauk Prairie *Skagit* 6/11 (WiB), 1 at Rockport *Skagit* 6/16 (AdL), 1 at Strawberry Island *Skamania* 7/5 (eBird)
Northern Mockingbird Uncommon in WA: 1 south of Badger *Benton* 6/11 (JFi), 1 at Waatch River *Clallam* 7/3 (AAk), 1 at Griffiths-Priddy SP *Grays Harbor* 7/3 (WiB), 1 at Long Beach *Pacific* 7/8 (eBird), 1 at Darrington *Snohomish* 7/7 (eBird)
BROWN THRASHER Rare in WA: 1 at Tule Canyon *Klickitat* 6/22 (JHL,SHI)
Sage Thrasher Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Bainbridge Island *Kitsap* 6/12 (Wally Gauthier, Cathy Ward)
Mountain Bluebird Late report: 1 at Dungeness *Clallam* 6/4 (eBird)

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Field Notes

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American Pipit Late reports: 1 at White's Island *Wahkiakum* 6/17 (AE), 1 at Atkins Lake *Douglas* 7/1 (JT)
Pine Grosbeak Late report: 1 at Eglon *Kitsap* 6/1 (fide BWg)
"Type 1" Red Crossbill Rare in WA: 1 at Potlatch *Mason* 7/24 (BT)
"Type 2" Red Crossbill Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Tacoma *Pierce* 7/9 (CWr), 1 at Green Mountain *Snohomish* 7/8 (WiB), 1 at San Juan Island *San Juan* 7/18 (PhG), 1 at Hart's Pass *Whatcom* 7/19 (AdL), 1 at Point Defiance *Pierce* 7/20 (CWr), 2 at Seattle *King* 7/30 (RyM)
"Type 5" Red Crossbill Reports included: 4 at Tiffany Spring *Okanogan* 7/7 (WiB)
White-winged Crossbill Rare locally: 1 at Orcas Island *San Juan* 6/30 (eBird). Reports included: 3 at Mount Spokane *Spokane* 7/14 (eBird), 6 at Hart's Pass *Whatcom* 7/18 (eBird)
Lesser Goldfinch Nesting report: 2 at Point No Point *Kitsap* 6/8+ (BWg). Reports from expanding range included: 1 at Seattle *King* 6/5 (DSg), 2 at Sikes Lake *King* 6/14 (AdL), 1 east of Newhalem *Whatcom* 6/17 (IN), 1 at Fall City *King* 7/7 (eBird), 1 at Hansville *Kitsap* 7/15 (BWg)
Clay-colored Sparrow Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Corkindale *Skagit* 6/5 (GB), 1 at Weir Prairie *Thurston* 6/16 (eBird)
Brewer's Sparrow Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Lyman *Skagit* 6/14 (GB), 1 at Lake Sammamish *King* 7/29 (CHa)
Vesper Sparrow Uncommon locally: 2 at Shelton Airport *Mason* 6/4 (eBird), 1 at Norman *Snohomish* 6/7 (eBird), 1 at Noble Knob *Pierce* 7/28 (eBird)
Black-throated Sparrow Rare in w WA: 1 at North Bend *King* 6/1 (KnG), 1 at Birdview *Skagit* 6/1 (Barb Trask), 1 at Mount Vernon *Skagit* 6/10 (JPs). Uncommon in e WA: 1 north of Spokane *Spokane* 7/6 (eBird)
Grasshopper Sparrow Uncommon in w WA: 1 at Weir Prairie *Thurston* 6/4 to 7/7 (eBird), 3 at JBLM *Pierce* 6/8 (eBird)
"Thick-billed" Fox Sparrow Uncommon in WA: 5 at Mount St Helens *Skamania* 7/11 (David Irons)
White-crowned Sparrow Uncommon locally: 1 gambelii at Norman *Snohomish* 6/2 (eBird), 1 gambelii at Marblemount *Skagit* 6/16 (IN), 1 gambelii at Newhalem *Whatcom* 7/8 (WiB), 2 pugetensis at Hart's Pass *Okanogan* 7/18 (AdL)
Golden-crowned Sparrow Late reports: 1 at Swinomish Channel *Skagit* 6/1 (eBird), 1 at Bainbridge Island *Kitsap* 6/4 (BWg), 1 at Vancouver *Clark* 7/22 (JSn)
"Cassiar" Dark-eyed Junco Late report: 1 at Seattle *King* 6/7 to 6/16 (Pam Cahn)
Yellow-breasted Chat High count: 91 at Richland *Benton* 6/4 (eBird). Reports from expanding range included: 1 at Spencer Island *Snohomish* through 6/24 (eBird), 1 at Shelton *Mason* 6/4+ (eBird), 1 at West Rocky Prairie *Thurston* 6/4 (eBird), 2 at Theler Wetland *Mason* 6/18 (eBird), 1 at Roy *Pierce* 6/19 (DDe), 1 at Snoqualmie *King* 6/24 (AlG), 2 at Cathlamet *Wahkiakum* 6/26 (eBird), 2 at Hamilton *Skagit* 7/4 to 7/13 (GB)
Bobolink Uncommon locally: 1 at Walla Walla RD *Walla Walla* 7/3 (Steven Kahl)
Tricolored Blackbird Reports included: 41 east of Kahlotus Franklin 6/5 (eBird), 1 at Potholes Grant 7/1 (eBird)
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE Rare in WA: 1 at Para's Pond *Adams* 7/2 (DSp)
BALTIMORE ORIOLE Rare in WA: 1 at Grande Ronde River *Asotin* 7/16 (Alec Hopping)
Nashville Warbler Uncommon locally: 1 at Lopez Island *San Juan* through 7/4 (RyM)
NORTHERN PARULA Rare in WA: 1 at Montlake Fill *King* 6/11 (JPs), 1 at Seattle *King* 6/22 (AG)
Chestnut-sided Warbler Rare in WA: 1 at Washtucna *Adams* 6/3 (WiB), 1 at Umtanum Creek *Kittitas* 6/9 (WiB), 1 at Rockport *Skagit* 6/16 (AdL), 1 at Marblemount *Skagit* 6/28 (GB)
Black-throated Gray x Townsend's Warbler Rare in WA: 1 at Green Mountain *Kitsap* 6/25 to 7/2 (BWg)
Hermit Warbler Rare locally: 1 at Lind Coulee *Grant* 6/4 (MY)

Hermit X Townsend's Warbler Rare locally: 1 at Mount Baker *Whatcom* 7/5 (Henry Lehman)
Black-and-white Warbler Rare in WA: 1 at Ahtanum *Yakima* 6/16 (Andrew Jacobson), 1 at Winthrop *Okanogan* 6/20 (MiH)
American Redstart Reports from w WA included: 1 at Montlake Fill *King* 6/1 (DSg), 2 at Puyallup *Pierce* 6/1+ (eBird), 1 at Kalama *Cowlitz* 6/12 with 2 there 6/20+ (eBird), 1 at Morton *Lewis* 6/14 (WiB), 1 at Lopez Island *San Juan* 6/19 (RyM)
OVENBIRD Rare in WA: 1 at Boston Harbor *Thurston* 6/6 (Emily Teachout)
Northern Waterthrush Late report: 1 at Skagit WMA *Skagit* 6/7 (Rich Schwab). Uncommon locally: 1 at Texas Rapids HMU *Columbia* 6/3 (WiB)
SCARLET TANAGER Rare in WA: 1 at Camano Island *Island* 6/5 (Julie Conzelann)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak Uncommon in WA: 1 at Mill Creek *Snohomish* 6/2 (Brianna Lason), 1 at Spokane Valley *Spokane* 6/9 (Kris Martin) to 7/1 (eBird), 1 west of Joyce *Clallam* 6/15 (Kim Loafman), 1 at Chico *Kitsap* 6/15 (eBird), 1 at Shoreline *King* 6/16 (E Vanden), 1 at Lind Coulee *Grant* 7/1 (Alec Hopping)
Lazuli Bunting Reports included: 4 at Frances *Pacific* 6/19 (BS)
INDIGO BUNTING Rare in WA: 1 at Marymoor Park *King* 6/11 to 7/16 (MiH), 1 at Pearrygin Lake SP *Okanogan* 6/19 (JOs)
Lazuli x Indigo Bunting Rare in WA: 1 at Veazie *King* 7/3 (ST)

AAk Adrienne Akmajian
AdL Adrian Lee
AE Andrew Emlen
AG Alan Grenon
AK Alan Knue
AlG Alan G. Grenon
AMW Ann Marie Wood
AS Andy Stepniewski
AxP Alex Patia
BoB Bob Boekelheide
BS Bill Shelmerdine
BT Bill Tweit
BWg Brad Waggoner
CHa Carl Haynie
CWr Charlie Wright
DDe Denis Desilvis
DSg Dave Slager
DSP Dalton Spencer
eBird eBird
FL Fanter Lane
GB Gary Bletsch
IN Isaiah Nugent
JcM Jacob Miller

JFi Jason Fidorra
JGc John Gatchet
JHl Joshua Holman
JOs Jeff Osmundson
JPs John Puschock
JSn Jen Sanford
JT Jerry Tangren
JWl Jo Waldron
KnG Ken Grant
LKr Louis Kreemer
MiH Michael Hobbs
MtD Matt Dufort
MY Matt Yawney
PhG Phil Green
PPr Pam Pritzl
RHb Rick Hibpshman
RoK Robert C. Kuntz II
RyM Ryan Merrill
SA Scott Atkinson
SFa Sam Fason
SHl Samuel Holman
ST Sam Terry
WiB Will Brooks



The Baltimore Oriole found by recent Cornell Lab of Ornithology graduate Alec Hopping in Asotin County. *Alec Hopping*



Each day at the Spokane Valley WOS Conference brought new highlights and memories. *Elaine Chuang*

On Being a WOS Conference Field Trip Leader

ED PULLEN, Tacoma

For the last few years I have helped Ken Brown, an experienced and excellent field trip leader, lead WOS trips at the conferences. This year Ken and I again agreed to lead a trip, but Ken was unable to attend for good reasons. It left me to lead a trip solo. The idea of leading a trip at the WOS conference by myself was pretty intimidating. I am a birder but pale in expertise compared with many of the other field trip leaders. Look at the list of leaders! Did I even belong on the same list? What if participants were better birders than me? What if I was not good enough? Still, as a board member I felt I needed to step up and just do my best.

I left a day early to learn the route. I reached out to local expert Jon Isacoff for input. In short, I did what I could to be prepared but was still a bit anxious. The day of the trip came, and all of the participants were excited and helpful, and we had a great time birding together. My highlight was that I managed to lead the trip and have fun doing it. The bottom line is that I should have known that having birders more expert than I on the trip can only serve to make for a better trip. The leader is there to pick a route, help find birds, manage time, and have fun along with everyone else.