

WOS NEWS



WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter Number 11 • February 1991

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fred Bird

A report to the membership is timely. Where have we come in almost three years, and where are we headed?

Our original motivation for creating WOS was fairly simple: publishing and socializing, or maybe the other way around. We have been reasonably successful in both endeavors.

The newsletter, after a few stumbles, is published regularly every other month. It is well received and well supplied by you—the members—with articles. In fact, we plan to expand, when material warrants, to eight pages.

The more formal nature of the journal (WASHINGTON BIRDS) appears to have restricted contributions. We have only printed one issue and, at this time, have only half enough material for a second issue. To put it bluntly, if the membership wants a journal, then articles must be forthcoming. If you are wondering what kind of material is appropriate for the journal, check out the first edition or give the editor a call.

From a budgetary standpoint, the journal is expensive (\$1200-\$1500), and our income limits us to one issue per year, but it would be good to publish one!

Attendance at our monthly meetings in Seattle has declined to a hard core of 25-30 members from a high of 50-60. Two reasons come to mind: our "temporary" move from the Burke Museum to Camp Long in West Seattle, and infrequent formal program topics.

The reconstruction at the Burke should be completed this spring and we will be home again in April in either the Burke Room or the new classroom. The March meeting will still be held at Camp Long.

What we really need is someone to take on the chore of program chair. Please call me (526-5671) if you are interested. Our original idea of having formal programs every other month, with "bring your own slides" in between, is still valid, so the responsibility of program chair

shouldn't be overwhelming.

Our annual meetings at Moses Lake and Ocean Shores were very successful, with attendance of 80-90 at each one. Our 1991 meeting will be in Okanogan over the weekend of 21-23 June. Set aside these dates. Details will be published in the April newsletter. If the birds are as cooperative there as they were at Ocean Shores, it will be a good event.

Finally, new blood is essential for a vital organization. Please consider running for an officer or board position. The secretary, treasurer, president and two of four board slots are open annually, incumbents notwithstanding. Your president, in particular, is eager to move on to other adventures.

Elections are held at the annual meeting and you need not be there to stand for office. Please contact me if you are interested or just have questions or if you can guarantee a goshawk for my state lifelist.

1249 N.E. 92nd St., Seattle, WA 98115

*ITS RENEWAL
TIME AGAIN*



NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be at *Camp Long* at 7:30 p.m. on 7 March. Robert Ashbaugh will share with us his winter trip to southwestern Arizona and the Gulf of California. The 4 April meeting will be at the *Burke Museum* (probably through the front door); Dennis Paulson will tell us about a decade of Grays Harbor shorebird research.

WASHINGTON BIRD SPECIES ARRIVAL DATES, SPRING 1991

It worked so well last year that I would like to try it again this year. If even more members contribute this year, we will be able to draw even more powerful conclusions from the information gathered.

Please fill in the *first date in 1991* on which you saw (or heard) each of the species on the list, where you saw it, and how many individuals there were. Dates should be provided only for presumed incoming migrants, as some of these species winter locally in the state. Last year's records made the incompleteness of the list clear, so it is modified this year. Add any species to the list that you like, if, from continued survey of an area, you are sure your observations are of first arrivals.

Please send the form to Dennis Paulson, Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA 98416, by 15 June so we can publish them in a timely fashion and especially so they will be available to Bill Tweit for his American Birds column. Thank you for your efforts.

SPECIES	DATE	LOCALITY	NUMBER	REMARKS
Sooty Shearwater				
Brown Pelican				
Green-backed Heron				
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
Wood Duck				
Blue-winged Teal				
Cinnamon Teal				
Turkey Vulture				
Osprey				
Swainson's Hawk				
Sora				
Sandhill Crane				
Lesser Golden-Plover				
Snowy Plover				
Semipalmated Plover				
Black-necked Stilt				
American Avocet				
Greater Yellowlegs				
Lesser Yellowlegs				
Solitary Sandpiper				
Wandering Tattler				
Spotted Sandpiper				
Whimbrel				
Long-billed Curlew				
Marbled Godwit				
Ruddy Turnstone				
Red Knot				
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
Western Sandpiper				
Least Sandpiper				
Baird's Sandpiper				
Dunlin				
Short-billed Dowitcher				
Long-billed Dowitcher				
Wilson's Phalarope				
Red-necked Phalarope				
Parasitic Jaeger				
Bonaparte's Gull				
Heermann's Gull				
Caspian Tern				
Common Tern				
Forster's Tern				
Black Tern				
Mourning Dove				
Flammulated Owl				

WASHINGTON BIRD SPECIES ARRIVAL DATES, SPRING 1991 (page 2)

SPECIES	DATE	LOCALITY	NUMBER	REMARKS
Burrowing Owl Common Nighthawk Common Poorwill Black Swift				
Vaux's Swift White-throated Swift Black-chinned Hummingbird Calliope Hummingbird				
Rufous Hummingbird Red-naped Sapsucker Williamson's Sapsucker Olive-sided Flycatcher				
Western Wood-Pewee Willow Flycatcher Hammond's Flycatcher Dusky Flycatcher				
Gray Flycatcher Pacific-slope Flycatcher Say's Phoebe Ash-throated Flycatcher				
Western Kingbird Eastern Kingbird Purple Martin Tree Swallow				
Violet-green Swallow N. Rough-winged Swallow Bank Swallow Cliff Swallow				
Barn Swallow Rock Wren House Wren Western Bluebird				
Mountain Bluebird Townsend's Solitaire Veery Swainson's Thrush				
Hermit Thrush Gray Catbird Sage Thrasher American Pipit				
Loggerhead Shrike Solitary Vireo Warbling Vireo Red-eyed Vireo				
Orange-crowned Warbler Nashville Warbler Yellow Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler Townsend's Warbler				
Hermit Warbler American Redstart Northern Waterthrush MacGillivray's Warbler				
Common Yellowthroat Wilson's Warbler Yellow-breasted Chat				

RECENT OBSERVATIONS

Compiled by Ian Paulsen

Despite the severe weather over the past months, some interesting birds have put in an appearance.

The most exciting is a male Smew, seen at Rock Creek Lake on hwy. 14 in Stevenson, Skamania County, for Washington's first confirmed record. It was found on 26 January (Wilson Cady) and was still present as of this writing (10 February). It was also seen on the Oregon side of the Columbia River at Cascade Locks, for Oregon's first record as well.

The Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid returned to Green Lake for its fifth winter (Bob Sundstrom et al.). For information on pochard hybrids consult "A study of certain *Aythya* hybrids," by E. Gillham, J. M. Harrison, and J. G. Harrison, *Wildfowl Trust Ann. Rept.* 17: 49-65, 1966.

For the second winter in a row, no Snowy Owls have been reported in western Washington. The eastern half of the state has had two sightings: 2 on Potato Hill Rd. near the Potholes and two on Tokio Rd., S of Harrington, Lincoln Co., on 1 February (both fide Rick Hudson).

Up to 3 Acorn Woodpeckers were still being seen at Lyle as of 30 January (fide Rick Hudson).

This winter's "Brambling Express" left Washington with its 5th and 6th Brambling records. One was at Sedro Woolley 6-11 November (Bob Kuntz et al.), the other near Elma 20 January - 2 February (fide Vicki Anderson).

9501 Moran Rd. NE, Bainbridge Island,
WA 98110

FLOCK ESTIMATION SEMINAR

Bud D'Veck is offering a seminar in estimating bird numbers, something needed by any of us who participate in Christmas Bird Counts and other censuses or just like to keep accurate tallies of what we've seen. This all-day seminar will be held in Douglas Hall at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington on Saturday, 2 March. The meeting will last from 8:30 a.m. (please be on time) to 3:30 p.m., with a 45-minute lunch break. The experience will include hands-on practice in estimating bird numbers in a controlled environment and in the field at Montlake Fill. There will be a \$3.00 fee to offset room-rental cost. Dress for the field and bring binoculars. You can park in lot E16 for 75¢ for the day.

"I'll be there; even though it's embarrassing, I wouldn't miss it"—Dennis Paulson.

WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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WASHINGTON BIRD SPECIES ARRIVAL DATES, SPRING 1991 (page 3)

SPECIES	DATE	LOCALITY	NUMBER	REMARKS
Western Tanager Black-headed Grosbeak Lazuli Bunting Chipping Sparrow				
Brewer's Sparrow Vesper Sparrow Lark Sparrow Sage Sparrow				
Savannah Sparrow Grasshopper Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow Lapland Longspur				
Bobolink Yellow-headed Blackbird Brown-headed Cowbird Northern Oriole				

WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RENEWAL NOTICE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ Include phone number in membership list

\$10 INDIVIDUAL

RENEWAL

\$14 FAMILY

NEW MEMBER

Make check payable to Washington Ornithological Society and mail to Washington Ornithological Society, P. O. Box 85786, Seattle, WA 98145

OKANAGAN BIG DAY CHALLENGE

Our British Columbian counterparts are raising money for habitat acquisition by conducting a competitive Big Day Challenge in the Okanagan Valley each year. The record of 167 species involved around 400 miles of driving. This year's Challenge will be held on 19 May, and they have invited Washingtonians to participate. Call Dick Cannings at work at (604) 228-4665 or at home at (604) 734-9489.

INVASION OF THE PIEBALD CROWS

Dennis Paulson

Just the other day, I received a call about a black bird with white wings being chased by crows. I suggested it was a crow with white flight feathers, something I had seen a few times over the years, and thought no more of it until the next day, when I saw one myself! Now I wish I had recorded the information on the first one. My bird was at 43rd and University Way, in Seattle's University District, on 6 February. It had largely if not entirely white flight feathers and flew seemingly with difficulty, its wingbeats about twice the rate of nearby crows (worn feathers?). None of the other birds chased it, but it did not join a flock of 10 feeding on a spilled loaf of bread on the road.

D. Byrne also sent in two photos: a white-winged crow (with inner 5-6 primaries and some of their greater coverts white) from Ray's Grocery, halfway between Neah Bay and Clallam Bay, in December 1990 and a tan crow perched (contentedly?) next to a black one at the same place during the summer of 1989. What is Ray feeding them?

How many more of these partially albinistic crows are there? How about keeping track of them over the weeks or even years? Let me know about piebald crows at 756-3798 in Tacoma (work) or 367-8749 in Seattle (home), and we'll try to keep track of them in WOSNEWS.

*Slater Museum of Natural History,
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
98416*

WHATCOM-SKAGIT CHAPTER FORMS

Jan Wiggers

The Whatcom-Skagit chapter of WOS meets informally the last Wednesday of the month at the Fairhaven Library in south Bellingham from 7-9:15 p.m. Terry Wahl presides over a regular assemblage of about 25 members and friends. The group's roster is at approximately 45.

We have been meeting for a year, exchanging information about what's occurring in the bird world, especially in our two counties, our state, and British Columbia. This open discussion is followed by a program. The 27 February program will be given by Bellingham resident Ann Eissinger, a member of the Department of Wildlife team that last summer documented the first two Marbled Murrelet nests and chicks in Washington. She will bring slides, recordings of vocalizations, and the world's first video footage of chick behavior, development, and food exchanges—at 110 feet above the forest floor! Anyone in our area interested in bird study is welcome to join us.

902 District Line Rd., Burlington, WA
98233

ANOTHER BIG DAY RECORD

A 9 May 1981 Birdathon trip by Dennis Paulson and Terry Smith for Seattle Audubon tallied 117 species, for another western Washington total. The birds were almost all in Grays Harbor County, with just a few in Mason County. A pelagic trip and a bit more land-bird seeking the next day brought the total to 133 species, a noteworthy Big Weekend.

MAKAHS SEEK SIGHTINGS

The Makah Tribal Naturalist is seeking contributions of species sightings in the Cape Flattery area. Contributions will be used to update the wildlife inventory of the Makah Reservation and will be gratefully acknowledged. Send your observations with dates to: D. Byrne, Makah Naturalist, POB 115, Neah Bay, WA, 98357.

WANT TO GO BIRDING WITH ED'S GIRL?

Circumnavigate Bainbridge Island aboard the luxurious 65-foot diesel-powered charter cruiser "Ed's Girl" with George Gerdt as leader-naturalist. The boat has a P. A. system and excellent viewing from covered outside decks or from comfortable inside seating.

The trip offers a careful inspection of Eagle Harbor, Blakely Rock, Restoration Point, Rich Passage, Port Orchard, Agate Pass, and Puget Sound opposite Seattle. Expect great looks at 3 species of cormorants; loons, including Pacific; sea ducks, including Oldsquaw and Harlequin; rocky-shore sandpipers; a Bald Eagle or two; great scenery; and a unique, close-up view of the Bainbridge Island shoreline.

The trip leaves the Winslow City Dock at 9:00 a.m. and will return in time to catch the 2:55 p.m. ferry back to Seattle. Hot spiced cider and coffee are provided.

Two dates are planned: 23 February and 9 March 1991, both Saturdays. Space is limited, so reserve a place now by sending a check for \$34.00 to George Gerdt, 14175 Henderson Rd., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, or call (206) 842-8138 for more information.

WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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