WASHINGTON BIRDS

Volume 12
November 2018

WASHINGTON BIRDS

Journal of the Washington Ornithological Society

About *Washington Birds*

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. *Washington Birds*, from the earliest days 30 years ago, formed a significant part of WOS' strategy to encourage the spread of knowledge and discussion of scientific data about birds in the state. WOS published Volume 1 in 1989 and an additional five volumes in its first decade. Four volumes came out in the second decade and one in the third. In this 30th anniversary year of WOS, the board hopes Volume 12 will represent the return to an almost biennial schedule for publication.

Editor: Ed Swan

Production: Eva Lee Henderson, Impression Printing, Seattle

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you goes to Matt Bartels with the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC). Matt assisted in finding potential writers, sources of information on Washington birds, peer review of articles, coordination with Western Birds for permission to print WBRC reports, and almost daily on-going advice and support during the final editing process.

Dennis Paulson helped with peer review of articles, Sue Trevathan assisted with editing and review, and Jane Hadley provided much needed background production and organization of information.

Information for Contributors

While the journal focuses primarily on the birds of Washington State, papers of general interest, independent of geographic region, will also be considered. Subject matter may include but is not limited to: geographic and ecological distribution; seasonal status and migration; breeding biology and general natural history, conservation, identification, faunal lists, site guides, field techniques, and reports on current research. Potential contributors of articles or photos should contact the editor by email at wabirds@wos.org. You may also visit *Washington Birds* at the WOS website at wos.org/publications/wa-birds/.

Especially Desired Submissions for the Next Volume

This volume will include many species accounts of species new to the Washington list since the last *Birds of Washington State* was published in 2005. Typically, new species to the list are, for the most part, rare species. Especially desired articles for the next volume of *Washington Birds* will focus on changes in status for regularly occurring species and changes in status of significant habitat types and wildlife-habitat relationships in Washington State.

Cover photo and photos below:
Common Raven in the snow at Mt. Rainier, Pierce County.
Photos by © Gregg Thompson.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1988

"…to increase our knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance communication among all persons interested in those birds."

Membership Information

All persons interested in the birds of Washington are invited to join the Washington Ornithological Society (WOS). Annual dues are $25 for individual membership and $30 for family membership. Renew on-line at http://wos.org/about-wos/membership/. It's possible to mail membership renewals to the address below. Please visit the membership information on-line for details.

WOS sponsors the Washington Bird Records Committee and publishes the Field Card of Washington Birds. Members receive the journal *Washington Birds*, the Society's newsletter *WOSNews*, and a membership directory.

WOS meets on the first Monday of each month (except July, August and September), at the Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington, Seattle. WOS holds an annual conference, alternately east and west of the Cascades, with workshops, speakers, exhibitors, and field trips.

For current information on field trips, programs and the annual conference, visit our website at http://wos.org/. Other important assets on the WOS website include:

1. The online version of *A Birder's Guide to Washington* (at http://wabirdguide.org/), which provides up-to-date bird finding information and site guides for around Washington State;
2. The Tweeters archive, all the Tweeters birding dialogues back through time formerly hosted by UW;
3. The archive of all past issues of *WOSNews*.

Washington Ornithological Society
12345 Lake City Way NE, #215
Seattle, WA 98125

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS:

Douglas Brown: Yellow Warbler, page 1; Common Merganser, page 36; Yellow-breasted Chat, page 167.
Michael Charest: Painted Redstart, page 101.
Merry Lynn Denny: Wilson's Plover, page 139.
Mike Denny: Blue Mountains, page 24; Wilson's Plover, page 44.
Tasha DiMarzio: Northern Wheatear, page 71.
Ed Findley: Laughing Gull, page 116.
Eric Helsey: Field Sparrow, pages 87 and 88.
Randy Hill: Baikal Teal, page 109.
Ted Kenefick: Magnolia Warbler, page 123.
Tom Mansfield: Ross's Gull, page 143.
Bud McCormack: Cedar Waxwing, page v.
Ryan Merrill: Wilson's Plover, pages 43 and 47; Variegated Flycatcher, pages 51, 52, 53 and 120; Little Bunting, pages 83, 84 and 85; Eastern Meadowlark, pages 90, 91 and 156, and spectogram 92; Lucy's Warbler, page 94; Emperor Geese, page 108; Bewick's Tundra Swan, page 109; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, page 149; Painted Bunting, page 155.
Tom Munson: White-rumped Sandpiper, page 140; Eastern Phoebe, page 147.
Ollie Oliver: Eastern Wood-Pewee, pages 58, 59 and 146; Smith's Longspur, pages 78 and 79.
Matthew Pike: Hawaiian Petrel, page 112.
Jordan Roderick: Gray Wagtail, page 76.
Michael Schroeder: Dusky and Sooty Grouse, page 37; grouse range map, page 38, Sooty Grouse habitats, page 40; Dusky Grouse habitats, page 41.
Doug Schurman: Summer Tanager, page 154.
Larry Schwitters: Cooper's Hawk, page 28; American Crow eating Vaux's Swift, page 29; Crow deflector, page 31; Vaux's Swifts, page 32.
Ryan Shaw: Gray Wagtail, page 75; Great Shearwater, page 112; Lawrence's Goldfinch, page 157.
Dave Slager: Red-flanked Bluetail, page 65.
Netta Smith: Lesser Sand Plover, page 138.
Ed Swan: Northern Wheatear, page 73; Surf Scoter, page 105.
Gregg Thompson: Common Raven, cover, page ii; Northern Wheatear, pages 70 and 72; Tufted Duck, page 110; King Eider, page 110; Red-necked Stint, page 114; Black-tailed Gull, page 116; Northern Hawk Owl, page 117; Tennessee Warbler, page 122; Orchard Oriole, page 125; Lesser Sand Plover, page 138.
Lyn Topinka: Northern Wheatear, page 74 and 149.
Larry Umthun: Canada Warbler, pages 97, 99 and 153.
Brad Waggoner: Bell's Vireo, page 61; and Hooded Warbler, page 151.
Walla Walla Conservation District: Walla Walla river delta, page 25.
Michael Woodruff: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, page 119.
Charlie Wright: Red-flanked Bluetail, page 64.

VOLUME 12 NOVEMBER 2018

CONTENTS

Cedar Waxwing near Grand Coulee, Grant County. *Photo by © Bud McCormack.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INTEREST SECTION

Yellow Warbler at Pearrygin Lake, Okanogan County.
Photo by © Douglas Brown.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ASSESSING THE EBIRD DATA MODEL BASED ON SUB-REGIONAL REVIEW FOR VASHON-MAURY ISLANDS, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

GARY SHUGART, Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA 98416; gshugart@pugetsound.edu.

ABSTRACT. Ebird's alert system, search tools, vetting of rare species, and the interface for entry and maintenance of individual eBirders lists are well designed and easy to use birding tools. Cumulatively, eBird records also provide potentially valuable data for profiling and monitoring spatiotemporal trends in avifauna. I summarized lists for Vashon/Maury Islands (VMI), King County, Washington to assess the utility of lists for profiling avifauna and in the process evaluated the eBird data model. The resulting dataset for VMI and surrounding water included 59,565 records, 5,146 lists, 493 localities, and 300 eBirders through May 2017. Most lists were dated from 2010 on when mobile apps became available. Ebirders concentrated efforts in several areas on VMI. Duplicate lists accounted for 19.5% of lists and 26% of the records. Removing these left 4,144 unique lists and 44,261 unique records from 272 eBirders. Two methods for filtering data included identifying lists based on unlikely or unbelievable reports and using only lists from birders known to be reliable. The latter appeared to be most useful. Data acquisition is essentially uncontrolled beyond superficial filtering, thus data and resulting summaries using standard statistics or Big Data manipulation have an unknown relation to reality. The virtual avifauna represented by eBird data will probably be useful for comparative studies if user interest can be maintained.

OVERVIEW

Ebird is a social media platform that provides a wealth of tools for web-based alerts regarding rare and common birds. In addition, it has morphed into a comprehensive system for tracking lists (e.g., life, regional, or sub-regional) as well for aggregating data for the visualization and research related to the spatiotemporal distribution of birds (Sullivan et al. 2009, Kelling et al. 2015a, Xue et al. 2016). Over the years, several birders with years of experience with avifauna of Vashon-Maury Islands (VMI) expressed astonishment, amazement, and amusement at some fanciful eBird reports. Some sightings probably resulted from mistaken entries on mobile devices, but some are obvious mistaken identifications, while some appeared to be predictive or imaginary lists. After unsuccessful attempts to get lists modified or deleted, I requested VMI eBird records and curated records with the assistance of experienced VMI birders. Goals were to assess the credibility of eBird records and the utility of the eBird data model, with an ultimate goal of summarizing the current status of VMI eBirding.

The response from eBird to a request for VMI records was quick with all 1.8 million King Co., WA records provided through May 2017 (eBird Basic Dataset 2017). An overview provided insight into the eBird ideology. In its simplest form, an eBird record consisted of a single species with a unique catalog number and 38 data fields. Records were created when data were parsed from date- and location-based lists that included species and number of each recorded initially by eBirders. For example, if 10 species were recorded on a list at a location, there were 10 records. A permutation was that if one of a group of eBirders recorded 10 species for one location

and shared the lists, each eBirder was credited with the 10 species resulting in 100 records or 10 replicates for each bird recorded. An additional permutation was reporting of one bird by many eBirders. For a rare bird, such as a Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) that garnered 30 records, the replicate records were obvious. Replicates for common species would be less obvious or undetectable, and the significance of multiple reports of

Figure 1. Google map with eBird lists through May 2017 for Vashon/Maury Islands, King County, Washington showing where eBirders concentrate their efforts. Lists were binned by 0.01 degrees grid of latitude (44.32-44.52°N) and longitude (122.40-122.50°W). For Vashon/Maury Islands, 0.01 degree of longitude is 1.27 km and a 0.01degree latitude is 1.1 km. Sizes of circles represent relative concentrations of 4,311 lists. Traveling Protocol lists with a travel distance greater than 1 km were not included. Shown are five categories binned by 1, 2-10, 11-100, 101-200, 200+ lists.

the same bird or birds would vary depending on how data were summarized or interpreted. Although replicates could complicate data summaries (see below), including replicates as individual records allowed each eBirder to maintain personal lists as well as to compete in the most lists, visits, or species for locations or regions, and more recently for prize drawings, which are important facets of social media engagement (Kelling et al. 2015a).

Analysis started by filtering the dataset of 1.8 million King County records using latitude and longitude. The resulting dataset for VMI and surrounding water included 59,565 species occurrence records, 5,146 lists, 493 localities, and 300 eBirders through May 2017. Many localities had multiple latitude/longitude entries of various descriptions that included hotspots as well as personal localities. A convenient way to show the regions of VMI where eBirders birded was to count and plot the lists in 0.01-degree rectangles (Figure 1). Excluded were "Traveling Protocol" (see below) lists where an eBirder moved more than 1 km as these could have passed through multiple rectangles. In general, the size of the area covered was undocumented in eBird and would depend upon the equipment used (e.g., *eye*, binoculars, spotting scope), the tendency of the eBirder to confine a list to a specific area, and expertise. Assuming eBirders were relatively stationary (see Figure 1), most of eBirders' efforts were along the shoreline, at ferry terminals, onboard ferries, at Fisher Pond/Island Center Forest, and at a centrally located residence of two VMI eBirders. The ambiguous, undocumented, and unverifiable size of the localities highlights the general nature of eBird lists and data. As an example, a locality such as Tramp Harbor could include an area visible by *eye* up to 100 m or up to a 1-2 km radius given good viewing conditions, a good scope, and the expertise to identify birds at a distance.

An overview of the years of submission indicated that the first records were entered in 1974 from field notes using the "Historical Protocol", with sporadic entries until 2009 (Figure 2a, 1974-2000 not shown). Most records were entered from 2010 to 2017 when easy to use software and mobile apps became popular (Figures 2b and 2c). Excluding lists from 2017, which only covered the period through May, the distribution of effort varied from 223 to 467 lists per month, with corresponding changes in the number of individuals counted (Figure 3). A variable effort could be included in a comparison by calculating percent occurrence for species to produce predictive occurrences (Supplemental Table).

A next step in curating records was to determine the number of replicate lists. Replicates were identified in a "Group Number" field in the eBird dataset and included 1,003 lists (19.5% of total) and 15,304 records (26% of total). Filtering replicates out to leave only one copy left 4,144 unique lists and 44,261 unique records from 272 eBirders (Figures 2b and 2c). I filtered out

Figure 2a. eBird lists through May 2017; see text for pre-2001.

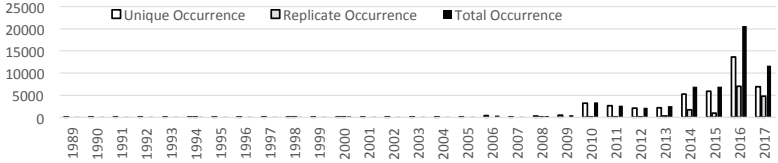


Figure 2b. Species occurrence relative to year, showing uptick in 2010.

only those identified by Group Number. In perusing data there were several instances of replicate lists that were not shared so a Group Number was not assigned and these were left in the unique dataset. The significance of replicates differs depending on the purpose of a query or data summary. If a goal was to simply document species presence/absence, replicates would not matter, but if data were used to indicate abundance, such as number of times a species was encountered or the number of individuals of the species encountered, inclusion of replicates would exaggerate totals.

An additional complication in summarizing data was that eBird allowed entry of categories other than species. Common categories were forms (sp.), slashes (/), and hybrids. In VMI records there were 32 forms (i.e., non-species) with "sp." designations, such as sparrow sp., duck sp., passerine sp., gull sp., or larus sp. Slash category examples were Barrow's/Common Goldeneye, Western/Glaucous-winged Gull, with one, pigeon/dove sp., using both. Hybrids names were linked with an "x". These non-species categories were flagged in a "Category" field in the eBird dataset to facilitate filtering. In all VMI records, non-species categories accounted for 17.7% of categories but only 1.5% of occurrence records and 2.1% of counts of individuals, indicating they were used infrequently. Hereafter, I referred to categories as species following the eBird practice.

A third preliminary step was a summary of protocol types to determine if all records were useful for summaries (Table 1). Protocol options and descriptions have gone through undocumented changes over time, but as of May 2017 the protocol options attempted to categorize what an eBirder was doing or an eBirder's intent (eBird 2017). Protocol options are muddled with the option of a Yes/No checkbox on original submission lists in answer to the question, "Are you submitting a **'complete checklist'** of the birds you were able to identify?" The answer was included in an "All Species Reported" field in the eBird dataset. Note that the Yes/No response in the dataset was not the question asked. The original question asked about birds, not species,

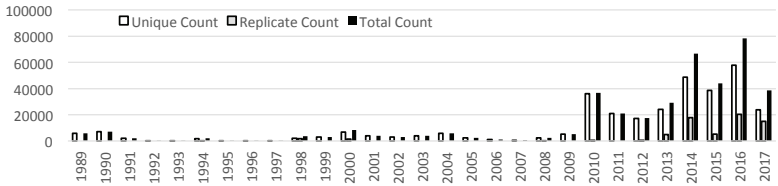
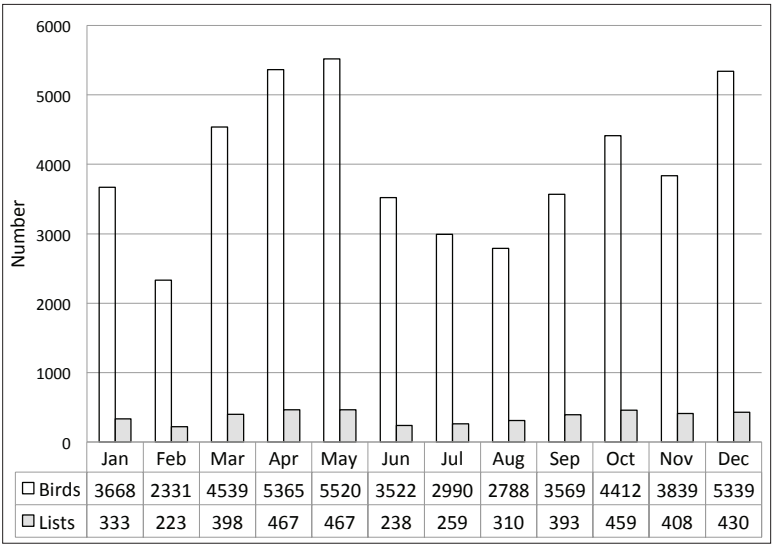


Figure 2c. Sum of individual birds relative to year, showing uptick in 2010.

and only those an eBirder could identify so the completeness of the lists of species is ambiguous at best. Clicking information or help options on some platforms, apparently only using the "Stationary" protocol, provides further instructions that a complete list of species was a goal. For example, a red warning error balloon appears on one computer platform (Window™) warning that fewer than five species were recorded for a complete list, which encourages inclusion of additional taxa. Apparently, the warning only appears if one species is reported for a complete list. The iPhone™ mobile app has no similar warning. Although a complete list of all species would be most useful for avifaunal research, simply designating eBird checklists as complete lists of all species does not make it so and introduces considerable ambiguity into interpretation of data.

Additional explanations of the complete checklist make the further assertion that not only does a complete list include all species present, but conversely a list of those not present (eBird 2018). This data enhancement is unwarranted given that birds were identified only to eBirders' best abilities and encompassed an undocumented area in which birds were present. The latter could vary from a few meters to several km depending on ocular equipment, experience, and environmental conditions.

Initially, "Complete" checklists seemed more useful than others for an overview of avifauna. However, because of ambiguity introduced in going from "all birds you could identify" to "All Species Reported", unknown observer skill, and ambiguity in area covered, there was no basis for assuming that some lists or records were more useful than others (but see Kelling et



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Birds	3668	2331	4539	5365	5520	3522	2990	2788	3569	4412	3839	5339
Lists	333	223	398	467	467	238	259	310	393	459	408	430

Figure 3. Distribution of eBirders' efforts based on 47,882 individual birds in 4,385 lists through December 2016 by month, showing variable effort. Individual species entered as "x" were coded as 1 in the eBird database.

al. 2015a). Nonetheless, an average 11.6 species/list was recorded for all lists, with the extremes of 10.4 and 14.8 for "Stationary" and "Exhaustive Area Count" protocols, respectively. "Casual Observation" protocol had the lowest percent of complete checklists, which might be expected depending on how the above question was interpreted. "Traveling" protocol included any means of mobility. Of 1,639 lists with distance recorded, in 4% (60) eBirders moved from 10 to 65 km. Presumably, the locations covered while traveling were confined to VMI.

REPORT VALIDITY, UNRELIABLE AND RELIABLE RECORDS

One purpose of this analysis was to curate VMI records based on local experts' experience with local avifauna. There is a precedence for this because records were already reviewed by regional experts. Two approaches were tried. In the first, unlikely lists were identified by presence or absence of indicator species or by comparison of eBird hotspot lists to the experience of VMI birders. The second approach was to only use lists from eBirders known to be reliable birders.

For the first approach, I identified 1,209 records and 57 unique lists from 10 eBirders that were deemed unreliable for a variety of reasons. One eBirder apparently used imaginative/predictive birding protocols and tallied 10 times more species and individuals at a hotspot that I birded almost daily while commuting and had actually birded the day in question. I noted only five species and 21 individuals, which contrasted with the eBirder's tally of

Protocol Type	Lists	Species Occurrence Records	Species Occurrence Records/List
eBird – Casual Observation	1,449	16,747	11.6
eBird – Exhaustive Area Count	25	370	14.8
eBird – Stationary Count	1,962	20,483	10.4
eBird – Traveling Count	1,639	21,084	12.9
Historical	71	881	12.4
Total	5,147	59,565	11.6

Protocol Type	Species Occurrence Records	All Birds Reported		Percent Yes
		Yes	No	
eBird – Casual Observation	16,747	920	15,827	5.5%
eBird - Exhaustive Area Count	370	355	15	95.9%
eBird - Stationary Count	20,483	19,751	732	96.4%
eBird - Traveling Count	21,084	20,526	558	97.4%
Historical	881	752	129	85.4%
Total	59,565	42,304	17,261	71.0%

Table 1. Protocol types showing the number of lists and records and if all bird were reported under various protocol types.

42 species (+ three "taxa") and 725 individuals listed for this hotspot. In four hours, this eBirder entered an astonishing 92 species (including other "taxa") and 3,224 individuals while birding at seven island eBird hotspots. The same eBirder had another imaginative list about one month later. Additional discrepancies arose subsequent to posting of the original lists where notably the protocol was changed from "Stationary" to "Historical", thus obscuring the overlapping times online but not in the database.

A second eBirder included Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) and Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) in the absence of ubiquitous Glaucous-winged Gulls (*L. glaucescens*) or hybrids (*L. occidentalis x glaucescens*) and 30 Eared Grebes (*Podiceps nigricolis*) in the absence of ubiquitous Horned Grebes (*P. auritus*) in November. This eBirder was unfamiliar with these species and perhaps birds in general. Others had an unlikely high number of Thayer's (*L. glaucoides thayeri*), Herring, or Western Gulls or other unlikely assemblages of species. Finally, an anonymous eBirder with a few common species was flagged unlikely simply because the individual did not take credit for sightings. The "Complete" checklist field was checked on all but five of 57 lists, creating 71 records in this group.

Notably, except for the anonymous eBirder, most of the lists deemed unlikely were identified by VMI birders while perusing eBird using tools such as searches of regions and species. Searches were not exhaustive, but lists were selected for use as an example of how a filter might work using sub-regional experts. Exclusion of the reports deemed unlikely would result in a loss of a few exceptional and first VMI eBird sightings such as the Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) and Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (Table 2). For a few species such as American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), and Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), unlikely lists accounted for between 20-76% of total VMI sightings, depending on species occurrence or numbers. Most of these lists originated from the first eBirder mentioned above. Viewed from the perspective of unique records, these constituted a significant percent of reports for some species although only 57 lists were submitted as compared to 4,088 list from the eBird community.

One disconcerting note was that the unlikely lists were scored as reviewed and approved by regional reviewers. An explanation that these eBirders, especially the first, had exceptionally good days was unlikely because the reports were not physically possible given the time and distance covered and the number of species and individuals reported. Thus, it appears that the first eBirder manifested the classic definition of a "Stringer" (see Armistead 2017). Others tended to misidentify toward rare, while the last was unwilling to take credit for identifications. Originally, a goal of this review was to request that these lists and records be removed. However, after a more thorough understanding of the eBird model afforded by this review, all data should be retained, thereby facilitating algorithmic methods that could theoretically filter data and rate eBirders' credibility (see Kelling et al. 2015b). Still another explanation was that localities were not representative and may have included species from the mainland or cumulative day/week lists for surrounding counties. Therefore, the assumption that localities were restricted

might not be true, but this highlights the ambiguous nature of eBird lists.

In the case of the VMI records dataset, 0.4% (254/59,565) were flagged by filters and/or human-reviewed and approved. Apparently, unapproved records were retained for the benefit of individual eBirder's lists (eBird 2017), but usually do not appear in publicly available data requests. An example was a Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) at Pt. Robinson annotated with "up the road". This record remained in the online eBirder's list but was not in the downloaded dataset. While the record of the egret was rejected, the remainder of the records in the list were accepted, which included Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), which was unlikely, also annotated with "up the road".

A second approach to summarize records would be to simply use lists from eBirders known to be reliable birders (hereafter "Reliables"). For VMI, 64% (3,248/5,147) of all lists and 62% (2,568/4,144) of unique lists were submitted by a few VMI birders (E. Parker, H. Parker, G. Shugart). In the entire dataset including all 300 eBirders, 20 were identified as Reliables. These eBirders contributed 80% (4,092/5,147) of total lists and 70% (41,078/59,565) of total records and 67.3% (2,788/4,144) of unique lists and 67.3% (29,789/44,261) of unique records. Therefore, in the case of VMI, the preponderance of Reliables might swamp other eBird records in final summaries or provide sufficient observations to algorithmically identify Reliables.

As with unlikely lists, the lists from Reliables provide an example of how

Species	Unreliable Occurrence	Unreliable Count	Total Unique Occurrence	Total Unique Count	Unreliable Occurrence as % of Unique	Unreliable Count % of Unique
American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*)	6	9	12	34	50%	26.5%
Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)	1	10	3	13	33.3%	76.9%
California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)	2	6	6	14	33.3%	42.9%
Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)	1	2	4	7	25%	28.6%
Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)	1	1	3	3	33.3%	33.3%
Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)	2	2	8	9	25%	22.2%
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)	8	27	23	60	34.8%	45%
Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*)	1	2	1	2	100%	100%
Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*)	1	2	3	4	33.3%	50%
Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)	1	2	1	2	100%	100%
Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)	1	1	3	3	33.3%	33.3%

Table 2. Unlikely species occurrences and counts for various reasons (see text) showing the % representation of selected species from 57 unique lists of 10 eBirders. This type of summary in combination with the species and numbers in lists provide some clues to exaggeration, identification mistakes, or errant entries, but would only highlight extraordinary postings.

a filter might function as a benchmark to assess the validity of records. An example of comparing the species occurrence for Stationary Protocol lists from Reliables vs unknown *e*Birders is shown in Figure 4. For brevity, species were included that occurred on 175 or more of 1,705 lists with Reliables accounting for 71% (1,217/1,705) of lists while unknowns posted 29% (488/1,705). The number of species reported per group was not differ-

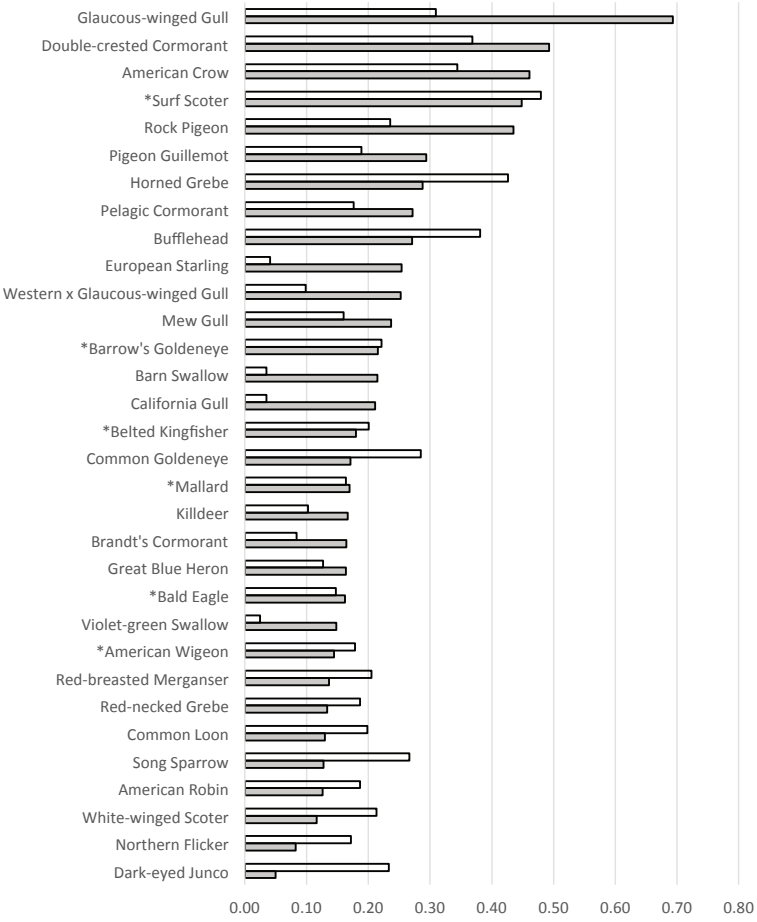


Figure 4. Species occurrence (=proportion of lists) using *e*Birders known to be reliable (20 *e*Birders, 1,217 lists, gray bar) vs those of unknown reliability (141 *e*Birders, 488 lists, unfilled bar). Shown are 31 species and one hybrid with 175 or more occurrences in 1,705 unique Stationary Protocol lists. Species are sorted by probability of the species occurring in Reliable *e*Birder lists. Asterisks preceding a species indicate non-significance in comparison to the number of occurrences in 1,217 Reliable lists vs 488 Unknown lists. For archive purposes, *e*Bird would likely benefit from identifying Reliable *e*Birders for future use as well for developing *post hoc* algorithms to filter data.

ent, with 10.1 for Reliables vs 9.9 for unknowns (*2-sample* $t = 1.6$, $p = 0.64$), and 94% of lists were checked as complete, although as discussed previously this is probably not meaningful. Assuming similar spatiotemporal distribution of effort, a Chi-square comparison of individual species occurrence indicates significant differences for the two groups for 25 of 32 taxa (Figure 4). Reasons are speculative and could be investigated further if there were sufficient data; however, this simple indicator of species occurrence suggests that eBirds' virtual avifauna could differ depending on how data were summarized (Kelling et al. 2015b). Taking the Reliables as an expected distribution would be one way to establish benchmarks for comparing eBirds' virtual avifaunal to real life.

At a sub-regional level, dependence on Reliables for eBird documentation of avifaunal occurrence is possible because of local knowledge. However, on a broader scale, the Reliables would most likely leave the bulk of eBird data to be validated using Big Data techniques (Kelling et al. 2015a, b), which seems little more than algorithmic tail chasing as unverifiable data are used to verify data. Therefore, a recommendation to facilitate data validation would be ratings for eBirders. This is already being done by regional reviewers for outlier individual records, and it would be a simple matter for reviewers to designate a sample of Reliables while that knowledge is available.

VMI EBIRD RECORD CONCLUSIONS AND THE UTILITY OF THE EBIRD DATA MODEL

One conclusion from this review was that VMI eBird records were not as erroneous as expected based on unlikely lists that initially were identified by VMI birders. Records of common species appeared to confirm more or less what was generally known by experienced VMI birders (see Swan 2013; Supplemental Table 1). However, this conclusion is tempered by the realization that it isn't possible to assess the validity of records of expected species given the open nature of data submission. This highlighted a flaw in VMI birders' and my perception of eBird in that eBird is viewed as a traditional scientific endeavor. This approach resulted in angst among experienced birders regarding errant reports, which was an impetus for this review, when eBird might be better viewed as a social media phenomenon similar to Twitter™ or Facebook™. Like these platforms, eBird more or less captures reality. "More" reflects lists from Reliable eBirders while "less" tends to the unreliables or the unknowns.

Conclusions from review of the eBird data model and user platform are that there are exemplary examples of functionality, including the alert system, search tools, vetting of rare species, and the slick interface for entry and maintenance of lists. Use these tools and it is easy to understand why eBird is so widely accepted. However, it appears that the functionality of these aspects has been conflated with the ability of the system to verify records leading to an assertion that "eBird's data submission design ensures that all data meet high standards of completeness and accuracy." (Kelling et al., 2015a). This is contradicted a few sentences earlier with the caveat that "data collected from volunteers are inherently noisy and heterogeneous" (Kelling et al., 2015a).

Viewed as a social media platform, eBird provides tools designed to engage users and has filters that, to some extent, limit what can be posted. Just as there are a variety of reasons for posting on social media, in eBird many lists are posted to further knowledge, but other reasons could be to simply maintain life or other lists, to gain attention, status, enter for prize drawings, while some virtual eBirders might even view it as a game. Record acceptance is determined by filters that used eBird records for filtering algorithms that produce fine-scale (hotspot or personal location lists) or course-scale spatiotemporal filters (e.g., county and season). Filters then present lists to eBirders of likely species, and the species selected by eBirders then loop back into datasets used to generate filters. Such a system sets up an endless loop of confirmatory bias that likely influences occurrence and numbers of individuals, thus creating a virtual avifauna that has an unknown or unknowable relationship to reality. However, the volume of data amassed by eBird in contrast to traditional scientific protocols may outweigh deficiencies. Even if eBird's virtual avifauna does not represent reality, the more or less consistent protocol used for eBird data accumulation provides a comparative dataset that would be useful for spatiotemporal comparisons of presence/absence and dominance-diversity related analysis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fellow birders, Ezra and Harsi Parker, Sue Trevathan, and Ed Swan provided comments and review of the manuscript as well as the bulk of VMI eBird records.

REFERENCES

Armistead, G. 2017. ICYMI: On Stringing http://blog.aba.org/2017/07/on-stringing.html.

eBird. 2017. Understanding the eBird review and data quality process. http://help.ebird.org/customer/en/portal/articles/1055676-understanding-the-ebird-review-and-data-quality.

eBird Basic Dataset. 2017. Version: EBD_relMay-2017. King Co, Washington. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

eBird. 2018. Are you reporting all species? (complete checklists vs. incomplete checklists). http://help.ebird.org/customer/en/portal/articles/1006361-are-you-reporting-all-species-complete-checklists-vs-incomplete-checklists-?b_id=1928.

Kelling, S., D. Fink, F.A. La Sorte, A. Johnston, N.E. Bruns, and W.M. Hochachka. 2015a. Taking a "Big Data" approach to data quality in a citizen science project. *Ambio*. 44 (Suppl 4):601-611. doi:10.1007/s13280-015-0710-4.

Kelling, S., A. Johnston, W.M. Hochachka, M. Iliff, D. Fink, J. Gerbracht, C. Lagoze, F.A. LaSorte, T. Morre, A. Wiggins, W. Wong, C. Wood, and J. Yu. 2015b. Can Observation Skills of Citizen Scientists Be Estimated Using Species Accumulation Curves? Goffredo S, ed. PLoS ONE.;10(10):e0139600. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0139600.

Sullivan, B.L., C.L. Wood, M.J. Iliff, R.E. Bonney, D. Fink, and S. Kelling. 2009. eBird: a citizen-based bird observation network in the biological sciences. *Bio. Conserv.* 142:2282-2292.

Swan, E. 2013. *The Birds of Vashon Island*. 2nd edition. Constancy Press, LLC, Seattle.

Xue, Y., I. Davies, D. Fink, C. Wood, and C.P. Gomes. 2016."Avicaching: A Two Stage Game for Bias Reduction in Citizen Science". Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems.

Supplemental Table. Shown is an example of one of a multitude of techniques that could be used manipulate data. This example models the occurrence of species using unfiltered eBird data for Vashon/Maury Island through May 2017. Included were 59,565 species occurrences in 5,146 lists. Species occurrence was standardized by the number of lists to adjust for variable effort. The resulting percent provides an indication of the likelihood of encountering a species by month and total. A similar tally could be done with numbers of individuals. These data could be consulted or used to filter VMI lists for record submission or used to validate eBird data (also see Swan, 2013). Further adjustments, e.g., categorizing list by habitat might provide more "realistic" probabilities. Colors are relative to each row with yellow lowest and green highest.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of list >>	513	353	507	657	619	238	259	310	393	459	408	430	5146
Glaucous-winged Gull	42.5	33.4	37.3	30.6	22.8	26.1	44.0	51.6	60.1	49.7	42.2	45.3	39.5
Song Sparrow	37.8	40.5	42.0	44.7	50.4	53.8	42.1	26.8	25.7	31.4	23.8	30.5	37.9
American Crow	39.0	44.2	35.9	41.1	39.9	44.5	33.2	31.3	27.2	34.2	26.2	30.9	35.9
American Robin	27.9	38.5	38.9	47.6	58.6	60.1	36.7	12.6	18.8	23.3	18.1	20.9	34.5
Surf Scoter	48.3	37.4	40.2	22.7	5.5	0.4	1.5	3.2	23.4	48.6	45.8	52.1	29.3
Double-crested Cormorant	42.9	33.1	28.0	16.1	4.2	3.4	8.5	11.9	35.4	47.9	40.9	52.6	27.8
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	22.4	26.6	28.2	32.6	33.9	43.7	34.0	30.3	24.2	19.8	22.5	20.2	27.7
Dark-eyed Junco	18.9	28.9	35.7	35.6	42.8	47.9	25.5	11.6	18.3	22.7	17.2	14.4	27.3
Spotted Towhee	24.4	24.9	29.6	35.9	42.3	47.5	32.0	18.1	20.6	13.1	14.0	20.5	27.2
Northern Flicker	18.1	24.9	31.6	26.9	29.2	21.4	27.8	20.3	23.9	28.1	16.2	21.6	24.6
Horned Grebe	42.7	28.6	32.1	19.5	3.1			4.2	14.2	34.9	36.8	46.5	23.5
Bufflehead	48.3	39.4	39.4	25.1	2.3					4.8	36.5	50.9	22.5
Rock Pigeon	21.8	18.1	17.8	19.0	16.3	17.2	26.6	25.5	24.7	18.5	18.1	24.9	20.3
Pacific Wren	25.3	24.1	25.4	20.5	11.8	26.9	13.5	11.9	17.3	21.1	18.6	20.5	19.8
Mallard	22.4	24.4	27.0	22.2	14.2	8.4	8.5	9.7	11.7	19.2	18.6	25.3	18.7
Mew Gull	28.8	21.0	28.0	16.1	2.4		6.9	7.1	18.6	25.7	27.5	30.2	18.6
Violet-green Swallow			4.9	26.0	49.8	61.8	44.0	21.0	7.9				16.7
Pigeon Guillemot	15.4	13.3	20.3	17.8	14.1	16.4	31.3	29.0	11.7	11.1	8.8	18.1	16.6

Bald Eagle	24.0	22.7	30.2	20.5	15.5	12.2	9.7	5.8	2.0	9.8	12.5	17.4	16.3
Common Raven	14.4	17.3	16.4	15.5	22.6	30.3	20.1	15.2	16.3	10.9	10.8	9.5	16.1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11.7	7.9	13.2	20.5	19.5	29.8	28.2	27.1	19.3	12.2	6.1	7.2	16.1
Steller's Jay	10.7	8.5	17.2	22.5	24.1	31.9	18.1	25.2	16.0	7.6	5.1	8.4	16.0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	24.8	17.6	22.9	15.2	5.7	4.6	1.9	8.7	17.3	18.5	17.9	22.8	15.7
Pelagic Cormorant	27.5	19.0	21.3	15.7	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.9	9.2	18.1	21.3	26.7	15.5
Bewick's Wren	5.1	9.9	13.4	23.6	27.9	26.5	15.4	16.5	12.7	11.1	5.4	7.9	14.9
Common Goldeneye	36.8	27.8	23.5	11.7	0.2						18.4	42.8	14.4
Black-capped Chickadee	12.7	16.1	16.6	15.5	14.1	10.5	24.7	11.0	13.0	10.2	8.3	11.6	13.6
Barrow's Goldeneye	25.0	26.6	29.2	19.6	2.7					2.0	15.7	24.2	13.5
Brown Creeper	9.9	8.5	19.3	15.2	17.3	19.7	17.8	15.2	16.0	9.4	5.1	8.1	13.4
Belted Kingfisher	18.9	12.2	10.7	9.4	4.5	9.2	22.0	20.3	14.8	17.2	11.8	16.7	13.3
European Starling	8.4	8.5	8.7	19.2	19.4	23.5	20.1	14.5	14.0	8.9	8.8	7.0	13.2
Killdeer	12.3	7.6	14.0	14.0	15.7	10.1	16.2	16.1	11.5	13.3	8.6	8.8	12.5
Pine Siskin	7.4	9.6	21.7	24.2	14.4	5.9	11.6	19.4	9.7	5.2	4.2	5.6	12.4
Barn Swallow				11.0	33.3	43.3	42.9	31.3	11.7	0.2			12.4
Red-breasted Merganser	35.3	20.4	14.0	6.4	0.3	0.8			0.8	4.6	19.6	35.8	12.2
Common Loon	18.7	13.3	15.2	12.6	1.9	0.4		0.6	8.7	20.5	15.0	24.7	11.9
Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid)	17.2	11.3	12.2	8.5	4.4	7.6	10.0	12.9	17.0	12.9	11.0	18.4	11.8
Red-necked Grebe	23.8	12.2	14.2	6.1	0.2			5.5	11.2	17.4	17.6	26.5	11.8
White-winged Scoter	19.3	16.7	17.6	9.3	2.1			2.3	7.1	15.5	17.2	23.5	11.6
Great Blue Heron	10.9	4.2	9.1	6.5	6.0	11.3	18.9	17.4	15.8	16.1	12.0	16.7	11.3
Anna's Hummingbird	10.9	14.2	15.2	17.8	17.6	14.3	8.1	4.5	10.2	5.2	3.9	4.9	11.3
Pileated Woodpecker	5.5	9.6	10.8	19.2	20.8	8.8	8.9	11.0	12.0	4.4	5.9	7.9	11.2
Canada Goose	7.6	9.9	19.5	18.6	18.6	9.2	12.4	9.7	7.9	4.4	1.7	2.8	11.0
Pacific-slope Flycatcher				14.3	39.1	50.8	33.6	5.2	1.0				11.0
American Wigeon	19.7	10.2	8.1	5.5	0.2			0.3	10.7	21.4	22.8	23.0	10.6

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of list >>	513	353	507	657	619	238	259	310	393	459	408	430	5146
Purple Finch	0.8		7.9	21.5	31.8	34.0	20.1	1.9	2.5	0.7	2.0	0.2	10.6
California Gull	2.5	0.6	1.0	1.5	1.9	10.1	15.8	31.3	43.0	26.6	8.8	1.9	10.5
Brandt's Cormorant	18.7	14.4	16.6	14.0	3.2	0.8		1.6	4.3	8.7	14.2	16.7	10.4
White-crowned Sparrow	0.8	1.7	3.0	24.8	29.7	29.0	8.5	2.3	3.3	1.7	1.0		9.6
Orange-crowned Warbler	1.0	1.1	1.4	32.1	28.8	25.2	3.1	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.5		9.4
Hutton's Vireo	2.3	7.9	17.6	9.4	8.6	18.9	17.8	13.2	11.2	4.1	5.6	4.0	9.3
Wilson's Warbler				11.7	36.7	39.5	22.8	4.2	1.0				9.2
American Goldfinch	1.8	0.6	2.2	8.7	22.1	31.1	22.8	13.9	4.1	3.7	1.0	1.4	8.5
Swainson's Thrush					27.5	50.0	34.4	6.5	0.8				7.8
Barred Owl	4.5	10.2	10.3	12.8	10.8	7.6	6.9	9.7	9.4	3.7	1.2	1.4	7.6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	10.1	10.5	10.8	8.7	1.3				2.8	12.4	13.7	13.5	7.6
Rhinoceros Auklet	6.4	3.4	5.3	4.4	3.7	2.5	5.8	6.5	18.8	12.0	8.3	10.7	7.3
Red-tailed Hawk	4.5	6.5	9.3	12.2	10.2	8.4	5.4	2.3	3.1	2.8	5.4	5.8	6.8
Downy Woodpecker	5.5	3.7	3.9	11.0	10.2	3.8	14.7	13.9	7.9	2.6	1.5	3.0	6.8
Western Grebe	11.3	6.8	7.5	3.2	0.5		0.4	1.6	10.2	12.2	12.3	11.9	6.7
Brown-headed Cowbird				6.1	28.9	31.9	15.1	2.9	0.5	0.2			6.7
Bonaparte's Gull	1.4	0.3	4.3	14.3	2.3		7.3	17.1	11.7	9.4	6.1	2.3	6.5
Black-throated Gray Warbler				13.9	27.1	26.5	1.5		1.5				6.5
Cedar Waxwing	0.4	0.6			7.8	39.5	32.0	13.9	4.6	5.4	2.5	0.2	6.3
Rufous Hummingbird		0.6	5.7	13.9	20.4	15.5	3.5	1.6					5.8
Eared Grebe	14.8	8.5	6.9	2.9					2.5	5.7	8.3	15.8	5.8
Black-headed Grosbeak					31.0	31.9	8.9	1.9					5.8
Red-winged Blackbird	1.8	4.8	7.5	11.4	16.5	14.7	2.7	1.0	0.3		0.7	0.7	5.7
Greater Scaup	12.9	8.8	7.1	4.0	0.2				0.5	2.4	7.1	19.5	5.6

Osprey			0.4	6.4	13.1	9.7	12.4	15.5	7.1	0.9			5.1
Red-throated Loon	15.4	6.5	7.7	1.8	0.2				0.3	1.3	3.2	18.8	5.0
Red-breasted Sapsucker	1.4	3.7	4.5	9.1	11.0	15.5	1.2	1.3	0.3	1.1	2.7	4.0	4.8
Pacific Loon	11.3	5.7	6.3	2.1	0.2				0.8	1.3	3.9	19.1	4.5
House Finch	3.1	2.5	5.3	7.0	6.0	4.6	4.6	5.2	2.8	3.5	2.5	2.3	4.3
Common Merganser	6.2	5.9	5.1	3.0	0.3			0.3	0.8	4.1	7.1	14.7	4.2
Western Tanager				1.4	21.5	16.4	10.0	1.3	0.3				4.1
Green-winged Teal	6.4	4.2	5.7	6.5	1.1	1.7	1.2	0.3	2.0	5.0	4.4	6.0	4.1
Hooded Merganser	7.8	5.9	4.9	3.2	3.4	2.9	3.9	0.3	0.8	1.1	5.1	8.1	4.1
Savannah Sparrow			1.2	8.7	12.8	10.5	1.5		4.1	3.7			4.0
Warbling Vireo				1.2	13.1	31.1	8.9						3.6
Pied-billed Grebe	6.4	3.1	5.5	3.0	2.7	2.5	0.8	1.0	1.8	3.9	5.1	2.3	3.4
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2.1	3.1	4.7	12.5	4.4	0.4			0.8	1.3	0.5	2.1	3.4
House Sparrow	1.8	3.4	4.9	5.3	5.5	5.5	4.6	1.9	2.0	1.1	0.7	1.9	3.3
American/Northwestern Crow	2.1	2.0	9.3	1.2	0.5	1.7	0.8	2.9	1.5	3.9	2.2	6.7	3.0
Wood Duck	2.5	3.1	4.3	2.7	2.6	2.5	3.1	1.6	1.8	2.8	3.9	3.3	2.9
gull sp.	3.3	5.7	2.4	2.6	0.8	0.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	4.1	4.2	4.2	2.7
Western/Glaucous-winged Gull	2.3	1.1	7.3	2.4	3.2	0.4	1.9	1.9	2.5	1.3	2.0	3.5	2.7
Ring-necked Duck	4.5	4.8	5.1	4.0	0.6					2.0	3.7	4.2	2.7
Caspian Tern				3.7	0.3	7.6	8.9	17.1	4.3				2.7
Golden-crowned Sparrow	3.9	2.3	3.7	3.2	1.6				2.0	6.5	1.2	2.8	2.6
Olive-sided Flycatcher					8.7	27.7	4.6	0.3					2.6
Purple Martin				2.0	6.0	5.5	10.8	11.0	1.5				2.5
Varied Thrush	3.9	3.4	5.3	0.8	0.3				2.0	2.4	4.2	5.3	2.4
Common Murre	4.3	2.5	1.4	0.8	0.8		0.4	0.6	0.8	1.7	4.4	10.0	2.4
Red Crossbill	0.4	0.3	3.0	3.7	3.9	5.5	2.7	5.2	1.0	0.7	0.5	2.6	2.4
Harlequin Duck	5.3	2.3	4.5	2.3	2.1	0.4	0.4		0.8	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.3

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of list >>	513	353	507	657	619	238	259	310	393	459	408	430	5146
Western/Glaucous-winged Gull	2.3	1.1	7.3	2.4	3.2	0.4	1.9	1.9	2.5	1.3	2.0	3.5	2.7
Ring-necked Duck	4.5	4.8	5.1	4.0	0.6					2.0	3.7	4.2	2.7
Caspian Tern				3.7	0.3	7.6	8.9	17.1	4.3				2.7
Golden-crowned Sparrow	3.9	2.3	3.7	3.2	1.6				2.0	6.5	1.2	2.8	2.6
Olive-sided Flycatcher					8.7	27.7	4.6	0.3					2.6
Purple Martin				2.0	6.0	5.5	10.8	11.0	1.5				2.5
Varied Thrush	3.9	3.4	5.3	0.8	0.3				2.0	2.4	4.2	5.3	2.4
Common Murre	4.3	2.5	1.4	0.8	0.8		0.4	0.6	0.8	1.7	4.4	10.0	2.4
Red Crossbill	0.4	0.3	3.0	3.7	3.9	5.5	2.7	5.2	1.0	0.7	0.5	2.6	2.4
Harlequin Duck	5.3	2.3	4.5	2.3	2.1	0.4	0.4		0.8	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.3
Fox Sparrow	5.8	2.3	3.0	0.3					1.3	4.8	2.7	5.3	2.3
Common Yellowthroat				4.9	7.9	7.1	4.6		1.0				2.2
Band-tailed Pigeon	0.6		1.0	4.0	5.2	2.5	3.1	2.6	1.8	1.1	1.0	0.2	2.0
cormorant sp.	1.8	3.4	3.2	2.3	0.2	0.4	1.5	1.3	0.3	0.2	3.4	2.3	1.7
Heermann's Gull							0.4	2.6	7.4	5.2	5.9	0.5	1.7
Bushtit	2.7	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.1	1.7	1.5	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.7	1.4	1.6
Western Wood-Pewee					2.7	11.3	8.5	2.9					1.5
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				3.0	4.4	3.8	3.1	3.2					1.4
Brant	3.1	0.8	3.4	4.3	0.3					0.2		0.5	1.3
Cooper's Hawk	0.6		3.4	1.8	2.3		0.4	2.3		1.5	1.0	0.9	1.3
Black Scoter	2.1	2.5	2.4	1.5					0.3	0.4	2.5	3.0	1.3
Ring-billed Gull	1.9	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5		1.2	1.9	0.8	3.7	2.5	1.6	1.3
American Kestrel	1.9	2.8	2.0	0.9	0.5	1.3			0.5	0.4	2.2	1.9	1.2
Larus sp.	1.8	0.8	2.2		0.2		0.4	0.6	2.3	2.0	2.7	0.9	1.2
Yellow-billed Loon	3.7	0.8	0.2									8.4	1.1

Long-tailed Duck	4.5	0.8	0.4	0.2								6.5	1.1
Eurasian Wigeon	1.9		0.2							2.2	4.9	3.3	1.1
Spotted Sandpiper	3.1	0.8	0.4		0.2		1.9	3.5	1.5	0.4	0.2	1.9	1.1
Gadwall	2.3	1.1	0.6	0.8						0.2	2.0	4.7	1.0
Tree Swallow			0.4	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.7	0.3	0.3				1.0
Eurasian Collared-Dove	0.2	0.3		1.5	4.5	2.1	0.4	0.3	1.0			0.2	1.0
Lincoln's Sparrow	2.5		2.6	1.7	0.5		0.4		0.5	1.3		0.5	1.0
Western Gull	1.2	0.8	2.8	1.1		0.4	2.3	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.2	0.2	1.0
Least Sandpiper				0.5	1.5		5.0	5.2	1.8		0.2		1.0
Thayer's Gull	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.8					0.2	0.2	0.9	1.0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0.6	1.4		2.3	1.0			1.3		2.0	1.0	0.2	0.9
Willow Flycatcher					0.5	13.4	3.9						0.9
Common/Barrow's Goldeneye	1.0	2.3	3.6	0.8	0.2						0.5	0.9	0.8
Marbled Murrelet	0.6		0.4	0.8	0.8		0.8	0.6	1.0	1.3	2.0	1.4	0.8
Lesser Scaup	2.9	0.6	0.4		0.2						1.2	3.5	0.8
Peregrine Falcon	2.7	0.3	0.2		0.3			0.6	0.8	1.3	1.5	0.9	0.8
Western Sandpiper				0.5	0.3		4.2	4.5	2.0	0.2			0.8
Greater Yellowlegs	1.0	0.3	1.0	3.0				0.6	0.8	0.2	0.2		0.7
Hermit Thrush	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.5			0.4		0.5	0.7	2.9	1.2	0.7
Northern Wheatear										7.6			0.7
Merlin	1.4	1.4	0.4	0.2			0.4		0.5	0.9	1.7	1.2	0.7
pigeon/dove sp.				0.9	2.3	1.7	0.8	0.6		0.4			0.6
Sanderling	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.2			1.3	1.0		1.0	1.2	0.6
Herring Gull	1.4	1.1	0.6						0.3	0.7	0.5	2.1	0.6
Wilson's Snipe	1.0	0.3	1.2	0.5	0.2					0.9	0.5	1.6	0.6
Chipping Sparrow				1.1	2.7	1.3							0.5
Ring-necked Pheasant		0.3	0.6	2.0	1.0	0.8						0.2	0.5

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of list >>	513	353	507	657	619	238	259	310	393	459	408	430	5146
Evening Grosbeak				0.3	2.4	1.7			0.3	0.7			0.5
Red-necked Phalarope							0.4	4.2	2.3	0.4			0.5
loon sp.	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.5						0.2	0.5	1.9	0.5
Turkey Vulture		0.3	1.2	1.2	1.5								0.5
Virginia Rail	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.5					0.2	1.5		0.5
Greater/Lesser Scaup	1.9		0.2	0.2	0.2						0.2	1.6	0.4
Townsend's Warbler	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.1		0.4			0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
Dunlin			1.0	0.9	0.5				0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.4
Mourning Dove			0.4		0.8	0.4	1.5	1.3	0.5	0.4			0.4
Northern Shoveler	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2			0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.4
scoter sp.	0.2	0.3			0.3				1.0	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.4
Accipiter sp.	0.4			0.5	0.3	1.7	0.8	0.6			0.7		0.3
American Pipit				1.2	0.5		0.4		0.8	0.7			0.3
Yellow Warbler				0.2	1.5	1.7		1.0	0.3				0.3
duck sp.	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2			0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.3
Northern Pintail	0.2	0.3	0.2							2.0	0.2	0.7	0.3
American Coot		0.8	0.2							0.7	1.7	0.2	0.3
hummingbird sp.				0.3	1.3	0.4	1.2						0.3
Ruddy Duck	0.6	0.3	0.2					0.6	0.3		0.2	0.9	0.3
Common Tern					0.2			0.3	2.3	0.2			0.2
Hammond's Flycatcher				0.3	0.8	1.3			0.3				0.2
swallow sp.			0.4	0.2	0.5		0.4	1.0	0.3				0.2
Domestic goose sp. (Domestic type) x Canada Goose (hybrid)	0.2		0.6	0.5	0.5								0.2
goose sp.	0.6				0.2				0.3	0.7		0.5	0.2

Hairy Woodpecker	0.2			0.3	0.6			0.3	0.4			0.2
Horned/Eared Grebe	0.4	0.3	0.2					0.3	0.4	0.7		0.2
House Wren					1.0	0.8	0.8					0.2
Parasitic Jaeger								1.5	0.4	0.5		0.2
alcid sp.	0.4				0.2			0.8		0.2	0.5	0.2
Cackling Goose	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2				0.2			0.2
Vaux's Swift					0.3		1.2	1.0	0.3			0.2
White-tailed Kite					1.5							0.2
White-throated Sparrow			0.6	0.2	0.3				0.4		0.2	0.2
Barn Owl	0.2				0.3	0.4		0.6		0.5		0.2
Black Turnstone	0.2		0.2						0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2
Cliff Swallow					0.2		0.8	1.6				0.2
Eurasian x American Wigeon (hybrid)									0.7	0.2	0.9	0.2
Northern Harrier			0.4	0.3				0.3		0.5	0.2	0.2
Domestic goose sp. (Domestic type)			0.2			0.4	0.4		1.0			0.1
MacGillivray's Warbler				0.2	1.0							0.1
Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk		0.3	0.4	0.2		0.4		0.3		0.2		0.1
California Scrub-Jay			0.6		0.2		0.4		0.3			0.1
Empidonax sp.							1.2	1.0				0.1
Greater White-fronted Goose		0.3	0.2	0.5						0.2		0.1
grebe sp.			0.2						0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Marsh Wren									0.3			1.2	0.1
Semipalmated Plover							0.4	1.0	0.5				0.1
Cassin's Vireo				0.2	0.5	0.4							0.1
Clark's Grebe										1.1			0.1
Green Heron			0.2						0.3	0.7			0.1
Semipalmated Sandpiper							0.8	0.6	0.3				0.1

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of list >>	513	353	507	657	619	238	259	310	393	459	408	430	5146
warbler sp. (Parulidae sp.)				0.3			0.8			0.2			0.1
Cassin's Auklet	0.2								0.8				0.1
Common/Red-breasted Merganser										0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Northern Shrike	0.6										0.2		0.1
Pectoral Sandpiper								0.6	0.5				0.1
peep sp.								0.3	0.5			0.2	0.1
Snow Goose	0.2	0.6								0.2			0.1
sparrow sp.	0.2						0.4			0.4			0.1
Baird's Sandpiper							0.4	0.3	0.3				0.1
Brewer's Blackbird					0.3					0.2			0.1
Common Nighthawk						1.3							0.1
finch sp.				0.2	0.2					0.2			0.1
Great Horned Owl					0.2			0.3	0.3				0.1
House/Purple Finch		0.3		0.3									0.1
Lesser Yellowlegs							0.4	0.6					0.1
murrelet sp.									0.3	0.2	0.2		0.1
Nashville Warbler				0.3	0.2								0.1
phalarope sp.									0.8				0.1
Red-shouldered Hawk	0.4	0.3											0.1
Rock/Band-tailed Pigeon				0.3								0.2	0.1
Sabine's Gull									0.5	0.2			0.1
Short-billed Dowitcher				0.5									0.1
Tree/Violet-green Swallow				0.2	0.2				0.3				0.1
Black Oystercatcher					0.3								0.0

Cackling/Canada Goose			0.2		0.3		0.0
Catharus sp.					0.5		0.0
falcon sp.		0.4					0.0
Herring x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid)	0.2					0.2	0.0
Lazuli Bunting			0.3				0.0
Northern Bobwhite			0.4	0.3			0.0
Rough-legged Hawk	0.2					0.2	0.0
Say's Phoebe		0.4					0.0
Snow Bunting	0.2	0.3					0.0
Solitary Sandpiper			0.2		0.3		0.0
Western Kingbird			0.3				0.0
Western Meadowlark						0.4	0.0
wren sp.		0.3				0.2	0.0
Ancient Murrelet						0.2	0.0
Ash-throated Flycatcher						0.2	0.0
Aythya sp.		0.3					0.0
Brown Booby					0.3		0.0
Brown Pelican			0.2				0.0
dabbling duck sp.		0.3					0.0
diurnal raptor sp.		0.2					0.0
Franklin's Gull					0.3		0.0
hawk sp.			0.2				0.0
Lapland Longspur						0.2	0.0
Mallard (Domestic type)		0.2					0.0
Northern Saw-whet Owl				0.3			0.0
passerine sp.						0.2	0.0
Red Phalarope					0.3		0.0

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of list >>	513	353	507	657	619	238	259	310	393	459	408	430	5146
Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker (hybrid)						0.4							0.0
shorebird sp.	0.2												0.0
Short-eared Owl											0.2		0.0
Surfbird			0.2										0.0
Townsend's Solitaire				0.2									0.0
Tundra Swan	0.2												0.0
Western/Clark's Grebe	0.2												0.0
woodpecker sp.					0.2								0.0

BIRDING FROM THE SOIL UP

MIKE DENNY,1354 SE Central Ave., College Place, WA 99324; walla2.birder@outlook.com. WOS member and formerly with the U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest and the Washington State Conservation Commission/Districts.

Figure 1. Snow silt loams left and right of the habitat covered north facing slope on Government Mountain Road in the Blue Mountains, Umatilla County, Oregon. Snow silt loams are on slopes with >10% grade. These super soils are the most valuable soils in eastern Washington and northeastern Oregon. Most west and south facing slopes tend to be shallow rocky soils known as Lithosols, while north and eastern facing slopes have deep moist soils here in the northern Blue Mountains. *Photo by © Mike Denny.*

Seldom if ever do we as birders consider just where it is that plant communities originate and how all those trees, woody shrubs, forbs and grasses produce all the different habitats that birds depend on for survival. The truth is that there would be very little if any habitat and therefore birds if it were not for the soils under our feet.

Having spent many years working for Conservation Districts in partnership with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services), an arm of the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture), on many habitat restoration projects here in the arid Columbia Basin of Washington State, I grew to appreciate soils. While working on these important habitat restoration projects I became acutely aware of the need in understanding the many soils of this region. It was driven home time and again as I worked re-vegetating sites that a knowledge of soil ph and chemistry was a must. I worked on restoring riparian habitat, upland bunchgrass communities and shrub-steppe sites. In all these efforts I was required to have a broad understanding of the on-site

soils and needed to know what native plant species would survive and grow on each project reach.

Being a birder, I was always looking 5-10 years down the road imaging what the restored habitats would look like at each site and what avian species would take up holding territories and nesting in these areas of restoration work.

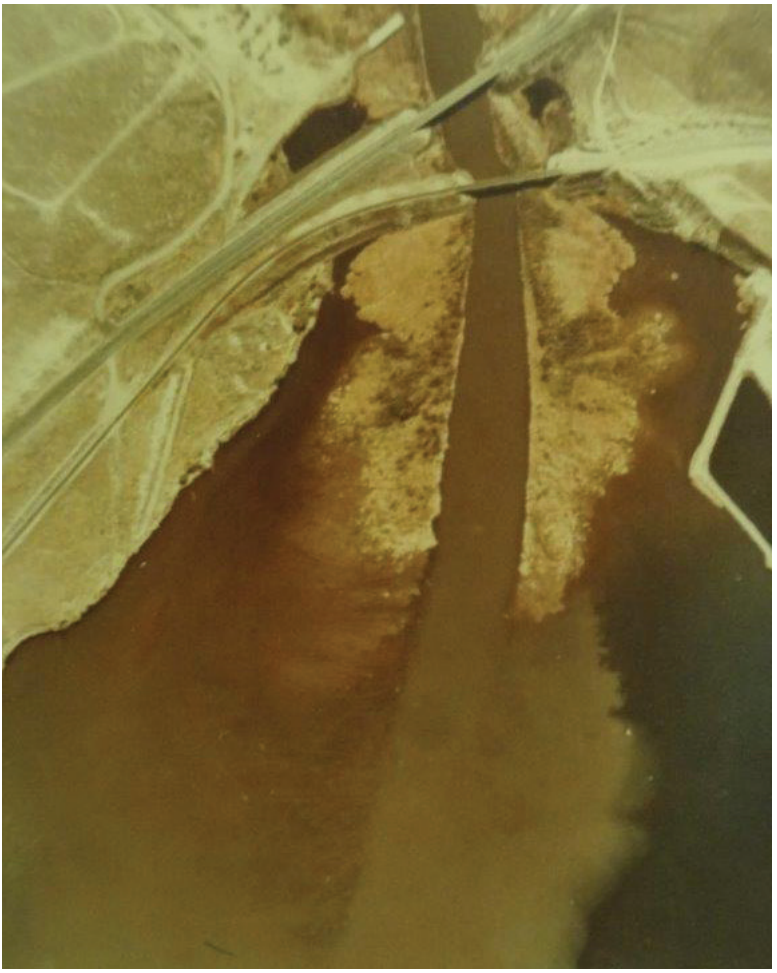


Figure 2. Aerial photo of the building of the Walla Walla River delta dated March 1968. These are the soils off the foothills of the Northern Blue Mountains and Palouse Hills during spring melt at the confluence of the Walla Walla River with the Columbia River at Wallula Junction. These soils are constructing one of the most significant deltas in southeastern Washington. *Image Courtesy of the © Walla Walla County Conservation District.*

With obtaining a desired plant survival rate upper most in my mind I would always start out with a study of the soils of the site to be re-planted. These soils are key to the foundation of a successful conservation project. Now I recognize that a huge portion of the birding public would not know or even consider what soils dictate what plant species at what elevation. Many plant communities grow in very specific soil types and often times the plant species mix determines what species of birds are present at any one location.

As an example, here in southeast Washington, along the western face of the northern Blue Mountains is a soil type named "snow silt loam". This soil is considered one of the top 1% most productive soils on this planet. Let's explore how this one soil type determines plant community and plant diversity and ultimately avian populations and diversity.

Snow silt loams are found across the slopes of the northern Blue Mountains from western Columbia County through eastern Walla Walla County and on south into northeastern Umatilla County, Oregon. This soil type ranges in depth from 14 inches to over five feet. All snow silt loams are located on slopes >10 degrees. The ph of this soil is right at 6.9, making it almost neutral and only slightly acidic. Most soils in the Columbia Basin are alkaline and can go as high as 7.7 in places. This is alkaline enough to burn human skin. So back to the wonderful snow silt loams. This soil allows outstanding growth of bunchgrasses, Black Hawthorn, Blue Elderberry, Choke Cherry, feral apples, Bitter Cherry, Indian Plum and Sticky Current to name a few species. In the drainages that cut through these snow silt loams are Black Cottonwoods, Water Birch, scattered Douglas-firs and White Alders along with several species of large willows. More than 90 species of native birds nest in the habitats that these snow silt loams produce.

THEN ALONG COMES MAN

This soil type also produces 147 bushels an acre of wheat unirrigated, which has led to the encroachment of many thousands of acres of wheat fields into the northern Blue Mountains and the profound loss of valuable native habitat. All wildlife suffers from this grab for the snow silt loams by farmers and over time greatly impacted the native birds as all habitat is cleared off for what becomes a great mono-cultural desert where nature never intended for one to exist.

The very foundations of this region, the soils, produce great diversity here on the Blues. The presence of this one type of soil is both a blessing and a curse for native birds.

As one travels around this amazing state, start to wonder what it is that hosts and maintains the plant communities where all those birds and insects flourish. Check out the following references that will educate you about the soils where you bird.

Look on line for the "Web Soil Surveys, NRCS-USDA". This is your opportunity to start looking at the big picture of where the birds are that have your interest.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MITIGATING AMERICAN CROW PREDATION ON VAUX'S SWIFTS AT A ROOST SITE IN MONROE, WASHINGTON

DREW SCHWITTERS, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,13211 97th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034; drew.schwitters@dfw.wa.gov

LARRY SCHWITTERS, Audubon Vaux's Happening, 1745 Brookside Dr. SE, Issaquah, WA 98027; leschwitters@me.com

CURT YOUNG, 12915 Old Snohomish Monroe Road, Snohomish, WA 98290

Vaux's Swifts (*Chaetura vauxi*) are a gregarious, neotropical migratory swift with a breeding range spanning the highlands of southern Alaska to central California (AOU 1998). This species performs two annual migration events to and from Central America where it winters, spending the entirety either flying or resting in communal roost sites in groups typically numbering in the hundreds to tens of thousands along the western United States (Bull and Collins 2007). Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of these roosting sites are brick chimneys constructed prior to 1940 without lining material which allows the swifts to cling to the interior. This type of roosting site acts as a substitute for old growth snags, the preferred roost site for Vaux's Swifts that have become less common with the loss and fragmentation of old-growth forest (Finley and Finley 1924, Stager 1965, Bull and Hohman 1993, Bull 2001, Bull 2003). Chimneys located in developed areas are typically surrounded by open air space and may leave swifts vulnerable to predation as they enter and exit the chimney.

Comprehensive studies examining historical predation pressures on swifts have not been conducted. It is believed that swifts have not traditionally faced significant predation pressure, especially from corvids, because of differences in preferred habitat and because most swift mortality occurs at human-made roost sites (Shuford and Gardali 2008). E. Bull states that she has never witnessed predation by corvids in her extensive research on the species under natural conditions away from human structures (personal communication, 27 December 2015). This study investigates the type and extent of predation occurring on Vaux's Swifts at a chimney roost site during the southbound fall migration of 2010 in Monroe, Washington. We also describe a method of reducing the frequency of corvid predation at swift migratory roost sites.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

The study was conducted at a known swift roosting site in a decommissioned brick chimney built in 1939 at the Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe, Washington, an urban area of approximately 17,300 residents. The chimney measures 1.2 m in width by 1.2 m in length at the opening and rises 9.1 m from the flat roof of the school. The opening of the chimney is surrounded by a lip of approximately 10.2 cm. Surrounding the school are grass playing fields, asphalt parking lots, and suburban development, making the chimney the tallest structure in the immediate area. Some tall

trees stand at the periphery of the school property boundary.

We installed two motion activated internet protocol video cameras in this chimney on 13 and 14 August, 2010. We installed one USAG Midnight available light camera on top of the chimney (camera 1), and a Vivotek 264 infrared (IR) bullet camera inside 1 m down from the chimney entrance (camera 2). Camera 1 provided a view of the chimney opening and a wide view of the sky, while camera 2 provided a view of roosting swifts inside the chimney. Camera 1 switched to IR mode in low light conditions, while camera 2 did not due to concerns about subjecting the swifts to continual IR exposure. Both cameras were connected to a computer for recording and internet live streaming. Footage was recorded for 30 days from 31 August to 29 September 2010. This period comprised the majority of the southbound migration. We tallied the numbers of predator attacks (defined as a single capture attempt by an individual predator) and successful kills for each day from the video footage. Trained volunteer observations were also submitted each night for the duration of the study period to confirm the number of roosting swifts present. Volunteers submitted observations for evening roost entrances only, and no volunteers were present during the morning roost exits.

RESULTS

Our cameras recorded over 200,000 Vaux's Swifts entering or exiting the chimney during the study (Table 2). The video footage revealed consistent predation on the swifts, especially during their morning exit. Predator presence was noted by volunteers for some evenings, although no attacks

Figure 1. A Cooper's Hawk with a recently killed Vaux's Swift on the Wagner Elementary School chimney in Monroe, WA on 23 September 2010. *Photo by © Larry Schwitters.*

Figure 2. A group of American Crows with a recently killed Vaux's Swift on the Wagner Elementary School chimney in Monroe, WA on 23 September 2010. *Photo by © Larry Schwitters.*

were observed or recorded. Predators observed included the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and American Crow, (*Corvus branchyrhynchos*) (Figs. 1 and 2, Table 1).

Table 1. Total recorded attacks and kills by all species preying on Vaux's Swifts at a roosting site at Frank Wagner Elementary School, Monroe, Washington, 2010.

Predator Species	Total attacks	Total kills	Success rate
Cooper's Hawk	13	9	69.20%
American Crow	122	37	30.33

A single female Cooper's Hawk was the apparent sole perpetrator of all attacks by this species. These attacks occurred on 13 separate days from 9 September to 27 September 2010. The majority of these attacks were successful and occurred during the morning exit (Table 1). Her most effective capture technique was similar to that described by Ellis (2006): swooping up, stalling and grasping at the swifts as they flew out over the chimney lip. Another method involved flying down into the chimney to take a swift. This behavior was recorded on four different occasions, and camera footage suggests that the hawk was at least two meters below the rim. The attacks occurring outside the chimney did not appear to alter the exit patterns of the swifts, which continued to exit at a rate of 8-12 swifts/second.

A group of at least five American Crows were the most significant source of predation despite their lower rate of success (Table 1). In total, 122 attacks were recorded by crows and 37 of these attempts were successful. The largest individual was responsible for the majority of the attacks (51

attempts and 23 kills), and was easily recognized by his deformed hook bill. This crow would consistently arrive shortly after the swift exit began, quietly wait on the outer edge of the chimney lip, and regularly capture a swift in its bill within seconds. A typical kill occurred when a swift exited the chimney opening too close to the predator. The crow would then strike out with its bill and capture a swift, usually after several attempts. After catching a swift it would usually hold the victim down with one foot while tearing it apart. Often the crow would remove and consume the head first. This individual was typically joined by one to four other crows that would peer into the chimney, jump across the opening, and quickly become vocal. This would stop the exit event and cause the waiting swifts to retreat down the chimney,

Table 2. Number of exits, predator presence, and fatalities incurred by Vaux's Swifts leaving a roost site at the Frank Wagner Elementary School, Monroe, Washington, 2010. The numbers of swifts present was determined by trained observer tallies as the birds entered the roost site the evening before an exit event and confirmed with video review.

Date Present	Swifts exits	# of present	Crows present	COHA Kills	AMCR Kills	COHA
8/31/10	1,169	2	yes	no	1	0
9/1/2010	7,706	3	yes	no	5	0
9/2/2010	5,251	2	no	no	0	0
9/3/2010	7,232	3	yes	no	3	0
9/4/2010	12,200	5	yes	no	0	0
9/5/2010	15,604	7	yes	no	3	0
9/6/2010	2,671	5	yes	no	7	0
9/7/2010	26,552	2	yes	no	0	0
9/8/2010	14,293	5	yes	no	3	0
9/9/2010	15,283	3	yes	yes	3	0
9/10/2010	10,560	6	yes	yes	3	1
9/11/2010	389	2	yes	no	1	0
9/12/2010	3,314	5	yes	yes	1	1
9/13/2010	2,536	4	yes	yes	1	0
9/14/2010	4,021	2	yes	yes	0	1
9/15/2010	1,910	3	yes	no	0	0
9/16/2010	3,138	1	no	no	0	0
9/17/2010	3,580	2	yes	yes	0	0
9/18/2010	4,800	7	yes	yes	0	1
9/19/2010	4,639	5	yes	yes	0	0
9/20/2010	9,657	6	yes	yes	0	1
9/21/2010	3,857	2	yes	no	0	0
9/22/2010	3,143	3	yes	yes	0	2
9/23/2010	3,631	11	yes	yes	3	1
9/24/2010	7,210	3	yes	yes	0	0
9/25/2010	850	7	yes	no	2	0
9/26/2010	2,264	1	no	no	0	0
9/27/2010	508	2	yes	yes	0	1
9/28/2010	1,243	2	yes	no	1	0
9/29/2010	48	2	yes	no	0	0
9/30/2010	0	2	no footage	no footage	0	0

remaining there until the crows had left. Once the swifts resumed their exit the crows would return, causing the exit to stop again, and the swifts would again retreat down the chimney. This repeated pattern caused lengthy delays in exiting of up to six hours and separated exiting birds. An example of the timing of these attacks and their effects on swift exit behavior can be found below in Table 3.

Table 3. An example of repeated attacks on Vaux's Swifts by crows and a Cooper's hawk and their effect on exit behavior observed as 3,500 swifts exit their roost on 18 September 2010.

1st exit: 06:36.	7 minutes later outflow is stopped for 45 minutes by the arrival of a crow.
2nd exit: 07:28.	17 seconds later a Cooper's Hawk makes kill. Swifts stop exit for 6 min.
3rd exit: 07:34.	24 seconds later another kill is made by the hawk. Swifts stop exit for 2 hours.
4th exit: 09:34.	1 minute later 3 crows arrive. Swifts stop exit for 50 minutes.
5th exit: 10:24.	1 minute later a crow arrives. Swifts stop exit for over an hour.
6th exit: 11:29.	<1 minute later a crow arrives. Swift stop exit for an hour.
7th exit: 12:24.	2 minutes later the Cooper's Hawk makes her third kill for the day, but outflow continues. Crows arrive two minutes later to stop exit. Only a few swifts are left inside.

Figure 3. The nearly completed structure is constructed of aluminum siding, plastic spikes (right) and steel coils (not yet added) to prevent crows from landing on the lip of the Frank Wagner Elementary School chimney roost site in Monroe, WA. *Photo by © Larry Schwitters.*

Figure 4. Vaux's Swifts exiting the Frank Wagner Elementary School chimney roost site in Monroe, WA, modified with the crow deterrent structure during the northbound migration of 2012. *Photo by © Larry Schwitters.*

To minimize the level of predation on exiting swifts by crows at this roost site, Larry Schwitters devised and constructed a combination of sheet aluminum walls, plastic spikes, and stainless steel coils to be placed around the chimney opening (Fig. 3). Swifts began arriving in mid-April 2011 on their spring migration north, and with a few design modifications the crow barriers were successful. Subsequent camera recordings made until 2014 failed to document a single attack by a crow at the roost site. In addition, the structure did not interfere with the swifts entering or exiting the chimney (Fig. 4). The structure protrudes approximately 20 cm above the lip of the chimney, allowing the swifts to exit freely and in no way interferes with the aerial capture techniques of hawk species. Further volunteer observations following the study documented several Cooper's Hawk attacks taking place near the study site.

DISCUSSION

Vaux's Swifts have declined across their range by two percent annually from 1966 to 2014 (Martin and Finch 1995, USGS 2014, NABCI 2014). The estimated population in North America is approximately 340,000 (USGS 2014). Factors in their decline include loss of habitat (Finley and Finley 1924, Stager 1965, Bull and Hohman 1993, Bull 2003, Bull 2001, Hansen 2013), mass mortality events at roost sites (Reudink 2015), and starvation or diet quality reduction (Pomfret 2012, Nebel 2010). Swifts have very high caloric requirements common to aerial insectivores and need hours of feeding time each day to compensate for migration activity (Pomfret 2012, Bull and Beckwith 1993). Though the crows captured by the camera here account for a very small number of direct mortalities (37 within a 30 day

period), they did effectively prevent up to 4.4% of the estimated population from feeding and migrating for as many as six hours each day when they were present and active at the roost exit, denying the swifts critical feeding and flight time. Camera footage revealed that the presence of these crows was consistent during the southbound migration of 2010. Crows were present 27 of the 30 days of the study, while the Coopers Hawk was present on 13 days. The behavior of the exiting swifts was altered by the presence of crows, with swifts exiting in staggered groups and leaving much later than on days without predators. There were only two predator free mornings during the 30 day duration of the study, and on such occasions the swifts would leave the chimney early (typically several minutes before sunrise) and in a single exit event. This suggests that without the threat of predation nearly all the swifts will exit the roost site at once in order to feed or continue their migration, as described by Thompson (1977) and Bull (1991). These predator-free exit events typically take approximately 15 minutes, while some of our observed exit events with crows present took nearly six hour to complete.

It is of particular concern that a small group of crows were able to cause such significant alterations in swift exit behavior, especially when considering that this may be a new predation pressure not experienced by swifts in natural conditions. Crows are known occasional predators of many small bird species, especially on eggs, nestlings, and fledglings (Verbeek and Caffrey 2002). However, we could find no documented predation on adult Vaux's Swifts at roost sites by crows, although crow habitat has expanded into areas previously favored by swifts (Marzluff 2001), and the use of urban roost sites by swifts as replacements for natural structures has brought the two species into contact. In addition, crow attacks appear to cause significantly greater delays as the swifts leave the roost site than the accipiter attacks did. This is likely because the crows would wait on the chimney lip for the swifts to exit, and would thus be in direct visual contact with the swifts in the chimney. The roosting swifts would then avoid leaving the chimney because they could see the crows perched at the chimney entrance. Vaux's Happening has documented complete abandonment of urban roost sites due to predator presence at similar locations and concluded that the crow presence could lead to the abandonment of the roost in addition to causing flight and feeding delays. Members of this study concluded that there was probably little that could or should be done about the Cooper's Hawk because of its minimal impact on swift exits and traditional role as a predator (Bull and Collins 2007) but that action was needed to protect the Vaux's Swifts from opportunistic crows during the following spring migration, leading to the construction of the crow barrier.

After the installation of the crow barrier in 2011 there has been no evidence of predation attempts on the swifts by crows. One kill was reported by an observer on 7 May 2011, although the barrier had not been completely installed at that time. Through the remainder of the northbound 2011 migration, all of the following summer (which averaged 150 roosting non-breeders per night) and the 2011 southbound and 2012 northbound migrations, no attacks by any species were recorded by either camera. The outside camera remained in place recording until 2014, and no crow attacks were witnessed while it was positioned there. Volunteers continue to submit

reports on environmental conditions, swift numbers, and predator attacks at this roost site each night during the annual northbound and southbound migrations, and none have reported any attacks by crows (although most attacks do occur in the morning when no observers are present). It has been observed that proper perch availability near prey has a direct influence on the amount of predator attacks (Preston 1957, Anderson et al 2008.). By eliminating perching surfaces for crows around the chimney lip, we were able to reduce the number of on-camera crow attacks to zero. Similar structures may be effective in protecting other roost sites beset by opportunistic predators and afford Vaux's Swifts invaluable protection from non-traditional predation pressures.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank *Washington Birds* editor Joseph Buchanan and James Clark for editing and revising our manuscript. Special thanks to Ed Swan for assisting with the publication process and to Jeff Kozma for providing peer review. For their role in approving and assisting with our crow barrier installation, we thank Monroe Public School District Superintendent Dr. Ken Hoover, Assistant Superintendent John Mannix, and Wagner Elementary School Principal Robin Fitch. We also thank Audubon Vaux's Happening Steering Committee and devoted outside observers Dianne MacRae, William Kaufman, Judy Allies, Cathy Clark, Neil Zimmerman, Sue Libow, Richard Dubois, Ann Dubois, Cindy Easterson, Jim Carr, Linda Cline, Carolyn Vigos, Connie Young, Paula Duncan, Mike Blackbird, Paulette Hunter, Susie Schaefer, Eileen Hambleton, Jeff Hambleton, Marina Skumanich, Jim Rettig, Tim Manns, Kathleen Snyder, Irene Billa, Carolyn Lacy, Leora Schwitters and Chad Schwitters. For their help in making this project a reality, we thank WDFW ALEA Program Grants Manager Josh Nicholas, and WDFW employees Gretchen Blatz and Charles Gibilisco. Finally, for camera assistance we thank Phil Turner and Charles Collins of Olympia Systems.

LITERATURE CITED

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. *Check-list of North American Birds*, 7th ed. American Ornithologist's Union, Washington, DC.

Anderson, M., Wallander J., and Isaksson, D. 2008. Predator perches: a visual search perspective. *Functional Ecology* 23:373-379

Bull, E. L. 1991. Summer roosts and roosting behavior of Vaux's Swifts in old-growth forests. *Northwestern Naturalist*, 72(2), 78-82

Bull, E.L. 2001. Summer roosts and roosting behavior of Vaux's Swifts in old growth forests. Northwestern Naturalist 72:78-82

Bull, E.L. 2003. Declines in the breeding population of Vaux's Swifts in Northeastern Oregon. *Western Birds* 34:230-234.

Bull, E.L., and R.C. Beckwith. 1993. Diet and foraging behavior of Vaux's Swifts in northeastern Oregon. *Condor*, 1016-1023.

Bull, E.L. and C.T. Collins. 2007. Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). In A. Poole, editor, The Birds of North America, No 77. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY; http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/077, (February 2016)

Bull, E.L. and J.E. Hohman. 1993. The association between Vaux's swifts and old growth forest in northeastern Oregon. *Western Birds* 24:38-42.

Ellis, D.H. 2006. Swift-Hunting Behavior of the Peregrine Falcon in Arizona. *Western Birds* 37: 149-155.

Finley, W.L., and I. Finley. 1924. Changing habits of Vaux Swift and Western Martin. *Condor* 26:6-9.

Hansen, M.C., et al. 2013. High-resolution global maps of 21st-century forest cover change. *Science* 342:850–853

Martin, T.E., and D.M. Finch. (Eds.). 1995. *Ecology and management of neotropical migratory birds: a synthesis and review of critical issues.* Oxford University Press.

Marzluff, J.M., K.J. McGowan, R. Donnelly, and R.L. Knight. 2001. Causes and consequences of expanding American Crow populations. In *Avian ecology and conservation in an urbanizing world* (pp. 331-363). Springer US.

Nebel, S., A. Mills, J.D. McCracken, and P.D. Taylor. 2010. Declines of Aerial Insectivores in North America Follow a Geographic Gradient. *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, 5(2), 1.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Committee. 2014. *State of the Birds 2014 Report*. U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, DC.

Pomfret, J.K., J.J. Nocera, T.K. Kyser, and M.W. Reudink. 2012. Linking Population Declines with Diet Quality in Vaux's Swifts. *Northwest Science*, 88(4), 305-313.

Preston, F.W. 1957. The look-out perch as a factor in predation by crows. *The Wilson Bulletin* 69:368-370

Reudink, M.W. et al. 2015. Patterns of migratory connectivity in Vaux's Swifts at a northern migratory roost: A multi-isotope approach. *The Condor*: Ornithological Applications 117, 670-682.

Shuford, W.D., and T. Gardali, editors. 2008. California Bird Species of Special Concern: A ranked assessment of species, subspecies, and distinct populations of birds of immediate conservation concern in California. *Studies of Western Birds 1*. Western Field,Ornithologists, Camarillo, California, and California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento.

Stager, K.E. 1965. An exposed nocturnal roost of migrant Vaux Swifts. *Condor* 67:81–82.

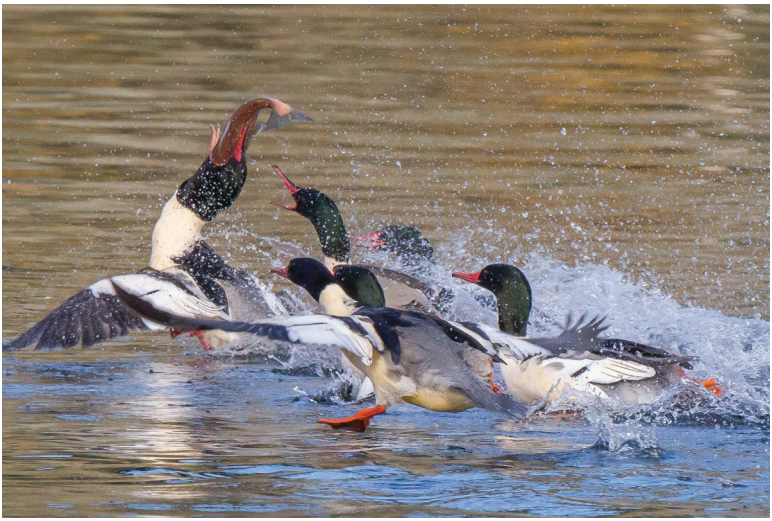
Thompson, B.C. 1977. Behavior of Vaux's Swifts nesting and roosting in a chimney. *Murrelet* 58:73-77.

USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. 2014. North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966– 2014 Analysis.

Verbeek, N.A., and C. Caffrey. 2002. American Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos). In A. Poole, editor, *The Birds of North America*, No 77. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY;http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/647, (February 2016)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNTS SECTION



Common Mergansers fighting for trout at Lake Whatcom, Whatcom County. *Photo by © Douglas Brown.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SOOTY AND DUSKY GROUSE

MICHAEL A. SCHROEDER, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 1077, Bridgeport, WA 98813; michael.schroeder@dfw.wa.gov.

Figure 1. Typical of appearance of male northern Sooty Grouse (upper left), southern Sooty Grouse (lower left), northern Dusky Grouse (upper right), and southern Dusky Grouse (lower right). *Photos by © Michael A. Schroeder.*

A dozen or so years ago, the American Ornithologists Union (AOU, Banks et al. 2006) officially split the Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) into two species: Sooty Grouse (*D. Fuliginosus*) and Dusky Grouse (*D. obscurus*). Although this decision was surprising to many, it actually represented a reversion to an earlier classification when the Sooty and Dusky Grouse were considered distinct (AOU 1931). My purpose in this article is to update the description, habitat and range of these two species in Washington State (Schroeder 2006) and across western North America (Schroeder et al. 2009) since my earlier efforts.

Sooty and Dusky Grouse have been studied in many locations throughout their ranges. Some of these sites were used for banding and observational studies (Zwickel and Bendell 2004), and many were used for a range-wide assessment of genetics (Barrowclough et al. 2004). Following the Barrowclough et al. (2004) study, work on Sooty and Dusky Grouse has continued throughout their ranges (Figure 2). Although an assessment of genetics is still underway, general observations of behavior and appearance are now possible.

Figure 2. Location of Sooty and Dusky grouse study sites (circles) relative to their estimated distributions. Some study sites are described in Zwickel and Bendell (2004), and some are described in Barrowclough et al. 2004; the others have been visited in the intervening years. The Sooty Grouse distribution is divided into a northern portion where the cervical apterias tend to be red (red on the map) and the southern portion where the cervical apterias tend to be yellow (yellow on the map). The Dusky Grouse distribution is divided into a northern portion with almost indistinguishable tail bands (blue on the map) and wide, light gray tail bands (green on the map). *© Michael A. Schroeder.*

As shown in Figure 2, Sooty Grouse (red and yellow ranges on map) differ in basic ways from Dusky Grouse (blue and green). In the past, observers generally believed that Sooty Grouse had yellow apteria (bare patches that are exposed on the side of the neck by displaying males) while Dusky Grouse had red apteria (Zwickel and Bendell 2004). In recent years, Sooty Grouse in the northern portions of the range have been observed to have red apteria, thus adding to the confusion (Figure 1). The most substantial differences between Sooty and Dusky grouse can be seen in displaying males during the breeding season. Although males of both species have a hooting display, Dusky Grouse usually utter a series of five connected low-frequency notes that are difficult to hear more than 100 m away, while Sooty Grouse usually utter at least six connected notes often detectable more than 1 km away. These hooting calls should not be confused with the single note "whoot" call uttered when a male of either species is displaying to a female (Zwickel 1992). This whoot call is detectable from at least 1 km.

Males of both species also perform a flight display. Male Dusky Grouse execute a "flutter jump", usually in the morning and/or in response to female vocalizations. This display consists of a male flying up from the ground about 1 m, with an exaggerated (loud) flight, and landing in approximately the same location. Male Sooty Grouse make a similar display called "landing on loud wing" which is somewhat more flexible. Males typically fly from one branch to another branch in the same tree or to a different tree. Like Dusky Grouse, the flight appears exaggerated and loud. Ambiguity exists as a Sooty Grouse can land on the ground with the same exaggerated flight. Although it is true that Dusky Grouse usually display on the ground and Sooty Grouse usually do so in trees, there are far too many exceptions for this to be an identifying feature.

Other differences exist related to the morphology of the two species, but these pertain sometimes to specific portions of their ranges (Figure 1). For example, Sooty Grouse usually have a narrow (1.0 to 1.5 cm wide) light gray terminal tail band that contrasts with the rest of the tail (black in males and mottled black and brown in females). This compares with the lack of a tail band in Dusky Grouse in the northern portions of the range (blue in range map, Figure 2) and a wide (2.5 – 4.0 cm) light gray terminal tail band in southern portions of the range (green in range map). If present, these light gray tail bands usually provide a strong contrast to the standard tail feather color. In both species the gray is usually absent in the central 2 tail feathers of females. It should be noted that even though northern Dusky Grouse may not have a light gray tail band, they sometimes have a wide band that appears to be a different shade of black, and thus can be detected with close observation. It should also be noted that birds in border areas of the range map may have a mix of characteristics (orange apteria, dark gray tail bands, etc.).

Perhaps the easiest way to distinguish between Sooty and Dusky Grouse is to base considerations on the range map. Unlike most North American birds, Sooty and Dusky Grouse are not long-distance migrants. Consequently, it is unlikely to observe an obvious Dusky Grouse in the heart of the Sooty Grouse range, or vice versa. Although overlap occurs in habitat preferences, particularly in border areas of the distribution, there are dramatic differences in habitat selection within core areas. Sooty Grouse prefer mixed conifer,

forest edges, ridgelines, avalanche chutes, clear cuts, and lower alpine (Figure 3). Dusky Grouse mostly select shrub steppe, aspen and mixed conifer forests, forest edges, treelines, ridgelines, and lower alpine (Figure 4). Despite the differences, there are obvious similarities. Females of both species seem to prefer relatively open areas for nesting. This explains why their preferred habitats are generally characterized by openings or sparse

Figure 3. Sample habitat photos for Sooty Grouse near Denny Island, BC (top left), Porcher Island, BC (top right), Haida Gwaii, BC (2nd left), Juneau, AK (2nd right), Stewart, BC (3rd left), Kitimat, BC (3rd right), Shames Mountain, BC (bottom left), and Bella Coola, BC (bottom right). *Photos by © Michael A. Schroeder.*

canopies. One consistent feature of Sooty Grouse and Dusky Grouse habitat is varied topography; they both seem to prefer steep areas. This is why their distribution includes western North America, but not the boreal forest.

Within Washington, the assessment of ranges is relatively simple. Sooty Grouse usually live west of the Cascade crest and Dusky Grouse generally occur east of the crest. The two species meet east of Hart Pass, with hybrids

Figure. 4. Sample habitat photos for Dusky Grouse near Chetwynd, BC (top left), Big Slide Mountain, BC (top right), Pink Mountain, BC (2nd left), Atlin Lake, BC (2nd right), Hudson Bay Mountain, BC (3rd left), White Mountains, AZ (3rd right), Kaibab Plateau, AZ (bottom left), and Sheep River, AB (bottom right). *Photos © by MAS.*

common in the region. Ambiguity also exists in the Ellensburg area with Dusky Grouse to the northeast and Sooty Grouse to the northwest and southwest. Hybrids are also present in this area.

There is no doubt that there is more to learn about these two species. The genetic assessment may show that there is more variation than previously known. The reason for this confusion in grouse species comes from their lack of mobility. Because grouse are not long-distance dispersers and migrants, they tend to display more regional variation. I personally believe this variation makes them more interesting.

LITERATURE CITED

AOU. 1931. Checklist of North American Birds. 4th edition. American Ornithologists' Union, New York.

Banks, R.C., C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., J.D. Rising, and D.F. Stoltz. 2006. Forty-seventh supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union check-list of North American birds. *Auk* 123:926–936.

Barrowclough, G.F., J.G. Groth, L.A. Mertz, and R.J. Gutiérrez. 2004. Phylogeographic structure, gene flow and species status in blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*). *Molecular Ecology* 13:1911–1922.

Zwickel, F.C. 1992. Blue grouse. Volume 15 in *The Birds of North America*. A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill, Editors., Philadelphia, PA.

Zwickel, F.C., and J.F. Bendell. 2004. *Blue grouse: Their biology and natural history*. NRC Research Press, Ottawa, Ontario.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: WILSON'S PLOVER (*CHARADRIUS WILSONIA*)

(A version of this article first appeared in WOSNews 141: 1, 6-7, (October/November 2012). This new version, with some updates, is reprinted with permission.)

MIKE DENNY,1354 SE Central Ave., College Place, WA 99324; walla2.birder@outlook.com. WOS member and formerly with the U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest and the Washington State Conservation Commission/Districts.

Figure 1. First record for Washington of Wilson's Plover found by Mike and MerryLynn Denny at Bennington Lake in Walla Walla County on 26 August 2012. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

MerryLynn and I arrived at Bennington Lake in southeastern Walla Walla County at about 8:00 AM on 26 August 2012. It was a bright, warming morning when we started birding our way around the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control reservoir off Mill Creek. Bird migration was in full swing and we were interested in what species had landed around this small lake. There were warblers, pewees, chickadees, wrens, and even a single singing Clay-colored Sparrow.

AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY

Upon reaching the eastern shore near the mouth of the feeder canal, we noticed a mud beach around a cove with several Solitary Sandpipers, a Lesser Yellowlegs, two Western Sandpipers, and a couple of Killdeer. This is when we both noticed a smaller plover off by itself out on the recently exposed mud spit. Its feeding behavior was very unusual in that it ran in

rapid rushes, covering 8-10 feet in seconds and then "button hooking" off to one side or another, snapping at flies and other insects.

We both watched and realized that this was not a plover usually seen in Washington. The bird then began to forage towards us along the shoreline, getting ever closer and closer, completely ignoring us. We started snapping images of this small plover as it came to within 15 feet of us. The gray-pink legs and feet, the large outsized head and long, bulky, black bill were very noticeable. Its large dark eyes were bright with energy and life as it ripped and cut back and forth across the muddy shoreline, feeding on insects.

We were mentally trying to eliminate all the other small Asian and North American plovers that were possible in this region. Then it dawned on us that the long, black, bulky bill could only belong to one species, yet the chances of that particular plover seemed so remote that we both said it was impossible. Yet there it was 20 feet from us — and that was all it could be. It was a Wilson's Plover and that was that! We looked at the time on the camera and it was 9:45 AM.

Figure 2. Wilson's Plover at Bennington Lake, Walla Walla County. *Photo by © Mike Denny.*

THE WILSON'S PLOVER

Paulson (1993) suggested that this would be the least likely North American plover species to show up in the Pacific Northwest. I considered the chances so remote that I did not even think of this species when we first located it.

This mid-sized plover is 7.5 to 7.75 inches long and was first described by Ord in 1813, who named it in honor of his friend, Alexander Wilson (Nuttall 1891). Many contemporary references say that Ord first published this plover's description in 1814 (Wetmore 1981). It was once called the Thick-billed Plover (Johnsgard 1981).

By the early 20th century, the species had been split into four sub-species and one of which was temporarily accorded full species (Peterson 1941):

C.w. wilsonius was known as the Northern Thick-billed Plover, breeding from Virginia southward to Florida, along the gulf Coast and along Mexico's east coast. It winters from Florida into Honduras (Johnsgard 1981) (Grosvenor & Wetmore 1937).

C.w. rufinucha was known as the West Indian Thick-billed Plover, a resident of the West Indies (Johnsgard 1981).

C.w. beldingi was known as the Pacific Thick-billed Plover (Wetmore 1981). This bird was at one time considered a full species (Peterson 1941). It is a resident from Baja California south through Mexico along the west coast of Central America and on into Peru (Stiles & Skutch 1989).

Figure 3. Map of the range of the Wilson's Plover.

C.w. cinnamoninus was known as the Southern Thick-billed Plover, resident along the Atlantic coast of South America from Columbia through Surinam and on into northeast Brazil, also Trinidad and other regional islands (Johnsgard 1981), (Wetmore 1981) (de Schauensee 1964).

Today there is only one full species known as the Wilson's Plover (Hayman et al 1986) (Sibley 2000).

ORIGIN OF THE WALLA WALLA BIRD

The question that has to be asked is where did the Bennington Lake bird originate? Which sub-species does it best fit? After 10 visits and more than seven hours of looking at this bird closely, I felt that it was an adult and that it did not have any rufous on the ear coverts, breast band, or crown. Its scapulars were well-worn and the mantle was a uniform brown that changed shades as the observer changed angles. In some light, it was pale and in other light much darker. So this was of little assistance in figuring out where this individual came from. There was no rufous on this plover and because C. w. wilsonius lacks rufous in winter adult plumage, I suspected that this bird may have come from that population along the southeastern seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) ultimately concluded that the Bennington Lake bird appeared to be a first fall bird and that definitive sub-species identification to be unclear. Dennis Paulson wrote in their deliberations: "WIPL-2012-1 was probably an immature. The coverts have an indication of pale fringes, and if it was a 2-month-old juvenile, the typical juvenile fringes might have worn to that degree. Also, the coverts and tertials are fairly worn, which they would not be in a freshly molted basic plumage adult. From a lot of reading and looking at photos, I don't think the subspecies *wilsonia* and *beldingi* can be distinguished, at least not in this plumage."

Interestingly, Washington's second record came quickly with another first-fall immature at Grayland Beach State Park, Grays Harbor County found by Kathy Slettebak on 2 October 2012 and staying until 4 November 2012 (Mlodinow and Bartels 2016). Oregon also has one fall record from September 1998 (ORBC 2018) to join the Washington fall records. Almost all of California's 26 records occurred in the spring (CBRC 2018, Mlodinow and Bartels 2016).

INTERIOR RECORDS

There are very few records of Wilson's Plover away from the marine environment. Most authors state that this species is fixed to coastal marine beaches and estuaries (Paulson 1993) (Rosair & Cottridge 1995). The earliest mention of Wilson's Plovers along the Pacific coast of the lower 48 states is from southern California (Bailey 1927). There is an outstanding record of a breeding pair with a scrape and eggs in the interior along the south end of the Salton Sea on Miller Island on 20 May 1948 (Roberson 1980). All other California records are coastal. There is one coastal Oregon record for Coos County at Bullard's Beach State Park on 10 September through 4 October 1998 (Gilligan 1999). There are two records from Minnesota at Duluth; one

was on 4 July 1981 and a second on 15-20 May 1982 (Janssen 1994). The Bennington Lake and Grayland birds are the farthest north along the Pacific coast states. What propelled them north is an unknown and one of those things that make birding such a great experience.

OBSERVED BEHAVIOR

We saw this bird feeding, loafing, preening, flying, badgering, bobbing, and nestling. I will briefly describe each behavior.

Feeding: The first five days this plover was at Bennington Lake, it rarely stopped feeding. As noted earlier, it had a unique method of going after prey — rushing forward, often at a sideways angle, then abruptly snapping to one side or the other for flies and other flying insects. Other frequent prey items were small aquatic gastropods it picked up as it slowly moved right at the waterline. It would take dozens of these pea-sized snails at a session, covering the same muddy beach three or more times as it fed, always finding ample prey, which made its repeated sorties up and down that same 80-100 foot shoreline worth it. Once Tom Mansfield and I observed this plover run into a shallow area and snag an -inch long minnow. It held it, then swallowed it. After the first five days, it had established feeding periods and pretty much stuck to them: early mornings and then starting again about 3 PM.

The Wilson's Plover at Bennington Lake and its sideways angle run. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

Loafing: After the first five days of its stay, it could often be found at or near the boat ramp, on the mud between patches of cobble basalt. It would sit there sometimes for 45 minutes or until flushed.

Preening: This behavior occurred after an extended period of feeding.

Typically, it preened the upper chest and secondaries. I saw it stretch its wings four or five times.

Flying: The Wilson's was a fast flier and could cover the 1100+ feet from the mouth of the canal to the southeast corner in seconds. It had to contend with frequent intrusions from fishermen, dogs, and free-range children. During the weekdays, pressure from folks and dogs was a little less than on weekends, though not much. I heard it give an in-flight "che-veet" type call five or more times upon being flushed. I saw its pure white underwing and the white margin running up through the secondaries along the edge of the greater coverts and across the base of the first five or so primaries.

Badgering: The first three days this plover was at Bennington Lake, it was in the company of 1-3 Western Sandpipers. The Westerns were doing their normal walk-and-stitch feeding; if one of them came within 5-6 feet of the plover, it would turn, lower its head, raise the wings halfway up, and rush right at the Western, forcing it to relocate or back off. I saw this repeatedly. After day five, the Westerns were gone. Also, on the first two days, the plover had issues with 3-5 Killdeer along the shoreline. Both species would attempt to intimidate the other. This stopped after day four.

Bobbing: The plover would scoot down the mud and then stop abruptly and bob its head up and down 2-3 times. If dogs or people were nearby, it would stand erect with its back almost vertical and watch. Raptors had the same effect until the plover determined the hawk was leaving.

Nestling: This bird would locate depressions in the ground where cobbles had been kicked loose and settle right into them as if in a nest scrape. It would sit there until flushed.

CONCLUSIONS

First off, this species was so far out of place at Bennington Lake that no one could have predicted its arrival in Walla Walla County or anywhere else in Washington state — never mind in far southeastern Washington, hundreds of miles inland from the coast. Dennis Paulson's statement that "this is the least likely North American plover to show up in the Pacific Northwest" is spot on.

This immature bird arrived at Bennington Lake amid clear warm weather. We were sitting under a well-established dome of high pressure; no weather pattern changes occurred until the third day of its visit, when a very weak cool front and some clouds passed through.

The plover was observed by at least 75 folks who made the pilgrimage to see it. It was a special bird to us, as it was out of range. It was different than some eastern wood-warbler that wanders into this part of the state, as it was not storm-driven or drifting out of the north, or in post-breeding wandering mode. Where it came from and how it located Bennington Lake is an unknown. This bird brought wonder and awe to all who observed it.

On 3 September, it appeared to be limping and favoring its left leg but could still fly fine. By 5 September, it was sitting around a lot more and seemed to lack the energy it had shown before. I suspect that it was injured somehow the evening or night of September 2nd. It vanished Wednesday night, 5 September, and could not be relocated on Thursday.

REFERENCES CITED

Bailey, Florance M. 1927. *Handbook of the Birds of the Western United States*. Houghton Mifflin Co., The Riverside Press, Cambridge, pp 590.

California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). 2018. CBRC Records Database, on-line at https://www.californiabirds.org/database_query.asp.

de Schauensee, Meyer R., 1964. *The Birds of Columbia: and adjacent areas of South and Central America*, The Academy of Natural Sciences. Philadelphia, pp 427.

Gilligan, Jeff. 1999. Field Notes, Western Oregon, *Oregon Birds*, Vol.25 (2).

Grosvenor, Gilbert & Alexander Wetmore. 1937. *The Book of Birds, Vol.1*, National geographic Society, Washington D.C. pp 356.

Hayman, Peter, John Marchant & Tony Prater. 1986. *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World*, Houghton Mifflin Co, Boston, pp 412.

Janssen, Robert B. 1987. *Birds in Minnesota*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, pp 352.

Johnsgard, Paul A. 1981. *The Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes of the World*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, pp 493.

Mlodinow, S. G. and Bartels, M. 2016. Tenth Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2010-2013), *Western Birds* 47: 86-119.

Nuttall, Thomas. 1891. *A Popular Handbook of the Birds of the United States and Canada*. New Revised & Annotated edition by M. Chamberlain, 1903. Little, Brown & Co. Boston, pp 431.

Oregon Bird Records Committee. 2018. *The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee*, (on-line) at http://www.orbirds.org/obrc.html, Oregon Birding Association.

Paulson, Dennis. 1993. *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle Audubon, Seattle, pp 406.

Peterson, Roger T. 1941. *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. Houghton Mifflin Co. The Riverside Press, Boston. pp 239.

Roberson, Don. 1980. *Rare Birds of the West Coast*. Woodcock Publications, Pacific Grove, pp 496.

Rosair, David & David Cottridge. 1995. *Photographic Guide to the Shorebirds of the World*. Facts on File Publishing, New York, pp 175.

Sibley, David A. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, pp 544.

Stiles, Gary A. & Alexander F. Skutch. 1989. *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, Cornell University Press, Ithica, pp 511.

Wetmore, Alexander. 1981. *The Birds of the Republic of Panama, Part 1*, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. pp 483.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: SPOTTED REDSHANK (*TRINGA ERYTHROPUS*)

GINGER REBSTOCK, 11300 1st Ave NE unit 125, Seattle, WA 98125; grebstock@gmail.com. WOS member.

The Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) was overdue for a confirmed Washington State sighting. There were accepted records in British Columbia, Oregon, and California, even as close as the south jetty of the Columbia River (Mlodinow 1999). In breeding (alternate) plumage the species is unmistakable, a striking black bird with white spots and dark red legs. In basic and juvenile plumage it could be mistaken, from a cursory glance, for a yellowlegs. It almost was, on Thanksgiving Day, 27 November 2014. With family out of town and Thursday the driest day forecast for the long holiday weekend, my partner Pat Vivian and I decided to go birding Thursday and have a quiet Thanksgiving dinner on Friday. We headed to Skagit County where the roads and birding stops were almost deserted.

Our second stop was Fir Island, Hayton Farms Reserve. We saw a lone *Tringa* sandpiper standing on a floating log in a pond. I assumed it was a yellowlegs and moved on. After a few minutes I decided to take a closer look at the "yellowlegs" and see which species it was. I think my subconscious was telling me to look again for a different reason. Maybe it was the legs? They weren't yellow; they were orange-red. A trick of the light? It was late morning with a completely overcast sky. There was no red in the sky to reflect on the legs. No, those legs were reddish, not yellow. I set my spotting scope up and noticed the other details: the strong white supercilium on otherwise nondescript grayish plumage, the reddish basal half of the lower bill, the slightly drooping bill tip. It was definitely not a yellowlegs. The legs suggested redshank, and a look at my field guide confirmed that it was a Spotted Redshank, not a Common Redshank. We watched the bird until it flew away, with a call that didn't sound like a yellowlegs.

It was an exciting find and a life bird for Pat, but I thought no more about it for a couple of hours. Later in the day, I wondered how rare it was in Washington. I knew it bred in Asia, having seen it in Korea. In fact, it breeds across the Arctic of Eurasia and winters in Africa, Asia, and Europe. I checked my WOS Field Card (Washington Ornithological Society 2001) to see if it was flagged as rare. I scanned the shorebird names. No redshanks. I looked over the list again, more carefully. Still no redshanks. This was a very exciting find! I did not have a camera with me so had not taken any photos. Fortunately, the bird stayed around long enough for others to see it and document it, although I understand some people got very wet that rainy weekend trying.

REFERENCES

Mlodinow, Steven G. 1999. Spotted Redshank and Common Greenshank in North America. *North American Birds* 53(2): 124-130.

Washington Ornithological Society. 2001. *Field Card of Washington Birds*. July 2001.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER (*EMPIDONOMUS VARIUS*)

(A version of this article first appeared in WOSNews 118: 1,5 (December/January 2009). This new version, with some updating, is reprinted with permission.)

MIKE DENNY,1354 SE Central Ave., College Place, WA 99324; walla2.birder@outlook.com. WOS member and formerly with the U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest and the Washington State Conservation Commission/Districts.

Figure 1. Variegated Flycatcher first record for Washington State found on 6 September 2008 by MerryLynn & Mike Denny at Wind Dust Park, Franklin County, WA. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

Slowly, I drove over the last speed bump, heading to the west end of Windust Park to pick up MerryLynn. We were in this oasis Corps of Engineers park along the north shore of the Snake River in southern Franklin County, Washington, looking for vagrant eastern warblers. MerryLynn and I had been there about an hour and had walked most of the area, birding and enjoying the outstanding early September afternoon.

Our day had started by leading the first field trip of the year for the Blue Mountain Audubon Society out of Walla Walla. While on the field trip, we had already observed some unusual species for southeastern Washington such as Clay-colored Sparrow, Common Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, and Western

Gulls, to name a few. We had departed after the end of the BMAS field trip and decided to go look around several of the eastern warbler vagrant traps north of the Snake River.

As I drove up to collect MerryLynn, she motioned up in a tree and said she had a "different warbler." I parked and got out to walk up this row of trees to look for the warbler, when she suddenly started pointing up in the dead top of a large tree and yelling, "Look, look! A flycatcher!" From my perspective, all I could see was a single American Robin perched up where MerryLynn was pointing. Stepping back with the sun behind me, I looked up and there, perched off to the left and above the robin, was a streak-breasted bird about the size of a Western Tanager, smaller than the nearby robin. I watched as it sallied out several times to snag flying bugs. We both blurted out that it looked like a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, as we had both caught a hint of rust red along the outer web of the edge of the tail feathers and the rump. Then the robin began to harass it by alighting right next to it and rushing at it. After changing its perch several times due to the robin's aggressive behavior, this flycatcher flew west out of the park and over to a tree by a home near a large grain elevator beside the Snake River. MerryLynn grabbed the camera and I the scope and off we followed to get a better look at this unknown flycatcher. Upon looking through the scope, we knew we had better get some photos, and then alert folks of this bird's presence. As we viewed this bird through the 30x 66mm KOWA scope, we saw the following.

Figure 2. Variegated Flycatcher on 7 September 2008 at Wind Dust Park. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

WHAT WE SAW

Perched at the top of a Tree of Heaven, this bird constantly flew out and caught flying insects. It changed its perch to a dead-top birch and then to a dead-topped Siberian Elm, where we were able to get many photos and good looks. This bird had cream under-tail coverts and a yellow wash on the lower belly; there was a yellow wash across the flanks on up and across the upper chest. The upper chest and flanks to the mid-belly were streaked with heavy dark splotches. The throat was pale with a dusky broad moustache line from the corner of the lower mandible. There was a noticeable white line that ran from the corner of the mouth back to and across the side neck. There was a dark mask that ran from the nare and upper mandible through the dark eyes, progressively lightening in color as it reached the nape. There was a broad white supercilium that ran from the forehead over the eye, back to the nape. The bill was dark on the upper mandible and one third pale-toned at the base of the lower mandible. The bill seemed short to us for a Sulphur-bellied. Then there was a dark cap that ran down the nape. The mantle was blotchy, dark to pale gray. The rump was pale with dark-edged feathers and a hint of rust wash. The lower rump was bright rust red, as were the outer edges of the webs of the outer tail feathers. All of the tail feathers were a dark slate gray, with some outer edges in rust red. The only field guide we had along was the new Smithsonian Guide to North American Birds and it does not have the Variegated in it. We later looked at the 5th ed. National Geographic Field Guide and that has a very nice painting of the bird (Dunn

Figure 3.Variegated Flycatcher on 7 September 2008 at Wind Dust Park. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

et al. 2006). With more clouds moving in, we took several more photos and then knowing that this was a very rare bird, we began to head for the car when a guy from the house came out and we showed this "Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher" to him and told him it was a super rare bird. He looked and marveled, then asked if we had ever heard of Washtucna? MerryLynn grabbed the cell phone to call Nancy LaFramboise about this bird. No service. So we raced up out of Windust Park to get coverage. Twenty-five miles later, we were able to get to a phone and call Nancy, who graciously put it on Tweeters and the Inland-nw-birders list. We then headed for Basset Park in the hope that there would be a birder in the area. There was no one there, so home we drove to College Place.

THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING THIS RARE BIRD

Upon walking through the door, I downloaded our photos and fired several off to Steve Mlodinow, along with an email describing the "Sulphur-bellied" at Windust Park. The next email was from Charlie Wright, who wanted to see a photo; I sent him one. Steve then replied that he did not believe it was a Sulphur-bellied, but perhaps a Piratic, Streaked, or Variegated flycatcher – any of which would make this bird a super "mega rarity." Charlie too replied that he believed it was perhaps a Piratic or Variegated. Meanwhile, I had pored over six South American references that I had and gotten a mixed bag of results. Wetmore's Birds of the Republic of Panama described this bird to a T, but it was identified as a Piratic Flycatcher (Wetmore 1972). (Later, I learned this was written before the two were split.) At 2:15 AM on 7 September, we went to bed believing we had located a Piratic Flycatcher. Early the next morning, it was confirmed that what the robin had chased and what MerryLynn had pointed out was indeed a Variegated Flycatcher. This is the first time this South American flycatcher has been located in western North America. There are six other accepted records. The first was of a bird at Biddeford Pool, York Co., Maine, on 5-11 November 1977 by Susan Bowie and Dave Whittier (Abbott & Finch 1978). The second Variegated was located at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, 13-15 May 1984 by Mike Todd; and the third was in Ontario, Toronto Islands, Canada 7 October through 6 November 1993 (WSO 2008). More recently two sighting occurred in Florida in June 2013 and October 2015 and once in Texas in September and October 2016 (Swick 2016). This species is well known for its ability to wander great distances (de Schauensee 1964) and should be watched for along waterways in deciduous riparian habitat anywhere in Washington state. We would like to thank Steve Mlodinow and Charlie Wright for their great help in nailing this bird down to species.

LITERATURE CITED

Abbott III, D.J. and D.W. Finch. 1978. First Variegated Flycatcher (Empidonomus varius) record for the United States. *American Birds* 32(2): 161-163.

Dunn, J.L. and J. Alderfer, 2006. *National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 5th ed. National Geographic Society, Washington D.C.

de Schauensee, R. M. 1964. *The Birds of Columbia: and adjacent areas of South and Central America*. Livingston Publishing Co., Narberth, PA p.427.

Swick, Nate. 2016. #ABArare – Variegated Flycatcher – Texas, in aba blog September 29, 2016, on-line at http://blog.aba.org/2016/09/abarare-variegated-flycatcher-texas.html.
Wetmore, A. 1972. *The Birds of the Republic of Panama*, Part 3: Passeriformes. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology: Mid-continent Rare Birds, www.wsobirds.org.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: GREATER PEWEE (*CONTOPUS PERTINAX*)

CAROL RIDDELL, 8318 - 226th ST. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026; cariddell@earthlink.net. WOS member.

Dennis Duffy and I had just finished a Sunday morning bird walk through the Point Edwards condominium site on the west edge of the Edmonds Bowl. It was a bright, sunny 23 November 2008. As we walked down Pine Street to our cars that were parked alongside the Willow Creek Hatchery property, Dennis noted activity in one of the deciduous trees at the hatchery. We both immediately raised our binoculars to see what we had.

Among a mixed flock of passerines (Dark-eyed Juncos, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Siskins), we observed a larger bird with characteristics of a Contopus flycatcher. We had at least five minutes to watch the bird before it flew off south into the forested Town of Woodway. While we recognized the genus Contopus, neither of us recognized the species while watching the bird. We had *The Sibley Guide to Birds* and *The National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* in our cars, so we did some research before we left. We concluded preliminarily that we were seeing a Greater Pewee. Further research led Dennis to submit a report for review.

This is what Dennis described in his report to the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC): (1) a big flycatcher about the length of an Olive-sided Flycatcher, but slimmer in appearance (In addition, this record appears to be over a month past the latest Olive-sided sightings in Washington.); (2) gray head with a distinct backward-sloping, pointed triangular crest, highly visible in all views, that was slightly wispy or shaggy at the end; (3) black eye with no eye ring; (4) long, slender and straight bill with entirely black upper mandible and bright orange lower mandible; (5) greenish gray back with no markings; (6) dark gray to black wings with light gray or off-white wing bars, that were not prominent; (6) yellowish belly, greenish flanks, gray sides and breast; (7) long, black tail slightly notched; (8) black legs and feet; (8) a pit-pit call heard twice. The WBRC confirmed the sighting and it remains the only confirmed sighting in Washington. The yellowish belly and wing bars point to a juvenile bird.

The described range for the Greater Pewee is bounded on the north by Arizona and New Mexico, includes much of Mexico, and reaches to Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras at the southern end. At the northern end of the range, individuals are described as short-distance migrants. In Mexico, further to the south, some birds are nonmigratory or migrate altitudinally to winter in riparian vegetation. Individuals at the southern end of the range are year-round residents in their pine-oak breeding habitat.

eBird contains a number of outlier reports, birds seen beyond the described range. To the south, there are four reports in Venezuela. The rest are U.S. reports, from the Bay Area south in California, one in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the rest spread across Texas to the Gulf Coast. Of note is the absence of confirmed sightings in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.

The clustering of sightings in Central to Southern California and in Texas

suggest that the Edmonds Greater Pewee remains an anomalous sighting, unlikely to suggest a range expansion or to be repeated in the near future. It might best be characterized as the wandering of a young individual at a time of year when it should have been migrating south into Mexico. Matt Bartels of the Washington Bird Records Committee comments that the California and Washington sightings appear suggestive of a reverse migration pattern, perhaps paralleling Dusky-capped and Variegated Flycatcher records (Matt Bartels, pers. com.).

LITERATURE

eBird. 2018. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: http://www.ebird.org. (Accessed: February 25, 2018).

Chace, Jameson F. and Robert C. Tweit. 1999. Greater Pewee (Contopus pertinax), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (P. G. Rodewald, editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, USA.

Sibley, David A. National Audubon Society *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. 2000. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York.

Dunn, Jon L. and Jonathan Alderfer, ed. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Fifth edition. (Washington, DC: National Geographic Partners, 2006).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE (*CONTOPUS VIRENS*)

MATTHEW YAWNEY, 203 Patrick Rd, Ephrata, WA 98823; myawney@hotmail.com. WOS member.

Figure 1. First record of Eastern Wood-Pewee for Washington State found by Matt Yawney at Lind Coulee, Grant County on 21 August 2013. *Photo by © Ollie Oliver.*

On 21 August 2013 I was birding Lind Coulee during my lunch break. I was mostly interested in looking for shorebirds, and this is one of the better spots in our county to find them. It was time for me to get back to work but as I got into my car I heard a distant "Pee-a weeeee". I sat in my car for a moment and thought about it, then stood up again. Had I just heard an Eastern Wood-Pewee? Having started birding in Michigan 9 years prior, I was quite familiar with the Eastern Wood-Pewee's distinctive call. I listened. I heard the call again, just faintly, coming from a grove of chestnut trees across the water, about 80m away. I waited but did not hear it again. At this point I was really getting late for work and needed to head back.

At work I compared what I had just heard with Pewee recordings on the Cornell Website. I looked at the Eastern Wood-Pewee range and checked to see if this pewee had been recorded in the state before. The call did indeed seem to match, and this would be a first record for the state. Eastern Wood-Pewees infrequently show up outside their normal range, which sweeps

throughout the Central and Eastern parts of North America from the eastern Plains States to the East Coast (Watt et al. 2017). California has quite a few records but Oregon only two and none exist for British Columbia and Idaho.

After work I headed back to the same spot and listened for the bird for about 20 minutes without any luck. I started to doubt what I had heard earlier, as it had been fairly distant and faint.

The next day I came back during my lunch break and heard the bird almost immediately upon getting out of my car. I recorded it from quite a distance for a few seconds, and then drove right over to the orchard hoping to get closer views. I knocked on the door of a house by the grove of trees and as luck would have it, I had actually previously met the owner. He was very birder friendly, and happily let me search for the pewee. I was able to get within 10 feet of the bird while it called and I made an audio recording.

The audio recording provides the main evidence confirming this species because Western Wood-Pewee and Eastern Wood-Pewee appear nearly identical and variations in plumage within and between the species overlap significantly. I posted the recording on eBird which convinced many people and later I filled out the rare bird form for the Washington Bird Records Committee which in time certified the record as correctly identified.

Figure 2. Eastern Wood-Pewee at Lind Coulee on 21-31 August 2013. *Photo by © Ollie Oliver.*

We were lucky enough that this bird stuck around for quite some time and many birders were able to add it their Washington list. Amazingly, the bird came back to this location for 2 more years, spending a few weeks each time. Its last visit was in 2015 when it was observed from 31 July through 19 August.

REFERENCES:

Watt, D. J., J. P. McCarty, S. W. Kendrick, F. L. Newell, and P. Pyle (2017). Eastern Wood-Pewee (Contopus virens), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (P. G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.eawpew.02.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: BELL'S VIREO *(VIREO BELLII)*

BRAD WAGGONER, 7865 Fletcher Bay Rd NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110; wagtail@sounddsl.com. Washington Birds Records Committee and WOS member.

Figure 1. First photo documented Bell's Vireo in Washington State. Found by Brad Waggoner near St. Andrews in Douglas County on 6 June 2010. *Photo excerpted from video by © Brad Waggoner.*

On the morning of 6 June 2010, my birding efforts placed me at the northeast corner of 0 NE and 4 NE, about a mile south of St. Andrews in Douglas County. At this spot is an acre grove of Silver Maples, the only remains at the site of a former farmstead. Despite the darkening skies and light, misty rain I was intent on searching the grove for late passerine migrants. My first pass through the grove yielded only two Pacific-sloped Flycatchers and two Olive-backed Swainson's Thrushes.

On my second pass through the grove at about 10:00 A.M., a small greenish bird with wispy wing bars and a thin eye ring popped into my view at just above eye level and approximately thirty feet away from me. Some expected "western" species is my normal initial viewing reaction when

migrant-trap birding, and in this case my immediate thoughts were directed at the possibly of a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet. However, the bird did not forage in the hyper-active style of a kinglet, it seemed a bit larger and longer tailed than a kinglet, and the bill was noticeably vireo-like. As I continued viewing the vireo with my binoculars, it kept to the twiggy understory. I realized quickly that it was also not fitting my perceived mold of either a Cassin's Vireo or a Hutton's Vireo. At this point, I concluded that I was looking at a Bell's Vireo. I had just seen a number of Bell's Vireos a few months earlier in Baja, Mexico. I also have had many encounters with Bell's Vireos over the years on several spring trips to Arizona.

Over the next twenty minutes I was able to study it on occasion, but I also lost track of it quite often as it moved about the lower parts of the trees. It also made a short foray out into the low scrub outside the grove. It never was quite cooperative enough to photograph in this first viewing, and the persistent and increasing rain made things a bit difficult. At this point I decided to return to my car, dry off my clothes and equipment, and write-up some notes. I was fairly confident that the Bell's Vireo would remain in this grove, and that if I waited out the rain, I would get a chance for more looks and possibly obtain a photograph. Frustratingly, a bit later I would learn that my camera was inoperable due to moisture. Darn it!

Shortly after noon with the skies lightening and the rain beginning to let-up, I headed back toward the grove. This time I carried both my scope and my video camera with the faint hope that the Bell's Vireo would be cooperative enough to catch on video. Over the next hour and half I was able to observe it on numerous occasions including great looks through my scope. I also was able to obtain a short video capture. During this viewing effort two Warbling Vireos, a MacGillvray's Warbler, and a Wilson's Warbler were also observed. The MacGillvray's Warbler and the Pacific-slope Flycatchers were the only birds that vocalized (call notes) during my whole time in the grove. The additions of the two Warbling Vireos were nice for size and structural comparisons with the Bell's Vireo. The Warbling Vireos were slightly larger with shorter tails. The Bell's Vireo was always observed fairly low in the twiggy understory, whereas the Warbling Vireos would be mostly higher up in the canopy. Now finally satisfied with this second study of the vireo, and some video footage capture, I decided to call it quits at about 1:30 P.M.: so much for a quick passerine migrant check of a small deciduous grove!

When confronted with a rare bird, especially ones that are Washington State review species, I make every effort possible to document the sightings with photographs or video recordings. The reason I was willing to wait out an unusual June eastern Washington rain storm and spend over three hours in and out of one small grove of trees, was that I knew quite well that Washington's other records of Bell's Vireos had not been supported by photographs.

In North America there are four subspecies of Bell's Vireo and in the U.S., observers typically find them in the lowland central and southwest regions of the country. Along with this photographed record, the other three Washington records very likely involved the nominate subspecies, *belii*, which breeds east of the Rocky Mountains in the central U.S. All of Washington's records have occurred since 2007. There are two fall records,

one on the westside and one on the eastside, and one late May record on the eastside in nearby Grant County. Oregon has two records and Idaho has one record of Bell's Vireo.

LITERATURE:

Herlyn, H., Contreras, A. 2009. *Handbook of Oregon Birds*. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.

Merrill, R.J., and Bartels, M. 2015. Ninth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2008-2010). *Western Birds*, 46:299-325.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL (*TARSIGER CYANURAS*)

PAUL WOODCOCK, 5870 Seamount Drive, Ferndale WA 98248; woodypaul03@gmail.com. WOS member.

Figure 1. First record for Washington State of Red-flanked Bluetail found by Paul Woodcock in Ferndale, Whatcom County, on 26 March 2015. *Photo by © Charlie Wright.*

Through a lifetime of birding I have learned to be alert, inquisitive and to "expect the unexpected". So when I noticed a flutter, low among the salmon berries in my back yard, I paid attention. A single, small, nondescript bird was moving along the ground on a matching gray, nondescript, in the early spring afternoon of 26 March 2015. From the glimpses I got through the tangle, I noticed that it stayed near the ground and when it did stop, held itself in an upright stance. This was something unusual that I could not place among the juncos, Song Sparrows, or Pacific Wrens that normally inhabited that space in my yard. It seemed to be flitting toward me in short bursts while remaining mostly hidden. Finally, the bird paused to check me out about five yards away and I could clearly see its right eye with a distinct light eye-ring contrasting with what appeared to be a rather large gray head. A flash of recognition quickened my pulse. Could it be?

The bird seemed inquisitive but remained motionless, so I did the same. Fearing it would bolt, I risked a "pish" and it flew up to a bare branch in a hemlock about 20 feet to my right and five feet above the ground. It seemed to want a clearer view of me and that provided the same in return, framed in a small opening among the fine needles. I could then see the light throat and rusty patch at the side of its breast. I knew who this was.

In January of 2013, I was among the hundreds of birders traveling north to Queen's Park in Burnaby, BC, to see the Red-flanked Bluetail. This was most assuredly the same species. In that urban park, I had managed to get some distant but long and studied views of the RFBL, sequestered in a tangle of brush, once the birders settled down and let the bird rest. I remembered thinking then, "Why here?" Now I had another in my own yard and at much closer range. A diamond-shaped window through the hemlock boughs provided a clear view of the little bird's entire right side as we studied each other for what seemed like minutes. While I attempted to stay as motionless as possible the bluetail flicked its tail every few seconds, the tail seeming to tense and move slightly upward before a downward flick. To keep bluetail interested, I occasionally emitted a short, quiet "pish" when it appeared restless. The bird's mantle, head and tail still appeared to be a medium, brownish gray in the dim light, but its flight feathers seemed more distinctly brown. The rust-colored patch on the side of its breast extended downward from the bend of its wing, fading into gray at its flank. Other than that color, the light eye-ring and a distinct white throat patch seemed to be the little, sparrow-sized bird's most prominent field marks. The throat patch noticeably widened at its base where it met the gray of the upper breast. Its lower breast and belly were white in the center, but the lower belly got darker

Figure 2. Red-flanked Bluetail at Ferndale, Whatcom County. *Photo by © Dave Slager*.

again. The undertail coverts, however, showed what appeared to be bright white in the dim light. After our mutual examination, the bluetail turned and flew directly away from me, turning to the left, back in the direction from which it had appeared.

I walked after it, thoughts flooding my mind. First, this species has to be under-reported in the Pacific Northwest. Why else would one show up again so close in space and time, thirty miles from where it was seen two years ago. (I talk about the issue of origin and occurrence in detail at the end of the story.) Second, here I am again, a rare bird sighting with no witnesses and no proof other than my word and documentation. That bird must be found again. But a search of the entire area revealed only Pacific Wrens, Song Sparrows and Spotted Towhees. This was late afternoon on March 26 and, though I searched daily, my Red-flanked Bluetail would not put in an appearance until four days later.

Unlike the previous week, the morning of Monday, 30 March, dawned sunny and warm. However, I did not head out to the yard until about 10:30. After three days of making regular rounds with camera in hand, my hopes of finding the RFBL again were fading and I was debating whether I would even bother to do all the work of writing a report of my short but sweet visitation of last Thursday. But as I approached the gate at the rear of my upper yard, a small bird flew up from the ground at the base of a composter. In the sunlight the bird flashed blue on its wings and tail as it headed back into the woods. Certainly, bluetail was back. But I was startled by how blue the bird looked flying away from me. Stalking slowly forward, I located the bird in a tangle of fallen birch branches about 20 yards away, a setting much like that of the views we had up in Queen's Park. Why didn't I have my camera with me? This was the beginning of six straight days of Red-flanked Bluetail sightings in my suburban yard.

My residence was located on a lot about a half-acre in size, the rear half of it covered by second growth woods sloping down to the floodplain of Deer Creek. This had turned out to be an excellent place for a birder's residence. Before the bluetail, I had located 120 species on or in sight of the yard including American Bittern, Wilson's Snipe, Caspian Tern, Red-naped Sapsucker, Red-eyed Vireo, Cassin's Finch and a Blackpoll Warbler. (The record of that warbler was not accepted by the Washington State Bird Records Committee.) Olive-sided Flycatcher and White-throated Sparrow had been regulars in past decades. The woods form a small stand of mixed Vine Maple, Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, White Birch and Red Alder with a few Sitka Spruce, Mountain Ash, Cascara and Pacific Dogwood. The understory consisted of Salmon Berry, Thimble Berry and Indian Plum plus the ever-present Himalayan Blackberry which had to be regularly discouraged. The creek bottom at the rear of the lot is a designated greenbelt and provided connectivity across the back of the neighborhood and with wooded open space beyond, across the creek. Salmon used to run up Deer Creek from the Nooksack River years ago but seem to be few now. Black-tailed Deer have returned to the neighborhood in recent years. All-in-all, this was a lucky find for a back yard.

Securing visual proof of the bluetail's presence turned out to be more difficult than expected. I located the bird on a number of occasions, but I

had neither the skill or the equipment to secure a definitive image. Using my simple Nikon Cool Pix with a 21-power zoom, I got a few images that I could recognize as a bluetail but probably not enough to convince the experts. For the most part. the camera focused on the twigs or branches the bird always seemed to able to arrange to position between us when it did choose to pause. As I followed the bird, trying not to pursue, I learned how difficult it was to even get a clear view. The literature describing the RFBL contains descriptive terms such as "skulking" and "furtive," which are indeed accurate. Would-be observers need to be alert for that sudden glimpse or slight movement betraying its presence.

On Tuesday evening I phoned my friend, Victor Burgett, asking for assistance in capturing an image of this rare find. Victor has developed a lot of skill with a point-and-shoot camera. With his experience and superior equipment, I was confident he could capture an adequate image. At 10:15 on Wednesday, 1 April, he did just that and collected a new life bird in the process. While I am sure the picture did not meet Victor's high standards, it was actually quite good for the circumstances. I felt that we definitely had the needed proof to convince the records committee.

On April Fool's Day evening I sent my first e-mail reporting the sighting to Matt Bartels, a state records committee member, with Victor's RFBL photo attached. Included was an invitation to come up and see the bird and a request to please keep the sighting confidential. I had seriously pondered this course of action ever since the bird discovered me. Neither my wife nor my son, who was visiting at the time, are birders and all three of us value our privacy. In 2015, this Red-flanked Bluetail was one of very few seen on the mainland of the contiguous forty-eight states. It could attract hundreds of birders impacting not only my family but also our fragile little woods and the entire neighborhood. There was no way to see it without walking through our yard or other private property, so I needed to ask that the sighting remain secret for the present. Certainly this was an ethical quandary for a birder who has often enjoyed access and hospitality gladly provided by others.

Wednesday afternoon and Thursday provided several opportunities for me to spend time observing the bluetail. It would appear as a flutter in the shrubbery and would sometimes pass within a few feet of me if I remained motionless. But it always remained difficult to see. Only at a distance of 20 to 30 feet would the bird perch in the relative open and then only for a short time before wandering off again. While reveling in the privilege my visitor was granting me I concluded that I would call local birders and attempt to bring them in, a few at a time, to share my good fortune. That evening I arranged for two of my fellow North Cascades Audubon board members to come by on Friday morning. I also received an e-mail reply from Matt Bartels. Matt was excited and convinced enough by the description and picture to propose bringing a small group up to see the bird. I readily agreed, hoping bluetail would cooperate. As I was to lead a field trip at Semiahmoo Spit on Saturday morning, we agreed to meet at my home at 12:30 that afternoon. Though Matt said he was not generally in favor of keeping sightings confidential, he understood the circumstances and agreed.

My two Audubon compatriots arrived on Friday morning a little after 9:30. After about twenty minutes I noticed furtive movements of wing and

tail low in the brush below me. At this point I had learned how to recognize the bluetail's presence. It moved past me from west to east, up the edge of the creek's floodplain toward where Pam and Ken waited, much as it had done on my first encounter. Spotted Towhees, Black-capped Chickadees and Pacific Wrens entertained me for about an hour before I went to see what my friends had experienced. Sadly, Pam and Ken did not achieve as much success as I had that first morning. The Bluetail had come and gone several times from their stakeout area, staying briefly but out of sight, allowing them only a few distant glimpses.

Saturday, April 4, was one of those ideal northwest spring days that we lust for. To my surprise, I returned from my Semiahmoo field trip on time, at exactly 12:30. Matt Bartels was there waiting in his car with Brad Wagoner, Linnea Chapman and Charlie Wright. We would soon be joined by Dave Slager and, after introductions and a bit of planning, we walked the 600 feet past the house, through the back lawn and down through the woods. My mind was busy contemplating how the bluetail, if still present, would react to this many humans where it had never encountered more than one or two. I took them back to the spot where Ken and Pam had been stationed the previous day and they spread out a bit, hunkering down with their backs against trees. Exactly as I had done the day before, I moved away, up the trail to the west and relaxed. After what seemed like a long wait, probably at about 1:15, I sensed the RFBL flitting in from the west in its typical manner, just as before. Part of this bird's identity was its ability to move unobtrusively. It traveled in a "dotted line"; now you see it, now you don't. But I was quite sure it was making its way toward the waiting group. After another quarter to half an hour I was able to catch a glimpse of the RFBL immediately to the north of where my visitors were located. My perception, and my sincere hope, was that bluetail had passed through the area where they were located.

A short time later I heard sounds and saw movement down in their direction, so moved down to join them. I found an excited and pleased group of people. As Matt indicated, the bluetail had indeed spent "quality time" with them, foraging around the group. Dave described it as "a surreal experience". Most of them had been able to capture images which they later shared. Both Dave and Brad had multiple shots that showed the bird's identity and a bit of its personality. The best photo is one that Charlie Wright captured. The RFBL is well in focus except for its tail which is closest to the observer. Most fitting for this species, the tail is flared and looks to be in motion. Charlie obviously caught it in good light as so much blue shows in in the bluetail's back and wings. The same is true of Victor's image of the previous Wednesday. These photos remind me of that sunny Monday morning when the RFBL surprised me, flying through the sunlight showing so much blue. In all my communications I had been referring to the bird as a female. But if the textbooks are correct, an RFBL with that much blue on its wings and back had to be a juvenile male like the one seen in Burnaby. The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) ended up recording this bird as likely a first year male (Merrill and Bartels, In process).

That Saturday experience was the last time the bluetail was seen despite my attempts to locate it on Sunday or to show it to other local birders on

Monday and Tuesday. Twice or thrice daily walks through the woods had become a ritual over the past ten days and I persisted for about a week, not only to try to relocate the RFBL but to try to maintain the "birding buzz" I had been experiencing. It was always a good yard but now it seemed the yard had a new luster and all the yard birds were exceptional for the company they had been keeping. I too felt enriched by the privilege of hosting this really exceptional rarity. My thanks to that little Red-flanked Bluetail and to the birders who shared the experience with me. I truly wish that I could have included more of you. Maybe next time.

Since that spring 2015 "birding buzz" with my yard Red-flanked Bluetail, the picture on this species' occurrence began to add up enough sightings to begin to see some patterns. One other record occurred in Washington State. Amanda Wedow found a dead bird at her place on Lopez Island in San Juan County on 15 December 2015. This bird had ovaries, making it a female (Bartels et al. In process). British Columbia received another visit with a bird in Comox from 22 December 2016 to 14 January 2017 to join the earlier 13 January 2013 to 26 March 2014 bird in New Westminster. Oregon and Idaho each have one winter sighting as well from 26 December 2015 and 26 December 2016, respectively. The other two West Coast records come from California with birds discovered on 1 November 1989 and 6 December 2011. Outside of Alaska, RFBL appear to be mid to late Winter arrivals with survivals into early spring.

Red-flanked Bluetail breed across northern Eurasia from Finland to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and then winter in south central and southeast Asia. Toochin argues that their long-distance migration from Russian to southern Asia provides the opportunity for them to experience east blowing storms from Asia bringing them to Alaska and wandering from there (Toochin). After the first British Columbia record he predicted: "The likelihood of another bird finding its way to British Columbia or somewhere else along the west coast south of Alaska is entirely possible. Observers should be on the watch for this species as it could be found again almost anywhere." Perhaps they are being noticed now because of the great expansion in the last few decades of the number of experienced birders with the capability to identify this Asian vagrant. Matt Bartels with the WBRC suggests the Ferndale bird may have come across in the fall, overwintered somewhere, and then been found in spring (Bartels pers. com.). It seems to be too early for a possible spring migrant.

REFERENCES:

Merrill, R.J, Wright C., and Bartels, M. In process. .Eleventh Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2014-2016).

Toochin, R. no date. First record of the Red-flanked Bluetail (Tarsiger cyanurus) for British Columbia and Canada. 4p. in Klinkenberg, Brian. (ed.). 2015. EFauna BC: Electronic atlas of the fauna of British Columbia [www.efauna.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. <http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/documents/Red-flankedBluetail-RT-m.pdf> [2015 Feb 22].

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: NORTHERN WHEATEAR

ED SWAN, 2247 Prescott Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126; edswan2@comcast.net. WOS Board, editor and writer.

JIM MCCOY, 15650 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98008; jfmccoy@hotmail.com, WOS member

Figure 1. Northern Wheatear seen at Pt. Robinson, Vashon-Maury Island, King County 18-21 October 2014, initial observer Martha Taylor. Third record for Washington. First record found at Nisqually NWR by Jim McCoy, Penny Koyama and David Flood on 4 September 2004 had no photos. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

The Northern Wheatear provides one of the more interesting additions to the Washington State list for a number of reasons. It breeds in three continents: the extreme north of North America, all across the high north of Eurasia while in Europe extending southward, and down into northern Africa. It likely represents the only regularly breeding North American passerine to migrate to sub-Saharan Africa (Kren, and Zoerb 1997). I saw my first Northern Wheatear in Kenya before I ever got to see one in Washington, on Vashon Island. North American breeders have a population in Alaska and the Yukon that fly west and south over the Pacific and Eurasia to reach Africa and another population in northeastern Canada, Greenland and Iceland that cross the Atlantic and Europe to reach Africa.

Outside of its breeding range in North America, the Northern Wheatear tends to be a very rare fall vagrant (Kren, and Zoerb 1997). While records appear scattered across the continent, most records come from eastern

Canada and the northeastern U.S. on the East Coast and another, smaller cluster occurs along the West Coast states and British Columbia.

West Coast reports predominantly fall in line with the fall vagrant pattern. British Columbia has one record (Campbell et al. 1997) and several more likely to be accepted by the British Columbia Birds Record Committee, Oregon six records, and California 13. As with Washington's records, 18 of these 20 nearby records were found from the end of August through early November (Merrill, Wright and Bartels in process). Almost all records also come from coastal areas with just a few inland.

Figure 2. Fourth record of Northern Wheatear at Mt. Rainier, Pierce County found on 27 August 2018 by Tasha DiMarzio. *Photo by © Tasha DiMarzio.*

Most new species to the Washington list over the last decade and a half reflect one-offs or at most two visits. Tasha DiMarzio recently added the fourth record for Northern Wheatear in Washington at Sunrise, Mt. Rainier on 27 August 2018. The Washington Bird Records Committee recently voted 7-0 to accept DiMarzio's identification after closely examining her photo (see Figure 2) for the possibility of other, rarer wheatear species (Matt Bartels, personal communication.).

Washington's first record showed up at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge on 4 September 2004. Three observers discovered the bird independently: Jim McCoy, Penny Koyama and David Flood (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008). Photos of the second record found at the Westport Jetty by Jeffrey Bryant and Phil Birch and seen 26 October through 5 November 2012 helped

determine the bird as a first-fall female (Merrill and Bartels in process). The third record occurred at Pt. Robinson, Vashon-Maury Island from 18-21 October 2014, found by Martha Taylor and also determined to be a female. Many observers enjoyed seeing both the second and third record birds because of their three-day stays. The first three observances all took place near saltwater. The fourth, at Mt. Rainier, appeared in habitat somewhat similar to that used in its breeding range in Alaska.

Figure 3. Northern Wheatear seen at Westhaven Park, Westport, Grays Harbor County 26 October – 5 November 2012, initial observers Jeffrey Bryant and Phil Birch. Second record for Washington. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Jim McCoy tells the following story about finding the first observed Northern Wheatear for Washington at Nisqually NWR.

"I was actually on a date. Since she was the outdoorsy type, I thought a walk at Nisqually would be nice. I decided that I should focus on the date and made a point of leaving my gear at home so that I'd pay more attention to her than to the birds. But once I got there, I was aware that I did still have the old Swifts that I kept in the car and threw them around my neck. Who knew, maybe I'd impress her with an interesting bird.

"We were walking along and having a pleasant chat, when out of the corner of my eye I saw something strange. A passerine was flying from a low perch down to the ground and flying back up, flashing its white rump and slowly pumping its tail upon returning to the perch. I had a few moments of confusion, apart from my conviction that this was something very unusual. I knew it wasn't a wagtail, and it took a second for it to dawn on

me that this was a Northern Wheatear! I've seen dozens of them since, in four different states and three different countries, but at that time I'd seen precisely one (in Connecticut), and was very excited.

Figure 4. Northern Wheatear at Pt. Robinson, King County. (Same bird as Figure 1.) *Photo by © Ed Swan.*

"I explained to my companion how unusual this was, and she seemed mildly (and maybe only politely) interested. We watched it for a minute or two (as I was silently reciting field marks to myself) before it flew out of sight. Under any other circumstances I'd have held vigil for the bird, but this was a first date, and not knowing if or when it would return, we continued on our way.

"Half of my time was devoted to conversation, and the other half was devoted to wondering where the hell all the other birders were. I didn't have a cell phone at the time, and without a camera and being a relative newbie to Washington, I knew I was facing an uphill climb to get this sighting confirmed if I couldn't get independent confirmation. We were most of the way around the trail before I finally found David Flood, and quickly told him what I'd seen and where to go find it.

"Mercifully, he emailed me to confirm that he'd found it. We each submitted our report, and the rest is history. Whew!

"Inevitably, the date didn't lead anywhere. I've since had more luck, and while my wife isn't a birder, either, she's a far better find than any rare bird."

Figure 5. Northern Wheatear at Westport, Grays Harbor County. (Same bird as Figure 3). *Photo by © Lyn Topinka*.

LITERATURE

Campbell, R. W., Dawe, N. K., McTaggart-Cowan, I., Cooper, J. M., Kaiser, G. W., McNall, M. C. E., and G. E. J. Smith. 1997. *The Birds of British Columbia*, Volume III. UBC Press, p. 539.

Kren, J. and A. C. Zoerb (1997). Northern Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.316.

Merrill, R.J, Wright C., and Bartels, M. In process. Eleventh Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2014-2016).

Mlodinow, S. and Aanerud, K. 2008. Seventh Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee, *Washington Birds*: 10:34.

Oregon Bird Records Committee. 2018. *The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee*, (on-line) at http://www.orbirds.org/obrc.html, Oregon Birding Association.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: GRAY WAGTAIL (*MOTACILLA CINEREA*)

BRAD WAGGONER, 7865 Fletcher Bay Rd NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110; wagtail@sounddsl.com. Washington Birds Records Committee and WOS member.

Figure 1. First record for Washington State of Gray Wagtail found off Westport on 24 September 2016 by Brad Waggoner et al. *Photo by © Ryan Shaw.*

One usually heads out on a Westport Seabirds trip with hopes for nice ocean conditions, desires for plentiful seabird action, and wishful thoughts of seeing some rare pelagic bird such as a Short-tailed Albatross. Ocean conditions on the 24 September 2016 trip were reasonable, though not great. Seabird action was quite good, and included great looks at a Flesh-footed Shearwater along with good numbers of other seabirds tending to a shrimp boat in the outer waters. But what occurred in the wishful-thinking, rare-bird-fantasy category on our trek back in is still a little bit beyond comprehension and involved a passerine rather than a seabird.

At one point in the early afternoon on our eastbound journey back to Westport, Ryan Shaw, Jim Danzenbaker, and I stood along the stern rail of the Monte Carlo partaking in some friendly discussion of certainly something bird related. Seemingly simultaneously, the three of us had our attentions drawn to this small, bounding, rather long-tailed passerine heading over the propeller wash towards us at eye level. Almost immediately, the size, shape, and tail length, along with flight style, clued us into this oncoming passerine being a wagtail. Frenzied moments of yelling to other participants, attempts to obtain photographs, and just general hysteria ensued as the flying wagtail moved up and directly over us in the stern, then over the cabin and bow, and then made one circle over the cabin roof. At some point, someone yelled

"Yellow Wagtail" likely as a result of some obvious yellow wash to a goodly portion of the undersides of the flying wagtail. I often wonder if this bird would have lazily landed to rest if it were not for all the noise and excitement of fanatical birders, but after no more than perhaps a mere thirty-second flying visit to the Monte Carlo, the wagtail headed off in a northwesterly direction away from the boat.

After the wagtail's departure, a number of us engaged in some lively and interesting discussion as to the specific species of wagtail that we had just miraculously witnessed fly over and around us. While indeed it had yellow on the undersides, I knew quite well we were not dealing with an Eastern Yellow Wagtail as fall vagrants of this species to the West Coast are not "yellow" and they do not possess such a long tail as our bird displayed. Though the size, flight style, and length of tail were perhaps a fit for White Wagtail, the underneath yellow coloring resulted in an immediate elimination of that species of wagtail. It seemed at this point in our identification discussions that we were down to speculating on perhaps Gray Wagtail or Citrine Wagtail. Understandably so, there were no references on-board the Monte Carlo pertaining to Asian vagrant passerines to allow us to go much further with our own inconclusive identification attempts. With no previous experience with these two wagtail-finalist possibilities, I was left only to scratch my head in awe over what we had just witnessed and to contemplate the outcome of further identification help.

Figure 2. Gray Wagtail off Westport on 24 September 2016. *Photo by © Jordan Roderick.*

We happily did not have to wait all that long for the identity of our wagtail to be revealed. Once within cell phone range of shore approaching Westport, Ryan Shaw was busily working his cell phone magic by sending out a few captured photographs for input from others more knowledgeable about wagtails. The word came back that our wagtail was without question

a Gray Wagtail. Because of the brevity of the wagtail visit, there were not all that many quality photographs obtained. But, fortunately, one in particular captured by Ryan showed the upper side of the wagtail including the bold, distinctive wing stripes (See Figure 1). Now nearing the docks of the Westport Marina, we were all smiles realizing we had just documented the first record for Washington State of a Gray Wagtail.

Migratory populations of Gray Wagtail breed in parts of Europe and across most of eastern and central Asia. Though Gray Wagtails are a rare but intermittent spring visitor to the western Aleutians, there are only four North American records away from the Aleutians and Bering Sea Islands: two records in British Columbia, one other West Coast record in the fall of 1988 in California, and one record in the Northwest Territories also interestingly involving a bird seen at sea.

LITERATURE:

Howell, S. N. G., Lewington, I. and Russell, W. 2014. *Rare Birds of North America*. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ.

Merrill, R.M., Wright, C. and Bartels, M. 2018. Eleventh report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2014-2016). *Western Birds*, forthcoming.

Hamilton, Patten, and Erickson, W. 2007. *Rare Birds of California*. Western Field Ornithologists, Camarillo, CA.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: SMITH'S LONGSPUR (*CALCARIUS PICTUS*)

MATT BARTELS, 611 N 50th St., Seattle, Washington 98103; mattxyz@earthlink.net. Washington Bird Records Committee and WOS member.

Figure 1. First Washington record of Smith's Longspur found at Marymoor Park on 30 August 2006 by Michael Hobbs and Matt Bartels et al. Note the uneven spacing of the primaries (unique among the longspurs), overall buffy color and the eye-ring, especially. The outline to the auriculars, though indistinct in this photo, is not as sharply complete as would show in a Lapland Longspur. *Photo by © Ollie Oliver.*

The state's first Smith's Longspur appeared for one day on 30 August 2006 at Marymoor Park, in Redmond, King County.

We were on our regular weekly bird walk at Marymoor Park, nearing the end of the loop and walking through the soccer fields, keeping a close eye on the Killdeer because a year ago this week a Buff-breasted Sandpiper had been present. Unexpectedly, Michael Hobbs and I noted a rattling call among the House Finch flock that was feeding on the fields. We had semi-regularly seen Lapland Longspurs at Marymoor in September, so we were hopeful that a Lapland was present. When the bird flew, however, we noted much more white in the tail and a more orangey color on the underside than we'd expect in a Lapland Longspur.

We were able to approach more closely, and eventually had good looks and realized the longspur we were looking at was indeed not a Lapland. We did not have much experience with the other three longspur options, but fortunately this bird allowed close study and we were able to determine that it was a state first Smith's Longspur! The most striking field marks were the ones we noticed first – the underside was a buffy orange (with fine streaks visible on close observation). Two outer feathers on each side of the tail

were white for their entire length, a mark that helped distinguish it from Lapland (where only one pair of tail feathers is white), and from McCown's & Chestnut-collared Longspurs (both of whom have more white in the tail, and a black distal end to the tail feather tips). The face had a black border around the auriculars, broken in the rear by a white patch. It had a bright white eye ring, and the bill was mostly dark, with some pink on the lower mandible. Looking at the great photos Ollie Oliver was able to obtain later, we could see the definitive spacing of the primaries on the closed wings – the uneven spacing of the primaries differs from the primary spacing on other longspurs and helped cinch the identification (See Figure 1).

Once we knew we had a rarity, we got word out by phone right away and a few more people were able to come and see the bird on the 30th. Sadly, after that first day it was never relocated. Fortunately, the state's second Smith's Longspur in 2013 stuck around for more than a week at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County and allowed many birders to add this bird to their Washington list.

Figure 2. Dave Slager found this second Smith's Longspur to visit Washington on 23 August 2013 at Ocean Shores. *Photo by © Ollie Oliver on 2 September 2013.*

Smith's Longspur is mostly a bird from the center of the continent. It breeds far north, mostly in the central part of the continent at the edge of the tree line, migrates largely through the center of the U.S. and winters largely in and near Kansas, Oklahoma and northern Texas. On the West Coast, it is accidental, with about ten records from California and three from Oregon. Both Washington birds were found in late August, similar to the two coastal British Columbia records. But the Oregon sightings come from September and October, and California records span from September through winter, with one bird even found in April. It is possible that 'our' Smith's Longspurs originated in the more northwesterly breeding populations in the Yukon,

where migration commences in late July and early August, but that more southerly West Coast vagrants come during the period of peak migration in the central U.S. of September and October.

LITERATURE

Aanerud, K. R. 2011. Eighth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 11:35–55.

Beadle, D. and Rising, J. 2002. *Sparrows of the United States and Canada: The Photographic Guide.* Academic Press, San Diego, CA.

Mlodinow, S.G. and Bartels, M. 2016.Tenth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2010-2013). *Western Birds* 47:86-119.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR

Helen Gilbert and Henry Noble, 1903 NE 82nd St., Seattle, WA 98115; helen.gilbert.2@gmail.com. WOS members.

On the morning of Saturday, 8 June 2013, the two of us went birding at the Union Bay Natural Area (Montlake Fill) in northeast Seattle. We arrived at 9:30 on an overcast day. We bird frequently at the Fill and, as foolhardy intermediate birders, we chose not to carry our bird identification book. We had a good morning, finding a Green Heron, enjoying three species of swallows, hearing a Virginia Rail, and spotting a Common Yellowthroat.

At 10:30, we reached the bench at the high point on the loop trail. We saw a sparrow ahead of us pecking in the gravel on the path. Just another sparrow. For the heck of it, we raised our binoculars to enjoy one more of the Song or Savannah sparrows we'd been seeing all morning. But as soon as we viewed the bird closely, we knew we were seeing something different – something we hadn't seen before.

We didn't have a camera or smart phone, so we noted the description in a small notebook and attempted a rough sketch.

We saw that the bird had a dark head with no eye ring or eye stripe, though it had a black stripe and white area on both sides of the face. The black stripe was not a malar stripe, but followed the "jawline." The back was patterned in brown. It had a dark chest and white undersides of the wings. It seemed slightly bigger than a Savannah Sparrow.

We also noted the bird's thick bill and black eye. It had two white outer tail feathers that were visible when it flew, rather like a Junco.

Helen suspected a longspur because of the black chest. We stopped an approaching birder, who looked up the Lapland Longspur on his smartphone. There were too many dissimilarities to be a Lapland Longspur, but no other longspurs showed up on his app.

The bird moved into the grass as runners approached, so we continued on the path. Soon afterwards, an excited birder (Mike Wile) came hurrying up to announce he'd seen a McCown's Longspur. He showed us the photo on his birding app and we all agreed that this was the bird we'd seen. He had seen McCown's Longspurs before in Montana.

We recounted our exciting find to master-birder friends and to Connie Sidles, the doyenne of Montlake Fill. The news was posted on Tweeters. Others went searching for the bird, but no one found it. Luckily our contemporaneous notes were sufficient to identify the bird for the Washington Bird Records Committee (Mlodinow and Bartels 2016). It remains the only accepted Washington record.

Lessons? Carry your bird identification book, bring a notebook, and look closely at every sparrow!

McCown's Longspur represent a bird of the plains, breeding in the northwestern Great Plains and wintering in the southwestern US, Texas and northern Mexico. Human disruption of their habitat, mainly various agricultural practices, reduced the population and range over the last 150 years (With 2010). Because McCown's Longspur is a north-south plains migrant, it remains primarily a vagrant to the west and east of the plains.

In the West, British Columbia has a handful of spring migrants (Campbell et al 2001). Other claimed records exist but still need review by the British Columbia Bird Records Committee. Oregon has eight records, two fall and six winter (ORBC 2018). Idaho possesses 14 sightings, it's unclear if all are reviewed and accepted, (IRBC 2018), mostly fall and winter, with a few in spring. McCown's Longspur occur regularly in California, mostly as a very rare fall vagrant and winter visitor (CBRC 2007).

LITERATURE

California Bird Records Committee [CBRC] (R. A. Hamilton, M. A. Patten, and R. A. Erickson, eds.). 2007. *Rare Birds of California*, Western Field Ornithologists, Camarillo, CA: Retrieved from Rare Birds of California Online: wfopublications.org/Rare_Birds) .

Campbell, R. W., Dawe, N. K., McTaggart-Cowan, I., Cooper, J. M., Kaiser, G. W., Stewart, A. A. and M. C. E McNall. 2001. *The Birds of British Columbia*, Volume III. UBC Press, p. 611.

Idaho Birds Records Committee. 2018. Idaho Bird Records Database, available online at: https://ibrc.idahobirds.net/idaho-bird-records-database

Mlodinow, S. G. and Bartels, M. 2016. Tenth Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2010-2013), *Western Birds* 47: 86-119.

Oregon Bird Records Committee. 2018. The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee, available on-line at: http://www.orbirds.org/obrc.html.

With, K. A. (2010). McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.96

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: LITTLE BUNTING (*EMBERIZA PUSILLA*)

MATT BARTELS, 611 N 50th St., Seattle, Washington 98103; mattxyz@earthlink.net. Washington Bird Records Committee and WOS member.

Figure 1. First record of Little Bunting in Ocean Shores, initial observer Chuck Walsh, confirmed by the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill on 10 October 2015.*

The state's first Little Bunting was present in Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, from 9-13 October 2015. The circumstances of the sighting are a great example of the many different channels that now serve to bring bird sightings to light and is also an example of some of the behind-the-scenes discussions the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) engages in when a rare bird appears.

Chuck Walsh, the initial observer, posted a set of photos on the whatbird.com forum on 9 October 2015. Whatbird.com is a website where people can post pictures of unidentified birds and solicit opinions from others on the identity. He said he fully expected to be told it was just an odd-looking common bird, but it stood out enough that he wanted outside opinions. The whatbird forum quickly landed on the right ID, and let Chuck know he had a mega-rarity on his hands.

Little Bunting is a Eurasian bunting that breeds in the tundra and taiga from northeastern Europe to northeastern Russia. It has been seen only a few times in North America south of Alaska. In Alaska, it is almost annual,

the second most common vagrant bunting after Rustic Bunting. Records from the lower-48 come from California in 1991, 2002, 2012, and 2013, Oregon in 2013, and Arizona in 2017. Baja California also has a record, from 2008. Howell speculates that most records likely arrive via mis-oriented fall migration, with individuals who breed in northeastern Russia making a wrong turn and wandering south down the West Coast of North America instead of heading to eastern China and southeast Asia for the winter.

Figure 2. Little Bunting. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill on 10 October 2018.*

The Whatbird forum pointed Chuck in the direction of the Washington Bird Records Committee, and on the same day it was found we received word of the sighting. The primary mission of the WBRC is to collect and evaluate documentation of the rare birds of Washington. In addition, however, whenever we receive word of a rare bird in a private yard, one of the regular roles the WBRC plays is to talk with the homeowner to learn about their openness to visitors. Though we hope for open access, we know that there can be real considerations when it comes to inviting a bunch of strangers into your yard. We try to lay out the best estimate of how big a draw a particular rarity would be. A regional rarity in western Washington coming over from eastern Washington might be a draw to a handful of county listers (myself included). A rarity from the eastern U.S. would likely draw in birders from around the state. And a rarity like a Little Bunting, from outside the ABA area and with very few prior records, is the sort of thing that would be likely to draw in birders from across the US. In conversation with Chuck, we learned that the rainy season had already turned his yard in to a muddy area, and the prospect of a flood of visitors would likely cause major damage. The only viewpoints were from inside the kitchen in the house, not a great place to host crowds. In addition, he was only at the property intermittently

and would not be present for more than a couple more days before leaving for a stretch. Understandably, he asked that his location not be publicized. An amazing find for the state, but alas a sighting that wouldn't be widely chaseable.

Normally, when a situation like this arises, the WBRC will keep the sighting quiet until after the bird has moved on to avoid any temptation to trespass. In an ideal world, anyone could see any bird they wanted. But when it is on private property, discretion is sometimes required. This time around, it wasn't possible to keep the sighting under wraps because word got out quickly from the whatbird forum. Instead, we opted to post a clarifying note to the Tweeters listserv about the lack of access, along with a plea from the homeowner asking that his location not be shared. This caused some consternation, but for the most part the response was positive.

Along with our discussions with Chuck about access, we also asked whether he'd be open to a limited group of birders coming to view the bird, partially to help document the sighting, but also because we are birders too and love to see these rarities. Chuck agreed, and on the 10th through the 12th, several people including many from the WBRC and some from local birding groups visited. The Little Bunting was very cooperative, feeding with Dark-eyed Juncos at the feeder in the backyard regularly and allowing long views from inside the house.

Little Buntings in general, and this one in particular, are striking birds. Most striking is the rich chestnut-orangey color on the face (See Figure 3, above). The auriculars are bordered in black with a light spot towards the back. A small eye-ring, dark central crown stripe, and a bi-colored bill com-

Figure 3.Little Bunting identification factors: note the rich chestnut color on the face which separates this bunting from all others. Note also the clean black outline to auriculars, pale spot towards the rear of the auriculars, and narrow eye-ring. Undersides white with sharp black streaks. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

plete the unique look of the head. The underside of the bird, from throat through the breast and along the flanks had bold dark streaks and the upper side was a rich dark brown with lighter streaks. It was smaller in size than the Dark-eyed Juncos it was most often near. In addition, much like a Lapland Longspur, it spent most of its time on the ground crouched down low. When it flushed, it would spend time in low trees, apparently gleaning from the branches.

The Little Bunting was present for five days of fairly stormy weather, then disappeared and was not seen again.

LITERATURE

Discussion on Whatbirds forum: https://www.whatbird.com/forum/index.php?/topic/142307-help-with-a-beautiful-little-bird/

Howell, S. N. G., Lewington, I. and Russell, W. 2014. *Rare Birds of North America*. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ.

Merrill, R.J., Wright, C., and Bartels, M. In process. Eleventh Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2014-2016). *Western Birds*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: FIELD SPARROW (*SPIZELLA PUSILLA*)

SCOTT DOWNES, 5011 Madera Way, Yakima, WA 98908; downess@charter.net. WOS member.

Figure 1. First Field Sparrow recorded in Washington found by Scott Downes and Eric Heisey at Neah Bay, Clallam County, on 29 October 2016. *Photo by © Eric Heisey.*

On 29 October 2016 a group of us (Eric Heisey, Sierra Downes, Annika Willette and myself) were birding Neah Bay. Late October has become known as a proven time for a concentration of vagrants in this northwestern corner of Washington State. This current period was no exception, with recent sightings of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Orchard Oriole, Palm Warbler and Tropical Kingbird.

Part of birding Neah Bay during these vagrant periods involves searching out every flock of birds and looking in every small patch of habitat. Our group had just made a tour of the western end of town, returning to the beach near the playground along the bay in town. As we crossed the street, Eric and I immediately laid eyes upon a small sparrow with a gray face, with a faint buffy ear patch, complete white eye ring and a blunt pink bill. Simultaneously we both recognized the bird as a Field Sparrow, a bird typically found in the middle and eastern part of the continent and previously unrecorded for Washington State!

We quickly devised a plan to ensure that the bird was adequately documented with photos and getting the birders we knew were also birding Neah Bay that day to see the bird. With vagrants, it is hard to know how long a bird may stick around. Some stick for days or weeks at a time before moving on, with others it is a matter of seeing them as they pass through and they're only seen for minutes, hours or a single day. As Eric took excellent photos of the bird as it foraged along the shoreline, I left to alert other birders I knew that were nearby in town. I was able to locate other birders and we returned to the location of the Field Sparrow. At that moment, nature decided to add its piece of drama and we and the bird endured a downpour for a series of minutes.

Figure 2. Field Sparrow found by Scott Downes and Eric Heisey at Neah Bay, Clallam County, on 29 October 2016. *Photo by © Eric Heisey.*

The bird seemed to disappear during this downpour and we all got nervous about the prospects of relocating the bird. As the sky cleared, the bird reappeared just down the beach in the blackberry brambles. The bird was seen by more than a dozen birders that were present in town. Interestingly, the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) was having their meeting in Seattle at the exact moment that the bird was first observed. Due to the power of modern technology, a picture of the bird was sent via text message to members of the committee. All involved were wondering if this would be a record for confirmation of a rare species in Washington, mere minutes of the sighting. However, due to WBRC rules a formal record must be submitted of the bird, so alas the photo alone was not able to be voted on that day.

The bird was voted on and approved as a first state record during the next meeting of the WBRC. Despite searching by more than a dozen birders the next day, the bird was not relocated again, proving to be one of those proverbial "one day wonders" we all feel lucky to be part of. A few weeks later, another Field Sparrow was documented on nearby Vancouver Island near Victoria. Due to excellent photographs of both birds, it could be determined that they were different birds. This marked the second record for British Columbia.

Regionally, Field Sparrows appear to be very rare migrants throughout the West. British Columbia has only two accepted records (BCFO 2018). California possesses 17 accepted records comprising a mix of fall transients and wintering birds (CBRC 2018). Oregon and Idaho have no confirmed sightings as yet. The California Rare Bird Records Committee attributes the low number of vagrants in the West to the very short distance, north/south migration pattern of the Field sparrow and the location of their main range east of the Rockies.

LITERATURE

British Columbia Field Ornithologists. 2018. BC Bird Records Committee Sightings Database. On line at: https://bcfo.ca/.

California Bird Records Committee. 2018. *Rare Birds of California*. On-line at http://wfopublications.org/Rare_Birds/Contents.html.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*STURNELLA MAGNA*)

RYAN MERRILL, 13039 6th Ave NW Seattle, WA 98177; rjm284@gmail.com. Washington Bird Records Committee and WOS member.

Figure 1. First Washington State record of Eastern Meadowlark found by Ryan Merrill 1 June 2012 in Marblemount, Skagit County, Washington. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

The first Eastern Meadowlark in Washington was present in Marblemount, Skagit County, 1-4 June 2012. It represents the only record along the West Coast of North America north of Baja California Sur, Mexico and one of few vagrant records west of the species' normal range.

During the late morning of 1 June 2012, I was birding the Upper Skagit Valley and had pulled over along Highway 20 to take a look out into a field in Marblemount. I noticed a meadowlark sitting out on a metal pole in the field. This caught me off guard since it had been several weeks since I had seen one in the valley and I had been birding the area frequently throughout that time. I was more surprised when I saw the bird tilt its head back and sing, which I hadn't observed a meadowlark do in the area before. I turned off the car to be able to hear the bird better. When it sang again, I was flabbergasted to hear a series of five whistled notes that matched my recollection of what an Eastern Meadowlark sounds like, though it had been a couple years since I'd heard one.

Over the next half an hour I observed the meadowlark walking around in the grazed grass field and noted as many details of the plumage as possible. I knew that separating Eastern and Western Meadowlarks visually was difficult,

but also that it was doable. Fortunately I had spent some time studying the differences so had an idea of which areas of the bird to focus on. I first focused on the malar which I remembered should be white on Eastern Meadowlarks. I saw that indeed this bird had a clean white malar with a sharp demarcation between the bright yellow throat. I also noticed that the stripes on the head were particularly blackish, lacking any brown tone that I remembered seeing on at least some Western Meadowlarks. I didn't remember what else to look for visually as far as separating Eastern from Western, but remembered it having something to do with the patterning in the tertials. This bird had dark scalloping on the tertials (as is illustrated in the spring *magna* picture in the 6th edition of the National Geographic North American guide), with much of the upper part of the feather being dark brown and blackish with the lower part being a light sandy brown.

Figure 2. Eastern Meadowlark. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

After taking a few distant pictures through the scope with my iPhone, I ran back to the car to get the western National Geographic field guide out. The bird soon flew back to the original post which was closer, so I took some

more photos and was able to study it for around ten more minutes while it sat there, occasionally singing. This is when I was able to record the song using the voice recorder feature on the iPhone andI also took a video of it singing. Here I was able to get better views of the scalloping on the tertials and greater coverts as well as a few good views of the tail. The central rectrices overall had more dark brown than light, with the central part of the feathers being fully dark all the way down with a wavy or scalloped pattern out to the edges of the feathers. The outer three feathers were nearly entirely white, though at one point I thought I saw a few brown flecks near the tips of R4 (the third feather in from the outermost one). I could also see that the greater coverts had the darker scalloped pattern that repeated three times near the tip of the feather before being reduced to merely dark bars near the base of the feather. Overall the back and wings had a fairly dark appearance to them, compared to my recollection of a Western Meadowlark. At this point based on the song and the appearance of the malar, black head stripes, white on the outer rectrices, and patterning of the central rectrices, tertials and greater coverts all matching up with what Eastern Meadowlark should be according to the field guide, I was finally confident in the identification, though still in disbelief that it was actually there!

I believe this bird is an "Eastern" Eastern Meadowlark, probably subspecies *magna*, rather than a "Lilian's" Eastern Meadowlark due to the amount of white in the tail and the dark appearance of the upperparts, specifically the pattern of the central rectrices, tertials, and greater coverts. The song appears appropriate for Eastern, with the lowest frequencies on the spectrogram being about 3.5 kHz compared to Lilian's typically dipping down around 2 kHz (Pieplow 2009).

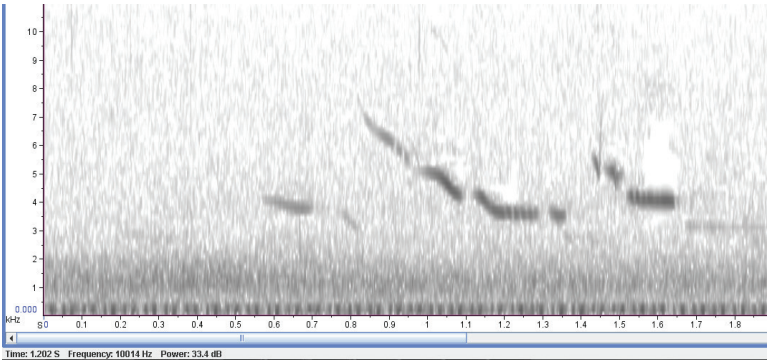


Figure 3. Song spectrogram of the Eastern Meadowlark at Marblemount, Washington on 1 June 2012. *Spectrogram by © Ryan Merrill.*

The Eastern Meadowlark ranges throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada and extends southward as far as northern South America. It has been recorded as a vagrant but only very rarely. The next closest record to Washington was a bird that remained on territory in the

Madison Valley of Montana in the summer of 2009 that was also identified as belonging to the subspecies *S. m. magna*. It is one of the few eastern vagrants that has been recorded in the West that has not been documented in California.

NOTE: During June 2018 an Eastern Meadowlark was found in Modoc County, California. That record is currently under review by the California Bird Records Committee.

REFERENCES

Marks, Hendricks, and Casey. *Birds of Montana*. 2016.

Pieplow, Nathan. "Lilian's" Meadowlark Songs. 2 June 2009, http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/29

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: LUCY'S WARBLER (*OREOTHLYPIS LUCIAE*)

BRAD WAGGONER, 7865 Fletcher Bay Rd NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110; wagtail@sounddsl.com. Washington Birds Records Committee and WOS member.

Figure 1. Lucy's Warbler, second record for Washington State found by Ryan Merrill on 16 September 2015. This bird turned up at Waatch Valley in the Neah Bay area. The first record, found by Brad Waggoner, showed up in the town of Neah Bay on 6 November 2014. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

The discovery of the Eurasian Hobby in the Waatch Valley on 28 October 2014, and the ensuing birder coverage in the subsequent week, made birders within the Washington birding community keenly aware of the vagrant-bird potential in the Neah Bay area. During the following week there were near daily sightings of rare species for Washington, such as a Brambling, and sightings of typical Washington species much outside of their expected date range, such as a Purple Martin and a Cliff Swallow. Even prior to the Hobby hysteria, a few of us vagrant-seeking types were starting to realize that Neah Bay and its surroundings were capable of putting out interesting rare birds. In the fall of 2012, my brother Dan and I ran into an Orchard Oriole and a Northern Mockingbird within 25 feet of each other in a spot now referred to as "rarity corner", west of the creek mouth on the west side of town. A female Painted Bunting near the car dump seen by Dan, Jon Isacoff, and myself in late September of 2013 was the highlight rare bird that fall for me. That all said, I can say that I was not fully prepared the morning of 6 November 2014, to immediately recognize (or to even have on my radar screen), the tiny, little, gray warbler that appeared alongside a small group of Dark-eyed Juncos within a small blackberry patch on the east side of town.

The day was incredibly stormy with heavy rain and strong damaging winds. Shortly after I had arrived in Neah Bay that morning the two highways west of Port Angeles were closed due to multiple trees over the roads. Electricity to the town of Neah Bay was also out and would not come back until late afternoon that day. Suffice to say if I wanted to remain mostly dry and still get some birding in, I was going to have to do it by car. This is a birding strategy that I occasionally use on wet days in Neah Bay. Essentially by-car birding, for me, is slowly driving the roads and stopping occasionally if I note bird activity or if a small patch of habitat looks "tasty". Down comes the window and a pishing session ensues.

Shortly after ten o'clock I noted a few juncos within a blackberry patch in a vacant lot in a neighborhood referred to as Ravenswood. A fair number of juncos perched up not more than thirty feet away from my car in response to my noises. Soon to join the juncos was a small, mostly-gray bird about the size of a Pacific Wren. Initial thoughts of Ruby-crowned Kinglet or perhaps Blue-gray Gnatcatcher vanished as the bird's color, bill shape, and tail length did not equate. About the time I processed the clues of this little bird and I realized what I was observing, it slowly moved down and back, within the blackberry patch, thus avoiding my nervous attempts at photographing it – a Lucy's Warbler!

After jotting down a few written details about the observation, I tightened up my rain gear, grabbed my camera and left the cozy dry of my car to make an attempt at another view of this drab, but oh-so-wonderful, little warbler. I knew darn well that additional documentation was essential. A second pishing session while standing closer to the blackberry patch did elicit a response from a few Fox Sparrows, but the juncos had flown away. However, the Lucy's Warbler also came back into view within the blackberry bramble, and this time it was only about fifteen away. As it slowly moved about I finally was able to view, on two occasions, the chestnut-colored rump-area, the key field mark that nailed the ID for me. Several attempts at photographing the little guy during this viewing were complete failures on my part. The Lucy's Warbler always hung back a layer or two from the bramble edge. The auto-focus of my camera lens would never cleanly pick up the little bird, but rather focused on the branches, twigs, and leaves in the forefront of it. Though this viewing might have lasted only a minute or so before the warbler retreated back out of sight, it was time for me to retreat to the car to dry off both myself and my gear. Further attempts with a few other birders that afternoon and the following morning did elicit vocalized call responses from the Lucy's Warbler, but the darn thing did not provide further visuals.

Despite lacking photographic or vocalization recordings, the observation details I provided did meet the approval of the Washington Birds Record Committee, thus providing a first state record for Washington. Surprisingly, Lucy's Warbler designation as a sight-only species for Washington State lasted less than a full year. On 16 September 2015, Ryan Merrill found and photographed another Lucy's Warbler in the Waatch Valley, a short two miles west of the Ravenswood location. See Figure 1.

Lucy's Warbler breeds in the arid country of southwestern United States into Mexico. Riparian areas, consisting of dense mesquite, cottonwoods,

and willows provide its preferred breeding habitat. Idaho has one record and Oregon has two records. Coincidentally the two records in Oregon are also at coastal locations.

LITERATURE

Herlyn, H., Contreras, A. 2009. *Handbook of Oregon Birds*. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.

Merrill, R.J., Wright, C., and Bartels, M. In process. Eleventh Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2014-2016). *Western Birds*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: CANADA WARBLER (*CARDELLINA CANADENSIS*)

(A version of this article first appeared in WOSNews 130: 1, 13 (December/January 2011). This new version is reprinted with permission and some updating of records.)

MIKE DENNY,1354 SE Central Ave., College Place, WA 99324; walla2.birder@outlook.com. WOS member and formerly with the U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest and the Washington State Conservation Commission/Districts.

Figure 1. First Washington record of Canada Warbler found by Mike and MerryLynn Denny at McNary NWR on 5 September 2010. *Photo by © Larry Umthun.*

The Canada Warbler is an unexpected species in the Pacific Northwest, with fewer than 10 records in Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003) and none in Washington. (Since this article first came out the Idaho Rare Birds Committee accepted a 2008 record (https://ibrc.idahobirds.net/idaho-bird-records-database) and the Oregon Rare Birds Committee brought the number of Oregon records to ten (http://www.orbirds.org/obrc.html). This is a warbler of damp, cool forests with dense undergrowth. Its nesting range reaches into northeastern British Columbia and southeastern Yukon, across Canada to the eastern seaboard and south into northern Georgia (Marshall et al. 2003). This is also a species of concern, as its populations are in decline (Alderfer 2006). So my wife MerryLynn and I did not have this species in mind as we headed for McNary National Wildlife Refuge in western Walla Walla County on the afternoon of 5 September 2010.

Figure 2. The Canada Warbler's North American Range.

After a full morning of birding, we stopped off at McNary headquarters just outside of Burbank, to see what the wind had blown in. No one else was there on this windy, dust-filled afternoon. As we walked along the concrete path to the west, I spotted a Pine White Butterfly nectaring on a mustard plant. This beautiful white butterfly was way out of range and I was eager to get some photos of this normally montane insect.

MerryLynn had walked on ahead and was birding the familiar "birding spur trail." As I walked towards her, she said that she had seen a bird that might be a Kentucky Warbler. She pointed to a dense tangle of low branches just as a small dark bird bolted from cover and flew across the trail into another stand of low shrubs. I moved ahead and was soon on this bird. All I could see was the back and side of the warbler's head. That is when I first saw the very pronounced, complete white orbital ring and slate gray head.

The bird vanished into more dense shrubs. This was about 2:40 PM. For the next hour, we played cat-and-warbler with this bird as it constantly moved through the thick cover, staying in loose association with an adult male Wilson's Warbler. During this period, MerryLynn called Bob Derting to let him know that we had a good warbler.

After another 15 minutes, it popped up beside MerryLynn and that is when it became obvious to her that we were chasing a Canada Warbler. Bob arrived and with camera in hand, tried to get some documenting photos. We had also contacted Nancy LaFramboise who, upon answering, told us she was in Minnesota. Nancy told me to contact Lisa Hill and Larry Umthun and gave me their phone numbers, but I lost them in the translation. Soon, however, both Larry and Lisa arrived, as Nancy had called them right after we hung up. Larry came equipped with a large cannon of a lens, ready to photograph this very rare bird.

MerryLynn called Larry and Jacque Goodhew in Walla Walla and off they headed for McNary NWR. We called several other folks, too, but all were out. I then called Michael Willison and asked him to post this warbler on Tweeters, which he kindly did. At about 6:20 PM, the Canada Warbler gave a few more brief views. By 6:40 PM, all present had seen this first state record, and we left.

On Monday, 6 September, we returned at 7:30 AM only to meet up with Matt Bartels, who seemed very happy as he had already been watching the Canada Warbler for a while. As we entered the parking lot, we greeted old friend Tony Gregor and soon Lisa Hill and Larry Umthun arrived and with the morning light to our backs, we all watched the Canada Warbler, which was more cooperative than it had been the previous day and afforded all of us outstanding looks. Larry and his cannon of a lens went into action and soon he had many great photos of this outstanding bird.

WHAT I SAW

This Canada Warbler did not fit the paintings in the two field guides I had checked (Dunn & Garrett, 1997; and Curson, Quinn & Beadle, 1994). It had a flesh-toned lower mandible with a dark tip, and the upper mandible had a dark dorsal ridge that covered the top half the length of the bill. The rest of the upper mandible was also flesh-toned. Its orbital ring appeared

Figure 3. Canada Warbler at McNary NWR on 6 September 2010. *Photo by © Larry Umthun.*

wide and pure white at first glance. There was a partial yellow superciliary that connected to the orbital ring, and at this connection, the yellow had bled into the orbital ring a ways. The leg color was an odd golden/ pink that was different in different lights and perspectives. The legs looked almost translucent. This bird was very bright yellow ventrally and slate gray dorsally. It was also very active and constantly on the move, foraging for insects and spiders.

Based on my description and photos taken by other birders, it was determined that this bird was an immature female. Oregon has ten records of Canada Warbler, seven in fall and three in the spring (OBRC 2018) and observers note Canada Warblers regularly but rarely in fall migration in California (Reitsma et al. 2009). Perhaps, much like the California records, this individual migrated further west than the main migration route to the wintering grounds in South America.

Note: The birding spur trail has now produced two outstanding eastern warblers. The first was an adult male Prothonotary Warbler (third Washington State record) found at this same location on 20 October 2005 (Denny 2006), so it is worth a stop during migration periods to check things out.

REFERENCES

Alderfer, J. ed., 2006. *Complete Birds of North America*. NGS., Washington D.C.

Curson, J. D. Quinn and D. Beadle. 1994. *Warblers of the Americas*. Houghton Mifflin Co. New York. 252 pp.

Denny, M., 2006. An Overview of Prothonotary Warbler Records in Southeast Washington State and Adjacent Oregon Counties. WOSNews 100, WOS, Seattle, WA 2 pp.

Dunn, J., K. Garrett. 1997. *Warblers*. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York 656 pp.

Idaho Bird Records Committee. 2018. I*daho Bird Records Database*, (on-line) at https://ibrc.idahobirds.net/idaho-bird-records-database.

Marshall, D.B., M.G. Hunter, and A. L. Contreras, eds. 2003. *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*. OSU Press, Corvallis, OR. 786 pp.

Oregon Bird Records Committee. 2018. *The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee*, (on-line) at http://www.orbirds.org/obrc.html, Oregon Birding Association.

Pyle, R.M., 2002. *The Butterflies of Cascadia*. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, WA. 420 pp.

Reitsma, L., M. Goodnow, M. T. Hallworth, and C. J. Conway (2009). Canada Warbler (Cardellina canadensis), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.421

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIES ACCOUNT: PAINTED REDSTART (*MYIOBORUS PICTUS*)

CAROLYN WILCOX, 306 West 3rd Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362; tours@experienceolympic.com. http://experienceolympic.com/ecotour/birding

Figure 1. First record of Painted Redstart in Washington State found by Carolyn Wilcox et al. at Cape Flattery, Clallam County on 25 August 2018. *Photo by © Michael Charest.*

It started as just another day birding in paradise, commonly called Neah Bay, Washington. Neah Bay is the main village of the Makah Tribe, whose reservation is on the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula. The northwest tip of the reservation, Cape Flattery, has slopes which drop off coastal cliffs into the island studded mixing zone of the Pacific Ocean and Strait of Juan de Fuca (now recognized as part of the inland marine ecosystem the Salish Sea).

Neah Bay is where it all comes together. Neah Bay is a massive edge habitat. The edge of the Pacific Ocean. The edge of the Salish Sea. The edge of the Olympic Peninsula. On this edge was a small bird far from home.

On 25 August 2018, I guided for seven Flemish-speaking Belgian birders who were ending their West Coast birding trip on the Olympic Peninsula. We drove out the paved road to Cape Flattery, where a 3/4-mile trail leads to platforms overlooking the confluence of the ocean and sea and looking out to the largest island in the Cape Flattery complex, Tatoosh Island.

For birding trips to Neah Bay, I try to go when the weather does not

call for 100% chance of rain. I once rode my bike from the Coast Guard station in Neah Bay to the Cape Flattery trail and back during some heavy rain showers, pausing under thick conifers when the rain was heavy, and enjoying sunshine and rainbows between the showers. On 25 August this year, the weather report predicted a small chance of rain. Conditions were overcast but Tatoosh Island was visible and Tufted Puffins were in our sights on the water and flying around Tatoosh Island.

After finishing at the Tatoosh Island overlook, we started back up the trail when Geert Van De Vijver and Gust De Weerdt stayed back with me to look at a flock of Golden-Crowned Kinglets flitting around the Sitka Spruce trees. While craning our necks and looking up about forty feet into the dark overstory canopy, we observed a bird with a bright fire-engine red chest and belly. At first I thought it was acting like a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the way it stuck to a tree branch upside down, and then realized that the red color was not nuthatch red. However, another quick glimpse of the bird turning around and posing, providing a good look at its silhouette, convinced me that it was a warbler.

While we were trying to get better looks, Timothy Sullivan showed up asking what we were looking at and expressed interest in figuring it out. Geert had the best camera in hand, and I asked him to try to get a photograph, explaining "Nobody will believe us if we don't have a photo." Once Geert showed us some photographs, it was clear that we had an unbelievable bird before us and I worked hard to get better views of the black back and white wing patch. Gust De Weerdt hurriedly looked through his guidebook and came up with "Painted Redstart." Our identification of the Painted Redstart was a team effort and I would never have been able to capture viable photos and probably would have talked myself out of what I saw had I been alone.

The Painted Redstart provided a remarkable birding experience for a number of birders through 16 September. Observers reported it to be active, singing, calling, even flycatching, as well as associating with Golden-Crowned Kinglets and sometimes on its own. It proved to be a tough bird to photograph, Michael Charest kindly shared one of the best for this article (see Figure 1). The Washington Bird Records Committee recently voted 7-0 to accept this bird as the first record for Washington State (Matt Bartels, personal communication).

Painted Redstart is a year-round resident in the mountains of Central America, making the first Washington State record an exciting viewing. I first sighted a Painted Redstart in Taxco, Mexico on 1 November 2009 on the trail to "El Cristo". The Painted Redstart's range stretches from roughly Nicaragua north to Arizona and New Mexico, pointing out the absurdity of borders and walls. Who cares if you are in Arizona or Mexico when you are a bird? Arizona used to be Mexico anyway.

In Cascadia, there are two prior Painted Redstart records, both occurring in the fall: one in Oregon and one in British Columbia. According to *The Birds of North America* on-line, the Painted Redstart is considered a short-distance migrant; most breeding Painted Redstarts of the southwestern United States migrate to Mexico and Central America for the winter. It winters casually in California, Texas and Louisiana and spring and fall vagrant records exist for across North America (CBRC 2018).

Painted Redstarts prefer woodlands with dense overstories, thick undergrowth and permanent or semipermanent water, according to Marshall and Balda (1974). The location on the Cape Flattery trail, where we observed the redstart, certainly had a dense overstory that let in little light, making the viewing conditions quite dark and Geert Van De Vijver's photographs nothing short of a small miracle.

The Pacific Northwest coastal forest usually has dense undergrowth, often dominated by Salal. However, visitors to the Cape Flattery trail frequently go off trail, creating social trails that destroy the native plant undergrowth and contribute to erosion. I have seen the same human overuse impacts on popular Olympic National Park trails such as the Hall of Mosses, Marymere Falls, and Hurricane Hill trails. What is different about Cape Flattery is that it is not in Olympic National Park and the Makah Tribe maintains the trail. That is why it is imperative that visitors pay for the $10 Makah Recreation Permit as well as to support local businesses friendly to birders such as Butler's Motel.

The Painted Redstart was first reported on the same weekend as Makah Days, an annual festival. Makah Days is on the weekend closest to the 26 August 1913 anniversary when Neah Bay raised the first United States flag and is one of the biggest celebrations of the year. Though you might not be fortunate enough to visit Neah Bay on Makah Days, the Makah Museum is open 10-5 daily and helps visitors to better understand Makah culture and history every day of the year. I love walking into the long house inside the museum and trying to imagine what life would be like living in better connection with mother Earth. The museum exhibits feature artifacts from the Ozette village archeological site, yet the museum tells a larger story of how the Makah people lost their lands, culture, and lives since James Cook's 1778 "discovery" of Cape Flattery. Reading the "legal" accounts of stealing life, culture, and lands from the Makah people helps to remind me of how I benefit from the immorality of my own ancestors. Will reparations ever be paid for loss of life, land, and human rights to native peoples?

I was first exposed to ornithology by Dr. Gerald Scoville and Round River Conservation Studies in 1996, on a college field trip in the Sky Islands in Arizona and New Mexico. Twenty-two years later, this Painted Redstart is my first notable rare bird sighting, and I feel lucky to have it link back to the Sky Islands where I first developed a passion for ornithology. Without birding mentors of yesterday and today, the generosity and kindness of the Makah People, as well as a steady flow of birders hiring me as an Olympic Peninsula guide, I would not be writing this species account. Thank you all!

LITERATURE

Barber, D. R., P. M. Barber, and P. G. Jablonski (2000). Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.528

California Bird Records Committee. 2018. *Rare Birds of California*. On-line at http://wfopublications.org/Rare_Birds/Contents.html.

Campbell, R. W., Dawe, N. K., McTaggart-Cowan, I., Cooper, J. M., Kaiser, G. W.,

McNall, M. C. E., and G. E. J. Smith. 1997. *The Birds of British Columbia*, Volume III. UBC Press, p. 608.

Marshall, J., and R.P. Balda. 1974. The breeding ecology of the Painted Redstart. *Condor* 76:89–101.

Oregon Bird Records Committee. 2018. *The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee*, (on-line) at http://www.orbirds.org/obrc.html, Oregon Birding Association.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE SECTION

Surf Scoter at Vashon Island, King County. *Photo by © Ed Swan.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NINTH REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (2008–2010)

This report appeared first in Western Birds 46:299-325, 2015, and is reprinted with the permission of *Western Birds*.

RYAN J. MERRILL, 1616 10th St. W, Kirkland, Washington 98033; rjm284@gmail.com
MATT BARTELS, 611 N 50th St., Seattle, Washington 98103; mattxyz@earthlink.net

ABSTRACT: Since its eighth report (Aanerud 2011) the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) has reviewed 291 reports representing 92 species and seven other subspecies and forms, accepting 232 of them, an acceptance rate of 80%. Most of these birds were observed between 2008 and 2010. Six new species and one subspecies group are added to the Washington state checklist: Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*), Hawaiian Petrel (*P. sandwichensis*), Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*), Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), and Interior or Lead-colored Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*). In addition, the WBRC removed two species, the Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) and American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) from the state checklist. The Washington state list now stands at 498 species.

The contents of this report are the results from six Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) meetings held between February 2008 and January 2011 and follow the eighth report (Aanerud 2011). The WBRC is a committee of the Washington Ornithological Society. In total for this report, the committee reviewed 291 reports representing 92 species (and seven other subspecies and forms). An acceptance rate of 80% resulted in 232 new records for the state. The WBRC added six new species to the checklist of Washington birds: Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*), Hawaiian Petrel (*P. sandwichensis*), Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*), Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*), and Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*). In addition the WBRC reviewed and accepted the first record of the Lead-colored or Interior Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*).

The WBRC reexamined its list of review species in 2011. Species that will no longer be reviewed include the Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) (37 records), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus)* (41 records), Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (31 records), Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. lapponica*) (51 records), Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) (25 records), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*C. subruficollis*) (16 records), Parakeet Auklet (*Aethia psittacula*) (14 records), Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (21 records), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) (53 records). The Blue Snow Goose was the first morph removed from review after the WBRC accepted nine reports in just three years.

In 2009 the committee voted to remove the Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) from the Washington list. No reports, in the committee's opinion, arise from wild populations, and the Mute Swan does not meet the standard of an established introduced exotic species (as does the House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, for example). In addition, in 2011 the committee voted to remove the American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) from the state list. In

the committee's opinion, none of the reports since the 1970s are likely of birds of wild origin. It is possible that some earlier undocumented reports represent American Black Ducks of wild origin, but these have not been reviewed. For further discussion of non-established introduced species, see Wahl et al. (2005).

The Washington list now stands at 498 species.

PROCEDURES

Procedures are consistent with those detailed in the introduction to the first WBRC report (Tweit and Paulson 1994) and expanded on in the introduction to the sixth report (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006). A "report" is information submitted to the committee in the form of evidence substantiating the observation of a review species. A "record" is a report that has been accepted by the committee. Acceptance of a record requires an affirmative vote from all but one of its membership.

Species accounts are organized with English and scientific names first followed in parentheses by the total number of records accepted for Washington and the number of records accepted in this report. 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 sightings in the state. Each entry includes the following information: date(s) of observation, location and county, 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 in which the committee received the report. For the sake of brevity in the species accounts below, the four-letter code is omitted from file numbers after the first. The names 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. Additional details including information such as the number of individual birds present and notes on sex, age, and/or plumage are our assessments and do not reflect decisions made by the committee.

Beginning with this report, the committee reviewed value of maintaining a "supplementary list." Previously, any species accepted by the committee based on a single-person sight record was added to the supplementary list. These records still underwent close scrutiny, and acceptance to this list was not intended to indicate doubt about the validity of the report. Nevertheless, the distinction between a single observer and multiple observers seemed sometimes arbitrary, and placement on a separate supplementary list implied these species were not fully on the state list. Therefore, the committee is discontinuing the supplementary list and will include species accepted without evidence such as photographs, audio recordings, or a specimen on the regular list but note them as based on "sight only" records. The number of observers will no longer serve as the basis of distinguishing these species' position on the state list. In this report, 63% of the accepted records were

submitted with at least one photo, audio, or video recordings. Although the spread of smart phones and other recording devices has made documentation easier than ever, this percentage indicates the continued value of a well-constructed, detailed written report.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee members who voted on these reports include Kevin Aanerud, Tom Aversa (until 2010), Phil Mattocks (until 2009), Ryan Merrill (from 2009), Steve Mlodinow, Dennis Paulson, Bob Sundstrom (until 2010), Bill Tweit, Brad Waggoner (from 2010), and Charlie Wright (from 2010).

Ryan Merrill joined the committee in 2009 replacing Phil Mattocks. Charlie Wright and Brad Waggoner joined the committee in 2010, replacing Bob Sundstrom and Tom Aversa, respectively. Jessie Barry left the committee in 2008 and was not replaced, reducing the number of voting members from eight to seven. Doug Schonewald was the secretary through 2010, replaced then by Matt Bartels.

THE RECORDS

Reports Accepted by the Committee

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*) (8*, 3). An immature was at Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Wahkiakum Co., 4 Apr 2007 (EMGO-2007-1; GBl). Two, one adult and one immature, were near South Bend, Pacific Co., from 15 Jan to 23 Feb 2008 (2008-1; BT, photo: RJM; Figure 1). Two adults were at the same location 18–24 Jan 2009 (2009-1; AKa, RR).

Figure 1. Two Emperor Geese (EMGO-2008-1) near South Bend, Pacific Co., 26 March 2008. *Photo by © Ryan J. Merrill.*

Blue Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) (9*, 1). The lone record of this color morph was of five birds at Fir Island, Skagit Co., 5 Nov 2007 (LSGB-2007-2; photo: RJM). After the WBRC accepted nine records in the three years after adding this morph to the review list, it dropped the Blue Goose from the list in 2008.

Bewick's Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) (12*, 3). An adult was at Conway, Skagit Co., 24 Feb–1 Mar 2008 (BESW-2008-1; SM, photo: RJM; Figure 2). Another was at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 1 Nov 2008 (2008-2; photo: CLe), and one was at Brady Loop Road, Grays Harbor Co., 18 Jan–21 Mar 2009 (2009-1; photos: KeB, BW). These records bring the state total to 12 since the subspecies' addition to the review list in 2003.

Figure 2. Bewick's Tundra Swan (BESW-2008-1) near Conway, Skagit Co., 1 March 2008. *Photo by © Ryan J. Merrill.*

Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) (4, 3). An adult male was at Columbia NWR, Adams Co., 30 May 2008 (BATE-2008-1; photo: RaH; Figure 3). Adult males were also photographed at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 31 Jan 2009 (2009-1; photos: BC, CCr, SK) and near Ferndale, Whatcom Co., 17 Mar 2009 (2009-2; photo: PW). In addition to the four recorded in Washington, two Baikal Teal have been found in Oregon (Nehls 2015) and seven in California (www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf). The record for 30 May is the latest for the west coast of North America south of Alaska.

Figure 3. Male Baikal Teal (BATE-2008-1) at Columbia NWR, Grant Co., 30 May 2008. *Photo by © Randy Hill.*

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (18*, 6). Records include: An adult male at Everett, Snohomish Co., 11 Oct 2007 (TUDU-2007-1; SM); an adult male at Priest Rapids, Grant and Yakima counties, 23 Feb–16 Mar 2008 (2008-1; DSc, ASt); a female at Lake Erie, Skagit Co., 11 Jan–4 Mar 2009 (2009-1; GBl, SM, photo: GT; Figure 4); an adult male at Drano Lake, Skamania Co., 7–16 Mar 2010 (2010-1; photo: DP); an adult male at Priest Rapids, Yakima Co., 28 Mar 2010 (2010-2; photo: RJM); and an adult male at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish Co., 24 Jun–3 Jul 2010 (2010-3; photos: TA, SM). These six records increase the state total to 18 records since the committee began reviewing the species in 1999. The Tufted Duck at Port Susan Bay is the first recorded for Washington in summer; other summer records for the west coast south of Alaska include one in 1996 from California and three from Vancouver, British Columbia (Toochin et al. 2014).

Figure 4. Female Tufted Duck (TUDU-2009-1) at Lake Erie, Skagit Co., 16 January 2009. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) (15, 1). An immature male was at Semiahmoo Spit, Whatcom Co., 17 Jan 2009 (KIEI-2009-1; JGu). A female was at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., beginning 3 Jul 2009 and was seen intermittently through at least 8 Apr 2012 (2009-3; DMo, BT, photo: GT; Figure 5). An immature male was at Potlatch State Park, Mason Co., 21 Nov 2009 (2009-2; photo: MvB).

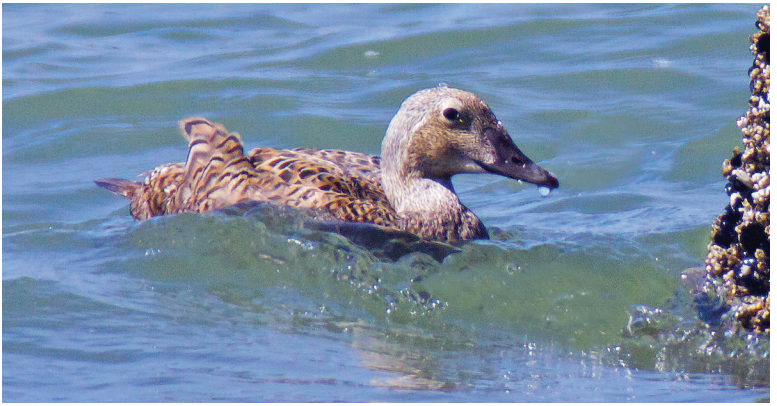


Figure 5. Female King Eider (KIEI-2009-3) at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 3 July 2009. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (9, 2). A juvenile was 193 km west of Westport, Grays Harbor Co., on 6 Apr 2008 (STAL-2008-1; photo: GSM). Another juvenile was tracked via satellite transmitter through Washington waters 25–29 Sep 2009 (2009-1; RoS) as it moved south along the continental shelf break before continuing into Oregon and eventually reaching California. The bird hatched on Torishima Island in the spring of 2009 and was translocated to Mukojima Island, where it fledged in May. Of Washington's nine records, six are within the past 20 years, after the species began to recover from its near extinction in the first part of the 20th century.

Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*) (1, 1). In 1992, 1993, and 1996, the WBRC voted with inconclusive results on a report of a Providence (also known as Solander's) Petrel about 50 km west of Westport, Grays Harbor Co., on 11 Sep 1983 (PRPE-1983-1; TWa, photo: MLu). The state checklist prepared by the WBRC in 1989 (Feltner et al. 1989) included the species on the basis of this report, but in 1994 the committee opted to refrain from accepting the record until more information could be gathered (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000). Reluctance to accept this record was due in part to concerns in distinguishing the species from other dark gadfly petrels. Advances in the knowledge of identification as well as the personal experience of several committee members with these species convinced the WBRC that the extensive written description by an experienced observer was adequate for acceptance of the species to the state list. Key field marks noted include the white underwing patch bisected by a thin dark line (producing a "double flash" of white in flight), the languid flight style, overall size, dark upperparts, and relatively long tail. The photo supported the description, but only some members of the committee thought the identification was diagnostic from the photo alone. As a result, the Providence Petrel is accepted on the basis of a sight-only record. Murphy's Petrel (*P. ultima*), also known to occur in Washington waters, is similar but smaller with more slender wings, less bull-necked than the Providence Petrel, and has a smaller bill. Additionally the described pattern of the underwing is typical of the Providence Petrel and rarely seen on Murphy's. With respect to other dark gadfly petrels that may occur in the northeast Pacific, the pattern of the underside of the primaries eliminates both races of the Great-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera macroptera* and *P. m. gouldi*), which show a uniformly dull silvery patch. The uniform upper side of the wing eliminates the Kermadec Petrel (*P. neglecta*), whose outer primaries show obvious pale shafts.

Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) (6, 4). On 6 Apr 2008 two Murphy's Petrels were observed, one 133 km and one 233 km off Westport, Grays Harbor Co. (MUPE-2008-1; GSM, photo: THu; 2008-2; GSM). Another was 90 km off Cape Disappointment, Pacific Co. (2010-1; THa, photo: RJM), and two more were 85 km off Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co. (2010-2; THa, RJM) on 1 May 2010.

Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (8, 3). During a research cruise organized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, four Mottled Petrels were seen between 64 and 70 km offshore over Nitinat Canyon, Clallam Co., on 25 Mar 2009 (MOPE-2009-1; photo: RJM). The same day, four more were between 48 and 58 km offshore over Juan de Fuca Canyon, Clallam Co. (2009-2; photo: RJM). A single bird was seen at Point No Point, Kitsap Co., 27 Nov 2009 (2009-3; ASe), establishing the first Washington record away from the outer coast.

Hawaiian Petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*) (1, 1). Washington's first record is based on one photographed over the west end of Grays Canyon, Grays Harbor Co., on 27 Sep 2008 (HAPE-2008-1; BLB, BT, photo: MPi; Figure 6). Details of the underwing pattern, overall proportions, and especially the limited extent of the dark cap appear to eliminate the Galapagos Petrel (*P. phaeopygia*), with which the

Hawaiian Petrel was formerly considered conspecific under the name Dark-rumped Petrel (AOU 2002). In addition, contrast between the grayish sides of the neck and the blackish cowl, as well as the white curling up behind the auricular, appear to specify the Hawaiian Petrel rather than the Galapagos Petrel (Tomkins and Milne 1991, Browne et al. 1997, Force et al. 2007, Howell 2012).

Figure 6. Hawaiian Petrel (HAPE-2008-1) over Grays Canyon, Grays Harbor Co., 27 September 2008. *Photo by © Matthew Pike.*

Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) (3, 1). A Great Shearwater off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 29 Aug 2009 (GRSH-2009-1; BT, photos: JPr, RSh; Figure 7) was the third recorded in Washington. Oregon has two records, California nine, and British Columbia five. Alaska has four photo-documented sightings (not all of them reviewed) (Gibson et al 2003, Gibson and Withrow 2015; D. Gibson and S. Heinl pers. comm.).

Figure 7. Great Shearwater (GRSH-2009-1) off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 29 August 2009. *Photo by © Ryan Shaw.*

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) (41*, 11). Manx Shearwater records included one southwest of Alexander Island, Jefferson Co., 13 Jun 2007 (MASH-2007-3; RJM); two separate birds off Long Beach Peninsula, Pacific Co., 26 Jun 2007, one of which was at 46.475º N, 124.100º W (2007-4 and 5; RJM); one west of Alexander Island, Jefferson Co., 4 Jul 2007 (2007-8; RJM); one off northern Grays Harbor Co. on 12 Jul 2007 (2007-10; RJM); one seen from Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., 18 Jul 2007 (2007-11; RJM), and one north of Point Grenville, Grays Harbor Co., 23 Jul 2007 (2007-12; RJM). After discussion in 2012 three more reports from 2007 were accepted (2007-6 and 7, both from 4 Jul 2007, and 2007-9 from 11 Jul 2007, all three from west of Alexander Island, Jefferson Co; RJM). A record of two birds off Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., 29 Jul 2006, was also accepted in 2012 after further discussion (2006-2; BW and SM). With 41 records, the WBRC removed the Manx Shearwater from its review list in 2008.

Ashy Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) (2, 1). An Ashy Storm-Petrel 233 km west of Westport on 6 Apr 2008 (ASSP-2008-1; GSM) was the second recorded in Washington. In addition to noting plumage characteristics that included narrow gray wing bars and a long forked tail, the report detailed a constant "fluttery" flight style that differed notably from the gliding of the Leach's Storm-Petrels also present. Washington's first Ashy-Storm Petrel was photographed in June 2006 (Aanerud 2011). There are also two reports from British Columbia waters, 172 km west of Tatoosh Island, Clallam Co., from June 2008 (Fenneman 2011, 2012), and six records from Oregon, one in in 2007 one in 2009, and four in 2014 (Nehls 2015).

Frigatebird species (*Fregata* sp.) (2, 1). A frigatebird flying across the Columbia River at Stevenson, Skamania Co., 16 Apr 2008 (FRIG-2008-1; DK, BR) eluded specific identification. While one might assume that the Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*) is the likely species, the precedents of both the Greater (*F. minor*) and Lesser (*F. ariel*) frigatebirds in the continental United States has led the committee to accept this record as "frigatebird species." Washington has two prior records of the Magnificent and one other of a frigatebird not identified to species.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (5, 2). A subadult Brown Booby landed on a boat near Lopez Island, San Juan Co., on 21 Aug 2005 (BRBO-2005-1; AN, photo: JGr). A dead adult was found on Long Beach, Pacific Co., 27 Jan 2010 (2010-1; TF, photo: MPa, University of Washington Burke Museum 90275).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (11*, 5). Although this species was removed from the WBRC's review list in the fifth report, a handful of reports were voted on before this decision and never formally reported. They include the following: one photographed along Frenchman Hills Road, Grant Co., 21–30 May 1999 (WFIB-1999-1; SM, HO, BT, photo: GL); three videotaped near Othello, Adams Co., 27–28 May 2000 (2000-1; BLB, KK, video: SM); one at Kingston, Kitsap Co., 30 May–2 Jun 2000 (2000-2; VN, IP); one videotaped at Columbia NWR, Adams and Grant counties, 3 Jun 2000 (2000-3; DD, video: SM); and 24 at the Walla Walla River delta, Walla Walla Co., 9 May 2001(2001-1; MD, MLD, BT). In addition one report from State Route 28 near Wilson Creek, Grant Co., on 13 Jul 2000 was accepted as a White-faced/Glossy Ibis (WFIB/GLIB-2000-1; CE, MAT). The 2001 incursion of the White-faced Ibis into Washington, estimated at a minimum of 295 birds in May and June, was enough to prompt removal of the species from the review list. More recent incursions have been less massive, but the ibis has still occurred in the spring in most succeeding years (Tweit and Flores 2006).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) (41*, 1). An immature Red-shouldered Hawk observed at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., on 23 Sep 2007 (RSHA-2007-2; photo: SM) brought the state total to 41 records, 32 of them from 1998 to 2008, when the species was removed from the review list.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (18, 5). A juvenile at Hooper, Whitman Co., on 16 Sep 2007 (BWHA-2007-1; photo: MWo), a juvenile at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant Co., 9 Sep 2008 (2008-2; SM, BW), a juvenile at Washtucna, Adams Co., 12 Sep 2008 (2008-2; TL, photo: RaH), an adult along Taneum Road, Kittitas Co., 3 May 2009 (2009-1; TB), and a dark-morph juvenile caught at Chelan Ridge, Chelan Co., 28 Sep 2009 (2009-3; photo: HWI, fide SHa, KW) bring Washington's total to 18 records, though there are a number of reports that have not been reviewed, in particular from the Chelan Ridge raptor-migration site (www.hawkwatch.org/conservation-science/migration-research-sites/74-chelan-ridge-raptor-migration-project).

Eurasian Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) (4, 1). A juvenile Eurasian Dotterel north of Oysterville, Pacific Co., 12–13 Sep 2007 (EUDO-2007-1; KiB, photo: MFe) was the fourth recorded in Washington.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (31*, 5). The WBRC accepted five records: an adult male mostly in alternate plumage in Ellensburg, Kittitas Co., on 21 Aug 2003 (HUGO-2003-2; SD); an adult female mostly in alternate plumage at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish Co. on 26 Jul 2007 (2007-1; photo: TA); a female at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., on 26 May 2008 (2008-1; photos: MC, JMG); a molting adult at Tokeland, Pacific Co., on 3 Aug 2008 (2008-2; photo: BW); and a female at Sunlight Beach, Island Co., 27 May 2009 (2009-1; photo: RJM). These bring the state total to 31 records, 19 of them between 1999 and 2009. The Hudsonian Godwit was removed from the review list in 2010.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (51*, 4). An adult was photographed at Tokeland, Pacific Co., 15 Sep 2001 (BTGO-2001-4; NLF, PS, photo: RuS); an adult female was there 19–23 Jul 2007 (2007-7-1; photos: RJM, RuS, PS); a juvenile was in Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 14–15 Sep 2007 (2007-2; photo: TO); and a juvenile was at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor Co., 2 Oct 2007 (2007-3; photo: MBi). These brought the state total to 51 records (34 between 1998 and 2008) before the species was removed from the review list in 2008.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (25*, 2). Records of two at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 9 and 11 Sep 2007 (RUFF-2007-2; PK, photo: CWr) and one female at Boe Road near Port Susan Bay, Snohomish Co., 1–19 Dec 2007 (2007-4; photo: SM) bring Washington's total to 25 records between 1999 when the Ruff was added to the review list and 2008 when it was removed.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) (4, 2). Reconsideration of the report of an adult at Crockett Lake, Island Co., on 18 Jul 1993 (RNST-1993-1; SM) resulted in unanimous acceptance. The prior vote was 5–2–1 yes–no–abstain. At the time the committee was "waiting for a multiple-observer or exquisitely detailed single-person sight report, or (better) for photographic or specimen evidence, before accepting this species" (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). Another adult was at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 24 Jul 2009 (2009-1; photos: GT, BW; Figure 8).

Figure 8. Adult Red-necked Stint (RNST-2009-1) at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 24 July 2009. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) (16*, 3). Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Midway Beach, Pacific Co., on 25 Aug 2007 (BBSA-2007-1; photos: MvB, DnG); one was at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., on 11 Sep 2007 (2007-2; photo: CWr); five were on Fir Island and two were at Samish Flats, Skagit Co., also on 11 Sep 2007 (2007-3; photo: RJM). The WBRC accepted 16 records of this species (most, if not all, of juveniles) from 1999 to 2008 while it was being reviewed.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) (17, 3). Thick-billed Murres were found at Point No Point, Kitsap Co., on 12 Jan 2009 (TBMU-2009-1; VN), off Grays Harbor Co. on 25 Mar 2009 (2009-2; RJM), and near Protection Island, Clallam Co., on 14 Dec 2009 (2009-3; BLB, CWr, photo: JKu).

Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) (10, 2). Following the AOU's reclassification of the two subspecies of Xantus's Murrelet as species, Scripps's Murrelet (*S. scrippsi*) and Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*) (Chesser et al. 2012), the WBRC is reconsidering all Xantus's Murrelet reports, to confirm which can be confidently assigned to either of the new species.

Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*). One was 66 km west of Cape Alava, Clallam Co., on 8 Jul 2007 (SCMU-2007-1; GSM).

Scripps's/Guadalupe Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi/hypoleucus*). A murrelet of one of these two species was at least 32 km west of Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 7 Sep 2007 (SCMU/GUMU-2007-3; RJM).

Scripps's/Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi/craveri).* Two murrelets—either Scripps's or Craveri's—were 61 km west of La Push, Clallam Co., on 9 Jul 2007 (SCMU/CRMU-2007-2; GSM).

Parakeet Auklet (*Aethia psittacula*) (14*, 2). One was observed 18 km WSW of Cape Alava, Clallam Co., on the surprising date of 8 Jul 2007 (PAAU-2007-1; GSM). An additional 101 were observed, and many photographed, between 9 and 75 km off Washington's central and north coast, Clallam, Jefferson, and Grays Harbor counties, between 24 Mar and 8 Apr 2009 (2009-1; photos: RJM). Photographic documentation of Parakeet Auklets in these numbers, as well as unreviewed but reliable reports in other recent years from waters seldom explored at this time of year, precipitated this species' removal of from the review list. Oregon had 18 records of the Parakeet Auklet though 2010, and California had over 80 records before its committee discontinued reviewing the species.

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) (26, 6). One was at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., on 21 Jul 2007 (HOPU-2007-1; BLB, BT); an immature was south of Point of Arches, Clallam Co., on 5 Jun 2007 (2007-2; RJM, photo: RoH); an adult was near Quillayute Needles, Clallam/Jefferson Co., on 13 Jul 2007 (2007-3; RJM); one was near Smith Island, Island Co., 18 Aug 2007 (2007-4; photos: DaH, DoH); a dead bird (specimen not preserved) was at Midway Beach, Pacific Co., on 7 Aug 2009 (2009-1; photo: KeB); and an immature was at Grays Canyon, Grays Harbor Co., 26 Jun 2010 (2010-1; BSh, photos, BD, GSM).

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) (2, 1). Washington's second was an immature at the Yakima River Delta, Benton Co., briefly on 20 Jan 2008 (IVGU-2008-1; video: BW). California has two records, British Columbia nine, and Oregon none.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (16, 1). An adult was at Electric City, Grant Co., 29–31 Dec 2007 (BHGU-2007-2; DSc, photos: ASt, ESt, VG, LS). Although it was the 16th recorded in the state as a whole, it was the first found in eastern Washington.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) (7, 3). An adult was at Ruby Beach, Jefferson Co., on 10 May 1998 (LAGU-1998-1; photo: EF; Figure 9). Another was at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., on 24 Jul 2007 (2007-1; photo: GBe). A second-cycle bird at Point No Point, Kitsap Co., on 1 Jun 2008 (LAGU-2008-1; photo: VN) and then Port Susan Bay, Snohomish Co., on 7 Jun 2008 (SM) was inferred by the committee to represent the same individual, and just the second away from the outer coast.

Figure 9. Adult Laughing Gull (LAGU-1998-1) at Ruby Beach, Jefferson Co., 10 May 1998. *Photo by © Ed Findley.*

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) (5, 3). Adult Black-tailed Gulls were at Tatoosh Island, Clallam Co., on 18 Jun 2008 (BTGU-2008-1; TWo), the Walla Walla river delta, Walla Walla Co., on 29 Aug 2009 (2009-1; photos: MD, MLD), and at Tacoma, Pierce Co., 13 Oct–7 Nov 2009 (2009-2; MHo, CWr, photos: RiC, JeC, GT; Figure 10). These three records increase Washington's total to five, all since 2004.

Figure 10. Adult Black-tailed Gull (BTGU-2009-1) in Tacoma, Pierce Co., 22 October 2009. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) (14, 2). An adult Iceland Gull of subspecies *kumlieni* was at the Wallula Grain Station, Walla Walla Co., on 8 Mar 2009 (ICGU-2009-1; photos: MD, MLD) and a first-cycle bird, also *kumlieni*, was at Nisqually NWR, Thurston Co., on 10 Feb 2010 (2010-1; ST, photo: DR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (18, 6). New records include one adult at Rufus Woods Lake, Douglas Co., 30 Jan 2008 (LBBG-2008-1; photos: VG, LS); one adult at the Yakima River delta, Benton Co., 22 Jan 2008 (2008-2; photo: KeB); one adult at Clarkston, Asotin Co., 8–10 Nov 2008 (2008-3; photos: KC, TeG); an adult at Nelson Island near Richland, Benton Co., on 1 Jan 2009 (2009-1; BLF, NLF); an adult at the Walla Walla River delta, Walla Walla Co., 15 Jan 2009 (2009-2; photo: MD); and one more adult at Richland, Benton Co., 16 Jan 2010 (2010-1; photos: MD, MLD, DnG, TM). All 18 of Washington's Lesser Black-backed Gulls have occurred since 2000 and all but one have been found east of the Cascades.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (15, 4). A fourth-cycle Slaty-backed Gull was at the Cedar River mouth in Renton, King Co., on 28 Dec 2007 (SBGU-2007-2; photo: RJM). Three more were accepted from the fields along Wenzel Slough Road near Satsop, Grays Harbor Co.: an adult 9–17 Mar 2008 (2008-1; photos MPi, RuS,

Figure 11. Northern Hawk Owl (NHOW-2008-3) at Hart's Pass, Okanogan Co., 5 October 2008. Northern Hawk Owl text on following page. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

CWr), a third-cycle bird 11–17 Mar 2008 (2008-2; photo: MPi), and a second-cycle bird 11 Mar 2008 (2008-3; SF, photo: MPi).

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) (5, 2). One was at Crockett Lake, Island Co., on 16 Jul 2007 (LETE-2007-1; photo: SL), another at Everett, Snohomish Co., on 4 Jul 2008 (2008-1; KAa). All five of Washington's records fall between May and August.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) (21*, 2). Records of two at Ellensburg, Kittitas Co., 13 Apr 2007 (EUCD-2007-1; photo: DmB) and one at Battle Ground, Clark Co., 28 Jun–1 Aug 2007 (2007-2; photo: CK) were accepted before the removal of the species from the review list in 2008. Following the first state record in Spokane on 2 Jan 2000, the Eurasian Collared-Dove expanded rapidly. The first western Washington record came from Stanwood, Snohomish Co., on 9 Oct 2003. By April 2011, it had been recorded in all 39 of the state's counties, and it continues to increase in both range and population.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (9, 3). One was at Bennington Lake, Walla Walla Co., 14 Aug 2007 (WWDO-2007-1; photo: MLD), another at Vancouver, Clark Co., 20 Jun 2008 (2008-1; photo: SHg), and a third at Tokeland, Pacific Co., 31 May 2010 (2010-1; photo: AG).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) (26, 9). Records of the Northern Hawk Owl included one near Winthrop, Okanogan Co., 19 and 25 Jun 2007 (NHOW-2007-2; photo: VG, LS); one at Hart's Pass, Okanogan Co., 9 Sep 2007 (2007-3; photo: NM); one 1.6 km west of Grand Coulee, Grant Co., 31 Dec 2007–1 Jan 2008 (2007-5; photos: VG, LS, DSc); one at Cheney, Spokane Co., 30 Oct–1 Nov 2008 (2008-1; JuC, CCo, photos: BuD, KC); one at Tiffany Meadows, Okanogan Co., 12 Oct 2008 (2008-2; JDn); one at Hart's Pass, Okanogan Co., 27 Sep–18 Oct 2008 (2008-3; photo: GT; Figure 11); one 19 km west of Okanogan, Okanogan Co., 7–14 Dec 2008 (2008-4; GK); one near Mansfield, Douglas Co., 3–22 Feb 2009 (2009-1; MD, BT, photos: MPi, SPi, SSm); and one at Tatoosh Butte, Okanogan Co., 17–18 Jul 2009 (2009-2; photo: VG, LS). (See photo on previous page.)

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (9.1). An adult male visited a feeder in Mount Vernon, Skagit Co., on 16 May 2009 (COHU-2009-1; photo: TD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) (8, 2). One immature at Hood River Park in Walla Walla Co. on 7 Oct 2004 (YBSA-2004-2; MD, MLD) was at the same location that hosted a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker the previous winter (see Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008). An immature female was at Gingko State Park, Kittitas Co., on 14 Apr 2008 (YBSA-2008-3; MWe, photo: DSw).

Greater Pewee (*Contopus pertinax*) (1, 1). Washington's first Greater Pewee was found at Edmonds, Snohomish Co., the morning of 23 Nov 2008 (GRPE-2008-1; DD, CR). Despite being a sight record, the detailed description specified the overall coloration, prominent crest, bill shape, entirely orange lower mandible, and call note, eliminating the possibility of an Olive-sided Flycatcher or a wood-pewee. Records in California are concentrated between November and March and range as far north as Alameda and Santa Cruz counties in the San Francisco Bay area (Hamilton et al. 2007).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) (1, 1). Washington's first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was photographed at Windust Park, Franklin Co., on 30 Aug 2009 (YBFL-2009-1; CCo, JuC, photo: MWo; Figure 12). While initially identified as a Least Flycatcher in the field, subsequent analysis of a series of close, sharp photos led to the identification as the Yellow-bellied based on the yellowish throat, large, rounded head, short bill and tail, conspicuous rounded eye ring, and extensive greenish coloration including on the sides of the breast. Although no records have been accepted for Oregon, California has 29 records of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, all on dates from 27 Aug to 16 Oct.

Figure 12. Washington's first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (YBFL-2009-1) at Windust Park, Franklin Co., 30 August 2009. *Photo by © Michael Woodruff.*

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) (3, 1). An Alder Flycatcher singing at Havillah, Okanogan Co., 18–19 Jun 2006 (ALFL-2006-1; photo, audio: PS, RuS, photo: MWo) was at the same location as the Washington's first, also singing, four years prior.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) (15, 2). Black Phoebes were documented along Larkin Rd. near Midway Beach, Pacific Co., 7 May 2009 (BLPH-2009-1; TA) and on Mercer Island, King Co., 26 Mar 2010 (2010-1; photos: JoC, RiH, RJM), bringing the state total to 15 records.

Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*) (1, 1). The first Variegated Flycatcher for both Washington and western North America was at Windust Park, Franklin Co., 6–7 Sep 2008 (VAFL-2008-1; MD, MLD, CH, photos: RJM, SM;

Figure 13). The Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*), which has occurred on the west coast as far north as Arcata, California, was eliminated by the bird's overall small size and relatively small bill. The Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaius*), another austral migrant that has occurred in Texas and New Mexico, has a still smaller bill and lacks the rusty rump with large dusky streaks this Variegated Flycatcher showed. The dark crown, dark auriculars, and diffuse malar stripe were also consistent with the Variegated and not the Sulphur-bellied or Piratic. There are prior records of the Variegated Flycatcher from Maine, Tennessee, and Ontario, with the Washington record representing the first from the western half of the continent (Mlodinow and Irons 2009).

Figure 13. Washington's first Variegated Flycatcher (VAFL-2008-1) at Windust Park, Franklin Co., on 7 September 2008. *Photo by © Ryan J. Merrill.*

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (14, 3). One was near Mount Vernon, Skagit Co., 24 Nov–18 Dec 2008 (TRKI-2008-2; photo: RJM); one was at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., 24 Oct 2009 (2009-1; photo: GT); and one was recorded calling at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 12 Nov 2009 (2009-2; photo, audio: RJM).

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*) (21, 5). Birds accepted as either the Tropical or Couch's Kingbird include one at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 9 Nov 2003 (TRKI/COKI-2003-3; JN); one at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor Co., 29 Sep 2007 (2007-1; CSc); one at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 12 Oct 2007 (2007-2; photo: CWr); one at Marymoor Park, Redmond, King Co., 10 Oct 2007 (2007-3; photo: JTu); and one at Anacortes, Skagit Co., 24 Nov 2008 (2008-1; photo: DF). There are no definitive records of Couch's Kingbird in Washington, the nearest record being from Las Vegas, Nevada (January 2015; www.xeno-canto.org/species/Tyrannus-couchii).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (8, 1). One was near Gardiner, Clallam Co., 2–3 Jul 2007 (STFL-2007-1; photos: RJM, TO).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (3, 3). Washington's first Bell's Vireo was at Wylie Slough, Skagit Wildlife Area, Skagit Co., 27–28 Sep 2007 (BEVI-2007-1; KeB, SM). The initial review of this report was tabled in 2008, but in 2011 it was accepted unanimously. The second was at Washtucna, Adams Co., on 6 Sep 2008 (2008-1; DI, SM). A singing bird was at Sun Lakes State Park, Grant Co., 20 May 2009 (2009-1; BSc, DSc). All three birds had features in their descriptions consistent with subspecies *V. b. bellii*, but were not conclusively identified as such by the observers or the committee. Nearby, Oregon has two records, and Idaho has one record of Bell's Vireo (*Natl. Audubon Soc. Field Notes* 52:361, 1998; www.idahobirds.net/ibrc/reviewspecies/vireo_accentor.html#bevi).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) (6, 1). One was at Lyons Ferry, Franklin Co., on 7 Sep 2008 (BHVI-2008-1; DI, photo: SM).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) (5, 2). A Philadelphia Vireo was accepted from Washtucna, Adams Co., 20 Aug 2005 (PHVI-2005-1; BF), and another was at Hooper, Whitman Co., 3 Jun 2007 (2007-1; GS).

Lead-colored or Interior Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*) (1, 1). After adding the Interior Bushtit group (also known as the Lead-colored or Plumbeous Bushtit) to the list of subspecies it reviews in Washington in 2005, the WBRC received one report from the area where this subspecies is suspected to be resident. On 6 Apr 2009, four were observed near Moses Lake, Grant Co. The photos alone were not diagnostic of the subspecies group, but in combination with the description the documentation was sufficient to confirm it in our state (BUSH-2009-1; DSc). The closest location where nesting of this subspecies is known is in east-central Oregon (Marshall *et al.* 2003).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) (10, 1). One was at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., on 13 Sep 2008 (BGGN-2008-1; MBr).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) (10, 2). A Brown Thrasher was at Fort Walla Walla Natural Area, Walla Walla, Walla Walla Co., on 12 Jun 2008 (BRTH-2008-1; MD & MLD). Another was at Nisqually NWR, Thurston Co., on 10 Oct 2008 (2008-2; MLe).

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) (7, 2). A male in alternate plumage was associating with two Horned Larks at McChord Air Force Base, Pierce Co., on 15 May 2009 (CCLO-2009-1; RMo). Another male was at the Hoquiam sewage-treatment plant, Grays Harbor Co., 21–31 Oct 2009 (2009-2; DW, photos: RiH, GT).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) (19, 2). Ovenbirds at Ellenger Farm, Adams Co., on 4 Sep 2008 (OVEN-2008-1; BW) and Leadbetter Point, Pacific Co., 22 Oct 2008 (2008-2; photo: RJM) bring the state total to 19 records. Most of Washington's Ovenbirds have occurred during May or June, with only five being in the fall.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) (30, 3). One was at Washtucna, Adams Co., 14 Sep 2008 (BAWW-2008-1; BoS), one at Kent Ponds, King Co., 24 May 2009 (2009-1; photo: GO, OO), and one at Ridgefield, Clark Co., 30 Apr 2010 (2010-2; THi).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) (3, 1). A Prothonotary Warbler, either a first-year bird or an adult female, at Bateman Island, Benton Co., 10 Aug 2007 (PROW-2007-1; ARJ) was Washington's third.

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) (23, 6). One was at Washtucna, Adams Co., 15 Sep 2007 (TEWA-2007-2; MD); another was there 8 Sep 2008 (2008-1; DSc, photo: GT; Figure 14); one was at the Elwha River mouth, Clallam Co., 16 Nov 2008 (2008-2; SM, BW); one was at Montlake Fill, Seattle, King Co., 25 Aug 2009 (2009-1; CSi); one was at Theler Wetlands, Belfair, Mason Co., 15–16 Aug 2009 (2009-2; KeB); and one was at Vantage, Kittitas Co., 28 May 2010 (2010-1; SM).

Figure 14. Tennessee Warbler (TEWA-2008-1) at Washtucna, Adams Co., on 8 September 2008. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) (2, 1). The description of Washington's second Mourning Warbler, at Washtucna, Adams Co., on 25 Aug 2007 (MOWA-2007-1; SM, DSc) specified an even, thin eye ring broken only slightly in front and back of the eye, undertail coverts long in relation to the tail, and bright yellow in much of the throat, distinguishing this bird from the expected MacGillivray's Warbler (*G. tolmiei*). The extensively yellow throat indicated a hatch-year bird. Oregon has six records, Idaho two records, and California 146 through 2013.

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) (13, 2). A hatch-year female was at Washtucna, Adams Co., on 2 Sep 2009 (NOPA-2009-1; TA, photo: RJM). Another hatch-year female was in the Sooes River valley, Clallam Co., 17 Sep 2009 (2009-2; BT). Six of Washington's 13 records have been during the fall, six during the summer, and the first, in 1975, was in winter.

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) (20, 7). Records of the Magnolia Warbler include one at Biscuit Ridge, Walla Walla Co., 29 May 2005 (MAWA-2005-2; CWr); one at Bowerman Basin, Grays Harbor Co., 8 Sep 2007 (2007-1; MM); one at Nahcotta, Pacific Co., 27 Jun 2008 (2008-1; JGi); one at Washtucna, Adams Co., 10 Sep 2008 (2008-3; photo: TK; Figure 15); another there 21 Sep 2008 (2008-2; SM); a hatch-year female at Lynnwood, Snohomish Co., 3 Sep 2009 (2009-1; photo: KM); and two at Lacey, Thurston Co., 22 Nov 2009 (2009-2; JDl, AW).

Figure 15. Magnolia Warbler (MAWA-2008-3) at Washtucna, Adams Co., on 10 September 2008. *Photo by © Ted Kenefick.*

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) (2, 1). Washington's second Bay-breasted Warbler, the first to be photographed, was a singing male near Chehalis, Lewis Co., 5 Jun–8 Jul 2006 (BBWA-2006-1; RKo, photos: KeB, KT). California has more than 300 records, Oregon 11, and Idaho three.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) (6, 2). A male Blackburnian Warbler was at Confluence State Park, Chelan Co., 19 May 2007 (BLBW-2007-1; DMa, JeP, GR). Another, in its first year, was at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant Co., 29 Aug 2009 (2009-1; SM, CWr).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) (21, 3). The WBRC accepted records of single Chestnut-sided Warblers from Ocosta, Grays Harbor Co., on 14 Aug 2008 (CSWA-2008-2; TA, photo: RJM) and Washtucna, Adams Co., on 8 Sep 2008 (2008-1; RJM, SM, BW) and 21 Sep 2008 (2008-3; photo: SM). All but six of Washington's records are for June or July.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) (27, 6). New records of the Blackpoll Warbler included one at Vancouver Lake, Clark Co., 13 Sep 2007 (BLPW-2007-3; TA);

one at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant Co., 2 Sep 2008 (2008-1; BW); one at Washtucna, Adams Co., 3 Sep 2008 (2008-2; photo: RaH); another one there 7 Sep 2008 (2008-3; RaH); one at Lyons Ferry Park, Franklin Co., 8-11 Sep (2008-4; TA, photos: RJM, SM); and a singing male at Sun Lakes State Park, Grant Co., 24 May 2009 (2009-1; photo: DSc). These bring the state total to 27 records, all but three of which have come from eastern Washington, and all but three of which have been in the fall.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) (9, 2). A female was at Wapato, Yakima Co., 16–17 Oct 2005 (BTBW-2005-1; ASt, ESt, photo: DnG) and another female was at College Place, Walla Walla Co., 8–11 Nov 2007 (2007-1; photo: MD, MLD), bringing the state total to nine records.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) (2, 1). Washington's first recorded Yellow-throated Warbler frequented suet feeders and apples in Twisp, Okanogan Co., 8 Dec 2001–23 Jan 2002 (YTWA-2001-1; RMu, photo, video: SM, photo: RuS). A second, later record, from Asotin Co. in 2003 was discussed in the seventh report of the WBRC (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008). There are eight records for Oregon, four for Idaho, and more than 150 for California.

Red Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca/zaboria*) (13*, 6). The six records accepted in this period are of one at Harrington, Lincoln Co., 22 Sep 2007 (RFSP-2007-1; photo: TM); one at Yakima, Yakima Co., 16 Dec 2008 (2008-1; ASt, photo: MRo); one at Redmond, King Co., 31 Dec 2008–2 Jan 2009 (2008-2; MHo, JaP, TP, photo: AL); one at Fall City, King Co., 18 Nov 2009 (2009-3; TA); one at Yakima, Yakima Co., 16 Dec 2009 (2009-4; photo: DnG); and one at South Prairie, Pierce Co., 22 Jan 2010 (2010-1; CWr). These bring Washington's total to 13 records of this subspecies group since it was added to the review list in 2004.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheuticus ludovicianus*) (53*, 14). The 14 records accepted were of an adult male at Robinson Gulch, Kittitas Co., 9 Jun 1990 (RBGR-1990-3; NH); an adult male at Quilcene, Jefferson Co., 1 May 2008 (2008-1; BeS, photo: MAS); an adult male at Arlington, Snohomish Co., 17 Jun 2008 (2008-2; photo: DoB); an adult male at Kent, King Co., 5 Jul 2008 (2008-3; photo: DSt); an adult male at Long Beach, Pacific Co., 21 Jun 2008 (2008-4; CWh, photo: SWh); one in basic plumage at Lind Coulee, Grant Co., 20 Sep 2008 (2008-5; SM); another in basic plumage at Gig Harbor, Pierce Co., 10 Nov 2008 (2008-6; photo: CSm); one in basic plumage at Sequim, Clallam Co., 21 Dec 2008 (2008-7; TCu); a first-winter male at Suncrest, Stevens Co., 21 Feb 2009 (2009-1; photo: MWo); an adult male at Elk, Spokane Co., 13 May 2009 (2009-2; photo: MWo); an adult male at Brooks Memorial State Park, Klickitat Co., 6 Jun 2009 (2009-3; photo: DE); an adult male near Blanchard, Skagit Co., 23 Jun 2009 (2009-4; photo: MSD); an adult male at Chewelah, Stevens Co., 7 Jul 2010 (2010-1; photo: KaB); and an adult male at Bonney Lake, Pierce Co., 26 Mar–4 Apr 2010 (2010-2; VB, photo: GT). With 53 records, 36 of them between 2000 and 2010, the committee removed the Rose-breasted Grosbeak from its review list in 2011.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) (28, 9). The nine Indigo Buntings accepted include a female near George, Grant Co., 18 Aug 2007 (INBU-2007-2; GG, BW); an adult male at Point No Point, Kitsap Co., 4 Jun 2008 (2008-1; photo: BW), an adult male at North Auburn, King Co., 6 Jun 2008 (2008-2; photo: KAn); an adult male at Coppei Creek, Walla Walla Co., 5–11 Jun (2008-3; photo: RJM); a hatch-year bird at Juanita Bay, King Co., 15 Nov 2008 (2008-4; photo: RJM); an adult male at Kennewick, Benton Co., 1–2 May 2009 (2009-2; ToG, RW, photo: SPe); an adult male at Three Forks Park, Fall City, King Co., 10 Jun–9 Aug 2009 (2009-3; photos: RJM, GT); an adult male near Carson, Skamania Co., 21 Jun 2009 (2009-4; WC, photo: MvB); and a male, most likely in its second year, at Corkindale Creek, Skagit Co., 19 Jun–12 Jul 2009 (2009-5; photo: RJM).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) (6, 1). A Dickcissel at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 31 Oct 2008 (DICK-2008-1; photo: BT) was the sixth recorded in Washington.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) (18, 2). Adult males were at Toppenish, Yakima Co., 20 Dec 2009 (COGR-2009-1; ASt) and Burien, King Co., 25 Apr 2010 (2010-1; photo: JKa). Both birds appeared to be of the subspecies *versicolor*.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) (8, 4). Two were 8 km northeast of Wallula, Walla Walla Co., 15 Jul 2007 (GTGR-2007-1; photo: MD, MLD); one was at Newhalem, Whatcom Co., 19–23 Jun 2007 (2007-2; RKu, photos: PDB, RJM), one was at Sprague Lake, Lincoln Co., 17 May 2009 (2009-1; photo: GO, OO); and one was at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 2 Jun 2010 (2010-1; JDz). All were males.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) (6, 3). New Orchard Oriole records were of one at Samish Island, Skagit Co., 6–7 Nov 2007 (ORORR-2007-1; HA, photo: LD, MSD), one at the Wa'atch River, Clallam Co., 9 Sep 2009 (2009-2; CWr, photo: RJM), and a hatch-year bird at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., 22–27 Oct 2009 (2009-1; photos: RiH, GT, IU; Figure 16).

Figure 16. Hatch-year Orchard Oriole (ORORR-2009-1) at the Hoquiam sewage-treatment plant, Grays Harbor Co., 24 October 2009. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) (14, 1). Two male Hoary Redpolls at Muskrat Lake, Okanogan Co., on 24 Dec 2007 (HORE-2007-1; MFl, SSc) represent Washington's 14th record.

Reports Not Accepted by the Committee—Identification Uncertain

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (18*, 6). The brief description of a bird at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., on 30 Apr 2010 (TUDU-2010-4) suggested this species but also included aspects inconsistent with the Tufted Duck, including the bill described as "dark brown."

Smew (*Mergus albellus*) (3, 0). A report of two females at Bainbridge Island, Kitsap Co., on 5 Oct 2008 (SMEW-2008-1) failed to eliminate the Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*), among other much more likely species.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) (3, 0). Loons reported from Point No Point, Kitsap Co., on 14 Feb 2008 (ARLO-2008-1) and Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., on 18 Jan 2009 (2009-1), were seen too distantly and described insufficiently to convince the committee they were the Arctic. The Arctic Loon remains one of the more difficult species to document definitively without photographic support.

Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (8, 3). A report from off Edmonds, Snohomish Co., on 27 Nov 2009 (MOPE-2009-4) coincided with the same day's report of the same species off Kitsap Co., which the committee accepted. While the bird may have been the same as the one seen off Kitsap Co. only two hours earlier and 16 km southeast, the details were not sufficient for acceptance.

Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) (0, 0). While the report of a Streaked Shearwater about 37 km off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., on 23 Aug 2008 (STRS-2008-1) suggested that species, the observer did not see the face, bill, or underwing and was less than certain of the species in part because of the possibility of an aberrant Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*).

Ashy Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) (2, 1). A sighting off Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., on 1 May 2010 (ASSP-2010-1) was too brief to eliminate other species of dark-rumped storm petrels.

California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) (1, 0). The report from South Prairie, Pierce Co., on 29 Dec 2009 (CACO-2009-1) was insufficiently detailed. Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) (0, 0). A report from Race Lagoon, Whidbey Island, Island Co., on 31 Aug 2008 (HASH-2008-1) failed to be accepted, both because some committee members were not convinced the description ruled out other raptors and because Harris's Hawk is common in falconry, raising the question of wild origin. Harris's Hawk remains unrecorded in neighboring Idaho or Oregon.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (18, 5). A report of one at Ridgefield, Clark Co., on 21 Apr 2009 (BWHA-2009-2) did not eliminate the Red-shouldered Hawk.

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) (0, 0). The report of a Zone-tailed Hawk from the bridge of Highway 12 over the Satsop River, Grays Harbor Co., on 18 Dec 2008 (ZTHA-2008-1) failed to consider a dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk (*B. lagopus*) or Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis harlani*).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) (31*, 5). Photos of a godwit from Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 22 Aug 2009 (HUGO-2009-2) lacked any accompanying description and on their own failed to eliminate the Black-tailed Godwit (*L. limosa*).

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (51*, 4). In its previous summaries, the WBRC overlooked a report not accepted from Bridgeport, Douglas Co., 5 Aug 1996 (BTGO-1996-1).

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (7, 0). A report from Luhr Beach, Thurston Co., on 27 Aug 2004 (LBMU-2004-1) was not accepted in a 2006 meeting because of insufficient details.

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) (26, 6). A possible immature Horned Puffin off Westport, Grays Harbor Co. (HOPU-2008-1) was seen briefly in the distance, and the details reported were insufficient to convince the committee.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (9, 2). A report from Peone Prairie near Mead, Spokane Co., on 18 Oct 2008 (WWDO-2008-2 failed to eliminate the Eurasian Collared-Dove.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) (26, 9). A report from Seattle, King Co., 30 Nov 2007 (NHOW-2007-4) was short on details.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (1, 0). The description of a supposed adult male Allen's Hummingbird at Deer Lake, Island Co., on 11 May 2009 (ALHU-2009-1) fit a Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*) better.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) (8, 2). A report from Moses Lake, Grant Co., on 12 Sep 2004 (YBSA-2004-1) was considered at two meetings but ultimately not accepted. A report from 16 km west of Eatonville, Pierce Co., on 9 Apr 2008 (2008-1) failed to address the Red-naped Sapsucker (*S.nuchalis*). A reported second Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with the one accepted at Ginkgo State Park, Kittitas Co., on 14 Apr 2008 was only seen briefly, and no photos or detailed descriptions were possible (2008-2).

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) (3, 0). A report of a Crested Caracara from Marymoor Park, Redmond, King Co., on 11 Jul 2009 (CRCA-2009-1) did not persuasively eliminate the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) (3, 1). A report of an Alder Flycatcher calling but not singing at Kettle Falls, Ferry Co., 7 Jun 2004 (ALFL-2004-1) was not accepted. A reported Alder Flycatcher near Clarkston, Asotin Co., on 11 Jun 2008 (2008-1) was well described, but the vocalization was heard only briefly and the committee was reluctant to accept the report without a longer interaction.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) (7, 0). In reviewing historical reports, the committee declined to accept the reports of the Eastern Phoebe in Washington published in Bent (1942) (EAPH-0000-1). Three sight reports are mentioned, from Camas, Clark Co., Yakima, Yakima Co., and Pullman, Whitman Co. No specimens were collected, and no dates were reported. These reports probably referred to Say's Phoebe (*S. saya*).

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*) (21, 5). The date of a report from Discovery Park, Seattle, King Co., 9 June 1999 (TRKI/COKI-1999-1) implies the bird was a Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (8, 1). Though closely following the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher accepted from the same county on 15 May 2003 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008), the report from Silica Road, Grant Co., 17 May 2003 (STFL-2003-2) was insufficiently detailed.

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) (6, 1). A vireo, reported as a Blue-headed Vireo, at Windust Park, Franklin Co., on 8 Sep 2008 (BHVI-2008-2) was seen too briefly for the subtle color differences necessary for this difficult identification to be noted.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) (5, 2). A report from Washtucna, Adams Co., 25 May 2007 (PHVI-2007-2) included a photo and description yet did not rule out a bright Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*). Another bird reported from the same locality on 31 May 2008 (2008-1) was well-described but not convincingly enough to rule out alternatives to the Philadelphia Vireo. A 30 Aug 2008 report from Washougal, Clark Co. (2008-2), did not convincingly rule out other vireos.

Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*) (0, 0). Written details of a Wrentit reported from the Montlake Fill in Seattle, King Co., 22 Aug 2007 (WREN-2007-1) were inadequate for a species unknown in Washington.

Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) (0, 0). A brief report from Edmonds, Snohomish Co., on 27 Dec 2007 (CRMY-2007-1) did not eliminate other species of mynas, any of which presumably would have been an escapee. An introduced population of the Crested Myna persisted on Vancouver Island from the late 1800s

until 2003 (Self 2003). Scattered, undocumented reports of this species in Washington over the years possibly represented birds dispersing from British Columbia, though the WBRC has reviewed no previous reports (Mattocks et al. 1976).

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) (1, 0). The report of an adult male from Mill Creek, Snohomish Co., on 31 Jul and 5 Aug 2009 (PHAI-2009-1) was insufficient for acceptance.

McKay's Bunting (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) (3, 0). A reported McKay's Bunting along Cameron Lake Road, Okanogan Co., on 17 Feb 2008 (MKBU-2008-1) was tantalizing but was seen too distantly for a pale male Snow Bunting (*P. nivalis*) to be ruled out.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*) (0, 0). A report from Tacoma, Pierce Co., on 13 Jul 2005 (WEWA-2005-1) was more likely of another species. Neither the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) nor wrens were ruled out by the details provided.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) (30, 4). A report from Mercer Island, King Co., 22 Jun 1992 (BAWW-1992-2) was not accepted by the committee in 1994 but the decision was inadvertently never published. A report from the north side of Stacker Butte, Klickitat Co., 21 May 2010 (2010-1) failed to eliminate the Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) convincingly. A song apparently of a Black-and-white Warbler was heard along Tieton Road, Yakima Co., on 20 Jun 2010 (2010-3). Concerns regarding another species of warbler singing an aberrant song prevented the committee from endorsing this report.

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) (23, 6). A report from Sentinel Gap, Grant Co., on 1 Sep 2007 (TEWA-2007-3) raised concerns about the distance to the bird as well as inconsistencies in the described plumage and call note.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) (27, 6). Details of Blackpoll Warblers reported from Spokane, Spokane Co., on 14 Oct 2001 (BLPW-2001-1) and from Vantage, Kittitas Co., on 9 Oct 2005 (2005-4) were inadequate.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) (9, 2). The description of a male at Silver Lake, Cowlitz Co., on 9 Apr 2008 (BTBW-2008-1) lacked detail sufficient for acceptance.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (11, 0). A report of a male Lark Bunting in alternate plumage from Columbia NWR, Grant Co., on 17 Aug 2008 (LARB-2008-1) did not eliminate other species, and the described plumage seemed unlikely for the season. The description of a female at Ross Lake, Whatcom Co., 8 Jun 2010 (2010-1) was not adequate to establish the identity of the species, and it was unclear whether the bird was definitely in Washington or remained on the Canadian side of the border.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) (28, 9). Distant and backlit photos, unaccompanied by a written description filling in the gaps, were not sufficient to rule out a hybrid Lazuli × Indigo Bunting for a bird observed at Long Swamp, Okanogan Co, 13 JW 2009 (INBU-2009-6).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) (6, 1). The description of a Dickcissel reported at the Montlake Fill in Seattle, King Co., on 18 Apr 2009 (DICK-2009-1) had several inconsistencies with that identification, including apparent size.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) (4, 0). The report of one in Sequim, Clallam Co., on 24 May 2006 (BAOR-2006-1) didn't eliminate an aberrantly plumaged Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Concerns about the detailed description of the wings of a bird in flight and about the viewing conditions prevented a report of one at Wanapum State Park, Kittitas Co., on 28 May 2006 (2006-2) from being

accepted. The description of a bird in Bothell, King Co., on 16 May 2009 (2009-1) fit a Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) much better than a Baltimore Oriole. The report of one from Richland, Benton Co., on 21 Jul 2009 (2009-2) included insufficient detail.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) (14, 1). A report from Seattle, King Co., 30 Dec 2001 (HORE-2001-2) was not accepted by the committee in 2002, but the decision was inadvertently never published. A report from Lake Padden, Whatcom Co., 9 Jan 2008 (2008-1) more likely represented a Common Redpoll (*A. flammea*).

Reports Not Accepted by the Committee—Identification Certain, Origin Unknown

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) (0, 0). As mentioned in the introduction, in 2011 the WBRC removed this species from the Washington list after concluding that American Black Ducks of wild origin have not been convincingly shown to have occurred in the state. Particularly for recent reports, escapees from captivity are far more likely. The committee continues to evaluate reports, however, first considering the species' identity, then separately voting on the question of origin. It recognized these four reports as representing American Black Duck but did not accept them because of uncertain origins: single females at Juanita Bay, Kirkland, King Co., 1 Oct 2007 (ABDU-2007-2) and 1 Aug–18 Oct (likely the same bird returning; 2008-2); one at Stanwood, Snohomish Co., 10 Nov 2007 (2007-1); one at Port Susan Bay, Snohomish Co., 4 May 2008 (2008-1). Subsequently, a Woodinville breeder informed the committee that many free-flying American Black Ducks had escaped his ponds in recent years.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) (0, 0). While the details of a report near Rochester, Thurston Co., 26 Aug 2008 (COGD-2008-1) seemed to confirm a Common Ground-Dove, the bird appeared tame, so the committee refrained from adding this species to the state list on the basis of this report.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) (0, 0). Photographs of a female in Vancouver, Clark Co., on 28 Apr 2009 (NOCA-2009-1) left no doubt about the bird's identity. As with other sightings of Northern Cardinal, the committee continues to wrestle with the question of origin. Sufficient doubt remains over the origin in Washington of any Northern Cardinal, a species regularly kept in captivity, that the committee has thus far not endorsed any reports.

CORRECTIONS

A review of previously published reports, aided to a large extent by Laurie Knittle of Washington Birder (wabirder.com), has uncovered a number of unintentional errors published in previous WBRC reports.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*). "Alan Grenon" is the correct spelling for one of the observers of Washington's third recorded Smew (SMEW-1993-1), not "Alan Grinnon" as originally published in the WBRC's second report (Tweit and Skriletz 1996:27).

Mountain Plover *(Charadrius montanus).* Washington's third recorded Mountain Plover (MOPL-2000-1), was at Fort Canby State Park, Pacific Co., from 22 Dec 2000 to 26 Jan 2001, not 1999–2000 as originally written (Aanerud 2002:7).

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). The 18 Oct 2005 observation at Tulalip Bay, Snohomish Co. (BTGO-2005-6) was reported by Maxine Reid, not M. Bacon as published (Aanerud 2011:40).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). The second-year bird at Sun Lakes, Grant Co. (LBBG-2004-2) was present from 8 to 14 Oct 2004, not 2005 as originally written (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008:30).

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). The 2004 observation from Diamond Point (EUCD-2004-1) was in Clallam Co., not Jefferson Co. as published (Modinow and Aanerud 2008:31–32).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). Cypress Island, site of Washington's second White-winged Dove, 19 Jul 1997 (WWDO-1997-1), is in Skagit Co., not Island Co. (Aanerud 2002:11).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*). Bridgeport, site of NHOW-1982-1, is in Douglas Co., not Okanogan Co. (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997:23).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*). One at Davenport Cemetery, Lincoln Co. 26 Sep 2004 (BTBW-2004-1) was a male, not a female as published by Mlodinow and Aanerud (2008:36–37).

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). The report of Washington's first Painted Bunting, from 10 Feb to 2 Mar 2002 (PABU-2002-1), should have included Rachel Lawson as the initial reporter and photographer (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006:48–49).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the following people for advice and comments. WBRC committee members: Kevin Aanerud, Tom Aversa, Phil Mattocks, Steve Mlodinow, Dennis Paulson, Doug Schonewald, Bob Sundstrom, Bill Tweit, Brad Waggoner, Charlie Wright. Outside comments, advice, and support from Joseph Buchanan, Alan Contreras, Jon Dunn, Dan Gibson, Steve Heinl, Laurie Knittle, Penny Rose, and Dan Stephens.

In addition, our thanks to the following observers for contributing their records of birds for our consideration: Kevin Aanerud (KAa), Jim Acton (JA), Kathy Andrich (KAn), Howard Armstrong (HA), Tom Aversa (TA), Dimitri Bader (DmB), Donne Bates (DoB), Geert Beckers (GBe), Brian Bell (BB), Vicki Biltz (VB), Michael Bishop (MBi), Gary Bletsch (GBl), Keith Brady (KeB), Marv Breece (MvB), Kirsten Brennan (KiB), Marc Breuninger (MBr), Kat Brooks (KaB), Tayler Brooks (TB), Trudy Cadman (TCa), Wilson Cady (WC), Robin Cameron (RoC), Keith Carlson (KC), Richard Carlson (RiC), Michael Carmody (MC), Jeff Cohen (JeC), Joe Conforti (JoC), Craig Corder (CCo), Judy Corder (JuC), Bryan Crawford (BC), Corrinne Crawford (CCr), Tim Cullinan (TCu), Lee Dallas (LD), Mary Sue Dallas (MSD), John Danielson (JDn), Jim Danzenbaker (JDz), Paul DeBruyn (PDB), Jacinda Denison (JDe), MerryLynn Denny (MLD), Mike Denny (MD), Tom Derrer (TD), Joe Dlugo (JDl), B. Doe (BD), Buck Domitrovich (BuD), Bill Dowd (BiD), Scott Downes (SD), Dennis Duffy (DD), Carolyn Eagan (CE), Donna Enz (DE), Marie Fernandez (MFe), Eddie Findley (EF), Shawneen Finnegan (SF), Michael Fleming (MFl), Tracy Fleming (TF), Bob Flores (BF), Dave Freriks (DF), George Gerdts (GG), Jeff Gilligan JGi), Victor Glick (VG), Andrea Grad (AG), Denny Granstrand (DnG), Terry Gray (TeG), Tony Greagor (ToG), David Green (DaG), John Grettenberger (JGr), John Gunningham (JGu), Arden Hagen (AH), Sherry Hagen (SHg), Nita Hamilton (NH), Paul Hansen (PH), Todd Hass (THa), Shawn Hawks (SHa), HawkWatch International (HWI), Carl Haynie (CH), David Henderson (DaH), Donna Henderson (DoH), Rick Hibpshman (RiH), Tyler Hicks (THi), Marcia High (MHi), Randy Hill (RaH), Michael Hobbs (MHo), Rob Hollingshead (RoH), Terry Hunefeld (THu), Eugene Hunn (EH), David Irons (DI), Jonathan Isacoff (JI), Joel Jakabosky (JJ), Austin Ray Johnson (ARJ), Karen Johnson (KJ), Anne Kahle (AKa), Joanne Kauffman (JKa), Ted Kenefick (TK), Gordon Kent (GK), Ken Knittle (KK), Steve Kohl (SK), Anna Kopitov (AKo), Russ Koppendrayer (RKo), Penny Koyama (PK), James Kralovic (JKr), Elise Kreiss (EK), David Krueper (DK), Christy Kuhlman (CK), Jan Kummet (JKu), Robert Kuntz (RKu), Bruce LaBar

(BLB), Bill LaFramboise (BLF), Nancy LaFramboise (NLF), Greg Lasley (GL), Anne Lawrence (AL), Rachel Lawson (RL), Kyle Leader (KL), Carol Ledford (CLe), Martha Lee (MLe), Terry Little (TL), Susan Littlefield (SL), Chet Lowry (CLo), Mike Lundstrom (MLu), Kevin Mack (KM), Tom Mansfield (TM), Mike Marsh (MM), Dick Martin (DMa), Nick Mason (NM), Jean McGregor (JMG), Paul Menzel (PM), Ryan J. Merrill (RJM), G. Scott Mills (GSM), Steve Mlodinow (SM), Dianna Moore (DMo), Randy Moore (RMo), Jim Morris (JMo), Richard Murray (RMu), Jeremy Nance (JN), Vic Nelson (VN), Anna Nousek (AN), Tim O'Brien (TO), Grace Oliver (GO), Ollie Oliver (OO), Hal Opperman (HO), Jeff Parsons (JeP), Mike Patterson (MPa), Jackie Paul (JaP), Tom Paul (TP), Ian Paulsen (IP), Dennis Paulson (DP), Scott Peterson (SPe), Matthew Pike (MPi), Steve Pink (SPi), Jim Pruske (JPr), Alan D. Rammer (AR), Moira K. Ray (MRa), Maxine Reid (MRe), David Richardson (DR), Carol Riddell (CR), Randy Robinson (RR), Patti Rogers (PRo), Gretchen Rohde (GR), Mike Roper (MRo), Bob Russell (BR), Patricia Rutherford (PRu), Stefan Schlick (SSc), Barb Schonewald (BSc), Doug Schonewald (DSc), Libby Schreiner (LS), Carol Schulz (CSc), Adam Sedgley (ASe), Ryan Shaw (RSh), Bill Shelmerdine (BSh), Gina Sheridan (GS), Connie Sidles (CSi), Carol Smith (CSm), Stuart Smith (SSm), Bob Stallcop (BoS), Ben Stamper (BeS), Mary Ann Stamper (MAS), Andy Stepniewski (ASt), Ellen Stepniewski (ES), Dan Streiffert (DSt), Patrick Sullivan (PS), Ruth Sullivan (RuS), Rob Suryan (RoS), Dave Swayne (DSw), Gregg Thompson (GT), Mary Anne Thorbeck (MAT), Shep Thorp (ST), Rick Toochin (RT), Khanh Tran (KT), John Trochet (JTr), John Tubbs (JTu), Bill Tweit (BT), Igor Uhrovic (IU), Brad Waggoner (BW), Terry Wahl (TWa), Art Wang (AW), Doug Watkins (DW), Wayne Weber (WW), Regan Weeks (RW), Mike West (MWe), Jim White (JW), Chuck Whittey (CWh), Suzy Whittey (SWh), Isadora Wong (IW), Paul Woodcock (PW), Kent Woodruff (KW), Michael Woodruff (MWo), Tim Wootton (TWo), Charlie Wright (CWr).

LITERATURE CITED

Aanerud, K. R. 2011. Eighth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 11:35–55.

Aanerud, K. R. 2002. Fifth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 8:1–18.

Aanerud, K. R., and Mattocks, P. W. Jr. 1997. Third report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 6:7–31.

Aanerud, K. R., and Mattocks, P. W. Jr. 2000. Fourth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 7:7–24.

Bent, A. C. 1942. *Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies*. U.S. National Museum Bulletin. 179.

Browne, R. A., Anderson, D. J., Houser, J .N., Cruz, F., Glasgow, K. J., Hodges, C. N., and Massey, G. 1997. Genetic diversity and divergence of endangered Galapagos and Hawaiian petrel populations. *Condor* 99:812–815.

Chesser, R. T., Banks, R .C., Barker, F. K., Cicero, C., Dunn, J. L., Kratter, A. W., Lovette, I. J., Rasmussen, P. C., Remsen, J. V. Jr., Rising, J. D., Stotz, D. F., and Winker, K. 2012. Fifty-third supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 129:573–588.

Feltner, T. B., Hunn, E. S., Mattocks, P. W. Jr., Paulson, D. R., Skriletz, J., Sundstrom, R. A., and Wahl, T. R. 1989. Check-list of Washington Birds. *Washington Birds* 1:1–5.

Fenneman, J. 2011. Checklist of the Birds of British Columbia; www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/documents/BCBirdChecklistJan2011.pdf

Fenneman, J. 2012. *Oceanodroma homochroa* (Coues), Ashy Storm-Petrel, Family: Hydrobatidae, in E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia (B. Klinkenberg, ed.). Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Dept. Geogr.,

Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver; linnet.geog.ubc.ca/efauna/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Oceanodroma%20homochroa.
Force, M. P., Webb, S. W., and Howell, S. N. G. 2007. Identification at sea of Hawaiian and Galapagos petrels. *Western Birds* 38:242–248.
Gibson, D. D., Heinl, S. C., Tobish, T. G. 2003. Report of the Alaska Checklist Committee, 1997–2002. *Western Birds* 34:122–132.
Gibson, D. D., and Withrow, J. J. 2015. Inventory of the species and subspecies of Alaska birds, second edition. *Western Birds* 46:94–185.
Hamilton, R. A., Patten, M. A., and Erickson, R. A. (eds.). 2007. *Rare Birds of California*. W. Field Ornithol., Camarillo, CA.
Howell, S. N. G. 2012. *Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America: A Photographic Guide*. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ.
Marshall, D. B., Hunter, M. G., and Contreras, A. L. 2003. *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*. Univ. of Oregon Press, Corvallis.
Mattocks, Jr. P.W., Hunn, E.S., and Wahl, T.R. 1976. A checklist of the birds of Washington State with recent changes annotated. *Western Birds* 7:1–24.
Mlodinow, S. G. and Aanerud, K. R. 2006. Sixth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 9:39–54.
Mlodinow, S. G. and Aanerud, K. R. 2008. Seventh report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 10:21–47.
Mlodinow, S. G., and Irons, D. S. 2009. First record of the Variegated Flycatcher for western North America. *Western Birds* 40:47–50.
Nehls, H. (ed.). 2015. Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee through April 2015. Oregon Bird Records Committee; www.orbirds.org/obrcrecords-may2015.pdf.
Self, B. 2003. Vancouver Crested Mynas gone. *Winging It* 15:7.
Tomkins, R. J., and Milne, B. J. 1991. Differences among Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) populations within the Galapagos Archipelago. *Notornis* 38:1–35.
Toochin, R., Fenneman, J., and Levesque, P. compilers. 2014. British Columbia rare bird list: Casual and accidental records. January 1, 2014: 3rd ed. E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia; ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/documents/BCRareBirdListVersionXZABC.pdf.
Tweit, B., and Flores, B. 2006. White-faced Ibis in Washington in 2001: A significant incursion and attempted breeding. *Washington Birds* 9:1–7.
Tweit, B., and Paulson, D. R. 1994. First report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 3:11–41.
Tweit. B., and Skriletz, J. 1996. Second report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 5:7–28.
Wahl, T. R., Tweit, B., and Mlodinow, S. G., eds. 2005. *Birds of Washington*. Oregon State Univ. Press, Corvallis.

Accepted 28 June 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TENTH REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (2010–2013)

This report appeared first in *Western Birds* 47:86-119, 2016, and is reprinted with the permission of *Western Birds*.

STEVEN G. MLODINOW, 530 Peregrine Circle, Longmont, Colorado 80504; SGMlod@aol.com

MATT BARTELS, 611 N 50th St., Seattle, Washington 98103; mattxyz@earthlink.net

ABSTRACT: Since its ninth report (Merrill and Bartels 2015) the Washington Bird Records Committee has reviewed 352 reports representing 97 species and seven subspecies. A total of 280 reports were endorsed, an acceptance rate of 80%. Ten species were added to the Washington state list: the Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Wilson's Plover (*C. wilsonia*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*), Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*), Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens)*, McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*), Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), and Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*); as well as four subspecies: the Vega Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*), Eastern Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla ruficapilla*), Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* group), and Eastern Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus purpureus*). The Washington state list now stands at 507 species.

This 10th report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) is the result of evaluation of 352 records of 97 species and 7 subspecies from February 2011 through October 2013. Most records were from 2010 into 2013, though 42 were from earlier years; 15 reports had been reviewed by the committee previously but were revisited in light of recent taxonomic changes. Of the 352 reports, 280 were accepted, resulting in an acceptance rate of 80%. Six reports, four of the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and two of the Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), were not accepted because of concerns regarding origin, the remaining 66 because of insufficient documentation. Among the accepted records were those of eight species new for Washington: the Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*), Wilson's Plover (*C. wilsonia*), Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*), Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), and Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*). Furthermore, the split of Xantus's Murrelet resulted in its being replaced by both Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*) and the Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*). Additionally, the WBRC accepted first records of four subspecies new to Washington: the Vega Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*), Eastern Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla ruficapilla*), Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* group), and Eastern Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus purpureus*). The Washington state list now stands at 507 species.

The following species were removed from the list of review species: Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (30 records), Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (24 records), Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) (75 records), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (25 records), Northern Hawk Owl

(*Surnia ulula*) (30 records), Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) (21 records), and Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (19 records). In addition, review of reports of the Interior or Lead-colored Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*) (three sightings reviewed) is discontinued.

PROCEDURES

The WBRC's procedures are consistent with those detailed in the introduction to its first report (Tweit and Paulson 1994), expanded on in the introduction to the sixth report (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006), and repeated most recently in the ninth report (Merrill and Bartels 2015).

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. Additional details including information such as the number of birds present, sex, age and/or plumage notes are included when possible but do not reflect a formal decision by the committee. For reports not accepted, observers are not listed but the committee 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 Kevin Aanerud (until 2013), Shawneen Finnegan (from 2012), Ryan Merrill, Steve Mlodinow, Dennis Paulson (until 2012), Ryan Shaw (from 2013), Bill Tweit, Brad Waggoner, and Charlie Wright. Shawneen Finnegan joined the committee in 2012, replacing Dennis Paulson. Ryan Shaw joined the committee in 2013, replacing Kevin Aanerud. At the same time, Brad Waggoner replaced Kevin Aanerud as committee chair. Matt Bartels (nonvoting) was the secretary throughout the period.

THE RECORDS

Reports Accepted by the Committee

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*) (10*, 2). A first-winter bird was at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 25 Nov 2011–7 Jan 2012 (EMGO-2011-1; photos: CRi, RSu, GTh, BW). Two more Emperor Geese were near Dungeness Spit, Clallam Co., 31 Dec 2011–30 Apr 2012 (2011-3; SCh, photo: DL). Since the Emperor Goose was added to the review list in 1999, all 10 occurrences have been in western Washington. Between 1982 and 1999, there were 29 published sightings, also all from western Washington (Wahl et al. 2005), suggesting a real decline in occurrence. The reason for this decline is unclear, as breeding populations in Alaska slowly increased from 1985 through 2005 (Pacific Flyway Council 2006), following a precipitous decline of over 70% from 1964 to 1986 (www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=382).

Bewick's Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) (15*, 3). One was at Fir I., Skagit Co., 28 Dec 2010 (BESW-2010-1; SM), an adult was at Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland, King Co., 8–16 Nov 2012 (2012-1; photos: BBe, QM, RJM, JMi, DSn, GTh, MT), and an adult was at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Clark Co., 5 Dec 2012 (2012-2; photo: AHi).

Of the 15 records accepted since the WBRC began reviewing this subspecies in 2003, all but one are from western Washington. The source population in the Old World was severely depressed by hunting from the 1950s to the 1970s but rebounded vigorously during the 1980s and 1990s (Syroechkovski 2002), with range expansion eastward in the Russian Far East during the 2000s (Rees 2006). For a summary of Bewick's Swan occurrence in North America see Mlodinow and Schwitters (2010).

Falcated Duck (*Anas falcata*) (4, 1). The male at Samish I., Skagit Co., 27 Feb 2005 (FADU-2005-1: DnP) may have been the same individual at that locality during February and March 2002 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006). All four sightings have been in late winter (January to March) and in western Washington.

Notably, this species is somewhat regular on the Aleutian and Pribilof islands but remains unrecorded in mainland Alaska, and there are only approximately seven records from North America's Pacific coast, from Vancouver I. to California (Howell et al. 2014).

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) (3, 1). The committee was finally able to review the Washington's earliest report of this species, of an adult male 6 km west of Mt. Vernon, Skagit Co., 27–30 Apr 1961 (GARG-1961-1: LSp, specimen, Univ. Calif. Davis WFB-1119)—the first specimen of the Garganey for North America. Washington's two previously accepted records are from western Washington, April–May 1991 (Tweit and Paulson 1994), and eastern Washington, December 1994 (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997). Howell et al. (2014) outlined ~175 North American records, 45% from Alaska and 20% from Pacific Coast states and provinces. A sharp decline since the late 1990s parallels significant declines reported from eastern Asia (Delany and Scott 2006).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (30*, 12). Accepted during this period were records of one at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., 22 Jan 2011 (TUDU-2011-1; photo: RSh); an adult male at Rocky Ford Creek, Grant Co., 17 Apr 2011 (2011-2; photo: JMR fide HJ); another male at Bradley Lake, Pierce Co., 18 Nov–3 Dec 2011 (2011-3; photos: GTh, CW); an adult male at Stevenson, Skamania Co., 11 Dec 2011 (2011-4; WC); another adult male at Marine Park, Vancouver, Clark Co., 31 Dec 2011–14 Jan 2012 (2011-5; DI, photos: SF, RaH, RJM); an adult male at Lacamas Park, Camas, Clark Co., 2–4 Feb 2012 (2012-1; photos: ToM, LT); a male at the Montlake Fill, Seattle, King Co., 3–12 Feb and 13 Apr 2012 (2012-2; photos: LHu, ToM); an adult male at Priest Rapids Dam, Yakima and Grant counties, 24 Nov 2012–18 May 2013 (2012-3; MiH, ASt, ElS, photo: DG); an adult male at Marine Park in Vancouver, Clark Co., 11–12 Dec 2012 (2012-5; photo: RA); another adult male seen variously at Round, Lacamas, and Fallen Leaf lakes in Clark Co., 9 Jan–13 Mar 2013 (2013-1; photos: HH, GO, OO, LT, JWi); an adult male along Iverson Road, Walla Walla Co., 5 Mar 2013 (2013-2; WT); and a first-winter male at Woodland

Bottoms, Cowlitz Co., 13–26 Apr 2013 (2013-3; NnB, photos: JL, BW). With 30 Washington records since review began in 1999, the WBRC removed the Tufted Duck from its review list in 2013.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) (3, 1).A first-year male of subspecies *S. m. v-nigrum* was at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 19–30 Oct 2012 (COEI-2012-1; BT, photos: RBj, TBj, EBj, MCh, MDy, MLD, RG, DG, SHg, KH, ZH, GO, OO, RSu, GTh, LT, MWn).

As of 2013, the Common Eider had been recorded 10 times along the North American Pacific coast south of Alaska, seven representing *S. m. v-nigrum*, which breeds in Alaska and easternmost Russia, two of birds not identified to subspecies, and the last (from California in 2011) of *S. m. dresseri*, the Atlantic subspecies, which breeds from Labrador to Maine (Able et al. 2014).

Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (15, 6). All of these records are of immature birds: one off Westport (46.88° N, 124.89° W), Grays Harbor Co., 31 Jul 2010 (STAL-2010-1; BT, photo: RSh); one off Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., 29 Aug 2010 (2010-2; photo: MDr); one off Westport (47.01° N, 124.82° W), Grays Harbor Co., 25 Jun 2011 (2011-1; BSh, photo: RSh); one off Clallam Co., 31 Jan 2012 (2012-1; MDr); one off Willapa Bay, Pacific Co., 4 May 2012 (2012-2; photo: KLa); and one over Grays Canyon, Grays Harbor Co., 4 May 2012 (2013-1; photos: CE, RJM). Thirteen of Washington's records, all of immature birds, are within the last 20 years.

After volcanic eruptions on Torishima, site of the last nesting colony, in 1933 and 1941, the Short-tailed Albatross was thought extinct, until 25 were found there in 1954. The population has rebounded dramatically, reaching 2200–2500 individuals as of 2009 (Brazil 2009).

Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) (7, 1). One was 42–64 km off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 21 May 2011 (MUPE-2011-1; GSM). Far more records are to be expected in coming years, given the large numbers detected by birders newly exploiting the repositioning voyages of cruise ships, which typically travel farther offshore than traditional single-day pelagic trips. For instance, during such cruises in April/May 2012, seven Murphy's Petrels were seen in Oregon waters and one in Washington waters (not reviewed by the committee) (Irons et al. 2013a). As of 1995, Oregon had only four records of seven birds, Washington two records of 25 (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996).

Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) (17, 9). One was found dead (specimen not preserved) by the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST; a citizen-science project coordinated by the University of Washington) at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 28 Feb 2006 (MOPE-2006-1; photo COASST, fide CW); another was seen 56 km off Westport, Grays Harbor Co. (46.85° N, 124.9° W), 21 May 2011 (2011-1; GSM). Seven additional reports come from a seabird survey sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in March 2012, including four over Nitinat Canyon, Clallam Co., 3 Mar 2012, 72 km, 74 km, 76 km, and 80 km offshore (respectively, 2012-4; RJM, GSM; 2012-1; GSM, photo: RJM; 2012-2; RJM, GSM; 2012-3; RJM, GSM) and three off Cape Disappointment, Pacific Co., 5 Mar 2012, 43, 48, and 54 km offshore (respectively, 2012-5; GSM, photo: RJM; 2012-6; RJM, GSM; 2012-7; RJM, GSM). Most records of the Mottled Petrel from Washington and Oregon are from mid-February to mid-May, with a smaller peak from mid-November to mid-December.

Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) (5, 2). A subadult was off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 24 Aug 2013 (GRSH-2013-1; photos: LPa, RSh), and an adult was in the same area the following day, 25 Aug 2013 (2013-2; BT, photo: JPu). All five of Washington's records are for August or September.

Through 2015, California has 15 records of the Great Shearwater, 12 of them from August through October (Tietz and McCaskie 2016), Oregon has two records, from August and September (Nehls 2014), and Alaska has one record, also from August (Pearce 2002). Notably, only one of the northeastern Pacific Ocean records of the Great Shearwater precedes 1991, suggesting a change in status. Supporting this conclusion is that all of Washington's Great Shearwaters have been seen on pelagic birding trips off Westport since 2002, even though these trips have taken place at roughly the same frequency since 1971. This species spends the austral summer at least as far south as the tip of Tierra del Fuego, and it is conceivable that some have wandered west into the Pacific and then migrated northward in the "wrong" ocean.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) (2, 1). One of the light morph was found dead on the beach at Ocean City, Grays Harbor Co., 18 Jan 2011 (WTSH-2011-1; photo: KLi, fide CW and JaD, specimen not preserved). Washington's first Wedge-tailed Shearwater was also found dead on Ocean City's beach, 10 Sep 1999 (Aanerud 2002, Univ. of Wash. Burke Mus. 63735).

Through 2013, there were 13 records of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater from North America north of Mexico, seven in fall, three in spring, one in summer, and two in winter (Howell et al. 2014). This species' range includes much of the tropical Pacific and Indian oceans, with the nearest breeding populations off western Mexico, on the Galápagos Islands, and in Hawaii (AOU 1998). The proportion of the dark and light morphs varies from population to population, as does the molt schedule (Howell 2012). On the basis of such factors, Howell et al. (2014) suggested that the bird at Grays Harbor in January 2011 likely arose from the Hawaiian or Japanese breeding populations.

Frigatebird species (*Fregata* sp.) (3, 1). A frigatebird, not seen well enough to be identified to species, was observed in West Richland, Benton Co., 3 Nov 2007 (FRIG-2007-1; MCr). Though the Magnificent Frigatebird (*F. magnificens*) is the frigatebird most likely in North America, there are four North American records of the Lesser (*F. ariel*) from across the contiguous United States, July–September, and three records of the Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*), from California and Oklahoma during March, October, and November (Howell et al. 2014). Of note, the frigatebird at West Richland occurred in November, whereas most vagrant Magnificent Frigatebirds in western North America have occurred from late June to late September (Mlodinow 1998b).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (8, 3). In late March 2011, an adult female landed on a crab boat off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., came in to Westport Harbor on the boat, and was given to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, from which it later escaped (BRBO-2011-1; AMe, CaH, HR, photos: CRo, DaO). An adult female was off West Point, Discovery Park, Seattle, King Co., 18 Nov 2012 (2012-1; GO, OO). A first-year bird was observed on the pelagic trip off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 13 Jul 2013 (2013-1; photo: MCh).

These records bring the state total to eight, seven since 2002, and four since 2010. Washington records are scattered through the year, in January, March, May, August, October, and November. Notably, Brown Booby numbers along the Pacific coast of Baja California and California have been increasing since the 1990s, with breeding on Los Coronados Islands off northernmost Mexico since 2005 (Whitworth et al. 2007).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) (34, 2). One was at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 14–15 Aug 2011 (SNEG-2011-1; photos LT, RWm), another at Columbia NWR, Grant Co., 6–15 Jun 2013 (2013-1; photos: MCh, JI).

Twenty of Washington's records were from 1993 through 2006, so it is surprising that the 2011 record was the first in five years. The reason for this fluctuation is unclear. Twenty-eight of the 34 records are from late April through mid-August.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) (4, 1). An adult was at Wells Reservoir, Douglas Co., 26 Aug 2010 (LBHE-2010-1; BeP). The three prior records are widely

scattered across Washington, from Whatcom, Island, and Kittitas counties in June and October.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) (43*, 2). The WBRC reviewed two reports submitted before the 2008 decision to remove this species from the review list. One Red-shouldered Hawk was along West Valley Highway, Kent, King Co., 14 Jul 2007 (RSHA-2007-1; photo: KAn); and an adult was at Cinebar, Lewis Co., 1 Oct 2007 (2007-3; photo: CCL). All Washington birds identifiable to subspecies have been *B. l. elegans*.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (24*, 6). Six records: an adult at Washtucna, Adams Co., 10 Sep 2010 (BWHA-2010-1; photo: SM); a juvenile at Cascade Pass, Skagit Co., 28 Sep 2011 (2011-2; photo: RJM); a juvenile near Bald Mountain, State Route 410, Yakima Co., 7 Aug 2011 (2011-3; photo: LM); an adult above the Peone Wetlands, Spokane Co., 29 Sep 2011 (2011-5; TL); and a dark-morph juvenile at Corkindale, Skagit Co., 26 Sep 2012 (2012-3; photo: RJM). The only spring record for this period was of an adult in Johnsonville, Kitsap Co., 1 May 2013 (2013-1; BW, DWa). Considering not only the 24 accepted records but the large number of unreviewed reports from hawk-observation sites, the committee removed the Broad-winged Hawk from the review list in 2013.

The species' peak occurrence in Washington is during mid and late September, though there are also spring records, most scattered from early May into early June, and fall records into October.

Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) (3, 3). Washington's first was found at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 26 Aug 2010 (LSAP-2010-1; BT, photos: TA, JPa, DbP, RJM, GTh; Figure 1); it appeared to be an adult female in alternate plumage (D. Paulson, in litt. 2015). An adult male in alternate plumage showing some signs of prebasic molt was at Oyhut Game Range, Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 29–30 Aug 2012 (2012-1; photos: MA, FL, KLa, MWn, D. Paulson in litt.) The third bird, in its first fall, was at the same location 1–2 Sep 2013 (2013-1; photos: MCh, MDt, MDy, MLD, DG, DnP, NS, KT; Figure 2).

This species is a regular migrant on Bering Sea islands during spring and fall but is very rare in mainland Alaska (Howell et al. 2014), though there are breeding records

Figure 1. Washington's first Lesser Sand-Plover (LSAP-2010-1) at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 26 Aug 2010, apparently an adult female from the uniformly basic wing coverts, dark primary tips, indistinct mask, and restricted pale rufous to the breast. *Photo by © Gregg Thompson.*

Figure 2. Washington's third Lesser Sand Plover (LSAP-2013-1), a juvenile at Ocean Shores 1–2 Sep 2013 (photo 2 Sep), at the same location and on a date similar to the first. *Photo by © Netta Smith.*

from at least four locations there (AOU 1998). North American records south of Alaska come mainly from Pacific coast states and provinces, with about 20 records from late June to mid-October (Howell et al. 2014). North American records, even those from the east coast, appear to be represent the *mongolus* subspecies group (Howell et al. 2014).

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) (2, 2). Washington's first was a first-fall immature at Bennington Lake, Walla Walla Co., 26 Aug–4 Sep 2012 (WIPL-2012-1; photos: MDy, MLD, IH, RSh, LU; Figure 3). Then one month later a second individual, also in its first fall, arrived on the other side of the state at Grayland Beach State Park, Grays Harbor Co., 2 Oct–4 Nov 2012 (2012-2; photos: MA, RBj, MCh, SF, RG, DG, JG, ToM, RJM, MkP, DSn, KSl, ASl, RSu, GTh; this issue's front cover).

These records are the most northerly in western North America. There is one record from Oregon, in September 1998 (Nehls 2014), whereas nearly all of the 26 California records through 2015 are from April to June, with only one record (in October) after July (Hamilton et al. 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2016).

Figure 3. Wilson's Plover was not expected in Washington, certainly not in the southeastern portion of the state. Yet this first-fall bird (WIPL-2012-1) visited Bennington Lake, Walla Walla Co., from 26 Aug to 4 Sep 2012 (photo 26 Aug). *Photo by © Merry Lynn Denny.*

Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) (5, 1). One was at Connor Creek, Grays Harbor Co., 9 Jan 2011 (MOPL-2011-1; photo: CSu fide SPe, CRi). Three of the four previous Washington records are from November to February, as are all 11 of Oregon's records (Nehls 2014). With one exception, all records from Oregon and Washington have been coastal or from the Willamette Valley. The only exception, one from eastern Washington in May (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997), is also the only record in spring.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) (1, 1). Washington's first Wood Sandpiper was an adult on the Samish Flats, Skagit Co., 5–6 Aug 2011(WOSA-2011-1; MBa, GB,

DFl, photos: RJM, SWa). This species is not rare as a migrant on the Aleutians but scarcer on the Pribilofs and St. Lawrence I. It is casual in mainland Alaska (Howell et al. 2014). The bird at Samish Flats represents the eighth record from western North America away from Alaska, with other records stretching from northern British Columbia and Yukon Territory to Cabo San Lucas. All are from fall, except a May record from California and another of a bird that overwintered two consecutive years in Baja California Sur (Howell et al. 2014).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (11, 1). An adult in alternate plumage at Ocean City, Grays Harbor Co., 20 May 2012 was Washington's third in spring (CUSA-2012-1; photo: CW). Oregon has 17 records, all but one during southbound migration, the exception of a bird in mid-December (Nehls 2014). California averages about one per year, more than 75% during southbound migration (Hamilton et al. 2007, Tietz and McCaskie, 2016).

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) (5, 1). An adult in alternate plumage was at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor Co., 21–22 Jul 2013 (RNST-2013-1; photo: CzH). Dates of Washington's five records, all of adults, fall between 21 June and 31 July. Oregon has 12 records, nine of adults from late June to late August and three of juveniles from mid-September to early October (Nehls 2014). Given the difficulties of identification, it seems likely that many juveniles pass unrecognized.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) (7, 3). Three records: a bird in alternate plumage at Reardan, Lincoln Co., 29–31 May 2012 (WRSA-2012-1; photos: JI, TMu; Figure 4); an adult in nonbreeding plumage at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 26 Jul 2012 (2012-3; photo, video: DAM); and another adult in nonbreeding plumage, treated as a separate individual, at the same location on 1 Aug 2012 (2012-2; photo: CW).

Washington's four records of presumed northbound White-rumped Sandpipers are from eastern Washington, while three of presumed southbound migrants are from western Washington. This species' usual fall migration route is from the Arctic to Hudson Bay, then southeast to the Atlantic coast, followed by an overwater passage

Figure 4. Washington's sixth White-rumped Sandpiper (WRSA-2012-1) was a bird in alternate plumage at Reardan, Lincoln Co., 29–31 May 2012 (photo 31 May). *Photo by © Tom Munson.*

to South America (Parmalee 1992). Fall records farther west, even from the core of the spring route (e.g., Kansas), are exceptional (Thompson et al. 2011).

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) (20, 3). Three records of birds in basic plumage: West Point, Discovery Park, Seattle, King Co., 4 Jan 2011 (TBMU-2011-1; KAa); Edmonds, Snohomish Co., 6 Dec 2012 (2012-1; SPi); inside Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Clallam Co., 30 Dec 2012–2 Mar 2013 (2012-2; photos: BBo, MvB, CzH, RJM, DSn). Thirteen of Washington's 20 records are from 2002 onward, likely because of the increased numbers and awareness of observers. Prior records are from December and January, excepting one in September, one in October, two in February, and one in March.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (9, 2). An adult in alternate plumage was off Point of Arches, Clallam Co., 24 Jul 2012 (LBMU-2012-1; photo: RJM). The committee also reviewed a specimen record (Thompson et al. 2003) of an adult female molting into basic plumage found 19 km east of Pomeroy, Garfield Co., 14 Aug 2001 (2001-1; photos of specimen: RD, DnP, Connor Mus., Wash. State Univ., Pullman 01-37). This record, more than 500 km inland, is the first for Washington away from salt water. Interior and eastern North American records of this species are surprisingly numerous, constituting 22 of the 36 records through 1996 (Mlodinow 1997). Of Washington's records of the Long-billed Murrelet, five are in July/August, three in are November/December and one is in March.

Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*) (13, 6). Accepted in this period were reports of one in Westport Marina, Grays Harbor Co., 9 Oct 2011 (SCMU-2011-2; KBn, RyW, photo: PD) and five from pelagic trips out of Westport, Grays Harbor Co.: two together early on 29 Jun 2013 (2013-2; BLB, GSM, BT, photos: JiH, RSh), four others found together later that day (2013-3; BLB, GSM, RSh, BT), one on 30 Jun 2012 (2012-1; photo: RSh), one on 22 Sep 2012 (2012-2; photo: RSh), and two on 22 Aug 2013 (2013-5; BT).

After the American Ornithologists' Union reclassified the Guadalupe and Scripps's Murrelets as species (Chesser et al. 2012), the WBRC reviewed all past records of Xantus's Murrelet. Three of these were published by Merrill and Bartels (2015). Six previous records were of birds described clearly enough to be accepted as Scripps's Murrelets: SCMU-1941-1, previously published as XAMU-1941-1 by Aanerud and Mattocks (1997); SCMU-1999-1 and 2000-1, previously XAMU-1999-1 and 2000-1 in Aanerud (2002); SCMU-2001-1 and 2002-1, previously XAMU-2001-1 and 2002-1 in Mlodinow and Aanerud (2006); SCMU-2003-2, previously XAMU/CRMU-2003-2 in Mlodinow and Aanerud (2008).

Guadalupe Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) (1, 0). GUMU-2003-1, previously accepted as XAMU-2003-1 and described by Mlodinow and Aanerud (2008), is currently the only reviewed record from Washington, though unsubmitted sightings from researchers working well past the continental shelf (Michael Force in litt.) suggest that this species may be a regular visitor to Washington's waters.

Scripps's/Guadalupe Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi/hypoleucus*) (4, 1). On two birds seen off Westport on 4 Aug 2013, white underwings were observed, eliminating Craveri's Murrelet, but further distinctions were not visible and this record was accepted as a Scripps's/Guadalupe Murrelet (SCMU/GUMU-2013-4; GSM). Previously accepted as Xantus's Murrelets were SCMU/GUMU-1987-1, XAMU-1987-1 in Aanerud and Mattocks (2000), and SCMU/GUMU-2006-1, XAMU-2006-1 in Aanerud (2011).

Scripps's/Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi/craveri*) (5, 1). Two off Westport on 29 Jun 2013 showed dark extending below the eye, ruling out the Guadalupe Murrelet, but no additional field marks were noted, so this record was thus accepted as a Scripps's/Craveri's (Murrelet (SCMU/CRMU-2013-1; BLB). Previously

accepted as Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelets were SCMU/CRMU-2004-1, XAMU/CRMU-2004-1 in Mlodinow and Aanerud (2008), and SCMU/CRMU-2006-2, and 2006-3, XAMU/CRMU-2006-2 and 2006-3 in Aanerud (2011).

Scripps's/Guadalupe/Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi/hypoleucus/craveri*) (4, 1). One west of Copalis, Grays Harbor Co., 24 Aug 2011 was viewed briefly in a feeding flock of shearwaters (SCMU/GUMU/CRMU-2011-1: JAn). Previously accepted as Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelets were SCMU/GUMU/CRMU-1970-1, 1974-1, and 1976-1, XAMU/CRMU-1970-1, 1974-1, and 1976-1 in Aanerud and Mattocks (1997).

Thus Washington now has 13 records of Scripps's (five supported by photos, one with specimen), one of the Guadalupe (photographed), and 13 as some combination of Scripps's, Guadalupe and/or Craveri's (all of them sight records).

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) (75*, 49). The astoundingly large number of records the committee accepted during this period was due mostly to efforts of COASST, which now accounts for more than half of the Horned Puffins known from Washington, an indication of how valuable this project has been at improving our understanding of the state's offshore birds. The following 40 records, 19 in 2007, one in 2011, and 20 in 2012, are of Horned Puffins found dead along the shore (no specimens preserved).

Pacific County (8 records): An adult at Long Beach, 143rd North, 15 Jan 2007 (HOPU-2007-06; photo: RP, GPo); adults at Cranberry Road South, 24 Jan 2007 (2007-08; photo: SSt, LSt), 25 Mar 2007 (2 birds, 2007-13 and 2007-14; both photos: SSt, LSt), 23 Apr 2007 (2 birds, 2007-23 and 2007-24; both photos: SSt, LSt); a first-year bird at North Head Lighthouse north, 23 Feb 2012 (2012-12; photo: CHz, THe); and an adult at North Head Lighthouse south, 24 Feb 2012 (2012-13; photo: CHz, THe).

Grays Harbor County (20 records): Adults at South Taurus Beach, 16 Jan 2007 (2007-07; photo: DSE, DHE), 20 Apr 2007 (2007-21; photo: DSE, DHE), and 19 Feb 2012 (2012-11; photo: DSE, DHE); an adult at Raft River, 14 Mar 2007 (2007-11; photo: KMC); an adult at Westhaven Beach, 31 Mar 2007 (2007-15; photo: MkR, MyR); five adults at Cranberry Road North, 14 Apr 2007 (2007-16-20, all photos: SSt, LSt); an adult at South Butter Clam Beach, 14 Nov 2011 (2011-03; photo: McP, BaP); an adult at Ocean Park North, 20 Jan 2012 (2012-04; photo: JE); an adult at Ocean Park South, 15 Feb 2012 (2012-10; photo: JWa, PW); an adult at Twin Harbors State Park, 26 Feb 2012 (2012-14; photo: SV, EBr); one at Roosevelt Beach, 27 Feb 2012 (2012-05; photo: JRo); adults at South Chance, Ocean Shores, 3 Mar 2012 (2 birds 2012-16 and 2012-17; both photos: NL, CSt); adults at Grayland Beach North, 7 Mar 2012 (2 birds, 2012-19 and 2012-20; both photos: LL, BJD); an adult at Bonge South, 11 Mar 2012 (2012-21; photo: AD, JLD).

Jefferson County (1 record): An adult at Kalaloch North, 14 Mar 2007 (2007-12; photo: BuF).

Clallam County (11 records): Adults at Sooes Beach South, 28 Jan 2007 (2007-09; photo: IS, EfS), 30 Jan 2012 (2012-08; photo: IS, EfS), and 3 Feb 2012 (2012-09; photo: PP, SPa); adults at Shi Shi Beach, 28 Feb 2007 (2007-10; photo: SN, CB) and 29 Feb 2012 (2012-15; photo: SN, CB); an adult at Wedding Rocks, 22 Apr 2007 (2007-22; photo: JaB, JOj); adults at Sooes Beach North, 1 Jan 2012 (2012-03; photo: MCa, KIC) and 3 Mar 2012 (2012-2; photo: MCa, KIC fide BBo); two adults at Third Beach, 29 Jan 2012 (2012-06 and 2012-7; both photos: SKe, SHo); and an adult at Sand Point North, 4 Mar 2012 (2012-18; photo: AMa, EMP).

In addition, nine birds were observed while still alive: one at Cape Alava, Clallam Co., 2 Jul 2007 (2007-5; GSM); one at Libbey Beach, Island Co., 1 Oct 2010 (2010-2; ASe); one at Green Point, Anacortes, Skagit Co., 9 Oct 2010 (2010-3; GB); an adult in alternate plumage 3 km east of Pillar Point, Clallam Co., 14 Jul 2011 (2011-1; photo: CCl); one adult mostly in alternate plumage off Westport,

Grays Harbor Co., 23 Jul 2011 (2011-2; photo: RSh); a first-year bird at Grayland Beach State Park, Pacific Co., 3 Mar 2012 (2012-1; photos: PC, CLe); an adult in basic plumage at Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Clallam Co., 3 Mar 2013 (2013-01; FMH, photo: DYQ); an adult in alternate plumage at Shipwreck Point, Clallam Co., 28 Feb 2013 (2013-2; SN); and an adult in alternate plumage off Shark Reef, Lopez I., San Juan Co., 12–15 Jul 2013 (2013-3; photos: KJ, BSc).

With 75 records for Washington, 58 of them in the past decade, it is clear that the Horned Puffin is regular in small numbers offshore throughout the year, especially in the late winter and early spring. In 2013, the committee removed the Horned Puffin from the review list

Red-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa brevirostris*) (9, 2). An adult was found dead (specimen not preserved) by COASST at Hobuck Beach, Clallam Co., 19 Dec 2006 (RLKI-2006-1; photo: COASST, fide CW). Another adult was observed about 69 km west of Cape Alava, Clallam Co., 3 Mar 2012 (2012-1; GSM, photo: RJM). Seven of Washington's nine records of this species are from December to March and two are from June to August. This species breeds on the Pribilof, Aleutian, and Commander islands (AOU 1983) and is exceptional at any season south of its winter range in the Gulf of Alaska and at the ice edge in the south Bering Sea (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Everett et al. 1989). A few wander far, however, with records as far south as Orange Co., California (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999), and Las Vegas, Nevada (Alcorn 1988).

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (18, 2). An adult in alternate plumage at Point No Point, Kitsap Co., 18 Apr 2011, was Washington's first in April (BHGU-2011-1; VN). Another adult, in basic plumage, was off Cypress I., Skagit Co., 27 Oct 2012 (2012-1; GB). Nine of Washington's 18 records are from late August to early November; four more are in December. Twelve of the 18 records are of adults between 1986 and 1998; although the locations were scattered, one or two individuals may have accounted for many or most of these records. No similar peak is evident from California records (Hamilton et al. 2007).

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) (2, 1). Washington's second Ross's Gull, an adult in basic plumage, visited Palmer Lake, Okanogan Co., 15–22 Dec 2011 (ROGU-2011-1; MSc, photos: JeH, ToM, RJM, GO, OO, RSh, GTh; Figure 5). The first fed along the Columbia River near McNary Dam, Benton Co., 27 Nov–1 Dec 1994 (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997). Records of this charismatic arctic gull are scattered even farther south, the southernmost at the Salton Sea, California (McCaskie 2007).

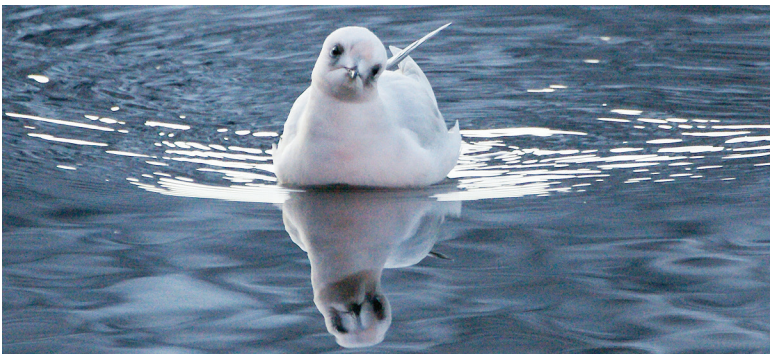


Figure 5. Appearing quizzical is Washington's second Ross's Gull, an adult (ROGU-2011-1) that enlivened Palmer Lake, Okanogan Co., 15–22 Dec 2011 (photo 21 Dec). The state's first was just over 17 years earlier. *Photo by © Tom Mansfield.*

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) (7, 2). An adult in basic plumage was in Tacoma, Pierce Co., 15 Sep–8 Oct 2011 (BTGU-2011-2; BLB, BT, photo: GTh). The first found offshore of Washington was 26 km west of Long Beach, Pacific Co. (46.374° N, 124.406° W), on a NOAA research cruise, 5 Mar 2012 (2012-1; photo: RJM). All of Washington's seven records, scattered from early March to late October, have been since 2004, and two are for east of the Cascades. This species has occurred across the breadth of North America, with most records since 1990, possibly due to increased observer awareness or climate change via melting of polar ice (Howell et al. 2014). Though most records are from Alaska south to the northern United States (e.g., Washington, the Great Lakes, New York, New England), some have come from as far south as Belize (Howell and Webb 1995), Mexico (Garrett and Molina 1998), and Brownsville, Texas (Lockwood 1999).

Vega Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus vegae*) (2*, 2). One first-cycle bird was at Gene Coulon Park, Renton, King Co., 28 Dec 2006 (HERG-2006-1; photos: CaC, CW); an adult was at Banks Lake, Electric City, Grant Co., 14 Jan 2012 (2012-1; BLB, BT, CW, photo: RSh). Identification criteria were based largely on those of Howell and Dunn (2007). First-cycle Vega Herring Gulls show a white base of the tail more extensive than in the American Herring Gull (*L. a. smithsonianus*) along with crisply patterned coverts. Adults are best distinguished by their darker mantle and darker iris. We know of no previous reports of this Asian subspecies from Washington.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) (19, 5). An adult was at the Asotin Co. landfill and on the Snake River near Clarkston, Asotin Co., 6–7 Mar 2011 (ICGU-2011-1; TO, photos: KeC, TG); a second-cycle bird was on the Long Beach Peninsula, Pacific Co., 3 Dec 2012 (2012-2; photo: RJM); a first-cycle bird was in LaPush, Clallam Co., 28 Jan 2013 (2013-1; photos: NkB, RJM); and Clarkston, Asotin Co., again had an adult from 15 Feb to 12 Mar 2013 (2013-2; photos: MvB, KeC, KD, TG) and a first-cycle bird from 22 Feb to 12 Mar 2013 (2013-3; photos: MvB, KeC, MCl). Eleven of Washington's 19 records are from 2004 onward, likely because of increased observer knowledge and effort. Records currently extend from 5 November to 16 April. The WBRC uses largely the criteria of Howell and Dunn (2007) for distinguishing the Iceland Gull from Thayer's Gull.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (25*, 7). Six adults in basic plumage were found in eastern Washington: one at Burbank, Walla Walla Co., 30–31 Jan 2010 (LBBG-2010-4; photo: MDy, MLD); one along the Snake River, Asotin Co., 3 Dec 2010 (2010-3; photo: ToM); one at the Asotin Co. landfill, Asotin Co., 25 Jan 2011 (2011-1; photo: JI); one on the Snake River, Asotin Co., 23 Oct 2011 (2011-2; photo: TG); one at Banks Lake, Electric City, Grant Co., 8 Jan 2012 (2012-1; DSd); and one at Nelson I., Leslie Groves Park, Richland, Benton Co., 6–7 and 23 Jan 2012 (2012-2; photo: JAb, KAb). The second record from western Washington was of an adult in alternate plumage near Midway Beach, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties, 19–20 Aug 2010 (2010-2; photos: MDy, MLD, RJM). With the species established as a regular winter visitor to Washington, in 2012 the committee removed the Lesser Black-backed Gull from the review list.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (17, 2). An adult was at Gog-Le-Hi-Te in Tacoma, Pierce Co., 8 Oct–23 Dec 2012 (SBGU-2012-1; photos: RBj, MCh, HdG, ZH, CzH, JI, OO, SR, DSn, MWn). One adult was in Everett, Snohomish Co., 31 Dec 2012 (2012-2; photo: GTh). All of Washington's 17 records are from or near marine habitats, mostly from December to March. Since many of the records are of adults, at only a few locations, possibly a few individual gulls account for multiple records.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) (6, 1). The first Least Tern for eastern Washington was an alternate-plumaged adult at the north end of the Potholes Wildlife Area, Grant Co., 14–16 Jun 2012 (LETE-2012-1; MY). Five of Washington's records are

from early May to mid-July, the remaining record from late August. This pattern is similar to that of Oregon, which has 10 records (Nehls 2014).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (10, 1). An adult was in Ferndale, Whatcom Co., 2 May 2013 (WWDO-2013-1; EG). Nine of Washington's 10 records are from 1997 onward, eight from west of the Cascades. Since the 1970s this species' breeding range has expanded north from Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas and currently includes Colorado and Kansas (Rabe and Sanders 2010, Thompson et al. 2011). Concurrently, vagrancy through much of North America has increased (Schwertner et al. 2002).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) (11*, 1). One was singing at Little Pend Oreille NWR, Stevens Co., 21 Jul 2012 (YBCU-2012-1; MMu). Although Washington had six records of this species in the 1990s, this bird is the only one yet recorded in the 21st century. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo once bred in the Pacific Northwest, including areas along the Fraser River in British Columbia, the Puget Trough and the Columbia River in Washington, and the Willamette Valley of Oregon. It has been extirpated from British Columbia since the 1920s (Campbell et al. 1990), Washington since the 1930s (Wahl et al. 2005), and Oregon since the 1920s (Marshall et al. 2003). The population collapse in western North America is thought to be due mainly to habitat loss and pesticide use (Laymon and Halterman 1987).

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) (30*, 4). Three recently fledged young at the Pasayten Wildlife Area, Okanogan Co., 25 Jul 2011, provided the second confirmed record of the Northern Hawk Owl breeding in Washington (NHOW-2011-1; photo: ASt, ElS). The first was at an undisclosed location in Okanogan Co. in 2007 (Merrill and Bartels 2015). Other recent records of the species are of one along Union Valley Road, Chelan Co., 29 Dec 2011–14 Jan 2012 (2011-2; BT, photos: MSp, BSG); one at West Plains, Spokane Co., 7–8 Jan 2012 (2012-1; videos: MiB, PM, photos: JI, PM); and one at Wauconda Pass, Okanogan Co., 29 Jan–26 Feb 2012 (2012-2; photos: LJ, ToM). With 30 records, and breeding confirmed, the WBRC removed the Northern Hawk Owl from its review list in 2012.

Jewett et al. (1953) listed 12 records for Washington between 1897 and 1926, but the state's next record was not until 1982 (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997). The remaining 27 records the WBRC has endorsed all accrued from 1992 through 2012. The Northern Hawk Owl is well known for southward irruptions during winter and temporary southward extensions of its breeding range due to population and prey fluctuations (Duncan and Duncan 2014), but the species' 20-year-long increase in Washington seems to represent a less transitory change, especially given recent breeding records, and may represent a return to the status of the early 20th century. Nevertheless, fluctuations in neither the range nor population have been noted in the Okanagan Valley (Cannings et al. 1987) or in British Columbia as a whole (Campbell et al. 1990).

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (11, 2). Adult males were in Lyle, Klickitat Co., 1 Dec 2010 (COHU-2010-1; photo: PE and 21 Apr–21 Jun 2013 (2013-1; photos: IH, ToM, GO, OO, JRa, BW). All but one of Washington's 11 records of Costa's Hummingbird have been since 1998. Oregon experienced a similar surge in records, starting there in the late 1970s, leading to the species' removal from the Oregon review list in 2000 (Nehls 2014).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) (11, 3). A female was at Omak Creek, Okanogan Co., 3 Jun 2012 (YBSA-2012-1; RSh, CW); an immature female was at the Clear Creek wetland south of Darrington, Snohomish Co., 31 Mar–15 Apr 2013 (2013-1; photos: SAs, GA, MCh, HH, ToM, RJM; videos: HH, RJM); and an adult female was in Granger, Yakima Co., 4 Apr 2013 (2013-2; photo: EHe).

The June date is of particular interest, as migration in Minnesota, the nearest state

within the species' breeding range at the same latitude as Washington, occurs primarily from late March through early May, with nesting commencing in May (Janssen 1987). There are two summer records of apparent Yellow-bellied × Red-naped Sapsuckers in Washington, one of a specimen collected in Okanogan Co. (Mlodinow et al. 2006), the other from Pend Oreille Co. (Irons et al. 2013b).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) (1, 1).Washington's first Eastern Wood-Pewee was an adult singing at a chestnut farm near Lind Coulee, Grant Co., 21–31 Aug 2013, returning 30 Jul–17 Aug 2014 and 30 Jul–19 Aug 2015 (EAWP-2013-1; in 2013, audio: MBa, photos: DG, MaH, GO, OO; videos: GO, OO, MY; in 2014: MBa, photo: MCh, videos: SR, MY; in 2015: audio: MBa, photo, video: MY; Figure 6). Oregon has two records, both of singing birds, one in May and one in August (Nehls 2014), but this species has not been detected in Idaho (www.idahobirds.net/ibrc/reviewspecies.html).

Figure 6. A singing Eastern Wood-Pewee (EAWP-2013-1) frequented Lind Coulee, Grant Co., 21–31 Aug 2013 (photo 24 Aug), returning 30 Jul–17 Aug 2014 and 30 Jul–19 Aug 2015. Note the olive upperparts with grayish wash to the head and back and entirely yellow mandible. *Photo by © Grace & Ollie Oliver.*

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) (21*, 6). The Black Phoebe continued its range expansion into Washington with individuals found at Fir I., Skagit Co., 29 Aug 2010 (BLPH-2010-2; GB); Woodland Bottoms, Cowlitz Co., 17–30 Oct 2010 (2010-3; SF, photo: ToM); Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co. from 22 Oct until at least 6 Dec 2010 (2010-5; RaH, photos: BSu, LT); Little Puget I., Wahkiakum Co., 31 Dec 2010 (2010-4; photo: RaH); Vancouver, Clark Co., 8 Jan 2011 (2011-2; photo: LT); and Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 17 Jan 2011 (2011-1; photo: CHi). With 21 records

and the species now confirmed breeding in Clark and Wahkiakum counties (Irons et al. 2012), the committee removed the Black Phoebe from the review list in 2011.

The Black Phoebe's range expansion into Washington is an extension of its colonization of Oregon. Though the species was recorded there as early as the 1920s, its range grew dramatically starting in the 1970s, with nesting first detected in the late 1980s (Marshall et al. 2003).

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) (12, 5). One was recorded singing but was not seen in Ephrata, Grant Co., 2 Jun 2012 (EAPH-2012-1; audio: MY); one was in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, Yakima Co., 4–8 Jun 2012 (2012-3; SD, SPi, LSa); another was in Rosalia, Whitman Co., 9–24 Jun 2012 (2012-2; MBa, photos: MDy, MLD, TG, TMu; Figure 7); one appeared at the Montlake Fill, Seattle, King Co., 8–10 Dec 2012 (2012-4; CSi, photos: RBj, JG, EHo, RJM, GO, OO, DSn; video: EHo); and another was at Calispell Lake, Pend Oreille Co., 21 May–4 Jun 2013 (2013-1; photo: JI; audio, video: MCl, JI). Nine of the 12 Washington records are from eastern Washington, and the Seattle record was the first in winter.

Figure 7. This adult Eastern Phoebe (EAPH-2012-2), the 10th for Washington, resided at Rosalia, Whitman Co., 9–24 Jun 2012 (photo 13 Jun). At the time of this report, nine of the state's 12 records were from eastern Washington. *Photo by © Tom Munson.*

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (6, 1). An immature female spent three weeks at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 24 Oct–11 Nov 2011 (VEFL-2011-1; photos: RSh, GTh, LT, RWm). All six of Washington's records are from western Washington, four of them from late October to late November.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (19*, 5). One was in Bellingham, Whatcom Co., 31 Oct–13 Nov 2010 (TRKI-2010-2; SAr, photos: LD, RiH, JMe, FS, GTh); one was in Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 29 Oct 2011 (2011-2; photo: GO, OO); one was at the Sooes River mouth, Clallam Co., 4 Nov 2011 (2011-2; photo: BW); one was at Driftwood Keys, Kitsap Co., 12 Nov 2011 (2011-5; photo:

BW); and one was at Three Crabs, Dungeness, Clallam Co., 24–28 Oct 2011 (2011-1; photos: DL, SM). All of these were heard making the diagnostic call of the Tropical Kingbird. The last was an adult on the basis of the shape of the primaries (P. Pyle in litt. 2012)—Washington's only Tropical Kingbird conclusively aged as an adult. With 19 records of the Tropical and 24 more of Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds (see below), the Tropical's regular late-fall arrival in Washington is now well established, and the species was removed from the review list in 2012.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*) (24*, 3). These three Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds were not heard vocalizing: one at Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 9 Oct 2010 (TRKI/COKI-2010-1; BSh); one at Jamestown, Clallam Co., 27 Oct 2011 (2011-6; BBo); one at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 4 Nov 2011 (2011-4; photo: BW). The vast majority of Pacific coast Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds are likely Tropical Kingbirds (Mlodinow 1998a).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (12, 4). An adult visited Concrete, Skagit Co., 17–19 May 2011 (STFL-2011-2; photo: CK, KK); another adult was on Cockreham Road, Lyman, Skagit Co., 6 Jun 2011 (2011-1; JMa); an adult was on Leadbetter Point, Pacific Co., 17 Jun 2013 (2013-1; photo: DRF); and a juvenile appeared in Wenas, Yakima Co., 9 Aug 2013 (2013-2; photo: BH). The 12 records for Washington are from May to October, with seven on the west side and five on the east side. This pattern is somewhat similar to that in Oregon, which has 19 records, including three for November and one extending into December (Nehls 2014).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (4, 1). One at St. Andrews, Douglas Co., 6 Jun 2010 (BEVI-2010-1; photo: BW) was Washington's first Bell's Vireo supported by photographs. The photos, as well as the descriptions attending all of these records, suggested the Eastern Bell's Vireo (*V. b. bellii*) and eliminated the California-breeding Least Bell's Vireo (*V. b. pusillus*).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) (7, 1). One at Washtucna, Adams Co., 7 Sep 2010 (BHVI-2010-1; photo: JI), was the sixth in eastern Washington. All but one of these are from 28 August to 8 September, concurrent with the peak of many "eastern" vagrants in Washington, such as the Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) and Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*). As for many "eastern" passerines, the peak of occurrence in Washington is about a month earlier than that in California, late September to mid-October (Hamilton et al. 2007).

Lead-colored Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*) (3*, 2). A small population was discovered in the Columbia Basin near Potholes Reservoir, Grant Co., in 2002. Two were reported there 13 Mar 2011 (BUSH-2011-1; photo: BW). Nesting was confirmed in 2012. A group of 15 on 3 Dec 2012 was seen again on 7 Feb 2013 (2012-1; MY, photo: ToM).

Although the WBRC has accepted but three records, the frequent (albeit unsubmitted) reports from Potholes Reservoir (well away from any known population of any brown-crowned subspecies of the Bushtit, *P. m. minimus* group) plus documented nesting led the committee to remove the Lead-colored Bushtit from the Washington review list. Nonetheless, this colonization is extraordinary, as the nearest population of *plumbeus* is in east-central Oregon (Phillips 1986, Marshall et al. 2003), approximately 250 km distant.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) (13, 3). One was in Harrington, Lincoln Co., 2 Oct 2010 (BGGN-2010-1; RWf, photo: CrC), another in Washougal Oaks, Clark Co., 20–21 Jul 2011 (2011-1; CA). One at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 20 Oct–11 Dec 2011 was identified as being of the western race, *P. c. obscura*, by the amount of black in the tail and the call (2011-2; MBo, KBy, photos: RJM, GSM, GO, OO, RSh; Figure 8; see Kershner and Ellison 2012, http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/3518), the only one of Washington's 13 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers

identified to subspecies. A review of past records with photographs or sound recordings is warranted.

Figure 8. Washington's 12th Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (BGGN-2011-2) was the first identified to subspecies: the western *P. c. obscura*. Critical to that identification is the more extensive dark to the bases of the rectrices, as seen in this photo. This bird visited Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., from 20 Oct to 11 Dec 2011 (photo 24 Oct). *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (2, 1). A first-fall female Northern Wheatear frequented the Westport jetty, Grays Harbor Co., 26 Oct–5 Nov 2012. (NOWH-2012-1; JBy, BT, photos: RG, KH, ZH, JHi, RJM, GO, OO, JSa, GTh, LT; Figure 9). The similar Isabelline Wheatear (*O. isabellina*) was eliminated, in part, by the buffy supraloral stripe. Washington's first record (sight only) came from Thurston Co., 4 Sep 2004 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008). Oregon has six records, five from western Oregon, from 17 September to 28 October (Nehls 2014).

Figure 9. Washington's second Northern Wheatear (NOWH-2012-1), the first documented by photograph, was this cooperative first-fall female on the Westport jetty, Grays Harbor Co., 26 Oct–5 Nov 2012 (photo 2 Nov). *Photo by © Lyn Topinka.*

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) (13, 3). One was at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant Co., 21 May 2011 (BRTH-2011-1; RJM); one at Potholes State Park, Grant Co., 26-28 May 2011 (2011-2; SSc, photo: JI); and one at Montlake Fill, Seattle, King Co., 12 Jun 2011(2011-3; THa, CSi). All 13 of Washington's Brown Thrashers have occurred since 1994 and now span most of the state and calendar.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*) (8, 1). An adult male in alternate plumage was in Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 21–26 Jul 2012 (CCLO-2012-1; photo: RSh). Five of Washington's eight records are from the outer coast, three of them from 26 June to 26 July, when the species should be on its breeding grounds.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) (2, 1). One found at the Oyhut Game Range, Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., on 24 Aug 2013 lingered until 2 Sep (SMLO-2013-1; photos: MCh, CJ, TJ, ToM, GO, OO, LPa, DnP, DSn, RSh, DSl, NS, BW; audio: DSl). Washington's first record was from King Co., 30 Aug 2006 (Aanerud 2011). The two records seem early, as the species' peak in Minnesota and North Dakota, along its primary migration route, is from mid-September to mid-October (www.eBird.org). However, Smith's Longspur departs its western breeding grounds in the Yukon early, mostly from late July to mid-August (Sinclair et al. 2003), and southbound migration in southern Manitoba extends from late August into October (Manitoba Avian Research Committee 2003) and peaks in Alberta during the first half of September (Salt and Salt 1976). Furthermore, the only two coastal records from British Columbia are from late August (Campbell et al. 2001).

McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*) (1, 1). Washington's first was an alternate-plumaged male at the Montlake fill, Seattle, King Co., 8 Jun 2013. Though the report was not supported by photographs, the descriptions (including field sketches) from multiple observers were compelling and conclusive (MCLO-2013-1; HG, HN, MkW). Oregon has seven records, six from eastern Oregon, and the only western Oregon record is for winter.

McKay's Bunting (*Plectrophenax hyperboreus*) (4, 1). An adult female in basic plumage was noted at Damon Point, Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., 16 Dec 2011, then again 2–12 Feb 2012 (MKBU-2011-1; MBa, JBy, RSh, DWe, photos: PBa, LHu, CRi, CW). Two of the three prior records are from the same location, also during winter, the third from the Puget Trough in late November. Oregon has three records one as far south as Coos County along the southern coast (Nehls 2014).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) (23, 4). An adult was banded at the St. Cloud Ranch Day Use Area, Skamania Co., 29 Aug 2010 (OVEN-2010-1; SJ, photo: CJF); one was at the aggregate ponds 5 km southwest of Newhalem, Whatcom Co., 7 Jun 2011 (2011-1; MvB); one was recorded singing in the Sauk Valley, Skagit Co., 22 Jun 2012 (2012-1; photo, audio: RJM); and one was heard singing in East Wenatchee, Douglas Co., 2 Jun 2013 (2013-1; JT). Over half of Ovenbird records are from summer and most are of singing birds. Given that this species breeds as close as southwestern Alberta (Dunn and Garrett 1997), many of the records may involve birds on territory.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*) (4, 2). A male was found near Forks, Clallam Co., 23 Jun 2011 (BWWA-2011-1; DDr), and another was at College Place, Walla Walla Co., 4–5 Aug 2012 (2012-1; MLD, BDe). Three of Washington's four records of the Blue-winged Warbler are from late June to early August. In contrast, only one of Oregon's four records is for summer, the others being in May and September (Nehls 2014).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) (35, 5). One was at Corkindale Creek, Skagit Co., 19–20 Jun 2010 (BAWW-2010-4; GB, MWn); one at Washtucna, Adams Co., 19 May 2011 (2011-3; photo: LAP); one in Bellingham, Whatcom Co.,

19 Sep 2011 (2011-2; FS); a singing male at Diablo, Whatcom Co., 25 May 2012 (2012-2; RKn fide RJM); and one singing male at Ephrata, Grant Co., 29–30 May 2012 (2012-1; MY). Records are scattered throughout the year but are concentrated in late May and early June, which account for 10 of the 35.

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) (31, 8). A male in alternate plumage was at Sprague Lake, Lincoln Co., 28 Aug 2010 (TEWA-2010-2; TL); one was at the same location, 9 Sep 2010 (2010-3; RJM); a molting adult was banded in Spokane, Spokane Co., 5 Aug 2011 (2011-1; photo: CM); a male in alternate plumage was in Chesaw, Okanogan Co., 12 Jul 2012 (2012-1; BW); a male in basic plumage was in Spokane, Spokane Co., 16 Aug–4 Sep 2012 (2012-2; photo: LHa); an immature was in Marblemount, Skagit Co., 11 Sep 2012 (2012-4; photo: RJM); one was at Davenport, Lincoln Co., 21 Sep 2012 (2012-3; JI); and a male was at Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 12 Nov 2012 (2012-4; photos: RJM, BW). Washington's records peak from 24 August to 15 September (19 of 31), about three weeks earlier than the peak of mid-September to early October in California (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Eastern Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla ruficapilla*) (1*, 1). The identification of Washington's first Eastern Nashville Warbler, a singing male at Taylor Lake, Stevens Co., 3 Jul 2012 (NAWA-2012-1; photo, audio: RJM, SM), based on a combination of characters including song, structure, behavior, and upperparts brighter green and yellow more extensive below than in the western *O. r. ridgwayi*. The song matched songs of the nominate subspecies and would have been been highly atypical for *ridgwayi*. The relatively short tail was not wagged despite prolonged observation, behavior abnormal for *ridgwayi* but typical of *ruficapilla*. This subspecies breeds west to westernmost Saskatchewan (Smith 1996); records of vagrants include a specimen from northwestern Baja California (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) (5, 1). A one-year-old male summered at Cape Horn, Skamania Co., 4 Jul–31 Aug 2013 (HOWA-2013-1; WC, DaH, SHy, audio: MBa, RSh; photos: MCh, WD, CJ, ToM, RJM, GO, OO, LT, BW; Figure 10). Other Washington records comprise two in spring and two in winter.

Figure 10. Washington's fifth Hooded Warbler (HOWA-2013-1), a one-year-old male, at Cape Horn, Skamania Co., 4 Jul–31 Aug 2013 (photo 5 Jul). *Photo by © Brad Waggoner.*

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) (16, 3). Two singing males were at Columbia Park, Kennewick, Benton Co., 18 Jun–4 Jul 2012 (NOPA-2012-1; photos: SAt, IH, ToM, RJM, SM, LU); another singing male was at Potholes State Park, Grant Co., 4–9 Jul 2012 (2012-2; photo: SM); and a male was at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, Chelan Co., 7 Jul 2012 (2012-3; MK). Half of Washington's 16 records are of singing birds in June or July.

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) (24, 4). One was at Fishhook Park, Walla Walla Co., 25 Sep 2010 (MAWA-2010-1; MDy, MLD); one was at Harrington Cemetery, Lincoln Co., 7 Sep 2012 (2012-1; photo: JI); a male in alternate plumage was at Gingko State Park, Vantage, Kittitas Co., 5 Jun 2013 (2013-1; photos: KBl, GPa); and one was on Mount Baker, Whatcom Co., 22 Aug 2013 (2013-2; RKn fide RJM). Fifteen of Washington's 24 records are from late August to late September, including nine from early September.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) (3, 1). One was at Vantage, Kittitas Co., 15 Sep 2010 (BBWA-2010-1; TL). Of the two previous records, one was also from a Columbia Basin vagrant trap in September, while the other was of a singing bird in apparently suitable breeding habitat in June. In Oregon, 7 of 11 records are from late May to mid-June (Nehls 2014), but in the West as a whole approximately two-thirds of the records are from fall (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) (27, 6). The six records comprise a first-fall bird at Little Goose Dam, Columbia Co., 11 Sep 2010 (CSWA-2010-1; photo: RT, TT); a singing male at Protection I., Jefferson Co., 21 Jun 2011 (2011-1; photo, audio: AMo); a first-fall bird at Davenport, Lincoln Co., 10 Sep 2011 (2011-2; photo: JI); a male at Oak Creek Wildlife Area, Yakima Co., 3–7 Jun 2012 (2012-1; KBn, AR, photo AT); one at Johnson Park, Richland, Benton Co., 3 Sep 2012 (2012-3; photo: IH); and a male in alternate plumage at Ritzville, Adams Co., 2 Jun 2013 (2013-1; RKo).

Only 11 of Washington's 27 records come from the last decade, a distinct contrast to most other vagrant warblers, for which the number of records has increased dramatically in the last 10 to 15 years. Additionally, the pattern of Chestnut-sided Warbler vagrancy has changed markedly. Prior to 2000, most records were from mid June through July; since 2000, most have been from early to mid-September and in early June.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) (32, 5). Accepted were one seen at Washtucna, Adams Co., 9 Sep 2007 (BLPW-2007-2; RaH); one in Davenport, Lincoln Co., 14 Sep 2008 (2008-5; photo: MWo); a female at Ephrata, Grant Co., 25–26 May 2011 (2011-1; TBr, video: MY); a male in alternate plumage at Horn Rapids Park, Benton Co., 5 Jun 2011 (2011-2; MvB); and an immature banded at Turnbull NWR, Spokane Co., 1 Sep 2011 (2011-3; photo: MF).

Of any species in Washington, the Blackpoll Warbler has one of the best-defined patterns of vagrancy. All but two records are from the Columbia Basin, and all but five records are from 25 August through 30 September, with 23 from 1 to 15 September. Peak fall passage in California is in late September and early October (Dunn and Garrett 1997), again about three weeks after that in Washington.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) (11, 2). A male was in Mill Canyon, Lincoln Co., 8 Oct 2010 (BTBW-2010-1; TL), another in Black Diamond, King Co., 8 Jun 2012 (2012-1; photo: DDN). This species migrates later in the fall than many warblers, and, consistent with this, 7 of the 11 records are from early October to early November. The June record above is Washington's first in spring.

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) (1, 1). Washington's first was an immature female at McNary NWR, Walla Walla Co., 5–6 Sep 2010 (CAWA-2010-1; MDy, MLD, photo: LU; Figure 11). This species was long overdue in Washington, as Oregon has nine records (seven from eastern and two from western Oregon), five of them in September (Nehls 2014).

Figure 11. This first-fall female Canada Warbler (CAWA-2010-1) was Washington's first. It graced McNary NWR, Walla Walla Co., 5–6 Sep 2010 (photo 6 Sep). *Photo by © Larry Umthun.*

Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* group) (1*, 1). Washington's first confirmed record of this subspecies group was of a pair at Leech Lake, White Pass, Yakima Co., 5-28 Jul 2013 (TBFS-2013-1; BT, photos: DG, GSM).

The range of Thick-billed Fox Sparrows has traditionally been thought to extend no farther north than central Oregon on the east side of the Cascades (Gabrielson and Jewett 1940). Identification is complicated, however, by the most northerly Thick-billed Fox Sparrows (*P. i. fulva*) approaching the Slate-colored Fox Sparrows (*P. i. schistacea* group, including *P. i. olivacea* of Washington) in color (Swarth 1918, 1920) and bill size (Pyle 1997). Marshall et al. (2003) suggested that *fulva* ranges to the northern limit of the Cascades in Oregon, on both the east and west slopes. Since the early 2000s, undocumented summer reports of Thick-billed Fox Sparrows have come from Skamania and Klickitat counties in southern Washington, but the record from Leech Lake is the first to be supported with photographs. The identification relied heavily on the distinctive call notes as well as apparent bill size. Given the morphological similarities with *olivacea*, the committee remains wary of accepting any record of a Thick-billed Fox Sparrow without audio evidence.

Red Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca* group) (18*, 5) Accepted were one from Stanwood, Snohomish Co., 28 Nov 2010 (RFSP-2010-3; photo: SM); one from Tenino, Thurston Co., 6 Apr 2011 (2011-1; photo: RJM); one in Monroe, Snohomish Co., 30 Nov 2011 (2011-3; photo: RJM); one from Fir I., Skagit Co., 2 Dec 2011 (2011-2; photo: RJM); and one on Bainbridge I., Kitsap Co., 11 Jan 2013 (2013-1; photo: BW). The April record is the first outside September to February since the committee started reviewing subspecies in 2004. There are now 18 records in a 9-year period.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (4, 2). Adult males were in Ilwaco, Pacific Co., 1–5 Dec 2012 (SUTA-2012-2; photos: RJM, RSh, DSw fide SWh) and Seattle, King Co., 7–13 Dec 2012 (2012-1; photos: RBj, JG, EHo, ToM, RJM, RR, DSn; video: HF; Figure 12). These two records are Washington's first in winter. Oregon has 21 records of the Summer Tanager, with two of the seven western Oregon records in winter (Nehls 2014).

Figure 12. A brilliant adult male Summer Tanager (SUTA-2012-1) at Seattle, King Co., 7–13 Dec 2012 (photo 11 Dec), representing Washington's second record for December and fourth overall. *Photo by © Doug Schurman.*

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) (33, 5). One adult male was in South Seattle, King Co., 30–31 Mar 2011 (INBU-2011-1; photo: EN); one was at Sauk Prairie, Skagit Co., 6 Oct 2011 (2011-2; photo, audio: RJM); another was there 7 Aug 2012 (2012-2; RJM); an adult male was in Vancouver, Clark Co., 29 Jun–4 Jul 2012 (2012-1; BT, photos: ScC, SM, JSa, LT); and an adult male was in Skamokawa, Wahkiakum Co., 16–17 May 2013 (2013-1; AE, KMN, photos: ToM, BM). Twenty-four of Washington's 33 records are from May to July, most of singing males. The March record is well before this species' normal migration period and suggests that this individual might have wintered locally. Washington has one similar record, from Snohomish Co. in late March, though the landowner had noted the bird since at least late February.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (2, 1). An adult male was singing along Siwash Creek, Okanogan Co., 6 Jul–3 Aug 2012 (PABU-2012-1; DDa, JOw, JRi, BT, photos: LJ, ToM, RJM, GO, OO, STo; video: RJM; Figure 13). The only prior Washington record was of one at a King Co. feeder, 10 Feb–3 Mar 2002 (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006). Although in California the Painted Bunting occurs predominantly from September to November, in eastern North America its pattern of vagrancy is bimodal, with peaks in late spring/summer and late fall/winter (Mlodinow and Hamilton 2005). Oregon has eight records, six from west of the Cascades, three from December through March and two from November; the only summer record for Oregon is from east of the Cascades (Nehls 2014).

Figure 13. This worn adult male Painted Bunting (PABU-2012-1) sang persistently along Siwash Creek, Okanogan Co., from 6 Jul to 3 Aug 2012 (photo 6 Jul), providing Washington's second record. *Photo by © Ryan Merrill.*

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) (9, 3). One was at Windust, Franklin Co., 4 Sep 2010 (DICK-2010-1; SM); a male was in Bow, Skagit Co., 28–29 May 2011 (2011-1; photo: GW); another male came to a feeder in Shelton, Mason Co., 7–9 May 2012 (2012-1; photo: KSh). Seven of Washington's nine records are from west of the Cascades. Oregon has 17 records, 15 from west of the Cascades (Nehls 2014).

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) (1, 1). Washington's first was found singing at Marblemount, Skagit Co., 1–4 Jun 2012 (EAME-2012-1; GB, photo, video, audio: RJM; Figure 14). Records of this species nearest to Washington come from east of the Rocky Mountains, with vagrants west to Alberta (Slater 2001) and Montana (Montana Audubon Society 2014). In song and plumage, this individual agrees with *S. m. magna* of eastern North America, not the southwestern *S. m. lilianae*.

Figure 14. Washington's first Eastern Meadowlark (EAME-2012-1) was in Marblemount, Skagit Co., 1–4 Jun 2012 (photo 1 Jun). Note white malar (A) and extent of white in the outer rectrices (B). *Photos by © Ryan Merrill.*

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) (19, 1). A pair was at Potholes State Park, Grant Co, 12–18 May 2013 (COGR-2013-1; PL, photos: HH, CJ, ToM, GO, OO, GTh). As with previous records, both appeared to be of subspecies *versicolor*. Eleven of Washington's 19 records have been since 2001, with peak occurrence (10 records) from mid-May to early July. Oregon has 33 records but, unlike Washington, has not had a recent surge of sightings, with only 11 since 2001 (Nehls 2014).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) (10, 2). A male was in Pacific Co. at Naselle on 29 May 2013 and at Bay Center from 17 to 26 Jun 2013 (GTGR-2013-1; AMu, AR, photos: DoH, MHa, MO, DO). Another male found at Sam Peach Park, Puyallup, Pierce Co., 7 Aug 2013 remained at least until September 2014 (2013-3; photos: JBs, MCh, ToM, GO, OO, DSn, RSh). Washington's 10 records are split evenly between eastern and western Washington, with nine since 2001. Eight of of the birds were first found between mid-May and early August.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) (7, 1). A first-fall male was in Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 21 Oct–14 Nov 2012 (ORORO-2012-1; photos: RJM, BW). Western Washington now has six records, scattered from early September to late December. The sole record from east of the Cascades is from late June (Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008).

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*) (9, 2). An adult male at College Place, Walla Walla Co., 28 Jul 2008 (HOOR-2008-1; photo: JK, DK fide MDy, MLD) was the first for eastern Washington. An adult male was in Kelso, Cowlitz Co., 2–10 August 2011 (2011-1; JJ, CJ, RKo, photo: MHi). Records span 25 April to 10 August, with four in early or mid-May.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) (6, 2). An adult male was at Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland, King Co., 4 Mar 2013 (BAOR-2013-1; GTr). Another adult male was in Kennewick, Benton Co., 8 May 2013 (2013-2; JAb, KAb, CHb, photo: LTs fide MDy,

MLD); it was found injured and later died (specimen not preserved). Four of Washington's six records are from May or June, split between east and west. Oregon has 17 records, only eight of them from May and June; five are from August to October (Nehls 2014).

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) (16, 2). One was in Seattle, King Co., 24 Nov 2012 (BRAM-2012-1; EV fide ED), another in Birch Bay Village, Whatcom Co., 24–26 Dec 2012 (2012-2; photos: ToM, RJM, RSm, VS fide JMe). All but three of Washington's 16 Bramblings are from the west, and nine occurred from 1989 through 1993. The species' occurrence in continental North America is irregular, with a spike during the early 1990s (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996).

Eastern Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus purpureus*) (1*, 1). Washington's first was a female or immature male in Conconully, Okanogan Co., 19 Feb 2009 (PUFI-2009-1; TA, photo: RJM).

The Purple Finch has two rather distinct subspecies, *H. p. purpureus* and *H. p. californicus*, the latter breeding widely across western Washington. The nominate subspecies breeds west into the central interior of British Columbia with a few occurring west to the central coast of the province (Campbell et al. 2001). Since this subspecies is highly migratory, or at least irruptive (Wootton 1996), its occurrence in Washington has been expected. For good discussions of the identification of Purple Finch subspecies, see Rutt et al. (2014) and Sibley (2014).

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) (19, 5). Accepted were one at Mary Anne Creek, Chesaw, Okanogan Co., 27 Feb and 2 Mar 2010 (HORE-2010-1; GG, BLB, MRo); one on Samish I., Skagit Co., 2 Jan 2012 (2012-3; photo: RJM); one at Umptanum Falls, Yakima Co., 5 Feb 2012 (2012-7; SD); one at Anatone, Asotin Co., 6 Mar 2012 (2012-5; JI, GSh); and one first-winter bird at Steptoe Butte, Whitman Co., 25–27 Nov 2012 (2012-9; photos: CrC, JI). Given the exceptional difficulty of distinguishing this species from Common Redpoll (*A. flammea*), the committee treats reports of the Hoary Redpoll conservatively; it may occur more regularly than the data indicate.

Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*) (2, 2). A male in Friday Harbor, San Juan Co., 2 May 2011(LAGO-2011-1; photo: MPr fide BJ) was Washington's first. The second, also male, appeared in Keyport, Kitsap Co., 20–21 May 2012 (2012-1; BW, photos: SKl, RSh; Figure 15). These occurrences are consistent with the pattern of vagrancy in Oregon, which has eight records, five of them from 12 April to 16 May (Nehls 2014).

Figure 15. Washington's second Lawrence's Goldfinch (LAGO-2012-1), Keyport, Kitsap Co., 20–21 May 2012 (photo 21 May)—a year and a few days after the first, in nearby San Juan County. *Photo by © Ryan Shaw.*

Reports Not Accepted by the Committee—Identification Uncertain

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*) (10*, 2). A supposed Emperor Goose seen at Everson, Whatcom Co., 15 Dec 2011 (EMGO-2011-2, vote: 2-5-0) later died, but the specimen was lost. Extensive white on the undertail coverts, seen in photos of the bird while alive, raised suspicions that it might have been a hybrid.

American Black Duck *(Anas rubripes*) (0, 0). The details in a report from the Auburn/Enumclaw Plateau in King Co., 19 Jul 1998 (ABDU-1998-1, vote: 0-7-0), recalled from memory several years later, were insufficient.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) (30*, 12). A report from Priest Rapids Dam, Yakima and Grant counties, 1 Dec 2012–9 Feb 2013 (TUDU-2012-4, vote: 0-7-0) failed to eliminate a hybrid Tufted Duck × scaup. A female reported from the Washougal sewage ponds, Clark Co., 24 Mar 2013 (2013-6, vote: 0-7-0) was seen only briefly, with a tuft on the head being the only relevant field mark noted.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) (3, 1). Six reports were not accepted in this period: Photographs of one in alternate plumage in Sequim, Clallam Co., in August 2010 (ARLO-2010-1, vote: 0-7-0) and the description of one at Bainbridge I., Kitsap Co., 5 Feb 2011 (2011-1, vote: 2-3-2) did not fully eliminate the Pacific Loon (*G. pacifica*); one at Alki, West Seattle, King Co., 1 Jan 2011 (2011-2, vote: 2-5-0) was inadequately described. Report of loons in basic plumage from Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Clallam Co., 27 Jan 2013 (2013-1, vote: 2-5-0) and Neah Bay, Clallam Co., 6 Mar 2013 (2013-2, vote: 1-6-0) failed to eliminate the Common Loon. A report of one from just south of the Beebe Bridge in Douglas Co., 15 Feb 2013 (2013-3, vote: 0-7-0), provided minimal details, not allowing for identification beyond "loon."

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) (0, 0). A report of this species, unknown in North America, from Lake Chelan, Chelan Co., 28 Jan 2013 (GCGR-2013-1, vote: 0-7-0) did not eliminate far more likely options such as the Red-necked Grebe *(P. grisegena).*

Ashy Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) (2,0). The description of a bird off Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 1 May 2010 (ASSP-2010-2, vote: 3-2-2) suggested the Ashy Storm-Petrel but was inadequate to establish the identification.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (0, 0). A report from 142 km west of Ilwaco, Pacific Co., 10 Jul 2008 (BSTP-2008-1, vote: 1-5-1) was not accepted because of the brevity of the sighting and the difficulty of the identification.

Red-faced Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax urile*) (1, 0). A report from the Salt Creek Wildlife Area, Clallam Co., 17–20 Mar 2011 (RFCO-2011-1, vote: 1-5-1) was insufficiently detailed to exclude a breeding-plumaged Pelagic Cormorant (*P. pelagicus*).

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (24*, 6). A report from Ellensburg, Kittitas Co., 16 Oct 2011 (BWHA-2011-1, vote: 1-6-0) was too brief to eliminate other species. A report from Myrtle Edwards Park, Seattle, King Co., 19 Sep 2011 (2011-4, vote: 0-7-0) included no description and only one small photo not identifiable to species. A report of a juvenile from Bennington Lake, Walla Walla Co., 27 Aug 2012 (2012-2, vote: 0-7-0) did not rule out an accipiter. The size and shape of one reported from Corkindale, Skagit Co., 1 Oct 2012 (2012-4, vote: 5-2-0) fit the Broad-winged Hawk but were insufficient to establish the bird's identification.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) (1, 0). A single-observer report of one calling bird at Nisqually NWR, Thurston Co., 7 Oct 2011 (CRPL-2011-1, vote: 5-2-0) enjoyed significant initial support among the committee but was ultimately not accepted as its vocalizations were not recorded and it was not seen well enough to eliminate the Semipalmated Plover (*C. semipalmatus*).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) (11, 1). One in basic plumage, reported from Deer Lagoon, Island Co., 27 Sep 2012 (CUSA-2012-2, vote: 1-6-0), was too distant to allow the observers to see the necessary field marks adequately. A report of two in alternate plumage at the Whidbey Golf Course, Island Co., 30 May 2013 (2013-1, vote: 0-7-0) did not eliminate the Red Knot (*C. canutus*).

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) (5, 1). A report from Three Crabs, Dungeness, Clallam Co., 6–7 Aug 2010 (RNST-2010-1, vote: 0-5-2) did not clearly eliminate the Little Stint (*C. minuta*) or brightly colored juveniles of North American peeps.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) (7, 3). One reported from Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 10–11 May 2013 (WRSA-2013-1, vote: 2-4-1) was seen poorly, and some field marks noted, such as a sandy color and the lack of prominent supercilium, were incorrect for an alternate-plumaged White-rumped Sandpiper.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) (20, 3). One reported at Anacortes, Skagit Co., 6 Nov 2010 (TBMU-2010-1, vote: 1-6-0) was seen at too great a distance in poor light for the Common Murre (*U. aalge*) to be eliminated convincingly. One reported from Southworth, Kitsap Co., 25 Dec 2010 (2010-2, vote: 1-6-0) was seen at a distance of 300 m, and the identification relied primarily on a perceived gape line.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (9, 2). Two reported in President Channel off San Juan I., San Juan Co., 13 Dec 2004 (LBMU-2004-2, vote: 0-6-0) were seen for only 2 seconds, with the identification based solely on the perceived dark nape.

Scripps's/Guadalupe/Craveri's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi/hypoleucus/craveri*) (4, 1). A report of one from Edmonds, Snohomish Co., 18 Sep 2011 (SCMU/GUMU/CRMU-2011-3, vote: SCMU/GUMU = 5, not accepted = 2) did not eliminate other possibilities, including the Long-billed Murrelet.

Crested Auklet (*Aethia cristatella*) (0, 0). A report of two birds seen briefly from Point No Point, Kitsap Co., 7 May 2013 (CRAU-2013-1, vote: 0-7-0) did not convincingly eliminate other species, such as the Whiskered Auklet (*A. pygmaea*).

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) (75*, 49). Remains found on Cranberry Road South, Pacific Co., 23 Apr 2007 by COASST (HOPU-2007-25, vote: 5-2-0) were too scant to be identified to species from a photo.

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) (7, 2). The identification of one reported from Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, Grays Harbor Co., 13 May 2011 (BTGU-2011-1, vote: 0-7-0) relied primarily on a black tail band, and the description did not eliminate other, more common species, such as the California (*L. californicus*), Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*), or Western (*L. occidentalis*) Gulls in pre-definitive plumages.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*) (19, 5). Reports from Westport, Grays Harbor Co., 31 Dec 2011 (ICGU-2011-2, vote: 5-2-0), the Snake River near Clarkston, Asotin Co., 22 Jan–19 Feb 2012 (2012-1, vote: 4-3-0) did not elimiminate Thayer's Gull or a hybrid. The bulkiness and muddy, rather than marbled, plumage evident in photos and description of a second-cycle gull at LaPush, Clallam Co., 28 Jan 2013 (2013-4, vote: 2-4-1) eliminated the Iceland Gull.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (11, 2). The photographs and description of a hummingbird reported from Camas, Clark Co., 31 Dec 2012 (COHU-2012-1, vote: 1-5-1) did not eliminate Anna's (*C. anna*) or the Black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*) (4, 0). A report of one from College Place, Walla Walla Co., 7 Sep 2007 (BTAH-2007-1, vote: 0-7-0) was based on photos of multiple birds, some or all Rufous Hummingbirds (*S. rufus*). One reported from Biscuit Ridge, Dixie, Walla Walla Co., 17 Jul 2012 (2012-1, vote:

0-7-0) appeared to be a hybrid, with a Calliope Hummingbird (*S. calliope*) as one of the parents and a Black-chinned or Anna's as the other.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) (3, 0). The description of one reported from Montlake Fill, Seattle, King Co., 12 Jun 2013 (ALFL-2013-1, vote: 1-5-1) did not eliminate the Willow Flycatcher *(E. traillii*). The described calls were also similar to some of the less frequent calls of the Willow Flycatcher.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) (12, 5). The description of one reported from Washtucna, Adams Co., 4 Sep 2010 (EAPH-2010-1, vote: 3-3-1) did not rule out the Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) (7, 1). Photos and recordings of a vireo singing in Bellingham, Whatcom Co., 14–19 Jul 2013 (BHVI-2013-1, vote: 0-5-2) were inconclusive; the recordings suggested Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*).

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) (1, 0). Details in a report from Fishhook Park, Walla Walla Co., 23 Sep 2012 (GCTH-2012-1, vote: 1-5-1) fit an interior Hermit Thrush such as *C. guttatus auduboni* more closely.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) (1, 0). A report from Seattle, King Co., 23 Nov 2010 (REDW-2010-1, vote: 0-7-0) did not convincingly distinguish the bird from an American Robin (*T. migratorius*).

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) (1, 0). The report of a male in Seattle, King Co., 5 Jun 2013 (PHAI-2013-1, vote: 0-7-0) lacked essential field marks such as the wing patches (despite the bird's being seen in flight).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) (35, 5). One reported from Crocker Lake, Jefferson Co., 18 Aug 2011 (BAWW-2011-1, vote: 0-7-0) was seen and described too briefly to be identitified. A report from Magnuson Park, Seattle, King Co., 27 Jul 2012 (2012-3, vote: 2-4-1) did not rule out the Black-throated Gray Warbler *(Setophaga nigrescens*). Two birds reported from North Fork I., Whatcom Co., 4 Mar 2013 (2013-1, vote: 0-7-0) were described as having yellow underparts and obviously not this species.

Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*) (31, 8). A description of one at Frenchman's Bar County Park, Clark Co., 2 Sep 2013 (TEWA-2013-1, vote: 2-5-0) mentioned a white eyebrow and yellow undersides, field marks suggesting a different species.

Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*) (2, 0). One recorded singing at Altair Campground, Clallam Co., 8 Jul 2013 (MOWA-2013-1, vote: 1-6-0) was not seen adequately to be identified visually, and the song may have been within the repertoire of MacGillivray's Warbler (*G. tolmiei*). Furthermore, warblers occasionally sing other species' songs, and a hybrid Mourning × MacGillivray's Warbler might sing the song of either species.

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) (5, 1). Differences between observers' details in a report of one at Newhalem, Whatcom Co., 1 Jun 2012 (HOWA-2012-1, vote: 5-2-0) left the committee unconvinced of the bird's identification.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) (3, 1). One reported from the Ellenger Homestead, Washtucna, Adams Co., 15 Sep 2012 (BBWA-2012-1, vote: 1-5-1) was seen briefly and described scantily.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) (6, 0). A report from Washtucna, Adams Co., 3 Sep 2010 (BLBW-2010-1, vote: 4-3-0) lacked details sufficient to eliminate Townsend's Warbler (*S. townsendi*).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*) (32, 5). A report from Cape Disappoint-

ment, Pacific Co., 12 Sep 2007 (BLPW-2007-1, vote: 3-4-0) was not endorsed chiefly because the bird's underparts were described as being, in part, orange-buff.

Red Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca* group) (18*, 5). Photographs of a Fox Sparrow in Davenport, Lincoln Co., 1 Sep 2010 (RFSP-2010-2, vote: 0-7-0) showed a bird more consistent with subspecies *altivagans* or with a Red × Sooty Fox Sparrow rather than a "pure" Red Fox Sparrow.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (2, 1). The report of a Painted Bunting seen briefly at Port Angeles, Clallam Co., 23 Aug 2011 (PABU-2011-1, vote: 1-3-3) lacked an adequate description.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) (16, 2). The report of a male from the Bow Rest Area along Interstate 5 in Skagit Co. in early September 2012 (BRAM-2012-3, vote: 1-6-0) was not accompanied by a thorough description.

Eastern Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus purpureus*) (1*, 1). An adult male Purple Finch in Friday Harbor, San Juan Co., 19 Dec 2010 (PUFI-2010-1, vote: 1-3-3) was seen by a single observer and not sufficiently described to establish a first state record. One reported in Johnson Park, Richland, Benton Co., 18 Oct 2010 (2010-2, vote: 1-3-3) appeared in photographs more likely to be of the western subspecies because of its relatively weak facial pattern.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) (19,5). These 10 reports lacked description of at least one crucial field mark such as an unmarked rump patch or unstreaked or lightly streaked undertail coverts: one from the Kalispell Reservation, Pend Oreille Co., 3 Jan 2012 (HORE-2012-8, vote: 1-6-0); one in Nine Mile Canyon, Walla Walla Co., 15 Jan 2012 (2012-1, vote: 1-6-0) and another there 16 Jan 2012 (2012-6, vote: 2-5-0); one in Chesaw, Okanogan Co., 18 Feb 2012 (2012-4, vote: 1-5-1); one along Level Road, Lincoln Co., 28 Feb 2012 (2012-2, vote: 0-7-0), one in Mead, Spokane Co., 28 Nov 2012 (2012-10, vote: 3-4-0); one from Teanaway Road, Kittitas Co., 16 Dec 2012 (2012-11, vote: 2-5-0); one from the Squalicum beach trailhead, Whatcom Co., 22 Dec 2012 (2012-12, vote: 0-7-0); one from Bellevue, King Co., 12–13 Feb 2013 (2013-1, vote: 0-5-2); and one from Hungry Hollow Road, Okanogan Co., 25 Feb 2013 (2013-2, vote: 0-7-0).

Reports Not Accepted by the Committee—Identification Certain, Origin Unknown

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (0, 0). The committee reviewed earlier Washington reports and concluded that for this species an origin in captivity is far more likely than natural occurrence from the wild. It will continue reviewing Barnacle Goose reports, however, in case a plausible hypothesis for a wild origin arises. Records of this species in North America are widely scattered across the continent and away from the northeast and mid-Atlantic coast do not form a pattern of natural occurrence (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996). The reports reviewed were of one in Kent, King Co., 21 Nov 1981 (BARG-1981-1, origin vote: 0-5-2); one at the Nooksack River Delta, Whatcom Co., 9 Dec 1996 (1996-1, origin vote: 0-5-2); one at Brady Loop, Grays Harbor Co., 27 Mar–15 Apr 2007 (2007-1, origin vote: 0-5-2); and one at Ridgefield NWR, Clark Co., 22 Feb 2011 (2011-1, origin vote: 0-5-2). All were considered correctly identified.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) (0, 0). Photographs of a female in Renton, King Co., 8 Jun 2011 (NOCA-2011-1, origin vote: 0-5-2) and an adult male in South Bend, Pacific Co., 4–10 Feb and 5–12 May 2012 (2012-1, origin vote: 0-6-1) left no doubt as to the birds' identity. But in Washington a Northern Cardinal is more likely of captive rather than wild origin; there have been at least two instances of known escapees.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank WBRC committee members Kevin Aanerud, Shawneen Finnegan, Ryan Merrill, Dennis Paulson, Ryan Shaw, Bill Tweit, Brad Waggoner, and Charlie Wright for advice and comments, as well as Jon Dunn, Michael Force, Dan Gibson, Paul Lehman, Peter Pyle, and Philip Unitt for comments, advice, and support. In addition, we thank to the following observers for contributing their records of birds for our consideration: Kevin Aanerud (KAa), Carlo Abbruzzese (CA), Ryan Abe (RA), Jane Abel (JAb), Keith Abel (KAb), Mark Ahlness (MA), Jon Anderson (JAn), Kathy Andrich (KAn), Steve Aranoff (SAr), Gail Aslanian (GA), Steve Aslanian (SAs), Scott Atkinson (SAt), Tom Aversa (TA), Paul Bannick (PBa), Robert Barnes (RBa), Matt Bartels (MBa), Blair Bernson (BBe), Randy Bjorkland (RBj), Eric Bjorkman (EBj), Tammy Bjorkman (TBj), Kevin Black (KBl), Gary Bletsch (GB), Bob Boekelheide (BBo), Nina Bohn (NnB), Nick Bonomo (NkB), Michelle Boutiette (MBo), Paul Bowen (PBo), Keith Brady (KBy), Marv Breece (MvB), Jeremy Breese (JyB), John Bremer (JoB), Tim Brennan (TBr), Mike Britton (MiB), Jerry Broadus (JBs), Ernie Brooks (EBr), Kenneth Brown (KBn), Janet Bruening (JaB), Jeff Bryant (JBy), Penny Burns (PBu), Coleman Byrnes (CB), Wilson Cady (WC), Steven Caldwell (StC), Kenneth I. Campbell (KIC), Marianne Campbell (MCa), Keith Carlson (KeC), Scott Carpenter (ScC), Peter Carr (PC), Michael Charest (MCh), Sue Chickman (SCh), Mike Clarke (MCl), Corey Clatterbuck (CCl), Craig Corder (CrC), Liz Cormier (LC), Etta Cosey (EC), Cameron Cox (CaC), Michael Crowder (MCr), Bev J. Dage (BJD), Kirsten Dahl (KD), Debbie Dain (DDa), Lee Dallas (LD), Pat Damron (PD), Ed Deal (ED), Paul DeBruyn (PDB), Michael Deckert (MDt), Hans deGrys (HdG), Merry Lynn Denny (MLD), Mike Denny (MDy), Darrel DeNune (DDN), Bob Derling (BDe), Robert Dice (RD), Jane Dolliver (JaD), Amy Douglas (AD), Jack L. Douglas (JLD), Scott Downes (SD), Marc Dragiewicz (MDr), David Drummond (DDr), Wendy Duncan (WD), Dalene S. Edgar (DSE), Don H. Edgar (DHE), Andrew Emlen (AE), Candace Emmons (CE), Greg Englin (GE), John Epler (JE), Pam Essley (PE), Pete Fahey (PF), Shawneen Finnegan (SF), David Flaim (DFl), CJ Flick (CJF), Bob Flores (BFl), Houston Flores (HF), Burton Foote (BuF), Bernard Foy (BeF), Whitney Fraser (WF), Marian Frobe (MF), Daniel R Froehlich (DRF), George Gerdts (GG), Helen Gilbert (HG), Rod Gilbert (RG), Denny Granstrand (DG), Terry Gray (TG), Jordan Gunn (JG), Eric Guzman (EG), Vince Hagel (VH), Arlen Hagen (AHa), Sherry Hagen (SHg), Lindel Haggin (LHa), Don Hall (DoH), Marva Hall (MHa), John Hanna (JHa), Knut Hansen (KH), Todd Hass (THa), Zach Hawn (ZH), Dave Hayden (DaH), Sherry Hayden (SHy), Hank Heiberg (HH), Jill Hein (JiH), Jeff Heinlen (JeH), Eric Heisey (EHe), Carol Henry (CaH), Connie Herber (CHb), Connie Herzig (CHz), Thomas Herzig (THe), Chazz Hesselein (CzH), Rick Hibpshman (RiH), Joseph Higbee (JHi), Brendan Higgins (BH), Amy Hill (AHi), Lisa Hill (LHi), Mike Hill (MHi), Randy Hill (RaH), Christopher Hinkle (CHi), Michael Hobbs (MiH), Scott Horton (SHo), Evan Houston (EHo), Mark Houston (MaH), Larry Hubbell (LHu), Ivar Husa (IH), David Irons (DI), Jon Isacoff (JI), Jeff Jendro (JJ), Hugh Jennings (HJ), Barb Jensen (BJ), Chuck Jensen (CJ), Lee Johnson (LJ), Todd Johnson (TJ), Stuart Johnston (SJ), Katie Jones (KJ), Anne Kahle (AK), Sue Keilman (SKe), Matt Kizer (MK), Cindy Kleinhuizen (CK), Kris Kleinhuizen (KK), Sandy Klipper (SKl), Randy Knapp (RKn), Dorothy Knowles (DK), John Knowles (JK), Russ Koppendrayer (RKo), Liz Kuehn (LK), Bruce LaBar (BLB), Dow Lambert (DL), Fanter Lane (FL), Ken Lane (KLa), Christine Lee (CLe), Nathan Lee (NL), Paul Lehman (PL), Jon Leland (JL) Laurie Lindeman (LL), Kathy Linnell (KLi), Terry Little (TL), Clarence C. Lupo (CCL), Qinglin Ma (QM), Joe Mackie (JMa), Ami Magisos (AMa), Tom Mansfield (ToM), David A Marques (DAM), Terry Martin (TeM), Faye McAdams Hands (FMH), Marsh McCord (MMc), Cindy McCormack (CM), Andrew McCormick (AMC), Kenny McCoy (KMC), Patrick McKann (PM), Lamont McLachlan (LM), Brad McNally (BM), Kerrie McNally (KMN), Jim McRoberts (JMR), Guy McWethy (GMW), Joe Meche (JMe), Ryan Merrill

(RJM), Angela Messmer (AMe), G. Scott Mills (GSM), Jeff Mills (JMi), Steve Mlodinow (SM), Andre Moncrieff (AMo), Roger Moyer (RMo), Diane Mulholland (DMu), Judy Mullally (JMu), Tom Munson (TMu), Mike Munts (MMu), Ann Musche (AMu), Henry Mustin (HM), Sue Nattinger (SN), Vic Nelson (VN), Ed Newbold (EN), Henry Noble (HN), Tim O'Brien (TO), Diane O'Meagher (DO), Michael O'Meagher (MO), Daniel O'Hagan (DaO), Janet Oja (JOj), Grace Oliver (GO), Ollie Oliver (OO), Jim Owens (JOw), Eric M Page (EMP), George Pagos (GPa), Bruce Paige (BrP), Debby Parker (DbP), Jim Parker (JPa), Paul Parker (PP), Sally Parker (SPa), Laurel Parshall (LPa), Beau Patterson (BeP), Mike Patterson (MkP), Barbara Patton (BaP), Michael Patton (McP), Dennis Paulson (DnP), Scott Pearson (SPe), Steve Pink (SPi), Jennifer Plombom (JPl), Lily Ann Plumb (LAP), George Power (GPo), Rosaleen Power (RP), Michele Preston (MPr), John Puschock (JPu), Scott Ramos (SR), John Rasmussen (JRa), Heather Reed (HR), Alan Richards (AR), Jeanelle Richardson (JRi), Carol Riddell (CRi), Gary Rittenmeyer (GR), Celia Robert (CRo), Randy Robinson (RR), James Roche (JRo), Marcus Roening (MRo), Mark Russell (MkR), Mary Russell (MyR), Luke Safford (LSa), Jen Sanford (JSa), Janet Schmidt (JSc), Sarah Schmidt (SSc), Bill Schmoker (BSc), Doug Schonewald (DSd), Mike Schroeder (MSc), Doug Schurman (DSn), Tony Scruton (TS), Fredrick Sears (FS), Adam Sedgley (ASe), Ryan Shaw (RSh), Bill Shelmerdine (BSh), Ken Sheppard (KSh), Gina Sheridan (GSh), Connie Sidles (CSi), Dave Slager (DSl), Arn Slettebak (ASl), Kathy Slettebak (KSl), Robert Small (RSm), Virginia Small (VS), Gary Smith (GSm), Netta Smith (NS), Larry Spear (LSp), Karl Spees (KSp), Meredith Spencer (MSp), Beth St. George (BSG), Latresha Starling (LSt), Sumer Starling (SSt), Andy Stepniewski (ASt), Ellen Stepniewski (ElS), Clinton Stipek (CSt), Eftin Strong (EfS), Ingrid Strong (IS), Brian Sullivan (BSu), Ruth Sullivan (RSu), Cyndie Sundstrom (CSu), Doug Swanson (DSw), Jerry Tangren (JT), Rick Taylor (RT), Tina Taylor (TT), Warren Terrell (WT), Gregg Thompson (GTh), Mick Thompson (MT), Shep Thorp (STh), Asta Tobiassen (AT), Lynn Tompkins (LTs), Sam Tooley (STo), Lyn Topinka (LT), Kenneth Trease (KT), Gretchen Tremoulet (GTr), Bill Tweit (BT), Brian Uher-Koch (BUK), Igor Uhrovic (IU), Larry Umthun (LU), Eric Vandegrift (EV), Sally Vogel (SV), Brad Waggoner (BW), Dan Waggoner (DWa), Sarah Wagner (SWa), Janet Waterstrat (JWa), Paul Waterstrat (PW), Diane Weinstein (DWe), Natalie Whitman (NW), Suzy Whittey (SWh), Ryan Wiese (RyW), Mike Wile (MkW), Jack Williamson (JWi), Michael Willison (MWn), Roger Windemuth (RWm), Ginny Wolff (GW), Michael Woodruff (MWo), Roger Woodruff (RWf), Charlie Wright (CW), Matt Yawney (MY), Diane Yorgason-Quinn (DYQ).

LITERATURE CITED

Aanerud, K. R. 2002. Fifth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 8:1–18.

Aanerud, K. R. 2011. Eighth Report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 11:35–55.

Aanerud, K. R., and Mattocks, P. W. Jr. 1997. Third report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 6:7–31.

Aanerud, K. R., and Mattocks, P. W. Jr. 2000. Fourth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 7: 7–24.

Able, K. P., Barron, A., Dunn, J. L., Omland, K. E., and Sansone, L. 2014. First occurrence of an Atlantic Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) in the Pacific Ocean. *Western Birds* 45:90–99.

Alcorn, J. R. 1988. *The Birds of Nevada*. Fairview West, Fallon, NV.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. Check-list of North American Birds, 6th ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, DC.

American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed. Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.

Brazil, M. 2009. *Birds of East Asia: Eastern China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Eastern Russia*. Christopher Helm, London.

Campbell, R. W., Dawe, N. K., McTaggart-Cowan, I., Cooper, J. M., Kaiser, G. W., and McNall, M. C. E. 1990. *The Birds of British Columbia*, vol. 2. Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria.

Campbell, R. W., Dawe, N. K., McTaggart-Cowan, I., Cooper, J.M. Kaiser, G. W., Stewart, A. C., and McNall, M. C. E. 2001. *The Birds of British Columbia*, vol. 4. Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria.

Cannings, R. A., Cannings, R. J., and Cannings, S. G. 1987. *Birds of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia*. Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria.

Chesser, R. T., Banks, R. C., Barker, F. K., Cicero, C., Dunn, J. L., Kratter, A. W., Lovette, I. J., Rasmussen, P. C., Remsen, Jr., J. V., Rising, J. D., Stotz, D. F., and Winker, K. 2012. Fifty-third supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *Auk* 129:573–588; doi 10.1525/auk.2012.129.3.573.

Delany, S., and Scott, D. 2006. *Waterfowl Population Estimates*, 4th ed. Wetlands International, Wageningen, the Netherlands.

DeSante, D. F. 1973. An analysis of fall occurrences and nocturnal orientations of vagrant wood warblers (Parulidae) in California. Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford Univ., Palo Alto.

Duncan, J. R., and Duncan, P. A. 2014. Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*), in *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, ed.), no. 356. Cornell Lab. Ornithol., Ithaca, NY; doi 10.2173/bna.356.

Dunn, J. L., and Garrett, K. L. 1997. *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Everett. W. T., Ward, M. L., and Brueggeman, J. J. 1989. Birds observed in the ice-covered central Bering Sea in February and March 1983. *Gerfaut* 79:159–166.

Gabrielson, I. N., and Jewett, S. G. 1940. *Birds of Oregon*. Oregon State College, Corvallis.

Garrett, K. L., and Molina, K. C. 1998. First record of the Black-tailed Gull for Mexico. *Western Birds* 29:49–54.

Hamilton, R. A., Patten, M. A., and Erickson, R. A. (eds.). 2007. *Rare Birds of California*. W. Field Ornithol., Camarillo, CA.

Howell, S. N. G. 2012. *Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America: A Photographic Guide*. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ; doi 10.1515/9781400839629.

Howell, S. N. G., and Dunn, J. 2007. *Gulls of the Americas*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Howell, S. N. G., Lewington, I., and Russell, W. 2014. *Rare Birds of North America*. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, NJ; doi 10.1515/9781400848072.

Howell, S. N. G., and Webb, S. 1995. *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America*. Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, England.

Irons, D., Waggoner, B., and Merrill, R. 2012. Seasonal reports: Oregon & Washington region. *North American Birds* 65:676–681.

Irons, D., Waggoner, B., and Merrill, R. 2013a. Seasonal reports: Oregon & Washington region. *North American Birds* 66:545–550.

Irons, D., Waggoner, B., and Merrill, R. 2013b. Seasonal reports: Oregon & Washington region. *North American Birds* 66:722–728.

Jewett, S. G., Taylor, W. P., Shaw, W. T., and Aldrich, J. W. 1953. *Birds of Washington State*. Univ. Washington Press, Seattle.

Kershner, E. L. and Ellison, W.G. 2012. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), in *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, ed.), no. 23. Cornell Lab. Ornithol., Ithaca, NY; doi 10.2173/bna.23.

Kessel, B., and Gibson, D. D. 1978. Status and distribution of Alaska birds. *Studies in Avian Biology* 1.

Laymon, S. A., and Halterman, M. D. 1987. Can the western subspecies of Yellow-billed Cuckoo be saved from extinction? *Western Birds* 18:19–25.

Lockwood, M. W. 1999. Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1999. Texas Bird Records Committee; www.texasbirdrecordscommittee.org/home/reports/1999-annual-report.

Manitoba Avian Research Committee. 2003. *The Birds of Manitoba*. Manitoba Naturalists Soc., Winnipeg.

Marshall, D. B., Hunter, M. G., and Contreras, A. L. 2003. *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*. Univ. Oregon Press, Corvallis.

McCaskie, G. 2007. A Ross's Gull reaches southern California. *Western Birds* 28:137–140.

McCaskie, G., and San Miguel, M. 1999. Report of the California Bird Records Committee: 1996 records. *Western Birds* 30:57–85.

Merrill, R. J., and Bartels, M. 2015. Ninth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee (2008–2010). *Western Birds* 46:299–325.

Mlodinow, S. G. 1997. The Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) in North America. *Birding* 29:461–475.

Mlodinow, S. G. 1998a. The Tropical Kingbird north of Mexico. *National Audubon Society Field Notes* 52:6–11.

Mlodinow, S. G. 1998b. The Magnificent Frigatebird in western North America. *North American Birds* 52:412–419.

Mlodinow, S. G., and Aanerud, K. R. 2006. Sixth report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 9:39–54.

Mlodinow, S. G., and Aanerud, K. R. 2008. Seventh report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 10:21–47.

Mlodinow, S. G., Barry, J. H., and Cox, C. D. 2006. Variation in Red-naped and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. *Birding* 38:42–51.

Mlodinow, S. G., and Hamilton, R. A. 2005. Vagrancy of Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. *North American Birds* 59:172–183.

Mlodinow, S. G., and O'Brien, M. 1996. *America's 100 Most Wanted Birds*. Falcon Press, Helena, MT.

Mlodinow, S. G., and Schwitters, M. T. 2010. The status of Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) in western North America. *North American Birds* 64:4–15

Mlodinow, S. G., Tweit, B., and Irons, D. 2012. The Sooty Fox Sparrows of the Puget Trough. *Birding* 44:46–52.

Montana Audubon Society. 2014. Birds of Montana—taxonomic list—2013 rare birds are highlighted; http://mtaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Bird-List-of-Montana-20141.pdf.

Nehls, H. 2014. The Records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee through April 2014. Oregon Bird Records Committee; www.orbirds.org/acceptedthroughapril2014.6.pdf.

Pacific Flyway Council. 2006. Pacific flyway management plan for the Emperor Goose. Emperor Goose Subcommittee, Pacific Flyway Study Committee, Portland, OR; http://pacificflyway.gov/documents/eg_plan.pdf.

Parmelee, D. F. 1992. White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*), in *The Birds of North America* (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.), no. 29. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia; doi 10.2173/bna.29.

Pearce, J. M. 2002. First record of a Greater Shearwater in Alaska. *Western Birds* 33:121–122.

Phillips, A. R. 1986. *Known Birds of North and Middle America*, part I. A. R. Phillips, Denver.
Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, part 1. Slate Creek Press Bolinas, CA.
Rabe, M. J., and Sanders, T. A. 2010. White-winged Dove population status, 2010. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., Div. of Migratory Bird Mgmt., Washington, DC; http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1430&context=usfwspubs.
Rees, E. 2006. *Bewick's Swan*. T. & A. D. Poyser, London.
Rutt, C. L., Pyle, P., Collins, P. W., Brady, M. L., Tietz, J. R., and Dunn, J. L. 2014. The nominate subspecies of the Purple Finch in California and western North America. *Western Birds* 45:284–295.
Salt, W. R., and Salt, J. R. 1976. *The Birds of Alberta with their ranges in Saskatchewan & Manitoba*. Hurtig, Edmonton.
Schwertner, T. W., Mathewson, H. A., Robertson, J. A., Small, M., and Waggerman, G. L. 2002. White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), *in The Birds of North America* (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.), no. 710. *Birds North America*, Philadelphia; doi 10.2173/bna.710.
Sibley, D. A. 2014. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.
Sinclair, P. H., Nixon, W. A., Eckert, C. D., and Hughes, N. L. (eds). 2003. *Birds of the Yukon Territory*. Univ. Br. Columbia Press, Vancouver.
Slater, A. 2001. Third report of the Alberta Bird Records Committee. Alberta Naturalist 31:4–6.
Smith, A. R. 1996. *Atlas of Saskatchewan Birds*. Sask. Nat. Hist. Soc., Regina.
Swarth, H. S. 1918. Three new subspecies of *Passerella iliaca*. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 31:161–163.
Swarth, H. S. 1920. Revision of the avian genus *Passerella* with special reference to the distribution and migration of the races in California. *University of California Publications Zoology* 21:75–224.
Syroechkovski, E. E. Jr. 2002. Distribution and population estimates for swans in the Siberian Arctic in the 1990s. *Waterbirds* 25, Spec. Publ. 1:100–113.
Thompson, C. W., Pullen, K. J., Johnson, R. E., and Cummins, E. B. 2003. Specimen record of a Long-billed Murrelet from eastern Washington, with notes on plumages and morphometric differences between Long-billed and Marbled murrelets. *Western Birds* 34:157–168.
Thompson, M. C., Ely, C. A., Gress, B., Otte, C., Patti, S. T., Seibel, D., and Young, E. A. 2011. *Birds of Kansas*. Univ. Press of Kansas, Lawrence.
Tietz, J., and McCaskie, G., 2016. Update to Rare Birds of California: 1 January 2004–6 February 2016; www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf
Tweit, B., and Paulson, D. R. 1994. First report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 3:11–41.
Tweit. B., and Skriletz, J. 1996. Second report of the Washington Bird Records Committee. *Washington Birds* 5:7–28.
Wahl, T. R., Tweit, B., and Mlodinow, S. G. (eds.) 2005. *Birds of Washington*. Oregon State Univ. Press, Corvallis.
Whitworth, D. L., Carter, H. R., and Koepke, J. S. 2007. Colonization of the Brown Booby at the Coronado Islands, Baja California, Mexico. *Western Birds* 38:268–279.
Wootton, J. T. 1996. Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*), in *The Birds of North America* (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.), no. 208. Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; doi 10.2173/bna.208.

Accepted 8 February 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Yellow-breasted Chat at Pearrygin Lake, Okanogan County.
Photo by © Douglas Brown.

TABLE OF CONTENTS